

# AMERICAL

NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION



AMERICAL



JOURNAL

DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

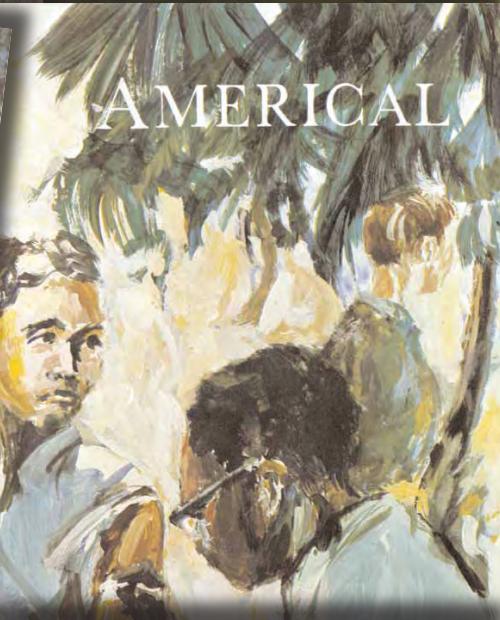
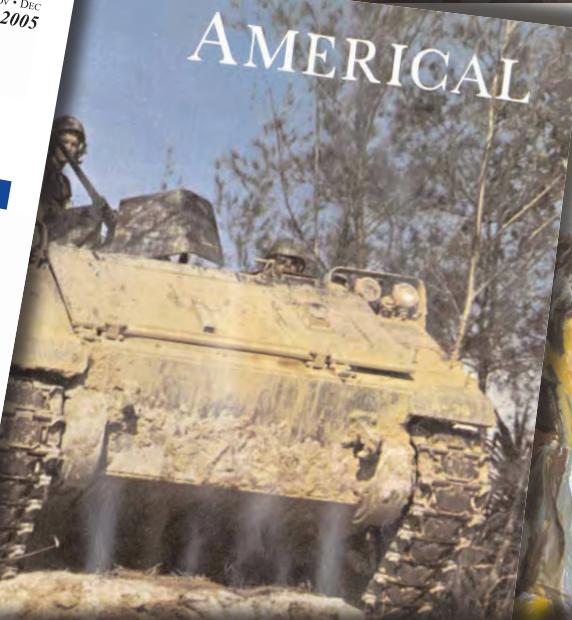
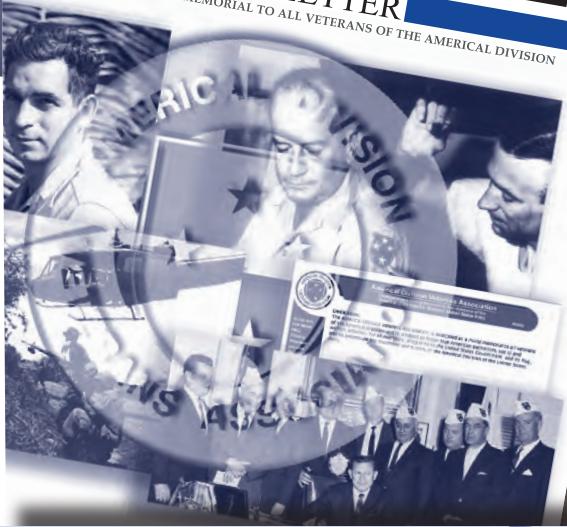


OCT • NOV • DEC  
2005

# AMERICAL

NEWSLETTER

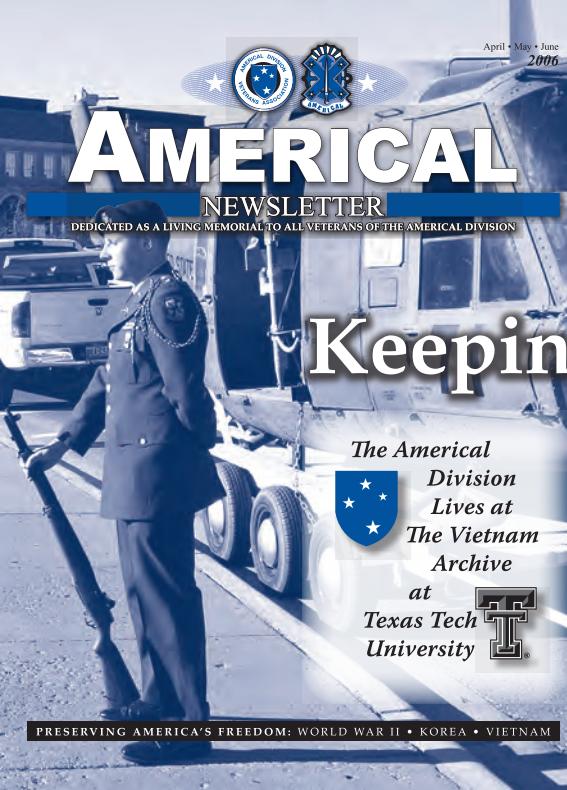
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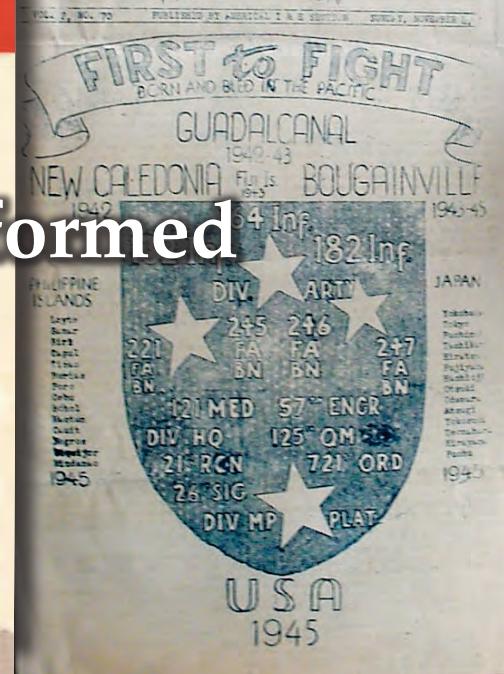
MAY

"Under The Southern Cross"



*the*  
**AMERICAL**

FINAL EDITION



Keeping the troops informed

*From the Journal Staff*

# MERRY



Alan L. Miller

Paul R. Hilt

Dutch DeGroot

Dave Taylor

Mike Van Hefay

## Newsletter No More

### Introducing the all new AMERICAL JOURNAL

By Gary L. Noller  
Editor-in-Chief

The staff of the **AMERICAL JOURNAL** wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

We have chosen this special time of year to unveil our latest changes to the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association. You have undoubtedly noticed that we are now bringing the magazine to you in full color. We have also made a change in the name from **AMERICAL NEWSLETTER** to **AMERICAL JOURNAL**.

The changes that you have seen in the past few editions are due to the excellent efforts of David W. Taylor, John (Dutch) DeGroot, Frank Mika, and Mike Van Hefty. Dave has secured a publishing vendor who can print the journal in full color for about the same cost that we were paying for two colors. Dutch has led the way on art and graphics design with expert assistance from Frank and Mike.

With the many new features and improvements in recent issues it did not seem correct to continue to describe the publication as a newsletter. Many readers commented that we produced a very fine magazine and that we had not used the newsletter format for a long time.

I first joined the ADVA about 20 years ago. At that time the **AMERICAL NEWSLETTER** was in a true newsletter format. It was published six times a year and consisted of about twelve to twenty pages. Some time later it was decided to publish the newsletter quarterly in a magazine format and to increase it to 36 pages. We are currently using a 40 page layout.

Early newsletters were composed without the aid of computers. Articles were typed on a page in a single column that was five inches wide. This page was reduced on a photocopier to provide a column at three and one-half inches width. Two of these narrower columns were pasted side by side on a new page to give the final layout.

Today all composition, art, design, and layout is done on a computer. When Dutch is finished adding art and providing final layout design he speeds a computer compact disk (CD) to the printer. The printer uses the electronic files to feed information directly to his presses.

Dutch and his assistants bring many years of art and graphics experience to the journal. Dutch is always demanding more photos so he can work his special magic.

Photos need to be high resolution in order to print at the desired quality. Digital cameras need to be set for high resolution even though this will require a larger file size.

Scanned photos need to be scanned at 300 dots per inch (dpi). You may send photos to the editors printed on paper or in electronic format. Make sure to get the photos at as high a quality as you can.

Deadlines for the journal may vary slightly with the season. In general all contributions must be submitted in the first month of the quarter. Early submissions make it better for the editors and staff and are greatly appreciated.

Dave Taylor will be a contributing editor and handle World War II articles. I will work with ADVA officers on their contributions and handle Vietnam articles.

The journal will not be a success without your much needed help. Please send your submissions to Dave or me. We will gladly help get them ready for publication. Remember, part of the reason for the journal is for you to tell the true history of the Americal Division.

We hope you like the new look of the **AMERICAL JOURNAL**. In the next few editions we will tell you a little more about how the journal is put together and how you may help by providing your contributions for publication. And feel free to let us know what you want the journal to do for you.

## DIRECTORY



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**Cover "Keeping the troops Informed".** The latest in Americal publications. The cover pays tribute to the historic periodicals produced for the Americal and its veterans from WWII to present.

**Cover Artwork Frank R. Mika**

## ADVA National Adjutant Notes

### 4th Quarter 2006 Journal

Under our new command staff, the ADVA has a number of new initiatives directed at increasing our membership base.

Senior Vice-Commander David Taylor has several membership committees working on new member recruiting and membership retention. Adding new members is one area all members can work on as they meet fellow American Division veterans and reunite with fellow veterans they served with on active duty.

I have new member recruiting packets available for distribution at unit gatherings and other veteran functions. Please contact me if you need a supply of these for an upcoming event.

Our new member additions have fallen off slightly during the past three months. Since the last newsletter issue we have added twenty-two new members to the ADVA roster. Of these twenty-two additions, two are Paid Life members. During this period, we reinstated six former members.

Annual pay members: Please remember to check your renewal date in the address block on the back cover of this newsletter. The first line in the address block, under the postal bar coding, contains your membership renewal date. If the date shown on your newsletter is SEP06 or earlier, please send your dues payment to PNC Ron Ellis, Assistant Finance Officer. Mail dues payments to Ron at 4493 Highway 64 W, Henderson, TX 75652.

Please notify me when you change your mailing address so the roster will be updated as soon as possible. Let me know if you will be changing your place of residence for the season. This will ensure that your AMERICAL JOURNAL will be delivered to the correct address and will save the ADVA return postage.

If you have access to a FAX service, you can FAX address changes or other correspondence to this number: 972-412-0089. Written correspondence and notice of address changes should be mailed to the ADVA National Adjutant P.O. Box 830662, Richardson, TX, 75080. The full address is listed inside the front cover at the bottom right corner of the page.

I encourage the use of E mail to notify me of changes. My E mail address is gilmoraces@aol.com.

*Roger Gilmore*

*ADVA National Adjutant*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Alric L. Andrews

196th LIB 3/21 Inf  
Pelham, NH

**# Self**

### Barry D. Brown

723rd Maint Bn  
Emporium, PA

**# Craig Singer**

### Ronald R. Capek

198th LIB D/1/46 Inf  
Glendale, AZ

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### David M. Czarnecki

11th LIB 6/11 Arty  
Darien Center, NY

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Peter P. Diaz

164th Inf Rgmt  
Cummings, GA

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Nicholas G. Ferry

198th LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Cincinnati, OH

**# Paul Stiff**

### John D. Gaines

11th LIB B/4/3 Inf  
Byron, GA

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Thomas Giberko

1st Sqdn 1st Cav Co. C  
Dearborn Heights, MI

**# Self**

### David M. Goldberg

196th LIB 1/46 Inf  
Lincoln, RI

**# Joseph Buss**

### Dr. Charles C. Mitchell

Americal Div Hdqtrs  
Valencia, CA

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Michael J. O'Dea

182nd Inf Rgmt Co. G  
Naples, FL

**# Self**

### Jimmy D. Pace

1st Cav 1/1 B Trp  
Pelahatchie, MS

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Charles G. Riggs

11th LIB C/3/1 Inf  
Hartselle, AL

**# Self**

### James W. Roehrig

198th LIB E/1/6 Inf  
New Holstein, WI

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Steven H. Russell

196th LIB A/4/31 Inf  
Lakeville, MN

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Mark A. Sanders

198th LIB E/5/46 Inf  
Lincolnshire, IL

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Raymond G. Stice

MSG (Ret) 196th LIB  
HHC/4/31 Inf  
Bella Vista, AR

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Brian J. Thompson

1st Sqdn 1st Cav Rgmt  
Braintree, MA

**# Self**

### James F. Van Hoveln

11th LIB C/4/3 Inf  
Momence, IL

**# PNC Gary L. Noller**

### Wayne D. Weber

182nd Inf Rgmt Co. I  
Oxford, OH

**# Les Hines**

## NEW PAID LIFE MEMBERS

**Joseph Bruggeman**  
198th LIB B/1/6 Inf  
Taberg, NY  
# *Mahlon B. Fegley*

**George H. Eckhardt**  
198th LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Philadelphia, PA  
# *Self*

**Alberto J. Gonzalez**  
198th LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Woodside, NY  
# *Self*

**Jerry J. Hopkins**  
23rd MP Co.  
Plattsburg, MO  
# *Rich Merlin*

**David Mower LTC**  
(Ret)  
23rd Admin Co.  
Kilmarnock, VA  
# *PNC Gary L. Noller*

**Charles R. Park**  
198 LIB  
Wallingford, CT  
# *Self*

**Colt Rymer**  
26th Engrs HHC  
S Lake Tahoe, CA  
# *PNC Gary L. Noller*

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

**Richard L. Allen**  
Americal Div Hdqtrs  
HHC  
Rolland Park, KS  
# *Self*

**Calvin Myers**  
121st Medical Rgmt  
Lakeland, FL  
# *Self*

**Angel R. Rios**  
196th LIB C/1/46 Inf  
Fajardo, PR  
# *PNC Gary L. Noller*

**Thomas P. Russell**  
198 LIB 17th Armd  
Cav Rgmt  
Warrenton, MO  
# *Bernie Chase*

**William E. Schneider**  
198 LIB  
Barnhart, MO  
# *Self*

**Franklin S. Whitlock**  
563rd Trans Co  
Richmond, VA  
# *Self*

## AMERICAL JOURNAL PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Due to the added work required by full color pages and extended graphics it is necessary to have items submitted to the publication well in advance. Please note the following AMERICAL JOURNAL deadlines for 2007:

First Quarter	January 22, 2007
Second Quarter	April 15, 2007
Third Quarter	July 7, 2007
Fourth Quarter	October 1, 2007

Contact Gary L. Noller Editor-in-Chief

## Taps And Last Roll Call

### World War II

**Anthony Cervone**  
Roseville, CA  
October 5, 2006  
*101st Medical*

**Lloyd A. Perry**  
Lubbock, TX  
June 10, 2006  
*(Co. F) 182nd Inf*

**David Himelfarb**  
El Cajon, CA  
December 7, 2005  
*Co. B 101st QM*

**Jack London**  
Irmo, SC  
June 7, 2006  
*HHC 182nd Inf*

**Dr. Alexander J. Mozzer**  
N. Hollywood, CA  
December 1999  
*121st Medical Bn*

**Ode R. McElhanon**  
East Hartford, CT  
July 21, 2005  
*HHC 182nd Inf*

**Thomas J. Burbine**  
Littleton, MA  
August 7, 2006  
*(Co. E) 182nd Inf*

**Louis E. Erickson**  
Willmar, MN  
Date Unknown  
*(Co. L) 182nd Inf*

**Michael Marcus**  
New York, NY  
December 17, 2005  
*HQ Btry 221st FA*

**Mrs. William**  
J.Symonovicz  
Worcester, MA  
*WWII Widow*

**David H. Burbine**  
Malden, MA  
August 2006  
*(Co. E) 182nd Inf*

### Vietnam Veterans

**J. Richard (Doc)**  
**Flowers**  
Casa Grande, AZ  
October 21, 2006  
*11th LIB 4/21 Inf*

**Moses Alloway**  
Montgomery, AL  
Date Unknown  
*198th LIB B/5/46 Inf*

**William G. Cahill**  
Hilton, NY  
June 2006  
*196th LIB C/1/46 Inf*

**William P. Finn**  
Somerville, MA  
Date Unknown  
*198th LIB HHC*

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## PAYMENT OF DUES

Mr. Ronald Ellis  
4493 Highway 64W  
Henderson, TX 75652

### Commander's Comments

By Larry Watson

The first few months of my term have passed and I am becoming more familiar with what should be accomplished. Progress is being made.

