

January•February•March
2008

AMERICAL JOURNAL

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

Patches of the Americal

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Commander's Comments

By Larry Watson

The old year is gone and the next one is begun. Two thousand seven was a pretty good year and I'm hoping that 2008 will be even better. I just mailed in my registration for the reunion of the Americal Division Veterans Association in June. The Jacksonville reunion will be a very good one. It is a nice location right on a river and near shopping and a variety of restaurants. Lee Kaywork and his committee are working hard to make this reunion fun and memorable. The hotel is very nice, the tours look like fun and the Chu Lai Stand Down will be unique. The ocean and the military atmosphere of Mayport Naval Station will bring a flavor of Chu Lai to us. And, of course, the banquet Saturday night will be memorable where our new officers will be installed and the scholarship winners will be announced.

This brings me to two very important topics, the election and the scholarship raffle. The selection of officers is important. The Association needs caring and dedicated people to continue to be successful. Please be sure you vote. A profile for each candidate appears in this issue of the Americal Journal. Read these profiles and learn who the candidates are and vote for who you believe to be the best candidate. And when the election is over and the new officers are installed be sure to support them and their programs.

The ADVA Scholarship Fund is one of the best scholarship programs in existence. It is very well run by members dedicated to helping young people get an education. There is practically nothing spent on administrative costs, virtually all money raised is given to our young men and women seeking a degree. These young men and women are the children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of our own members.

To date the scholarship program has made 181 awards totaling \$189,500. Last year a record \$42,000 was awarded. Applications for this year's awards must be received by the Scholarship Chairman by May 1, 2008. Complete information can be found at www.americal.org/scholar.shtml or from the Chairman.

Bob Short, Ron Green, and all the members of the scholarship committee are doing an outstanding job of helping our young people. Please support their effort with the purchase of raffle tickets. And, if you can afford to do so, add a little extra money. This fund means so much to the many young men and women that need it.

And finally, support your chapters. Attend your chapter's reunions. You'll have fun and meet some really nice people.



National Recruiting Update

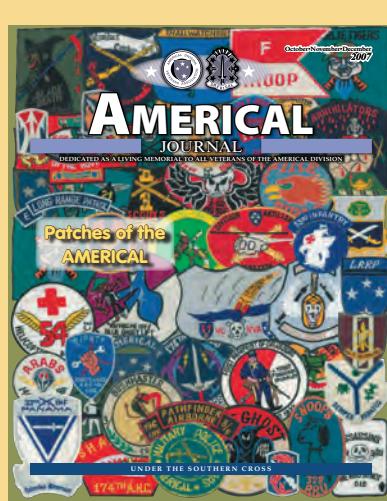
By David W. Taylor

We continue to recruit new members through the excellent help of those willing to spend time at nation-wide veteran's reunions, talking to vets who walk by wearing Americal insignia. I am also grateful to our members who have asked me for recruiting brochures to take to the small Americal unit reunions that take place all over our great land.

We are continuing our program to database prospect lists of Americal vets and I want to thank Malcolm East for his computer work to set up prospect lists from casualty reports. Our other big opportunity is to process data from Americal Division orders and use search techniques to find prospect addresses for future mass-mailing's of our recruiting brochure.

The Americal Division published approximately 40,000 orders while in Vietnam. Through the excellent work of Larry Swank (1/6 - 198 LIB) 20,000 orders have been obtained and we should have all 40,000 by late spring. Larry's business expertise is computer-applications software and his skill-sets in information technology are exactly the kinds of expertise we need to move the ADVA forward in the next 8-10 years. As a director of his own company I also appreciate his attention to detail and his ability to apply tasks to accomplish the vision in recruiting and buddy locating. Larry led in Vietnam as an Artillery Forward Observer and continues to lead with his work in the ADVA.

I want to remind ADVA members all of you are important recruiters! You have your own contact lists of buddies, some of whom are not ADVA members. Please reach out and invite them to join the ADVA. Recruiting brochures are available from me. Make that phone call, send that e-mail, shake that hand and invite them to join us!



Creative director notes: Just a special thanks for many of our contributors for taking the time to get us powerful high resolution images and of course the wonderful stories. You are a big part of the journals success.

Featured Story Patches of the Americal

By Roger Gilmore

By the time this issue reaches your hands we will be well into 2008. I hope each and every member is doing well.

The past year was especially good for the ADVA in terms of membership growth. This is due in large part to successful recruiting at veteran's gatherings in Melbourne, FL and Kokomo, IN. Keep up the great work, Recruiting Team!

For the last quarter of 2007, we added thirty nine new members to the ADVA roster. Of the thirty nine new members, seven joined as life members. Five former members were re-instated during this quarter.

As successful as the year 2007 was for new member additions, the downside is that the association's overall membership remains somewhat flat because of member deaths and annual pay members non-renewals. This means ongoing new member recruitment is vital to the growth of the organization.

For the benefit of recent new members and all annual pay members, the ADVA annual pay renewal policy is outlined below. This policy is based on the ADVA bylaws.

- Annual pay renewal periods are January, May and September of each calendar year.
- Renewal notices with the member's new annual membership card are mailed approximately one week prior to the renewal month. A pre-addressed envelope for mailing membership payment is mailed with the renewal notice.
- Payment is due upon receipt of the renewal notice and new membership card.

A large portion of membership dues revenue each year goes towards the printing and mailing costs for the high quality publication of the Americal Journal we receive quarterly.

In closing, I encourage all annual pay members to keep your Americal Journal coming by staying current on dues payments.

NEW MEMBERS

James B. Anderson
198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Machesney Park, IL

★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Ronald D. Barton
198th LIB HHC/5/46th Inf
Bucyrus, MO

★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Selman L. Bass
23rd MP Co.
Clarksville, TN

★ *Self*

Ray H. Bratcher
198th LIB A/1/52th Inf
Greenwood, SC

★ *Terry L. Mabrey*

Daryl T. Brooks, Sr.
198th LIB 1/52th Inf
APO Address

★ *Self*

Frank A. Burnett
1/1st Cav A Trp
Metarie, LA

★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

A. Preston Cameron
11th LIB 6th Spt Bn
Riverview, FL

★ *Self*

Frank Casey
198th LIB 1/52th Inf
Columbus, Ga

★ *Dave Taylor*

Darryl E. Dietrich
11th LIB B/1/20th Inf
Richland, NJ

★ *Robert K. Brown, Jr.*

Leon Foote
182nd Inf Rgmt
Seminole, TX

★ *Self*

Stephen H. Foster
196th LIB 2/1 Inf
Middletown, CA

★ *Spencer Baba*

Jerry D. Goben
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Overland Park, KS

★ *Dave Taylor*

Clinton E. Granger, Jr.
Task Force Oregon
West Lebanon, NH

★ *Self*

Harold D. Hare
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Lexington, KY

★ *Dave Taylor*

Ronald Hettinger
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Canaan, VT

★ *Self*

Frank P. Hofacker
3/18th Arty
Pennsville, NJ

★ *Robert G. Pinto*

Tom R. Holmin
198th LIB 1/14th Arty
Woodbury, MN

★ *Self*

Michael Hooper
198th LIB C/1/52th Inf
Rocklin, CA

★ *Dan Young*

Dan Isakson
196th LIB
Chassell, MI

★ *Dave Eichhorn*

Gary G. Johnsen
123rd Avn Bn
Lebanon, PA

★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Roger Kagarise
11th LIB A/3/1 Inf
Roulette, PA

★ *Self*

Daniel T. Martin
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Shelton, CT

★ *Dave Taylor*

Patrick W. Massie
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Washington C.H., OH

★ *Bob Wolf*

James P. Mulcahy
198th LIB 1/6th Inf
Tulsa, OK

★ *Wayne R. Johnston*

ADVA MEMBERSHIP	
December 31, 2007	
World War II	648
Vietnam	2,214
Korea	7
Associate Members:	175
Total Members	3,044

Robert A. Pfieffer
196th LIB E/3/21st Inf
Delavan, IL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Kim W. Radford
23rd MP Co
Idaho Falls, ID
★ *Tom Packard*

Lowell R. Robbins
196th LIB HHH/3/82nd Arty
Lawton, OK
★ *Julian C. Humphries*

Richard Schumann
1/14th Arty B Btry
Millington, NJ
★ *Douglas Lay*

Howard Spielman
3/16th Arty
New York, NY
★ *Self*

Howard E. Sprout
196th LIB S&T
Bloomfield, CT
★ *Self*

M. Bruce Welch
11th LIB B/1/20th Inf
Greenbriar, AR
★ *Self*

NEW PAID LIFE MEMBERS

Charles Adams
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Colorado Springs, CO
★ *Dave Taylor*

Kenneth E. Bausinger
11th LIB B/3/1th Inf
Blackwood, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Clair F. Bee, Jr.
23rd MP Co
Albany, NY
★ *Self*

Frank E. Cohee, Jr.
23rd S&T
Lakeland, FL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Pearly Dupuis
11th LIB A/1/20th Inf
Cecilia, LA
★ *John McNown*

Michael Feltes
11th LIB C/1/20th Inf
Elburn, IL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Kerry H. Good
11th LIB
Las Vegas, NV
★ *Pearly Dupuis*

Daniel Ingeman
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Hallock, MN
★ *Dave Taylor*

Douglas E. Lancaster, Sr.
198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Indianapolis, IN
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Richard O. Larson
196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Cupertino, CA
★ *Rollie Castranova*

Marvin A. Manning
198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Gainesville, FL
★ *Dave Taylor*

Jack Masucci
247th FA
Fort Lee, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Christopher Mattiace
11th LIB C/3/1st Inf
Windham, NY
★ *Rollie Castranova*

H. Edwin Simmers
23rd MP Co
Bellingham, WA
★ *Self*

CW5 John C. West
176th ASHC
Laurel, IA
★ *Self*

Elmer F. Wright
182nd Inf Rgmt K Co
Glen Ridge, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ralph Western
None
Desert Hot Springs, CA
★ *Ron Krul*

RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

TLyle Bricko
23rd MP Co
Wausau, WI
★ *Paul Stiff*

Norman Cerulli
11th LIB D/1/20th Inf
Pahrump, NV
★ *Rollie Castranova*

Jose A. Guerrero
11th LIB HHC/3/1 Inf
San Antonio, TX
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Leonard P. Hedges
198th LIB H Trp 17th Cav
Littlefield, TX
★ *Dave Taylor*

Thomas J. Hickey
6/11th Arty HHH
Lyndhurst, NJ
★ *Self*

TAPS

Francis P. Rallo (F Co)
Beverly, MA
October 22, 2007

221st FA

Kenneth E. Trombley
Waltham, MA
October 16, 2007

26th Signal Bn

Robert L. Granoff
Collegeville, PA
September 27, 2007

Vietnam Veterans

D198th LIB A/1/6 Inf

Donnie J. Frazier
Munford, TN
December 2006

198th LIB A/1/52 Inf

Calvin Fred, Sr.
Anchorage, AK
January 3, 2008

23rd MP Co

Gene E. Wagoner
Arnoldsburg, WV
January 3, 2008

LAST ROLL CALL

World War II

Unit Unknown

James H. Brents
Porterville, CA
November 20, 2007

Dennis O'Dell
Mission Bay, CA
November 12, 2007

Vietnam War

196th LIB 8th Spt Bn (Surg)

Dr. Michael J. Scotti, Jr.
Arlington, VA
September 12, 2007

FROM THE EDITOR

The Americal Journal depends upon your submissions for a large portion of its content. This includes announcements, stories, inquiries, requests for assistance, news, and other items of like interest. Virtually all of your submissions to the journal are used.

It is unfortunate that from time to time a few of your submissions are lost. I must admit that this is often due to mishandling on my part. I apologize for my errors and vow to improve.

I know that I have lost at least one e-mail and one postal letter while preparing this edition of the journal. If you do not see your item in this issue please let me know and I will be sure to get it in the next issue.

Many requests for information about the Americal Division and its veterans arrive by e-mail. If you do not have access to e-mail but would like to respond to a message in the journal you may contact me. I will be happy to act as a go-between. My address and phone number is the directory at the front of this issue.

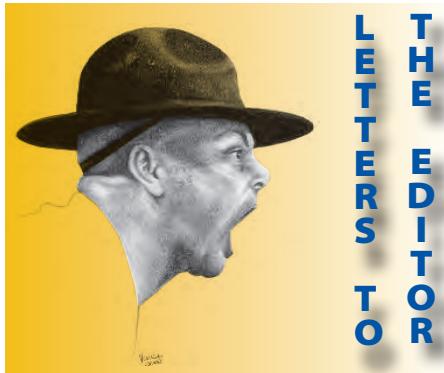
There are still several Americal Division veterans serving in uniform. LTC Bruce Allen returned to Ft. Hood, TX on December 20, 2007. He completed a 15 month tour with the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq. He served with Co. B, 1/46th Inf. in 1969-70. He plans to retire soon to his home in Florida.

CW4 Mike Silva has been serving in Iraq as a medivac helicopter pilot since late summer 2007. Mike flew helicopters in Vietnam in 1971 and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has an excellent blog site at mikehelicoptersilva.blogspot.com and e-mail address at michael.a.silva3@us.army.mil. His mailing address is Mike Silva, C Co. 2/238th GSAB, APO AE 09331.

CW5 John C. West of the Iowa Army National Guard was scheduled to begin a year-long tour in Iraq in February 2008. West served as a dustoff pilot in Afghanistan in 2003-2004. In Vietnam he flew with the 176 Assault Helicopter Company as Musket 30. He was later sent to DaNang to fly with the Robin Hoods. He retired as a police officer after 30 years service. He may be contacted at john.c.west@us.army.mil.

All Americal Division veterans can be proud and thankful for the continuing service of this small but very special group of soldiers and aviators.

GLN



Dear editor,

I am sad to report that a very prominent author of books on the Vietnam War has been struck by a severe illness. I have received a message from Keith W. Nolan and he informed me that he has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

I called his home in mid-December and reached his mother. She informed me that Keith had just started chemotherapy and was not able to speak on the phone at that time.

I told her we would help in any way if he needs our assistance. Keith is in the process of researching a book on 1/1st Cavalry in Vietnam. Maybe a local graduate student can help complete the book.

Keith sent a letter to veterans of the 1/1st Cav. He said, in part, "If I've still got any energy, I intend to finish this proposed book about the 1/1 Cav. I've finished the story up through August 1968. The 1969-72 chapters will be lean in comparison (I gotta write fast!); still something is better than nothing, and I'm asking everyone to keep their fingers crossed that I run out of neither time nor energy before reaching the section on March 1972 when the Dragoons finally left Vietnam.

Please keep Keith in your thoughts and prayers.

John Murphy, President
1/1st Cavalry Association
johnnygg3@yahoo.com

Dear editor,

The VFW Magazine is planning a series of articles on combat actions that took place in Vietnam. We request that veterans send us personal stories and other information related to these battles.

The actions that took place in the Americal Division area of operations are the following:

Aug. 17-26, 1969: Battle of Hiep Duc, 196th LIB; Feb. 20, 1970: Que Son Valley, 196th LIB; April 15, 1970: Duc Pho, 3rd Infantry; Aug. 26, 1970: Kham Duc/FSB Judy, D Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.

Rich Kolb; Editor-in-Chief

VFW Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111

RKolb@vfw.org

Dear editor,

I was with the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion from June 1970 to June 1971. On numerous occasions I was temporarily assigned to Kham Duc to run their resupply pad. I was a Pathfinder.

I have been visiting all of the places that I can locate via Google Earth. A year ago I asked them to please photograph the area around Kham Duc. I've been keeping track to see if more vivid pictures became available. Google recently updated their photos of the Kham Duc area.

With pictures from the 174th Avn. Bn. and others from the Americal Division, I have made detailed comparisons between the photos of yesterday and the satellite images from today. I have worked with a group of veterans who are trying to recover the missing remains of soldiers and civilians killed during the Kham Duc battles.

I would appreciate seeing other photos taken of the Kham Duc area during the 1970 time period. I can be reached at 678/463-0227 or 404/562-8417, e-mail at

William E. Lundy
14th CAB
Lundy.William@epamail.epa.gov.

LOCATORS

Looking for the S-3 SGM of the TOC at LZ Bayonet 1968-69. Contact: **Charles R. Rando**, 803-738-1513, 803-318-7453, 4719 Briarfield Rd., Columbia, SC, 29206-1519.

Looking for a former member of the 23rd M.P. Co. who went by the nickname Toolie. He served with Charles I. Miller and lived in New York. Contact: **Tom Gerlach**, twgerlach@columbus.rr.com.

Looking for brothers who served with HHC, 3/21st Inf., Oct 68-Mar 70- 1SG Moore (Terry?), CPT Hommer, SGT Ross, SGT Dotson, 1SG Fulcrum, SSG Rafeal. Contact: **Johnnie Ince**, 3211 Galaxy Drive, Bossier City, LA. 71112-3111, jonathanince@aol.com.

Looking for a 1968 yearbook for the Americal Division. Does such a book exist and if so where can I find one? Contact: **Dawson Nolley**, dawsonnolley@yahoo.com.

Looking for information about the deployment of 198th LIB to Vietnam and subsequent withdrawal. Which units deployed first to Vietnam and when did they arrive at Oakland, CA. What ship transported the units? Did an advance team precede deployment? Which units from the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions were used to form the 198th? What was the official date of 198th activation? Contact: **Edward Rasen**, 818-209-9238.

