

George M. Holloway
334 Meadowridge Rd. #29
Boone, NC 28607

June 12. 2001

Ms Paula Ussery, Curator
The National D-Day Museum
945 Magazine St.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Ms Ussery:

I'm contributing to your museum a piece of a Japanese Zero fighter plane from Peleliu in the Palau Islands. You seemed interested in having this WWII souvenir for the museum as expressed in you letter to me of last July.

After completing basic training in November, 1943 at age 19, I joined the 111th Infantry Regiment, Co. F at Camp Stoneman, CA, just before sailing to Hawaii on the U.S West Point. We spent 15 months on Oahu and Maui training and providing Observation Post and Beach Patrol duty. In January, 1945, the regiment was sent to the Palau Islands to relieve the 81st Army division who with the two Marine divisions fought two months to secure the dozen or so southern islands. There were still Japanese soldiers hiding in the caves on Peleliu and 25,000 troops 30 miles ^{to the north} on Koror, the capital of Palau and military headquarters for the Japanese held islands of Micronesia. When peace was declared in August, the regiment returned home in September, except for a number of us who did not have the required 50 points for discharge. I remained two more months packing up supplies for shipment and cleaning up the mess. This is when I found the damaged Zero near the landing strip and a large trash dump. It was riddled with holes and easy to break off the piece enclosed. I hope to visit your Museum next year when open.

Sincerely,

George M. Holloway