Dave Taylor and I went to the veterans' reunion in Kokomo, Indiana. Fortunately the weather was good while we were there and we had a good time. At the 2007 Kokomo reunion we will have a table with information on the Americal Division Veterans Association for the recruitment of new members.

In October Dave and I attended the East Chapter Reunion on Long Island, New York and had a really nice time. The Chapter Vice-Commander, Conrad "Connie" Steers, kept everything going and made sure everyone was happy. Jay Flanagan, the chapter Commander, was always available and greeting everyone. I was particularly pleased that there were so many World War II veterans in attendance.

On Friday we went on a tour of the "Cradle of Aviation" museum and the Vanderbilt Museum and we had plenty to eat at the "Red Planet Café." On Saturday I went fishing with a group of guys in the Long Island Sound on Clyde Murray's boat. The reunion wrapped up with a banquet and the annual meeting on Saturday night. Following the banquet we enjoyed the hospitality room. I was glad to make some new friends. Now when I see them at ADVA events it will be as friends rather than as acquaintances.

At the East Chapter I met P. Earle Gleason, who like me, is accredited by the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers. It was on my way home from New York that I thought that maybe there is a way for ADVA members that are certified veterans service officers or VA employees that assist or work veteran's claims to offer advice to our members regarding VA claims and benefits.

Below is a question and answer as an example of what I have been asked about in the past.

*Q: I am a Vietnam vet in ill health. I'm confused about what medical conditions have been determined by the VA to perhaps be connected to my military service.*

*A: Earl Gleason responds: The following health conditions are recognized by the VA as being presumably connected to in-country service in Vietnam: 1) Chloracne (must occur within one year of exposure to Agent Orange); 2) non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; 3) soft tissue sarcoma; 4) Hodgkin's disease; 5) porphyry cutanea tarda (must occur within one year of exposure); 6) multiple myelomas; 7) respiratory cancers; 8) prostate cancer; 9) peripheral neuropathy (must appear within one year of exposure); 10) diabetes mellitus (type II); and 11) chronic lymphatic leukemia. To apply for Service Connected Compensation for these conditions, you must have a current medical diagnosis of the condition and your DD-214 showing your Vietnam service.*

I would like to hear from any of our members that are accredited service officers or VA employees in the category described to explore this possibility.

The summer is over and Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here. Enjoy the holidays and keep them safe. Love your family and friends and may God bless you at this time of togetherness and giving. And, please remember to give what you can to those less fortunate.

### A Season of Light

The Reverend Barton D. Berry



As December approaches we again prepare for the festivals of light, Christmas and Hanukkah. Since I am a Christian priest I will address the latter and its implications.

John tells us that the Word, the eternal creative force of God, was not only present with God in the beginning but is in fact God and that He came into the world so that through believing Him we could be empowered to become children of God.

The Eternal became a mortal, the Creator became a man (a creature), the All Powerful became weak of His own will out of His boundless love for us mortals! In the incarnation the God of the Jews becomes a Jew and opens the way of salvation to all people.

It is important for Christians to understand that as Paul tells us, through God's acts in the incarnation we are included as part of Israel; The New Testament does not nullify The Old Testament.

Secondly, we must recall that all humans are made in God's image and are loved and desired by Him.

All Christians should remember (what soldiers and combat veterans are all too aware of) that John was right that "He was in the world that had its being through him and the world did not know him." It is our choice and some choose evil, worst of all some do this in God's Name, and no faith is entirely innocent of this.

In the present war we should never forget that while we must defend and pray for ourselves and our friends, we should also pray for our enemies.

May God grant you His peace and light during this Holy Season and always.

# National Recruiting & Retention

David W. Taylor – Sr. Vice Commander

Plans are underway in a number of areas to improve our ADVA Recruiting & Retention efforts. Ultimately, however, we will not be effective unless everyone takes an active role in this area. Here are some areas we are working on:



## Pointman Recruiting

We have plenty of existing recruiting packets for members to send to fellow Americal Vets and invite them into the ADVA. The packet above is already prepared and can be mailed with one postage stamp. Please contact national Adjutant Roger Gilmore, P.O. Box 830662, Richardson, Texas 75080 or by e-mail: gilmoraces@aol.com. Get as many packets as you want and mail them to your Americal friends who have not yet been invited to join the ADVA.

## E-Mail Marketing

We expect to develop an E-mail, or E-mail attachment, which can be used by our membership to send their Americal Vet e-mail lists. This should be available by March 30, 2007.

## Sponsor A Buddy

We ask all ADVA members to consider a buddy who may be tight on funds or not feel comfortable with joining a large organization, to sponsor their membership for the first year. Once they receive our quarterly Americal Journal, and see the many reunions and other opportunities to bond, we believe they will feel they are part of the ADVA family.

## County Fair Recruiting

Early next year we expect to have two "Exportable Recruiting Kits" available for membership use. These kits will include a 2-foot high by 8-foot long vinyl banner for use by members for smaller Americal unit reunions or other veteran's reunions. The kit will also include samples of the Americal Journal, items from the ADVA PX and full-color ADVA recruiting brochures to hand out. Anyone wishing to borrow a kit for a reunion or event can contact me. We have already begun making plans to have a recruiting booth at the

Melbourne, Florida

Veterans Reunion (April 2007) and the Kokomo, Indiana Veterans Reunion (September 2007). Each event draws between 35-40,000 Vets.

## Database Recruiting

Next year we plan to make a series of massive mailings to Americal Vets using computer lists that have been developed. We are talking about thousands of names and we need your help. I am looking for ADVA volunteers (or their spouses) who are willing to spend a few hours on their computer typing simple lists to aid us in our search efforts. And later, after personnel have been found, to type the names and addresses on a simple Excel spread sheet to prepare for the mass mailing. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me.

## ADVA Member Retention

Sometimes members let their membership lapse because they are busy in many areas. National Adjutant Roger Gilmore is looking for volunteers from each chapter who could make a few telephone calls, in addition to our letter reminders, to members whose ADVA membership has expired. Please contact Roger (his information is above in the first paragraph).

**Above: ADVA Membership recruiting Packets are available to all.**

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### New England and East Chapters Merge

The New England Chapter and the Eastern Chapter have merged into one chapter. The New England Chapter consisted of the states of MA, NH, VY, ME, CT, and RI. All New England chapter members who had paid 2006 chapter dues are

automatically members of the East Chapter. Dues notices will be sent to all ADVA members residing in the expanded region in January 2007.

### East Chapter 2006 Reunion

The Eastern Chapter had another great reunion at the Ronkonkoma Holiday Inn on Long Island, New York, October 19-22, 2006. It was hosted by our Vice-Commander, Connie Steers.

On Friday we took an all-day excursion to the "Cradle of Aviation" museum, which included the IMAX movie. Tom Gwynne, the VP for Programs gave us a personal tour since we were a veterans group. Tom flew F4 Phantoms over Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

After a great lunch at the Red Planet Café, which



**Chapter members attending their first reunion stand up to be recognized.**

included grilled salmon, we toured the Vanderbilt summer home museum and planetarium. Saturday the group took an all-day tour of the Atlantis Marine World. Saturday

night's annual banquet started with a memorial service and was very memorable for the great food and fellowship.

ADVA National Commander Larry Watson and Sr. Vice-Commander Dave Taylor were with us throughout the reunion. Larry brought us up to date at the banquet, on what was happening at the national level with the new committees and initiatives that have been undertaken.

After the banquet we held our annual meeting at which the officers were elected for the 2006-2007 year. All current officers were re-elected except for the position of Secretary, which was vacant. Elmer Wright volunteered to fill that post and he was nominated and elected. Thanks Elmer!

The chapter's 2007 reunion will coincide with the ADVA National Reunion in Buffalo which our chapter is sponsoring. After the ADVA Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 23, the chapter will have a short annual meeting to elect officers for the following year. The East Chapter's 2008 reunion will be held in the Northern Kentucky / Cincinnati area in late September 2008. We are working with our newly merged New England Chapter members and invite them to join us in Buffalo.

## FAR WEST CHAPTER

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### Vice Commander Sergeant-At-Arms Chaplain Editor, the Cannon

James Craig  
Curt Rothacker  
Don Squire  
Richard Ropele

### 2006 Chapter Reunion Wrap-up

Warm, sunny weather and the beautiful Golden Nugget Hotel Casino in Las Vegas welcomed 25 members and guests to Las Vegas on September 17-19 for the 2006 reunion. Members enjoyed the hospitality suite, sight-seeing, shopping, gaming, and the enclosed promenade with its varied kiosks. A major free attraction was the "Fremont Street Experience": a light show with music projected on the canopy above the street which played hourly.

A business meeting was held which included election of new Chapter officers. The following were elected to a two year term: Commander – John Riley; Vice Commander – James Craig; Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Packard; Sergeant-at-Arms – Curt Rothacker. Don Squire volunteered to serve as Chapter Chaplain and Rick Ropele agreed to be Editor-in-Chief of the Chapter newsletter, the Cannon. We were joined by ADVA 2007 National Reunion Chairman David Eichhorn who gave us information on the national reunion



to be held in Buffalo, NY, June 21-24, 2007.

The festivities concluded with a sit down dinner banquet, music, and entertainment. Guest speaker Americal WWII veteran Les Martinson shared his experiences in the movie business including directing the motion picture, PT 109. Awards were presented to outgoing Commander Rich Merlin, and outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Gene McGrath for their service.

We felt especially honored by the strong attendance of our WWII Veterans, "America's Greatest Generation". Those attending were: Al Delong and his lovely wife, Katie; Hal Leuthard; Frank Markovich; Les Martinson and his lovely wife, Connie; Don Squire; Fernando Vera; and Jack Weston. You are an inspiration to all of us.

Our 2007 reunion will be held in Riverside, CA the last part of September. Exact dates will be forthcoming. Activities may include the March AFB museum, veterans' cemetery, and tour of the Mission.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Far West Chapter. They are Vietnam veterans David Eichhorn who served with Co. C & HHC, 3/21 Inf., 196th Bde; and Thomas Turrey who was assigned to B, C, & D Co.'s, 1/46 Inf., 196th Bde. Our roster now numbers 155 members.

#### *In Memory*

We are sad to learn of the death of John Richard (Doc) Flowers, a long time chapter member. Doc passed away on October 20, 2006 after a long and hard battle against cancer. He was a former resident of Albuquerque, NM where he served veterans as a Physician's Assistant at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was as a member of the ADVA Executive Council in 2004-2006.

Doc was a medic in Vietnam with 4/21st Infantry, 11th LIB. He retired from the VA a few years ago and moved with his wife Lily to Casa Grande, AZ. We enjoyed seeing them at the Portland reunion in June 2006. May he rest in peace.

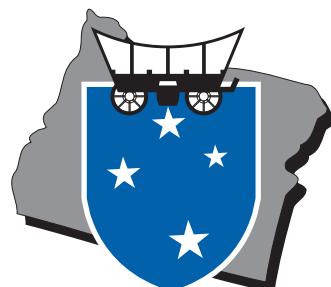


## NORTHWEST CHAPTER

AK WA OR ID MT WY

#### **COMMANDER**

**David Hammond**  
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Thanks again for everyone who attended the 2006 ADVA Reunion in Portland making it a great success. Sorry for the delay for sending out the photo memory books. The delay was with the publisher.

Memory books are still available for \$20.00. I also still have several reunion T-shirts and travel mugs for sale. T-shirts are \$10.00 and mugs are \$5.00. Please mail order to my address with quantity and/or size. Dave Hammond, 3015 SW 116th Ave., Beaverton, OR, 97005. Hope to see you all in Buffalo.

## ARTHUR R. WOOD SOUTH EAST REGION CHAPTER

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#### **COMMANDER**

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Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
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#### *Melbourne 20th Annual Veterans Reunion 2007*

April 26 - 27 - 28  
- 29, 2007 are the dates  
for Florida's 20th

annual Vietnam and All  
Veterans Reunion held  
in Melbourne. Billed  
as the nation's largest  
veterans reunion with  
around 30,000 vets

attending each year, there's lots to see and do! Start  
making plans today to join with us in attending this great  
event. The SE Chapter has two camp sites reserved for our  
use as a gathering point and work is under way to have a  
"Welcome Tent" set up in the vendor's area for Americal  
vets.

Internet info site: <http://members.aol.com/FLVietVets/reunion.html>. For additional info on the event itself,  
contact: Greg Welsh, 321-501-6896, [vets2gether@cfl.rr.com](mailto:vets2gether@cfl.rr.com).

#### *Jacksonville National Reunion 2008*

The Southeast Chapter of the Americal Division  
Veterans Association is proud to announce they will be  
hosting the 2008 ADVA Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida.  
The reunion will be held at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel  
in downtown Jacksonville. It will be held from Thursday  
June 26, 2008 until Sunday June 29, 2008. The 2008 reunion  
is being chaired by Lee Kaywork (C Co. 1/46th Infantry).

Jacksonville, "The Gateway to Florida" in the northeast  
corner of Florida, is a great destination. It has beaches,  
golf, fishing, and wide variety of historic and scenic sites to  
visit. It is also home to a number of military installations  
including: the Mayport Naval Station; the Naval Air  
Station of Jacksonville; the Naval Submarine Base, Kings  
Bay, GA; and Camp Blanding, which includes a museum  
and Memorial Park.

Full details of the reunion will be announced at, and  
after, the 2007 Reunion in Buffalo. Check back here for  
more information to come.



## GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL IN MI MN WI

### COMMANDER

**Dale J. Belke**  
W655 City Rd. E.  
Brodhead, WI 53520  
608 • 897 • 4429  
belked@wekz.net

### Adjutant

**Terry Babler,**  
W5889 Durst Road  
New Glarus, WI 53574  
(608) 527-2444 email: pointman69@tds.net



Association in planning a National Reunion in Washington, D.C. for the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Operation LZ/DC - 25th Anniversary of the Wall will be held on Friday, November 8, 2007 through Sunday, November 11, 2007. You will not want to miss out on this reunion; we plan to have some very special events and quests.

Our 21st Annual Winterfest R & R All Veterans Reunion will take place in New Glarus, Wisconsin on January 11 through Sunday, January 14, 2007. An Americal Great Lakes Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday morning, January 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd floor in the conference room at the Chalet Landhaus Hotel. PNC John (Dutch) DeGroot has been serving overseas in the Middle East is now back on US soil. We look forward seeing him at Winterfest in January.

The Great Lakes Regional Chapter now has three representatives on the executive board for the ADVA. Chapter commander Dale Belke is automatically on the Executive Council. John Mathews and Terry Babler were voted in when elections took place.