Looking for information on my father's service in the Americal Division in WWII. His name was James Gerard Ryan from Haverhill, Ma. It seems like he told me he was some sort of medic. Contact: **Jim Ryan**, jimboryan@comcast.net.

Looking for information about Laurence A. Millett, KIA 8-31-1969, with the 5/46th Inf., in Quang-Ngai on 31 August 1969. Contact: **Russ Hart** (Vietnam 68-70, 158th Avn. Bn.. 101st Airborne Div.), grampaha@roadrunner.com.

Looking for members of Co. A, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB from Jan. 1969 to Jan. 1970. Contact: **Wayne Billings**, Waipuna Hotel and Conference Center, 58 Waipuna Road, Mt. Wellington, New Zealand, 09-526-3024, wayne@waipunahotel.co.nz.

Looking for Nick Ferrara from California (?), Co. C, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB circa 1968-69. Contact: **Vinny Tabor**, tabels8817@aol.com.

Looking for company rosters or information on how to obtain them for Co. D, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB. I am interested in acquiring a copy of the company roster in the time frame of January 1968 thru January 1969. Contact: Eddie Troxel, okeet59@peoplepc.com.

Looking for any WWII vet that remembers my dad, James Robert Raynor, E-3, assigned to the 247th Field Artillery in the Philippines in June 1944. He is now 87 years wants to find info on the Americal Division. He would like to visit with WWII vets. Contact: **Emmett S. Raynor**, Philosophyzer@hotmail.com

Looking for anyone who remembers me. I served from July 1969 to May 1970 with the 81mm mortars in 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. Contact: **John Victor**, jvictor1234@bellsouth.net.

Looking for information about my father-in-law's service. Dayle F. Flegel enlisted in the North Dakota NG in 1934 and served in the 164th Inf. Regt. from 10 Feb 1941 - 28 Apr 42. He then served as "Personnel O, 101st QM Regt APTO" till 17 Mar 43 and then as "Asst QM O, 709 Prov Sv Comd APTO" till 16 Aug 43. At that point he was apparently wounded because the next assignment is Letterman GH as a patient. Contact: **Joe Montague**, montague8708@verizon.net.

Looking for information on the medical records kept at the 91st Evac. Hospital at or about the time Chu Lai was hit by Typhoon "Hester" (23 October 1971). Was the hospital destroyed by the typhoon? Were the records destroyed? I would like to contact anyone at Chu Lai during Hester. Contact: **Frank Dougherty**, 7810 Arolla Pine Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240-1457, 941-378-2264, FrankD1115@aol.com.

Looking for information on Mike Witkens, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, for his friend Ed Holmes. Contact: **Jeff Ryan**, kilswah@aol.com.

Looking for information on any video available to be purchased of the Americal Division during there campaign in Bouganville and the Philippines, Contact: **Gene Marsocci**, HQ, 3d Bn., 132nd Regt., VAT425@aol.com.

Looking for information about the 97th Field Artillery attached to the Americal Division in WWII. My father, William Roes, served as a sergeant in the 97th FA March 1942 to December 1943. Contact: **William L. Roes, Jr.**, 423-876-4287, wlores@tva.gov.

Looking for members of the 174th AHC, Duc Pho, 1969-70, including Taggart, Shedd, Zohel, Riddle, Bond, Pritchard, Max, Moody, & Baldy, all members of the "Dolphins." Contact: **William Conklin**, 402 N. Umatilla St., Sutherlin, OR 97479; 541-459-4407.

Looking for anybody, 8th Support Bn., Co. A, 196th Lt. Inf. Bn., July-December 1967. Contact: **Barry O'Neill**, 24 Burlington Ave., Leonardo, NJ 07737; 732-291-9270; 732-618-4676; barrybog@aol.com

Looking for information on incident when A and C Service Batteries, 3/16th Arty, were overrun in 1970? Contact: **John E. Lotito**, 12845 McCarthy Rd., Lemont, IL 60439; 630-675-9792.

Looking for Gary W. Timm, Jim Carter, Keith, or anybody who served with Rick Kittridge in 26th Engineer Bn. at Chu Lai. Contact: **Ken Marks**, County Veterans Counselor, Menominee City, Veterans Office, 839 10th Ave., Menominee, MI 49858; 906 863-5691.

Looking for daily log for Co. B, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB, for late May-early June 1972. Several of us were at a E-5 promotion board at this time and were told that we passed the board. Shortly thereafter, we were sent back to DaNang and stood down and were told that our promotion packets would catch up with us. We never received promotions. We want our records that say we were promoted to E-5s. We earned it and deserve it. Contact: **James W. Gales**, galesgemoll@aol.com.

continued on page 38

Remembering Ken Turner

By James C. Buckle
Editor-in-Chief (Emeritus)

It is with great sadness that I report that PNC Kenneth R. Turner, 89, passed away on November 22, 2007. Ken and I served together in WWII and were close friends since that time.

Ken was born on September 11, 1918 and entered the service from Reading, MA. He was inducted into federal service on March 19, 1941, in Boston, MA. He joined E Co., 182nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division, on March 20, 1941 at Camp Edwards, MA.

I did not get to know Ken during our first year of service because we were in different platoons. When the 182nd Infantry was pulled out of the Yankee Division in January 1942, E Co. was reorganized and Ken and I wound up in the company headquarters. We were in the commo section and we both served in this section throughout our time in E Co.

After our arrival in New Caledonia our sergeant was picked for Officer Candidate School (OCS) and I was made sergeant of the section. Ken would have liked to have been the sergeant since he thought he could read maps better than I could. Regardless, Ken and I became good lifetime friends.

We arrived on Guadalcanal on November 12, 1942 and Ken left the company on February 7, 1943. He had contracted malaria and was returned to the States.

On February 21, 1944 he again left the States for service in Europe. He served in a Replacement Depot and returned to the States on August 4, 1945.

After the war we got together again and he always made the E Company reunions. I hosted the reunions almost every year since the end of WWII.

Ken and his wife Jan and my wife and I socialized occasionally. We always got together at the Americal reunions. Ken and I always attended the ADVA meetings that were first held in Boston and then in Dorchester and later at Fort Devens, MA.



Ken Turner (L) and John Trutile eating a meal while on Carolina Maneuvers, 1941

When my term of National Commander was to expire I was asked to run again because they could not find anybody else. I said I would if they came up with Junior and Senior Vice-commanders. Ken was a volunteer for the Senior Vice and Bernie Chase was the volunteer for the Junior Vice. (The ADVA was that hard up for officers in those days.) Ken was national commander for the 1986-87 term.

Ken and Jan were very involved with the Americal Museum. The Museum was first started in Fort Devens, MA. It was small but great. It was in an old one-story Army building. Ken was the Museum Curator and he and his Museum Committee did a great job. All our meetings were held there for many years. We had some great picnics in the summer time.



Ken and Jan Turner at 1992 ADVA reunion

In addition to holding the post of Museum Curator Ken also served many years as Product Sales Director. Jan was always a big help to him in filling orders and getting them in the mail. Ken reluctantly gave up his posts due to health concerns.

Ken was employed as a technician for Toledo Scales Co. for 38 years. Ken and Jan enjoyed 62 years of marriage and lived for many years in a rented home in Wakefield, MA. A few years ago they moved into a retirement apartment in Stoneham, MA. Ken is survived by his wife, three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

[Editor's note: Memorials suggested to the Americal Scholarship Fund.]

ADVA Member Leads DAV Department

On June 17, 2007 Duane F. Getzmeyer was elected 2007-2008 commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan. He resides in Oxford, Michigan.

Getzmeyer entered the Army in 1969 and served with Co. B, 2/1st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. After his military service he obtained a Master of Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University and became a senior automotive designer. He retired in 2002 and remains active in veterans and community organizations. He is a life member of the ADVA as well as the DAV.

Remembering Jack Warkow

By Jean Warkow



Dear David,

Just a note to tell you I had the unveiling of the engraving of the marble on Jacks crypt on Sunday, January 6, 2008. My family and dear friends attended.

I want you to know how much Jack loved being a part of the Americal Division and wanted it engraved on his crypt. Before he left for surgery he left a drawing on the kitchen table of what he wanted engraved. I didn't find out until my daughter and I came back home from the hospital that night. I added the last line.

In his lifetime he has had many, many surgeries and other procedures and stays in the hospital. But somehow this, he knew, would be his last. I want to wish all of the Americal members a happy & healthy New Year.

Remembering PNC Tom McQuade

By Kathleen (McQuade) Porrazzo

It is my sad duty to inform you that a co-founder of the ADVA passed away on December 10, 2007. My father, Thomas P. McQuade, a past national commander and southeastern chapter commander, put a lot of time and effort into making the ADVA become a nation-wide organization.

PNC McQuade was a World War II veteran. He was buried with full military honors in Bourne National Cemetery in Bourne, MA.

Editor's note: Thomas P. McQuade was national commander for the 1965-66 term. He is survived by four sons, one daughter, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorials suggested to the Americal Scholarship Fund.

2008 Reunion Update

By Lee Kaywork
Jacksonville Reunion Chairman

The ADVA Reunion in Jacksonville, FL is just around the corner. If you have been following the *Americal Journal* articles, you know that we have a very exciting reunion planned. Let me summarize for you.

-The reunion will be held at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel in downtown Jacksonville along the St. Johns River. The hotel is only 20 minutes from the airport and is convenient to restaurants, shopping, and Jacksonville's famous Riverwalk. The dates are

-The dates are Thursday June 26 through Sunday June 29, 2008. The hotel rate of \$99 per night is valid for three days before and three days after the reunion. Parking and hotel amenities are included in the rate.

-Friday morning features a trip to Camp Blanding for a tour of Army and National Guard training facilities. Lunch is included with this tour.

-Friday evening we will bus to the Naval Air Station in Mayport and enjoy a "Chu Lai Stand Down" on the Beach. The program will start with a Memorial Service led by a Naval Chaplain. We will enjoy a Polynesian cuisine followed by a show.

-Saturday morning we have two choices for you. The first is a trip to Historic Amelia Island with stops at the Kingston Plantation and America Beach before arriving at Fernandina beach. The second trip is to St. Augustine, the oldest city in the USA. --

-Saturday evening we will have our annual dinner-dance. The cocktail hour will start at 6:00 PM followed by dinner and dancing.

-The reunion will of course have hospitality suites where you can just lounge around and catch up with your buddies and their families. The ADVA will have its store open to allow you to purchase memorabilia and the committee will have the registration desk manned to answer questions or guide you to nearby restaurants.

-Golf is available for those who may be interested. This will be played on Saturday morning at The Golf Club of North Hampton. This is an Arnold Palmer designed course. For information contact Steve Dant at sdant@kxrm.com.

-Although transportation to and from the airport is not provided by the hotel we are in negotiations with some of the taxi companies to provide group rates.

As you may know, we had a registration contest which concluded December 31, 2007. The winner is Everett Perrin, Jr. LTC Perrin was the Provost Marshall in Chu Lai and will now enjoy a free registration, one night at the Wyndham during the reunion and a banquet seat. Don't forget you can still win a banquet ticket if you register before March 31, 2008.

A reunion registration form is in this issue of the *Americal Journal*. A full description of the above events can be found at www.americal.org/reunion.shtml. Check the website for more updates as the reunion grows near.



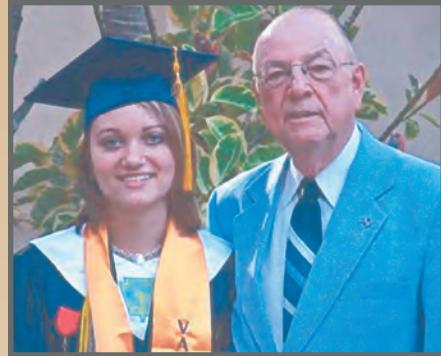
I would like to thank you for awarding me this scholarship and for helping me to further my education. I am currently attending Lake Michigan College in

southwestern Michigan. I would like to assure you that the scholarship awarded to me is being put to great use. It has helped pay my way through the first semester. I would also like to thank my grandpa for introducing me to this wonderful program.

Scholar: **Bridget Alsbro**

School: Lake Michigan College

Sponsor: **Donald Alsbro**, grandfather;
23rd Admin. Co.



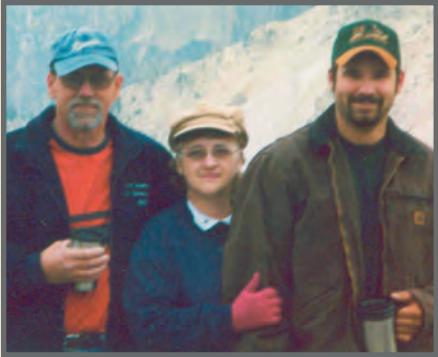
I am writing to show my appreciation for the ADVA scholarship I was awarded. This scholarship means a lot to me and my family- and especially

my sponsor. My grandfather was very excited to hear of the award and I am proud that I was able to earn it because of him. I cannot thank you enough for this scholarship for it has truly made a difference in my future. (Photo: Mallory and grandfather, MAJ (Ret.) Frank E. Cohee, Jr.)

Scholar: **Mallory Brooks Andrews**

School: University of Florida

Sponsor: **MAJ (Ret.) Frank E. Cohee, Jr**
23rd S & T Bn.



My family and I very much appreciate your generous scholarship of \$1,000. It will help ease the burden of school expenses. This year I will be a second

year senior at Linn Benton Community College studying Diesel Technology. I work in a diesel repair shop and go to school, so it will take me another year and a half to complete my two year certificate. Again, thank you for your confidence and financial support. (Photo: John IV with parents John III and Cassie Jurica.)

Scholar: **John E. Jurica IV**

School: Linn Benton Community College

Sponsor: **John Jurica III**, father;
23rd M.P. Co.



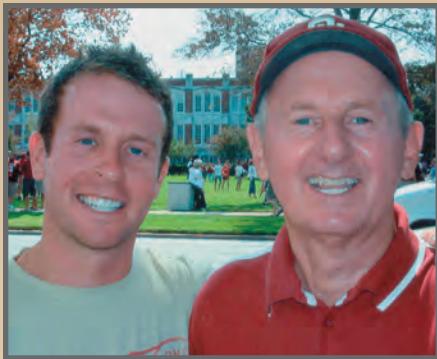
Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. This scholarship will be a tremendous financial help in the coming year. As I graduate this year with a

degree in physics I will remember the gift that you have given me. (Photo: Kevin and Alan Little)

Scholar: **Kevin J. Little**

School: Taylor University

Sponsor: **Alan Little**, father;
174th Assault Helicopter Co.



Please convey my thanks to the scholarship committee for the \$1,000 scholarship I received in June. The money definitely assisted me as I am

finishing up my studies in Mortuary Science at the University of Central Oklahoma. I intend to graduate in December 2007. We do appreciate your generosity and I sincerely thank you for your assistance. (Photo: John and father, Jim Davenport)

Scholar: *John Davenport*

School: University of Central Oklahoma

Sponsor: *Jim Davenport*, father;
2/1st Infantry Bn.



Thank you very much for selecting me for your generous scholarship. It is tremendously appreciated, and goes a long way toward my continuing education in American

History at Dartmouth College. With the ever-rising costs of a private education, assistance like this has grown more and more critical, and your kind deed is sincerely valued.

Scholar: *Eric Lauritsen*

School: Dartmouth College

Sponsor: *Carl Lauritsen*, grandfather;
164th Inf. Regt.



As the recipient of an ADVA scholarship, I would like to express my gratitude. College is full of dreams for a bright academic future; yet, the reality

of monetary obligations often makes a sudden and sobering appearance. Luckily, due to this scholarship, the expense of necessities, such as books and board, has been greatly reduced. Thank you for making my sophomore year considerably less costly.

Scholar: *Ashley WengersHerron*

School: Fordham University

Sponsor: *Edward Wengers*, grandfather;
39th Combat Engineer Bn.



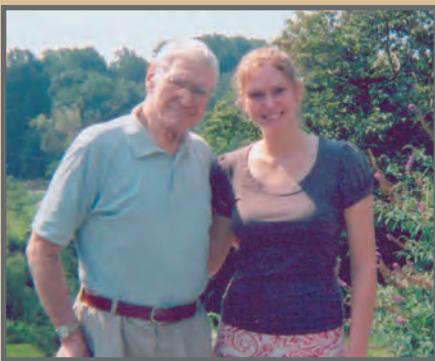
When a letter came stating that I had received an ADVA Scholarship, I was so excited. The help it will afford me in meeting my academic goals

this year is vast. Your gift allows my dream to become a university philosophy professor – to teach, write, and research in an area I am so passionate about – to come true. I promise that I will make the most out of this wonderful gift. Thank you so much!

Scholar: *Joel Michael Reynolds*

School: University of Oregon

Sponsor: *Jack Morton*, grandfather;
182nd Inf. Regt.



I just wanted to take time to personally thank you for the scholarship I was awarded. I greatly appreciate your generosity. The scholarship has helped me buy

books this semester and with other expenses my senior year. Thank you again.

Scholar: **Christine Trout**

School: University of Pittsburgh

Sponsor: **Kermit Trout**, grandfather;
26th Signal Co.



Thank you very much for awarding me with my \$1000 scholarship for this school year. It was very helpful in paying for my

college expenses at Central Michigan University. It truly is an honor to accept this scholarship as I know the pride and patriotism that this division stands for. Thank you, once again, for this scholarship.

