

Col. Henry Crowe Famous Marine Colonel

FIGHTING COLONEL ATTENDED MOUNT PULASKI SCHOOLS

Tarawa Was Crowe's Biggest And Bloodiest Fight

The Quantico Sentry, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va., May 22, 1947, contained an interesting article about a former Mount Pulaskian, Henry P. Crowe, who attended the Mount Pulaski schools and when 18 years old, enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps.

Following is the article:
LT-COL. JIM CROWE COMES BACK TO HIS "OLD TROMPING GROUND"

Lt-Col. Henry P. (Jim) Crowe, a living Marine Corps legend, arrived here recently as captain of the Western Division Rifle and Pistol teams. He brought the teams here from San Diego to compete in the finals of the Marine Corps rifle and pistol competition to be held May 26-31.

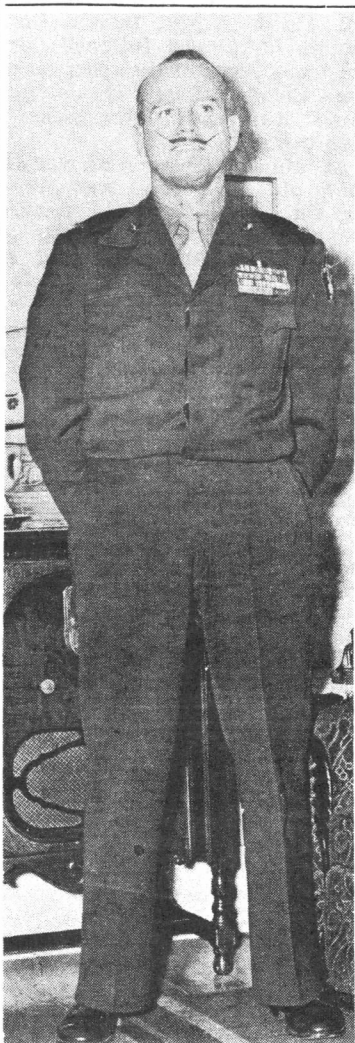
Col. Crowe, as any old salt can tell you, has been almost everywhere and done almost everything there is to do in the Corps during his 28 years of service. After his enlistment in 1918 he went to France for his first campaign, and Saipan was his last and as for every other fight the Marine Corps participated in between the two, if one looked he probably could have found Jim Crowe there, too.

When there was no fighting to do, Colonel Crowe turned his ingenuity in another direction and came out one of the Corps' outstanding marksmen. He distinguished himself with the rifle and pistol, and every year found him firing in the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol competition in Quantico, representing the organization he was attached to at that time.

Sportsman

As a sportsman Jim was outstanding in football as well as basketball. It seems that he was doing quite well in basketball when his commanding officer decided that he should play football also, so he went to practice and although handicapped a little by the fact that he had never seen a football game ended up being one of the Corps leading football stars.

Life for Jim wasn't all "peaches and cream," football and rifle matches, because he had his regular duties to attend to. As a gunnery sergeant he was for a time the virtual dictator of a small isolated Nicaraguan community, the Leatherneck magazine pointed out. Being NCO in charge of the Marines in this particular populated center, Jim represented law, order and in some cases, Deity. Having dispensed with the services of the local commandante quite early in the game, he found it expedient to extend his will and authority to cover all community relations.



This picture of Col. Crowe was taken at the home of his sister, Mrs. Todd Buehler, near Chestnut, during World War II, when he was convalescing from wounds received when fighting the Japs in the Pacific area. He has retired from the Marines and is now chief of police at Portsmouth, Va.

spot, he found the trouble there with several Japs manning a 13-mm machine gun. He caught one of the 13-mm slugs and it messed up his left lung considerably. Jim was taken to a beach aid station, but he found the Japs had not finished with him yet. A near miss with a shell gave him a sprinkling of fragments, leaving him so badly battered that the doctors thought he could not live. Proof that the doctors underestimated him is here on the post now and he is back to his old trade, rifle and pistol matches, as captain of the Western Division Team.

War Poem

(Nov. 19, 1942)

Cpl. Erwin H. Knauer, stationed at Jackson Air Base, Jackson, Miss., recently wrote a poem and sent it to his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Knauer are now living in Jackson, Miss.

REFLECTIONS

(Jan. 29, 1942)

A Reminiscent of Mrs. Alvada Crowe, mother of Henry Crowe, famous Marine gunner still serving his country following his participation in World War I.

As I stood and gazed upon her,
While her eyes were closed in death.

It seemed the fragrance round her,

Gave her life with its sweet breath.

