

WWII U S Marine Corps Raider Shoulder Sleeve Insignia A Brief Historical Study

By
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Much has been written about the history of the Marine Raider Battalions during WWII. This study will not attempt to repeat that which has already been amply covered, nor delve into the specialized training, equipment, or weapons, but rather attempt to educate the reader on the various shoulder sleeve insignia worn on the Marine Corps service uniforms and, in some occasions, on field uniforms. It will be shown that the familiar blue background insignia with five white stars, red diamond and white skull was first introduced only nine short months before the four Raider Battalions were disbanded on 1 February 1944.

The history and origin of the Marine Raider shoulder sleeve insignia (i.e. Raider patch) is closely associated with that of the First Marine Division in the closing days of the Guadalcanal Campaign and the division staff's quest for a distinctive insignia to set them apart in the event they were forced to wear U S Army uniforms.

The First Marine Division was relieved by U S Army forces and departed Guadalcanal 23 December 1942. About the same time frame, then Lt. Colonel Merrill B. Twinning, the division Operations Officer developed an idea and design for a unit insignia (patch). The entire division would be transported first to Brisbane, Australia for a brief stay, then on to permanent camps in Melbourne. Twinning would seek to procure uniforms to replace those that were lost or destroyed while division troops were on "the Canal". Logistics was a huge problem in late 1942 and early 1943, and there loomed the possibility that Marines may be forced to wear U S Army uniforms that could be obtained more readily. A similar situation had occurred during WWI when General John J. Pershing ordered Marines of the 4th Brigade to replace their forest green uniforms with the OD green Army uniform. Thus was born the Eagle / Globe / Anchor collar disc worn on the stand-up collar, as well as the large USMC cap device worn on helmets and the new garrison caps. Marines in 1918 wanted to maintain their identity and so did the Marines of 1942 – 43. Possibly this had some bearing on the decision to procure the Australian Army battle dress uniform, although the identity issue would be the same.

It has been reported in numerous publications that Lt. Colonel Twinning sketched out a design that would become the very familiar First Marine Division patch. It is believed by some that Twining was influenced by the color and design of the Australian National flag, which contained the five stars of the Southern Cross constellation and is also on a dark blue background. Twinning stated that, while recuperating from malaria, he purchased a watercolor set and worked on the insignia design. The results were submitted to Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift who approved the one that we are familiar with today. In February 1943 Twinning sought a local manufacturer for the new insignia. In a post war recollection Twinning stated that he contracted with the Australian Knitting Mills (AKM) located in the Richmond commercial area of Melbourne for the manufacture of the new patches. It is interesting to note that the AKM facility was located on the opposite side of a major roadway from the Melbourne Cricket Grounds, the site of much First Division activities during its stay in Australia.

Twinning also reported that within a week or two the "sheets of patches were rolling off the machines" and he was there to inspect them, thus obtaining one of the very first patches produced. This is where this author thinks that possibly Twinning, in his later years, may have gotten his facts slightly mixed up.

The Australian Knitting Mills was an old established textile manufacturing facility established in the early 1900's. They specialized in woolen garments and made uniforms for the Australian

government. Is it possible that the AKM supplied the battle dress uniforms for the First Division? Only a thorough search of period procurement records could prove this theory.

On the other hand, the knitting firm of J & J Cash was located several blocks away from the AKM in the same Richmond, Melbourne manufacturing district and it has been confirmed that they produced the First Marine Division patches that are commonly seen in early 1943 period photographs. These patches were also produced in continuous sheets of material and then cut to size. Segments of uncut Cash produced patches have been observed in the hands of collectors. In addition the author has a 14 February 1984 dated letter from Cash informing that an old production file stated the patches “were constructed of mercerized cotton with scarlet and white figuring on a royal blue background”. This cotton patch (Figure 1, left) along with a wool version (Figure 1, right) have been observed in a J & J Cash identified pattern / sample book. The cotton version of the Cash manufactured patch is seen on First Division Marines’ battle jackets in the May 1943 photographs of the Medal of Honor awards ceremony in Melbourne. Ironically, the patches were worn on the right shoulder briefly until guidelines were issued, around the same time period, concerning the proper wearing of unit insignia.

For the purpose of this writing, the dark blue pentagon shaped Raider patch most often thought of and encountered will be referred to as the Raider Regiment patch. Reasons for this description is to distinguish the differences in individual Raider unit adopted insignia and the blue patch with skull adopted after the formation of the First Marine Raider Regiment in early 1943. It should be remembered that prior to that time, all units assigned to the First Marine Division (1st and 2nd Raider Battalions included) were also allowed to wear the new First Division patch. Some Edson and Carlson Raiders did just that, although few in number.

The First Marine Amphibious Corps (IMAC) was created in October 1942 and moved from Hawaii to Noumea, New Caledonia the same month. We can glean much information on how this impacts the creation of the Raider patch from Major General Oscar F. Peatross’s work, *Bless ‘em All*. After the Guadalcanal Campaign, the make up of the Raider Battalions would under go some major changes. The First Marine Raider Regiment was formed 15 March 1943 on Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides under the command of Colonel Harry “the Horse” Liversedge. On 21 March Colonel Alan Shapley would take over command of the 2nd Raider Battalion from Colonel Evans F. Carlson. Immediately, then Captain Peatross was made Shapley’s Operations Officer.

One of Peatross’s first tasks would be to fly to Camp St. Louis near Noumea, New Caledonia to insure a new camp would be ready for the 2nd Raiders to move to when it arrived on 30 April. With some difficulty this was accomplished and the move was made. During this period, Peatross mentions that he also had to assume many of the duties of the proposed new executive officer, Major Richard Washburn, who was hospitalized at that time in New Zealand with malaria. Reports indicate that Washburn was in USN Mobile Hospital #4 in Auckland, New Zealand April 1 – 16, 1943. Peatross then mentions that he was assigned to serve on an IMAC formed “Patch Board” with the mission to select a unit patch to be worn by all IMAC personnel. He would be the representative for the Raider Regiment while other members represented other units. As a bonus for serving on the Board, Peatross would also fly to Australia and arrange for the manufacture of the approved patch design and subsequent sale through the Marine Corps Base Exchange system. This last statement tells us much as to why known Australian made patches were made available in stateside base exchanges months later.

