

April • May • June
2008



AMERICAL

JOURNAL

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



***Re-enacting
a Band of Brothers***

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

DIRECTORY

<p>Executive Council Members</p> <p>Exec. Council Chairman</p> <p>Editor Emeritus</p> <p>James C. Buckle 36 Standish Woods Circle. Harwich, MA 02645 508 • 430 • 2443 jbuckle@comcast.net</p> <p>Terry Babler W5889 Durst Road New Glarus, WI 53574 608 • 527 • 2444 pointman69@tds.net</p>	<p>Donald A. Ballou 122 Old Orchard Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 dballou116@msn.com</p> <p>Thomas N. Bedient 20808 W. 99th St. Lenexa, KS 66220-2699 913 • 780 • 1311 tombedient@aol.com</p> <p>Wayne M. Bryant 4411 Dawn Road Greensboro, NC 27405 336 • 621 • 8756 wbryant@triaid.rr.com</p>	<p>Roger Gilmore 7301 Harvest Hill Rowlett, TX 75089 214 • 497 • 6543 gilmoraces@aol.com</p> <p>John L. Mathews 7728 Hwy. G Verona, WI 53593 Dawg5@tds.net</p> <p>Lloyd J. Morrell 1676 SW 33rd St. Redmond, OR 97756 541 • 923 • 2188</p>	<p>Mitchell J. Przybycien 1582 Tall Grass Court New Lenox, IL 60451-3515</p> <p>Thomas R. Packard 6613 Birch Park Drive Galloway, OH 43119 614 • 878 • 5197 packard50@columbus.rr.com</p> <p>Robert G. Short 3839 Old Savannah Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49009 269 • 372 • 2192 C146th@aol.com</p>
<p>Command Staff</p> <p>Commander Larry Watson 4919 Clear Creek Valley Rd Wooster, OH 44691 330 • 345 • 5809 lwatson@waynecountyveterans.org</p> <p>Sr. Vice-Commander World War II Historian WWII Museum Curator</p> <p>David W. Taylor 970 Kenner Ave. Medina, OH 44256 330 • 723 • 2517 dwtaylor@ohio.net</p>	<p>Jr. Vice-Commander</p> <p>Richard A. Merlin 10610 Orchard View Riverside, CA 92503 951 • 785 • 9816 rmerlin425@aol.com</p> <p>National Adjutant</p> <p>Roger Gilmore 7301 Harvest Hill Rowlett, TX 75089 214 • 497 • 6543 gilmoraces@aol.com</p> <p>National Adjutant (Emeritus)</p> <p>Bernard C. Chase South Yarmouth, MA</p>	<p>National Finance Officer</p> <p>Spencer M. Baba 901 East Gate Road Kinnelon, NJ 07405 973 • 283 • 9797 spenbaba@gmail.com</p> <p>Asst. Finance Officer</p> <p>Ronald R. Ellis 4493 Hwy 64 W. Henderson, TX 75652 903 • 657 • 5790 re19thlib@aol.com</p> <p>Editor-in-Chief</p> <p>Vietnam Editor</p> <p>Gary L. Noller 1662 Landmark Rd. S. Kerrville, TX 78028 816 • 695 • 6390 gnoller@aol.com</p>	<p>Judge Advocate</p> <p>Mike Twomey 8903 Crawfordville Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32310 850 • 421 • 9530 miketwomey@talstar.com</p> <p>Judge Advocate</p> <p>Steven J. Reisdorff 224 E. 13th St. Crete, NE 68333 402 • 826 • 2131 lo45741@alltel.net</p> <p>Sergeant-at-Arms</p> <p>Richard K. Smith 207 E. 3rd St. Friend, NE 68359 402 • 947 • 5821 rs51909@navix.net</p>
<p>Chapter Commanders</p> <p>Northwest Region</p> <p>David E. Hammond 1900 SW River Dr. #805 Portland, OR 97201-8002 503 • 644 • 3623 pacwesthi@aol.com</p> <p>Southeast Region</p> <p>Paul C. Stiff P.O. Box 495991 Port Charlotte, FL 33949 pstiff3@aol.com</p>	<p>Far West Region</p> <p>Richard Ropele 246 Coronado Corona, CA 91719 RRopele@esri.com</p> <p>Central Midwest Region</p> <p>David A. Chrystal 217 Southwest Circle Centralia, MO 65240 573 • 682 • 2205 dave23mp@mywdo.com</p>	<p>South Midwest Region</p> <p>Cameron F. Baird P.O. Box 211 Stonewall, TX 78671 830 • 644 • 2704 altdorf@ktc.com</p> <p>Great Lakes Region</p> <p>Dale J. Belke W655 City Rd E. Brodhead, WI 53520 608 • 897 • 4429 belked@ckhweb.com</p>	<p>East Region</p> <p>Conrad "Connie" Steers 124 Harding Ave. Hicksville, NY 11801-3122 516 • 822 • 5938 11thbrigade@optonline.net</p> <p>23rd Military Police</p> <p>John (Dutch) DeGroot 217 S. I-Oka Ave. Mt. Prospect, IL 60056 dutch23mp@comcast.net</p>
<p>Special Staff</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. William T. Elliott 6635 N. Middle Rd. Hope, MI 48628 989 • 689 • 4892 elliottwt@aol.com</p> <p>Chaplain Fr. Barton D. Berry, Jr. 256 Briar Lane Chambersburg, PA 17201</p> <p>Chaplain David A. Chrystal 217 Southwest Circle Centralia, MO 65240 573 • 682 • 2205 dave23mp@mywdo.com</p>	<p>Scholarship Chair</p> <p>Robert G. Short 3839 Old Savannah Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49009 269 • 372 • 2192 C146thinf@aol.com</p> <p>Vietnam Historian</p> <p>Leslie Hines 817 41st St Des Moines, IA 50312 515 • 255 • 4807 pelican.123rd.avn@worldnet.att.net</p> <p>Service Officer</p> <p>John P. Hofer 7888 Wood Pond Trail Cross Plains, WI 53528 608 • 798 • 2530 seabeedoc@aol.com</p>	<p>Creative Director</p> <p>John (Dutch) DeGroot 217 S. I-Oka Ave. Mt. Prospect, IL 60056 dutch23mp@comcast.net</p> <p>Product Sales Director</p> <p>Wayne M. Bryant 4411 Dawn Rd Greensboro, NC 27405 336 • 621 • 8756 wbryant@triaid.rr.com</p>	 <p>The American Journal is the official publication of the American Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Editor-In-Chief Emeritus: James C. Buckle ■ Editor-In-Chief: Gary L. Noller ■ Contributing Editor: David W. Taylor ■ Creative Director: John "Dutch" DeGroot ■ Associate Director: Frank R. Mika ■ Chief Artist: Michael VanHefty <p>Copyright 2008 by the American Division Veterans Association (ADVA).</p> <p>All rights reserved.</p>



Commander's Comments

By Larry Watson

My two year term is coming to an end and this is my final column for the Americal Journal as the National Commander. During the past two years I have worked with some fine people.

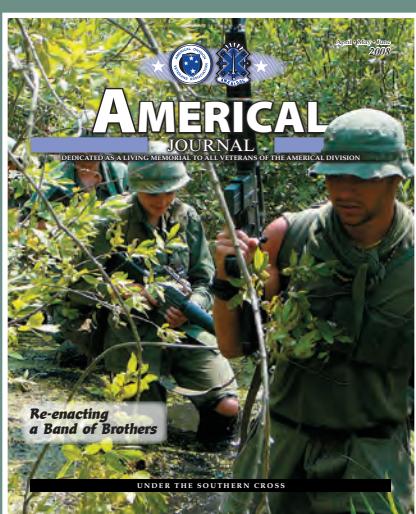
As Memorial Day approaches

I would like to remind everyone how very important this holiday is to all veterans. Memorial Day represents the one day each year when Americans remember those that died protecting our Nation and our freedoms. Unfortunately, many of our countrymen have forgotten the true meaning of this day.

Most of us lost some very special friends to war. I believe that we, all veterans, should do whatever we can to raise national awareness and reverence for this day and for our fallen brothers and sisters. I encourage everyone to volunteer to help plan and participate in a local ceremony for Memorial Day. As a reminder, the American flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day.

I want to thank members of the Americal Division Veterans Association for affording me the opportunity to serve as your National Commander for the last two years. Everyone has been kind and warm towards my wife, Gina, and me. I thank the Command Staff, the Executive Council, the Special Staff and the Chapter Commanders and officers that I have worked closely with during my time in this office. The many members that make this organization successful are very dedicated and are generous with their time.

With my term ending, I look forward to the next two years with Dave Taylor as our National Commander. Dave has tremendous talent and organizational skills. Again, I thank everyone and hope to see you all in Jacksonville.



Cover
Re-enacting a Band of Brothers

Chaplain's Comments

By Rev. William T. Elliott

Memories can bring wonderful thoughts and warm feelings of nostalgia. Then there are times when a memory hits us as if we stepped on a land mine and we are brought to tears and we weep.

I was watching a movie recently and a scene brought feelings and thoughts of many years ago. All of a sudden I remembered. Nick and I went through basic training together and were buddies the way frightened teenagers are when facing a grown-up war. Nick was killed in the islands and the memory of him had faded in the some sixty years that have passed...but I remembered and started to cry like it was yesterday.

Memorial Day is important for all Americans because we should not forget the pain and the labor, the dreams and the sacrifice of all who went before us. I do believe that we who are veterans have a special responsibility to hold up our memories for all to behold. It is often said that you can only share your experience of being in harm's way with another who has trod the same path. Yet we need to speak out. War is too serious for us to ever take lightly, or to forget, or to let fade in the minds of coming generations.

Memorial Day is first and foremost a day to remember all the Nick's who did not come home. God bless them for the years of freedom they helped preserve for future generations.

Editor (Emeritus) Comments

By James W. Buckle

John Nutile's name was spelled incorrectly in the last issue of the Americal Journal. His name brings up a memory that I would like to share with you for this Memorial Day.

E Co., 182nd Infantry Regiment came from Wakefield, MA. The Medical Detachment for the 182nd Regiment also came from Wakefield, MA. John Nutile was a medic.

On November 21, 1942 Pfc. Michael J. Zammitti was WIA by a sniper, shot through the chest, on the front lines on Guadalcanal. John Nutile rushed up to Mike and when he knelt down to administer first aid, John was KIA by a sniper.

