

# THE WORKS OF DEAN LADD

A portion the following works can be freely accessed on my web site by simply Googleing Dean Ladd works. The web content continues to be refined to add more. It also includes radio and TV talk programs where I appeared.

1. *Faithful Warriors, Memoirs of World War II in the Pacific (book)*
2. *Faithful Warriors, A Combat Marine Remembers the Pacific War (book)*
3. *Dean Ladd family Album*
4. *Dean Ladd Family Ancestors.*
5. *Hello Ancestors*
6. *Rare Spirit*
7. *Thomas H. Elsom, Telephone Pioneer*
8. *Thomas H. Elsom, Spokane's First Telephone Installer (book)*
9. *Curtains of Fire*
10. *Memories of George Ladd in WW II*
11. *Medieval Quest*
12. *Holy Land Quest*
13. *Sons of Liberty*
14. *Boots and Saddles*
15. *Memory Lane*
16. *Pacific War Quest*
17. *Marvel R. Ainsworth, Basketball Coach Hall of Fame*
18. *Gertrude Ladd, Her Strength and Dignity...*
19. *Vivacious Spirit, Vera (Michei) Ladd*
20. *Dear Folks, My Letters Home during WW II*
21. *Spiritual Reflections, A Unique Journey*
22. *Medieval Turning Points, Influenced by my Ancestors*
23. *As I heard it, Sermon notes in 2006*
24. Misc. such as:
  - Tarawa Repatriation Mission*
  - Tarawa Turning Points*
  - Old Gilbert Island Cultures*
  - Flag Retirement Ceremony Invocation*
  - High School JROTC Speech*
  - My Lockheed Story*
  - Sons of the American Revolution Speech*
  - Marine Corps Ball Speech*
  - Memorial Day Speech*

Most of the above works involved extensive research and travel. Book Items 1 and 2 may be purchased through such book sellers as Amazon.com. Book Item 8 may be purchased direct from me at \$13.00 (incl. shipping) and item 1 will later become available direct from me at \$19.00 (incl. shipping). Other manuscripts may be freely down-loaded to use in your own possible research as they become available on the web site.

The themes of the following works are as follows:

1. My personal remembrance of the Pacific campaigns of the Second Marine Division in WW II. I re-walked all my unit's campaigns during two long trips in 1982 and 1983. The book was self published in 1993.
2. It is similar to the above book but concentrates on more extensive interviews, rather than details about my previous trips. It was published by the prestigious Naval Institute Press in 2009 and is now available world-wide in paperback and on E-books.
3. This includes most of my family photos with captions.
4. This is my initial family phase of genealogy back to my earliest ancestors, including royalty, based on the work of several cousins that I entered into *Family Tree Maker*.
5. My detailed genealogy and ancestor profiles, extending into royalty of UK, France, Hungary, Kiev, etc. It expands on item 4, using a 2002 *Family Origins* royalty data base of all western civilization.
6. Biography of my father, Myron Ladd, who was indeed a rare spirit of many interests such as rifle shooting, singing, memorization of verse, history, and mathematical problems.
7. The same story that later became item 8, but it has many more illustrations and is told in a different manner.
8. The story about Thomas H. Elsom, who installed the first telephone in Spokane and the surrounding northwest area in 1886. The source is his diary and 1500 photos now in the MAC Museum. It was the first hard cover book published by The Westerners, Spokane Corral in 2000.
9. A narrative poem about the WW II horrible assault landing on Tarawa during WW II, where I miraculously survived a normally fatal gun-shot wound in the abdomen.
10. WW II memories of my brother, George Ladd, in the combat engineers. It includes landing at D-day on Omaha Beach with the earliest waves and being surrounded during the Battle of the Bulge.
11. Historical research and then traveling for five weeks in the footsteps of my royalty ancestors in the UK. The connecting link is Joan Plantagenet, "The fair maid of Kent"--granddaughter of England's King Edward 1, "Longshanks". There is much historical intrigue.
12. Archaeological and historical research includes visiting much of the Holy Land vicinity several times.
13. Research and visiting many of the Revolutionary War sites where my great, great, great grandfather, Joel Pratt, served for nine years.
14. Research and visiting many of the Civil War sites where my great grandfather, Joseph Elsom, served for three years in the New York 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.
15. Recalling the many forks in the road that I have traveled. It begins with growing up during the depression years and then in the Marine Corps before and during WW II. Then I stayed in the reserve for thirty years, finished college and worked as an engineer, mostly in the aerospace industry until retirement at age 60. Since then I have been doing world traveling and writing

about history.