Our chapter was in full force for the 24th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana September 14-17, 2006. We have 12 campsites just inside the gate. We had good attendance from the Americal as 85 signed in at the campsite. An article in the local Kokomo newspaper wrote that this reunion was the biggest reunion the group ever held. Over 50,000 veterans attended the weekend. We will be back in 2007 for the 25th annual reunion.

For those of you that may not be a member of the Great Lakes Chapter yet the dues are \$10/year or save and pay \$45 for five years. This covers the cost of three newsletters a year.

## SOUTH MIDWEST CHAPTER

AR LA OK TX

### COMMANDER

**Cameron F. Baird**  
P.O. Box 211  
Stonewall, TX 78671  
830 • 644 • 2704  
altdorf@ktc.com

### PNC Bill Maddox receives PH with OLC

PNC William (Bill) Maddox of Portland, TX recently received a Purple Heart medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds suffered on May 23, 1945 at Cebu in the Philippine Islands. It is his second award of the Purple Heart and its delivery was delayed for over 61 years.

Maddox previously received a Purple Heart for wounds received on April 4, 1945 at the battle of Horseshoe Ridge. In this action he was wounded by enemy mortar fire. He still carries shrapnel in his chest from this blast which killed and injured other soldiers in his unit.

But these two Purple Hearts still do not tell the whole story of the sacrifice Maddox made in defense of America. On March 29, 1945 he sustained his first wounds three days after landing on Cebu. He was hit in the right leg with enemy shrapnel. "I never turned that one in," he says. "It was not that serious."

Maddox arrived in the South Pacific in January 1945 and was eventually assigned as a rifleman with Co. C, 182nd Infantry Regiment. Despite his three injuries he was not evacuated from the theater. After the Japanese surrender he spent three months in Japan as part of the occupation forces. In 1946 he was deployed to Munich, Germany and served with the U.S. Constabulary.

He received his military discharge in 1951 and moved to Portland, TX. He worked for Humble Oil Co. (later Exxon Oil Co.) until retirement in 1986. Maddox was the founding chapter commander of the South-Midwest Regional Chapter, hosted the 1992 ADVA annual reunion in San Antonio, and served as national commander in 1994-1995.

Bill and his wife Jane have been married for 55 years. Bill enjoys fishing in Corpus Christi Bay and volunteering on the USS Lexington aircraft carrier museum.

*(Editor's note: Information for portions of this article was taken from the July 27, 2006 edition of The Portland News, Charles Steward, News Editor.)*



## Jim and Bernie

By Gary L. Noller



**James C. Buckle**

and Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant (Emeritus). Both served the ADVA with exceptional distinction for many years and are now currently retired but still active.

On a recent trip to Cape Cod, Massachusetts I was able to pay a visit to Jim and Bernie in their respective homes. I was in their neighborhood anyway and there was no way that I could leave without seeing them. I worked very closely with Jim and Bernie for several years when I was National Commander and chairman of the Executive Committee.

Both gentlemen are living at home and getting around okay despite some bothersome ailments. They are able to get out to take care of business items and to socialize with friends and family. They greeted me enthusiastically and we had a very nice visit.

Jim told me that he is still working on the history of his unit, Co. E., 182nd Infantry Regiment. He is also working to find funding for the renovation of the museum in Worcester, MA. He is the current chairman of the ADVA Executive Council. Jim was Editor-in-Chief of the Americal Newsletter for twenty years and is a Past National Commander.

Jim is originally from Wakefield, MA and says that he is considering selling his home on Cape Cod and moving closer to his roots. He worked for many years for the U.S. Postal Service in Wakefield.

I enjoyed the stories Jim related to me about his service during World War II. One particular account displays Jim's character in a defining moment. Jim was injured in an automobile accident just days before his unit was to set sail for the South Pacific. He suffered lacerations to his head and some broken ribs. Because of his injuries the doctors in his unit did not want him to ship out with his group. But Jim insisted that he not be left behind. "I wanted to go with my buddies," he recalls.

An on-line dictionary defines the word *emeritus* to mean honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining title of office along with the additional title 'emeritus'. The definition also states that being retired from assigned duties need not imply that one is inactive.

The ADVA currently has two honorably retired officers: James C. Buckle, Editor-in-Chief (Emeritus)

Jim was allowed to leave with his buddies and he stayed with them through many bloody and fierce battles to come. He received the Silver Star Medal and acknowledges that "I am one of the very few in my company who did not get a Purple Heart."

Bernie served as National Commander in 1987-1988 and was National Adjutant for fifteen years. He was in the 221st Field Artillery during World War II. He enjoys getting out of the house to do grocery shopping and to play cards with friends at the Moose hall. He is undergoing new therapy to help him regain use of his right arm that is affected by a stroke.

Bernie is a former Boston police officer. He served on the force from 1948 until his retirement in 1980. His badge and identification card are prominently displayed on his bedroom dresser.

When asked to recall a memorable event of his duty as a police officer Bernie was quick to come up with a story. During the Vietnam War a large group of anti-war protestors planned to shut down government buildings in downtown Boston. Bernie recalls "When they came around the corner and saw 5,000 Boston policemen in full riot gear they knew they weren't going to shut anything down."

Jim and Bernie worked closely together on ADVA business for many years. Between the two of them they made sure dues notices were sent, the roster was kept up to date, election ballots were mailed, newsletter were edited and distributed, and that other important business items were handled for the association. The ADVA was a major portion of their lives. And although their work assignments have since passed to others they still have a special place in their lives for the ADVA.

The ADVA National Reunion will be in Buffalo, NY in 2007. This is about an eight or nine hour drive from Cape Cod. If all goes well both Jim and Bernie would like to attend the reunion in Buffalo and see old friends. That is what reunions are all about.

If you would like to send them a greeting they can still be reached at their home addresses: Jim Buckle, 36 Standish Woods Circle, East Harwich, MA, 02645, and Bernie Chase, 82 Phyllis Dr., South Yarmouth, MA, 02664. Tell them that you want to see them in Buffalo.

The ADVA has provided me with many friends. I am glad that Jim and Bernie are two of them. I wish to thank them for all they have done for the ADVA and for the example that they have set for others to follow. Their dedication to the association has been of benefit to many veterans of the Americal Division.



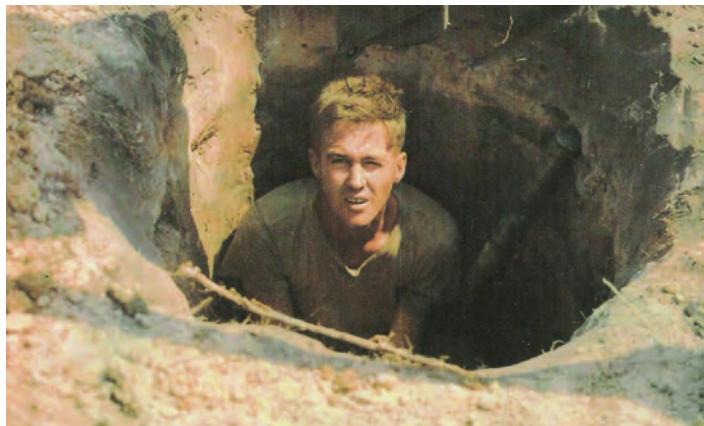
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Dear editor,**

I am contacting you for information about my father, Ronald H. Hall. I was only three months old when he was killed in Vietnam. I believe he served in the Army from 1962-1971 and was on his third tour to Vietnam.

He was assigned to H troop, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 198th LIB as an E-6 (6340; NCO- general vehicle repairman). He was killed on June 30, 1971. I would like to know more about him.



**Bridget Hall Threadgill**

**[Bridgetcll@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bridgetcll@bellsouth.net)**

**Dear editor,**

I work for the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office. My mission is to bring those still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia home. I am searching for anyone who may have knowledge of a specific event involving the capture of documents from a NVA soldier that took place May 1970. The capturing unit is likely to be Co. C, 5/46th Inf. The documents are believed to be related to prisoner-of-war PFC Don Sparks. Please have the subject line reflect "May 1970, Sparks".

**MSG Season L. Norton**

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office

**[season.fowler@osd.mil](mailto:season.fowler@osd.mil); 703-699-1211**

**Dear editor,**

MSG Season Fowler is seeking information on personal letters written by POW Don Sparks and later found on a NVA soldier in May 1970. (See above letter.) Please get this message to veterans of Co. C, 5/46<sup>th</sup> Inf.

Don and I were friends in college and both ended up in the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB. He was assigned to Co. C, 3/21<sup>st</sup> Inf. and was wounded on June 17, 1969. He was cut off from his unit by heavy enemy fire and no one was able to reach him. He was never found.

I would like to see him come home. His parents have died, but he has two brothers and a sister. The case is under investigation and they have located a doctor that treated him after capture. The doctor is the only known witness.

[See <http://www.dfdems.com/sparks.htm> for more information.  
-Editor]

**Ben Buehler; Co. C, 2/1<sup>st</sup> Inf.**

**Dear editor,**

I served with B 4/3 11<sup>th</sup> LIB in Vietnam from April 1968 – April 1969. I would like to know when they are having their reunion and if it is combined with other units. Thanks.

**Willie Ray; Co. B, 4/3<sup>rd</sup> Inf.**

**[willie.ray@lmco.com](mailto:willie.ray@lmco.com)**

540-644-2900

**Dear editor,**

I have good news for those who served with 1/46th Infantry anytime during one of the periods indicated below. I just found an old copy of a Department of the Army General Order that I thought I had lost:

**Authority:**

General Order #42, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC dated 27 November 1972, Paragraph III, 6 (Page 8).

III--REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION . 1. The award of the Gallantry Cross Unit Citation by the Republic of Vietnam to the units listed below is confirmed.

6. With Palm for service from 24 August 1969 through 31 December 1969 and 31 March 1970 through 30 June 1970.

1st Battalion, 46th Infantry

In order to qualify for the above award, you had to be assigned to the 1/46 Infantry during one of the periods indicated. I would love to have seen all of the 1/46th receive the citation.

COL (Ret.) Richard Carvell; 1/46<sup>th</sup> Infantry

**Dear editor,**

I am sending you some letters-to-the-editor that were recently published in the Glendale, CA News-Press. I think they are of interest to Vietnam veterans of the ADVA. The letters concern a recent appearance by Jane Fonda at a book signing at the Glendale Public Library.

As we recall, veterans of WWI, WWII and Vietnam had a common foe. Those of WWI had Matahari, WWII had Tokyo Rose, and Vietnam had Jane Fonda, aka Hanoi Jane. I am pleased that veterans remember Hanoi Jane for her misdeeds.

Some suggest forgiveness for Fonda because Christ rebuked and forgave and thus we should do likewise. Bull! There are venial sins which after repentance and penance are forgiven. Mortal sins are not forgiven.

Hanoi Jane's action was that of treason which abetted and gave aid to the enemy. But because of the technicality that the Vietnam "conflict" was not officially a war declared by Congress, Hanoi Jane was spared the death penalty. As for forgiveness, the United States does not advise the traitor "Go and sin no more."

What is encouraging is that the majority of folks will not forget this treasonable behavior and will not forgive it.

**Al Cotta; Co. D, 121<sup>st</sup> Medical Bn.**

Contact me at [prince.216@roadrunner.com](mailto:prince.216@roadrunner.com).

**Heather Prince**

**Dear editor,**

I am looking for information on Sgt. Don Clarence Hall who was killed in action on Cebu island on April 10, 1945. He was in the 132<sup>nd</sup> Regiment but I cannot find him listed anywhere. I have local newspaper articles regarding his death and being awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star. Does anyone know anything about him or the action in which he was killed?

*Beverly Winchester*

*jade41@dt�speed.net*

**Dear editor,**

Dave Hammond's article Survivor's Guilt in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2006 issue really struck me. I am a heavily decorated combat veteran (5/46<sup>th</sup> Inf., Nov. 11, 1968-Nov. 10, 1969). I carried an M-60 machine gun until I was promoted to Sergeant E-5 and became a squad leader and could unload "the gun" onto someone else's shoulders. But I am one of those who came back without a scratch even though I spent 12 months in the field. I don't understand why.

I stepped across a mine one day but the fellow three feet behind me stepped on it. I caught him as he fell. I never received a scratch. I don't understand why. Many times my squad would take one path while another squad would take a different path. They suffered heavy losses while my squad suffered nothing. I don't understand why.

I have a pastor who is a pacifist. One day he boasted how "courageous" pacifists are. I reminded him that a pacifist is like a man who dines on steak and lobster and fine wine, but when it comes time to pay the bill, he leaves the table allowing someone else to pick up the check. I also reminded him that only two people ever died for him- Jesus Christ died for his soul and the American Soldier died for his body. Then I reminded him that if my life were every on the line I wouldn't ask him for help. I'd look for a Vietnam vet instead. Thanks for your article, Dave Hammond.

*Bob Wolf; Co. A, 5/46<sup>th</sup> Infantry*

**Dear editor,**

I have recently gotten in contact with a few of my buddies from H Troop, 17th Cavalry for the first time in 38 years. We are trying to locate as many of our brothers as we can before we lose any more of them. In my search I've discovered two who have already passed.

I would also like to contact the group that had the H Troop, 17<sup>th</sup> Cav. reunion in October 2006 in Tybee Beach, GA. I can be contacted at 7147 Partridge Dr., Flushing, MI, 48433-8853, [jlin1on1@comcast.net](mailto:jlin1on1@comcast.net).

Jim Linton; H Trp, 17th Cav.

**Dear editor,**

I am writing on behalf of my husband, James Barton Prince, Jr. He was part of the 6/56th Artillery, D Battery in '68-69. He would like to get in contact with other veterans of this unit.

**Heather Prince**

**Dear editor,**

I just want to pass on to you that I received a call yesterday from a member who had a comment about a story in the last issue of the *Americal Newsletter*. The story was "Survivor's Guilt" and the member was upset with the use of an acronym that was used in the story. It is a derogatory term for rear echelon personnel. He also felt that the story was saying that rear echelon personnel were not as welcome at our reunions as combat veterans are.

*Larry Watson; National Commander.*

*[The member's comments are noted and appreciated and appropriate action will be taken to remedy this situation in the future. All Americal veterans are welcome at ADVA reunions regardless of the duties that they held while in the division. We regret any inference that this is not the case. -editor.]*

**Dear editor,**

I am the only child of Issac David Faughn. He served with the Americal Division in Vietnam from April 1969 until his death on December 7, 1969. He was with Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade.

I am doing research on my father to put together a scrapbook to pass on to my son. There are so many questions that I have and hopefully someone can help connect all the dots for me.

*Kathleen Woods*

*damnyankee7-05@hotmail.com*

**Dear editor,**

My father, Harold Alonzo Kennedy, was in the Philippines with the 132nd Inf. Regt. in 1944-45. I've tried to get information on his personnel and medical records but they were destroyed in the St. Louis fire in 1973. I have since gotten his Report of Separation from my local court house.

I would like to get any other information I could about him or his unit. I know he was wounded in Cebu Philippines on April 2, 1945. I also know his place of entry into service was Ft. Meade, MD. He was from Honesdale, PA. I also have a photograph of his battalion from Camp Stewart, GA in 1944. It says 6th Battalion, Battery D. He had a lot of the guys sign the back and write where they were from.

*Harold Kennedy*

*skullman362@yahoo.com*

**Dear editor,**

I am looking for Wayne Yarbrough. I would like to return a memento to him. I have a lighter with the following inscription: "WAYNE YARBROUGH, When I die I'll go to Heaven because I've spent my time in hell, 11th Infantry Brigade, Vietnam 68-69." By the way, I am an Australian Vietnam vet.