I could hear her laughing, chatting

When the young folks were all there,

As she spoke of past experience,
From out her rocking chair.

She studies world events and news

And took an utmost pride,
In being a war mother,

Until the day she died.

For she had borne a hero,

For the good old U. S. A.

A gunner in the first world war.

A gunner to this day.

Still fighting for his country;

His title won renown

As one of the greatest gunners in the world,

Of which he traveled 'round.

He wasn't here to see her,

But he'll ne'er forget the grace,
In which she gave her being.

The way she made a place

For heartsick, homesick beings.
How she cared and nursed and such;

Oh, how in pain of battle,
He had longed to feel her touch.

Tho she is sleeping
And tired eyes closes,

The flowers around give breath
And make of her a living soul,

Eternally, from Death.

Harriet Turner Larson.

Merchants Send Special Pictorial To Service Men

(Dec. 21, 1944)

Two weeks ago the Pictorial Section of 8 pages was sent to over 500 men and women in the service of their country, from not only this community but to those who are serving from Latham, Elkhart, and Chestnut, in as far as we were able to secure addresses.

In this issue as a special gift to our subscribers at this Christmas season, the Times-News is including it with 20 more pages of news and season's greetings and expressions of appreciation from the business firms who have enjoyed the fine friendships and patronage of their friends and customers the past year. The personal signature of each firm is included.

COL. CROWE APPEARED BEFORE LOCAL GROUPS WHILE ON LEAVE

Was Visiting His Sisters While Convalescing

(Dec. 14, 1944)

Lt. Col. H. P. (Jim) Crowe, USMC, who "landed" in Mount Pulaski Monday evening of last week, not only seized a "beachhead" in his former home town, but through a series of public appearances at the solicitation of friends and well-wishers, firmly established a "beachhead" of admiration and good will.

The Colonel who is on a convalescent leave following serious wounds in the landing at Saipan several months ago, and recently released from a Pacific Coast hospital, has had a busy 10 days, speaking at the Rotary club here last Thursday and addressing a public gathering at the high school Tuesday night, where several hundred gathered despite the severe weather conditions. He spoke at the Rotary Club in Lincoln yesterday noon and was a guest of the Elks in the evening. He was a visitor at the Chestnut school and at the Methodist Church Sunday morning, speaking briefly at both places.

The array of ribbons on his left breast tells the story of his adventurous life as a Marine, which he embarked on at the age of 19 — 25 years ago.

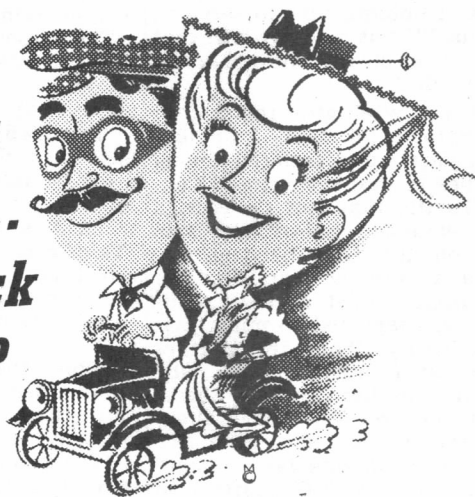
There is the Navy Cross, won at bloody Tarawa; the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, won at Guadalcanal; the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with gold star showing he had been twice wounded; the Presidential unit citation, having two stars (very few units have two such citations), the Marine Expeditionary Medal, pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon, South Pacific ribbon with three major battle stars, and the Good Conduct ribbon with three stars, showing 14 years as an enlisted man — and he is proudest of those. Ribbons also denote his having served in Santa Domingo, Nicaragua and China.

Just a few interesting comments he made in answer to questions, were:

There was no slipup at Tarawa where many marines fell. Tarawa was the "toughest nut" they have had to crack to date — and they did it with only one division of 20,000. The Japs said it would take a million men to capture the island which was the most heavily fortified of any position in the Pacific. The Imperial Guard — likened to our Marine Corps — which has a personnel of Japs 6 feet tall, was defending the island.

He has thoroughly enjoyed his visit here with his three sisters, Mrs. Todd Buehler, of Chestnut; Mrs. Ralph Waddell, Latham, and Dessie Crowe, of Lincoln.

Do you recall... way back when?



Maybe you're not old enough to remember when cars (and motorists) looked something like this. But, even if you're a young-timer, you've already seen cars take giant steps forward in design, engineering, performance.

For the past 8 years it has been our pleasure to keep the cars of Mount Pulaski.