16. This is a travelogue photo version of my two published books, items 1 and 2, which I have presented as a slide show many times.

17. Accomplishments of my cousin, Marv Ainsworth, who died too young to write about them.

18. About my mother, Gertrude, as recorded in her diaries.

19. About the life of my wife, Vera, from the letters she wrote to her mother when we were married in 1949 to when her mother died in 1970

20. From letters to my mother during WW II about my active service in the Marine Corps from 1939 to 1945.

21. From my journal notes about my life-changing spiritual transformation from age 45 to 50 based on faith-building rather than only scientific and human reasoning.

22. About some of my royalty ancestors, mentioned in previous manuscripts. They influenced world--turning points such as by King John who signed the Magna Carta--on back to Charles Martel who turned back the Moors at Tours.

23. These sermon notes were printed in the church newsletter, especially for those who couldn't attend.

**The following are other misc. writings:**

## **TARAWA REPATRIATION MISSION**

### **Third revisit by Dean Ladd to the site in September 2010**

During the September, 2010 Second Marine Division Association reunion in Reno, I was asked to represent the association, as a Tarawa veteran, to accompany a 2nd Marine Division group and others going to Tarawa in several weeks to bring back remains from WWII. I gladly accepted since I had returned twice and could also be a good history resource. Past SMDA president, Roy Thaxton, who had accompanied me on my second return trip in 1983, then agreed with me about the need for a new memorial and made it his prime project. In 1988, it was installed near the current approach to the new Betio pier.

Our group stopped there during this trip to take photos standing in front of it. We learned that debris and weeds had to be removed before we arrived. Likewise, New Zealanders recently had a ceremony at their memorial on Betio for their beheaded "coast watchers" and found it desecrated with filth.

I had a perfect one-week adventure, being treated like royalty with travel expenses paid, accompanying an outstanding group with the prime mission of performing a repatriation ceremony at Tarawa on 20 September, 2010.

The operation involved 21 active-duty Marines and civilian consultants from the Second Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Pacific (MARCORPAC) in Hawaii, the Joint POW/MIA accounting command (JAPAC) in Hawaii, and two C-130 aircraft crews from Okinawa. The impetus for such a mission was a recent amendment to a budget bill drafted by U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, IL.

All gathered at Kwajalein, in the Marshall Islands, and continued on a Marine C-130 to Tarawa. The pilot suggested that I sit in the co-pilot's seat while on

autopilot. I was particularly interested in flying over Makin Atoll. Later, upon returning to Kwajalein, I stood where nine of the Carlson's Raiders, who had been left behind on Makin, were taken and beheaded. Their remains are still not found.

We stayed on Tarawa for about five hours, touring Betio and finally performing a military "ramp ceremony" before re-boarding at the airport. The tour involved a quick walk along the length of Green Beach 1 and 2 and Red Beach 1 and 2, careful to not step into human dung remaining since the previous tide. Yes, things haven't changed much! Most locals still live in thatched or corrugated sheet open-sided houses and sit on floor mats. Wrecked cars and other debris lie along the only road that links the string of small islands between Betio on the southwestern end of the atoll to the airport about 20 miles away at the eastern atoll bend.

We stayed two nights at Kwajalein, both going and returning, that has been used as a restricted-access high-tech missile tracking site since WWII. The Lejeune group and I thank Charles Harjo, Protocol Officer on Kwajalein, for his assistance and inviting us to his home to feast on a Wahoo fish he had caught.

Some JAPAC personnel had been on Tarawa from 4 August, searching at about six sites and recovering two remains inland from Green Beach 1. We brought those remains back for identification in Hawaii following the pre-boarding ceremony. A US Navy Seals web site reports that those remains have since been identified as Francis McIntyre and William Russell who had been on a Navy dive-bombing mission at Buka, New Guinea.