*Peter Bretag*

*ross21@ozemail.com.au*

### WORLD WAR II

Looking For: Rito V. Ogas, PFC, **182nd Inf. Regt**, Philippines, 1944-1945 From Safford, AZ Discharged Hospital Center, Camp Carson, CO. 12/1945. Contact: Raul R. Ogas <[lexis@madisontelco.com](mailto:lexis@madisontelco.com)> 304 W. 8th St, Staunton, IL 62088 618-635-2852

Looking For: Anyone, **164th Infantry Regiment**. The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association is alive and well! We publish a professional newsletter three times a year to help veterans and family find buddies and friends. Contact: 164 Infantry Association editor <[164infantrynews@hotmail.com](mailto:164infantrynews@hotmail.com)> PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

### VIETNAM

Looking For: Anyone who served with me in **335th Transportation Co.**, 16th Combat Aviation Group between Dec '68 - Dec '69. Contact: Marcelino Tiqui <[mardequi47@yahoo.com](mailto:mardequi47@yahoo.com)> 92-654 Malahuna Loop, Kapolei, HI 96707 808-682-8233

Looking For: Any soldier who served with Stephen Edward Krajeski, **198th LIB**, Quan Tin Province, stationed 03/17/1970, KIA 06/12/1970. Contact: Janet {Krajeski} Paquette <[janetkrajeski@yahoo.com](mailto:janetkrajeski@yahoo.com)> PO Box 1647, Venice, CA 90294 USA

Looking For: Juan Martinez and anyone that was in the **11th LIB, B Co.**, from January 1968 to December 1968. Contact: Alan Putnam <[amputnam@juno.com](mailto:amputnam@juno.com)> 1192 Huntington Road, San Marcos, CA 92078 760-734-0374

Looking For: Jeff Monroe, Eddy Burns, Bob Smith, Dave Fallen, George Draper, Dave Barney, Warren Kulich, John Rhode, Al Slesenger, Lenny Martin, John Wright, Lenny Polston, Mike Witkus, **5/46<sup>th</sup> Inf., Co. A, 3rd Plt.**, LZ Gator 69-70. Contact: Jack Haas <[jackhaas2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackhaas2005@yahoo.com)> 45 Cassandra Lane, Woolwich Twp., NJ 08085 609-970-2690

Looking For: Robert Adame-unsure of first name, Oct.68-69, **Co. D. 1/52<sup>nd</sup> Inf.** Contact: Marshall Rowland {Mad 79er} <[pookie2@bellsouth.net](mailto:pookie2@bellsouth.net)> 4483 Chalmette Ct, Port Orange, Fl 32127 386-767-6729

Looking For: LZ Center Vets, **3/82nd Arty, B Battery**, 1967 to 1968, LZ Center. Contact: Pete Shotts <[lzcenter68@yahoo.com](mailto:lzcenter68@yahoo.com)>.

Looking For: Lt Richard Astle, Nov 69 thru Oct 70 - **4/21st Inf., 11th LIB**, Duc Pho LZ Debbie. Contact: John Tripp <[coltripp@aol.com](mailto:coltripp@aol.com)> 1205 Easy St, Claremore, OK 74017 918-341-5376

Looking For: Anyone who served with my father, First Sergeant John Mayfield, **Troop A** of the Americal Division from Summer 1968 to Spring/Summer 1969. He passed away December 12, 2005. Contact: John Mayfield <[johnniemayfield@aol.com](mailto:johnniemayfield@aol.com)>

Looking For: Rob Pittard, **635th M.I. Detachment** 1967-68. Contact: Michael Yeager <[yeagermin@msn.com](mailto:yeagermin@msn.com)>

Looking For: Any photographer serving with the **523rd Signal Bn, C Co.**, 1969 to 1970. Contact: Tim Vaughn <[timothy.vaughn@comcast.net](mailto:timothy.vaughn@comcast.net)> 3754 Arlington Circle, Pittsburg, Ca 94565(925) 432-9225

Looking For: Anyone, **Co. A, 3/21<sup>st</sup> Inf.**, who served with or knew my dad, SGT Paul F. Rogalske; Jan 1970 until his KIA date of 01 May 1970. Contact: Paul Rogalske <[dawg694@hotmail.com](mailto:dawg694@hotmail.com)> 8770 Huntfield St., Tampa, FL 33635

Looking For: Anyone, **1/52nd Inf., A Co.**, Jan-Aug 1968 who remembers Jimmie Schuelke, RTO for Lt Brooks. J. P. Jones was his sergeant. He was with Jason Holes, KIA June 6, 1968 along with five others. Contact: Mary Schuelke <[jmschuelke@pics.net](mailto:jmschuelke@pics.net)> 406 First Street, Ackerly, Tx 79713 432-353-4337

Looking For: Anyone who remembers Robert Behm. I was with the **198th Co. C, 1/6<sup>th</sup> Inf.**, 7/70-11/70. I was injured Oct 1st 1970. Contact: Robert Behm <[rbehm@verizon.net](mailto:rbehm@verizon.net)> 28 High St., Pine Grove, Pa 17963-1008

Looking For: James (Jim) Cozolino (maybe Cozzolino) from Chicago. **B Co. (?)** of one of the battalions of the **196<sup>th</sup> LIB** in 1968. Contact: John Kendall <[jkminclr49@hotmail.com](mailto:jkminclr49@hotmail.com)>

Looking For: Larry Gregerson, **B Btry., 1/14th Arty.**, Dec 1970 Nov 1971. Contact: Butch Christian <[bchris85@hotmail.com](mailto:bchris85@hotmail.com)> 1913 N East Oaks, Fayetteville, AR 72703 479-601-7715

Looking For: Rod Timanus, served with **11th Brigade** and was badly wounded. Contact: Roger Bost <[rrowan446@aol.com](mailto:rrowan446@aol.com)> 2 Garnett Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829 719-685-1279

Looking For: Ronnie Sessums, John M. Genera, and Jimmy R. Kyzer, **B Troop, 1/1 Cav.** Contact: Jimmy D. Pace <[jimmydpace@bellsouth.net](mailto:jimmydpace@bellsouth.net)> P O Box 747, Pelahatchie, MS 39145 601-854-5348

Looking For: Anyone, **Co. D, 3/21<sup>st</sup> Infantry**. Contact: Smith Montgomery <[sfmmed@windstream.net](mailto:sfmmed@windstream.net)>

Looking For: Anyone who knew my father, Sgt Robert James Mussin. He was killed on 15 April 1970 while serving as an infantryman with the **11<sup>th</sup> LIB** in Quang Ngai. Contact: Mary Mart <[harleydmama43@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harleydmama43@sbcglobal.net)>

Looking For: James Beach, **Co. B, 3/1st Inf, 11th LIB**, 4-22-69 to 8-4-69. Contact: Willie C. Thompson <[valencia89@comcast.net](mailto:valencia89@comcast.net)> 12420 Largo Dr., Savannah, GA 31419 912-925-5708

Looking For: Family of Thomas Richard Brewer, **D Co. 1/6<sup>th</sup> Inf.**, 198th infantry. He was killed in action on March 15, 1970. Contact: Glenn Moseley <[gf2769@netscape.com](mailto:gf2769@netscape.com)> 3963 Walker Springs Rd., Jackson, AL 36545 251-246-3489

## By-Law Review Committee Report

The By-Law Review Committee has completed its initial evaluation of the ADVA by-laws. Several changes have been discussed and proposals for new wording are documented. The committee will continue its work in the coming months with a goal to be finished by April 2007.

The committee was appointed in July 2006 by National Commander Larry Watson. Members are Richard A. Merlin, Junior Vice-Commander; Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant; Mike Twomey, Judge Advocate; Steven J. Reisdorff, Judge Advocate; and Gary L. Noller, Editor-in-Chief. Noller is chairman of the committee.

The last major overhaul of the by-laws was conducted in 1994. Changes are necessary to correct some technical errors and to make revisions to keep up with the times. The current by-laws can be found on the internet at [www.americal.org/bylaws.shtml](http://www.americal.org/bylaws.shtml). The three topics that have received the most attention are concerned with the composition of the Nominating Committee, the nomination of officers, and the election procedures.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, according to current by-laws, is appointed by the National Commander and approved by the Executive Council. Suggestions have been made that include the election of Nominating Committee members, appointment of Chapter Commanders to the Nominating Committee, and some combination of appointed and elected members.

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility to create a slate of candidates for offices for the bi-annual elections. The Nominating Committee also handles the mechanics of the election such as mailing ballots and conducting a tabulation of votes.

### NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Candidates for the Executive Council and for commander posts are named by the Nominating Committee. Additional nominees for the Executive Council can be made by a candidate receiving the endorsement of fifteen members in good standing. Such a nomination is known as a nomination from the floor.

Nominations for National Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, and Junior Vice-Commander are currently not allowed to be made from the floor. The review committee has discussed making a change to allow candidates for the commander positions to be made from the floor.

It has always been a tradition in the ADVA that the Senior Vice-Commander moves up as the nominee for National Commander and the Junior Vice-Commander moves up as the nominee for Senior Vice-Commander. The National Commander and the Senior Vice-Commander have always run unopposed.

Current by-laws do not state that the promotion of candidates has to take place and that they run without opposition. A discussion has taken place within the review committee to modify the by-laws to emphasize the fact that all commander positions are open to multiple candidates and not limited to the promotion of incumbents.

### ELECTION PROCEDURES

Election of officers and balloting on questions is currently conducted by mail. Approximately one-third of ADVA members return ballots in the bi-annual election.

There is interest in conducting elections at the annual reunion. The current by-laws do not disallow balloting at the reunion but it

has never been done before. The by-laws do require that elections be complete by June 30 of the election year and that the term of office for officers begins on July 1 of the election year.

Approximately ten percent of ADVA members attend the national reunion. The review committee has discussed the need to provide some type of absentee ballot to members not attending reunions if balloting at reunions is conducted. Since the ADVA is a not-for-profit corporation the voting rights of members and the establishment of a quorum for voting are important considerations.

### OTHER TOPICS

There is no quorum specified for voting by the Executive Council. A question must be approved by two-thirds of the Executive Council in order to carry. There has been discussion about changes to clarify the number of votes needed to pass a measure.

Some changes to the duties of some appointed offices and the naming of additional appointed officers has been considered. Also under consideration is the automatic appointment of the Sr. Vice-Commander to the post of Membership Chairman and the manner in which the chairman of the Executive Council is determined.

By-laws do not say very much about chapter activities. The by-laws state the requirements to form a chapter, the officers needed by a chapter, and that chapters follow national by-laws. The need for chapters to obtain approval from the Executive Council before signing binding contracts has been discussed. Such contracts are usually required by vendors for hotels and other businesses related to the operation of annual reunions.

### FUTURE WORK

You are asked to provide your comments to the by-law review committee. Let them know of changes that you think should be made. The committee seeks member involvement in the review process to ensure that the by-laws adequately reflect members' wishes. Comments can be sent to Gary L. Noller, 1662 Landmark Rd., Kerrville, TX, 78028, [gnoller@aol.com](mailto:gnoller@aol.com).

The review committee will make a second pass through the by-laws in January 2007. They will strive to form a consensus on changes to present to National Commander Larry Watson. Watson will then take proposed amendments to the Executive Council for their study. Before by-law changes can take effect they must first be approved by a vote of the general membership.

It is also recognized by the review committee that the by-laws need to be better understood by officers and members. It may be possible for an instructional seminar to be conducted at a future reunion to help promote an understanding of the use of the by-laws in the operation of the association.

### TEST YOUR BY-LAW KNOWLEDGE

#### True or False?

1. The Executive Council can only vote at its annual meeting at the reunion.
2. If an expense is not in the approved annual budget then the expense cannot be paid.
3. A person serving on the Nominating Committee cannot be nominated for an office.
4. The National Commander must run unopposed on the election ballot.
5. An officer can hold two elective posts at the same time.
6. The chairman of the Membership Committee is appointed by the Commander.
7. All Executive Council members are subject to term limits.
8. Chapter commanders must be elected by members of the chapter.

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Dear Mr. Short and the scholarship committee:

Thank you for awarding me this scholarship; it is an honor to receive this award. The money will help pay for my tuition at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. I am planning to major in Physical Therapy. Thank you to everyone that has made this scholarship available, it is greatly appreciated.

*Karn Peterson*



**Karn Peterson with father  
Roger, 23rd MP Company**

Dear ADVA Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so much for the scholarship. It will greatly help me achieve my goal of becoming a nurse. Again, thanks so much.

*Tiffany Thiesen*



**Elizabeth Trout with  
grandfather Kermit, 26th  
Signal Co., WWII**

Dear Mr. Short and the Americal Committee:

Thank you very much for the scholarship. I am very grateful for being chosen as a winner. The money will be very helpful with paying for tuition and books. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for students to help pay for college.

*Elizabeth Trout*

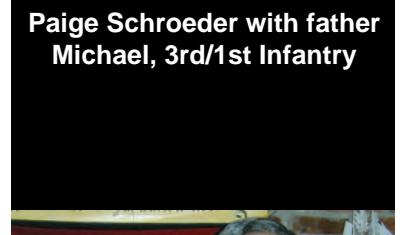


**Elizabeth Trout with  
grandfather Kermit, 26th  
Signal Co., WWII**

Dear Mr. Short,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the ADVA Scholarship Committee for selecting me as one of the recipients of the 2006 scholarships. I am honored to have been selected for this award and am truly appreciative. Moreover, my dad is overwhelmed with pride and grateful as well. He works very hard to put both my brother and me through college. Your generosity will help aid in my endeavors at the University of Connecticut as I enter my freshman year in the fall. Thank you again for your kindness and support.

*Kevin Coffey*



**Paige Schroeder with father  
Michael, 3rd/1st Infantry**

Dear Mr. Short,

I would like to thank you and the Americal Division Veterans Association for allowing me to receive this scholarship. Both my father and grandfather served in past wars and I feel like in some way I am honoring them by writing to your association. I am going to be a senior at Ohio State and I am currently in the Fisher College of Business. My major is in marketing and I have a minor in French. I have loved all of my college experiences in Columbus at the Ohio State University and will be excited to graduate this coming year. With the help of your organization I have been able to offset the cost of college and am truly thankful for having the opportunity to apply and receive this scholarship award. Once again thank you and your association members for picking me to be one of the recipients for the Americal Division Veterans Scholarship.

*Paige Schroeder*



**Kelly Mathews with father  
Dennis, 4th/21st Infantry**

Dear Mr. Short,

Once again I find myself being honored by the Americal Division Veterans Association and I am humbled by it. I want to thank you; the scholarship selection committee and the entire ADVA for your generosity and support in helping college students financially meet the needs of pursuing their education. I pledge to you and the association that I will do my best to ensure that your confidence in me is proven to be sound.

I consider myself very fortunate to be at UCONN as the quality of the education I am receiving is superior. I have been maximizing my learning experience to date and plan to continue those efforts through my undergraduate program and hopefully will go into a Master's Degree program next year. I am working this summer, my third, at the Paul Newman Hole-In-The-Wall Camp in Ashford, CT. which helps chronically and seriously ill children maximize their summer experience. I run the barn there and teach them about horses and use that skill to aid in their therapy. Your award will certainly help me to complete my undergraduate studies and look toward the future and what I may be able to accomplish.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support of college students and to all of your members, thank you for your service to our country.

*Kelly J. Mathews*

Dear Mr. Short,

I was thrilled to find out that I was selected to receive one of the Americal Division Veterans Association scholarships. I really enjoyed looking up information for the topic of the division's history; I have become more grateful for the wonderful country we live in. Thank you so much for donating the five hundred dollars to help me with my college education. Thank You!

***Kelly Hofer***



**Kelly Hofer with father John,  
5th/46th Infantry**

Dear Mr. Short,

I am honored to have my essay chosen from the Americal Division Veterans Association. It was a wonderful experience researching the history of a division my father talks about with so much respect and admiration. I appreciate the \$500 scholarship the ADVA was so generously willing to donate.