The Patch Board decided to have a contest with prizes and directed each unit to submit designs for consideration. Ironically, Corporal Charles J. Hedinger, a member of the 1st Raider Battalion's Headquarters Company and Intelligence Section, won all of the awards except two (Division and Air Wing insignia would be different). The design that Hedinger submitted consisted of a dark blue pentagon shaped shield with a red diamond in the center with a white border. This was surrounded by the five stars (also in white) of the Southern Cross. In the center of the red diamond would be the symbols for each of the IMAC units – skull for the Raiders, parachute for the Parachute Troops, anti-aircraft gun for the Defense Battalions, and so forth. A brilliant concept, Hedinger's design was quickly approved for all IMAC units. It should be noted that this occurred in early to mid April 1943. Once designs were approved, contracts had to be secured for the manufacture and delivery of each of the unit's patches. By the time this process could get underway, it would be late April or early May 1943 before any patches were delivered and made available for wear. There is one slight wrinkle to this timeline that may have allowed the 1st Raider Battalion to get a slight jump on obtaining their patches ahead of the others.

In the groundbreaking 1990 book, *Our Kind of War* written by R. G. Rosenquist, Colonel Martin J. Sexton, and Robert A. Buerlein, can be found additional information that will aid in our research. On page 153 can be found a sketch, credited to 1st Raider Robert L. Brown of A Company, that depicts a skull within a diamond and surrounded by the five stars of the Southern Cross constellation. It was further reported that Brown's design was drawn immediately following the Guadalcanal Campaign and was intended to be used as a battalion letterhead. No doubt inventive young 1st Raiders found other applications for the skull design on sea bags and equipment. Carlson's 2nd Raiders in similar fashion prior to Guadalcanal had already used the skull design.

On Page 150 there is a reference concerning the manufacture of 5000 1st Marine Division patches in Australia. In the immediately following sentence, the authors reveal that then Lt. Colonel Samuel B. Griffith, commanding officer of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, first appeared on New Caledonia with the new "Edson's Raider shoulder patch". This would have been in May and just prior to the 1st Raiders departure on 7 June 1943 for Guadalcanal and further preparation for the New Georgia Operation. The 1st Raiders may have had their new patches in hand when they left New Caledonia, but there would be no time for them to be worn in the Pacific Theater. Period photographs coupled with personal conversations with Raider veterans indicate that only in rare cases were dress uniforms ever worn with the Raider patch while in Theater.

Possibly, this would be a good time to side step for a moment and attempt to correct an error that was first originated by this author in the mid to late 1980's. At that time, and with far less research material, it was believed that a particular wool version of the Raider patch (Figure 2) was made in New Zealand while the 1st Raiders were on R&R in Wellington, NZ from 12 December 1942 to 20 January 1943. This would have been highly unlikely, since the patch design was not designed nor approved until April 1943. In addition, more recent communications with military insignia collectors in New Zealand reveal that manufacturing facilities in that country in the 1940's were limited and most patches from WWII would have been manufactured in Australia. Again, research of period procurement records (if available) may provide further insight into the subject. Having set the record straight, the author believes that the wool patch illustrated in Figure 2 may very well be the one that was first manufactured and made available to those members of Edson's 1st Raiders prior to leaving New Caledonia. All known surviving examples of this patch, which are few in number, have come from 1st Raider veterans. If these patches were also made available through the Base Exchange System, then it is possible that other

examples may come to light in the future with provenance associated with a member of a different Raider Battalion. That remains to be seen.

At the end of the Raider's Bougainville Campaign in late December 1943, their fate had been decided. With the stroke of a pen the four Marine Raider Battalions and Parachute Battalions would be disbanded effective 1 February 1944. The Marine Raiders of WWII fame would be no more. But what about their shoulder patch that was approved only nine months before?

About the time that the Raider Battalions were disbanded and reformed into the new Fourth Marine Regiment, those veteran original members of Edson's 1st and Carlson's 2nd Raiders (old Raiders) were sent back to the United States for a much deserved leave and then would report to Camp Pendleton, CA to become the nucleus for the new 5th Marine Division. The same happened to the Parachute Troops who were also disbanded on the same day. Those Raiders who joined after Guadalcanal (new Raiders) would become members of the newly reformed 4th Marine Regiment and later serve with the 6th Marine Division on Okinawa. This was not a 100% process and exceptions can be found of where Raiders were assigned not according to these loose guidelines put forth, but were assigned to a totally different unit. The definition of OLD and NEW Raiders will aid in when the Raider patches were worn.

The "Old Raiders" who came back to the US, circa January 1944, would be the first ones to have the opportunity to wear the Raider patch en masse. In many instances, the Raider patch was replaced by the 5th Marine Division patch or one from another unit. Of course, there were exceptions. It should be remembered that prior to that time all Raider Battalions were engaged in campaigns and had little to no opportunity to wear their dress uniform. In personal interviews, some early Edson Raiders stated that they never wore nor ever had a Raider patch.

The "New Raiders" would remain in the Pacific Theater and not return home until the end of the war. Some of these Raiders wore a Raider patch briefly or not at all. Most would wear the 6th Marine Division patch. Some Raiders, regardless of battalion, were proud to have been a Raider and refused to remove the skull patch from their uniform and replace it with that of a different unit. These are not hard and fast rules. Exceptions abound, but after forty years of researching and collecting anything WWII Marine Raider related, most of which came directly from Raider veterans, then one can grasp a better understanding of the when's, where's, and why's. This is by no means "the last word" on the subject, but will merely serve as a catalyst for the next researcher. Hopefully, it will entice veteran families, historians, as well as militaria collectors to further examine their treasured memorabilia and bring to light yet a different patch variation or make yet another discovery that has not been addressed thus far. Good hunting!

The following photographic study will hopefully educate readers as to the many variations manufactured and use of WWII Marine Raider insignia.



Figure 1 Examples of the First Marine Division patch manufactured circa February - March 1943 by J & J Cash of Melbourne, Australia. The mercerized cotton version on the left is often seen in early 1943 photographs being worn on Marines' Australian made battle dress uniforms. The wool version is pictured on the right and is less often encountered.



Figure 2 This wool patch is believed to be Australian made and all examples examined thus far have originated with 1st Marine Raiders. It may possibly be the patch that Lt. Colonel Sam Griffith delivered to New Caledonia circa May 1943 and distributed to members of the 1st Battalion. This would therefore make it the first Raider shoulder insignia issued. There is a possibility that this variant could have been made by J & J Cash as they were known to have made wool insignia for Marine, Navy, and Army units. The style and details of the skull is very similar to the cotton version made by Cash. This same firm had produced the 1st Marine Division patches and would be an easy pick by those seeking to fill orders. To date all known examples are either sewn to a uniform or had been removed from a uniform, indicating a more practical application rather than simply having a souvenir patch. The author also has an IMAC Aviation Engineers patch obtained directly from a Guadalcanal veteran that appears to have been made by the same firm. He too had been based in Melbourne in early 1943.



