

**Bruce McDaniel
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I was the Beach Party Electrician on the USS Goodhue, APA 107, Flag ship of Transport Div. 51. We picked up a combat group of the 77th Army Div. from Leyte in the Philippines and transported them to Kerama Retto, Kuba Shima, Aka Shima, Yakabi Shima and Ie Shima. I blew up a boat skid on the beach of Mayi Shima. I have some pictures of where our boats landed on Ie Shima where Erni Pyle was killed. One of our boats took him out to the ship for help but he was dead. I'm not sure what you are looking for. I recall watching the prelude of our landing our part of the 77th on the North end of Okinawa April 20, 1945. We had three LSMR's going in firing rockets onto the beach. As soon as they got so close they would turn around and come back out firing their 5 inch 40 off the rear of their landing ship, They reloaded the rocket launchers as they were coming out and when reloaded they all moved over and made another rocket attack as they went back into the beach. There were Destroyers closest to the beach, then cruisers and last three battle ships sailing back and forth parallel with the beach and firing shells all of the time. There were airplanes in cloverleaf s above and one after the other the planes dived and bombed and strafed. It is hard to believe anyone could have survived the pounding that beach received before our troops went in. We heard that our troops did not get much resistance until the next day farther in from the beach. Please let me know what you want and what you are going to do with it.

**Sincerely,
John H. Hawkins
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