***Max Hofer***

Dear Mr. Short and the ADVA Scholarship Foundation,

From the depths of my heart I want to thank you for the award of \$3,000 I received this year, and how humbling it was to receive it at the ADVA National reunion in Portland. It was already such an honor to be there with my grandfather, Jack Morton, and when they announced that I had won the scholarship I couldn't believe it. I was especially thankful that it provided an opportunity to honor my grandfather, a highly decorated WWII Veteran (Battlefield Commission, Silver Star, etc); being there gave me all the more respect for the precious Veterans who have protected this country and maintained our freedom. The award will go directly into paying my tuition at the University of Oregon, and deep thanks come from my family who are unable to help carry the burden of my college costs. This term I will be continuing to work towards completing a double-major in Philosophy and Religious Studies from the Clark Honors College at the University. Thank you so much; it means more than you'll ever know.

***Joel Reynolds***



**Joel Reynolds with  
grandfather Jack Morton,  
182nd Infantry Regt., WWII**

Dear Mr. Short,

Thank you once again to the Americal Division Veterans Association for granting me a scholarship for next year. I appreciate all the time and effort your committee puts into the selection process and I am honored to have been chosen for a second time. This scholarship is so important to me as it reminds me of my late grandfather and all that he did to protect America.

***Nora Tuite***

Dear Mr. Short and the ADVA Scholarship Committee,

I am so thankful that I was a recipient of the ADVA Scholarship. Now that school has started, the money will certainly help pay for all my expenses at the university of Buffalo. This year I am a junior studying Exercise and Nutrition Science and this winter I will be applying for Grad school. Not only has my father helped me every step along the way, but he also graduated from SUNY Buffalo with a degree in Health Physical Education and Recreation. It means so much for me to receive this scholarship from an organization that means so much to my dad. Thank you again for your generosity.

***Melissa Bungo***



**Melissa Bungo with father  
Ronald Krul, 4th/3rd Infantry**

Dear Members of the Americal Division Veterans Association,

Thank you for your generosity in making the ADVA Scholarship available to the families of Americal service members. I am humbled to have received this award for the 2006-2007 academic year, and further appreciate your sacrifice to have made it possible. With the aid of your generous gift, I am eager to continue my studies in Political Science and Philosophy this fall at the University of Southern Illinois, Edwardsville.

I would not be writing you this letter today if it were not for the military service of my father Terrence Siemer. Years before I came into his family, he came into the family of the Americal. It is evident that the values and honor of the Americal were carried forth in him, as I have never met a man with a stronger sense of loyalty and sacrifice, duty and grace. Yet I am certain that this can be said by a thousand daughters of a thousand Americal Veterans. So it seems, for the thousandth time, I am once again the beneficiary of the Americal family. I truly appreciate the gifts you have given me.

***Emily Siemer***



# Christmas 1967 – A Simple Act of Kindness

By Richard A. Ropele

Co. E, 1/6<sup>th</sup> Inf., Nov. 1967-Feb. 1968

When we were kids and Christmas was just days away, the anticipation of finding out what was under the Christmas tree was an exciting time. We didn't think we could last until Christmas morning. And finally, when that moment arrived, we honed in on that big package, tore the paper off, scattering it all over the living room floor until we had that special gift in our hands. Usually, as an afterthought, we remembered who gave the gift to us and acknowledged them with a 'thank you'.

My Christmas experience in 1967 was nothing like that. However it did serve as a key moment in life as I matured and realized the value of the people in my life. It was my first Christmas away from home. Hell, it was my first Christmas in a war zone. I was an FNG, assigned to Co. E, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB on LZ Bayonet. I was working to learn my role as a rifleman in an infantry squad.

Most of December was spent in the field doing the usual things- working the AO, searching villages, ambushes at night, just looking for the bad guys. It was during this December that I earned a lot of "firsts" in my life- first time I went out on an ambush; first time I walked point; first time I walked point to a night ambush position; first time I shot at someone.

We had been out in the field for about two weeks and sometime just before Christmas we came back to base camp. As you all remember, we would get our mail in the field, but packages were usually held back at base camp until we came in for them.

I had a package waiting for me from Helen Shives. Helen Shives is the mother of my brother's best friend. My older brother Don had known Gary Shives since they were classmates in elementary school. Now here I was, half a world away in Vietnam, getting a package from Gary's mom for Christmas.

A package from home usually meant something to eat. What was it- canned fruit, kool aid mix, pudding cups? It didn't matter; anything was a treat because it took the edge off the C-Rations. This package was one of those shirt size boxes that you get from a department store. It was wrapped and taped for mailing in brown paper.

I remember sitting on the steps of the hooch and just like that child at home in front of the Christmas tree, I ripped through the paper to reveal a wax paper lined box of chocolate fudge brownies. She even cut them into those little squares.

The fudge brownies were soft, sticky, and gooey – just the way they should be. We all dipped in and ate like it was going to be taken away if we didn't finish it right then and there.

I like to think that my mom and dad raised a considerate boy, but truthfully, I don't remember if I wrote a note of thanks to her or not. I'd like to think that I did, but . . . .

Now here it is, 39 Christmases later, and I still marvel how this simple act of kindness, a gift of fudge brownies, helped me gain a clearer understanding of the meaning of Christmas and the spirit of giving. I can visualize Mrs. Shives in her kitchen preparing the package, never quite sure if it would arrive at its intended destination. I'm humbled to know that this great woman had thought of me and my situation and took time out of her busy Christmas preparation to do this seemingly small act- to think of me.

As we get older and wiser we realize that it's not the gift that counts, but the efforts and thoughts that others extend in our behalf. This simple box of fudge brownies was one of the best Christmas gifts I've ever received. It not only fed my body, it also nourished my soul. It was exactly what I needed.

Helen Shives is now in her late 80's and in the twilight of her years. But she is still one of the sweetest and kindest women I know. I'm a better man today because of her example. I've spoken with her son Gary and related this incident and my feelings to him so that he would know just how much his Mother's concern and compassion affected my life. Every Christmas season I reflect on how a simple box of fudge brownies was better than a new bike or a new baseball mitt.

I believe that the people of the World War II era were a special generation of valiant souls. They were sent to this earth at a time that our Heavenly Father knew they would be instrumental in saving the world from the evil intentions of the rulers of Germany and Japan. Essentially, the men went to war and the women took their place in the workforce. A combined effort on the war front and on the home front resulted in victory and restored freedom throughout the world.

I also believe that this same generation of people was our strongest supporter in Vietnam because they could easily relate to the mission and the circumstances in which we were involved. Their concern and compassion for soldiers at war was developed during the trying times in the 1940s and we benefited as a result.

As we told ourselves after 9/11, I'm ready to go again and serve my country. I believe the men and women of this World War II generation also stood ready again if their country called for their services in Vietnam. If they couldn't participate on the war front, then they choose to support the troops in other ways. Helen Shives is one of these women of that 'greatest generation' that acted on the thought and took the time to bring a little bit of home and Christmas cheer into my life.

There are countless millions of people alive today throughout the world because of the sacrifice and dedication of the men and women of the United States Military.

Honored and great are they that wear the colors of the United States of America.



## Christmas on LZ Center 1970

Glen A. Lippincott

Co. A, 3/21<sup>st</sup> Inf., 196<sup>th</sup> LIB, 1970-71

We lucked out. My unit, Alpha Company, 3/21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, was scheduled to complete a sweep and search mission in our Area of Operations (AO). On Christmas Eve we were then due to rotate to the fire support base (FSB) at landing zone (LZ) Center. I was still a "green seed" having been with second platoon a little less than two months.

I didn't really know what being on the firebase for Christmas would mean. But I knew it would probably be better than being in the bush. It was monsoon season in Vietnam and getting to sleep with a hard roof over your head was always a welcome experience.

The heat at that time was very oppressive. On the way up the hill to the top of LZ Center, Rommel, a German Shepherd tracker dog, passed out from heat exhaustion. Rommel had spent time with us on our mission in the bush.

As we passed by on the trail, Rommel's dog handler asked that anyone with extra canteens of water to splash some water on the dog. The handler had to rub Rommel down in order to revive him. Most of the boonie rats with field experience had already dumped any extra water to lighten the load for the trek up the hill.

We got to the main street on LZ Center, dropped our rucksacks, and headed to the mess hall. It really wasn't much of a mess hall. It was an open-air pavilion with a kitchen attached.

We shuffled down the steps to find a small decorated Christmas tree sitting on a table with our presents neatly arranged at the bottom. We were greeted by Santa Claus and received a fresh orange as a gift. Most of us peeled and ate the fresh fruit immediately.

Rommel and his handler then joined us to sit in the shade to recover. Soon we got the word to "ruck-up" and head to our assigned bunkers on the west end of the firebase. These were our new homes for the next three days. Such were the ways in the crazy nomadic lifestyle of a light infantry "grunt".

Christmas Eve passed without event. We talked about home and what our families would be doing. As most

GI's do when separated from family and friends during a holiday, we became melancholy.

War waits for no one and there still had to be guard duty to be pulled. I caught the 11:00 PM to 1:00 AM shift. It was a clear night in "I Corps" that night and as midnight approached I thought of home.

My favorite part of my family's Christmas Eve celebration was when the whole family went to the eleven o'clock church service. We

lit candles, raised them at midnight, and sang Silent Night to welcome the birthday of the Christ child.

My pulse quickened at the sound of outgoing 81-millimeter mortar rounds being fired. At the stroke of midnight, the sky began to be lit up with red and green parachute flares! I hurriedly called my boonie rat brothers in my squad to witness this event.

It didn't stop after a few rounds either. The Christmas barrage kept

up until the whole sky of the firebase perimeter was ringed with dozens of bright red and green flares gently floating down in a gorgeous cascade of color. After about ten or fifteen minutes the extravaganza ceased.

I thought of what that display must have cost Uncle Sam. I wondered what price tag you could put on the morale on the fighting man. I stepped inside the bunker momentarily, and in the light of a single candle on the shelf, we hugged one another and wished each other "Merry Christmas."

Suddenly the canvas at the entrance of the bunker was flung aside. A voice of authority asked, "Are there any officers in here?" We answered, "No". The midnight visitor replied, "Good, Merry Christmas mother#\*&\*ers! Have a drink!"

He thrust forward his fist with a bottle of whiskey in it. "I'm with the artillery battery of 105's and you grunts have kept my young ass safe on this firebase for my whole tour. I just wanted to say thank you!"

We passed the bottle around and all took a swig of the fiery liquid with no chaser to be had. We wished him a merry Christmas and our heartfelt thanks, which is all that a have-nothing grunt can give.

Then just like jolly Santa in green jungle fatigues, our midnight visitor went about his work of spreading goodwill. As I heard him exclaim as he wobbled out of sight down the bunker line, "Are there any officers in here?"



Americal Division Veterans Association

2007 ANNUAL REUNION  
Buffalo/Niagara Falls NY



*Come in early on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> for a great time.  
The hospitality room will be open and ready for three days of comradeship and fun.*

**Friday, June 22, 2007 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM – NIAGARA FALLS EXPERIENCE**

This tour features New York and Ontario views of Niagara Falls. Our group will travel to the U.S. side of the falls to visit Goat Island and Terrapin Point for a view of the upper Niagara River rapids and the American falls. Then we are off to the Niagara Reservation State Park where we will descend into the Niagara Gorge aboard the Maid of the Mist for an unforgettable cruise. Our group will travel into Canada (proof of citizenship required for all passengers) for a fabulous luncheon with a spectacular view of the falls. Following lunch, the group will visit Table Rock, the floral clock, and the Whirlpools.

**Friday, June 22, 2007 – 3:30 PM to 11:00 PM – NIAGARA FALLS TOUR AND CASINO**

Niagara Falls illuminated tour and casino stop. This tour includes luxury transportation, visit to the Fallview Casino Resort in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. (Proper proof of citizenship is required when traveling into Canada.) Visit the casino from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Following our visit to the casino we will view the falls as they are illuminated. Schedule permitting we will enjoy the Niagara Falls fireworks display.

**Saturday, June 23, 2007 – GALLERIA MALL TRANSPORTATION**

School bus transportation provided from the Adams Mark Hotel to the Galleria Mall and return. Depart Adams Mark hotel at 10:00 AM and arrive at the Galleria Mall at 10:30 AM. Depart the Galleria Mall at 3:00 PM and arrive at the Adams Mark Hotel at 3:30 PM.

**Saturday, June 23, 2007 – 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM – LADIES TOUR**

This tour includes luxury transportation, a visit to Kelly's Country Store, a luncheon cruise aboard the Grand Lady and an afternoon visit to the Chocolate Shoppe.

**FREE FOR REUNION ATTENDEES! NAVAL AND MILITARY PARK**

Visit the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Serviceman's Park open from 10AM to 4PM any day. Entrance is **FREE for Americal reunion attendees who wear their reunion badges.** It is within easy walking distance from the hotel. Transportation will be provided for those who need assistance from 12 Noon to 4 PM on Saturday. This fabulous park is the largest inland floating history museum in America. Experience how sailors lived during a tour of the USS Little Rock missile cruiser, the USS Sullivan's destroyer, and the USS Croaker submarine. A memorial service is planned for our group at 3 PM on Saturday, aboard the deck of the USS Little Rock.

# AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## ADAMS MARK HOTEL - BUFFALO, NY - JUNE 21-24, 2007

**Hotel Reservations**, call 1-877-892-MARK (6275) for the special rate of \$83/night (plus tax). For 24 hour parking at the hotel, the rate is \$89 (plus tax). Mention the Americal Division Veterans Association. Make reservations by **May 21, 2007** to secure the special group rate

### Registration:

Payment before May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007	\$20/person	X# _____ attendees	= \$ _____
Payment after May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007	\$25/person	X# _____ attendees	= \$ _____

### Friday, June 22nd Tours:

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Niagara Falls Experience	\$79.95/person	X# _____ attendees	= \$ _____
3:30 PM - 11:00 PM Niagara Falls Tour and Casino	\$39.95/person	X# _____ attendees	= \$ _____

### Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> Opportunities:

Galleria Mall Transportation	\$10/person	X# _____ attendees	\$ _____
10:00 AM Depart Adams Mark			
3:00 PM Return Adams Mark			
9:30AM - 4:00 PM Ladies Tour*	\$68.00/person	X# _____ attendees	= \$ _____
6:30 PM Annual Banquet (Waterfront Buffet)	\$40/person	X# _____ attendees	= \$ _____
Reunion T-Shirt** \$10/each	Med _____	LG _____	XL _____
			XXL _____
Reunion Memory Book (Full Color - Mailed in two months after the Reunion)	\$20 /each	X# _____	\$ _____
			TOTAL \$ _____

Naval and Military Park Museum available Thursday, Friday or Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
**FREE** to reunion attendees who wear their reunion name badges. It is just a short walk from the hotel.  
 Transportation available for those needing assistance, on Saturday from 12 Noon to 4 PM.