Figure 3 This example of Raider patch was produced by the Melbourne, Australia firm of J & J Cash and was described by them as being constructed of mercerized cotton in royal blue with white and red figuring. It too is believed to be one of the first batch of patches produced. These Cash made patches evidently were placed into the Base Exchange system and would make their way back to the United States for distribution. All identified examples in the author's collection were known to have been obtained by Raider veterans while in the US. This, however, does not mean that examples were not obtained while in Theater.



Figure 4 A somewhat crude example made of wool with an almost handmade appearance, this Raider patch is believed to have been made in Australia by an unknown company or individual. There is no indication that this example was ever sewn to a uniform, but its authenticity is not questioned. Only one other example has been observed of this variety, which was in the hands of a collector in Australia. It was his belief that a small quantity were made by a small firm in Australia, but details were unknown. Hopefully, additional information will surface in the future.



Figure 5 With the distinctive jagged edge stars (sometimes referred to as snowflake pattern) commonly found on many Australian made patches, this is yet another example believed to have been produced in Australia in 1943. It appears to be made of cotton with a silk-like blue background. The manufacturer remains unknown. Only a handful of examples have been observed thus far. One was machine stitched to an unidentified period uniform and another loose example in the hands of a collector, was given to him by a Raider veteran. Unfortunately, this occurred in the 1980's and the information was not recorded. The example pictured here has no known provenance.



Figure 6 This screened printed example is one of the rarest versions of those Raider patches produced during WWII. Made of cotton material with screen printed figures, only two examples have been observed in the past forty years. The manufacturer and origin remain unknown, however other examples of the various IMAC unit patches will surface occasionally. Inspected examples appear to have been produced by the same manufacturer. One possible reason for the scarcity of surviving example may lie in its construction. It is doubtful that such a patch would have survived very many laundry cleanings.



Figure 7 A rare original and legitimate bullion Raider patch identified to a Company E, 2nd Battalion Raider. Originals are rare, while reproductions abound. It should be noted that the U S Marine Raider Association has offered reproduction patches, both embroidered and bullion, at various times since their inception in the 1950's. The purpose was to make them available for members' use. The modern bullion examples could often be seen on Association member's blazers or other apparel at reunion events. Believed to be US made.



Figure 8 This odd shaped fully embroidered patch also came from the same Company E, 2nd Battalion Raider as the bullion version. It has obviously been sewn to a uniform item and appears to have been subjected to multiple launderings. Desiring to be “different”, some Raiders would adorn their patches with enhancements. In this case additional red threads (blood) were added to the skull’s teeth so as to add to its fierceness. This was not a common practice and is rarely encountered. This patch is believed to be US made.



Figure 9 This fully embroidered patch is possibly the most encountered version and is definitely the most reproduced today. Many US manufacturers produced large quantities of all patches during WWII in order to meet projected demands and secure a prominent place in the market. These supplies lasted well into the late 1940's and even into current day. In a 29 April 1946 memo from Headquarters Marine Corps, the practice of wearing unit shoulder sleeve insignia would come to an end. This directive would take effect beginning in January 1947. September 1946 photographs show Marines wearing the new "Vandegrift jackets" adorned with unit patches. Wartime produced patches would still have a market even after the end of hostilities. This patch version is believed to be US made.



Figure 10 Often offered for sale as being Australian made, this felt version of Raider patch will begin a series of five variations of what are believed to be US produced and are commonly referred to in collector circles as the “Casper” or “Clown” style patch. This comes from the appearance of the skull resembling the cartoon character Casper the friendly ghost or that of a clown. You choose. Known specimens appear on identified uniforms, although least commonly encountered of the five Casper style patches. Reproductions of this patch style have not been encountered as of this writing.



Figure 11 This fully embroidered variant is a classical example of wartime produced inventory that became surplus stock and later liquidated. Purchased in 2002 from the old inventory of the San Diego based military uniform shop of Harry Wosk. Just one of many patches, uniform accessories, and insignia that lay in storage after Wosk closed his doors in 1947, and was sold by family members in more recent years. These patches are believed to be US made and only one has been observed on a period uniform.



Figure 12 The second Casper style patch is fully embroidered and is differentiated by having a thin white border around the red diamond. This style and the next one pictured are possibly the most encountered Raider patch found on identified uniforms. Like all Casper patches, it is believed to be US made.



Figure 13 This fully embroidered patch differs from the previous example only in that it has a wider, thicker white border surrounding the red diamond. The skull design is the same. Believed to be US made.



Figure 14 Another example of a slightly modified patch that may have been done by a particular uniform shop as a marketing gimmick. Three examples have been observed over the years and all were of the Casper style featuring black eyes, nose, and black thread spacing the teeth more distinctly. This example had been sewn onto a uniform at one time. Believed to be US made and individually enhanced.



Figure 15 The fifth and last in a series of Casper patches, this fully embroidered example differs primarily in size. It is approximately 1/4 inches smaller in both height and width from previous Casper examples. No samples have been observed on uniforms thus far. Like the majority of Raider patches encountered, it is believed to be US made.



Figure 16 Another felt variety with a differently shaped skull and a darker blue background. Two examples are known to exist on identified uniforms. One of these uniforms was obtained directly from the veteran and in a letter he states that the patch was obtained in a San Diego uniform shop. Believed to be US made.



Figure 17 This fully embroidered example was placed in the “questionable” category for many years, even though it possessed most of the correct attributes to qualify as “an original patch”. Yet, there was a lingering feeling that it was post war produced for the collecting market. That changed recently when a well used example surfaced in the hands of a respected collector who had obtained it from a WWII Raider veteran. Unfortunately, no details were obtained at the time other than he had served in the 2nd Raider Battalion. Hopefully, additional identified examples will be discovered. It is believed to have been made in the US.



Figure 18 This will begin a series of the smaller version of Raider patches often referred to in collector circles as “shirt size”, although no example has been observed on the issue khaki shirts, but rather on the green wool service uniform. The late Lowell Bulger, who served as the Raider Association Secretary until approximately 1982 referred to this variety as the FMF size patch. It is unknown where this term originated or the reason for the smaller size IMAC patches. Regardless of purpose, according to identified surviving examples, these smaller patches were very popular with Raiders from all four Battalions and second only to the Casper patch as found on surviving uniforms. This particular patch was obtained in 2007 from Eugene W. Stone, Jr. His father served in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater during WWII aboard the USS Holland, a submarine tender. Stone’s ability to make quality knives and with the unique design of having a pommel in the shape of a skull attracted the attention of numerous Raiders, who received several of these treasured skull knives. Stone would be given several Raider patches in appreciation. This is one of those patches.



