For Horse and Country

Raymond Lavern Allen

“Love for horses and serving the homeland during WWII”
Raymond Lavern Allen – Here’s his Story

• Born July 11, 1919
• Raised on a farm in Irrigon, Oregon
• Left home to work on a horse ranch as a teenager
• Moved to California and lived at the horse farm of Seabiscuit
• Exercised horses and worked in stables for Charles Howard
• Drafted to serve in the 7th cavalry during WWII
• Patrolled the U.S. Mexican border on horseback
• Killed in Action while on patrol in the Philippines on March 8, 1945
George Woolf on Seabiscuit & Raymond on inside horse (well hidden)

Raymond writes on back of photo... “Jockey Woolf up on Seabiscuit. Pimlico Workout. This was taken at Pimlico, Maryland in 1938. It was just before he ran the match race with War Admiral. I am on a horse on the inside of Biscuit. If you look close you can see his feet.”
Raymond Allen on Vero

Handwritten by Raymond... “VERO”
“This is another South American horse. We have started him only twice. He won one & was third the other time. He might turn out a pretty fair horse later on.”
Ted Kinley on Kayak II and Raymond on Sorteado

Handwritten by Raymond...
“Kayak II & Sorteado. Taken at Saratogo in 1939.”
John Pollard on Mioland & Raymond on Souto (Brother of Sorteado)

Raymond wrote...

Mioland & Souto
“Taken at Santa Anita this spring. John Pollard is on Mioland and me on Souto.”
Ted Kinley on Kayak II

Raymond wrote...

“Taken at Saratogo, N.Y. 1939
Ted Kinley is on Kayak II. He exercises him all the time.”
Porter's Cap

Tom Smith took this photo of Porter’s Cap
Raymond on Sea Convoy (outside) and Sea Skipper is on the rail. Other rider appears to be John “Red” Pollard

Handwritten by Raymond... “Two of Seabiscuit’s colts. The one I am on is named Sea Convoy. The other is Sea Skipper.”
Raymond wrote many letters to his mother and family about Seabiscuit and his times in the military. This is the only letter known to exist.
May 13, 1938 letter to family

Continuation...>>>
Raymond enjoyed writing notes and sending pictures of Seabiscuit to his family.

Raymond writes... “This is a picture of the finish of the match race with War Admiral. Biscuit was just playing around with him.”
Raymond Allen shares what he sees at the Santa Anita Race. Handwritten notes on news print photos were sent to his family. “Can you here the sound of the crowd through his words?”
No. 1: Out of the gate Seabiscuit almost fell.
No. 2: Seabiscuit in last place at quarter mile. Not Visible.
No. 3: Seabiscuit far back around the first turn.
No. 4: Seabiscuit running hard and still not visible in picture.
No. 5: Seabiscuit hard-pressing Aneroid out of the far turn.
No. 6: Seabiscuit going to the front at last quarter mile.
No. 7: Seabiscuit “on top” down the homestretch.
No. 8: Two horse race! Seabiscuit 2\textsuperscript{nd} by a nose.
Front Page News: “Stagehand Noses Out Seabiscuit”
Raymond shares story about training the little biscuits

Handwritten by Raymond… “Seabiscuit & his first colts. Taken at the Ranch in Ukiah, Cal. We will break them this fall & they will start racing next spring.”
Just riding for pleasure on the ranch

Charles Howard enjoys time for a relaxing ride.
Kayak II. 1939 Santa Anita Handicap Winner

Raymond writes on picture...

“I exercised this horse for Mr. Howard. He came from South America. He’s won $300,000.”
Raymond Lavern Allen was drafted to serve during WWII

Raymond’s experience working with horses qualified him for service in a cavalry unit.
Riding with the cavalry patrolling the U.S. Mexican Border during WWII

Raymond’s initial assignment with the cavalry was in Texas along the Mexican border.
Serving with Machine Gun Platoon Provisional Troop.

- Raymond is reassigned from riding horses to foot soldier.
- He is kneeling in the second row, 4th from the left.
Raymond as Assistant Gunner of First Squad

• Raymond is seated 2nd from left in the front row.
Brothers Raymond and Eldon Killed in Battle

Raymond’s youngest brother Hugh W. Grim remembers the day when the telegram arrived.

A sad day for the family having already lost Raymond’s older brother, Eldon, to the war on Christmas day 1942.

Raymond and Eldon were laid to rest next to each other at the Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California.
Raymond was Killed in Action on March 8, 1945
Raymond Allen makes local news in Irrigon, Oregon

- He was from a farm growing watermelons, asparagus and local honey.
- Raymond’s passion for riding horses and training them led him to Seabiscuit.
- The Irrigon Irrigator published September 2003 tells the story.