\* (Limited to the first 50 registered)

\*\* (Supplied in your welcome packet)

### Make Checks Payable

**to: ADVA/ERC**  
**Mail Checks with**  
**Registration Form to:**  
**Robert F. Cudworth**  
**203 Stone Street**  
**Moosic, PA 18507-1532**  
**See You In Buffalo!**

Last Name _____	First _____
Spouse/Guests _____	
Address _____	
City _____	
State _____	Zip _____
Phone _____	
Vietnam <input type="checkbox"/> WWII <input type="checkbox"/> Unit(s) _____ e-mail _____	

# A Long Vacation (At Government Expense)

Siegel "Bob" Varner

*(Editors Note: This is part 4 and the final part of Bob Siegel's Americal WWII memoirs, from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter newsletter issues 2006. His story continues on Cebu, the Philippines).*

We were a long way from the roads so all supplies had to be backpacked by someone to us. Mostly adult Filipinos were hired, but our squad had three teen-age boys who "joined" us. They carried supplies and asked for nothing in return. We shared our food and, of course, the cigarettes. The paid carriers would disappear after the first sign of any action but these three stayed. They were scared silly but they stayed. Heros of a type, certainly! Food was in short supply so we supplemented with bananas, ripe or green, which we cooked. They tasted almost like sweet potatoes. We found ears of corn about three inches long and wild tomatoes, which were marble size. Some fellows carried a small jar of salt water to put wild peppers in – but I never tried those.

One afternoon when we stopped for the night we heard some explosions. When I went to get chow I ran into Bruce Sexton whose face was peppered with small red spots. They were caused by a bobby trap and he was mighty lucky, none of the fragments hit his eyes. While we were in Cebu City we heard that almost an entire platoon had been wiped out when an ammo dump exploded under their position.

## Replacements

We got six replacements about two months into the campaign. When the eighty-six days campaign was over we had five men in the squad, and our squad was typical for the company. Not all soldiers who left were wounded related, but dysentery and malaria took its toll too. One of the replacements was from Texas and of the loud boasting variety. One night when he was awakened for guard duty he squeezed the trigger of the rifle which was lying across his lap. He put a slug in his foot. I wonder if he got a Purple Heart for it? One time the kid, who had been in the squad only two or three days heard a loud noise so he threw a grenade. The problem was, it hit a palm tree, and then bounced back into his hole. He reached for it to throw again but it detonated, removing four fingers from his right hand. I heard they were going to "try" to court martial him on a charge of "SIW" (Self-Inflicted Wound). I couldn't imagine them doing that, Texas maybe. Another young replacement, who looked like a "Mr. Muscle" or "All American Boy", was being awakened when he lost contact with reality. He responded, "No mom, I don't want to get up to go to school today." He was evacuated and we never heard any more about him.

They say a man who is afraid, and still does what has to be

done, is a brave man. If so, Ed Stripling, "Strig", who joined the squad when I did, was really brave. Whenever there was going to be "action" he would turn white and start to shake – but he never chickened out. One of the last days of the campaign I ran a fever and was evacuated to a mobile hospital set up in a school. During the walk down the hill I was impressed by how much the view was like a pastoral scene in Minnesota. While waiting for an ambulance I met a man who had been shot in the center of his back. The bullet went straight through him, without damaging any organs, coming out the center of his chest. It didn't even hit a bone.

When I returned to my unit I had to turn in my BAR. The Table of Organization (TO) called for only one BAR per squad, but we usually tried to scrounge more. We also got a brand new platoon leader, a "90-Day Wonder". The new M1 rifle I received had been preserved in Cosmoline and I was unable to clean it totally. At the inspection I was "gigged". On the firing range the next day it would not fire. A second rifle, from the supply room similarly gunked up and similarly caused me another gig. But this one cost me my sergeant's stripes. This ... from an untested officer, who had NO combat experience. I felt like I had had a raw deal.

The I & R (Intelligence & Recon) Platoon was informed that there were Japanese troops nearby and they were sent to investigate. What they ran into was an ambush, 14 killed, 8 wounded. When they sought "volunteers" to replace them, I did. I was quickly accepted. In 1990 I received a telephone call from the daughter of the Lieutenant who was killed at that time, but I couldn't tell her anything. It happened before my transfer.

In a training operation I and other I&R guys were attached to the first battalion. It was to be an amphibious landing on the western side of the island. We were trucked to the West Side where we boarded LCT's for a ride to a small pier about 20 miles north. We went inland and started climbing hills. It was extra hot and some of the new troops drank all their water from their canteens, without knowing where they would get more. In desperation they cut some banana palm trees and drank the "sap". Bad Move! We "old timers" had warned them not to use up their water and when they asked for some of ours the answer was NO. We had carried two canteens full and intended to drink it ourselves.

Two companies split and each followed its own ridge. As we watched the other company advancing up a path there was gunfire. A machine gun nest, which killed both of the scouts, was invisible from our hill. A hasty retreat left both men lying there until one disappeared during the night. I always felt that my company would never leave a wounded man behind. The next day we came under fire from the next ridge. It was the other half of our patrol. Then we were going along a valley until we ran into the enemy. Then we ran FROM the enemy. Several people were hit but I lucked out again. Even though we had stopped to provide covering fire. A Lieutenant ordered us to "get the hell out of here." As we ran they opened up again and hit two more

men. Apparently the brass felt there were too many for us to handle. Again, this was an action in which I never saw the enemy. Our thousand-man patrol was sent to locate three to four thousand Japanese. One scout, cut off from his unit, escaped by floating down a stream to the beach, going through several enemy camps in the process.

August 28, 1945 ... after the end of the war it turned out there were at least six thousand Japs still capable of fighting. A special "detail", all of which had to be six-feet tall, was selected to receive their surrender. Every man was to be from a line company. A convoy went north to collect and haul the prisoners to Cebu. We stood by the road to watch. They were lean, but they did not look beaten. We had heard of a super bomb, but not what it was until the second one fell. When it was official that they had indeed given up we went to the chapel to offer thanks to God. I'm firmly convinced that the "bomb" saved more than a million lives by ending the war before the invasion that was to follow.

### End Of The War

August 29, 1945: The Americal Division loaded on ships bound for Japan. The 132<sup>nd</sup> Regiment boarded the ATA (Attack Transport Amphibious)-107 GOODHUE (named after a Minnesota County) and departed for Yokohama, Japan. We arrived September 8, 1945. We were one of the divisions scheduled to spearhead the November 1945 invasion of the home islands of Japan. That could explain



**U.S.S. Goodhue (APA-107)** which transported the 132nd Regiment to Japan for occupation duty. Commissioned 11 November 1944. During a Kamikaze attack on 2 April 1945 one airplane hit the main mast and fell astern of the ship. Exploding bombs from the aircraft killed 27 and wounded 117. The ship did not suffer serious structural damage and was fully operational by 10 April. The Goodhue was decommissioned 5 April 1946, having earned one battle star for WWII service. (Source: *Seaweed Ships Histories*, Sistersville, WV)

why we were chosen as the first full division to land from ships. Portions of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne had been airlifted in before us. On our approach we had a thrill, seeing Mt. Fuji,

the symbol of Japan. Then we passed the "Big MO", the battleship Missouri, where the Imperial Delegation signed the documents of surrender. That was on September 2, 1945, one week before we landed.

When we disembarked it was with full combat gear and weapons loaded. We didn't trust them to just give up, but that is what they did. As we drove through Yokohama it looked like a large demolition project. The streets were clear but there were few buildings standing. The military base we arrived at after dark was deserted. Everyone was ordered to "find someplace to sleep". So we broke into some building and, after scrounging a bit went to sleep on the floor. The cities nearby were Hara-Machida and Hiratsuka.

The next morning we were assigned to specific buildings. The I&R shared a smaller one with the regimental band. We were located close to the fence surrounding the camp, and a large bomb shelter. We complained about the aroma of the water, which had a strong sulfur smell. And close to a large bomb shelter, which had been converted to a latrine. We unpacked our equipment, set up cots, posted guards and went to bed. Well, almost everyone did. Some of the "lonelyier" guys sneaked out during the night. The next morning I was awakened by giggling ... giggling girls that is. How they met them or how they got them into the camp past the guard I'll never know. Why, I have no doubts.

The first passes issued required that a side arm must be carried. That proved unnecessary, so it was changed shortly. At first someone picked up the telephone out of curiosity. Then did it for fun, because the operators responded "Hai, Hai, Mushi, Mushi." After a few days there was a full-field inspection, probably looking for some of the material scrounged the first night. Most of which had been hidden, because it was so obvious what the intent was. So, a few days later we were told to pack up, we were moving to a new camp. Supposedly all of the hidden items would be in bags to be carried with the owners so as not to be left behind. Then, surprise, another inspection and some of the "souvenirs" were confiscated. But not mine.

Colonel McQuarrie was quartered in the former base commander's house. It was a beautiful cottage in the middle of a park. I was part of a moving detail, so I got a good look. I don't know how long "Sentimental Journey" will be played but it is now 60 years later. I'll never forget it. How could I? Individually and as a group the band practiced it 20 hours a day. I get an 8,000-mile trip every time I hear it. And I still love it. We played volleyball almost every day. That, and card games were our main activities. Odawara was a larger city to which we went by train. We rented bikes and rode them into town. I had a photograph taken, just for kicks. I still have it. We even went to Yokohama by train, most of the way riding outside, on the front of the engine. One of the stops was at Oiso, which the conductor called out on approaching the station. Except it came out OOO EEE SOOO. Another stop was Kamakura, where the giant Buddha statue is visible from the tracks.

## THE OLD GUARD

One day we had some excitement when it was reported that one of our units had uncovered a cache of silver. It was hidden for the future, buried in sawdust. It was brought to Regimental Headquarters where we had to post guards. Ninety-nine bars made a stack 16" x 30" 36" until one of the guards "liberated" two bars. Each bar weighed over 20 pounds so I don't know how he expected to get it, or them, out of the country. When no one volunteered to return the items, the CO said, "If they are returned – nothing will happen. If not – NOBODY goes home." Needless to say the bars showed up. A miracle. The silver was transported to Tokyo on a truck convoy. Each truck had six bars of silver, four riflemen and two BAR's. I had one of them. It was a fast trip to the bank of Japan. The doors were six-foot thick and had bolts a foot in diameter (see page 409, *Orchids in the Mud*).

For New Years day we went by truck to the "Rice Bowl", I think it was Meiji Stadium. The football game was dull so we left early. We also went to Tokyo to see what's going on there. So we saw the Emperor's Palace Grounds, the moat with the giant goldfish (carp), the Diet and the Dai Ichi Building. That's where General MacArthur's headquarters were. He drove up as we stood watching from 100 yards away. We could have been court martialed for not coming to attention and saluting. But the war was over and the infantry was tired of being GI. Then we toured the Ginza, the shopping street that was packed with people. The stores had almost no merchandise.

When the Americal USA it transferred out those who didn't have enough points to go home. October 28, 1945 I was assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> Division. Then December 7, 1945 to the 860<sup>th</sup> Engineer Aviation Battalion, which was stationed in Niigata. Located on the Sea of Japan it had never been bombed because it was to be the next "A Bomb" target. Our barracks were large barn-like structures, heated by a large stove in the center of the room. During the time I was there it snowed several inches, several times. Some of my new buddies and I went into town to see the sights. Of course the "off limits" signs were an invitation we couldn't refuse. One stop was a brothel where three guys went upstairs with a young lady. I was invited too but declined, telling the "mama san" that I was too young. She laughed at that.

The girls were attractive, very young, short and wearing beautiful kimonos. A visit another time as we were walking down the street we met a gentleman who informed us to join him and his wife for tea at his home. We accepted, and learned that he spoke English very well because he had lived in the USA. I came down with a fever or malaria and spent about a week in a Japanese hospital. We had white sheets, nice beds and steam heat. Did I mention it got quite cold next to the Sea of Japan? Because the air was so dry, we wet some towels and hung them on the radiators to evaporate and moisten the air.

Possibly the most interesting was the encounter with four Japanese teenagers. They were about 14 or 15 and invited

us to their school. There they showed us their dormitory style living. One gave me a collection of a "scholastic-type papers", which I still have. They were written in both the English and Japanese languages, as a teaching tool I assume. The lead article in one was "Heroes of Hawaii". Of course, the "heroes" were the ones that bombed Pearl Harbor.



**Wars End. The awards and decorations of Siegal "Bob" Varner (Source: Bob Varner)**

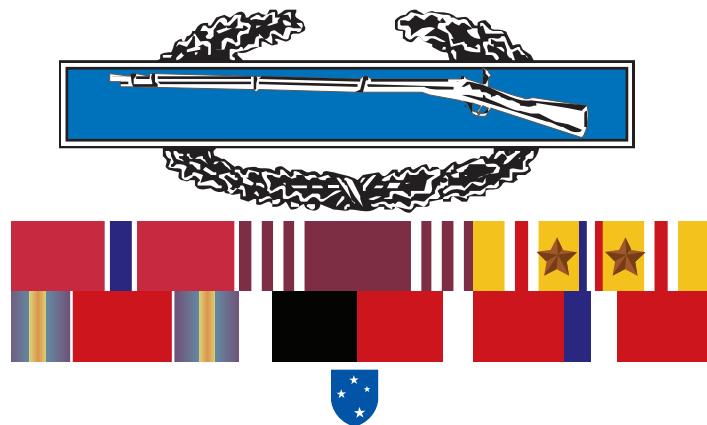
January 16, 1946 I boarded the USS Cape Perpetua. At sea we were given real milk in cartons. It was frozen solid but as fast as it melted we drank it. It had almost been two years since I had had any! The waves were the highest I had ever seen, with the bow dipping into the water and out of the water.

January 27, 1946 we landed at Seattle, Washington, to Fort Lawton for one night and some good food (Army good anyway). But I don't remember any brass bands!

January 29, 1946 boarded a troop train.

February 1, 1946, Camp McCoy. DISCHARGE

FEBRUARY SECOND, NINETEEN FORTY SIX, HOME!



## PNC Messina Receives Patriot Award

By David W. Taylor

ADVA Past National Commander Peter J. Messina (1992-1993) was recently awarded the prestigious Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Achievement by The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), Central Pennsylvania Chapter.

The effort that earned Messina the recognition began twenty-five years ago when the National Headquarters of the MOWW established a program to send selected area high school seniors to a three day seminar at the Valley Forge Pennsylvania Medal of Honor Institute. This program was later enlarged to many other locations in the United States. The purpose of the seminar was to teach high school seniors the ideals of patriotism, the Constitution and the early history of our country.



**ADVA PNC Peter J. Messina (left) is presented the prestigious Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for patriotic achievement from the Military Order of World Wars, from LTC Frederick W. Lovelace, Chapter Commander, on June 15, 2006.**

in June this year, the same month he was awarded the ADVA's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Reunion in Portland.

***Presenting the award was LTC, US Army Retired, Frederick W. Lovelace, Chapter Commander.***

### Citation



***Presented to Lieutenant Colonel Peter J. Messina, Central Pennsylvania Chapter, in recognition of his many years of dedicated and proud service to our nation, the United States Army, and The Military Order of the World Wars. Colonel Messina is credited for his work in the early development of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter Patriotic Education Program and for being one of the leaders in the establishment of the standards for the selection of students to represent the Central Pennsylvania Chapter at Youth Leadership Conferences. His love and support for this program has never faded as it continues to bring him and our chapter much pride. His accomplishments and outstanding service to our nation and its ideals clearly establish Colonel Messina as a patriot and a person worthy of praise and recognition by The Military Order of the World Wars.***

***Messina has long been a member of the national ADVA as well as its East Region Chapter and we salute him for this fine achievement.***

Messina's Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the MOWW, to which he was a member, decided to participate in the program. Messina was made co-chairman to develop the criteria for selecting and sending the students to the seminar. Each year a visit was made to each of the high schools which participated, to explain the program. A committee was established and a plan made as to the selection of the students. Messina also participated with the committee to choose the students to attend the seminar. Arrangements were made to take the chapter-area students to the seminar at Valley Forge and bring them home after the seminar. Messina participated in this program for many years and, because of his efforts, many students had the opportunity to learn of the ideals of the founding of our country. Messina's award was given

## AmericaL WWII Museum Update

David W. Taylor

### Modernization Begins

On October 3 the museum advisory committee met at the museum in Worcester, MA for their fall meeting. First order of business was to announce the ADVA now has a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ADVA and the Military Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This establishes our rent-free use of their Salisbury St. facility, The Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum.