Figure 19 This larger version patch along with a smaller size similar to the one in Figure 18 were obtained in 2010 from a recognized and respected 50+ year patch and insignia collector. In a letter he stated that he purchased these patches in the mid 1950's from N. S. Meyer in New York and was considered "obsolete stock". He did not know if they were produced by Meyer or simply a reference piece in their library. He further stated that the small patch was attached to an index card labeled "Officer Size" and the larger one as "Regulation Size". The origin of this naming technique is not known. Stone Junior stated that his father told him that the patches he had were made in Australia. It is not known on what info that Stone Sr. based this statement, although there are similarities in construction and materials to some varieties strongly believed to have been made in Australia. In fairness the origin will remain unknown. No example of this style has been documented to have originated from a Raider veteran.



Figure 20 Another small size patch that is very similar to the one pictured in figure 18, except this one has separately stitched red eyes, nose, and teeth that are much more distinct. There is no provenance associated with this example. Origin of production is unknown.



Figure 21 Often referred to in collector circles as the “flat top” patch, this style has an embroidered red diamond and blue cotton twill background. A somewhat less encountered version of the believed to be US made patch, the “flat top” variety have been seen on several identified uniforms.



Figure 22 Of all the small size Raider patches, this style is most often encountered on identified uniforms and loose examples originating from Raider veterans. Collectors often refer to this style as the “broken jaw” version. The reason being that the right side of the skull’s lower jaw appears to not completely connect to the upper portion of the skull. Rather it turns sharply outward as compared to the skull’s left jaw. It has a red embroidered red field and a cotton twill blue background. Believed to be US made.



Figure 23 Almost identical to the patch pictured in Figure 22, this variety differs only in that the lower jaw connects to the top of the skull (“closed jaw”) at both hinge points. A minor variation, but an obvious difference in manufacturing, although probably produced by the same manufacturer. These have been observed with Raider provenance. Believed to be US made.



Figure 24 Believed to an Australian made version of the small size patch, these examples are rarely encountered. They have the typical snow flake stars and blue wool background. This one has an embroidered red diamond with somewhat crude stitched skull, which has separately stitched red eyes and nose. Although no example has been observed with provenance, their authenticity is not questioned.



Figure 25 Although very similar to the example featured in Figure 24, this patch has a red diamond constructed of a cheesecloth material. Again, the skull is rather crudely stitched with separately stitched eyes, nose, and teeth. The blue wool background is adorned with the snowflake pattern stars. This veteran Raider patch displays signs of age and moth damage. Like the previous example, it is believed to be Australian made. Its authenticity is not questioned.

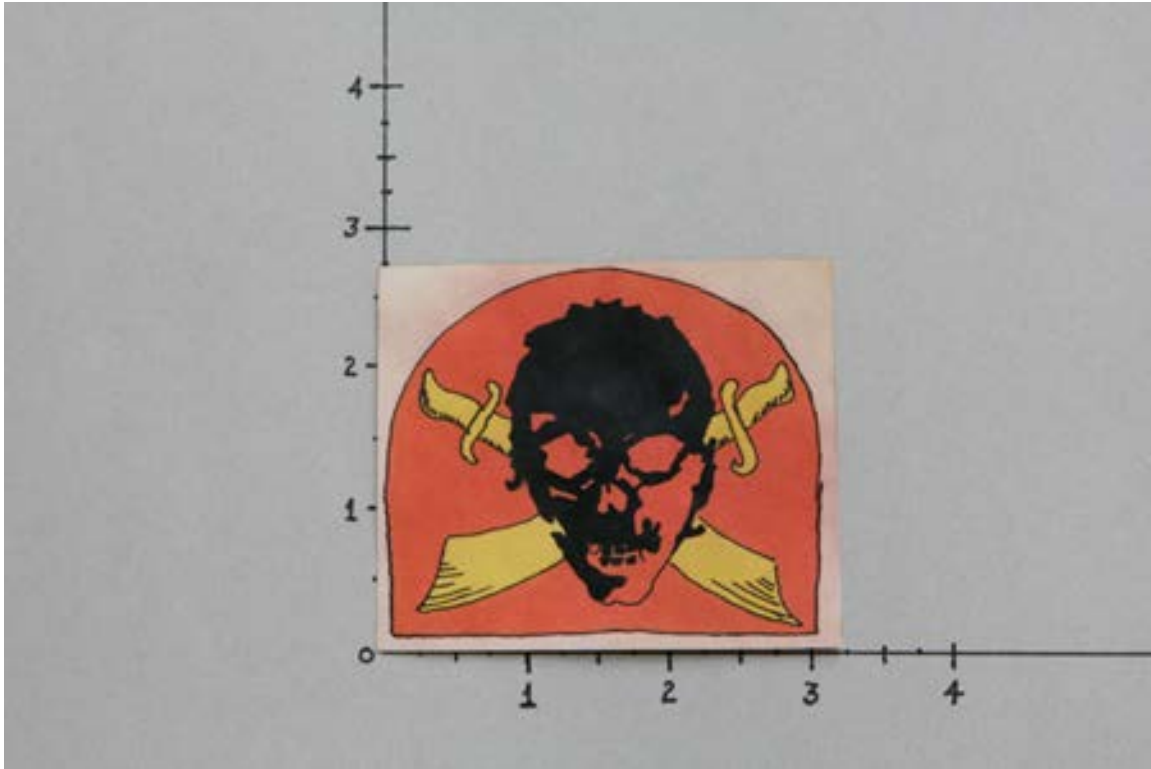


Figure 26 Often referred to by collectors as “Carlson Raider Calling Cards” these colorful paper stickers were produced by an unknown firm in California circa Spring of 1942 while then Lt. Colonel Evans F. Carlson’s 2nd Raider Battalion was training at Jacques Farm near San Diego. Intended to be a moral booster, these printed paper “patches” featured a decaying skull with crossed swords behind. With a postage stamp glue-like backing, they were intended to be utilized on raiding missions and were also used during training to stick on walls and equipment as Raiders slipped past Marine guards at night and left signs that they had “been there”. Examples were taken on the Makin Island Raid in August 1942 and later during operations on Guadalcanal. Most did not survive the humid tropical climate of the south Pacific and further use was abandoned. They are considered by some Raiders to have been the “First Raider Patch”. Due to the type of construction, intended use, and issuance to only the 2nd Battalion, it is not considered an approved patch as intended in this study. Still, an important and rare piece of Marine Raider history, the “Carlson Calling Card” is scarce and highly sought after by collectors today.

