

Gene Carroll Wier, T-41

20 October 1924 – 18 May 1945

(aged 20)



He died in the Battle for Sugar Loaf. The following is a description of the 29th Regiment in the Battle of Okinawa. The regiment was due to be the reserve for the 6th Marine Division, but was able to come ashore on the island on D-Day, April 1, 1945, due to the lack of resistance at the outset of the battle. They initially swept through the northern Motobu Peninsula where except for heavy fighting during the Battle of Yae Take they met only moderate resistance. Following heavy fighting in the south the 6th Marine Division replaced the 27th Infantry Division on the western side of the island. The 29th made steady progress south until May 12, 1945 when on the outskirts of Naha, Okinawa they ran into a low, loaf shaped hill which was soon to be named Sugar Loaf Hill. The hill was part of a complex of three hills that formed the western anchor of General Mitsuru Ushijima's Shuri Line defense. Originally the objective of the 22nd Marine Regiment, the 29th would relieve them on May 16 and would sustain heavy casualties over the course of the next few days while taking the hill. They made numerous frontal assaults on the hill and finally secured it on May 18, but in the process, they sustained so many casualties that they were rendered combat ineffective.