

Edwin Clyde Pickler, T-42

14 October 1924 – 30 December 2003

(aged 79)



FATHER, SON HIT JAPS

Pair Like Buddies On Bougainville Isle

SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC (Delayed)—Serving side by side at this jungle outpost, where they are now resting after the Empress Augusta Bay action at Bougainville, are a Memphis, Tenn., father and son—both U. S. Marines.

Inseparable, and more like buddies than father and son, are Sgt Wyatt H. Pickler, 44, and his boy, PFC Edwin C. Pickler, 19.

The senior Pickler is property sergeant in charge of company gear. His son is first scout with a rifle platoon.

Though Sgt. Wyatt's duties call for his remaining to the rear of the front lines during combat, he made frequent unofficial visits to the Bougainville front where

Edwin served. On one occasion he went out on a reconnaissance patrol into Jap territory with his son.

Overseas now a year, father and son joined the Marine Corps together on June 28, 1942, the day the younger Pickler obtained his high school graduation diploma.

"Edwin wanted to quit school to join the Marines months before, but I told him that if he waited until his graduation, I would join up with him," "Pop" Pickler grins.

"When the kid came into the house with his diploma, I picked up my hat and coat and said, 'Let's go.'"—Sgt. Peter Pavone, combat correspondent.