If this is correct, I am very surprised that they were not Marines killed during the Tarawa battle. There are still well over a hundred more missing remains to be located with partial assistance of ground-penetrating radar. Most are probably not recoverable because of being under buildings and roads. One of the best known is Medal of Honor recipient, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alexander (Sandy) Bonnyman, whose remains are likely somewhere near the bunker where he was killed and likewise difficult to recover.

Some of the leadership of our mission group were: Col John Shafer, CO of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, LTCol Steve Nugent with MARCORPAC and Col John Cunningham, Col Garry Shaw, (Ret), Archaeologist Gregory Fox and Maj Ramon Osorio, all with JAPAC.

Col Shafer and I flew to Kwajalein Atoll's northern-most island of Roi-Namur the last day on Kwajalein before our Continental flight home. The 4th Marine Division had landed there about two months after Tarawa and well applied lessons learned from Tarawa, especially in establishing artillery supporting fire from nearby small islands. The Japanese had constructed many large bunkers and defense gun emplacements there similar to on Tarawa but our naval gun fire spectacularly destroyed them.

Others, attending the airport ceremony, were Douglas Morris, from Fiji representing the American Ambassador, and Kurt Hiete, an American Legion member from California near where Eddie Albert lived. Kurt had been on Tarawa for a week and has been very active for a year and a half with various government and private groups, searching for remains as well as promoting a

cleaner environment on Betio. Several of the most notable private groups are Leon Cooper with his video, "Return to Tarawa, and Mark Noah's "History Flight". Kurt says most local leaders are trying but face the difficulty of the country being poor and over populated for such a small area.

Others, in attendance, were various local leaders such as my long-time friend, David Yeeting, who attended our 1986 SMDA California chapter reunion in Santa Cruz, California and stayed at my nearby home. He had then been escorted by our State Department, since he represented his country's president. Since then, he has served as secretary for many of his governmental ministries, before retiring at their normal governmental retirement age of 50 and currently teaching at a Tarawa Catholic school. I consider meeting him again to be a major outcome of this trip for me personally because he remains an excellent contact for us and wants to keep in touch. I also briefly met the local Police Chief and gave him a photo I had taken of their police band who had participated in our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony in 1983. Two of his motorcycle police led our bus over a half hour's drive each way to and from Betio with sirens constantly blaring, clearing road traffic and creating great attention from the locals.

Our mission was reported by CNN (they left before our group arrived though), Associated Press, and various military PR. It was picked-up through AP by news papers world-wide and on the Web. The US Embassy in Fiji placed 26 photos of the ceremony on the Web, accessed by "US Embassy Suva's Photos-JPAC Repatriation Ceremony"

I gave the entire group a briefing, the day before boarding the C-130 at Kwajalein, to help them visualize the highly concentrated and savage battle for Tarawa. Part of it follows:

### **TARAWA TURNING POINTS**

The Marine Corps had been developing the technique of amphibious assault from the sea since the early 1930s and Tarawa became the opportunity to apply it for the first time on November 20, 1943, against a heavily defended beach. Murphy's Law certainly applied -- that if anything can go wrong it will.

Getting over a barrier reef with a limited supply of unproven amphibian tracked vehicles (LVT), uncertain water depth for the conventional landing craft (LCVP and others), effectiveness of supporting naval gunfire, and reliability of communication equipment, which had yet to be tested in such a combat environment--we learned the hard way with very high casualties, as it turned out.

Before the battle, both the Americans and the Japanese were confident of the outcome. Then, as the battle progressed, there were four main turning points.

# 1 The Japanese were surprised to receive such a devastating naval bombardment that destroyed their four 8-inch naval guns which was followed by our coming-over the reef on the lagoon-side instead of on the southern beach, where they were expecting us. One 8-inch gun on the southwest tip of Betio is still pointing at our troop transports location. It had forced them to move further away from the island, thus delaying our landing arrival in time to barely clear the reef as hoped

# 2 However the issue remained in doubt for the Marines, because of the



prospect of our being driven off the precarious beachhead if the enemy should counter-attack in force. Fortunately, they didn't attack for reasons not fully known until revealed by Japanese records many years later. Col Joseph Alexander, wrote about this and other turning points in the summer, 1996 issue of *The Quarterly Journal of Military History*. The Japanese commander, Rear Adm Keiji Shibasaki, was killed the first afternoon, rather than later as we had believed, by our destroyer, Ringgold. He was moving his command headquarters away from the communication blockhouse to provide its shelter for his wounded. His death and the destruction of his communications disrupted counter-attack coordination.