G Co. was on the left flank of E Co. and at the same time was being shelled by mortars. A man from G Co. was wounded and the G Co. medic, Charles DeCecca, rushed to his aid. DeCecca was KIA. This was within the hour of Zammitti being WIA and only about two hundred yards away.

These three men, Michael Zammitti, John Nutile, and Charles DeCecca, grew up in the same time in Wakefield and were long time friends. John Nutile and Charles DeCecca were both awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The shot that hit Mike Zammitti went clear through him. It cracked a couple of ribs but hit nothing serious. He was back on duty a month or so later.

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

The ADVA begins the year 2008 with very encouraging membership news. During the first four months of 2008 we added forty-four new members to the ADVA roster. Of these new members, four joined as life members. We also saw good numbers in current members converting to Life Memberships, as well as former members being re-instated. Eleven roster members became Paid Life members during the first quarter. Eight members applied for re-instatement.

Our continued success getting new members into ADVA is due in large part to the recruiting efforts of members attending unit reunions. Bob Kapp attended a Co. C, 4/21st Reunion in Las Vegas where he recruited six new members for the organization. Bob also sponsored four of these recruits for their first year's member dues. Tom Packard recruited four former 23rd MP Company veterans to join ADVA during this quarter.

In the last Americal Journal issue, Senior Vice-Commander David Taylor reminded us we are all recruiters for the ADVA. When you sponsor a fellow veteran for their first year membership in ADVA, it's a low cost investment in the future of ADVA by building our membership base. In addition to members mentioned above as new member sponsors this quarter, ADVA members David Taylor, Floyd Petty, James Franklin and Frank Burnet paid first year memberships for buddies.

In closing, I want to remind all annual pay members to check your dues renewal date in the address box on the back cover of this issue. Your renewal date appears just above your name line. If this date is May 2008 or earlier, please send your dues payment to PNC Ronald Ellis. Ron's mailing address is also listed on the back cover.



ADVA MEMBERSHIP March 31, 2008

World War II	629
Vietnam	2,207
Korea	7
Associate Members:	175
Total Members	3,018

NEW MEMBERS

James B. Anderson
W. Vaughn Benson, II
11th LIB A/4/3rd Inf
Depoe Bay, OR
★ Self

Jim Cerimeli
23rd MP Co
Scottsdale, AZ
★ Tom Packard

Lawrence A. Cote
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Mohawk, NY
★ Bob Kapp

Eric T. Crosser
723rd Maint Bn Co B
El Cajon, CA
★ Self

Cleveland Dupuis
246th FA
Breaux Bridge, LA
★ Pearly Dupuis

Frank E. Franzel
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Mayville, MI
★ Bob Kapp

M. William Green
132nd Inf Rgmt Co F
Moorhead, MN
★ Self

Roger Hathcock
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Hot Springs, AR
★ Bob Kapp

Richard D. Hildreth
3/16th Arty
Green River, WY
★ Self

Dallas R. Hodge
11th LIB 4/3rd Inf
Clyde, NC
★ Ron Krul

Louis House
523rd Sig Bn
Cuba, MO
★ Self

Robert J. Kotch
23rd MP Co
Avon By The Sea, NJ
★ Tom Packard

Thomas C. Krupinski
23rd MP Co (TF Oregon)
Munds Park, AZ
★ Tom Packard

Terry B. Lelm
198th LIB B/1/6th Inf
Ladysmith, WI
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Jimmie D. Lindemuth
11th LIB HHQ Primo Avn
Clarksville, TN
★ Self

Warren J. Lucas
23rd MP Co
Mt. Pleasant, SC
★ Tom Packard

Ronald W. Maret
11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
St. Louis, MO
★ Self

Robert S. McEldowney
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Kailua, HI
★ Bob Kapp

Robert E. McWhirt
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Basehor, KS
★ Bob Kapp

Donald R. Mendez
11th LIB 4/3rd Inf
Bakersfield, CA
★ Floyd Petty

Belisario A. Mendoza
11th LIB E/4/3rd Inf
San Antonio, TX
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Steven J. Mishler
11th LIB
Ft. Wayne, IN
★ Dennis Zimmerman

Wesley Moss
F Troop 8th Cav
Fairfield Glade, TN
★ Dave Taylor

Patrick M. Mullis
196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Columbus, GA
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Richard Ogan
23rd Div HHQ
Spokane, WA
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Jim J. Pene
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Port Murray, NJ
★ Self

Robert Poznanski
196th LIB 23rd MP Co
Linden, NJ
★ Tom Packard

Reed J. Purcell
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Heathrow, FL
★ Dave Taylor

Harry J. Rhinehart
11th LIB C/3/1st Inf
Kennesaw, GA
★ James A. Franklin

Edwin L. Richards
23rd Div Adm Co
Paducah, KY
★ Self

John Roberts
1/1st Cav HHT
Salida, CO
★ Frank A. Burnet

Keith L. Royce
198th LIB HHC
Beloit, WI
★ Self

Fred L. Shinbur
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Hagerstown, MD
★ Self

Richard L. Stutz
11th LIB D/3/1st Inf
New Market, MN
★ *Self*

John J. Sweek
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Redford, MN
★ *Dave Taylor*

Robert L. Washington
198th LIB 1/6th Inf
Elmwood Park, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Donald Wilson
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Williamsburg, VA
★ *Dave Taylor*

Jan Winters
11th LIB D/1/20th Inf
Highland, CA
★ *John W. Ewing*

Michael A. Witkus
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Cliffwood Beach, NJ
★ *Bob Wolf*

Jason M. Woody, Jr.
198th LIB D/5/46th Inf
English, WV
★ *Dave Taylor*

NEW PAID LIFE MEMBERS

Irish Carter
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Clarksville, TN
★ *Bob Kapp*

Anthony P. Muscarello
132nd Inf Rgmt Co B
Lancaster, PA
★ *Rocco Solto*

Omer E. Peak
11th LIB 4/21st Inf
Pekin, IL
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Harding A. Travis, Jr.
174th ASHC
Skippers, VA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Larry D. Boyer
6/11th Arty
Cunningham, TN
★ *Self*

Terry L. Buelow
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Newhall, IA
★ *Larry Watson*

Curtis W. Dean
196th LIB 2/1st Inf
Stuart, OK
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Joseph A. Dupuis
23rd Adm Co HHQ
Albuquerque, NM
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Daniel F. Gill
182nd Inf Rgmt Co H
Franklin Square, NY
★ *Bernie Chase*

Jesse L. Helms
198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Greenville, SC
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Sam F. Mazzola
196th LIB 4/31st Inf
Greenbush, MI
★ *Rollie Castranova*

Frank J. McQuaid
182nd Inf Rgmt F Co
Wilmington, DE
★ *Al Hudon*

Joe S. Pergerson
196th LIB B/1/46th Inf
Graham, NC
★ *Fred Cowburn*

William M. Schott
23rd Div HDQ
Mission, KS
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Jimmy R. Turner
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Whitehouse, TX
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

Gregg W. Asher
198th LIB
Mankato, MN
★ *Bill Maddox*

Jeff Dombroff
14th CAB HHC
Warrenton, VA
★ *Vernor N. Pike*

Joseph J. Federico
23rd Div Arty HHB
Central Point, OR
★ *Self*

Daniel Malin
11th LIB 1/20th Inf
Lorain, OH
★ *Self*

Gary Mauer
196th LIB A/1/46th Inf
Council Bluffs, IA
★ *Self*

Claude E. Morris, Jr.
132nd Inf Rgmt A-T
Jacksonville, FL
★ *Bernie Chase*

Francis A. Patsy
11th LIB 6th Spt Bn
Sterling, VA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Tom Sizemore
3/82nd Arty
Lincoln, CA
★ *Thomas Brewer*

Taps

World War II Veterans

101st QM Corps
Carmino Sarno
Wakefield, MA
December, 2007

121st Medical Bn
George H. Lewis
Turtle Creek, PA
July 16, 2007

164th Inf Rgmt
Albert Vandette
Marlboro, MA
November, 2007

182nd Inf Rgmt
Harry Mohla (Co E)
Bedford, MA
February 14, 2006

Fernando L. Correia, Jr. (Co F)
Fall River, MA
August 8, 2007

Earl A. Bearden (Co L)
Torrance, CA
September 26, 2007

Fernando Vera (Co L)
Oxnard, CA
August 8, 2007

Howard R. Marion (Co M)
Goodland, IN
December 13, 2007

221st FA
Glenn C. Davis
Cleveland, GA
March 12, 2007

245th FA
Warren L. Radaker
Wildwood, PA
January 18, 2008

Americal Div Arty
Louis Kapit
Margate, FL
December 5, 2007

Vietnam Veterans

11th Arty 6th Bn
Michael D. Gottschalk
Mt. Clemens, MI
Date Unknown

11th LIB B/1/20th Inf
David T. Jones
Pataskala, OH
April 2003

11th LIB C/1/20th Inf
Gary R. Gilmour
St. Louis, MO
February 16, 2008

11th LIB C/1/20th Inf
Roger W. Boyle
Danville, VT
July 17, 2007

23rd MP Co
George P. Todd
Conway, SC
February 11, 2008

LAST ROLL CALL

WWII Era
Eugene C. Dangles
Oak Lawn, IL
February 27, 2008

Leonard S. Graham
Gloucester, VA
January 14, 2008

Jose M. Piña
San Antonio, TX
February 10, 2008

132nd Inf Rgmt Co A
Wilbert C. Bode
McLean, Va
March 29, 2008

246th FA
Willis E. Cole
Burley, ID
February 29, 2008

Vietnam War

11th LIB A/4/3rd Inf
Russel E. Morse, Jr.
Forestdale, MA
March 17, 2008

1/14th Arty C Btry
Terry R. Fisher
Bedford, PA
Date Unknown

2008 ADVA Election Results

By Roger Gilmore

The 2008 ADVA election of officers for the 2008-2010 term and ratification of Constitution and By Law amendments were completed in mid-April. Ballots were mailed to over 2,800 voting members and just over 860 completed ballots were completed and returned.

The proposition for proposed ADVA Constitution and By Laws amendments passed by an overwhelming margin with 90 percent of the ballots returned voting in favor of the amendments. Listed below are the elective offices and candidates. **Blue names** indicate those who were elected to office.