Scholar: **Don Tait**

School: Central Michigan University

Sponsor: **Larry Tait**, father;
23rd Administration Co.

I would like to thank you, and the Americal Division Veterans Association, for selecting me to receive this scholarship. It will be very helpful in paying off college and is a wonderful idea because it allows me and the other participants to take time to look at and learn about our country. Thank you.

Scholar: **Elizabeth Trout**

School: Temple University

Sponsor: **Kermit Trout**, grandfather;
26th Signal Co.

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship in support of my ongoing education. I feel a great sense of pride to know that so many great men and women are not only financially supportive, but also morally supportive of my ambitions. I continue to excel in classes, and look forward to baccalaureate graduation in the spring, and graduate school next autumn. I deeply appreciate your service to Americal veterans and their families and the sacrifices you have made to help make my educational aspirations a reality.

Scholar: **Emily B. Siemer**

School: Southern Illinois University

Sponsor: **Terrence Siemer**, father;
16th Combat Avn. Grp.



I would like to thank the Americal Division Veterans Association for the recent scholarship that was awarded to me. I am very excited to be entering

my sophomore year at Bridgewater State College. Thank you again for helping me to reach my goals.

Scholar: **Lauren Cooper**

School: Bridgewater State College

Sponsor: **Leonard Oliver (RIP)**, grandfather;
221st Field Artillery



FAR WEST CHAPTER

AZ CA CO HI NV NM UT

COMMANDER

Rick Ropole
246 Coronado
Corona, CA 92879
951 • 735 • 7316
rropole@esri.com



SEC/TREAS

Tom Packard
6613 Birch Park Dr.
Galloway, OH 43119
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packard50@columbus.rr.com

By Tom Packard

The Far West Chapter has announced to location for our 2008 Chapter Reunion. We will meet in Laughlin, NV during the first or second week in October. The exact dates and the hotel/casino will be announced later this spring. Laughlin reunions are always well attended by the members of the

chapter and their guests. The weather is always great and it's one of the most affordable places to hold a reunion. Past Chapter reunions held there have included a working gold mine tour and a stop in Oatman, AZ on Historic Route 66. Laughlin is located about 90 miles south of Las Vegas along the Colorado River. Think about joining us this coming October.

Membership renewals are due for all members whose dues expired at the end of 2007. Member retention rates have been very good in past years and we are looking forward to another successful year by having our members renew their membership. A chapter membership drive will begin in the spring.

We are looking forward to a large turnout at the National ADVA Reunion in June. We would like to welcome the 23rd Military Police Chapter to the ADVA. I hope other units will consider joining as a unit chapter.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC DE KY MD NJ NY OH PA VA WV MA NH VT ME CT RI

COMMANDER

Conrad Steers
124 Harding Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801
516 • 822 • 5938
11thbrigade@optonline.net

SECRETARY

Elmer Wright
16 Sherman Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028-1441
973-743-3376



VICE-COMMANDER

Joseph M. Adelsberger
7010 Price Hillards Rd.
Plain City, OH 43064
614 • 873 • 3638
joeordeb_1@msn.com

TREASURER

Mark Deam
418 East Ruth
Sidney, OH 45365
mdeam@woh.rr.com

By Connie Steers

I hope all my brothers in the Eastern Chapter had a great holiday season. It is a new year and I hope our organization will grow to preserve the great name of the American Division.

This year we have a couple of past presidents running for National Vice-Commander. They are David Eichhorn

and Jay Flanagan. Both are worthy for high office. I am sure we can have a great turn out for the National Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida from 6/26 to 6/29. Look at the American Journal or the web site for more information.

Do not forget about our Chapter reunion in Ft. Mitchell Kentucky. We will be staying at the drawbridge inn. Check

out our Chapter web site. Let me commend Mark Deam our Treasurer for keeping up our web site and doing an outstanding job as our treasurer and running the reunion in October.

We have not heard from anyone to run a 2009 Chapter Reunion. I have asked anyone from the old New England Chapter if they would like to run one. I have had one reply and am waiting for information. We have past and present officers who can help you because they have run one.

Look in the mail for our chapter newsletter. There will be a dues notice, and it is \$3.00 a year and you can pay yearly or for a couple of years. I want to thank Commander Larry Watson for his two years as Commander, a job well done.

The last I would like to say is get active in the ADVA to let people know about the heritage of the American Division and the brave men that fought *UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS*. Welcome Home!

23rd MILITARY POLICE CHAPTER

WWII Korean War/Panama CZ Vietnam Global War on Terrorism

COMMANDER

Dutch DeGroot

VICE COMMANDER

Dale Meisel

SEC/TREAS

Tom Packard
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packard50@columbus.rr.com

By John (Dutch) DeGroot

We find our numbers are growing rapidly, and I wish to thank each and every one of you for supporting our chapter. We plan to keep working to network and get fellow 23rd MP's in touch with that old friend. We are also making strides in gathering our history.

I've taken on the job as historian with the help of others due to Al Feser having to take on other obligations. I shall do my best to lay the groundwork and plan to make this my number one job once my term as Chapter Commander is done. We shall be making appeals for you to share your images as well as stories with us. It is a daunting task, but one well worth it down the road.

There has been a lot of interest in gathering in Jacksonville this summer for the ADVA reunion. It looks like there will be record numbers of 23rd MP's. Many are attending their first reunion. I strongly urge any that can make it to this historic gathering.

We are in the process of creating (and it may be complete at this printing) a web site to complement the 23rd MP chat site on Yahoo. This will be an information site for reference for all the MP's. We shall have a PX for 23rd MP items for sale. Also, it will have historical data, to include some short movies and photos. The main place for communication will be the Yahoo site. Please e-mail or contact us for ideas of what you would like to see.

Dale Meisel and his daughter Robin continue to do a stellar job on The Blotter. Tom Packard keeps doing the million and one things he does to keep track of our members and Rich Merlin does what he has always done and that is to contact what seems to me everyone. This organization could not exist without them and others that operate in the background. We all owe them big thanks.



2008 ADVA National Balloting

By Gary L. Noller

Balloting for ADVA national officers and the approval of by-law revisions will take place in 2008. Members should receive ballots by postal mail in early April and must have them returned by the date specified on the ballot.

The Nominating Committee selected candidates for election from active members in good standing. Candidates were asked to submit a brief profile for publication in the Americal Journal. The candidates are as follows:

NATIONAL COMMANDER

David W. Taylor, Medina, Ohio; Platoon Leader with Co. C, 5th/46th 1969; 4 years active duty, 22 years Army Reserve Special Forces, retiring as Colonel. 27 years in management positions in the plastics industry, including international, advertising and new business development; Lifetime ADVA member, Purple Heart, VFW, VVA, Special Forces Association; Member of American Legion. Co-Chair of ADVA National Reunion 2001, Eastern Chapter Reunion 2006, ADVA Sr. Vice-Commander, Editor, Contributing Editor and WWII Historian.

I will continue more transparency in the ADVA while strengthening existing programs, such as scholarships and buddy location services to members. My top priorities are (1) Recruiting, (2) Making national reunions more affordable for members and (3) Revitalizing the WWII Museum.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Jay (John) Flanagan, Cranford, NJ. Co. C, 1/52nd, 198th LIB, June '68 to June '69, Infantry and Weapons, 24 months active duty. Firefighter, Elizabeth, NJ for 21 years, last 5.4 years Director of the Fire Department. Presently President of the Elizabeth Firemen's Federal Credit Union. Member of the ADVA since 1997, Eastern Chapter Reunion Coordinator for the year 2000, Vice Commander 2001 to 2004 and Commander from 2004 to 2007. Member of the VFW, American Legion and VVA.

I would like to continue the membership drive and encourage involvement in the drive to draw more of our fellow Americal veterans to the organization. Our most shining activity is the Scholarship Program and we all should continue to encourage eligible students to apply.

David D. Eichhorn, Fleming, OH. U.S. Army Feb. 1970 to Dec. 1971. Medic, HHC and Co. C, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB Aug. 1970 to Aug. 1971. 34 years wastewater technician for Krayton Polymers. ADVA 10 years, past East Region Chapter Commander, Buffalo 2007 ADVA national reunion Chairman. VFW 36 yrs., American Legion 18 yrs., DAV 14 yrs., VVA 8 yrs., 196th LIB Assoc. 9 yrs.

Continue the good work of the scholarship fund and provide benefits to as many applicants as possible. It is good to give all qualified applicants an award to recognize their achievement and interest in further education.

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

David A. Chrystal, SR.; Centralia, MO. Assigned to Co. D, 4/3rd Inf. 11th LIB and 1st Plt, 23rd MP Co, 68-70. 17 yrs, 2 months, 26 days Retired SFC PDRL. Infantryman and Military Policeman. Operations manager and dispatcher/driver for a small trucking company. Life member of ADVA since 1993. Chapter commander, Chaplain, 2005 Reunion Committee Chair. Life member of DAV and American Legion. Member of VFW. Heart Transplant 1996.

The ADVA should continue to aggressively seek funding for the scholarship fund and should continue to encourage eligible applicants to apply. Maintain the aggressive effort to recruit and retain new members. Support the efforts to maintain the WWII archives and museum. Hold reunions that are both attractive to the members and economical to attend. Continue to expand Vietnam War Archives and make them eligible to anyone who wants them.

Larry Swank; Bowie, Maryland. Artillery Officer with the 3/18th and 1/14th supporting 1/6th Infantry, 67-68; 25 years active and reserve service (E1 to E5 & O1 to O5), including 10 years Army Staff at the Pentagon; currently winding up second career in information technology. Webmaster of Co A, 1/6th web site, restoring thousands of member photos from Vietnam. Working closely with Sr. Vice-Commander on recruiting, processing over 25,000 Americal orders from the National Archives to recruit ADVA members and bring vets together.

The best from ADVA is reuniting with the great men and women who shared that experience and the Americal Journal. Priority is to recruit intensively and develop systems, using recruiting data, for a top notch buddy locator service for the ADVA.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER and/or SCHOLARSHIP TRUSTEE

Thomas N. Bedient; Lenexa, KS. Platoon Leader in C, D, and E-Recon, 4/3 Inf., 1968-69. Retired from active duty in 2003. Army service spanned 37 years including Regular, Guard, and Reserve. Worked in health care administration during a long break in service. ADVA 1999 Reunion Banquet guest speaker.

ADVA should continue outreach to out-of-touch-but-never-forgotten comrades in arms. Modifying unit web sites to include full unit alpha rosters with a mechanism to unite lost friends may be our most vital service to current ADVA members and potential new members.

Wayne M. Bryant, Greensboro, NC. 25th Division and then the Americal 1/46th, Co C in DaNang, 1971. Infantryman, Sgt E-5. Retired from the NC Dept of Transportation after 31 yrs as a Highway Construction Inspector. Life Member of the ADVA for about 8 yrs. Member of the membership committee, Product Sales Director, one term on the Executive Council. Member of the VFW and a founding sponsor of the National Army Museum. Life Member of the CIB Association.

I would like to see the recruitment of new members as high priority. The scholarship fund is another project of the ADVA that needs to continue to grow. Helping all members to become acquainted with each other should also be of focus, especially at reunions.

Dr. Robert F. Cudworth; Moosic, PA. Assigned to Hq, 11th LIB and Hq, Americal, 1969; 20 years active duty as an Infantry Officer; ret. 1974 as an O5. Member of ADVA for 38 years. Very active in Eastern Regional Chapter affairs; membership, registration and Finance Chair for 2007 Buffalo convention. Member of DAV and MOAA and am active in numerous local and state veteran councils and organizations.

Because of the limited active history of the Americal, the membership pool is small and declining. Our continued existence is dependent on a well funded and aggressive recruiting effort and alternative membership needs to be explored. The scholarship program must continue to be emphasized and avenues of additional income need to be examined.

Mark L. Deam; Sidney, Ohio. Co. C, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB Feb. 1968 to Sept. 1968. 198th Brigade TOC Sept. 1968 to Feb. 1969. Two years active duty. Infantryman- RTO. Retired from the Ohio Department of Transportation after 34 years, district Survey Operations Manager. ADVA member since 1994, attended my first chapter reunion in 1999 and all since then. The first national reunion I attended was in 2002. I've been the treasurer of the Eastern Regional Chapter since 2001 and maintain a database of the chapter members. I've also been a member of the American Legion for 31 years.

I have not been involved as an officer in the national ADVA. I do support the scholarship fund and the reunions.

Malcolm P. East, Lumberton, TX. Co. B, 723rd Maintenance Bn. 1969-70. Service and Evacuation Platoon Sgt. Twenty-one years of service. Machinist and machine shop foreman. Oilfield equipment manufacture and repair for twenty-eight years. Retired two years ago. Member of ADVA for twenty years. Junior Vice-Commander, Executive Council, Secretary-Treasurer of South MidWest Chapter for eight years. Member VVA Chapter 292, Texas State Council Treasurer two years. Member 24th Inf. Div. Assn.

ADVA should encourage membership recruiting at all levels. Reach consensus as to future of ADVA. Encourage members to donate personal items to Texas Tech Vietnam Archive for preservation. Continue the best scholarship program going. Have reunions at more accessible sites with more economical tours.

Ronald R. Ellis; Henderson, TX. Served active duty, 18 months, Infantryman. Arrived in Vietnam Jan. 1971. 11th Armored Cavalry until stand-down early 1971. Transferred to Co. C, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB then Co. C, 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB. Member of ADVA for 20 years; National Commander, Executive Council member, and presently Assistant National Finance Officer. Life Member of ADVA, 196th Infantry Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Combat Infantry Association, and member of American Legion.

The ADVA should continue recruiting new members and former members that have been dropped for non-payment of dues. Continue the scholarship program and conduct fund-raisers to keep our budget balanced. Keep the Americal Journal a profitable form of publication and use it as a recruiting tool.

John Ronald (Ron) Green; Dearborn, MO. Assigned to HHB, 6/11 Arty., 1970-71. four years active duty, 26 years Army and Air Force Reserves; Medical Service, Military Police and Security Forces. Teacher and Educational Administrator for 31 years, will retire in 2008. Member of ADVA for 13 years, assisted with 2005 Kansas City reunion and will serve on Scholarship Committee. Former post commander VFW, former district vice-commander, and current post commander with American Legion.

The ADVA should continue to improve and expand the Americal Journal by encouraging more articles about individual exploits. Continue to expand the amount available for the scholarships and increase the number of applicants. Encourage more membership by holding steady on annual dues. Vary locations for economical and satisfying reunions.

E. Lee Kaywork, Fernandina Beach, FL. Squad Leader Co. C, 1/46th Inf. 1968-69; Graduate of NCO School, Infantryman. Forty year Executive in the Telecommunications industry; currently an executive consultant. Member of the ADVA for 6 years; Chairman of the 2008 ADVA Reunion, Vice Commander SE Chapter, President of the Vietnam Veterans of Nassau County, Member of the VFW and American Legion.

The ADVA should continue its mission as a living memorial to the veterans of the Americal Division and plan to insure a perpetual memorial. The National organization should assume a more active role in the planning and execution of our reunions and continue to expand the scope of chapters and create an umbrella for many smaller organizations to operate.

Ronald J. Krul, Tonawanda, NY. Co. A, 4/3rd Infantry, 11th LIB, 1966 – 1968, 11 months in Viet Nam with the Americal; Infantryman. Employed in education for 30 years, the last 15 years at the University at Buffalo as an Assistant Dean. Member ADVA 8 years, DAV Life Member, The Military Order of the Purple Heart Life Member, Media Relations Office MOPH.

Along with the outstanding leadership, The Americal Journal is the most cohesive element of the ADVA maintaining contact and keeping informed every member. The continuation of this publication is the most viable asset of the association. There should be implemented an orchestrated effort to increase membership of Americal vets, and associate membership to children and grandchildren of vets to maintain the associations longevity.

George T. Mitchell, Defuniak Springs, Fl. Co. E, 3/1st Inf., 11 BDE, 1971-1971, Chu Lai, Hill 411, Charley Ridge, Mortars. Assigned to Co. E & Co. C, 1/46th., Ridgeline, Danang, Firebase Linda, mortars, infantry missions, MOS 11C20. Active duty 24 months, Dates 23 Mar 71-22 Mar 73, Hon. Discharge 21 Mar 77. Member ADVA 5 years. Life Member-American Legion, Post Cr10 Costa Rica, Finance Officer 1yr.; VFW Post 11207 Costa Rica Life Member, Sr Vice Commander & Adjutant 3 1/2 years.

Currently VFW Post 3822, Surgeon yr. 2007, Quartermaster Pro-Temp. 5 months ; DAV Life Member; 196th LIB Assoc. Life; NRA Life, Kennedy Space Center worker 20years.

ADVA should continue scholarship, Vietnam Records, conservative budget, affordable vet meets, no increase in dues.

Thomas R. Packard, Galloway, Ohio. Artillery trained but assigned to the 23rd MP Co., 196th Inf., 1972. 5 years, 10 months total service. Retired Senior Project Manager, 31 years, Franklin County (Oh) Clerk of Courts. Member ADVA for 7 years. Currently Executive Council, Far West and 23rd MP Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. VVA Life member, 26 years. Chapter 16 Past President, 3 terms. Chapter 670 founding member and Past President. Past Chairman, Columbus Veterans Advisory Board.

The ADVA must continue an aggressive membership recruitment effort and hold affordable reunions. We must continue the effort to collect and record our personal histories. Continue to work within our budget. Finally, our legacy and my first priority is the success of our scholarship program.

