

# Marine Corporal From Guadalcanal Tells Of Experiences In Battle

BY PHILIP Wm. GILROY

Corporal Leon Crawford of the United States Marine Corps, who has just returned from active duty with the Marines on Guadalcanal, was a visitor on the campus during the first part of this week. A resident of Honea Path, he left behind him scores of cadets who were fascinated by his tales while he visited his cousin, F. G. Harper, electrical engineering '46, of Charleston.

Corporal Crawford was among the first group of Marines who surprised the Japanese forces on Guadalcanal and was one of the last of the Marines to leave when the United States Army relieved the small band. He was section leader of a .30 cal. Browning automatic machine gun section and was in actual combat with the enemy during his entire stay on the Pacific island. At drill here Tuesday morning, Corporal Crawford kindly consented to answer any questions that the cadets on Company L-2 might ask him. In his discussion he discounted a lot of talk concerning the enemy's prowess. On the whole, however, he has a lot of respect for the wily Japs as first class fighting men.

"The Japanese soldier is a small man, scarcely over five feet tall, a poor shot, an excellent man with a mortar, and a soldier who will die rather than surrender. He uses his ammunition sparingly, and cannot understand why the Americans do not. His principle weapon is a .25 cal. rifle and a .25 cal. machine gun. He has an expert knowledge of the art of camouflage, and his endurance is remarkable. In short, he is no push-over."

Corporal Crawford recalled one instance when a group of marines put out to rescue a Jap aviator who had fallen into the sea nearby. As the rescue party drew near the Jap let the air out of his life raft, and went down with it.

One of the enemy's favorite tricks was to equip a soldier with a quantity of ammunition and a bit of rice, then tie him in a tree where he would act as a sniper for days at a time. This gave our men more trouble than any of the enemy's seemingly inexhaustible devices.

As for the small force of Marines on Guadalcanal, the corporal had nothing but praise. Not in the bragging sense of the word, but the pride that no group of fighting men in the world excepting the Marines have. He said that the long tradition of the corps was responsible for this. There were times when they fought on,

outnumbered more than one hundred to one. Even then, during the bloodiest fighting of history, they gave an enviable account of themselves.

The food situation for weeks at a time was poor. For two months their diet consisted of rice, corn beef and water. During that time he did not even see a slice of bread. Another sore spot to the men was their susceptibility to disease. Owing to the extremely hot climate, at times reaching 120 degrees, fevers of all varieties were prevalent, and particularly the dreaded dysentery.

For the next few months at least Corporal Crawford will not need to worry about the Japs. When his present furlough expires, he will report to the Marine Base at San Diego where he will give newly enlisted marines the benefit of his experience.

The only material objects the corporal has to show for his active participation in one of the most famous campaigns in history, are the medals bestowed upon him by his country. His blouse boasts The Purple Heart, The National Defense Ribbon, The Marine Expeditionary Ribbon, The Good Conduct Award, The Asiatic Operations Ribbon, and The South Pacific Operations Ribbon.

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of the Southern Textile World, A. B. Bryan, '98, agricultural Editor at Clemson, Wright Bryan, '26, managing editor of the Atlanta Journal, H. S. Gault, '28, Frank H. Jeter, '11, agricultural editor at N. C. State, Ben Robertson, Jr., '23, author of "Red Hills and Cotton" and foreign war correspondent, and J. B. Hall, 19, editor of the Anderson Daily Mail.

Several notable active members are H. S. Ashmore, '37, formerly of the Greenville News and Piedmont and a Neiman Fellow of 1942, George Chaplin, '35, formerly city editor of the Greenville Piedmont, and a Neiman fellow of 1941, Jimmy Lever and Earl Mazo, both formerly of the Anderson Independent, Joe Sherman, '34, director of Clemson college publicity, J. C. Wilkerson, '38, associate editor of the American overseas Army newspaper "The Stars and Stripes," and D. B. Rosencrans, formerly of the Augusta Daily Chronical and the Athens Banner Herald.

Several volunteer contributions for GAM pins have come in to Professor John Lane from graduates. Among them are S. K. Able, Earl Mazo, H. W. Hollis, and Ben Robertson.