National Commander: **David W. Taylor**, 811. **Senior Vice-Commander:** **John (Jay) Flanagan**, 434; **Dave Eichhorn**, 403. **Junior Vice-Commander:** **Larry C. Swank**, 483; **David Chrystal**, 336.

Executive Council Members: **Larry J. Watson**, 763; **Ronald R. Ellis**, 762; **George T. Mitchell**, 738; **Wayne M. Bryant**, 736; **Thomas N. Bedient**, 732; **Mark L. Deam**, 713; **Mitchell J. Przybycian**, 702; **Robert R. Cudworth**, 684; E. **Lee Kaywork**, 667; **Carlo A. Pola**, 657; **Thomas R. Packard**, 606; **Malcolm East**, 597; **Richard Smith**, 576.

Scholarship Committee Members: **Ronald J. Krul**, 772; **John R. Green**, 704.

The 2008 ADVA Nominating Committee thanks all members who took the time to review the candidates for office and the amendments proposition and to register your choices

ADVA Member Recruiting

By David W. Taylor
Chairman, Membership Committee

I want to thank our members who request recruiting brochures to take with them to the smaller unit reunions held around the country. Keep up the great effort! We are in discussions with a number of small unit groups who are interested in joining the ADVA as a unit chapter and take advantage of our quarterly magazine, the opportunity to communicate with their members through our Chapter News each three months, our scholarship program, and to use our national reunions to bring their groups together in their own hospitality suite, without all the work to set up a reunion themselves. If you have a small group you meet with and would like to consider forming a chapter within the ADVA, please contact me. It's easier than you think!

I also want to make a special offer to those of you who may know a buddy who is "sitting on the fence" with joining the ADVA. For the first 25 members who send me an application for a new member, with the check made out to the ADVA, I will send the new member the last three issues of the Americal Journal **free**. For anyone who joins with a life membership, I will mail them all the past issues of the Journal from the beginning of 2005! That's 13 issues of the Americal Journal with a lot of great stories about the Americal, absolutely free! Let me here from you!



C/4/21 Reunion Photos Available

By Bob Kapp

Co. C, 4/21st Infantry held a reunion at the Boulder Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV on March 3-6, 2008. If you wish to receive a photo album of the reunion by electronic mail please contact me at bobkapp3@aol.com.

The Wall

By Joan C. Smith

**The wall rolled into town
one day**

**Standing ready before
the dawn**

**And the soldiers names went
marching there
On and on and on**

**Cold columns of silent marble
Zigzagging across the lawn
Gave testament to anguish
Lines in the sand there drawn**

**He and I we went together
The names there for to see
Of his friends of oh so long ago
With whom he crossed the sea**

**He stood there and in Silence
His mind so far away
That for him I softly faded
On that sunny October day**

**I finally saw my rival
This wall twix him and me
It mockingly in silence said,
"Why is it you do not you see?"**

**That he is mine forever
Forever and a day
This battle you can never win
This one from far away**

**His wall it had the last laugh
This wall not made of stone
My love, my dear sweet Robert
He never made it home**

**For his heart and mind it
stayed there
No matter how hard we tried
We could not get beyond it
Beyond it there he'd died**

Tell Your Story

By Gary L. Noller
Editor-in-Chief

The Americal Journal wants to print your stories. We get great response to the personal accounts and written histories of what it was like way back when. This issue has several stories written by members. Can we have your story too?

Dave Taylor specializes in stories from World War II veterans while I generally handle Vietnam War stories. But send your story to either one of us. The important thing is to get it done and sent in for use in the journal.

You can submit your story in any form you like. You can send it hand-written on paper, by electronic mail, or even by audio tape. The editors will work with you to get your story in final form. You do not need to worry about putting finishing touches on your story. The editors will help take care of that. And don't feel required to write in prose. If you can tell your story in poetry or images send them too.

Photos and images are always a great addition to your story. Photos that are scanned from paper prints need to be scanned at a resolution of at least 300 dpi. This allows for high quality reproduction in the magazine. New photos taken with digital cameras need to be taken with high resolution. Save these photos in .jpg format. They can be sent to the editors as attachments to electronic mail.

The Americal Journal is usually filled at least two months before you receive a copy. So allow plenty of time for your story to appear in print. If you do not see it within an issue or two please feel free to contact the editors and check on progress. Sometimes we overlook or lose items. We apologize for our omissions and we vow to do better. But do not be afraid to ask if your story was received and the schedule for printing.

The editors do reserve the right to choose stories for publication but it is very rare that a story is rejected due to incompatibility with the objectives of the magazine. For example, we would not publish a story that made personal attacks against others or was harassing in nature.

Information on contacting the editors is in the directory section on page 2 of this issue. Let us know how we can help tell your story and show your photos.

Locator Requests

Looking for information on an **American Scout Infantry Co. Provision force** around 1969. They moved around like the LRRP's and were assigned as such. Contact: Ken McParland; knmcpr@aol.com

Looking for anyone who knew my husband **Robert Michael Smith**. He was in Co. A, 3/21st Inf. from June 1967 through June 1968. He was in mortars. He recently passed away. Contact: Joan Smith; smithbb123@msn.com

Looking for information about **Douglas Glyn Edwards**, my second cousin. Doug was attached to 2/1st Inf., 196th Light Infantry, Co. D and was killed in action in Quang Tin, South Vietnam on March 20, 1969. He arrived in country in May 1968. Contact: Amy S. Terrell; asterrell0924@yahoo.com, timothy_terrell@hotmail.com 573-449-1018, 573-424-9183.

Looking for anyone who knew SP4 **Michael Dennis Quill**. Michael served under Capt Jerret R Grisham in Co B, 23rd S & T Bn. Mike died about ten years ago and I am seeking information to complete a VA claim. Contact: Marie Quill; m-quill@sbcglobal.net.

Looking for information about **Co. D, 1/46th Inf**, April 1968 to April 1969. My father is interested in hearing from people in his unit. Contact: Shawn Oetzel; oetzel@verizon.net.

Looking for anyone who remembers **Gus Anderson**, 523rd Signal Battalion, 06/15/71 to 03/12/72. Contact Daniel M. Dewey / Amvets NSO VAM/ROC - Rm-209, 2101 North Elm St., Fargo, North Dakota - 58102; PH#- 701-451-4642 Fax- 701-451-4674.

Looking for anyone who knew my dad, **Mickey Duggan**, with B battery, gun 6 (Birthcontroller) at Tien Phouc, 69-70. Contact: Derek Duggan; duggand@hsd.k12.or.us.

Looking for anyone who knew **Norman T. Hays**, 245th FA Bn., 1942-1945, my father. He is now deceased and I would like

to know about his service, in particular the circumstances of his two Bronze Star medals. Contact: Mark or Christy Hays; haysbo@aol.com.

Looking for anyone or any information on HQ Co, 15th Support Brigade, **Captain Fred G Winkelmyer**, Commanding, November 1967 from Ft. Hood to Vietnam. Contact: Cam Thomas; camt@gorge.net.

Looking for information about the **718th M.P. Battalion**. The closest I have come is the 718th Army Postal Unit that served in the Americal in WWII. My uncle, Robert Melton Smith, was in the M.P. unit. Contact: Deborah Smith; ssab@cableone.net.

Looking for information or anyone who knew my classmate **Peter N Baldwin**, KIA in 1968 at Quang Ngai, 11th LIB. He was there for about two months before he was killed. Contact: George Loy; namvet21@optonline.net.

Looking for anyone who knew **Carl Most**, Jr., nicknamed Howdy Doody. He was in the 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB. Contact: Rose Most; rosemost@zoominternet.net.

Looking for any information on CSM **Max E. Daniels**, a former sergeant major of the Americal Division in Vietnam. I have a news article that says he was at the change of command ceremony in October 1967. Contact Don Detweiler; dondetwiler@hotmail.com.

Looking for anyone who may know **J. C. Walton Criswell** or have information on his unit, Co. F, 164th Inf. Regt. We believe he was wounded in the war but his records were burned in the fire in the St. Louis archives. Contact: Virgil Hockett; (503)359-0379.

Looking for information on the training and **staff records** for the Americal Division in WWII, particularly relating to their time on Guadalcanal. The National Archives only has the records relating to Vietnam. The MHI and CMH do not have them either. Contact: Sharon Tosi Moore; smoore@ida.org.

In Memoriam: Fernando Vera

By David W. Taylor
ADVA WWII Historian

I learned in March 2008 that Fernando Vera passed away on August 8, 2007. ADVA members will remember his poignant memoirs – “The Perils of Pauline” - we were privileged to publish in the Americal Journal throughout 2007 and the 1st quarter of 2008.

During early 2007 I had the pleasure of speaking to Fernando about his memoir and we exchanged correspondence as well. He was undergoing dialysis several times per week at that time but his spirits were high. By summer he was starting to suffer other medical complications as well and in early August, while on dialysis he developed pneumonia, which resulted in his death.

Fernando gave me his memoirs in a typewritten document, not on a disk, so I had to type everything again and prepare it for publication. During that long process of typing I became intimately familiar with the man and his unit. Knowing combat myself, at times I thought I was alongside him.

In recent years several biographies have been published with the words, “An American Life” in the title. I think that title sums up Fernando as well. He experienced racism in his young life but never let that hold him down. He always reached out to his fellow man. He had a profound respect for the Army and his time with the Americal Division. His wife told me up until his death he had mementos of his Army service hanging on the wall. Like many of us, his war service was a defining time in his life. He went on with a successful career, married and raised a family and maintained his obedience to God and his country. Could any of us do any more? Rest in peace my friend.

Saving Memories

Rev. William T. Elliott
ADVA Chaplain

Memories are powerful parts of our lives. I remember WWII and Fiji, Bougainville, and Cebu. My office at home has a framed reminder of those times with ribbons, a Samurai sword, and a cabinet filled with the Americal alumni magazine. I am a retired Episcopal priest and have been chaplain for the ADVA for many years.

I write this letter to encourage you to write down your memories. I wrote a multi-page history of “my war” and gave it to my children. They had encouraged me to do this. Then the fun started as they asked me questions that my writing had brought to their minds. I realized I had to start over and fill in the gaps and put meat on the bones of my memories. Their questions brought back to mind so many things and people I had forgotten.