Carlo Pola, Sandwich, MA. Co. C, 57th Engineers, 1941-43, awarded the Purple Heart on Guadalcanal. Officer Candidate School (OCS), demolitions instructor. Discharged from active duty in 1945, served in the reserves with 483rd Engineers until 1982. Retired as a Major in 1982. Active in ADVA from its early years, former treasurer of Cape Cod Chapter. Electrician for a private company and with IBEW.

The scholarship program is outstanding. The comradeship of the ADVA is always present. The ADVA has done a good job in welcoming Vietnam veterans and making them feel that they served their country well. I support the collecting and publishing of WWII and Vietnam history on behalf of the families of those who served. The reunions keep the ADVA alive.

Mitchell J. (Mitch) Przybycien, New Lenox, IL. Co. I, 132nd Inf. Regt., 1943-45, Infantryman. Comptroller in construction industry for 29 years. Member ADVA 60 years, VFW 60 years, past post commander. 132nd Inf. Regt. WWII Veterans Assn. Sec-Treas. and newsletter editor for 35 years. Member of American Legion.

I strongly believe in the scholarship program and the opportunities it gives our young people. I have always enjoyed attending reunions and I will continue to attend them as long as I am able to do so. Attended 2007 reunion in Buffalo, NY.

Richard K. Smith, Friend, NE; Assigned to the 23rd Military Police Company in September, 1971 until Chu Lai closed. Then was assigned to the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. in DaNang until June 28, 1972. I was assigned as a military policeman and gate guard. I am retired from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad after working for 33 years. I have been a member ADVA since September 1991.

I have also been a member of the American Legion for 36 years. I am a member of the VFW and 40/8. I am presently the ADVA sergeant-at-arms and serve as a trustee on the Americal scholarship committee. I have attended conventions of the ADVA for the past nine years.

Larry Watson, Wooster, OH. Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. and Co. A, 1/6th Inf., 1967-68; 24 months active duty, 11B20. BS in Business Administration, Akron University. Owner "Watson Office Supply". Currently the director/veterans service officer of the Wayne County Veterans Service Commission. Current ADVA National Commander and state treasurer of the Ohio State Association of

County Veterans Service Officers. Past member of the ADVA Executive Council. Member of the VFW, American Legion, MOPH, AMVETS and DAV

I will support our new National Commander and promote his programs and projects. I would like to see the association provide greater support in the planning and execution of national reunions. I see this as important for providing our members with reunions that are fun and affordable.



AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The 2008 ballot will include a question to amend the Constitution and By-laws of the association. If adopted the proposed changes will take place on July 1, 2008. A complete text of the proposed Constitution and By-laws is on the following pages and are available in larger print on the internet at www.americal.org/bylaws08.htm.

Many changes are technical in nature and are intended to make the rules more clear and understandable and to remove vagueness and ambiguity. Some of the more significant changes are listed below:

- A chapter will be able to select a representative to sit on the national Executive Council. Presently the chapter commander holds this position.
- Chapter representatives on the national Executive Council are subject to term limits. Presently no provision for term limits exist for such members.
- The Executive Council chairman will be selected from and by the Executive Council. Presently the chair is the member receiving the most votes in the national election.
- A quorum of two-thirds is defined for a vote by the Executive Council. Presently no quorum is defined.
- The Membership Committee chair will be appointed by the National Commander. Presently the Sr. Vice-Commander is the chair.
- Duties for the Asst. National Finance Officer and Product Sales Manager are defined. Presently these posts are not included in the by-laws.
- Nominations for commander positions will be permitted by the endorsement of fifteen members. Presently the nomination of commanders by endorsement is not defined.
- The indemnification of Directors and Officers is defined. Presently no such provision is contained in the by-laws.

Constitution and By-Laws [PROPOSED 2008 REVISION]

America Division Veterans Association



This Constitution and By-Laws were voted on and approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly, to be effective as of July 1, 2008.

This Constitution and By-Laws supersede all previous Constitutions and By-Laws and amendments enacted by this organization.

Constitution Preamble

We, the Officers and Enlisted Persons on active duty or who having been honorably discharged or released from active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and having served honorably with the America Division, do unite to establish a permanent organization which shall be known as the America Division Veterans Association, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Article I Objectives

The objectives of this organization are fraternal, patriotic, historical, social, and beneficial; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its constitution and laws; to honor its flag, to foster true patriotism; to maintain the institutions of American freedom; to preserve and protect the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to maintain the history of the America Division.

Article II Organization

Section 1: This organization, hereinafter referred to as "The Association", shall consist of a national organization and such subordinate chapters as may be authorized within the United States of America.

Section 2: *A.* Should the organization dissolve for one reason or another, the assets are to be converted into cash. *B.* These moneys to be distributed in a manner determined by the Executive Council.

Article III Amendments

Section 1: This constitution and by-laws may be amended through the use of the official ballot at the bi-annual election, by a majority vote of the individual active members in good standing.

Section 2: Amendments shall be made in writing and submitted to the National Adjutant who shall forward the proposals to the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall study the proposed amendments and may make recommendations to the membership as to whether the amendments should be approved or rejected.

Section 3: Amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted not later than November 15th of the year preceding the bi-annual election.

By-Laws Article I

Membership and Voting Rights

Section 1: Classes of Membership: There shall be three (3) classes of members- ACTIVE, HONORARY, and ASSOCIATE. Only active members shall have the right to vote. No person who obtains membership in this Association shall be permitted to retain such membership if their military service past or present, is other than honorable, or if that person is engaged in un-American activities.

Section 2: Eligibility Requirements: *A.* Active membership: Any officer or enlisted person, who has honorably served with the America Division, 23rd Infantry Division, Task Force 6814, Task Force Oregon, and any other unit of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, who was attached with or assigned to and served with the America Division shall be eligible for active membership upon submission of proper application and payment of appropriate fees and dues that may be established.

B. Honorary Life Membership: May be awarded to an individual who has served with distinction in the America Division or the ADVA. Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Medal of Honor veterans of the America Division. Members receiving this award shall retain their right to vote. This award shall be made on the approval of the National Commander and the National Executive Council.

C. Any person not eligible for Active Membership may be recommended by an active member in good standing for an Associate Membership. Widow(er)s of deceased Active Members may be retained on the

membership roll as Associate Members for a period of one year following the death of the Active Member. The widow(er) shall then be contacted to determine if she/he wants to continue as a dues paying Associate Member.

D. Associate membership shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of active membership as of January 1st of each year.

E. A person eligible for associate membership who has rendered outstanding service to the America Division or the ADVA may be awarded an Honorary Life Associate Membership. Applications must be submitted to National Commander and approved by the National Executive Council.

Section 3: Right to Vote: Active members in good standing only shall have the right to vote.

Section 4: Right of office: Only active members in good standing shall have their right to hold elective or appointive office, to serve on committees or other administrative bodies that may be established.

Section 5: Application for Membership: Application for membership, except Honorary, shall be submitted on an approved form, completed in full and signed by the applicant, and shall be accompanied by such fees and dues applicable to the period in which the application is made. No person convicted of a felony or who supports the violent overthrow of the government of the United States, or any of its subdivisions thereof, shall be accepted for membership.

Section 6: Suspension or Expulsion: Any member who has been suspended from office or expelled from the Association for any just cause may be considered for reinstatement upon appeal to the Chairman of the National Executive Council, who shall study the causes for expulsion and make his recommendation to the National Executive Council asking for their vote in writing.

Section 7: Causes for Suspension or Expulsion: *A.* Any officer of this Association, elective or appointive, may be suspended from office and expelled from the Association for: failure to carry out the duties of their office, violation of their oath of office, continued absence, unauthorized or misuse of Association funds or property, conduct unbecoming their office, bringing discredit upon the good name of the Association, failure to pay assessments and dues collected, and any and all other actions detrimental to the Association, or failure to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

B. When found delinquent in their office, the individual concerned shall be notified by USPS certified mail of their contemplated suspension. This notice is to be signed by both the National Commander and the National Adjutant, and it shall request the individual to resign, or appeal to the National Executive Council, showing cause why he or she should not be removed.

C. All Officers who are removed from office by the National Executive Council shall not have the right of appeal.

Section 8: Oath: *A.* "I _____, do solemnly swear or affirm that I shall bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, to the governments of its component states and municipalities, and to be ready to defend the same against all their enemies whomsoever.

B. "I, _____, do further swear or affirm that I shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association and shall carry out my assigned duties to the best of my ability, so help me God."

C. The Oath of Office shall be taken orally or in writing by each elected officer or member of the Executive Council for each term of office. The Oath of Office shall be taken no later than July 31 following the election. The Oath of Office shall be administered and documented by the Nominating Committee or its designee(s). Such documentation shall be submitted to the National Adjutant upon completion.

Section 9: Dues, Fees, Assessments, and Funds:

A. The National Executive Council, may on the advice of the National Commander, National Finance Officer, and the National Adjutant, fix the dues, fees, and other assessments necessary to balance the budget and make the Association financially sound.

B. Annual dues shall become payable on January 1st, May 1st, and September 1st as assigned by the National Adjutant. The month is determined by the date membership application is accepted.

C. All fees and assessments shall become due upon demand.

D. Membership records shall be posted to show the date of payment and the date of expiration, and all membership credentials shall show the appropriate dates of membership.

E. Any member shall petition in writing to the Chairman of the National Executive Council for approval to solicit funds.

Section 10: Right of Redress: *A.* All active members in good standing shall have the right of redress to the National Executive Council for any action by this Association or its Officers.

B. Any such petition shall be submitted in writing, stating all the facts

of the case, including any evidence or witness to the complaint, to the Chairman of the National Executive Council, who shall present the petition to the National Executive Council. The Executive Council members shall be required to register their vote in writing.

Section 11: Distribution of roster: Distribution of the Association's membership roster, in electronic or printed format, shall be restricted to the national commanders, chapter commanders, finance officers, membership committee chairman, and the editors. The National Commander shall approve any other distribution of the Association's membership roster.

Article II National Officers

Section 1: National Executive Council: **A.** The National Executive Council shall be an elective body consisting of not less than seven (7) members nor more than eleven (11) members, excluding chapter representatives, elected every two years.

B. Each chapter shall select one member from its membership to serve on the Executive Council. If the chapter representative is subsequently elected to the Executive Council on a national ballot he must choose to serve in one role or the other prior to the beginning of the elected term. If no choice is made by the required date the member shall retain the chapter representative post and the elected post shall be declared open.

C. The Council shall have a Chairman and a Recorder who shall serve as clerk. The Chairman and Recorder shall be elected from and by the body of the Council. Balloting for Chairman and Recorder shall be facilitated by the Nominating Committee and be completed within 30 days of the tabulation of the election results.

D. The term of office for each member elected to the Executive Council shall be for two (2) years. A member shall be eligible for re-election not to exceed four (4) consecutive years in office. After four consecutive years in office followed by a break of two years, a member shall be eligible for re-election. These term limits shall include chapter representatives serving on the Executive Council.

E. Vacancies on the Council shall be nominated by the National Commander and approved by the Executive Council.

F. The National Executive Council shall serve primarily as the monitoring and advisory board of the Association.

G. The duties of the Executive Council Recorder shall be to keep records of all proceedings and discussions of Executive Council annual meetings and to document voting results of National Executive Council ballots. Such records shall be copied to the National Adjutant.

Section 2. Duties of the National Executive Council: **A.** Approve a yearly budget for the Association, and to approve non-budgeted expenditures.

B. Inspect and audit books of all funds of the Association.

C. To cause additional assessments and fees as may be necessary to meet the obligations of the Association.

D. To handle all appeals, petitions, and recommendations of any nature pertaining to the Association from active members and officers of the Association.

E. When found necessary, to take such action to suspend from office or expel from membership an elective or appointive officer or other member for just cause after investigation and review.

F. A quorum of two-thirds of the Council members is required for any balloting by the Council. A three-fourths vote of the quorum of members shall be required to carry a vote of the Council. Balloting may be conducted at an Executive Council meeting or by mail. The Chairman or his designee shall conduct the balloting. A mail ballot will be invalid if it is not signed by the voting member and returned within 45 days of the date the ballot was mailed.

Section 3: National Officers (Elective): **A.** The elective officers of the Association shall consist of the following: 1. Commander, 2. Senior Vice-Commander, 3. Junior Vice-Commander.

B. The term of office for each elective officer shall be for two (2) years. After a break of two years, an elective officer shall be eligible for re-election.

Section 4. National Officers (Appointive): **A.** The appointive officers of the Association shall be appointed by the National Commander and consist of the following: 1. Adjutant, 2. Historian, World War II, 3. Historian, Vietnam, 4. Sergeant-At-Arms, 5. Finance Officer, 6. Assistant Finance Officer, 7. Chaplain, 8. Editor-in-Chief, 9. Museum Curator, 10. Product Sales Manager, 11. Judge Advocate, 12. Membership Chairman.

B. The term of office for each appointive officer shall be for two (2) years. Appointive officers may be replaced by the National Commander at any time but not beyond the term of office of the National Commander. Appointed officers are not subject to term limits.

Section 5. National Officers (Eligibility): **A.** All active members in good standing shall be eligible for any office in this Association, provided that

the member has not previously been suspended from office.

B. No member shall hold more than one (1) elective office at the same time. A member may hold one elective office and one or more appointed offices at the same time, providing that one office does not conflict with another office.

C. All elected officers, when duly installed, shall serve during the period which elected and until the next election and installation of officers. Elected officers shall be considered duly installed when they complete the Oath of Office.

Section 6: National Officers (Duties): The following duties shall be the responsibility of each officer holding office in this Association and shall be governed by these By-Laws and Constitution.

A. National Commander. 1. Preside at the General Meetings of this Association. 2. Insure that all business matters are handled in an efficient manner. 3. Appoint committees, fill vacancies, and insure that the Association has the necessary personnel, equipment, and supplies to conduct its business. 4. Check all records and reports submitted by the officers and committees and assure that they are in the proper order and properly signed. 5. Supervise all activities of the Association and cooperate with Executive Council and perform such other duties as may be required of this office. 6. Be Chairperson, Ex-Officio, of all national committees. 7. Send a letter of condolence to the spouse of all deceased members. 8. Submit an annual budget to the National Executive Council.

B. National Senior Vice Commander: 1. The Senior Vice-Commander shall preside in the absence of the Commander and shall assist the Commander in the performance of the duties of that office. 2. Perform other duties as assigned by the National Commander.

C. National Junior Vice Commander: 1. The Junior Vice Commander shall preside in the absence of both the commander and Senior Vice Commander. 2. Perform such duties as may be required of his office.

D. National Finance Officer: 1. The finance Officer is to receive, hold, and disperse all funds of this Association. The Finance Officer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all funds, securities, financial records, and any other items concerned with the moneys of this Association. Incoming moneys shall be banked promptly and all authorized debts paid and receipts obtained. 2. The Finance Officer shall be bonded by the Association in a sum to be determined by the Executive Council. 3. The Finance Officer shall open the books and records to the Executive Council. He shall act as Financial Advisor to any committee or other body of this Association who may be dealing with Association funds. 4. Perform such other duties as may be required of this office. 5. Shall not honor any request for payment of non-budgeted items.

E. National Chaplains: 1. The Chaplains are to provide spiritual guidance and other services required by the Association and its members. This shall include sending a letter of condolence to the spouse of a deceased member. 2. Chaplains may be appointed for each religion in the membership.

F. National Adjutant: 1. The National Adjutant is to handle all the administrative business of the Association and shall keep books, records, files, and correspondence pertaining to the Association. 2. Keep in a proper file all applications and records of each and every member. 3. Notify all members of dues, fees, and assessments due for payment and shall issue such receipts as necessary. 4. Make and keep records of all General Meetings and other business meetings as required. 5. Maintain a roster of all departed comrades. 6. Be custodian of all property of the Association and insure that such property is safeguarded and properly utilized. 7. In case none of the Commanders are present, the Adjutant shall preside and will designate an acting Adjutant. 8. Perform such duties as shall be required of this office by the laws of the Association or on orders from a competent authority. 9. Transfer to the successor, without delay, all records and property of the Association under his control.

G. National Historian: 1. The National Historian is to maintain from records and data submitted to him a true history of this Association and of the Americal Division.

H. National Sergeant-At-Arms: 1. The National Sergeant-At-Arms shall assist the Adjutant in those duties and shall act as assistant custodian of Association property. 2. Shall at the beginning of every General Meeting have the Colors posted, before taking a position at the entrance of the meeting place. 3. During the period the meeting is in progress, admit no on except members in good standing or such invited guests and other persons authorized by the presiding officer. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall escort and present to the presiding officer and invited or distinguished guest. 5. At the close of each meeting assure that all property is safeguarded and secured in a proper place.

J. National Judge Advocate 1. the National Judge Advocate shall be the legal advisor to the Association and shall advise the Commander and other officers on all legal matters concerning their office. 2. Have a copy of the constitution and By-Laws in his or her possession and shall rule on the

Constitution and By-Laws and the proper conduct of business during each meeting. 3. Perform such other duties as may be required by this office.

K. Assistant National Finance Officer: 1. The Assistant Finance Officer shall perform such duties as assigned by the National Finance Officer. 2. Shall safeguard funds and monies belonging to the Association and shall make complete and accurate reports to the Finance Officer as required. 3. Shall make deposits of Association funds into the proper account on a frequent basis. 4. Perform such other duties as may be required of this office. 5. Shall be bonded by the Association in an amount to be determined by the Executive Council.