The MOU had been signed by the ADVA National Commander Larry Watson, Executive Council Chairman Jim Buckle, and me as ADVA WWII Historian. Brigadier General Oliver J. Mason Jr., Adjutant General of Massachusetts countersigned and the MOU is effective 1 September 2006.

Our Harvard University summer intern, Preston Hill, gave a major presentation covering the outlines of:

- The Museum Inventory Assessment
- A Collections Management Assessment (accession and deaccession) to include recommended policies
- A suggested revamping of the museum to include floor plan, visitor flow, and display / graphic recommendations.

Our major task is to have the museum tell the story of the AmericaL in WWII and not just display "stuff", as it currently does. It was agreed among the committee that the first step was to cover all displays and bring the walls and ceilings up to par with fresh paint and removing dated wallpaper on some of the walls. The walls also feature beautiful wood paneling that cover the bottom half, which adds to the historic charm of the site. These walls are in need of refinishing as well. This work will be the first use of funds from our museum fundraising campaign. Please be as generous as

you can with your donations. See our fundraising information on the next page. The advisory committee has already begun looking at Preston's recommendations regarding museum layout and expect to have a basic concept approved by year-end.



**AmericaL WWII Museum Advisory Committee at the October 3 meeting (Left to right): Preston Hill, Victoria Granacki, Dave Taylor, Carole Fonseca, Nancy Murphy and Len Kondratuk. (Missing is Jim Buckle who was unable to attend)**

MOU is effective 1

Once the basic refurbishing takes place, our museum efforts will go forward on several fronts. First, we will begin creating displays that highlight the "journey" of the AmericaL in WWII. The visitor will be led through a series of displays that begin with pre-war training of the various units of Task Force 6814, and the journey of the task force as it is sent to New Caledonia, designated the AmericaL, and the many islands and battles it fought. While the final chapter of the division in WWII is its occupation duty in Japan, the museum will have an area at the end of the tour, dedicated to the founding of the ADVA with many pictures of those early years of its formation. There will also be displays showing the continued vitality of the ADVA up to the present day.

PNC Gary Noller was also present for the meeting and the committee decided the time was right to begin the transfer of the AmericaL Vietnam items to the Texas Tech University (TTU) Vietnam Center. While TTU will digitize all items, photos, papers, etc for our record once they receive the Vietnam materials, Len Kondratuk, Director of the Worcester Building where our museum resides

on the second floor, will make arrangements for all Vietnam photos and captions to be digitized before they are shipped to TTU, to use an early use of the photos for Americal Journal use and other purposes.

### The Legacy Continues

The highlight of our meeting was that Vicki Granacki, one of our advisory committee members, was able to fly out from Chicago to be with us. Vicki is the daughter of the departed Leon P. Granacki, the Americal soldier who designed the Americal patch. She was able to meet for the first time, committee member Carole Fonseca, daughter of the departed David Fonseca, the Americal soldier who named the division "Americal". It was a special gathering for us all.



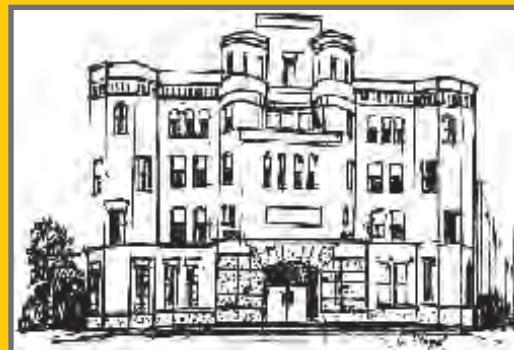
LEGACY. (Left) Carole Fonseca talks with Vicki Granacki (Right) about Granacki's father's personal album of water color paintings he created while stationed with the Americal during WWII (album shown on the table). It was the first time for the two of them to meet.



## One Last Campaign for the Old Guard!

# MUSEUM

The Americal WWII Museum  
All Donations Tax Deductible!



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Please donate to a worthy cause!

Yes! I want to help perpetuate the history of the Americal Division.

Send your tax-deductible check  
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Send your check to:

PNC Ronald Ellis

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Your canceled check from the bank will be  
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Any inquiries for donating materials  
(artifacts or documents) to the  
museum please contact:

David W. Taylor

970 Kenner Drive

Medina, Ohio 44256

330-723-2517

[dwtaylor@ohio.net](mailto:dwtaylor@ohio.net)

## Reflections of the Past: Cebu Landing

Bill Chisholm



Bill Chisholm 2006

During the dawn hours of March 26, 1945, I found myself on the deck of an LST in a convoy that had departed from Leyte, P.I. and whose mission was to establish a beach head on Cebu, P.I. and liberate that island from its Japanese occupiers. (Not until years later did I learn that there were a total of 59 ships in the convoy and that the code name for this assault group operation was "Victor II" and that it was being "screened"-protected-by Task Force 74 of the Navy's Seventh Fleet).

Looking back on that long ago day, I must have appeared to be a formidable sight: I was normally a cannoneer with Battery B, 221<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery—155 howitzers—Americus Division. But now I had been "converted" literally overnight to a demolition man and along with my carbine and sundry items of standard issue gear, I was loaded down with a considerable number of TNT blocks and a blasting machine. Appearances, however, can indeed be deceiving because I didn't feel the least bit "formidable" and had absolutely no idea what to expect next! So, I just stood there clueless awaiting further orders.

All I knew for sure was that several months earlier on Bougainville, N.S., our First Sergeant, Bob Galpin, advised me that I along with PFC Bill Fisk and a Lieutenant—I believe his name was Mitchell—would be Battery B's demolition team, and that we were to attend Demolition School.

The "School" consisted of taping TNT blocks to tree trunks, connecting a wire to the blocks and "running" the wire to a blasting machine. Then, standing back at a hopefully safe distance, we yelled "fire in the hole", activated the blasting machine with a twist of the wrist and watched the tree trunks explode. The purpose of these exercises was to teach us how to clear out jungle areas for the setting up of our 155 howitzers.

Now here I was on an LST in the Bohol Strait off the east coast of Cebu not the least bit aware of what sights I would soon behold or what "adventures" I would soon experience.

I didn't have long to wait: All of a sudden, as a lone B24 circled over the beach head area, destroyers and auxiliary craft unleashed salvo after salvo of shells and rockets at the coast line. This bombardment must have lasted over an hour. At its conclusion, we were told to go to a certain section on the port side of the ship. Once there, I saw in the water below an undulating boat load of infantrymen. Leading down to this craft was a rope ladder. It was only then that I discovered – no previous briefing – that I a person with a totally abnormal dread of heights – a true acrophobic – was expected to climb down this "landing net" and join those infantrymen in their waved tossed "ship to shore" vehicle!

For God's sake I was a cannoneer and had never been trained in the intricacies of an amphibious operation. I naively thought I was to go ashore *after* the infantry not *with* them!

Well, obviously, given the restrictions imposed by the limited deck space, I could not "cut and run," so, I closed my eyes so to speak and with much trepidation, I climbed over the ship's rail and nervously grasped – "clutched" would be a better word – the net and warily – and I mean warily – began stepping down the net's rope rungs. As I descended my shoulder hung carbine kept banging me in my helmeted head and the extra weight imposed by my 60 pounds of demolition caused me to make several missteps any one of which, I apprehensively thought, would cause me to lose my footing and cause my equipment laden body to plunge to the bottom of the sea! Fortunately, I don't know how, I was able to negotiate the net and half fell into that sickeningly bobbing landing craft, very much shaken by one of the most traumatic experiences of my previously un-athletic life!

Once I was "safely" ensconced in the landing craft and as it began churning towards the beach, the full realization of the fact that I a cannoneer only recently "converted" to demolition man was now part and parcel of a full blown infantry assault wave, just like the ones I used to see in the newsreels!

When our craft came close enough to the beach, its ramp opened and we poured out and waded ashore. Once on the beach, we were immediately ordered to halt and remain close to the ground. We remained in the prone position for approximately an hour and a half. (At the time I had no idea why we had halted in this manner. Only later did I learn that the beach was infested with mines!)

During that time I noticed directly ahead of me what appeared to be an infantry fatality – with powder burns to his face and arms – and to my left I saw a number of stalled amphibious tractors. (Later, I learned there was a total of 15 of these first wave, infantry laden "Amtracks", ten of which

had been almost instantly disabled by the Japanese land mines and that most of the America's first day casualties – eight dead and 39 wounded – occurred on this heavily mined beach). We never said a word to the infantry and they never said a word to us.

Once paths had been cleared through the mine fields, a short stocky officer—seemingly impervious to the dangerous environment – came running up and with a rapid up and down arm motion, signaled us to all advance on the double.



**US Army photo taken of the Cebu invasion. Soldier in the foreground (left front, lying flat), is Bill Chisholm. Soldier behind him on his knees is LT. Mitchell and behind Mitchell is PFC Bill Fisk. Behind them in background are Am tracks, some disabled by mines. The official caption to this Signal Corps photo reads: "First troops of the 3rd Battalion, 132nd Infantry, America Division, crawl ashore under Jap fire during a surprise landing on Cebu Island, P.I., at a point just south of Cebu City. Note Alligators rolling up on the beach in the background. 3/26/45"**

The next thing I remember, we were on a road with the 132<sup>nd</sup> Infantry headed towards Cebu City. Japanese resistance, other than the mine fields, appeared to be next to nil with only occasional gunfire and some distant explosions. As we approached the outskirts of Cebu City, crowds began to appear along the way with "hello Joes", some even offering us their home brewed whiskey! (I am not sure if they wanted to give us their whiskey or, given our experience on Leyte, sell it to us.)

The 132<sup>nd</sup> was advancing so rapidly that there was no need for our demolition team's "expertise". And that night the three of us ensconced ourselves at the side of the road and waited for the arrival of Battery B. The next day the battery came ashore and finally set up our 155 howitzers on the outskirts of Cebu City.

Several days later someone came up to me and said that Lt. Mitchell, Bill Fisk and I were eligible to wear the Bronze Arrowhead because we had participated in the initial infantry assault waves that secured the Cebu beach head. This advise was given in a somewhat perfunctory no big deal manner.

You have to look real close to see it—you almost need a magnifying glass—but a Bronze Arrowhead is now affixed to my Asiatic Pacific ribbon in a glass case on the wall of our den. It has been so displayed for the past 61 years.

It wasn't until we arrived in Japan for occupation duty that I was given the opportunity to display my demolition "skills": A team of us blew up Japanese coastal defense and anti aircraft guns, shot out search lights, etc. On one occasion we packed too much T&T into a gun barrel and narrowly escaped blowing ourselves to Kingdom Come. We were indeed true professionals!





**Help preserve the true history of the Americal Division. The AMERICAL JOURNAL is interested in your personal stories and experiences.**

**Send your submissions to one of the editors.**

## Danny L. Jacks and Thomas C. Robison Inducted Into Ranger Hall of Fame

By Tom Nash

Thursday, July 7, 2005 was an important and proud date in our unit's history (The 196th LRRP – E/51st and the Americal's Company G/75th Rangers). On that date Danny Jacks and Tom Robison were inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame (the "RHOF"). In a ceremony held in Fort Benning's Marshall Auditorium, in the shadow of the Ranger Memorial, Danny and Tom joined Robert Pruden (1992) and Vic Valeriano (2002), the only other members of our unit to be so honored.

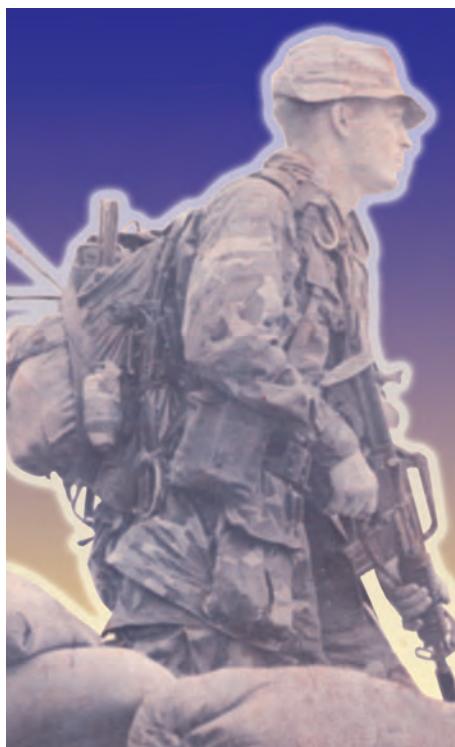
The induction ceremony was inspiring, as it always is, and came amidst several days of celebration and reflection in the Ranger community. In addition to the actual induction ceremonies, there were other festivities, including the 75th Ranger Regiment's change of command ceremony, and the RHOF dinner with its unique snake appetizers, as well as a variety of demonstrations by today's Rangers. Each new inductee's individual citation was read to the assemblage, and then the inductee was presented with a medallion emblematic of his membership in the Hall of Fame. Then each inductee spoke briefly to those gathered in the auditorium.

Both Danny's and Tom's remarks, though brief, spoke volumes of the true nature of these men, and reflected their humility and dignity. Each remarked that his membership in the RHOF was due in no small part to others who had touched their lives, including family and comrades. Tom mentioned his "life team" – his family. Danny also mentioned his family, and described his special relationship with Robert Pruden, his one-time Team Leader, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Tom Robison was inducted into the United States Army on August 1, 1967 and after Basic & AIT was assigned to a reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 11th Light Infantry Brigade at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Tom's evident leadership qualities earned

him a promotion to Spec Four just two months after being assigned to his new unit. And, the following month his new unit was deployed to South Vietnam.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Tom learned about the Division's LRRP Unit and shortly thereafter volunteered. He was reassigned to E Company, 51st Infantry (LRP), and was selected to attend the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang. Upon graduation, he returned to our unit, where he was selected to lead a team and was promoted to Sergeant E-5.



During his stay with the unit, Tom successfully completed in excess of thirty missions sustaining no casualties on his team once he became a Team Leader. This was a remarkable achievement in itself, given the enemy-infested areas in which the unit operated. But on February 9, 1969, Tom's life changed forever. With only days left in his tour of duty, a land mine was detonated near the team. Tom was hit. His wounds were devastating. In and out of consciousness for days, he awoke in a field hospital to find out that his left leg had been traumatically amputated; that he had been blinded; that his right leg had been badly fractured in four places (carrying with it a recommendation that it too be

amputated); and that he had several puncture wounds in his lower body.

Though no one felt that he would survive those first hours and days, he did and he was airlifted to an Air Force Hospital in Tachikawa, Japan. He then learned, when he again awoke from unconsciousness that his kidneys had failed because he had been infused with an excessive amount of whole blood; that he had, in fact, bled out twice; and that the chances of saving his right leg were at best, minimal. At that point in his life, Tom could easily have given in – most men would have. But Tom refused to accept his prognosis and refused amputation of his right leg. He did regain some sight after about four weeks. His right eye had a piece of wood embedded in it, a piece of wood that remains in his eye to this day. During the ensuing nine weeks in Japan, Tom underwent and endured no fewer than 20 major surgeries, and underwent hemodialysis weekly. After nine weeks in Japan, Tom was transported from Japan to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, where he had additional surgeries.

At the end of July, 1969, Tom was transported to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan for further treatment, where he then spent a year on his back bedridden. He initially found it difficult to eat because he had not eaten for so long, having been fed intravenously since the initial injuries, and had dropped from 175 pounds to 109 pounds before his health started to improve. The physicians attending him advised that Tom would never walk again. He would prove them wrong. He had developed a resolute and tough "can do" attitude that was highly influenced by his LRRP/Ranger training, with survival as his primary mission. Eighteen months after being wounded, Tom, with some difficulty, was able to walk from the VA hospital under his own power with his right leg intact.

