



**Franklin Samuel Balliet**  
**Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps**  
**17 Mar 1942 –16 March 1946**

Franklin was born on 5 August 1922, in Ballietsville, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. His parents were **Joseph Horace Balliet** (4 July 1887 – 8 August 1925) and **Mary Alice (Moyer) Balliet** (30 September 1889 – December 1971). On 17 March 1942, while living at 739 Woodward Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Franklin enlisted in the Marine Corps and underwent basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, followed by training as a Telephone Operator at Quantico, Virginia. He was then assigned to “M” Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division at New River, North Carolina. On 1 September 1942, Franklin left for the Pacific Theater where he joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Raider Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Brigade, which conducted intensive training at various islands and fought at Pavuvu in the Russell Islands from 20 February to 20 March 1943. During that time, Franklin was wounded in action. In April 1944, he was promoted to Sergeant and joined 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Marine Brigade on the island of Guadalcanal. The battalion then fought in the battle for Guam from 21 July 1944 to 10 August 1944. In October 1944, he was transferred to Service and Supply Platoon, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division until 20 November 1944. He then returned to the States where he was assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Guard Company, Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Philadelphia. On 16 January 1945, he was assigned to the Marine Detachment aboard cruiser USS *Guam* (CB 2). *Guam* left Philadelphia on 17 January 1945, completed her shakedown cruise off Trinidad, and proceeded through the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii which she reached on 8 February 1945 to join Carrier Task Force 58. She sailed for the Western Pacific on 15 March 1945, and three days later conducted a raid on the Japanese islands of Kyushu and Shikoku where the Task Force was attacked by Japanese kamikazes and bombers. She then headed for the island of Okinawa where she participated in the battle for the island (1 April 1945–22 June 1945), providing anti-aircraft defense for the Task Force and conducting shore bombardment. She then participated in sweeps for Japanese shipping in the East China and Yellow Seas from July 1945, to the end of the war in August 1945. After the war, *Guam* supported the occupation of Korea and transported a contingent of U.S. Army troops back to the States. Upon reaching San Francisco, California, on 3 December 1945, Franklin was transferred to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for discharge. He was released from active duty there on 16 March 1946, and returned home. On 24 October 1948, Franklin married **Agnes Louise Bohrer** (1927–2000) in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. He eventually got into the real estate business and, in 1963, became the owner of the Franklin S. Balliet Real Estate Agency in Allentown for 30 years, retiring in 1993. Franklin died on 22 April 2004 in Lehigh Valley Hospital, and is buried in Grandview Cemetery in Allentown. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He and Agnes raised three sons; **John J.**, **Joseph R.**, and **James F.** and two daughters: **Louise B. (Haines)** and **Alice B. (Peters)**. At the time of his death, Franklin had six grandchildren.

