

Colonel George F. Unmacht

George F. Unmacht was born on 10 September 1887 in Dubuque, IA. Colonel. Little is known about his childhood or time prior to his military career. He began his military career at the age of 16 in the Iowa National Guard in the pre-WWI era. From 1904 to 1915, he was a Clerk in the War Department in Manila, Boston, Chicago, and Ohio. He was promoted to LTC in the Quartermaster Corps at the end of WWI--at the time he was the youngest LTC in the Army. He then enlisted in the Regular Army at the permanent rank of Captain on 1 July 1920, but apparently kept his more senior rank in the Iowa Guard as well. In 1920, he was discharged from the Army, but in 1923, he re-entered the Army and graduated from Chemical Warfare School. Between the wars, he was a Chemical Warfare Service Officer. He was stationed in Hawaii on 7 December 1941 and promoted to Colonel on 11 December 1941 as Commanding Officer of Oahu Chemical Warfare Service Command.

After the Pearl Harbor attack he completely outfitted the entire Hawaiian civilian population with 500,000 gas masks, 78,000 gas masks for children, and 50,000 Bunny masks to fit babies. He delivered to the U.S. Marine Corps from Army stocks the flame-throwers the Marines used to break the beach defenses of Tarawa. Some time during his active wartime career, COL Unmacht met and married Irene Laura Unmacht on 11 December 1943. He pioneered, developed, built, and delivered 250 Napalm firing, flame-thrower tanks of the Pacific war and particularly those used on Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He delivered all the napalm and incendiary aerial bombs used in the Pacific invasions and B-29 bombings of Japan, amounting to 80% of the bombs dropped on Japan. He also outfitted over 60 U.S. Navy landing craft with 4.2-inch chemical mortars that supported the invasions of Peleliu, Leyte, Luzon, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Colonel Unmacht retired from the U.S. Army on 29 February 1948 and died six years later on 10 January 1954 at Tripler Army Hospital, HI.

Military Awards: Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, WWI Victory Medal, WW II Victory Medal Commendation Ribbon, and numerous other awards.

Masonic History: Mason and National Sojourner.