L. Product Sales Manager: 1. The Product Sales Manager shall safeguard the Association's product inventory and funds and shall fulfill members' orders in a timely manner. 2. Shall make necessary reports to the Finance Officer as required. 3. Shall not place orders for new inventory prior to consultation with the Finance Officer or Asst. Finance Officer. 4. Shall make deposits of Association funds into the proper account on a frequent basis. 5. Shall be bonded by the Association in an amount to be determined by the Executive Council.

Article III Committees

Section 1: Organization: **A.** There shall be two (2) classes of committees to be known as: 1. Standing 2. Temporary.

B. Standing committees are of a permanent nature and are established by these By-Laws.

C. Temporary committees shall be appointed by the National Commander when deemed necessary to carry out the business of this Association.

Section 2. Function and Purpose: The Membership Committee, under the Chairmanship of the appointee of the Commander, shall be charged with the organization and operation of the membership program for the purpose of recruiting new members, the retention present members, and to establish qualifications, records, and credentials.

Article IV

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee: **A.** A Nominating Committee comprised of not less than five (5) members appointed by the National Commander and approved by the National Executive Council.

B. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of elective officers to the National Adjutant by February 1 in the year of the election. The elective officers are (1) National Commander, (2) Senior Vice-Commander, (3) Junior Vice-Commander, (4) Executive Council Members, (5) Trustees of Scholarship Fund. The National Adjutant shall verify the eligibility of the Nominated members.

C. Further nominations for elective officers shall be submitted to the National Adjutant no later than February 1 in the year of the election. Nominations of candidates for elective officers made in this manner must be endorsed by fifteen (15) members in good standing. The National Adjutant shall determine the good standing of the candidates and endorsing members and forward these results to the Nominating Committee.

D. The balloting for the election of officers shall be held every two years in even numbered years and shall be at the direction of the Nominating Committee. The election ballot may also contain any questions to be decided by a vote of the membership. The balloting and tabulation of ballots shall be held between March 1 and May 31 of the election year. The results of the ballot count and all returned ballots shall be provided to the National Adjutant within seven (7) days of the tabulation.

E. Members nominated for elective officers shall have their names drawn for position on the ballot.

F. The plurality of votes cast by members voting the election shall decide the election.

G. The term of office for elective officers shall begin on July 1 following the election. The term of office for appointed officers shall begin immediately upon appointment by the National Commander.

Section 2. Notifications.

A. The Nominating Committee shall notify each nominee of the intention of placing the nominee, including those made from the field, on the ballot. The Nominating Committee shall ascertain that the nominee agrees to be on the ballot and will serve the post before placing the nominee on the ballot.

B. The Nominating Committee shall notify each nominee, the National Commander, and the Chairman of the Executive Council of the results of the ballot count within fifteen (15) days of the tabulation of the ballots.

Article V Chapters

Section 1: General: **A.** Individual groups of members in good standing, to number not less than twenty (20) will be authorized to form a local chapter under the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.

B. Each Chapter so formed shall abide by the laws and regulations of the Association and decisions rendered by the National Executive Council.

C. Each chapter shall consist of not less than three (3) officers, elected or appointed, who will be designated as follows: 1. Commander, 2. Vice-Commander, 3. Secretary/Treasurer. 4. Sergeant-At-Arms, 5. Chaplain.

D. If a chapter lacks the required three officers and is unable to elect officers the National Commander shall appoint chapter officers as needed.

E. Chapter Commanders may appoint as many committees as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Chapter.

Section 2. Procedures: **A.** To organize a chapter, a request in writing must be submitted to the National Adjutant for review by the national Executive Council and must contain the following information: (1) Name, address and card number of twenty (20) members. (2) Name of each proposed officer. (3) The designated name or title of the chapter. (4) The mailing address of the proposed chapter.

B. The above request shall be signed by both the Chapter Commander and the Secretary.

C. The Chapter may be identified by the following: 1. Name of a deceased Americal veteran. 2. Name of the locality in which the chapter is located. 3. Name of a unit represented by the chapter.

D. Upon approval by the National Executive Council, a Charter shall be issued to the new Chapter.

Article VI Alcohol Usage

Section 1. The policy of the Americal Division Veterans Association is that no alcoholic drinks shall be dispensed, sold, or otherwise distributed by the Association or its members in any hospitality room, official functions or at any other function of the Association. Previous arrangements shall be made to have the entity where the meetings are held dispense and charge for alcohol provided.

Article VII Miscellaneous

Section 1: Nothing herein constitutes members of the Association as partners for any purpose. No member, officer or agent of this Association shall be liable for the acts or failure to act under this Constitution and By-Laws, excepting only acts or omissions to act arising from willful misfeasance. Nothing herein shall constitute any liability for acts or omissions committed by any entity associated with the Association. Each such activity stands alone and is governed by its Constitution and By-Laws, Charter, or agreements.

Article VIII Rules of Order

Section 1. **A.** The official reference and guide for the proper conduct of business meetings ceremonies, and such other business of the Association shall be governed by the "Roberts Rules of Order".

B. The latest edition of the above reference shall always be utilized and shall be in the possession of the Judge Advocate during all business sessions.

C. The term, General Assembly, shall mean the general business meeting held within the annual National Convention.

Article IX Indemnification of Officers

Section 1: Indemnification: To the fullest extent permitted by law, every Director and every Officer of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all expenses and liability including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by or imposed upon him in connection with any proceeding to which he may be a party, or in which he may become involved, by reason of his being or having been a Director or Officer of the Association, whether or not he is a Director or Officer at the time such expenses are incurred.

Section 2: Exclusions from indemnification: The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be available if a judgment or other final adjudication establishes that his actions or omissions to act were material to the cause adjudicated and involved: Willful misconduct or a conscious disregard for the best interests of the Association, in a proceeding by or in the right of the Association to procure a judgment in its favor; a violation of criminal law, unless the Director or officer had no reasonable cause to believe his action was unlawful or had reasonable cause to believe his action was lawful; a transaction from which the Director or officer derived an improper personal benefit.

Section 3: Claims: Claims for reimbursement as permitted under this Article shall be paid by the Board as incurred. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, all other rights to which such Director or Officer may be entitled.

Patches of the Americal

By Gary Pratt

I began collecting patches when I was about 8 years old. My father served with the 30th Inf. Regt., 3rd Division at Anzio during WWII. Most of my collection was WWII patches until I went to Vietnam. I was assigned to the 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. I continued to collect patches while in Vietnam. Flight crews gave me some of the helicopter company patches. I had friends with the 196th LIB and the 3/21st Inf. that gave me their patches.

Represented on the following pages are patches that everyone should enjoy. I have about 300 patches for the Americal alone. I have displayed my Americal collection at military shows, VFW and Legion posts, and at bike runs for POW-MIA events. My whole collection is either period made originals or theater made. There are a lot of reproductions and copies being made in Vietnam today. I spend many hours every week on research and trying to track down patches.

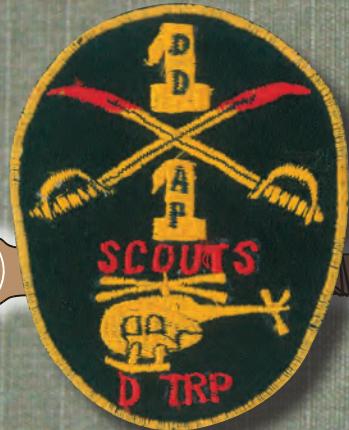
If any ADVA members can help me out I would really appreciate it. Contact me at Gary.Pratt@amerigas.com. I have a tough time trying to find Artillery, Engineer and Cavalry patches, especially the 17th Cavalry. I feel that when I display the patches from the Americal it continues to keep the great history of our unit alive. And that alone makes all the work and money worthwhile.

P 20-21, L to R, 1st row: 11th LIB, made in VN by sewing color material together; 29th Inf. Regt., Canal Zone; 123rd Avn. Bn., Warlords, Aero Scout Co.; 91st Evac. Hospital; 566th Ambulance Co. **2nd row:** 14th Combat Avn. Bn., Arabs; WWII bullion, German made; Americal Division Artillery; WWII Americal with tab, hand sewn, silk on silk, made during the occupation of Japan, one of the top ten Americal patches made during WWII; HHC 1/46th Inf. 198th mortar platoon. **3rd row:** Americal with 33rd Inf. tab, Canal Zone; 198th LIB, hand sewn; HHC 3/21 196th LIB Maint., pocket hanger; 23rd MP Co.; 33rd Inf., canal zone. **4th row:** Americal Combat Center; 27th Chem. Det. 196th LIB; 328th Radio Research Unit, Snoops, a very rare patch for a small unit; 132nd Inf. Regt. pocket patch WWII; 33rd Inf. with tab pocket patch, Canal Zone. **5th row:** 23rd MP Co. 196th LIB, printed on silk like the ARVN used; 198th LIB, machine made in VN; D Trp., 1/1st Cavalry, First Regiment of Dragoons, machine made VN; WWII Bullion Americal with tab, hand sewn with fine bullion wire made in Japan during the occupation; 54th Helicopter Ambulance.

Page 22-23, L to R, 1st row: 174th Aviation Helicopter Co., Sharks; 21st Aviation, surveillance; 11th LIB with Jungle Warrior tab, very few of these tabs were made in color; F Trp 8th Cav Scout Hunter Killer; Btry. G, 55th Artillery, Whispering Death Quad 50s, one of 144 patches made in the US, all others were made in VN; C Co. 3/21 196th LIB, Charlie Tigers; **2nd row:** 178th Assault Support Helicopter, Box Cars; B Co. 3/21 196th LIB, Bushmaster; 635th M. I. Co. Trail Watchers; 176th Avn. Co., Muskets; 198th LIB with Regulars tab, hand sewn in village, high quality; Recon for 1/52nd, 198th LIB (similar to Special Forces RT patch); Americal pocket hanger, machine embroidered VN. **3rd row:** 196th LIB (hand embroidered village VN), E Co. 51st Inf., LRP unit, preceded G/75th Rangers; 71st Avn Co., Firebirds; 176th Avn. Co. pocket hanger, Minutemen; F Troop 8th Cav. Pocket patch; D Co. 3/21st 196th LIB, Black Death, Btry. G Battery 55th Artillery, Whispering Death made in VN. **4th row:** 1/46th Recon 198th LIB; D Trp. 1/1st Cav. Scouts, DD AP stands for Dead Dinks Are Pacified; F Trp. 8th Cav., Blue Ghost Lift; Task Force Oregon pocket hanger, this is real and very rare, most were made after the war; 196th LIB with Chargers tab, made in VN very high quality; F Trp. 8th Cav. pocket patch, Blue Ghost; 196th LIB Pathfinder Airborne F 8th Cav scroll; Americal Long Range Recon Patrol. **5th row:** Charlie Tigers Compliments, a very unique patch, notice the helmet is white, C 3/21st gave this to a nurse with the 312th Evac Hospital in Chu Lai for helping with their wounded buddies; 174th Avn. Co. pocket hanger, Dolphins; Co. A, 3/21st 196th LIB, Annihilators; Co. B 3/21st 196th LIB, Bushmaster, 1st style, not many of these around; WWII Americal one piece with tab, Japan occupation made, in 50 years of collecting this is the only one I have ever seen; 3/21st, 196th Recon, Assassins; 48th Inf. Platoon Scout Dog pocket patch and scroll, 196th LIB.









"Pearls of Pauline" My WWII Memoirs

by Fernando Vera

WWII Historians note: This is the final installment of Fernando Vera's memoirs, which began in the 1st Quarter 2007 issue of the American Journal.

Occupation Duty in Japan (continued)

Here our base was set in a small canyon. Around us were hills with trails and along these trails were foxholes dug about every 100 feet. Also, the gun emplacements were covered quite well. Toward the end of my tour here our outfit collected all sorts of rifles and machine guns, roughly about 500 of them. We had our pick; I got a Browning repeater, a 12-gauge shotgun, a 30-caliber rifle that used our Garand ammo and a 25-caliber carbine. When I got home I got rid of them, why I don't know. One characteristic was that they all featured the Lotus Flower Stamp which had been ground off each weapon to save face. The flower has a national significance, their flag to them.

I don't remember when, but in the "Stars and stripes" they said that (I think) it was the 1st Naval Fleet that was going home and they would come ashore for one last look. I'm going to tell you when they came all you could see was Navy white. There was already much olive drab there, but their whites just wiped us out of the picture, thousands came ashore. Oh yes, of the weapons that we gathered... well, they saved us from starving. A big typhoon was out there somewhere and we weren't getting food supplies in. So some of the weapons were taken to the docks and traded with the navy ships at the docks. They didn't have the mobility and weapons confiscation duty; they wanted souvenirs, we wanted food. Also, one night when we returned from night duty we found the barracks emptied of all troops; reason – some adventurous GI had looked into a couple of 2 feet x 1 feet x 2 feet boxes with Japanese writing and opened a whole can of worms. It was tear gas and it filled the whole barracks. These two boxes had been in the upper hallway for weeks.

Next to us was an airplane factory; I never went into it but you could see they were complete planes from atop a hill. There was also a complete large seaplane near us that some enterprising person had smashed in all the instrument panels on it. There were small arms munitions here, and one guy shipped a whole case home. It somehow passed the mail service.

Incidentally, all weapons that were not "souvenir-ized" were dumped in Tokyo Bay. Probably some are now Toyotas and Datsuns. At first, there weren't many young girls around but after a while they started appearing when they found

out we weren't ogres. I also remember that the Russians were going to bring in a large number of troops but General MacArthur said "No! only 500 complementary troops for their embassy." I never got to see him.

Oh yes, an important item...we were issued 5 quarts of Japanese beer weekly at no cost, good stuff! In one of Vic Crowder's and my home town travels we ran into a couple of our former L Company 182nd comrades who had to bear arms. We were glad to see them but I don't remember



Raising the flag at Yokosuka Naval Base (Yokohama, Japan) 31 August 1945 (U.S. Navy Photograph)

where they were stationed. Here at the base the guys found a small car in a Barranca, pulled it out and got the damn thing running. I don't know what happened to it, maybe they sold it.

Anyway, towards the end I started to feel quite bad; and was sent to a former hospital inland, very beautiful countryside, all mountainous and green with rice paddies. From the hospital I could see Mt. Fujiyama, an awesome sight, about 60 miles a ways at least, someone said. The doctor said that I had a badly swollen spleen due to malaria. He was kind of mad because we didn't take the Attibrine anymore. I was called to the medical office and a captain presented and pinned my Combat Infantry Badge on my robe. He was very respectful and he appreciated what I had been through. I sincerely thanked him.

My friend, Vic Crowder came to see me and told me that I better get well quick as we were getting ready to leave for home in a few days and that my duffle bag was

already packed and would be left behind. So I requested to be released and the doctor got mad again, concerned because many of us that were sick were requesting a release; he wanted to cure us first. I was released and sent to a 1st Calvary unit, I guess Division Headquarters. I panicked and requested a transfer to my 247th FA outfit, as we were going home any day. The shortest time spent in any outfit ... about 5 minutes later my papers were made out. I don't even remember whether I walked to the Tokyo main station or trucked.

When I got back I found that I had won a Japanese Navy Flag, the one with the stripes. I still have it, although it's now weathered with time, even though it was protected. The real old timers, I guess with 4 years or more were straining at the leash; some even went to the docks to demonstrate their urgency. Even now, I think we came home too soon; and that Japan, Germany and Italy should have become territories of the major nations.

I personally didn't expect to get home before June of 1946 but I was "forced" to come home in December 1945. I sure kept a good watch on the point system, came home with 62. Just before coming home I was stopped by one of our souvenir shops on our street "I Sogo Cho". In asking the price of an item in Japanese to the merchant, he told me and I answered in Japanese ("Watasi bimbo non - I'm too poor"). Guess he liked that I talked in his language and he told me in perfect English, "I'll write you a letter; I've



USS General Stuart Heintzelman at a loading dock to transport soldiers (troop accommodation 3,823). (U.S. Navy Historical Center)

got a lawyer and money in the bank in Los Angeles, CA" I answered, "Oh no, I don't dare!" , as MacArthur had just put out an order on non-fraternization. That's how naïve I was about business and who in the heck is going to know! What stopped me is that I was raised to obey and respect. So I lost out in the fortunes of war. Another interesting thing

is that people were having sidewalk sales. I guess they were selling some of their valuables and I could have gotten them cheap. Well, "c'est la guerre."

I left Yokohama in the second week of December on the USS Heintzelman and I really don't remember too much of our going home on the ship, except that it was always dark. I only remember eating one meal and going to the chow hall (mess hall to the Navy) once. We had to go on the deck for it. A storm was striking and the waves were washing the deck and snowing a little bit. According to the ships daily newspaper, we took a northerly route because it was quicker in getting to the States and Tacoma, Washington. We passed near Alaska but that is the only day I remember.

Oh yes, in the mess hall we had to eat standing up; I guess because of the rough weather or maybe it saved time in mopping floors as quite a few would lose their meals to seasickness.

It took us seven days to reach port. When we docked in the AM a small band was there to greet us and we were handed a delicious red apple. We got to Fort Lewis, disembarked, and went to some barracks and were cautioned not to wander to town as we might miss out train home. I stayed put and went to a large mess hall where the guys that served us were big Aryan monsters. At first I thought they were GI's and I said to them "Some show, huh?" He just looked at "puny" me and semi-smiled. Going to a table I noticed that the KP's had a "P" stenciled on their blue denims and I realized that they were German POW's.