The Holy Scriptures are a collection for memories of those “who were there” at the time. Imagine what the world would be missing if the scriptures had not written down and passed on to us. Please put your memories down on paper, share them with your family and friends, and then fill in the gaps that their questions will present to you. World War II, Korea, and Vietnam need to be remembered by personal witness- lest the world forgets.

Last Combat Tank in Vietnam?

By Richard Vidaurri



I served in Vietnam from June of 1970 to January of 1972, most of that time with the 26th Engineers and then the 196th LIB. Although I arrived in-country as a Road Grader Operator (62K MOS), I was eventually assigned to the tank platoon of the battalion's bridge company (ECHO). The assignment there was to crew one of the platoon's two Combat Engineer Vehicles (M728 CEV), a machine that had been lost in an ambush, or at least that's what I was told.

Well, when the replacement vehicle came in it turned out not to be a CEV at all, but a well-worn M-48A3 Patton battle tank. The three other crewmen and I took to that tank like a shiny new toy. We fired and fought and drove it into the dirt, and when we wore it out sometime in mid 1971 we got another one, this time a nice, newly rebuilt machine straight from Okinawa.

We did the same with that machine, even hitting a mine that blew the starboard running gear all to hell. They told us the war was winding down, that the Army was pulling out, but for us it was business as usual. We were in great demand from the day I reported for armor duty until the day we turned the tank in for redeployment in DaNang, sometime around December of 71 or January of 72.

But the best part is this: by 1970 the Americal didn't have any heavy tanks left in its cavalry units; they had all been traded in for Sheridans, an aluminum airborne assault vehicle. So from 1970 to 1972 the 26th Engineers (and then the engineer company of the 196th LIB) had the only battle tank in the division, quite possibly in the entire country.

The photo shows soldiers of the 26th Engineers preparing to fire up the Song Ve Valley (outside of Quang Ngai) and interdict supply sampans coming down from the mountains. I'm the soldier standing on the ground between the tank and the truck. Please note that the right side running gear is gone, the tank recently having hit a mine. The cylinders on the ground are acetylene for the welding torches. We were back in business a few days later.

I was there for a year and a half and never once mounted up on a road grader. I had the time of my life and for every veteran who tells me “Welcome Home!” I'd like to say, “I was home.”

I have written a book, a fictionalized account of my armor service in Vietnam; you can find it on Amazon.com, under “Richard Vidaurri,” or “The Gates of the Shadow.”

Stalking an Elusive Enemy

By Bob Kapp

It sounds nuts now but I had been in infantry training and in Nam for almost a year before our first kill. We had not been in country long but heard that the VC would come back and claim their dead. We wanted to pull the pin on a hand grenade and put it under the dead VC but Sarge said that one of our own might come and move the VC and get hit. So we pulled the pin on a trip flare and put it under the dead VC. We set up an ambush all night around the dead VC but by the next morning no one showed up so we removed the trip flare.

On June 5, 1968 we were the blocking force for a sweep. The sweep was not suppose to start until dark so our squad was sitting in a dried up rice paddy leaning against a dike. We were having a smoke and waiting for darkness to fall. We heard people coming down a trail straight at us. They were speaking Vietnamese and we thought they better start speaking English or there is going to be trouble.

They got about 25 feet from us and came to a "T" in the trail. They went left right in front of us. We had swung out at about a 45 degree angle to the trail. The squad leader told us not to fire until he did and when he opened up we all fired. There was a big ball of fire where the three enemy personnel were walking.

When it was over the squad leader told us not to move until he went over and checked them out. Much to our surprise there was no one there. We started searching around and found one guy blown through the hedge row with about 13 holes in him. He was still crawling. The next day Co. B found the other guy. I don't know if they ever found the third guy.

Too Few Korean War Vets in ADVA?

By Gerald O'Meara

There are a paltry number of Korean War veterans who belong to the Americal Division Veterans Association. Seven such vets do not square with the number of men I served with while stationed with the 65th Inf. Regt. at Camp Losey and the Salinas Training Area in Puerto Rico in 1955 and 1956.

During that time an attempt was made by the Army to integrate soldiers born in the continental U.S. with indigenous Puerto Rican soldiers. It was rumored that the 65th had performed poorly in Korea and that the brass was determined to steel their reliability by integrating the unit with soldiers born in the United States. Known to the Puerto Ricans as Continentals, a number of U.S. born soldiers were assigned to line companies under Puerto Rican non-coms.

The integration was a one-sided affair and ill-fated from

its conception. Unaccustomed to Puerto Rican cuisine and unable to understand Spanish, the initial phase of this operation wrought a negative reaction from the Continentals. It seemed unlikely that this mixture would become a cohesive fighting force. It didn't and though alerted several times for possible military action, the toughest foe the unit battled was a hurricane.

I suggest that perhaps most of the Continentals who served in this unit don't want to remember their assignment with the 65th and this keeps them away from joining the ADVA. Anyway, I wish that some of the men I served with were members because friendships formed in the military remain treasured.

[Editor's note: Gerald O'Meara served with Hd. & Hd. Co., 1st Bn., 65th Inf. at Camp Losey, P.R. This was a unit of the 23rd Infantry Division during the Korean War troop build-up.]



I am a veteran of the Americal Division. I served in the 132 ND ASHC Chinook company (a.k.a. Hercules) from June of '69 to May of '70 as a crew member (door gunner). I am also a member of the ADVA and just received my last journal. I was disappointed not to see our unit's patch on the cover. I have attached a copy of it and maybe it can be used in a future issue.

Push to Re-activate 11th LIB

By Mark Callahan, C/3/1

What can be done to get the 11th Brigade re-activated? The 196th and the 198th are both active so why not the 11th? What happened at MyLai can't be the reason to hold up the activation of my former unit. It makes me sad that this has not already been done since so many gave their lives and souls for the 11th LIB in Vietnam.

The 3/1st Inf. has an annual reunion in October in Atlanta and I can get 100 signatures for a petition to the Army Chief of Staff if that would help things get going. Interested vets can contact me at Mcalla9289@aol.com.

ARTHUR R. WOOD SOUTH EAST REGION CHAPTER

AL GA FL TN VA NC SC

COMMANDER

Paul Stiff

Sec/Treasurer

Jerry Nichols



americal.org/reunion.shtml.

Reservations have been received at a steady pace and attendance is expected to be very good. There is much to do along the Atlantic Coast and we plan to take advantage of this prime location for many activities. If you wish you can plan your time to take in the sights or to just kick back with a few old buddies and relax at the pool or hospitality room.

If you wish further information on the reunion please contact Lee Kaywork, reunion chairman, at elkaywork@hotmail.com or by calling 904-225-8419.

FAR WEST CHAPTER

AZ CA CO HI NV NM UT

COMMANDER

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



The Far West Chapter would like to invite all those ADVA members living in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico or Utah to join us in the chapter. You've probably received an invitation from us with a chapter application enclosed. Take a moment to fill it out and send it in with your dues of \$10 per year. Then join us along

the Colorado River in Laughlin, Nevada this fall for our Annual Chapter Reunion. We're still talking to a couple of different hotel/casinos for the best deal. Whichever one we choose, it promises to afford a great time and accommodations.

We are in the middle of our annual recruitment drive. We send Chapter membership invitations to all those who have recently joined the ADVA, past members who have let their ADVA and/or chapter membership lapse and other veterans of the American Division who live in the area. Renewals are coming in at a steady pace. We are again looking at about a 95% renewal rate.

We'd like to welcome the 23rd Military Police Chapter to the ADVA. I know joining the ADVA as a chapter was a good move. Many of the members of the Far West Chapter who served with the 23rd MP Co have also joined the new chapter.

We'll see all of you in Jacksonville.

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



I hope this report finds everyone in the chapter healthy. Do not forget to vote when you receive your ballots. A few members are running for national office: Dave Taylor for Commander, Jay Flanagan & Dave Eichhorn for Vice Commander. Both are past commanders of our chapter and are deserving of the position. Also our treasurer Mark Deam & Bob Cudworth are running for executive committee.

Do not forget about our chapter's reunion in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. Mark will be sending out a communication with more information. The dates of the reunion are October 23rd to the 26th. Please pay your chapter dues which are \$3.00 a year or you can pay for a couple of years.

I will be in Jacksonville, Fl. from June 25th to the 29th for the national reunion. I hope I see a lot of Eastern Chapter members there. It should be an outstanding reunion. Please check the ADVA web site at www.americal.org for more information.

I just got back from a unit reunion in St. Louis, MO. It was big bad bravo of the 4/21st Infantry, 11th LIB, from 1968 to 1971. Nick Bacon, the Medal of Honor recipient was there because he was in Bravo Company. If you can get to a company reunion do so, because you get to see brothers you have not seen in 38 years. It is overwhelming. I have a few 4/21st Inf. reunion guests to sign up for ADVA membership.

If I do not see you in Florida to tell you in person I wish you a safe and healthy summer.

Welcome Home & thanks for your service

SOUTH MIDWEST CHAPTER

AR LA OK TX

COMMANDER

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

The 2009 ADVA national reunion will be held in Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana on June 25-29, 2009. The headquarters hotel will be Diamond Jacks Casino in Bossier City, LA.

Diamond Jacks offers over 500 guest rooms. Our rate will be \$99 per night plus tax. We will have plenty of meeting rooms provided to us at no cost for to the ADVA.

The headquarters hotel is just across the Red River from Shreveport. Several other casinos are within a ten minute free shuttle. We will also have a free shuttle to the Shreveport airport.

There is a huge Bass Pro Shop near our hotel and a new boardwalk with over 200 shops and restaurants is close by. These attractions are also accessible by the free hotel shuttle. We hope to set up a tour at Barksdale Air Force Base and get up close to an eight-engine B-52 Stratofortress bomber and the tactical support mainstay A-10 Warthog. Barksdale is also the home of a very fine Eighth Air Force museum complete with many vintage aircraft on static display.

We are real happy with this location and are excited about hosting the reunion. More information will be in the next issue of the American Journal. Watch for updates about the reunion at www.americal.org/reunion.shtml. Mark your calendars for a fun time at the 2009 ADVA annual reunion. See you there for some good ole Southern hospitality.

We will be needing help to organize and operate the reunion. Chapter members are encouraged to contact me at re196thlib@aol.com or 903-657-5790 to volunteer. You are invited to volunteer even if you are not a chapter member.

