

Stuart Fredenberg served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 05-10-42 until his discharge on 12-04-45. He took part in 11 landings and 1 sea battle while serving in the South Pacific.

Stuart was born on 07-06-26 in Madison, Wisconsin and grew up in Milwaukee. He attended Lincoln High School. On 12-07-41 he was at a movie at the Palace Theatre when it was announced that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

Stuart was 15 – soon to be 16 in July – and was very eager to join the service so he falsified his age stating that he was 17 and with his mother's consent and signature left high school to join the Marines on 05-12-42.

He departed Milwaukee by train for basic training in San Diego, CA and then an additional 8 weeks of sea school. He was then transferred to Camp Pendleton for advanced training. He was shipped from Long Beach CA to Honolulu in August 1942 and then to the Fiji Islands. From there he was shipped to his first landing in the South Pacific at Guadalcanal. After securing that island it was on to Bougainville. Back to Fiji for regrouping. To the island of Makin by submarine. Back to Honolulu and then to Tarawa. From there he was aboard an AKA transport to the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. It was then on to Siapan, Guam and Tinian. To Australia for R&R. To Peleliu and Leyte and Samar in the Philippines. To the Lingaen Gulf. He then landed in Luzon. Back to Mindora in the Philippines. In was in the 2nd battle of the Philippine Sea. It was then on to Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was then aboard a ship staging for a landing in Honshu, Japan. At that point the United States dropped the A bomb on Hiroshima (08-06-45) and Nagasaki (08-09-45).

The Japanese signed the declaration of surrender aboard the battleship Missouri in Tokoya Bay on 09-02-45

Stuart was with the Marines who freed the prisoners from the copper mines in Japan. Approximately 200 prisoners including one who had been a prisoner since 1936 when he was captured by the Japanese in China.

He saw the absolute rubble of the industrial areas of Japan caused by the bombing and burning by our B-29's.

Tarawa was a short battle but one of the bloodiest which resulted in high casualties.

Stuart has many memories of some of the most horrific battles of WWII. Some of those include the fighting in the caves of Siapan. It was there that many civilians and Japanese jumped from the cliffs to avoid capture.

On the Island of Peleliu they ran out of water. Some drank contaminated water and became quite ill.

Leyte was the island McArthur came ashore and declared "I have returned". He came ashore on a LSI landing craft and walked to shore in water for approximately 30 yards. (Everything but a band playing!)

The Sea Battle of the Philippines was also known as Surigao Straits.

Another incident was after Okinawa. U.S. and Japanese dignitaries were flying to Manilla to start peace talks. (McArthur was commander-in-chief of the Pacific). Stuart was a Marine guard on the plane which developed an engine fire. All except the pilot were ordered to abandon the plane. They parachuted into the shark infested waters of the Pacific and spent 1-1/2 days in the water before being picked up by a destroyer. The pilot landed the plane safely in Iwo Jima.

One of the most memorable and pleasant duties for Stuart was in 1943 when he served as President Roosevelt's personal bodyguard. The president and his wife were in Honolulu to visit the troops.

Stuart returned to the states (San Francisco) in October 1945.

On 01-19-2001 at age 74, Stuart received his high school diploma from Lincoln High School in recognition of the personal sacrifices he made in leaving high school to enlist in the armed forces during WWII and for his honorable services to his country until 12-04-45.

Stuart has been a resident of Eagle since 1975.