I forgot to mention that in Japan we started wearing our OD dress uniforms and for all the time not wearing it in the tropics, it still fit well. We went to an area where they took our excess equipment, a pair of brand new combat boots, mess kit, my winter overcoat, and threw them into a pile. I heard later that some base-stationed GI's were taking them to town to sell – the birth of the War Surplus Stores, I guess.

We boarded the train and through the night we went through Oregon. There was snow on each side of the tracks, higher than the train cars. Going south through California we stopped at a small mountain town and I don't even know the name. It had a water fountain and the sign over it said "The Best Water Fountain in the World" and it was. Of course, going through these mountains, it was very picturesque, pine forests abounded. We stopped in Oakland and got down by the docks where there were some water rats running around during the day. Somewhere in the Central Valley, we stopped in a small community and went to a small restaurant for a five-cent cup of coffee and a fifteen-cent piece of pie. Do you remember those prices?

I noticed then, that I was not enjoying eating (malaria was to get me after my discharge). We also stopped in San Jose, I guess to drop off some of the guys. Finally we got on the coastal tracks somewhere and stopped in my hometown for

a few minutes. There were some women sitting on a bench taking a break, one of them I recognized as a neighbor in the farm where I lived. I told her "I'll be back". Later she told me she didn't recognize me then but she remembered my having said that.

We arrived to Fort McArthur in San Pedro and in the evening we went into what looked like a serviceman's club and saw two very young GI's playing some excellent "Boogie-woogie" on the same piano and happy, one was white and one was black. I thought to myself, "Now that's what I fought for, no segregation." I had experienced it in my very young life and it was not pleasant. Guess in the first draft stages they mixed you then sorted you out. President Harry S. Truman desegregated the forces not too long after the war. I feel if we are destined to die for our country, we should be given an equal opportunity to do it in an integrated dignity, as we are now.

On the evening of December 20, 1945, we were called into a small auditorium and given a small talk; if we were ill, to go to the hospital; if we wanted to re-enlist they wanted us still. There weren't any volunteers – everybody just laughed. So Vic and I got in together, went out together on the same day, in the same outfits. Free at last!

It was late at night when Vic and I took the electric car from San Pedro to downtown LA and to the Greyhound Bus Depot. Was it every packed—GI's to the right of me, GI's to the left – all trying to get a Greyhound bus to wherever. Some civilian came to me and asked if I was going north and I said "Yes!" He charged us \$5.00 each; there were four of us.

I never even thought about it until now, but this guy was gouging those of us that had been through the war. We were just anxious to get home and didn't think about it. Now, I would have rather walked than to have let this patriot (?) get richer.

I got home to Oxnard about 4:30AM where I got off at Fifth Street and Oxnard Boulevard by a familiar liquor store that is still in business up to now. I took a taxi, got home around 5 AM just as the sun was coming up. My faithful old dog came up to me and barked, he didn't quite remember me. Here at the ranch it was jungle quiet at this hour and I just sat on the steps until my folks got up.

Surprise! Surprise! And, home at last! In closing, I wish to convey a silent thanks to all those with whom I served, and especially to those who never came home...God Bless!

Fernando Vera

My Tour in the Americal Division
November 1943-November 1945



December 18, 1945, Vic Crowder and I got discharged (Vic on the right). We went to school together, drafted together, served together, discharged together. Together all the way and never got wounded.
(Photo courtesy Fernando Vera)

"L" Company, 3rd Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment
These are the names of the comrades that I served with, of whom I still remember with profound respect. Those that I do not name, forgive this old ex-PFC, Fernando Vera.

Capt. James Harris L Company Commander, Battalion Commander, Lt. Col on Cebu

Capt. Dunham Replaced Captain Harris as CO of "L" Company

Lt. Weiss Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, served at battalion headquarters

Lt. Hill Southerner

Lt. Hilborn Southerner

Lt. William Gregg 3rd Platoon – deceased June 2002

Lt. Smith

Capt. Brown Temporarily attached

Capt. Price Temporarily attached

Lt. Ulman Heavy Weapons Platoon; secured from "M" Company

Lt. Wells Wounded in Europe, volunteered for the South Pacific, wounded again.

1st Sgt. Ray Kinnon Rotated home 1945 from Leyte

SSG Delong K.I.A. in Leyte – Vilaba area

SSG Cannel K.I.A. in Leyte - Vilaba area

SSG James Standish In charge of communications, went home on furlough ahead of rotation quota in return for returning to combat. Left in December '44 from Bougainville. Returned to Cebu after the war was over—lucky!

SSG Joe Fay 1st Platoon initially but company 1st Sergeant in Leyte.

SSG Pat Foley Machine Gun Section

SSG Dwyer K.I.A. – Cebu 1945 - severe wounds.

Sgt John Thomas Supply Sergeant

Sgt Mike Staffery

SSG Haskell Saxe Wounded – Vilaba area, Leyte.
Francis Boutin K.I.A. – Bougainville – carried BAR.
Watson K.I.A. – Bougainville – carried BAR
Sanchez K.I.A. – Bougainville
Thomas Vigil Wounded – Bougainville
Lee Ponder
Skrovan Carried BAR
Strickland Carried BAR
Bennie Wint K.I.A. – Cebu, carried BAR
Harold Reid
Anton Rosko K.I.A. – Leyte
Joe Demnick K.I.A. – Leyte, carried BAR
Vic Crowder 1st Scout many times
Bennie Wauneka Navajo
Frisco Wauneka Navajo (cousin to Bennie)
Fernando Vera Company Runner / Radioman
John Sustar Company Runner / Communications Sergeant
Robert Lackey K.I.A. on Cebu / Company Runner
Winshelbaum Company Mailman
George Vallinch Company Runner / Radioman
Nathan Gopen Company Runner/radioman/ Battalion Runner
Shwartz
Mattrazo Saved a wounded man on a bare hill in Leyte – never cited
Sgt Neumeyer
Raines K.I.A. – Cebu
Correigo 1st Scout – Silver Star in Bougainville
Mackey First K.I.A. on Hill 260 in 3rd Battalion
Rodriquez (2)
Blackie Medic, K.I.A. – Cebu
Mosley Medic, kicked out of the company.
Vogel K.I.A. – Cebu (Bombing error)
Leo Renard Company Runner / Radioman
Wayne Hardin Passed on after the war
Lewicki
Sgt Joe Grant K.I.A. – Bougainville
John Welchance Company Runner / Radioman
David Wise I owe him \$20
Larry Zerosynski K.I.A. – Leyte. Carried BAR
Saul Zander Gambler – Cards and Dice
Dave Kadetski
Joseph Antonito Carried his typewriter on company patrols for morning reports
Dan Virden 1st. Sergeant on Cebu
Wiskow
Wright
Robert Chapek

I am closing this list; my thanks for having served by your side and thanks for many thousands of patrol steps that we took, bravely facing whatever our fate was to be. If it had not been for us, the U.S.A. would not be.

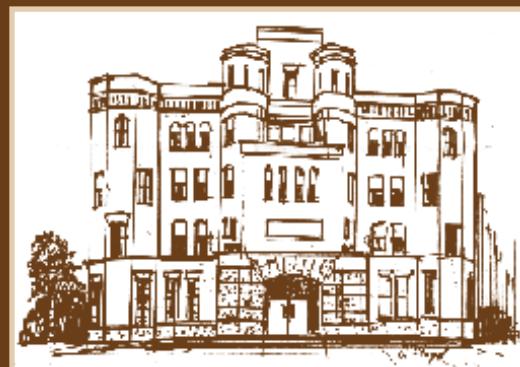
Profoundly yours, Fernando Vera



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On Eagles Wings...

Remembering Boyd Vokes

by David W. Taylor



It was a clear and crisp fall day in November, 2004 when I made the three hour drive from my home in Medina, Ohio to Clearfield, Pennsylvania to interview Boyd Vokes. Having read some background about the role of Liaison Pilots in WWII, I was excited to learn more from someone who actually flew the missions in those lightweight L-4 Piper Cub airplanes ---"Motorized Kites".

Boyd was waiting for me, along with his lovely wife Deloris. What followed was a long interview with an unpretentious WWII Americal vet, who helped to write the book (my words, not his) on Cub Pilot operations in WWII. Unlike the pilots in the African - European Theatres who flew at high altitudes over open ground, liaison pilots in the Pacific Theatre flew slow and low, to find the elusive enemy in dense jungles. As Boyd remembered, "we were rarely told where the enemy positions were. It was up to us to find them for the artillery battalions we supported." He added, "We flew only 500-1,000 feet in the air. So it was not unusual to come back and find bullet holes on your plane." Boyd and his fellow pilots were "baptized" in Bougainville on March 8, 1944, when the Japanese launched their massive attack on Americal positions, with particularly heavy fighting around Hill 260.

With a map strapped to his lap, Boyd, as an Artillery Forward Observer (and pilot) flew his lightweight plane to spot targets, usually in support of his assigned battalion, the 246th Artillery. But every flight held the possibility of other missions as well. On one occasion an infantry battalion launched an attack on Japanese positions but the almost impassable trials took the battalion off course. Vokes flew low, offering himself to Japanese fire, to move the battalion back on the course to their objective.

As the pilots developed a reputation for being nimble, more was expected and crashing their planes was not unusual. Vokes would crash in two of them. Once in the Philippines he landed on a small air strip where a company of infantry had taken a village and they had a wounded man they wanted flown out. He recalled, "When I went to land it was so hot that the rays coming off the small strip kept me floating and I couldn't set my plane down; I couldn't gas it because there were palm trees at the end of the strip in front of me so I had to wait until it settled down, which it did, at the end of the strip in a ditch, where I sheared off the landing gear."

As Cebu operations drew to a close Boyd and his fellow pilots prepared themselves for the invasion of Japan.

Even though he had accumulated 138 points (some soldiers rotated home with 65), the order came out that no liaison pilots would rotate home because of the invasion. But home did come for Boyd after some occupation duty in Japan. Boyd had two regrets after the war, first that he and his buddies let things slide after they had become very close, with everyone getting on with their postwar lives. Second, he would have enjoyed staying in the Army as an artillery officer but, with the GI bill being offered, he wanted to take advantage of it.

Boyd graduated from Penn State with a degree in teaching, and taught at the high school level until his retirement in 1982. Early on he continued his love of flying by joining a local flying club which owned a Cherokee Low-Wing Piper, but after five years the tasks of raising a family and teaching took him away from that too. I asked him, did you ever talk about World War II when you were teaching in High School? "No" he replied. Why not? "Nobody seemed to be interested". Boyd always carried with him a profound respect for the infantry. "I always felt that the infantryman in combat should all have been awarded the DSC. That's an awful, awful position to be in."

After the two hours of interview that November Saturday morning, I had a profound respect for this man. Although short in stature he became a big person in my eyes. His calm demeanor and unassuming manner was matched by a firmness in his answers about the treachery of the enemy he had faced and the rightness of the cause he was part of.

Time had taken its toll on Boyd. When we met he had lost a leg to diabetes and found it difficult to get around. After the interview his wife Deloris made big pot of chili and invited me to stay for lunch. It was great food and great conversation. What Boyd missed by not pursuing his Army career he made up by having a great wife. I was looking forward to getting back on the road and digesting in my mind the interview which had just taken place. Boyd was looking over his shoulder at the television, the Penn State football game was just coming on. And so we parted.

Boyd W. Vokes Sr. went to his eternal rest on July 16, 2007. I am quite sure he has reunited with many of his fellow liaison pilots "up there", where he was destined to be, now flying on eagles wings instead of small aircraft, looking over all of us, just like he did so many years ago.



Note: A four-page article, based on the interview, appeared in the April-May-June 2005 issue of the Americal Newsletter.

**Have you contacted that old buddy yet? Tell him about the Americal Division Veterans Association
A reunion is a great place to meet.**

A Soldier of Fortune in the Americal

by Bill Krentz

In the 3rd Quarter, 2006 Americal Newsletter, Bob Varner's memoirs contained a mention about S/Sgt. Bruce Somers' death; that he had been wounded or sick and thus died. Varner relates, "It seemed strange that he would die that way instead of in the field." This is the story about Bruce Somers.

I first met Bruce on our ship about day 13 of our trip from San Francisco to New Caledonia. One day as I was standing at the deck rail having a smoke, watching the ship roll gently on the ocean, I saw a young man about age 24 coming toward me. We shook hands and started talking about the Army and the war in the Pacific. He asked me about my training in California. He seemed to be very well informed about infantry combat. I asked him where he took his basic training. I almost fell over when he told me that he ran away from home when he was 17. He said that he had hitched hiked to Africa and joined the French Foreign Legion. I could hardly believe him when he said, "oh, but there is more."

Bruce went on to say that he fought in the Legion for two years and then signed on to fight with General Franco two more years in the Spanish Civil War in 1939. Then, when the U.S. got into WWII they offered him still more money so he joined the U.S. Army Infantry. He said that he considered himself a "soldier of fortune" and owed no allegiance to any country and he would continue to fight for the country that paid him the most amount of money. He said, "The only other thing I want is to go home with a chest full of medals." Well, we got together later for a smoke and more talk. I asked him many questions about combat and he seemed to take pleasure in answering them.

About the last week of April 1944 we landed at Noumea, New Caledonia, which was the replacement depot for U.S. troops. We were interviewed and assigned to infantry units fighting on the islands to the north. In less than a week we were on to Guadalcanal. The fighting there was mostly over and we took a troop ship to our assigned units on Bougainville. We landed on the beach at about 2 AM in the morning and it was very dark. We all piled into an Army six by six and were off to our units. It was daylight by then and I looked across to the other side of the truck and there sat Bruce Somers. Well, there was much handshaking, back slapping and laughter. The truck drove through the 132nd Infantry regiment area, stopping at each company. We got out of the truck as our names were called and reported to the company CP for assignments. I found out that Bruce went to Item Company. He was a S/Sgt. and assigned as a squad leader in a rifle platoon. I was a Corporal then and assigned to Mike Company's mortar platoon. My job was to direct 81mm mortar fire. And so we arrived in the 132nd Infantry.

By May of 1944 the Marines had made the initial landing in Bougainville with the Americal Division and 37th Infantry Division arriving between February and March. Some of the

Bougainville campaign was over and the 132nd Infantry was committed to protect the thirteen-mile perimeter and conduct combat and reconnaissance patrols outside our perimeter. Sometimes the patrols would run into the Japs and all hell would break loose.

It was only about a week or so when stories began coming back about the new S/Sgt in Item Company, Bruce Somers. The following are exact quotes, "This guy is something else!" "He leads his squad from the front; he knows when to stick his head up and when to keep it down." "He killed four damn Japs before I got my safety off!" "He is fast like lightening with that M1" "He seems to know where the Japs are before they know we are there." Another story had it that, while on a battalion patrol, he killed twenty-one Japs. Needless to say this man was a soldier. Everyone in his platoon wanted to be in his squad. Before we left Bougainville he had been awarded two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

In December we left Bougainville arriving on Leyte about the last of January 1945. The 3rd Battalion was in reserve for this campaign. The middle of February we were told we would be landing on another island sometime in March. We received new replacements, new equipment and some amphibious training and then on to Cebu, making the original assault on March 26, 1945.

It was about day 60 and we could have been on hill 26. We had pushed the Japs off the hill in the late afternoon but all was quiet for the evening. Mike Company was assigned to Item Company and we had about fifty Filipino civilians assigned to us to carry the wounded, ammo, etc. They dug their foxholes some distance behind us. Sometime after midnight the Japs opened up with 90mm mortars. We huddled in our foxholes, everyone fearing a direct hit.

When morning came the shelling had stopped. A quick headcount revealed that Mike Company had six killed and I don't remember how many wounded. The Filipinos had 35 out of 50 killed. I had no idea what Item Company's casualty count was. When we got our KIA wrapped in their ponchos, Captain Hughes (our CO) told me to go back to the battalion and tell LTC Franco that we needed graves registration to come and get our dead before we left the hill. I ran down the backside of the hill to find the battalion CP. What I found was an Army ambulance with the back doors open. There were four wounded soldiers inside. I looked closer and I recognized Bruce Somers in the lower stretcher. He was lying on his back with his hands folded on his chest. There was a cigarette burning down between his fingers. I looked closer and saw that both of his legs were cut off about four inches above his knees. There was no dressing on either leg. His eyes were open and he was looking straight up. I put my hand on his right shoulder and he raised a couple fingers to recognize me. I stood by my friend until the last gasp of life left him. How could this good soldier come to such an end? Of course you couldn't get away from those mortar shells. This is written for those 3rd Battalion veterans still living. Bruce Somers was a soldiers' soldier in every sense of the word.



Guadalcanal... "We had the Fortitude"

WWII Historian note: The National Museum of the Pacific War (Fredericksburg, Texas) held their annual symposium on September 14-16. One of the guest speakers was ADVA member Charles (Chuck) Walker, who served with the 164th Regiment on Guadalcanal. Walker was asked to reflect on the early period of the battle for Guadalcanal. The symposium moderator was Dr. Richard B. Frank, a noted historian of World War II.



Dr Frank: Let me talk with Charles Walker who was with the Americal Division. Charles how you came to get into the 164th Infantry and talk about your commission and enlistment in that unit.

