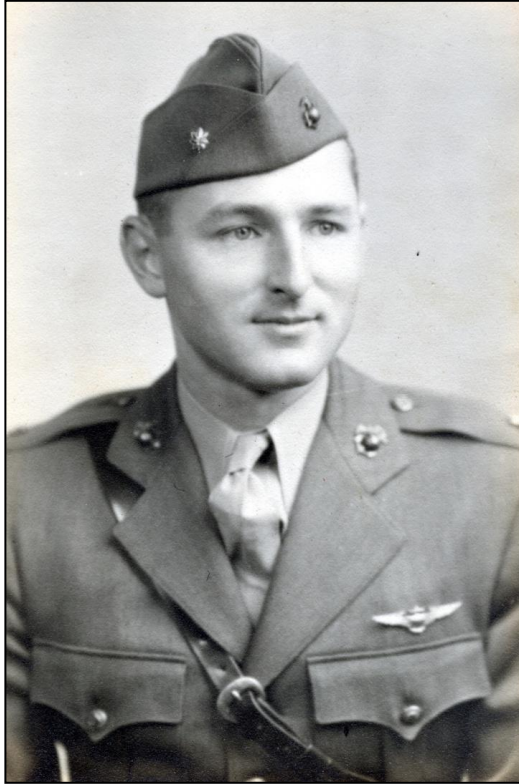


Colonel Edward W. Johnston, U.S. Marine Corps **Service in World War II and in the Korean War**



Colonel Edward W. Johnston, U. S. Marine Corps

Edward Weber Johnston was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 13, 1913 to Edward R. and Anna (Weber) Johnston. Edward received his bachelor of science degree from Purdue University in 1935.

He entered the U.S. Marine Corps on June 8, 1935. After completing flight training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, Johnston was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps on July 1, 1936. Five years later, on March 1, 1941, he was promoted to Captain.

The United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941. Edward Johnston would join the war effort, serving in the Pacific theater. In the course of the war, Johnston became a seasoned flat-top pilot, meaning that he was qualified and able to land and take off from aircraft carriers. The battle of Guadalcanal was waged between August 7, 1942 and February 8, 1943. During that time, Major Edward W. Johnston served as a commanding officer in the Marine Fighting Squadron 123, providing air support on Guadalcanal.

Johnston went on to serve in the Korean Conflict. He achieved the rank of Colonel on January 1, 1951. Over the twenty-six years of his military career, Johnston was stationed at bases from coast to coast and beyond: Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Texas; El Toro, California; Honolulu, Hawaii. He also had a tour of duty in Japan. Very early in his military career, Edward Johnston made the acquaintance of Robert Edward Gayler, a much-decorated aviator with the U.S. Marine Corps who eventually became Brigadier General. They both fought at Guadalcanal and served in the Korean conflict. The two men remained life-long friends. Gayler attended Edward Johnston's 90th birthday festivities in Las Vegas in 2003.

Johnston married Marion McKinley on June 6, 1940 and the couple raised three children. In 1963, Colonel Edward W. Johnston retired as Chief of Staff at El Toro, California. Marion died in 1975. Colonel Johnston married Ann Klint in 1988. The Colonel died on March 30, 2008 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, at the age of ninety-four, and is survived by his second wife.

Sources: U.S. Select Military Registers, 1862-1985; U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Officers Registers for 1945 and 1960, downloaded from Ancestry.com in Nov. 2014; Hough, Ludwig and Shaw, "Marine Task Organization and Command List (Appendix C)." *History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in WWII: Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal*. Web 11 Nov 2014); www.wings-aviation.ch Web 15 Nov 2014.