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
6613 Birch Park Dr.
Galloway, OH 43119
614 • 878 • 5197
packard50@columbus.rr.com



This Quarter brings us to the one-year mark as a chapter. We have accomplished some things that we can all be happy with. One of them is going over a hundred members, a 400% increase from where we started. This is not too shabby for a company size unit. We all share credit since you took the time to send us a check of your hard earned cash for dues and then helped get the word out about the new chapter.

As for taking it to the next step- think of how you can make this a stronger organization. One way would be to run for office in our chapter or even for the ADVA. If that does not fit the bill, how about getting those old images scanned and send to Mike Collingwood, our image historian, and getting your war time stories in to us? For memories and photos of reunions, send those to Bill Tucker. One of our main goals is to leave something of our history when we are gone. We now have the staff to help. The program is in its infancy and will get better as we get better.

Many of you have seen our web site, www.23mp.org, by now. This is where we will have chapter news and history in an organized way for you all to enjoy. It is meant to supplement our yahoo site that has been our home for so many years. Go on the yahoo site and post a message. It will almost always get a reply. We hope to see many old and new faces in Jacksonville.

Reunions

Co. A, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB will have a reunion on the third weekend in October 2008. The reunion will be held at the home of Allan Allen, 600 Rainbows End, Wimberley, TX 78676. For more information call 512 826 1531 or email alanallen198th@hughes.net.

Co. D, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB will have a reunion on October 3-5, 2008 at the Heartland Inn in Des Moines, IA. More information is available from Dan Behrens, 10314 150th St., What Cheer, IA, 50268, 641-634-2150, coalcreek@iowatelcom.net.

26th Combat Engineer Battalion will hold a reunion at West Point, NY on October 16-18, 2008. For more information please contact Robert Kasting; ffgris@verizon.net.

The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sacramento, CA will observe its 20th Anniversary on December 10, 2008. For more information contact Ken Holybee, California State Council VVA, at 707-887-8891.

Membership Survey

ADVA members are asked to complete a membership survey and return it as soon as possible. The survey contains questions about ADVA chapters and how they can be improved. There are also questions pertaining to national reunions. Several other topics of interest are explored. Please take time to offer your suggestions. Your time and consideration is appreciated.



2007 Scholarship Contributors

By Robert Short
Scholarship Chairman

I wish to extend thanks to all who contributed to the Americal Scholarship fund in 2007. I also urge you to return your raffle tickets very quickly in order to be in time for the drawing at the reunion. A listing of 2008 contributors will be available next year.

\$1000 OR MORE

Albert Cotta
John McNown
(in memory of John Moran &
Dennis "Dink" Thompson, A/1/20)
Bob & Kitty Millard

\$500-999

Peter Gallagher
Richard Merlin

\$100-499

Peter Messina
(in memory of Julia Messina)
John Mackey
ADVA
Galen Wanderscheid
Paul Snow
Stanley Elliott
George Young III
William Pierce
John Brewer
Ronald Krul
Raymond Fox
Michael Ebert
John Ewing
Michael Gould
Laurence See
Paul Grice
Joe Vilimek
Miller King
Carmen Santoro
Barton Berry
Wayne Johnston
Danny Giles
Earl Cook
Chris Bollis
Joseph Adelsberger
David Eichhorn
Lee Kaywork
Dutch DeGroot
Robert Liddell
James O'Boyle
Frank Marriott
Ann Magee
Wesley Haun
Charles Arcoletti
Charles Stirling
Jason Wright

Edward Den Braven
Michael Browning
Gerald Loughman
William Bruinsma
William Maddox
(in memory of Arthur Wood)
Jack Reid
Robert Dyson
Jack Rudder
Ann Herd
(in memory of Sgt. Ronald Herd,
Bravo Co., 4/21st Infantry, KIA, 8/5/70)
James Walton
Peter Chelemedos
John Hofer
Bob Yehle
Allen Hoe
Spencer Baba
Stephen Dant
Larry Watson
Gerard McDonald
James Lyons
Gerald Coffey
Eastern Regional Chapter
(in memory of Jack Warkow)
David Eichhorn

(in memory of Jack Warkow)
Jean Warkow
(in memory of Jack Warkow)
East Boston Savings Bank
(in memory of PNC Kenneth Turner)
Gail Bunch
(in honor of her father, James
Leonard Johnson, 182nd Inf., WWII)

\$50-99

Thomas Bedient
Claude Frazier
John Biliti
Terrance Siemer
Richard Timberlake
George Haertel
Phillip Carpenter
Victor Crowder
James Grubka
Verner Pike
Noah Halfacre
Andrew Adams
Wayne Bryant
Reese Jackson
Robert Kasting
Lawrence Grabowski
Leonard Angus
Marc Laxer
David Massich
Slater Davis
Russell Marceau
Kirk Forman
Ronald Ward
Michael Feltes
Gerald O'Connor
Gregory O'Neil
Kathleen Drowley
Robert Fulton
Paul Terry
Sheridan Kennedy
Conrad Steers

David Saxon
Kenneth Melesky
James Inzerillo
Michael Boise
Gerhart Mehner
John Sabolenko
John Gasper
John Murphy
Jay Flanagan
Leonard Graham
Roland Castronova
Gary Noller
Roger Gilmore
Edward Raymond
Bruce Usher
Clyde Murray
William Oberle
Morris Spadaccini
David Kral
Lawrence Andrzejewski
Carroll Staton
Lee Tucker
Spencer Wolfe
Arthur Hanley
Dale Wilson
John Brown
Maurice Henson
(in memory of Joe Feeler & Herb Holt,
WWII vets, and in honor of the men
of A Co., 26th Eng. Bn., 1st Platoon,
their platoon sgt., SFC Everett C.
Wettig, and the demo men of A Co.)
William Mahoney
Stanley Pijor
Dorothy Bukiri
Elmer Wright
Dan Smith
James Burch
Louise McGoldrick
(in memory of PNC William McGoldrick)
American VVA Vets
(collected at VVA National Convention)
The Pfeil Family
(in memory of PNC Kenneth Turner)
Frank Freeman

\$15-49

Raymond Berry
Dennis Orthmann
James Van Hoveln
Paul Guzie
Raymond Essenmacher
Bill Shugarts
Wayne Weber
James Brown
Richard Smethurst
Gerald Borysiak
David Mims
Edgar Goldenthal
Michael O'Dea
Douglas Herier
James Prince
Steven Reisdorff
Norman Robinson
Kenneth Krushas
Anthony Simmons
Charles La Flamme

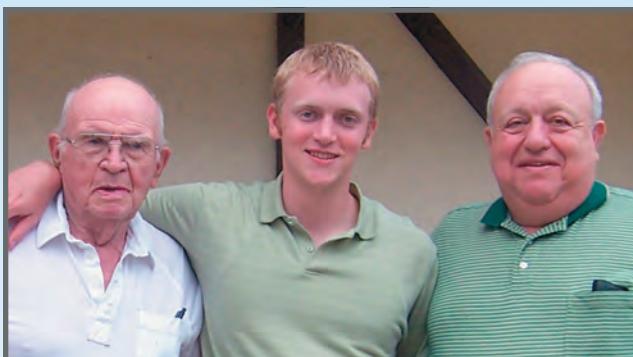
George Morris
William Elliott
Harold Hansen
Barlar Boothe
John Geib
Bruce Buehrig
Richard Smith
Eric Ecklund
Glenn Urie
Richard McLennan
Stephen Newland
H. J. Logsdon
Merrill Matson
Charles Swanson
Larry Henry
Frank Dulak
Lawrence Doucette
Larry Tait
James Highland
Ronald Waner
Robert Antuono
Stephen Lewis
Stephen Monroe
George Yates
Paul Blemings
Tom Schneider
Matthew McCauley
J. S. Logan
Irbe Hanson
Richard Totten
Salvatore Vinciuillo
Carlo Pola
Albert Labriola
John Frederick
Louis DesRochers
William Schott
Gary Roschevitz
Edward Bartz
E. L. Cashion
Robert Anderson
Ronald Green
John Grubbs
Corey Thompson
Benjamin Kelly
Timothy Vail
Ronald Soder
Daniel Holly
Thomas McAndrews
James Stringham
Dudley Farquhar
George Tuttle
Darrell Ordway
John Williams
William Dawson
Vern Pesek
James Martin
Vincent McMenamy
Jerry Ladd
Robert Magel
Herman Stephenson
Betty Davis
(in memory of Fred G. Davis)
Elbert Van Volkenburg
Garrett Hartman
Frank Magoni
Leslie Gorsuch
Walter Pudlowski
Lawrence Coldren