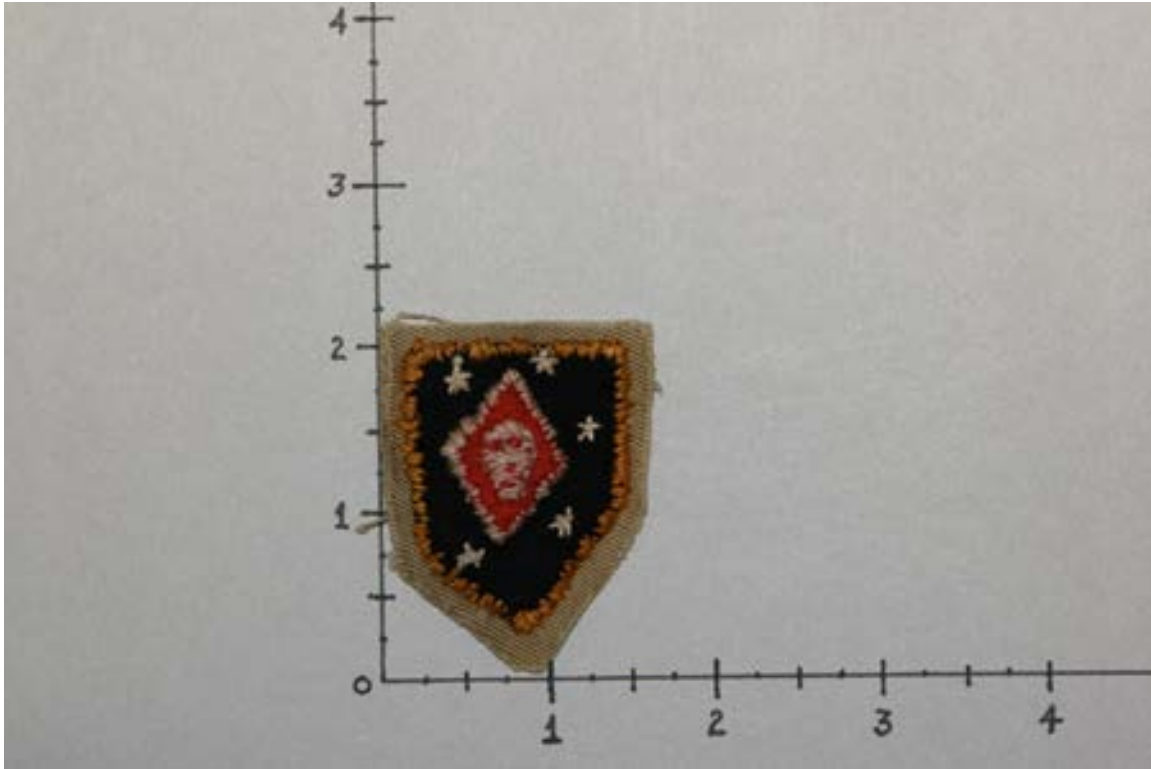


Figure 27 A unique and obviously handmade Raider patch that qualifies as a novelty, with a dark blue wool background, red embroidered diamond, crude skull and stars. All stitched to a piece of khaki material. Although showing signs of age, the purpose and origin of this specimen is unknown. Far too small to qualify as a regulation size Raider Regiment patch, it serves as an example of imagination and far too much time on your hands. There is no provenance associated with this specimen.

The remainder of this study will include a series of photographs that illustrate the application of the blue Raider Regiment patch on equipment as well as the use of Battalion adopted insignia that was often applied to seabags, field uniforms, and other equipment.



Figure 28 Hawley helmet liner with Raider Regiment patch painted on front.



Figure 29 Leather knife scabbard with Raider Regiment patch etched into front.



Figure 30 Leather scabbard which holds a Western Cutlery L-77 Commando knife and identified to a Carlson Raider.



Figure 31 USMC marked Camillus made Fighting Utility knife



Figure 32 Small Japanese flag brought back from the Makin Island Raid, 17 – 18 August 1942, by PFC Calvin L. Inman of Company B, Carlson’s 2nd Raider Battalion. Note that the flag is autographed by numerous members of the Raid and Inman adorned it with the 2nd Raider logo of a skull with crossed Gung Ho knife and lightning bolt. This symbol was also prominently stenciled / painted on equipment and field uniforms. It should be noted that this symbol is considered the second style. The first style consisted of a skull with crossed swords, similar to the gummed paper patches or “Carlson Calling Card”. Both styles were applied in the same fashion, although the one with Gung Ho knife and lightning bolt came into existence after the Makin Island Raid and is more commonly encountered.



Figure 33 Aluminum canteen cup with etched Carlson Raider logo. Identified to a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn. and carried on Bougainville, November 1943.



Figure 34 A skull with crossed bones(?) crudely etched on the front of a leather Gung Ho knife scabbard identified to J. D. Halley, a member of A Company 2nd Bn. and Makin Island Raid participant.



Figure 35 Model 41 field jacket identified to War Dog handler, Francis S. Penrod who served with the 2nd Raider Battalion on Bougainville.



Figure 36 Although difficult to discern, this pattern 1942 camouflage jacket that was worn by 2nd Raider Ben F. Carson on Bougainville, has a lightly applied 2nd Raider logo stenciled in red on the back. Carson, a veteran of the Makin Island Raid, was tasked with stenciling wooden crates containing Raider equipment. Not to miss an opportunity, he decided to stencil his jacket as well. The camouflage trousers also contain splatters of red paint.



Figure 37 A Hawley fiber helmet liner with Raider Regiment patch painted on the front.