Chuck Walker: People in North Dakota back in the "dirty thirties" will remember how poor we were. I joined the National

Guard in 1937 for that dollar a week they paid. A dollar in those days would support a family of four. I came from a farm and I thank everyone in the National Guard and the 164th when we had nothing. When they mobilized the Guard in 1941, I was going to college, my third year, and ran out of money. So I went in the Army. I have never regretted it.

Dr Frank: I thought it was very interesting when you told me about how you got your commission as an officer in the 164th. When we talk to most World War II officer veterans some were from the academies, from ROTC or Officer Candidate School. But for Mr. Walker in the Guard at that time the method they employed was a correspondence course and upon successful completion of that you were commissioned as a Second Lieutenant?

Chuck Walker: That's right. It was the usual way. I got it by the correspondence courses that required it.

Dr. Frank: Start us off with what happened when you arrived on Guadalcanal.

Chuck Walker: E Company of the 2nd battalion was put on the line and they had about an 800 yard frontage. I was a platoon leader from Company H, 1st platoon. I had eight machine guns instead of the usual four so my company commander sent me over to buck up the other company. When I set up my machine guns I set up a vital protective line; that is you set your machine guns to zigzag on the barbed wire. It worked marvelously. On the night of the 24th my one machine gunner, McCarthy, who was hooked on the flank of the 7th Marines, opened fire with his gun first. I had only so much ammunition for those eight guns, so I gave them 6 belts of ammo apiece. I knew right away with the

way McCarthy was shooting, the 1,500 rounds wouldn't go too far, not with heavy machine guns.

We made three trips for ammo that night. The Japs hit our barbed wire but not one of our guns. They all kept firing. Our 81mm mortars also protected us as well as the fires from E Company. They fired some 1,600 rounds of mortar ammo that night. Two of the tubes got so hot they dropped the shells down and they wouldn't come out. They would have exploded in the tubes in time so they threw them in slit trenches and covered them up. Those two mortars are still laying in Guadalcanal soil and safe.

I hooked on the 7th Marines and talked to the officer over there. He said, "You know, you fellows got full strength. I'm down to less than 80 men in my outfit. I knew that the Japs would hit in the middle of the line, which they did. Half of them were going to hit the Marine line and they did. About 125 broke through including a Jap general but we never did find him or his colors. At 2AM in the morning The 3rd Battalion of the 164th, moved into the 7th Marine lines and replaced them. We also sent the reserve company from E to support them because they were being overrun. They also sent a platoon from G Company which got though and was in reserve. Both of the officers and several men were killed as a result of hand-to-hand fighting. They say we don't fight in the dark. We were fighting in the dark that night. There was no moon and it was raining off and on but we stopped the Japanese.

By my third trip with ammunition down to McCarthy's gun, it was cracking daylight. There was a dead man laying there and I recognized him. I said to McCarthy, "what happened?" He said, "Oh, he caught one." As it became daylight the Marine's sent a patrol up which was trapped by the Japanese. They were trying to get back to our lines and were mixed in with the Japs in our area just 50 yards in front of us. They started to yell and we yelled back to cover them. Three Japs stood up about 30 feet in front of me and I said to McCarthy, "who are they? They must have gotten inside our barbed wire some way." They were just in front of our position. We shot the three. Then one of my friends, a driver from H Company came down with a Bren gun carrier. He ran across through the barbed wire and picked up the eight Marines in the patrol. Kevin McCarthy was his end gun. He took his machine gun on the carrier and was awarded the DSC for his stand with his gun. All the other fellows were awarded Silver Stars.

That morning I went over to check with the 3rd Battalion to make sure we were OK. I could hear this one Japanese who spoke very good English cursing Eleanor Roosevelt and Franklin. The boys were yelling back the same stuff. It was comical in a way because of the Japs good English. I looked out in the front. I was shocked. There were hundreds of Japs on the edge of our perimeter on the 4th day and we buried nearly eleven hundred in one hole. And we figured there was another thousand out there that we couldn't get to because they were so far back in the jungle that no one wanted to carry the bodies out. As a matter of fact we wouldn't have carried any bodies out. We got a crew

of Koreans the Japanese used as slave labor. We used that slave labor to carry all those corpses. If you have never been where a thousand people lay about 3 or 4 days in the sun, you want to move a few miles back. It was that bad.

Dr. Frank: Let me just interject here for a minute. What Charles Walker is talking about is this battle for Henderson Field in October. The Japanese had come up from the south and attacked an area that originally was a regimental defensive position. It was actually held by only one battalion, the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. It was at night, it was a tremendous battle going on. One of the hardest tests for a new unit going into combat for the first time was what the 164th Infantry, particularly the 2nd and 3rd battalions, were subjected to. Imagine never having been in real combat before and it's the middle of the night and raining, the 3rd battalion is told to advance forward to reinforce the Marine lines. In some places they were literally led by the hand in the dark into the positions with the 1st battalion, 7th Marines. When you talk about the burial and the Koreans, were they assisted with bulldozers or something like that?

Chuck Walker: We didn't have a bulldozer there. We blew a big hole in the ground, as big as a farm-dug pond. That is about 100 feet across and maybe 18 feet deep. We just about filled that hole. We lost count at about 1,000 bodies. We had to stop the Japs there or they would have had Guadalcanal. They had two infantry regiments and they only had about 1,000 yards to get to the Henderson Field air strip. That is how close they came to getting it. The wonderful part of it is, when they hit us we had all the stuff we needed. We had the anvil...we had the fortitude.

Dr. Frank: You mentioned in our discussion earlier that later you were in an operation where you were cut off without food for an extended period of time?

Chuck Walker: A Japanese bunch ended up at Tierary. They were estimated at 2,500 plus a Japanese general. They landed against the Marines, the Marines went up and were doing their best with them but it was just too much. They sent our battalion out. Unfortunately they never told us what we were doing, what the plans were or a single thing. We bumbled into Japs and we had some "shoot 'em ups" with them. They were small groups and all split up. They were trying to feel their way to get inland. Eventually we were supposed to enclose them in a circle. We had the circle nearly closed when F Company, who was leading the circle, ran into a bad fire fight. The Japanese tried to break through there. They fought all afternoon until dark. The next morning I was assigned to G Company with four machine guns and the G Company Commander who was supposed to close the gap called to me and said, "You are attached to my company now. I want you to take your platoon of machine guns and close the gap." I just about flipped. I couldn't believe it. Here I am with four machine guns doing the work of a rifle company. He nearly got a court martial afterwards. Anyway, I went through and we closed the gap alright. And 2,500 Japanese escaped.

When we got across the river, it was a swamp; we could see the trail where they had gone. They disposed of all their

ammunition as they were carrying heavy loads. When they went inland they couldn't carry anything because they were going to have enough trouble getting back down to the Matanikau River, you know, all the way around.

Dr. Frank: Let's keep in mind this is the group of Japanese that Carlson's Battalion is going to be pursuing on his long patrol that comes later.

Chuck Walker: We started on the fourth and on the fifth we ate the last of our C-rations. We never had another meal until the 12th. We walked almost 200 miles. When we went in it was the night of the 12th -13th. On the 12th the 182nd Infantry came in and the fleet came in. We were so glad to see them. When we were at Poli Point, walking along the Point going back into the perimeter, 21 Japanese torpedo bombers came in just skimming the water in line aiming straight towards the fleet. The fleet and the Cactus Air Force shot down every single one but one! That one took off and started north and there was a little "Wild Cat" fighter aircraft just coming in after him and by golly, pretty soon I saw white smoke coming out of it and that "Wild Cat" shot down the last one. I heard that only one ship had slight damage. We saw a DC-3 Hospital Plane bring in gas take out patients. They flew out and were about 5 or 600 feet over the ocean. There was no ship or other planes near it but all of a sudden there was a white fire ball. It just exploded in the air. Just as if a bomb struck it. We were far enough away; we could not see the debris falling but found out our company cook was on that plane.

164th Infantry Regiment in the Battle of Henderson Field Highlights



Oct 13 164th regiment arrives at Guadalcanal, debarks off Lunga Point.

Oct 14 164th pounded by Japanese bomber and naval fire.

Oct 15 Sector 2 of Marine perimeter passed to 164th; the 2nd/164th relieves 2nd/7th Marines with most of the 3rd /164th in reserve.

Oct 23 2nd /7th Marines moved to Matanikau, leaving 1st/7th Marines to cover a two-Battalion front with 2nd /164th covering their sector.

Oct 24 Late evening major Japanese attack on 1st/7th Marines and 2nd/164th; the 3rd / 164th moves at night in driving rain to reinforce the lines. The attack is stopped.

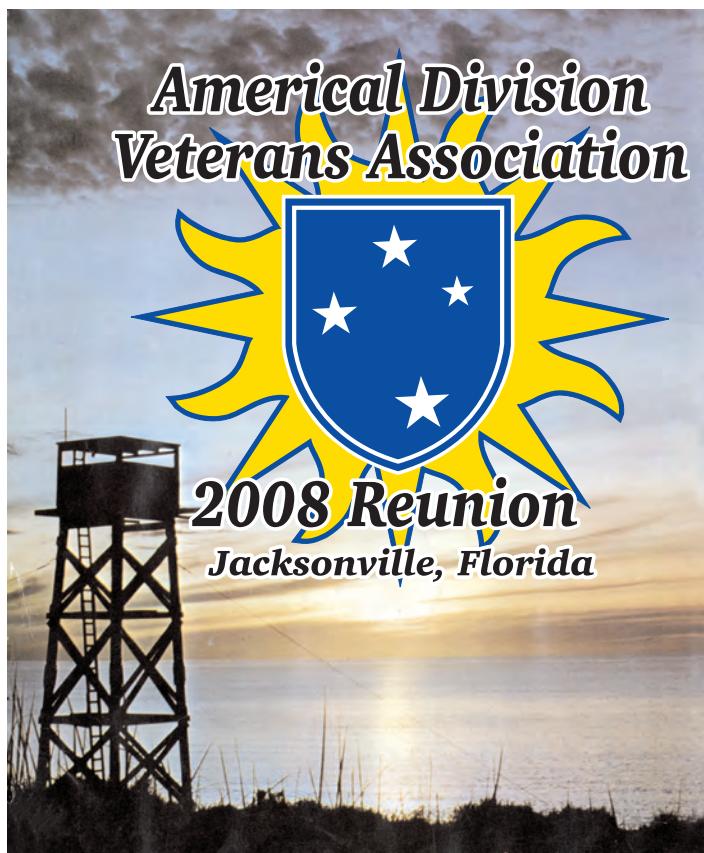
Oct 26 Early morning major Japanese attack with main thrust at 3rd/164th and right flank of 2nd/164th. Companies K and L bear the brunt of the assault. Late night the Japanese attack again, fight for six hours but are repulsed.

Oct 27 Work details begin the job of burying the dead; 975 Jap soldiers found in front of Companies K and L; more than 100 found and buried behind the 164th's defensive lines.

Jacksonville Reunion

June 26-29, 2008

By this time next year you will be talking about what a great time you had at the Jacksonville Reunion. The "Chu Lai Stand Down" will keep you buzzing for months; the delicious Polynesian cuisine, the waves washing on the shore as the sun sets in the west, the moon light dancing across the water as the night wears on, the fire dancers and great music from the show.



Since the Mayport Naval Station is home to 33 units, it is common to see helicopters skimming the water or jets soaring high above and the masks of the fleet are always part of the landscape.

The Stand Down is only one part of this great reunion. The trip to Camp Blanding will also add to the experience. This active Army and Florida National Guard training base will bring back the "good old days". Just seeing the barracks, the firing ranges and the troops in formation will have you reminiscing about your training days and all the trouble you got into.

The indoor and outdoor museums with the large variety of vehicles and weapons including the mock up fire base will add to this great experience. This trip includes lunch so you can share that unique army experience with your friends and loved ones.

The spouses (remember when they were wives), family and those who like to sneak away from the meetings will

enjoy one of two trips to either St. Augustine or Amelia Island. Both of these trips offer a glimpse into our illustrious past.

St Augustine is the first and oldest city in the USA. It was founded by the Spaniards and has a rich history. It features the Fountain of Youth, the Old Jail, the Mission of Nombre de Dios (Shrine) where first Catholic mass was said, and the Castillo de San Marcos our nation's oldest monument. There is also the old Fort, the shopping in the open market area and of course great places to enjoy lunch. The Columbia Restaurant is the oldest family run restaurant in Florida and features great Spanish cuisine.

The Amelia Island tour provides another perspective on the unique history of Northeast Florida. On this tour you travel up scenic A1A stopping off at the Kingsland Plantation and America Beach before you get to downtown Fernandina with its blocks of Victorian houses.

This island, which has served under eight flags, is the cradle of the early commercial shrimping industry in the USA. The shrimp boats still leave from the marina docks daily. The many restaurants feature local shrimp on their menus. This quaint little First Coast town will win your heart. You will want to return.

The best part of the reunion is catching up with old friends and buddies who share a common bound. The recently completely renovated Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel offers a great environment to sit back relax and swap stories. Whether you are in one of the hospitality suites, the lounge, out on the Riverwalk, around the pool or in the lobby with its inviting atmosphere you will find just the right place to enjoy yourself.

If you want to take it outside then just jump on the water taxi to the Jacksonville Landing with its many shops and restaurants. Or you may choose to take a stroll down to the San Marco section of Jacksonville.

No matter where you turn you will find a friend and a good time at the Jacksonville Reunion. So join us June 26-29, 2008. Go to the website www.americal.org/reunion.shtml or look for the registration information the next edition of the Americal Journal or contact me.

Registration Contest Results

The winner of our first registration contest was LTC (Ret.) Everett Perrin, Jr. He registered at the hotel and with the reunion committee prior to January 1, 2008. His name was selected at random to be the winner of hotel lodging and reunion event fees. You still have a chance to enter our second registration contest.

Wyndham Riverwalk
Phone 800-996-3426
Reservation Code
0625886AM

Lee Kaywork, Chairman
2008 ADVA Reunion Jacksonville
elkaywork@hotmail.com



2008 ADVA NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM JACKSONVILLE, FL JUNE 26-29, 2008



Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel
1515 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207
\$99.00 per night, Special Rate good 3 days before and 3 days after Reunion

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest(s) Name: _____

Wyndham Riverwalk
Phone 800-996-3426
Reservation Code
0625886AM

Street Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Unit/s: _____ WWII _____ VN _____

Registration Fee before 4-1-08	\$20.00/Person	X _____ =	\$ _____
Registration Fee on/after 4-1-08	\$25.00/Person	X _____ =	\$ _____
Reunion Photo Book	\$20.00/Book	X _____ =	\$ _____
Reunion Tee Shirt	\$12.00/Shirt	X _____ =	\$ _____

Indicate size for each shirt ordered _____

Friday: June 27, 2008 8 AM-3 PM
**Camp Blanding Tour w/lunch \$65.00/Person X _____ = \$ _____

Friday Night: June 27, 2008 4:30 PM-11 PM
Chu Lai Stand Down and Show \$45.00/Person X _____ = \$ _____

(Ocean Breeze Club, Mayport Naval Base, Cash Bar)

Saturday Spouse Tour: June 28, 2008 8 AM-3 PM
**Historic Amelia Island \$50.00/Person X _____ = \$ _____
**St. Augustine America's Oldest City \$50.00/Person X _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Evening Dinner Dance: 6 PM-11 PM
Attendees: \$45.00/Person X _____ = \$ _____

Please Select Entrée: Chicken Marcella No: _____ TOTAL \$ _____ **Mail form and check to:**
Sliced Sirloin No: _____
Herb Encrusted Salmon No: _____

Checks Payable to:
ADVA 2008 Reunion
Tim Vail
3417 Courtland Rd
Roanoke, VA 24012

Contact e-mail: elkaywork@hotmail.com **Contact Phone:** 904-225-8419

It Has Come Full Circle

by Glen A. Lippincott;
Co. A, 3/21st Inf., 1970-71



"No one cares about the Vietnam vet. We still don't get any respect." Those were the sentiments of a somewhat bitter Vietnam vet I met while shopping. My reply was, "I disagree, my friend. You need to get out more. There is a newfound respect for us by the young people of this country. I believe they are proud of us."

My good friend Pat Conway and his son Justin invited me to go see an Irish punk-rock band. Pat is a fellow infantryman and served in Vietnam with the 101st Abn. Div. The group we went to see is the Drop-kick Murphys. We have come to know and enjoy them and we luckily had tickets for their sold-out show held in nearby Allentown, PA.

We did not know if we would be accepted at the concert. As we did not really know how to dress for a punk-rock concert we decided to wear our green Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 678 jackets. The bouncer at the door thanked me for my military service straight away. We ordered a couple of drinks at the bar, met some of Justin's friends, and listened to the warm-up bands.

A young fellow stopped by and asked us: "What are you drinking?" We told him and he disappeared. I asked Pat, "What the hell that was about?" About twenty minutes later the same lad appeared with three drinks in his hand, passing two of them to us. We toasted him and thanked him. We met an Iraq War vet in front of us who noticed our jackets and welcomed us home. We reciprocated and swapped a few war stories.

When the "Murphys" hit the stage it was like detonating two Claymore mines simultaneously. The place exploded. After the third adult beverage I had consumed, and like most great Irish writers and poets, the Muse was upon me.

It intrigued me that the Irish songs over a century old were being sung by the working class ancestors of the

Irish and other immigrants that settled here and helped build America. These 20 and 30 something kids knew all the words. The beat was harder and a whole lot louder but it was the same

brothers and sisters on the Wall. Those are the heroes. We were just everyday guys doing what our country asked us to do."