Paul Szalkowski	John Wills	Carl Richardson	Ernest Mitchell
Victor Lander	Larry Osborne	Edward O'Dea	William Loadholtes
Thomas Fields	James Franklin	Clint Zimlich	Ronald Hopper
John Fleck	Bernard Petronis	George Fitzpatrick	Matthew Swajkowski
Nancy Oliver	Robert Williams	John Crowhurst	Kenneth Bausinger
Roger Luckjohn	James Tassi	Marsha Piazza	Larry Finch
Donald Wood	Donald Berg	Lawrence Graham	Vern Fetch
John Wallace	Nicholas Shealy	Clyde Collins	Kenneth Meaney
Mark Deam	Rick Andel	Charles Struder	James D'Agostino
Gordon Williams	Thomas Conroy	William Lynch	Kenneth Harpe
Wesley Zanone	Esther Feeler	Floyd Nichols	Gene Bright
Nicholas Ostapchuk	Michael Lee	Warren Reed	Charles Schleyer
Zane Jacobs	Jesse Mendoza	Reinhold Schiessl	Joan Nardone
Howard Felter	Robert Elskamp	Everett Barraclough	Douglas Porter
Mitchell Przybycien	William Gerber	Lloyd Morrell	Victor Lopez
Ronald Copek	Richard Ropele	Robert Rudolph	Cameron Baird
Gerald Schleining	Thomas McGrath	Edward Kotrady	Timothy Koehler
George Robbins	Arthur Martinez	Bertha Kerner	Kevin Kavanagh
Elizabeth Pariseau	Gerald Widiker	James Stein	Thomas Packard
John Shea	Donald Stevens	Robert Amass	Emilio Weaver
Alton Coleman	Allan Forde	Laverne Dean	Edward Mahoney
Richard Carvell	Spencer Bumgardner	John MacLeod	William Woodside
Larry Dakken	Wendell Strode	John Wright	Joanne Stygles
Daniel Burbine	Ed Marsh	Thomas Ross	Alfred DeLong
Frederick Kroesen	Joseph Giordana	Randy Cline	John Desroche
Arthur Brown	James Jordan	Dennis Bush	Grant Finkbeiner
Victor Frysinger	Will Gray	Robert Kraft	Malcolm East
William Chisholm	Harold Gray	Stephen Maluk	Sam Mazzola
David Eckberg	Robert Gustitus	Robert Holt	Thomas McGreevy
Edward Voros	James Wark	Steve Fitts	Michael Kosteczko
Frederick Kolbrener	Kurt Hoffman	William Speer	Donald Boito
Robert Goff	Charles Wilke	Kenneth Gates	Steven Parten
Carole Fonseca	Roger Crocker	Bobby Wrenn	Omer Moynes
Samuel Pilkinton	Leonard Clapes	Vincent Ventorino	David Germain
George Eckhardt	James Gales	Stan Grimes	William Andresscavage
Dale Meisel	Harold Lutz	Leonard Chase	Carl Gold
William Laurie	John Medeiros	Gary McKnight	Charlie Kennerly
Arthur Maki	Robert Nadolski	John Nelson	Larry Barnes
Philip Bolte	James Gaffney	Robert Weatherly	Rey Mendoza
Bernard Frost	Eugene McGrory	Albert Simms	James Tessitore
James Thomas	Loyd Carr	Charles Alvarez	James Flynn
Bobby Preston	Larry Scull	Jack Masucci	Clifton Raymond
Bruce Sexton	Jean Rockowitz	Paul Cuddy	Robert Bischoff
Dan Vaughn	James Sheehan	William Hawkins	Margaret Sullivan
Gordon Aleshire	Joann Muehrcke	Edward Gekosky	Barbara Chin
Thomas Chellis	Joseph Buss	Raymond Wahl	(in memory of Joseph B. Chin and
Robert Miller	Donald Ballou	Walter Keely	Bernard G. Carroll)
Walter Witt	Kenneth Churchill	Bowles Dean	Ernest Huerta
Peter Schultes	Jack Vanderbeck	William Carlson	Dennis Orthmann
Timothy Cook	Robert Moffatt	John Jurica	Thomas Morris
Robert Howell	Ronald Shook	Lars Larson	Bill Marshall
Lorena Clark	Joseph McCourt	John Howlett	Michael Ross
Fred Keihn	Anthony Galgano	Harold Cooper	Esther Blecha
Robert Rutledge	James Vitale	Dennis Matthews	William Tomlinson
James Milano	Joseph Pflanz	Jan Snedecor	David Chrystal
Douglas George	A. J. Romeo	Donald Bell	Benjamin Rosalez
Terry Sanese	Herbert Page	John Sprague	James Craig
Raymond Fawkes	Roger Ross	David Orndorff	Richard Smith
William Ware	Ron Gardy	Roger Defresne	Donald Foster
Lloyd Ramsey	William Castille	Marolyn Beschle	Ricardo Castillo
Dennis Powell	Norman Gottlieb	Paul Reitchel	Bruce Monaco
Ernest Cathers	Thomas Vescio	Benjamin Tanish	John Gaines
Stanley Ciekawy	John Head	Hugh Williams	David Hammond
Ed Loeb	Richard Hill	Donald Alsbro	Tom Glen
Richard Shannon	Roland Mantovani	Malcolm Cate	Gary Spartos
Dan George	James Occipinto	Max Hartwick	Ethel Thornton
John Dure	Wilbur Henley	John Connors	(in memory of PNC Kenneth Turner)
Jesse Helmes	J. R. Horton	Peter Yablonski	Paul Reitchel



Thank you for the scholarship award. The photo shows me standing between my grandmother and grandfather, Maria and Rudolfo Alaniz.

Scholar: *Tomy Gertsch*
School: Gonzaga University
Sponsor: *Rudy Alaniz*, grandfather;
1/46th Infantry



I want to thank the Americal scholarship program for the generous award to attend Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Being chosen for this honor means a great deal to me because of the respect I have for the Americal's accomplishments and commitment to America's freedoms. The photo shows me between my grandfather, Burdette Burch, who fought with the Americal during World War II; and with my father, James Burch, who fought with the Americal during Vietnam. Both were awarded Purple Hearts.

Scholar: *Matthew J. Burch*
School: Coe College
Sponsor: *James Burch*, father;
26th Cmbt. Engr. Bn.



Thank you for the award of a \$1500 scholarship for the 2007 school year. This will go a long way in helping with my education costs. I hope to help continue to spread knowledge about the Americal Division and its place in American history to this generation.

Scholar: *Patrick Bright*
School: Bemidji State University
Sponsor: *Gene Bright*, father;
1/6th Infantry

Thank you very much for the generous scholarship you have awarded me. My grandfather would be beaming with pride as he valued education above many other aspects of life. I am extremely grateful to be attending Bates College and to have the opportunity to reach new heights. Thank you for all of your kindness.

Scholar: *Alexandra Stevenson*
School: Bates College
Sponsor: *Arthur Little, Jr. (RIP)*, grandfather;
101st QM Regt.

The Americal Scholarship Fund made its first award in 1993- a single award of \$500. As of 2007 the fund has made 181 awards totaling \$189,500. Thirty-four recipients shared the amount of \$42,000 in 2007. The largest single award to a scholar has been \$3,000.

The annual raffle is the largest source of revenue for the scholarship fund. The fund also receives donations in memory of departed Americal veterans, ADVA members, and their families. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Complete information on the scholarship program may be obtained by contacting Mr. Robert G. Short, Scholarship Chairman. Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.americal.org/scholar.shtml>

Benefits for Older Veterans and Dependents

By Larry Watson, National Commander

When we talk about any veteran's benefit the first step is proof of veteran status. An original or certified military discharge is needed to prove that you are a veteran. The form is usually called a DD-214, however, prior to 1950 it was simply called a "Report of Separation". The DD-214 typically indicates the character of service, the length of service, overseas duty, awards and decorations, etc.

Every county in the state of Ohio has a Veterans Service Commission and each has at least one County Veterans Service Officer accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs and certified by the Ohio Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs. These county agencies can assist you in acquiring a certified copy of your military discharge. Your County Veterans Service Commission can offer a number of other services, also. We provide veterans and dependents of veterans with assistance for VA claims and claims for any other federal, state or local benefits.

Other common services provided by County Veterans Service Commissions are emergency financial assistance and free transportation to and from VA medical facilities. Services and policies may vary from county to county and you will need to check with the Veterans Service Commission in your county for specific services provided. In Wayne County we have some free medical equipment available to veterans or dependents, such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, etc. In 2005, forty two pieces of medical equipment were issued to senior veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs service of most interest to older veterans is the VA Healthcare System. In 2005 our office enrolled 168 veterans, 118 were senior veterans. We provided transportation to 2,530 veterans and 2,150 of these were older veterans.

Every veteran, and particularly older veterans, should enroll in the VA Healthcare System and visit a VA physician at least once. Enrollment in the VA Healthcare System can be accomplished easily by visiting your Veterans Service Commission or a VA Clinic. The form is a simple three page form that asks some specifics regarding income. Based on the information on the form you will be placed in one of eight priority groups. Your priority group will determine if you pay for medications, pay for doctors visits, if you are able to receive eye glasses or hearing aids at VA expense, etc.

The spouse of a veteran cannot normally get VA Healthcare. There are two exceptions, the spouse is a veteran also, or if the veteran is rated as 100% service connected disabled. Members of certain priority groups can have nursing care at VA expense.

Why is it important to be enrolled and be examined by a VA Healthcare provider at a medical center or outpatient clinic at least once? The VA Healthcare System has a home-

based care system of nurses and social workers. If you are disabled to the point you are confined to your home, the VA nurses can visit you and see that you get the medications, equipment and treatment you need. The key to this is you must be seen at a VA Healthcare medical center or outpatient clinic at least once before the home-based care people can become involved. Contact your nearest VA clinic or medical center for details.

There is so much more to the VA Healthcare System than space allows. You may be able to receive eyeglasses or hearing aids at no cost. Call your Veterans Service Office or nearest VA Healthcare facility for details.

The State of Ohio operates two Ohio Veterans Homes, one in Sandusky and the other in Georgetown. These nursing homes are limited to war era veterans. There are nursing facilities for those in need of skilled nursing care, including Alzheimer's units, and Independent Living units for veterans that just need assisted living. The application process requires a physical and the waiting list can be long on occasion. This is particularly true for those in need of skilled nursing.

If you are a veteran of World War II, the Korean War or the war in Vietnam and you left high school prior to graduation to enlist in a branch of the military or if you left school prior to graduation due to family reasons and subsequently entered the military you may receive your high school diploma. Family members of deceased veterans may also apply and receive the deceased veteran's diploma posthumously. To qualify the veteran must be a resident of Ohio or was previously enrolled in any high school in the state.

Other things for you as a veteran to consider are updating the beneficiary on your VA life insurance policy, burial in a VA cemetery (no charge for the plot, marker or vault), VA Disability Pension or Compensation.

Details and explanation of these benefits are available by calling the county veterans service office in your area. You will find it listed under the county government offices in your phone book.

Editor's note: Larry Watson is a County Veterans Service Officer for Wayne County, Ohio. Counties in other states may also have veterans service officers to help you obtain benefits.

One Last Campaign for the Old Guard!



MUSEUM

dwtaylor@ohio.net

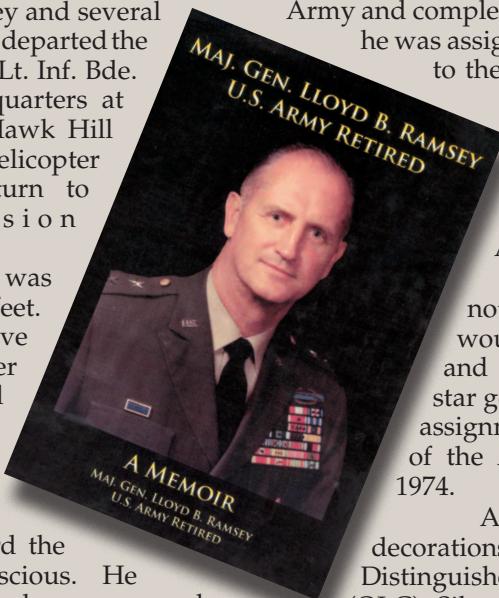
A Memoir Maj. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey U.S. Army Retired

Book Review by Gary L. Noller



As commanding general of the American Division, MG Lloyd B. Ramsey spent much of his time in the field visiting troops and subordinate commanders. One such mission nearly ended his life and did cut short his illustrious military career.