# 3 Maj Michael Ryan, commanding an assortment of survivors, gained a toe-hold on the north western tip of the island with a flanking maneuver that enabled the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment to land on the west (Green) beach virtually unopposed, allowing them to outflank the enemy down the length of the island.

# 4 The final turning point was on the third night when about 750 Japanese went to their death, making their final determined banzai attack from the eastern end of the island and ending their resistance.

In 1985, a young Japanese friend of mine visited and took a picture of an eighty-year old Japanese veteran who claimed to be the last Tarawa survivor. Sgt Maj Kiyaski Ohta, aircraft maintenance, was living at his home in Kotake, about 100 miles south of Fukuoka, Japan.

## OLD GILBERT ISLANDER CULTURE

As I was preparing to make my fourth return visit to my WW II Pacific battle site of Tarawa, I recalled my previous research about old native culture and beliefs for my original self-published book, *Faithful Warriors*. A major source was *A Pattern of Islands* by Sir Arthur Grimble who was in the Gilbert Islands with the British Colonial Service from 1914 to 1933.

The purpose of this writing is to further elaborate on that portion of my original book and add more details from Grimble's very interesting narrative. It has created renewed meaning to me since the trip's focus is to more accurately locate the remains of hundreds of young American Marines who died there and still remain under buildings, roads, etc. to be properly repatriated. By the grace of God, I could have been one of them, perhaps sharing the resting place of those early islanders. Instead, because of surgery on a troop transport ship by a former abdominal specialist from the Mayo Clinic, I am perhaps the only one to ever survive such a punctured bladder and colon gun-shot wound.

During my second return visit, I was stranded by a cancelled airline schedule and therefore stayed two weeks with locals, learning about island life and doing research in the newly established National Archives. I encountered the following more interesting cultural situations while there:

1. A large native woman was recently being buried when they decided to raise her back up so that her head would point north toward Makin (Butaritari) Island where her departed spirit would head toward the afterlife. Grimble goes into great detail about their belief that their spirit goes up along that island's western shore-line of ghosts to the mythical Place of Dread and the importance of a proper ritual

ceremony over the body to avoid its spirit being stopped there by Nakaa, the Watcher of the Gate, waiting to strangle all caught in his terrible net.

2. While I was there, my New Zealander host stopped to assist others struggling to carry the body of a very heavy man down the outside stairs from one of the few two-story dwellings. Furthermore, the man was a Hindu from Fiji, whose family wanted to be cremated in Fiji in accordance with their culture. The problem was that his body needed to be frozen, so it was placed in the tuna reefer, located on the Mole (previous pier location on Betio) and naturally caused a great objection. While I was on the ferry to Betio, I talked to the local newspaper reporter as he was about to gather details, realizing the repercussion.
3. I talked to a local native Bahai Faith pastor, Bureita, who had been forced to witness the beheading of 22 mostly New Zealander coast-watchers by the Japanese who warned that they were now in control. A British missionary was also there who asked to take the place of one of the condemned and did so.

I spent several days on Abemama, about 100 miles south of Tarawa, where Robert L. Stevenson wrote about the south seas **Sept. 11, 2011**.

## MY LOCKHEED STORY

I recall three interesting speakers at Sunnyvale LMSC Management Association banquets in the late 1970's.

Neil Armstrong spoke to about 400 in July, 1976 with humor like, "My job on Appolo 11 was to place mirrors in attitude so Earth could see itself in the mirrors." His answer to my question--Do you sometimes look at the moon and marvel that you were there? His response was, "I've learned to live with it!"

When I was president of the association in 1979, Kelly Johnson spoke to about 700 about the Skunk Works and was seated next to our special guest, 82 year-old Neta Snook Southern (1896-1991), the woman who taught Amelia Earhart to fly in 1921. She showed me Amelia's flight log when I picked her up at the adobe brick home that she had built herself in Los Gatos, including even the bricks.

