



Landing on Saipan,  
Mariana Islands



**Harold Charles Moll**  
**Corporal U.S. Marine Corps**  
**15 November 1943 – 13 March 1946**



Attacking Mt. Surabachi,  
Iwo Jima

Harold was born on 19 June 1926 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he was raised and went to school. He attended grades 1-6 at Stevens School, and grades 7-11 at Broughal Jr./Sr. High School. He left school in 1942 to work at Brown-Borhek Lumber Company in Bethlehem prior to enlisting in the Marine Corps on 15 November 1943. He was inducted as a Private in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 15 December 1943, and was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, for nine weeks recruit training. He was then ordered to Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia, for training as a Machine Gunner prior to leaving for Maui, Hawaii, where he was assigned to C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. In June 1944, after training on Maui, Harold embarked for the Western Pacific and the invasion of Saipan in the Mariana Islands. His unit was held in reserve during the invasion of Saipan, which began on 15 June 1944 and ended on 9 July 1944. The victory on Saipan gave the Allies an important base for further operations in the Marianas, and elsewhere in the Pacific. After Saipan, Harold's unit returned to Maui where they continued to be held in reserve and began to prepare for the invasion of Iwo Jima. They landed on Iwo Jima, with Harold going ashore in the first wave, and engaged in intense fighting from 19 February 1945 until 16 March 1945, capturing Mount Suribachi as the first and most important objective. After defeating the Japanese after a desperate *banzai* charge on 25 March 1945 and after subsequent mopping up operations, out of over 20,000 Japanese troops, 18,000 died and 216 were captured. The Allies suffered 26,000 casualties, with nearly 7,000 dead, accounting for nearly one-third of all the Marine deaths in World War II. As a result of the intense fighting on Iwo Jima, including hand-to-hand combat, the 5<sup>th</sup> Amphibious Corps, to which the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was attached, was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Harold also was awarded the World War II Victory and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medals. After the war ended, Harold returned to the States for discharge as a Corporal on 13 March 1946 at Lakehurst, New Jersey. He returned to Bethlehem and resumed working for Brown-Borhek until 1950, when he went to work as a Weighmaster and Fitter for East Penn Foundry in Macungie, Pennsylvania. In 1954, he started work for Buckeye Pipeline Company in Macungie where he worked as a Mechanical Maintenance Man until his retirement in 1991. Harold married **Shirley Fay Greenawalt** (born 26 January 1930) on 19 August 1950 at Zion Lehigh Church on Spring Creek Road in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where they made their permanent home on Macungie RD#1. They raised three children: **Gail Marlene**, **Brian Harold**, and **Carol Ann**. Harold has been a life member of Macungie VFW Post 9264 and Macungie Fire Company since shortly after moving to the Macungie area in 1950. He also was a founding member of the Macungie Ambulance Corps in 1955, and served as its President from 1978 through 1982. Harold's parents were **William Henry Moll** (6 November 1902 – 23 June 1949) and **Ida Rebecca Klotz** (8 December 1906 – 30 March 1977). Harold's brothers also served in World War II: **Wilbert Eugene** in the Army, and **Lawrence Paul** in the Navy.