On March 17, 1970 Ramsey and several others departed the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. Headquarters at FSB Hawk Hill by helicopter to return to division



headquarters in Chu Lai. The sky was overcast and the ceiling was at 1,500 feet. The helicopter was directed to fly above the clouds and proceed to a point over the South China Sea and then descend below the clouds. But when the chopper descended it was not over the water. It crashed into the dense jungle on the side of a steep hill.

The crash killed two people aboard the helicopter and knocked Ramsey unconscious. He had five crushed vertebrae in his back and severe enough injuries to his arm and doctors later considered amputating it. Rescue operations were launched immediately but Ramsey was considered missing in action for 18 hours. He and the others were finally rescued early the next day. Among those working on the rescue was LTC Norman H. Schwarzkopf, commander of the 1/6th Infantry, and brave pilots of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company "Rattlers" and Jolly Green rescue aircraft.

This story is just one of the many accounts that MG Ramsey details in his autobiography titled *A Memoir*. Ramsey gives a chronological story of his life from his early childhood in Somerset, KY to his college days at the University of Kentucky and his early Army days during World War II. No matter what Ramsey did, he did it to the best of his ability and earned many top honors.

Ramsey attended ROTC at the University of Kentucky and was commissioned as a Regular Army officer in 1940. The United States was on the verge of entering World War II but little did Ramsey know of the role he would play. He served for several months in 1943 as the American Aide-de-Camp



to the British General H. R. L. G. Alexander. In this position Ramsey met many of the top American and British commanders to include Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton, and Montgomery.

He also had the honor to meet Winston Churchill.

Ramsey performed well in his assigned staff duties but he asked to be reassigned to a fighting unit. He was soon in the thick of battle with the Third Infantry Division at Anzio, Italy. Ramsey proved himself once again and on June 19, 1944 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and given the command of an infantry battalion.

After World War II Ramsey held numerous positions in the Army and completed various leadership schools. In 1960 he was assigned as the Senior Army Liaison Officer to the United States Senate. In this post he met many influential politicians and five men who were past, present, or future U.S. presidents. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1964 and assumed command of the American Division on June 1, 1969.

It is very likely that had MG Ramsey not been injured in 1970 in Vietnam he would have continued his Army career and eventually rising to the rank of four-star general. But this was not to be. His last assignment was the Provost Marshal General of the Army. He was medically retired in 1974.

Among Ramsey's many awards and decorations are the Combat Infantryman Badge, Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Silver Star with two OLCs, Legion of Merit with OLC, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with V device and with three OLCs, Purple Heart with four OLCs, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Ramsey's family includes three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was greatly saddened by the loss of his dear wife Glenda in 2000. She was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Ramsey has been active with the Third Infantry Division Association and is a member of the American Division Veterans Association. He has been a guest speaker at two ADVA annual reunion events. He will be 90 years old on May 29, 2008.

A Memoir was published in 2006 and can be purchased for \$25 plus \$3 postage by writing to The Clinton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 177, Albany, KY, 42602, or by calling 606-387-6021. The book not only gives an account of the life of Lloyd Ramsey but also tells much about life in the Army and the many significant events in society during Ramsey's life.

[Editor's note: Photos with this review were taken from the book. Permission for reproduction was received.]

CW4 Mike Silva Still Serving

By Gary L. Noller



In 1969 Mike Silva was a senior ready to graduate from Cathedral High School in Denver, CO. He saw a magazine advertisement that beckoned high school graduates to enlist in the Army and train to be helicopter pilots. He wanted to be an aviator and realized that this would be a fast way to achieve his dream. So he joined the Army and was soon training to be a helicopter pilot.

At the end of his training Silva was sent to Vietnam and was assigned to the "Blue Ghosts" of F Troop, 8th Cavalry, Americal Division.

Former Lieutenant Dan Mack of the 1/46th Infantry remembers Silva as bringing one of the first choppers to FSB Mary Ann after the horrific NVA sapper attack on March 28, 1971.

At the end of his active duty obligation Silva returned home to Colorado and subsequently joined the Colorado Army National Guard. CW4 Silva retired after 19 years with Guard in 1993. Among the awards and decorations he received are the Distinguished Flying Cross, twenty-eight Air Medals, and the Bronze Star for Valor. In 1988 he received the prestigious "Valley Forge Cross" which was awarded at the U.S. National Guard Association Convention.

Along the way Silva earned two college degrees from Metropolitan State College in Denver, CO. In 1979 he received a degree in Law Enforcement/Aviation Management and in 1989 he earned a degree in Meteorology/Broadcasting.

Silva spent several years as a law enforcement officer. In 1983 he hired on as a helicopter pilot for CBS television channel 4 in Denver where he did traffic, weather, and news reporting. He has received several Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Science for his news reporting achievements.

In 1991 Silva volunteered to go to Operation Desert Storm but was turned down by the Army. But the attacks on the United States in September 11, 2001 renewed his interest in serving his country again. He went back to the military



and pleaded his case to return to flying helicopters. In 2007, at the age of 57 years, he passed the necessary physical and medical tests and was sent to Ft. Sill, OK to train for deployment to Iraq. He arrived "in-country" in September 2007 for a tour expected to last at least a year.

Silva is the pilot of a medical evacuation helicopter flying in the combat zone in Iraq. In early in 2008 he wrote the following about his service and what it means to him to be back in uniform during a time of war: "If I can inspire the young soldier, if I can bring some sense of composure and balance to the intensity of this situation here in Iraq, I feel I have accomplished something of value.

"I am also carrying the torch for all fellow Vietnam veterans who share the same sense of duty, honor and country but

can not be here because of age, health and condition. I would love all to know that as an Army aviator we remain "Above the Best" (Army Aviation Motto). As an Army aviator we are here because of the boots on the ground. The boots on the ground are not here because of us.

"I remain proud of the fact that I was and remain a member of the

Americal, the Army Division with such General Officers as Powell and Schwarzkopf. Since my time at Ft. Sill for mobilization through my time here I am always approached by young and the not so young soldiers asking about the Americal patch. When I tell the story they are awe struck. What can I say?"

Silva is a native of Trinidad, CO and is married to Susie Ayers. They have three children: Mike Jr., age 23, Steven Thomas, age 21, Cassandra Flora (Casse), age 20. He has been recommended for promotion to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5).

In his spare time Silva keeps in shape by participating in competitive bicycling. His employment as a helicopter pilot and his hobby of bicycling has obviously kept him in good shape for his current responsibilities in the war zone. The "boots on the ground" can certainly appreciate the dedication and professionalism that Silva brings to their service.

CW4 Silva can be contacted at the following address: Mike Silva; C Co. 2/238th GSAB; APO AE 09331. May he and all his fellow soldiers return home quickly and safely.

To Keep the Faith

By Gary L. Noller



Photo by Victor Lander

Years ago grade school students were required to memorize the words of the poem In Flanders Fields. But most likely it was difficult for them to understand the meaning of a poem written in 1915 and dedicated to Canadian soldiers killed in Belgium and France during WWI. But the poem's meaning is clear to those who have fought on battle-scarred ground and witnessed the death of their friends.

Lt. Col. John McCrae was a Canadian doctor who served on the battlefields in Belgium. He saw soldiers of many nationalities die in the horrific battles of the Western Front. At the conclusion of one such battle he officiated at the field funeral and burial of a close friend. Upon visiting the cemetery the next day, he penned his famous poem.

In Flanders Fields
By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army

IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Not all soldiers who witness the deaths of buddies on the battlefield write poems to vent their emotions. But it is common for combatants to pause and remember the fallen while still on the field of battle. After the smoke clears and the casualties are provided with care the thoughts of the survivors turn to those who did not make it.



Lt Victor Lander, 1942

Victor Lander was working as a machinist for International Harvester Co. in Chicago in early 1941. A couple of his friends belonged to the 132nd Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard and suggested that he join the unit. Lander knew that he would serve in the military sometime in the future so he decided to join.

"I thought this was a heck of an idea because I wanted to get it over with and I did not want to be with people I did not know," he recalls.

Once World War II was declared Lander found himself in New Caledonia preparing for war. There was a shortage of officers and Lander was requested to go to officers' training school at Camp Stevens in Noumea. "They did not have enough officers to fill the ranks," he states. He successfully completed training and was commissioned as a lieutenant. Due to his previous experience as a machinist he was assigned as the Motor Officer in the 57th Combat Engineer Battalion.

In 1942 the Americal Division participated in the first combat action against the Japanese on the island of Guadalcanal. One of the chief missions of the 57th Engineers was to build roads and other items of infrastructure for the advancing American troops. Palm tree trunks covered with dirt formed quickly constructed roads and bridges. "Sometimes we were out in front of everyone planning on how to get roads in for the ambulances to remove the wounded," Lander recalls.

The enemy fought long and hard to maintain their vital position in the region. Americal troops faced minefields, snipers, artillery bombardment, and infantry charges. The battles on the beaches, in the jungles, and atop mountains were fierce. But in the end the Americans and their allies proved victorious. Lander says, "For the first time the Japanese were stopped."

But the fighting on Guadalcanal came with great cost to the soldiers of the Americal Division. The unit suffered 513 killed in action, 902 wounded in action, and four missing in action.¹ This was the greatest number of Americal Division soldiers killed in any of the four named campaigns of the war. "One of the members of the 57th Engineers made crosses for the graves at the cemetery," says Lander. "He made the crosses and painted the names on them."