Neta surprised everyone with an impromptu speech while we waited for a late food serving. I sat on her other side at the banquet and overheard Kelly ask her what flight instruments she used when flying in 1922. He was amazed with her answer that all she had was an altimeter, a dangling pocket watch and followed the roads.

Dean Ladd  
Employed 1957-1980

**I gave this invocation June 18, 2011 at a Solemn Flag Retirement Ceremony** in Veterans Memorial Park, overlooking Monroe St. Bridge and the Spokane River falls. It involved about 1,000 scouts and other youth, with Spokane's mayor and many other elected leaders participating. This followed a Flag Day parade--intended as the first into the future:

First, a few thoughts before praying:

I am likely the oldest person here, being 90 and a half--having retired from the Marine Corps with service starting before WW II. I led a rifle platoon and company through numerous battles on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian and continued serving in the reserve for a total of 30 years. Memories of those very difficult WW II times to preserve our country's freedoms are disappearing, with few veterans still alive or able to tell about it.

Some descendents of the American Revolution are here in uniform to honor their patriot ancestors who endured the cold winter at Valley Forge, with George Washington in prayer, as they fought for independence from England and national freedom.

This event has an even greater significance for me, having been a combat veteran, defending our country's freedoms from power-hungry dictators such as Hitler and the military regime in Japan.

People in the Middle East are currently striving for their own individual freedom and political freedom.

Let's pray:

Our creator Father—

Today we honor your glory and give thanks for your many blessings as we reflect on the freedoms we enjoy in this great country as represented by our Stars and Stripes flag. This flag has a renewed meaning to us as we now proceed with this solemn flag retirement ceremony after finishing the first of hopefully many future such Flag Day parades in our city, involving over a thousand scouts and other youth—our future leaders.

Father-- I am especially thankful that you had future plans for me, in surviving a near fatal battle wound 68 years ago, to raise a family and enjoy great grandchildren. Many others, I served with, remain eternally young after sacrificing their young lives.

We are reminded by today's observance that freedom is not free and that each new generation has the responsibility to defend it.

Thank you Father, as we glorify you in all our activities during our allotted life-span. In the Lord's name--Amen.



## ROGERS HS JROTC SPEECH NOTES 1/29/10

1. Rogers class of Feb., 1939. Rifle team. Civil War vets in Bemis grade school-- my age but they only sat around compared to my writing and talking such as at schools, Marine birthday balls, KSPS re: grandfather.
2. My combat experience—not many WWII vets left. Close calls in my manuscript.
3. War relics and writing display.
4. Recognize opportunities—take leadership—be prepared to take responsibilities at a young age if in the service. My examples.

### **Notes for my speech at the district meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution in Beaverton, OR. In 2011**

1. We all have had interesting experiences. Mine may be different.

#### Experiences:

Like most of you, I have lived during a time of momentous worldwide change in history. WWII, followed by air travel growth, the space age, involving satellites, manned moon landing and planet exploration. This led to application of the computer for all aspects of our living. I sense that the younger generations haven't been educated in an interesting manner of sufficient depth to fully appreciate this recent history, especially about WWII.

#### Retirement:

Rather than merely personal leisure with just TV, golf, fishing and travel, I worked off a "want to do list" that is project and community activity oriented.

2. Published author--writings displayed and described.
3. Marines—growth and experience.  
Refer to *Memory Lane* (ML) P 43, 28, 31, 32
4. Space age to retirement.  
Refer to ML P 38, 39
5. Travels and research.  
Roughed it visiting WWII sites and backpacked, researching Medieval UK.
6. Writing development, speaking and marketing.  
Imaginary interviews in the period.  
At schools, on the web and independent of the publisher.

## 9/11 Ceremony at Riverside Memorial Park Sept.11, 2011

Our creator Father—

Today we honor your glory and give thanks for your many blessings as we mark this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country. With this rededication ceremony of this American Legion Monument, we especially remember those who lost their lives on that day of infamy and since in the ongoing global war on terrorism.

Father-- I am especially thankful that you had future plans for me, in surviving a near fatal battle wound 68 years ago, to raise a family and enjoy great grandchildren. Many others, I served with, remain eternally young after sacrificing their young lives.