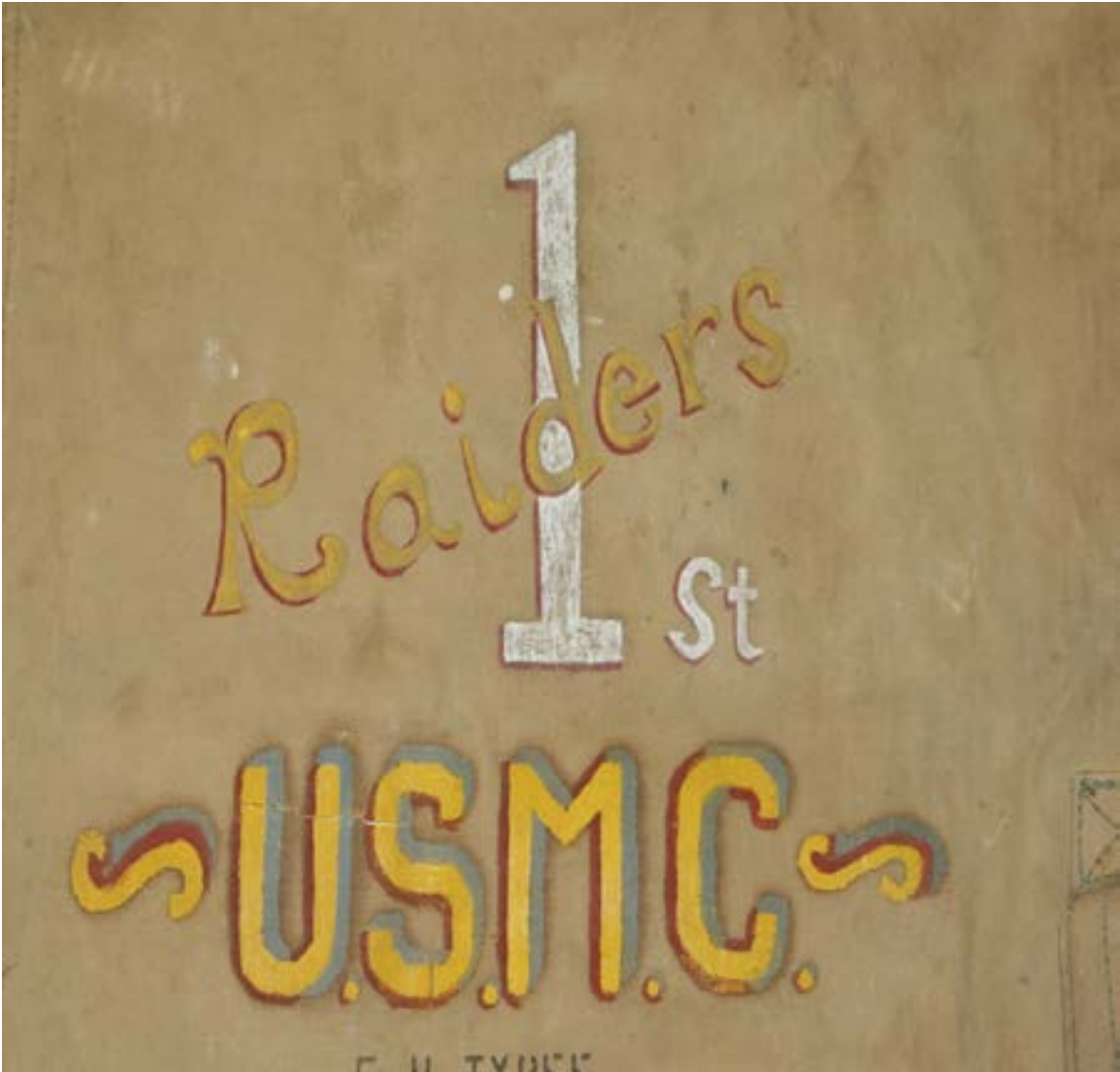


Figure 38 Seabag markings of an original Edson Raider. No skull or any other symbol, but there is no guessing as to which unit he belonged.

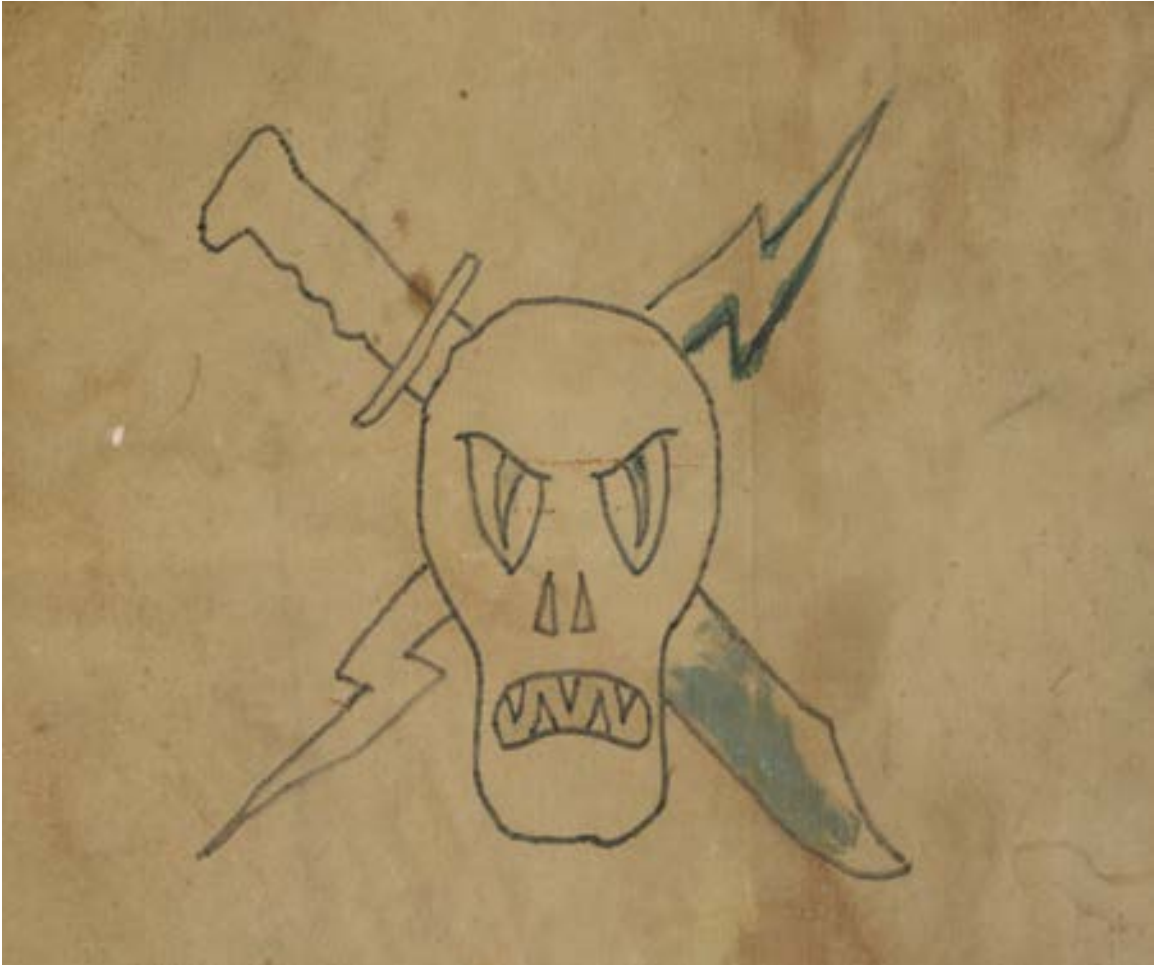


Figure 39 This is the commonly used symbol of the 2nd Raider Battalion that is prominently displayed on Corporal George MacRae's seabag. Ironically, MacRae served in K Company, 3rd Raider Battalion on Bougainville and never served with the 2nd Battalion. It has been observed that on occasion, other Raider Battalion members will utilize this 2nd Battalion symbol as well.

