

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

Master Gunnry Sgt. H.J. Kupper USMC
Serial # 204695

Born 9/15/04 Hubert John Kupper/ Died 7/22/83 at 78

OFFICE OF:

Gunny Kupper had quite a full life in service to his Country. Born in Brooklyn, NY, was toughened in the streets-joined the Marines when his twin sister and good buddy went and got married at 17 yrs. young.

His family moved to New Market (Piscataway) He was sent to Nicaragua in the early 20's Chasing Sandino's Bandits. In the later 20's he was shipped to China to join the Marine Mounted cavalry-His Lieut. was Chesty Puller. He talked about watching the chinese stab babies with thier bayonets and toss them into the Yangtzee river, and not being able to do anything about it, there in Pieping. He worked in the Art Color Printing Co., in Dunellen between enlistments transferring to the reserves, actively. He didn't like peace-time Marines. He knew we were going to be in a war soon so he went to re-up and was refused, because of his height- They wanted all tall guys at that time. He donned a full field pack, sleeping bag, etc. and marched down to the Whitehouse in DC. Along the route the news asked him why? He said he wanted to show the Marine Corps he had been physically fit to fight in the upcoming war and he wanted in. The Army tried to sign him up-following him in a jeep, and he said the Marines will take him back. They met him (The Commandant of the Marine Corps) and whiteHouse Staff and they signed him up right there-Great publicity for them to recruit a few good men. Gunny went into the Fleet Marine Force (on ship) In 1942 he made the invasion in north Africa on the USS Philadelphia. Then went right to the South Pacific engaging in 13 battles for the Islands until in 1944 he was wounded severely with broken legs and wounds to the stomach. He was in the taking of Luzon, Tarawa, Bougainville, Pelulie and many others. Having recuperated, he saw peacetime and transferred to the Active Reserves working at the Art Color Printing Co. In 1950 the unit was activated to Camp Pendleton where he had to sign 5 waivers to go to Korea; because of his wounds, longivity, dependency, age 46, and already could have retired from the Service. But he insisted on going. He joined Fox Co. 7th Marines who went to the point in the Chosin campaign. In weapons platoon, he was in charge of flanking the withdrawal to wipe out the Chinese ambush teams all the way down to Hamhung. He had been awarded over 20 decorations, including Navy Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and five Purple Hearts.

Submitted by Patriot H.P. Christie, Chapter 27, Somerville, NJ

// Wife: Whillomena (Clara Bow) Joanna, Judy, Eileen and Kathy_ Daughters
and a son Richard, who served in Viet Nam with the 1ST Mar Div.