

In Memory of
Private First Class, U.S. Marine Corps
Bernard N. Brende

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

November 4, 1921 – July 22, 1944

Died aboard the *U.S.S. Elmore* at Guam, Marianas Islands



3rd Marine Division



Bernard N. Brende was born on November 4, 1921, in Faith, South Dakota, to Joseph and Karen Brende. Bernard was part of a large family, having three brothers and two sisters. The Brende family moved to Sioux Falls in 1929. Bernard was attending Canton Academy and was employed at Sand Lake Game Preserve near Aberdeen when he enlisted with the Marine Corps on August 7, 1942.

Brende served within the continental United States from August 7, 1942 through February 22, 1943. He was then sent to serve overseas and was last stationed on the *U.S.S. Elmore*.

During the war, the Marianas Islands contained major Japanese airfields and defenses. In June of 1944, the Islands were attacked by the U.S. with a great air battle, and the U.S. Marines opened one of the greatest naval expeditions ever attempted. This mission to invade Saipan, Tinian, and Guam in the Marianas Islands was known as Operation Forager.

On June 4, 1944, the *U.S.S. Elmore*, APA-42, with PFC Brende on board, got underway from New Guinea for the invasion of the Mariana Islands. On July 21, 1944, the *U.S.S. Elmore* landed troops in the assault on Guam. Private First Class Bernard N. Brende is thought to have been seriously wounded during this important invasion and died on July 22, 1944, aboard the *USS Elmore*, which had "remained to embark casualties, which she carried to Entiwetok."

Guam was liberated by the U.S. Marine 3rd Amphibious Corps on July 21, 1944, after a thirteen-day pre-invasion bombardment. After the Marianas Islands were liberated in that summer of 1944, the islands served as bases for the B-29 "Superfortress" bombing campaign against the Japanese home islands.

This entry was respectfully submitted by Michelle Garrels, Tenth Grade, Sioux Falls Christian High School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, April 5, 2002. Information for this entry was provided by the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader*, South Dakota Veterans Bonus Records, and historical websites of the *U.S.S. Elmore* and the Marianas Islands.



PFC. Bernard N. Brende

S. F. MARINE DIES IN ACTION

**Bernard N. Brende Former
Sand Lake Game Pre-
serve Employee**

Word that their son, PFC. Bernard N. Brende, United States marine corps, was killed in action in the south Pacific was received today by Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Brende, 707 West Twelfth st.

He was born November 4, 1921 at Dupree, S. D., and the family has lived in Sioux Falls since 1929. Attending Canton academy, he was employed at the Sand lake game preserve near Aberdeen when he joined the marines in August, 1942.

Surviving, with the parents, are three brothers, G. I., Htuchinson, Minn.; Karl A., Great Falls, Mont., and Herbert, Sioux Falls, and two sisters, Mrs. Herman Koenekamp and Kathryn, Sioux Falls.