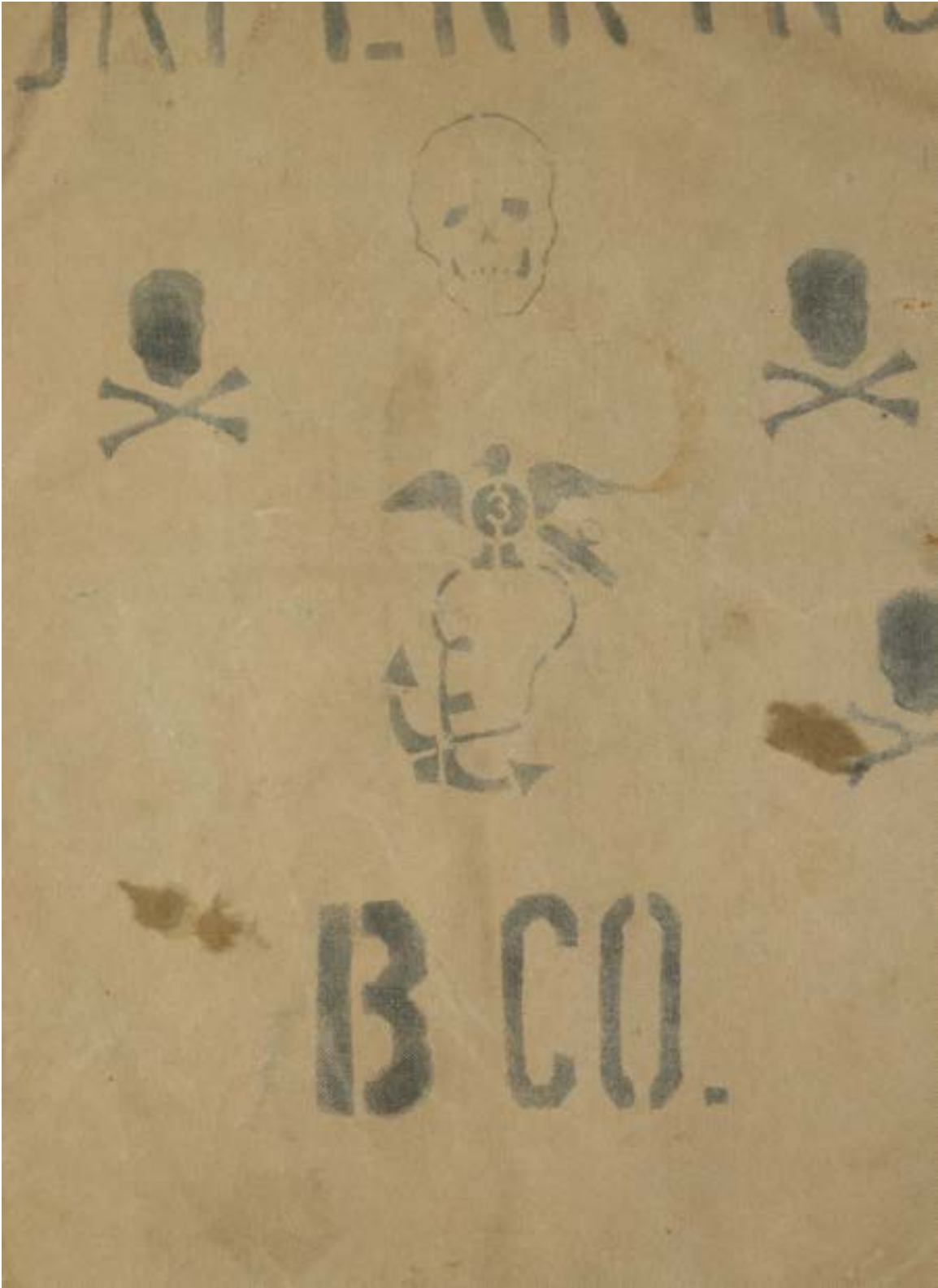


Figure 40 A uniquely stenciled 3rd Raider Battalion seabag belonging to Corporal D. Perkins of B Company, 3rd Raiders.