Pat went to the order up the next round and the bartender said, "This one is on me." He pulled cash from his pocket and paid the tab. We sang loud with the crowd until our voices were hoarse. We danced with the pretty young women around us and in general we had a hell of a good time. After the concert we slid out the door through the spilled beer and waded through the hundreds of crushed plastic cups on the floor to get some cool fresh air outside.

With my ears still ringing from the high decibel level of sound, I pondered the experience of what had just occurred. I tried to think of a word to express my feelings. It was being, well, like being "revered". I guess that was about the closest word I could use to describe my feelings as tears well up in my eyes. We have gone without respect for so long when it is freely given we don't know how to act.

Maybe we shouldn't sell ourselves short. Perhaps it is enough to just "suck it up", put our fears behind us, and drive on to get the job done.

Apparently it is in the eyes of today's youth. I guess it really has come full circle.



music that stirred the ancients.

Another fellow stopped by patted us on the back saying, "Thanks for coming out tonight." I almost replied that it was good that they let us out of the home now and again and my wheelchair was parked outside.

I met another Iraq War vet that went out of his way to part the crush of humanity in this club to thank me for my service. "I study history. I know what a raw deal you guys got", he said. We clasped hands, pressed our joined fists to our hearts, and embraced one another as only Brother-in-

Arms can.

Another young man passing by us thanked us and asked what we were drinking. He went off and returned with another round. He said, "You guys are heroes in our eyes. You never got the respect from an ungrateful nation." Pat replied, "We are not the heroes. There are over 58,000 of our



Top: Author in Vietnam. Bottom: Author (L) with concert-going buddies.

Don't Be First, Don't Be Last, and Never Volunteer for Anything

by Gary L. Noller

It was about midnight when I arrived at the reception station at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. It seems as if there were about twenty of us in the group. Most of us, including me, were draftees and had been inducted earlier in the day at the Armed Forces Entrance and Examining Station (AFEES) in Kansas City, MO.

A PFC who was bent on having a little fun greeted us with a wry smile. He asked if any of us knew how to drive a truck. The previous summer I had driven trucks delivering produce in western Kansas. So I held up my hand. A couple others also held up their hands.

The PFC took us around the back of the building and showed me a wheelbarrow. He told me to push it around the reception station area while the others filled it with litter. I think we finally got to bed about 3:00 AM. This incident caused me to vow never to raise my hand and volunteer ever again.

In Vietnam a request was issued for a volunteer for on-the-job training (OJT) as a medic. I thought very seriously about this but I remembered my vow. I almost took the medic assignment but before I made up my mind another fellow took the position. He trained with the real medics for a while and was then put with one of the rifle platoons in my company. A few days later he was wounded by a booby trap and was injured bad enough to go home. He was not hurt that bad but he did sustain many pieces of shrapnel in his body. I bid him good luck as he was loaded on a medevac helicopter. Could this have been me had I volunteered to take the OJT medic job?

Near the end of my tour in VN I went to the rear area in Chu Lai for promotion board. I ended up being promoted to sergeant for my last five weeks in the Army. After the board I returned to my duty at Fire Support Base Mary Ann. Upon my return I learned that my battalion, the 1/46th Infantry, was moving to the DaNang area to take over an area of operations being vacated by the First Marine Division.

In preparation for our move to DaNang we were to make ready an abandoned base at Landing Zone Mildred. This was a little closer to civilization and near an abandoned village named Hau Duc. LZ Mildred was on the east side of the Song Trahn River and could be easily reached by road. FSB Mary Ann was on the west side of the river and much more difficult to reach during the monsoons. South Vietnamese troops would stay at Mildred once we left for DaNang.

I heard of the need for a radio telephone operator (RTO) to go to



FSB Mary Ann along the west trenchline looking south. Resupply pad is in the left foreground. TOC is at top left. Photo courtesy of Andy Olints, 1/46th Inf.

Mildred and help with the start-up of the reactivated base. At that time I was a radio operator for the battalion commander and worked in the battalion tactical operations center (TOC). I told SGT Meyers, the head battalion RTO, that I would go to Mildred and get the job done.

SGT Meyers told me that I did not have to go to Mildred and that he would send one of the new guys. I told him that the new guys did not know how to properly set up and run the radios. I had several months experience at the company level prior to going to the battalion level. I had almost ten months in Vietnam and I would be able to get things up and running in short order. I was second in pecking order to SGT Meyers and I knew I could take over the operation of the battalion commo when the radios on Mary Ann were shut down for the move. I wasn't so sure about any of the friendly new guys.

I did not think Myers would let me go to Mildred but I finally convinced him when I reminded him that I had just returned from the promotion board

and that my rucksack was still packed. Myers told me that it would be my choice but he thought I was crazy to go to the outpost at Mildred and leave the relative safety of the much larger base at FSB Mary Ann.

I arrived at Mildred at about 4:00 PM on March 27, 1971. I finally finished getting the radios ready at about midnight. I went to sleep on a cot under the stars. At 2:00 AM I was awakened by 1LT Tom Schmitz, a battalion staff officer also at Mildred, and instructed to get the radios running. His words were brief, "Mary Ann is under attack, we have to find out if there is anything we can do to help."

That night 30 Americans were killed on Mary Ann in a two hour battle. Another 70-80 were wounded. FSB Mary Ann came under an intense attack by a NVA sapper company. They attacked with mortars, small arms fire, machine guns, satchel charges, and tear gas. The damage and casualties were horrific. It was a very traumatic event for the whole battalion.

Almost everyone who worked in the TOC were killed or wounded. The battalion commander, LTC Doyle, was wounded three times before they finally knocked him down for good. No officer made it out without being a casualty. The fellow taking my place at the radios on Mary Ann received a Silver Star and a Purple Heart for his actions that night.

I remained at Mildred for about three more days and was the sole radioman for the makeshift battalion headquarters. I was on 22 hour days. I returned to Mary Ann after things stabilized there. I wanted to go back to Mary Ann sooner but the battalion still had units in the field and they need support from Mildred.

I came home a month later, my tour shortened by a thirty-some day drop. I was out of the Army on May 2, 1971- less than five weeks after the devastating attack on Mary Ann.

The old saw goes "Never be first, never be last, and never volunteer for anything." Maybe this is good advice. Maybe it is bad advice. Decide for yourself. I have never been able to explain it to myself. I probably never will.

[Note: Keith Nolan has documented the attack on Mary Ann in his book titled *SAPPERS IN THE WIRE*.]



The Mission of Delta Company

By Daniel Phillips

When you speak of what we did in Vietnam many people say many different things. I will tell what I remember and what I think our mission was supposed to be.

I served with Co. D, "Black Death". 3/21st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade from September 1969 to September 1970. I joined my company after a brief stay at the Americal

day and when we found him we killed him. Maybe we were supposed to find him and get him to give up but it didn't happen that way very much. We were up against the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and they were well trained and well supplied. They did not give up at the first shot.

The NVA fought hard when engaged with us. They seemed to know the best time to pick a fight with us. If the enemy showed his head we tried to take it off, period. Most NVA troops t h a t



GIs on water run

Combat Center in Chu Lai. My unit operated from LZ Center, a firebase between Chu Lai and the town of Hiep Duc.

Daily Routine

We hunted for the enemy every



Author with field radio

Our basic day began with us ready to move at daybreak. The platoons rotated point position every day. The point platoon would move out and lead the way for the rest of the company. After humping for a few hours we would stop for the morning and form a 360-degree perimeter. We dropped our rucksacks and the perimeter defense was divided among the three platoons.

After things got settled the point platoon spread out to cover the entire perimeter and the other two platoons went out

Author with shotgun



surrendered we were wounded badly and could not get away. Rarely did one freely give up to us.

on patrol. The point platoon stayed behind to guard the rucksacks and to rest. This procedure was rotated each day to give the platoons a break.

The two platoons on patrol stayed out all day. They scouted the area and chose a location for our night laager. After the patrols returned late in the day the company moved to the night position.



Fighting position on LZ Center

Setting up for the Night

Our day and night laager positions are always located on the top of a hill or mountain. We never set up where the enemy could fire down on us. Once we moved into our night laager we dug fighting holes. This was a place that

Three-man hootch

offered protection if we got into a fight or received incoming mortar rounds.

After our fighting holes were complete we set out claymore mines and rigged trip flares. A stretched string triggered the trip flares. When tripped, the flares burned with a bright light. It allowed us to see "Charlie" and to blow our claymore mines. Claymore mines are hand triggered and contain 250 steel balls that will rip a man apart. They will stop anyone from coming any farther.

Last but not least we put up our hootch for the night. Two ponchos snapped together formed the makeshift tent. We slept on air mattresses that

to each guard position. One kept on guard while the other three were sleeping. We pulled about two or three hours of guard and then woke up our relief.

The man on guard had his weapon, claymore detonator, and hand grenades at the ready right in front of him in the fighting position.

we inflated by blowing them up like a balloon. After this was done we finally got to cook something to eat.

We then found out when we would have guard duty. There were four people

The other three had their weapons in their hootch with them. So goes the night.

The next morning it starts all over again.

Bath Time

If we found a nice looking creek while out on patrol we would take a bath. Half of the patrol formed a perimeter around the creek while the other half stripped off their clothes and dived in. The down side of this was that after getting clean we had to put on the same dirty, sweaty, stinking uniform. The bath did not last long

Bath time

but for a few minutes it was wonderful.

Water Run

Sometimes we had to make a water run for the company. A small patrol would gather canteens from the whole company and set out for a creek. This kept the whole company from ganging up at the creek. After filling the canteens with water the patrol would return to the company area and distribute the canteens.



[This is just part of what Danny Phillips has written about his time in Vietnam. His story and photos will be continued in future editions of the American Journal. -Editor]



continued from page 7

Looking for assistance from veterans on an article I intend to write on the "Battle of the Million Dollar Tree". My uncle, James E. Sweeney was there and he told me of the battle. I was hoping I could get confirmation of the battle, any photographs taken during the battle or around that time, and records of the event and/or the battles on Bougainville? Contact: **John J. Kurash**, Army Heritage and Educational Center, 717-245-4428, john.kurash@us.army.mil.

Looking for anyone who knew LTC Roger Lee, may have been the S-3 of 4/31st Inf., at one time. Contact: **Jonathan Ince**, jonathanince@aol.com.

Looking for information on PFC Joseph F. Dennick, KIA on March 7, 1945 in the Philippines while serving with the 182nd Inf. Regt. I have been in contact with Dennick's niece. I sent her a photo of her uncle's grave marker in the American Cemetery in the Philippines. She would like to know more about her uncle's service. Contact: **Ryan F. Bach**, flyguam@mac.com, 773-828-4359.

Looking for information about my grandfather, Charles Burse Moore, and his unit in WWII, the 52nd Evacuation Hospital. Contact: **Michelle Heis**, nikame@yahoo.com.

Looking for information about my uncle, Private Doeke J. DeBoer, a BAR gunner. He was in the battle for Hill 260 on Bougainville. Trying to find out his unit and actions he was in. Contact: **Nick Rice**, 150 Zachary Rd., Manchester, NH 03109, nriceccc@comcast.net.

Looking for Gary Dale Southwood (Monticello, Ky.) who served with 1/6th Inf., March 1968-February 1969. Contact: **Phillip Swope**, sprithawk7229@setel.com.

Looking for anybody stationed with 1st Marine Div., 9th Engr. Bn., HQ Co., Construction Plt., or Americal Division, Chu Lai, when we got hit by 60mm mortars in March 1968. Contact: **Robert Geronimo**, 352 Nome Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314; 718-494-0465; RG0829@aol.com.

Looking for Sgt. Robert "Bob" Holland, a veteran of the Americal Division. I have a picture of him taken on July 4, 1968. Contact: **M.C. Holloway**, christian919@earthlink.net.

REUNIONS

Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB. March 2-6, 2008; Las Vegas, NV. More information from Bob Kapp at bobkapp3@aol.com or 813-215-1787.

Co. B, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB. April 3-6, 2008; St. Louis, MO.; Crown Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel, \$82/night. More information at www.bigbadbravo.com or Robin Landry, 925-C Hammond Manor Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

F Troop, 8th Cavalry (Blue Ghosts) . April 4-6, 2008. Louisville, KY. More information at www.blueghosts.com or e-mail to admin@blueghosts.com.

Co. D 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, May 29, 2008, Bowling Green, KY. See more information at www.deltaco.org.

Co. C, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB. June 20-21, 2008; Cincinnati, OH.; Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel. More information at www.charlie1-20.org/events.htm.

178th ASHC (Boxcars) and 400th TC. September 15-18, 2008; Pensacola Beach, FL; Hampton Inn. More information from Dean C. Nelson, Secretary, 3032 County Rd. H-2, Mounds View, MN, 55112, boxcar088_67@msn.com, 763-780-8869.

Co. D, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, Sept. 26-28, 2008, St Louis Mo. For more info e-mail John Southern at www.smalljaws@mac.com or call 606-528-8815.

Co. A, 1/46th Inf. October 6-15, 2008; San Antonio, TX; Hilton Airport Hotel, \$99/night. More information from Bill and Ann Schneider, 4300 Schenk Rd., Barnhart, MO, 63012, 636-942-4042, wschnei591@aol.com.

Americal Trivia**COMMANDING GENERALS**

Task Force 6814
BG Alexander M. Patch, Jr; January 1942

Americal Division
MG Alexander M. Patch, Jr; May 1942
BG Edmund B. Seebree, Jan 1943
MG John R. Hodge, May 1943
MG Robert B. McClure, April 1944
MG William H. Arnold, Nov 1944

Task Force Oregon
MG William B. Rosson, April 1967
MG Richard T. Knowles, June 1967

Americal Division
MG Samuel W. Koster, Sept 1967
MG Charles M. Gettys, June 1968
MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, June 1969
MG Albert E. Milloy, March 1970
MG James L. Baldwin, Nov 1970
MG Frederick J. Krossen, Jr; July 1971

*WWII Source: Under the Southern Cross by Capt. Francis D. Cronin
VN Source: Vietnam Order of Battle by Shelby L. Stanton*



The Southern Cross shoulder patch has been worn during three periods of conflict. The patch was created in 1942 for and by the Americal Division. The Americal Division was the only WWII division to have a name but not a number. It was known only as the Americal Division during WWII and was active during 1942-1945.

A cease-fire was declared during the Korean War but no peace agreement has ever been signed. Since it was unknown whether or not the cease-fire would hold the U.S. Army continued a build-up of forces. Included in this build-up was the 23rd Infantry Division headquartered in Panama. The division consisted of cadre and support but it only fielded one infantry regiment. It was in ready to stand-up as a full division but the order to do so never came.



See AMERICAL PX at www.americal.org

Phone 336.621.8756

ADVA PX Order Form

Item #	Description	Price	Size	Qty	Total
2301	ADVA Patch (Small)	\$4.00			
2302	ADVA Patch (Large)	\$4.50			
2303	Americal Shoulder Patch (Blue)	\$4.25			
2304	Americal Shoulder Patch (Subdued)	\$4.25			
2305	ADVA Sticker	\$2.50			
2306	American Flag Patch	\$4.25			
2307	ADVA License Plate	\$8.00			
2308	Americal Shield Pin (Large)	\$3.50			
2309	Americal Crest Pin	\$4.00			
2310	ADVA Window Decal	\$2.00			
2311	Americal Lapel (Small)	\$3.50			
2313	CIB Mini	\$5.00			
2314	CMB Mini	\$5.00			
2315	182nd Crest Pin	\$4.00			
2316	Baseball Cap - White (1 size fits all)	\$12.00			
2317	Baseball Cap - Khaki (1 size fits all)	\$12.00			
2318	T-Shirt, ADVA (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$18.00			
2320	Americal License Plate Holder	\$4.00			
2321	Americal Flag w/Fringe	\$50.00			
2322	Americal Flag w/Grommets	\$46.00			
2323	Americal Division History - DVD	\$15.00			
2324	Under the Southern Cross - Book	\$15.00			
2325	Why Didn't You Get Me Out - Book	\$15.00			
2326	Year In Nam - Book	\$12.00			
2327	Americal Ladies T-Shirt (Sm,Med,L, XL)	\$17.00			
2328	Americal Jacket (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$38.00			
2329	ADVA Challenge Coin (10 or more \$ 14.00 ea)	\$15.00			
2330	Americal Division polo shirt, Lt Blue (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$25.00			
2331	Baseball Cap - Black (1 size fits all)	\$12.00			
2332	T-Shirt Americal Vietnam, Black (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$18.00			
2333	Americal Nylon Wallet	\$6.00			
2334	Americal Tie	\$23.00			
2335	Americal Golf Ball (3 Balls)	\$10.00			
2336	ADVA Pen	\$8.00			

Total:

Ship To Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail Order Form To:

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Wayne Bryant
4411 Dawn Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
Phone 336-621-8756



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Now you can use your Visa or MasterCard to pay for your PX merchandise.

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American Division Veterans Association

Send applications and dues to:
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4493 Highway 64 W
Henderson, Texas 75652

See address below for change of address notification

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.

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Change of address notification should be sent to Mr. Roger Gilmore, P.O. Box 830662, Richardson, TX, 75080, gilmoraces@aol.com, 214-497-6543.
If changes are seasonal please provide dates.

Please enclose dues: 1 year \$15
(WWII Vets pay \$12/year)
Life Dues: 75 years & over = \$75
Under 75 years of age = \$165



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