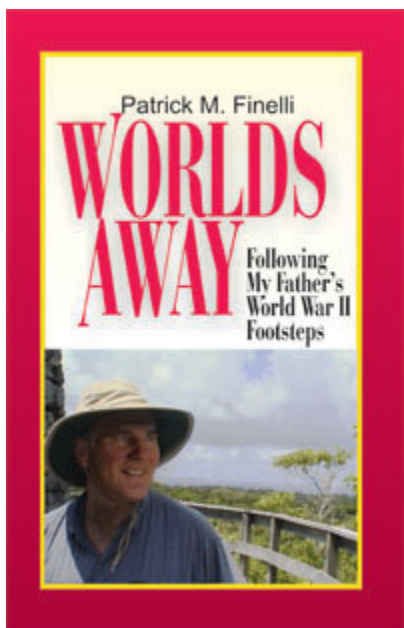


Worlds Away: Following My Father's World War II Footsteps

Patrick M. Finelli ISBN 0-9754989-0-8 Price: \$12.95
208 pages, 45 color photographs taken in 2004 and 30 B&W from 1944



The son of a **Marine Corps** combat veteran journeys to the far western Pacific and makes his way to an island where military and personal history was forged in the crucible of fierce combat. He retraces his father's deployments as a demolitions specialist and Marine reconnaissance swimmer with one of the Navy's original underwater demolition teams during **World War II**. Traveling 9,000 miles to **Micronesia** and the **Republic of Palau** sixty years later, he discovers an incredible amount of war debris under the sea and on the battlefields of **Peleliu**. The author juxtaposes his own photographs with pictures taken during the actual battle in 1944. He walks the hard coral beach at **The Point** where Captain George Hunt's company faced ferocious enfilading fire. He finds weapons and ammunition on **Orange Beach** and the **Horseshoe Valley**. He climbs the hill where Captain Everett Pope earned the Medal of Honor, and hikes across **Bloody Nose Ridge** with a Palauan battlefield guide. The trail leads to the limestone caves that hid thousands of enemy soldiers determined to die rather than surrender. He recounts what his father saw and did, and imagines what he felt. This biographical and historical account documents the journey of two lifetimes. It describes in detail scuba diving amid the **spectacular reefs** and **somber shipwrecks** in the depths of **Truk Lagoon** along with surprising encounters and discoveries in **Yap**. The tropical beauty of **Peleliu** and the **Rock Islands of Palau** provide the picturesque setting as the author uncovers the scars of war in a foreboding place where the ghosts of the past look out upon the sea.

About the author: Patrick M. Finelli is a writer, historian, scuba diving enthusiast and professor at the University of South Florida. He was born in Boston and educated at the University of California at Berkeley where he earned the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. He has written over 300 articles since 1982. His first book was published in 1989.

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