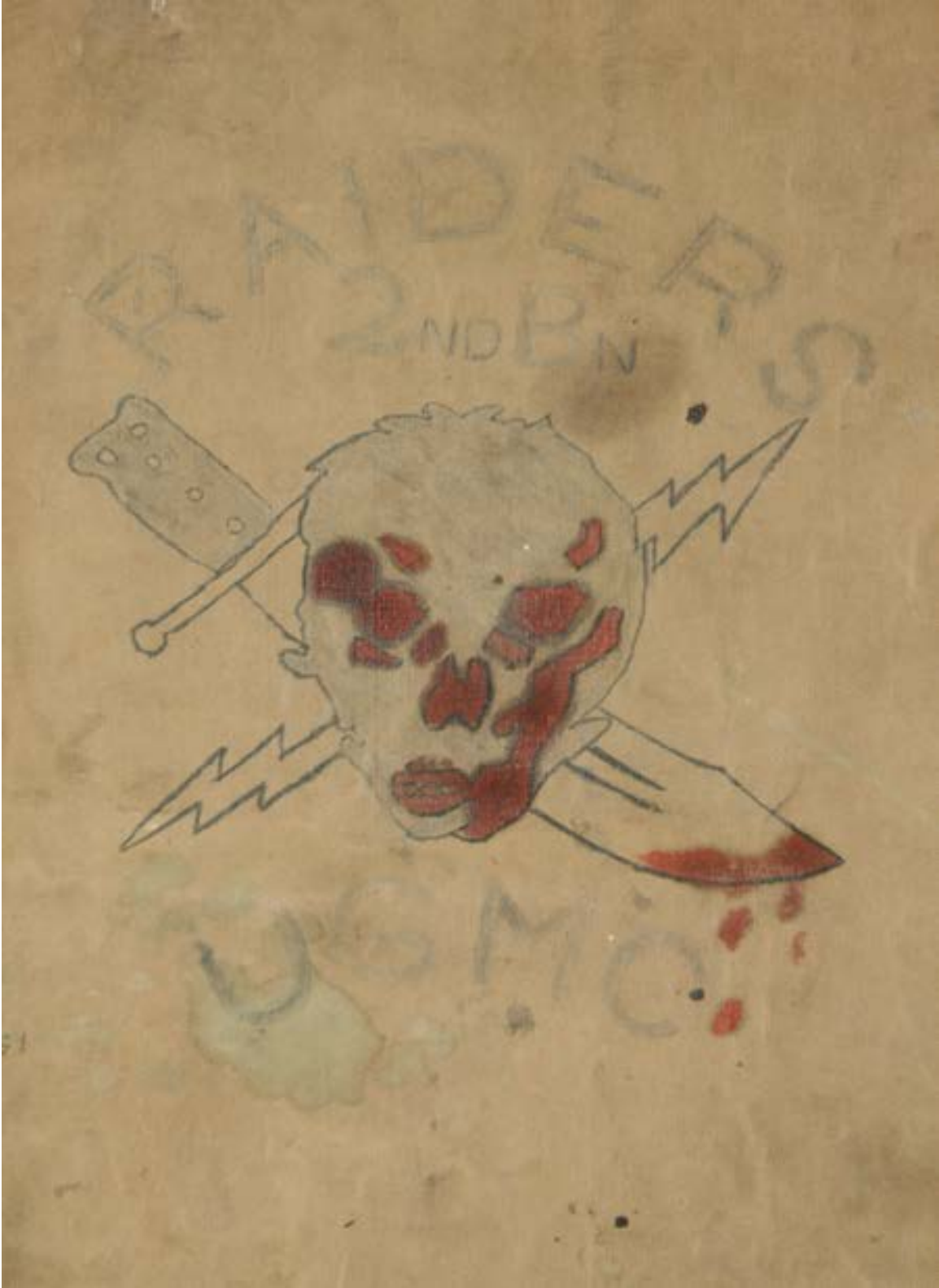


Figure 41 Stenciled seabag of B Company, 2nd Battalion Raider Calvin L. Inman. An original Carlson Raider and veteran of Makin Island, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Iwo Jima.



Figure 42 This 2nd Raider Battalion logo appears to have been painted on a seabag utilizing a preformed stencil.

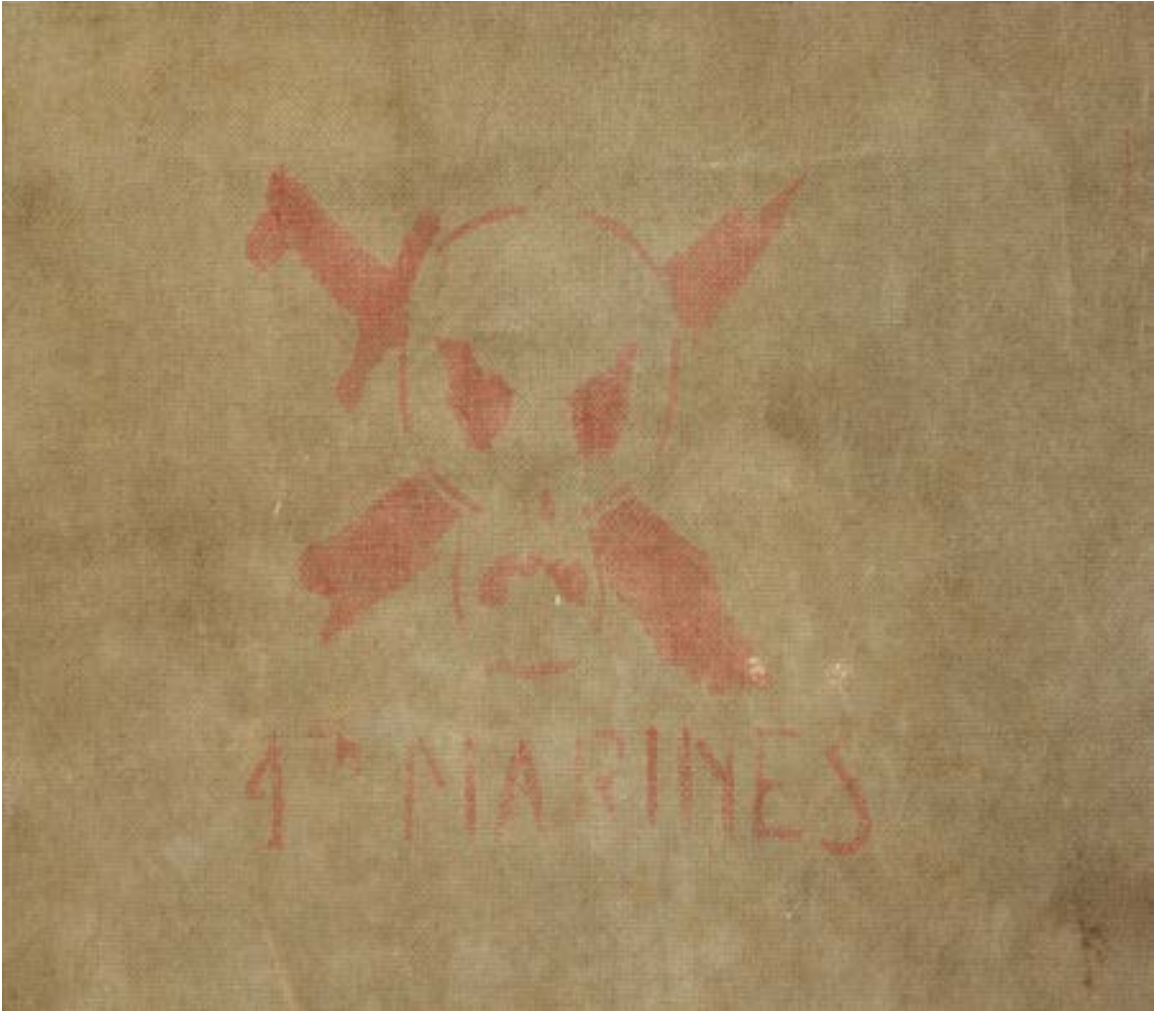


Figure 43 Ironically, this seabag belonged to a Marine who was a member of the new 4th Marine Regiment and had never served as a Raider previously. He reported that “a Marine was stenciling seabags, so I asked him to do mine”. It is ironic that this would have occurred after the Raider battalions had been disbanded, but it should be noted that part of the new 4th Marines role was to serve as Raiders when needed.