We are reminded by today's observance that freedom is not free and that each new generation has the responsibility to defend it.

Thank you Father, as we glorify you in all our activities during our allotted life-span.

In the Lord's name--Amen.

## Marine Corps Birthday Ball Speech 2006

**1. Reminisce re WW II**—My 62 year-old summer uniform fits me because I have recently lost some weight. I'm 86 next month, the day after the Pearl Harbor attack—compare Reserve of then to present—I'm the only one here from the old Spokane 14<sup>th</sup> Bn. Org. Reserve infantry unit. We were called to active duty 66 years ago on Nov. 8, 1940—day the Tacoma Bridge collapsed. Thought it would be 1 year but became 5 years on active duty.

**2. Marine Museum dedication** by President yesterday, timed for the Marine Corps birthday—read part.

**3. Motivation, basic training and equipment comparison.**

- a. Marine Espirit de Corps—torch well carried from generation to generation.
- b. My early motivation to join—Civil War vets—rifle shooter friend of father--Marine on leave, later died as POW—old salts.
- c. Boot camp became shorter near end of WW II.
- d. Now team approach—Crucible phase where endurance tested to the human limit.

**4. Leadership training** for responsibility during combat

- a. My field commission from cpl. Then as a rifle platoon leader on Guadalcanal—with same men—age 21.
- b. Tarawa disorganization, Nov. 20-23, 1943—small unit leadership carried the day.
- c. WW II pilots of bombers—some only 19-20.
- d. Many more such examples--You no doubt have such remembrances among you.
- e. Be flexible to alternate plans—persevere, though worn out—maintain troop morale under great stress.
- f. Example of screening in OCS for lack of these leadership abilities. I became a

company commander at OCS and The Basic School in Quantico until the atomic bomb was dropped.

## 5. Faithful Warriors

- a. Book's theme. I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Tim 4:7
- b. Rewrite for contract w/NIP after self published in 1993. About 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 8<sup>th</sup>. During WW II—half were originally from Spokane Reserves—early friction re. reserves vs regulars.
- c. Faithfulness of Marine compared to Japanese soldier w/Bushido Code stressing no dishonor to the emperor or their ancestors.
- d. Banzai on Saipan—shot all so they couldn't feign death and attempt to kill us.
- e. Present radical part of Islam.
- f. God's ultimate purpose for our life is to serve and glorify Him. Our short time in the life is preparing us for eternity with him. So expect preparation testing with difficulties in this life, especially in a combat environment.

## My Memorial Day Speech At Fairmont Memorial Park 1994

It was a yearly event, sponsored by the Marine Corps League, held at the Iwo Jima Memorial with up to 200 attending.

Memorial Day emerged from the shadows of the Civil War. It was first observed in the South before the close of the war when a group of women decorated the graves of those who had died. A few years later in 1868, May 30<sup>th</sup> was set aside as the day for placing flowers on the graves of soldiers throughout the United States. Soon Memorial Day was observed each year across the country.

This is a particularly appropriate memorial Day with the current media remembrance of the D-Day landing on the Normandy beaches. This also brings back memories to many of us who have seen the horrors of war first hand.

We are extremely fortunate that the Lord has spared us to live on borrowed time to raise families and enjoy grandchildren and great grandchildren. Many of our buddies weren't granted this opportunity to grow old, but instead died to remain eternally young. It is important to remember those who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms that we enjoy, rather than under a would-be totalitarian regime. These freedoms have been preserved from generation to generation at great cost in young lives.

I recently read a article in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division news letter about the passing of Robert Sherrod, the combat correspondent who wrote from the thick of battle. The purpose of his writing was to remind the politicians and homebodies what they have done when they sent our youth to the butcher—to tell them it is not a TV show or a Hollywood film, but is truly an earthly hell. One would hope that our polititions and current journalists who dream of glory and professional profit will study Sherrod's work and learn from it.

I recall my attitude about fleeting life during those early post-war years. I rationalized then that when older persons died, one should consider it fortunate that that person had lived so many years, rather than being cut-off in his youth. Now I realize that life must be enjoyed day by day and that the Lord has not promised us any certain life span on this earth. We should indeed count our blessings as we remember those departed loved ones, buddies and friends while we gather here today.