Robison enrolled in Michigan State University, achieving a post-graduate degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and became an attorney. Rather than enter a commercially lucrative field of law, Tom became a court administrator and juvenile court referee. In the ensuing twenty years, he used his influence to have the records of juvenile offenders expunged so

they could join the military. He urged these troubled teens to use the GI Bill for education after the service and has on many occasions been stopped in the street and thanked by former delinquents now living productive lives. Tom has presided over cases involving neglect and both physical and sexual abuse cases on behalf of children, always ensuring that the child's interests were protected.

Upon his return to civilian life, Tom began dating an old friend, Sharon Furtwangler, and they were married a year later. The Robisons have been married for thirty-two years and have been blessed with three sons and five grandchildren.

Danny Lee Jacks, an "Army Brat" was ingrained with patriotic values at an early age and responded to his country's call by joining the Army. After Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, he was nominated to attend the NCO Academy at Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduating from both the NCO Academy and Airborne training at Ft. Benning, Danny was shipped to Vietnam in April, 1969.

Danny began his tour of duty in Vietnam by again stepping forward to answer a call for volunteers. While at the Reception Center for the Americal (23rd Infantry) Division at Chu Lai, Danny responded to a challenge from two LRRP representatives searching among the newly arrived troops for volunteers for their unit. Danny immediately volunteered and became a member of E Company (Long Range Patrol), 51st Infantry – subsequently G Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry Regiment. Danny graduated from the Americal Recondo School course, with honors, and also successfully completed the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang.

Danny Jacks is inextricably and forever linked with Staff Sergeant Robert J. ("Bob") Pruden, a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor. Danny was greatly influenced by his close friendship and association with SSG Robert Pruden, his LRRP team leader and friend. On November 29, 1969, Danny, acting as assistant team

leader on Team Oregon, witnessed SSG Pruden's death while engaged in a selfless act of courage and heroism. Danny assumed command of the patrol.

On December 20, 1969, Danny was leading a long range reconnaissance patrol, in Quang Ngai Province. After 5 members of the team evacuated the insertion helicopter, they came under heavy fire. Jacks exposed himself to

to the urgency of the situation, Danny immediately and unhesitatingly led a counter assault against the enemy's ambush position. He then led his men across a small stream when the team again suddenly came under intense hostile fire. Although he was wounded in the fierce exchange of fire, Danny directed his men to defensive positions while continuing to engage the enemy. He repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy's fire while marking their positions for friendly fire support. Danny was awarded the Silver Star for his courageous leadership.

Danny's commitment to his teammates did not end when he left the service, as Le Thanh Giai, a former South Vietnamese soldier who served with Team Oregon during the war, can testify. Through contacts, Danny found out about the plight of his former teammate in his native country and the privations he suffered as the result of his support of American efforts to help the Vietnamese people during the war. Danny made arrangements for the granting of a visa for Mr. Giai, gave him a job in Arkansas, and eventually helped him to move to California to seek broader employment opportunities.

Danny Jacks has been married to his wife, Marcell, for 33 years. They have a son, Greg, a daughter, Cindy, and several grandchildren. The Jacks attend the Center Missionary Baptist Church and continue to farm in the Rison area.

Tom Robison overcame disabilities that would have stopped most men in their tracks, and has had an exemplary life by his refusal to quit, by his determination to complete his "mission" of recovery, and by his day to day actions. Danny Jacks has shown the true nature of friendship and leadership in the face of the elusiveness of life during wartime. Both will stand tall on the Ranger Memorial, as examples for the Army's Rangers of today and in the future.



**(Left to Right) Danny Jacks, Vic Valariano and Tom Robison at the Ranger Hall of Fame.**

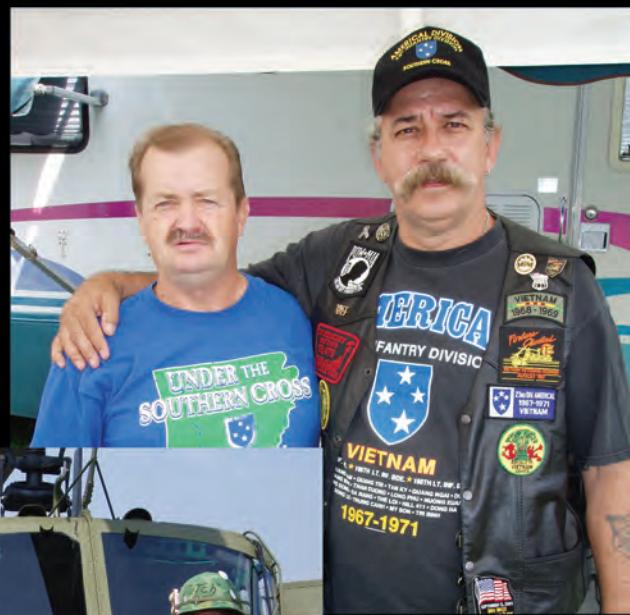
the enemy attack by laying down a base of covering fire in concert with the chopper's door gunner, allowing his teammates the time needed to return and board, the chopper. After leaving the area, he selected another LZ and continued the mission. For his actions Danny was awarded the Bronze Star for valor.

In August 1970, Danny, by then a Staff Sergeant, was assigned the mission of leading a LRRP team conducting an area reconnaissance southeast of Tra Bong, with a secondary mission of executing a prisoner snatch. While on the patrol, the team watched an enemy force, consisting of more than the 130 men the team could actually see and count, passed in front of the team's concealed position. The team came under heavy fire as the result of a counter ambush by the enemy. Reacting



# Vietnam Vet Reunion

14-17 September 2006



Together Again!  
Americal Vets gather  
at the annual  
Kokomo, IN reunion.



## 23<sup>rd</sup> M.P. Co. Veterans Participate in Memorial Dedication

By Al Feser  
23<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company

*"Our ears retain the mournful strain  
Of a ghostly buglers call;  
To those who die, and we who cry,  
How sadly did they fall.  
When anthems ring and people sing,  
We think of those unsung;  
For we feel the pain of an old refrain,  
The good, they do die young."*

These words, penned by 23rd M.P. Co. veteran Ralph Stiles, were included in remarks I made on September 26, 2006 at the Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. It was time to remember our thirteen fallen brothers-in-arms at a place where they will be forever honored.

The 23rd Military Police Co. Vietnam veterans were represented by Rich Merlin, Tom Packard, Larry Levy, Dave Chrystal, Alan McFarling and his wife Diana, and myself. Unfortunately, due to the up-tempo of preparations for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, members of the present day 23rd M.P. Company at Ft. Bragg were unavailable to attend.

The 75 attendees included MG (Ret) Meyer, an MP Regimental Hall of Fame 2006 inductee and Vietnam veteran, and BG (Ret) Curry, another Vietnam veteran, and their wives. Representatives of USAMPS, the Military Police Corps Regiment, the MP Regimental Association, and other



distinguished persons were also in attendance.

The Military Police Corps Regimental Commander, COL Quantock, and Regimental CSM Butler were both in attendance. CSM Butler gave the keynote address. He spoke of the history of the 23rd M.P. Company and noted, "The 23rd M.P. Company comes out when the nation is in crisis. They are the 911 of M.P. units in a case that says "Break Glass In Case Of Emergency".

The regiment provided a choir, a bugler who played the "mournful strain" of "Taps", and a trio of talented enlisted men who sang "Arlington"

Al Feser unveils plaque at the memorial ceremony. He is joined later by 23rd Military Police veterans.

and other martial selections. The day was beautiful with full sun and perfect temperature for an outdoor event.

The 23rd M.P. Company Memorial was unveiled along with another memorial for the 91st M.P. Battalion. A wreath was placed by COL Quantock; CSM Butler; MAJ Neldon, 91st M.P. Bn. XO; and myself. The 23rd M.P. Company Vietnam veterans and our fallen brothers could not have been treated to a higher honor than that given us that day. It was an emotional experience honoring our thirteen fallen brothers-in-arms at this hallowed place and before a distinguished group of Military Police.

At the time that you read this article in late 2006 the 23rd Military Police Company is "downrange" participating in the Global War on Terrorism. We 23rd Military Police Company Vietnam veterans pray that they will all return safely to their families and loved ones.





## NORTH VIETNAMESE POSTAL STAMPS

I recently came across a page of North Vietnamese postal stamps in a photo album. I saw the stamps in a window in Hong Kong while I was on R and R in late summer 1971. I have never seen anything like them since. The stamps depicting the battle at Khe Sanh and a B-52 going down in flames are particularly noteworthy.

My first job in Vietnam was at a firebase next to the town of Tien Phouc. I was an Army air traffic controller. Later I was at the main airfield in Chu Lai assigned to the 362<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Detachment (Divisional).

*Kim L. Cantor; 362<sup>nd</sup> Avn. Det.*





## America Museum in Perspective

By Gary L. Noller

Work will soon begin on the renovation of the America Museum in Worcester, MA. David W. Taylor, in his roles as WWII Historian and Museum Curator, has prepared written plans and has begun a drive to raise funds for the improvements.

The America Museum is located in the Massachusetts National Guard Museum and Archive in downtown Worcester. The building is an historic National Guard armory that was completed in 1891. The building is of Gothic Revival architecture and is listed on the National Historic Register. (See more information on-line at <http://www.mass.gov/guard/museum/museum.htm>.)

The America Division had strong ties to the state of Massachusetts during World War II. The 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment was one of the four regiments of the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Yankee Division) of the Massachusetts National Guard. The 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was released from the Yankee Division when the Army reduced infantry divisions from four regiments to three regiments.

In January 1942 the 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry set sail as part of Task Force 6814. TF 6814 set up defensive positions on the South Pacific island of New Caledonia. It was here that the America Division was founded. The division was composed of the 182<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Regt. along with the 132<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Regt. of Illinois and the 164<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt. of North Dakota.

It is estimated that approximately one-half of the formation assets of the America Division came from the Massachusetts National Guard. This consisted of the 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry as well as numerous headquarters units such as artillery, medical, transportation, quartermaster, and signal.

Prior to being housed in the Worcester armory the America Museum was located at Ft. Devens, MA. The museum was in a small building on post. But the Army decided to deactivate Ft. Devens in the early 1990s so the ADVA chose to move the America Museum to a different location. Bernie Chase, Ken Turner, Al Doig, and other local members of the ADVA led the effort to move the museum to Worcester.

An agreement was made with the state of Massachusetts to house the America Museum in Worcester. This has benefits to the Massachusetts National Guard Museum since the America Division items fill the World War II segment of the museum.

The America Museum is located on the second floor of the historic building. The area is divided into one large display room, three small display rooms, two offices, and a kitchen area. Vietnam War items are located in one of the small display rooms.

Restoration plans under consideration call for the arrangement of display items in a manner to tell the story of the America Division in World War II. It is expected that



Harvard University scholar Preston Hill shows visitors into Vietnam room

storyboards and poster size photographs will be employed to educate visitors about the role of the America in the victory in the South Pacific.

A decision was made to move the Vietnam War artifacts to the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Two years ago the ADVA signed an agreement to promote the Vietnam Center as the recipient of Vietnam era artifacts. To date, the ADVA is the only division unit association to have such an agreement with the Vietnam Center and its archive.

There are several reasons for not keeping Vietnam items at the museum in Worcester. One reason is the lack of space. Vietnam items are currently displayed in a room consisting of about 175 square feet. This space does not adequately allow for the proper display of items.

A second reason is to have items in an institution that has a specific interest in Vietnam War history and the means to do proper collection and preservation. The Vietnam Center has a sophisticated archive and the ability to preserve items well into the future. Plans are on the drawing board to build a new museum at TTU to display Vietnam War artifacts.

Vietnam veterans who send their items to the Vietnam Center can rest assured that every effort will be made to keep the items in top condition and to make them available for educational purposes. For more information on the Vietnam Center, go online to <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/vietnamcenter/>.

The Vietnam room at the America Museum has a varied collection of artifacts and documents. Included in the items are rice knives, uniform patches, an NVA pith helmet, flags and pennants, a field telephone, scale models of base camps, a PRC-25 radio, Montagnard bow and arrows, fatigues and Class A uniforms, and personal gear.

There is also a collection of photographs, books,

magazines, and scrapbooks that have been collected over the years. The Vietnam items will fill one full-size utility van. Museum volunteers will pack the items for shipment and send them to the Vietnam Center in the coming months.

Operating a museum is a costly venture and something that the ADVA cannot afford to do on its own. Arrangements such as those with the Massachusetts National Guard



**South Vietnamese flag and rice knives on display in Vietnam room Americal Museum.**

Museum and the Vietnam Center will provide a place for Americal Division veterans to preserve their cherished items.

Unit museums are not all that uncommon but all must have some means of financial support. Active divisions usually have museums on the Army installation that houses the unit. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Museum is at Ft. Hood, TX. Other museums are at least partially funded and operated by states. The 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City under the administration of the Adjutant General of Oklahoma is an example of this.

It is believed that the best arrangement for Americal Division museum items is to have World War II items go to the Massachusetts National Guard Museum and the Vietnam War items to go to the TTU Vietnam Center. Both organizations have an interest in these artifacts and documents as part of their on-going missions.

Vietnam vets of the Americal Division are urged to support the fundraising efforts for the Americal Museum in Worcester. They are also asked to consider the Vietnam Center at TTU as the place to preserve their Vietnam memorabilia.



## Division TOC Reports Ready

By Les Hines

I would like to announce that we can provide *Tactical Operations Center* (TOC) reports for Americal Division in Vietnam for the period October 1967 to May 1969. The reports are broken down by the month and are available as electronic files in portable document format (.pdf).

These are large files and only two months of TOC reports can be stored on a 650 megabyte compact disc (CD). It is much better if the files are stored on digital versatile disks (DVD) that have a capacity of 4.7 gigabytes. The files can be opened and read using Adobe Acrobat software and other computer software applications.

DVD format comes in two types: DVD+ and DVD-. To prepare the TOC reports for the veteran I would like to know the type of media to use (CD, DVD+, DVD-). I would also like to know some information about the veteran such as name, Vietnam unit(s), dates of Vietnam service, and any specific actions or locations of interest.

The Division TOC reports are one of the most important historical items we will have. With this information our veterans can research actions that they were in.

One of the biggest problems we have is our memory. No one seems to be able to remember the exact dates of wartime actions. We only remember a rough outline of the events. With the TOC reports we can now determine the dates of the events and the units involved. With this information we can order the combat after action reports, casualty reports, and daily S2-S3 reports that are needed to file claims and research the actions.

I have helped many veterans over the years. And so many times I wished I had the copies of the Division TOC reports that we are only now getting.

Bruce Flaherty is continuing his efforts to photograph the TOC reports at the National Archive in Washington, D.C. It is expected that all reports through the end of 1969 will be available in the next few months.

The charge for providing veterans with CDs or DVDs of TOC reports is not yet determined but it will be nominal. For more information please e-mail me at [pelican.123rd.avn@worldnet.att.net](mailto:pelican.123rd.avn@worldnet.att.net), or write to 817 41<sup>st</sup> St., Des Moines, IA, 50312, or call 515-255-4807.





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### Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel who have served with the 23rd (American) Infantry Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods of service:

World War II	1942-1945
Korean War	1954-1956
Vietnam War	1967-1973

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 (WWII) and Task Force Oregon (Vietnam). Branch of service is immaterial.

### DEDICATION

The ADVA is dedicated as a **LIVING MEMORIAL** to all veterans of the American Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the *American Division of the United States Army*.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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