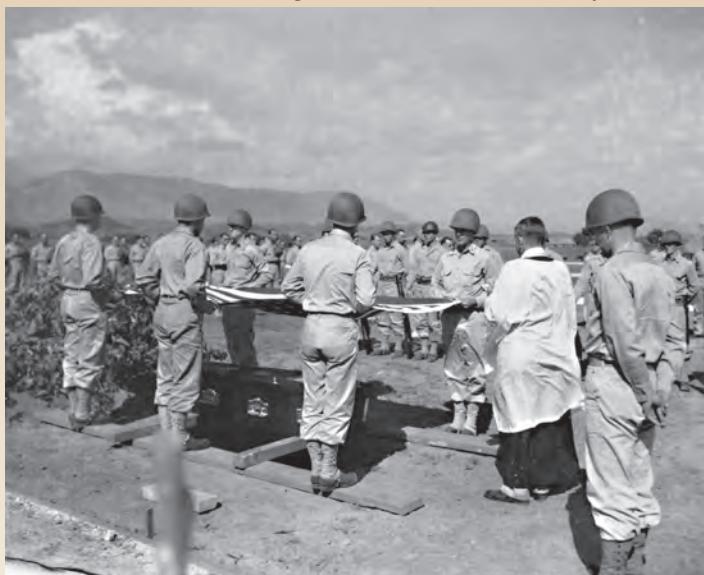
One day Lander and a friend named Isaacson decided to visit the cemetery on Guadalcanal and pay their respects to the dead. "I asked someone where the cemetery was and they gave me directions," he says. Lander still has the photo



Isaacson took of him saluting beside the grave of a fallen soldier of the 25th Infantry Division.

After the fighting on Guadalcanal was over the men of the Americal Division prepared to move to Fiji to recover their strength. "I didn't know anyone on Guadalcanal that did not come down with malaria," says Lander. But before the now battle hardened veterans of the Americal left Guadalcanal they paused on the field of battle to remember the fallen.

"About 200 soldiers gathered for the ceremony," recalls



Lander. "I believe a Protestant minister was in charge. Someone gave a speech about the boys who laid down their lives and the hope that the war would soon be over. We said the Lord's Prayer and sang a hymn from a song sheet that had been handed out."

Lander considers himself lucky to come out of the war in relatively good shape. While in officer training he shared a tent with three other officer candidates. "I am the only one of the four who was not a casualty," he says. "I came out Scott free. Fred Kucera and Arthur Lazazzero were killed, Tom Lynch was wounded. I went all through training with Kucera. He was killed about two and a half months after we arrived on Guadalcanal."

After the war was over Lander left active duty but stayed in the Army Reserves. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He attended many ADVA reunions over time but has not

been to one in recent years. At age 94 he has an excellent memory and is eager to share the history of the Americal Division. "I was part of it," he says.

Over the years Lander has kept the faith with his fallen comrades. As McCrae says in his famous poem, "...If ye break faith with us who die..We shall not sleep.." Lander kept faith by serving in the military years after World War II was won. Lander also keeps faith with his buddies. He honored them and their service on the battlefield- and he continues to honor them today. May they rest in Peace.



Footnote

1. *Under the Southern Cross (Cronin, 1951)*

You Earned it!! Why not be part of the elite;
Join the organization for Combat Infantrymen

Membership requirements: The applicant must have been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge as certified to by official notation on the applicant's DD-214, Official Army Orders, or other official documents. Applicant must attach a copy of such documentation to this Enlistment (Membership) Application. Dues are \$25.00 annually. Life membership dues are age dependent. For more information and membership application

Please visit our

website at www.cibassoc.com

or contact:

Frank Foronda

National Membership Officer

176 Brown Maultsby Rd

Whiteville, NC 28472

Phone: 910-642-8519

E-mail: sgmforonda@embarqmail.com



Photo by Victor Lander

Dedicated to Those Who Gave All

By Gary L. Noller

World War II is second only to the U.S. Civil War in number of combatants killed in action. Over 400,000 U.S. military members lost their lives in the world conflict. Of this number, 1,448 belonged to the Americal Division and died while fighting in the South Pacific. In addition, twenty-six more Americal members were listed as missing-in-action.

Not all Americal Division dead were brought home for burial. Several hundred are interred at the Manila American Cemetery in Manila, Philippines and at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Manila cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monument Commission (ABMC) while the cemetery in Hawaii is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The American Battle Monument Commission operates 24 American cemeteries on foreign soil. Most are located in France, Belgium, and England. The cemeteries provide the final resting place for more than 93,000 World War II dead. They are also used for the dead of World War I and the Mexican War. The Manila cemetery is on the grounds of the former Fort William McKinley and was formally dedicated on December 8, 1960.

The American Manila Cemetery is the only ABMC cemetery in the Pacific area and it is the largest of all such cemeteries. It occupies 152 acres and has 17,202 graves. The cemetery also features a white masonry chapel and a memorial. On the grounds are twenty-five mosaic maps that recall the achievements of the American forces in the Pacific, China, India, and Burma. The Tablets of the Missing list the names of 36,285 service members whose remains were not located by the end of the war.

Actions of the Americal Division in 1942-43 are depicted on one of the mosaic maps. It reads in part, "THE TENACIOUS OPPOSITION OF THE JAPANESE MADE IT NECESSARY TO REINFORCE OUR LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES HEAVILY. THE ARMY'S 25TH AND AMERICAL DIVISIONS, AS WELL AS THE 2ND MARINE DIVISION, NOW RELIEVED THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION. ON 17 DECEMBER THESE DIVISIONS LAUNCHED A DETERMINED ATTACK AGAINST THE JAPANESE POSITION ON MOUNT AUSTEN WHICH THEY CAPTURED A WEEK LATER. ON 10 JANUARY THE ATTACK WAS RESUMED AND AFTER HARD FIGHTING THE STRONGLY DEFENDED JAPANESE POSITIONS FARTHER TO THE WEST WERE SEIZED."

One can be easily overwhelmed by the solemn ground that holds our war dead. It is a sight of uniformity and repetition and at the same time it is a sight of thousands of unique stories. On one hand the vista reveals a mass of thousands of identical memorial markers that locate the graves of the dead. Yet each marker is different. It bears the name, rank, unit, and home state of a single dead patriot. The singular and aggregate meaning of this hallowed ground cannot be denied.

The Americal soldiers who gave their all in the service of their country will always be remembered by a grateful nation. This necessary dedication to their service is aptly regarded at the Manila American Cemetery. In this special place their final stories will be told and they will not be forgotten.





Editor's note: The American Journal wishes to thank Mr. Ryan Bach for his excellent photographs of the Manila American Cemetery and of the grave markers of American soldiers. Additional photographs taken by Mr. Bach can be seen on the internet at <http://gallery.mac.com/flyguam#100062>.

The Manila American Cemetery is kept in immaculate condition at all times and is open to the public on all days except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. More information on all American Battle Monument Cemeteries can be found on the internet at <http://www.abmc.gov/home.php>.

Medal of Honor Completes Circle of Life

by David W. Taylor



Woodrow Wilson Keeble was a born warrior (a full-blooded Sioux Indian) and his combat buddies knew it, both in WWII and in Korea. Keeble was baptized in combat with Co. I, 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division on Guadalcanal.

James Fenelon, a Standing Rock Sioux, fought shoulder-to-shoulder with Keeble at Guadalcanal and said, "The safest place to be was right next to Woody. I don't know how many rounds he carried, but he had bandoliers on each shoulder. His gun just never stopped – no matter where you were there were Japanese. He was unbelievable".

Keeble would ultimately become North Dakota's most decorated soldier but his experience with the Americal on Guadalcanal was seared in his soul. He would later reflect about combat on Guadalcanal: "Before I experienced the horror ... I was quick to call coward or yellow anyone who showed fear under any circumstances. Nevermore! I don't know these things, but they speak truth to one ... the depth of emotion, the dreads of fear, the referees of horrors, and the concentration of self that led me to make this observation: the fear impulse or perhaps better said, the impulses caused by fear, are stronger, more demanding than either that of love or hunger..."

"Fear in my opinion is a state of drunkenness," he wrote. "And when men are in that state when the fear impulses take hold... he loses all reason, sense of values, and is not liable, or at least should not be held accountable for acts perpetrated when thus possessed. During the 13 months," Keeble continued, "in the almost continual and sustained

combat (Guadalcanal) in which I have ever participated, there were moments, and rare ones ... for which fear laid a relentless and a powerful hold on me, that the pull of cowardice was almost more than I could ward off. There were terrible moments that encompassed a lifetime, an endlessness when terror was so strong in me, that I could feel idiocy replace reason. Yet I have never left my position, nor have I shirked hazardous duty. Fear did not make a coward out of me."

When the Korean War erupted, Keeble volunteered for active duty with the 164th Regiment when it was activated. He then volunteered for Korea when the 164th was given a training mission. He told a friend, "Someone has to teach those kids how to fight." He was thrown into the fire of combat in the vicinity of Kumsong in North Korea, with Company G, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, seeing almost daily combat from September to November 1951. Keeble was wounded numerous times but refused to be evacuated while his men were under fire. His actions earned him the Bronze Star for valor (November 24th), Silver Star (October 18) and the Distinguished Service Cross (October 20).

Merry Helm, a writer and researcher for a Prairie Public Radio program, Dakota Datebook, succinctly tells Keeble's story: "Operation Nomad, the last major allied offensive of the war, began on October 13, 1951. It was the last in a long string of bloody bloodletting battles designed to toughen up all the green GIs who were being brought in as replacements. Prior battles included the Iron Triangle, Heartbreak Ridge, Old Baldy, Punch Bowl and a few others. Operation Nomad, for some reason, is seldom mentioned on history books, but it was brutal and ugly."

Keeble's Company G of the 19th regiment was brought out of reserve on October 15th, a very bad day. Within the following days, almost all the officers were either killed or wounded and evacuated, and one is said to have bugged out. M/Sgt Keeble was a BAR man who had earned the trust of his men because he took each and every new guy under his wing for at least 2 days – teaching them and counseling them. By the 18th he and several other M/Sgts were the highest ranking men left, and everyone urged Keeble – and he volunteered – to take over as the company commander.

Meanwhile the first battalion was nearly destroyed. Fox Company of the 2nd Battalion was decimated. In fact, if you look at the overall lists of seriously wounded or evacuated, you can find almost every name from G (George) Company is there.

To boil it down, Keeble was wounded in action (WIA) on the 15th, returned to duty (RTD) the 16th, WIA on the 17th, RTD on the 18th. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on the 18th and remember, this is round-the-clock fighting, no letup, on steep, rocky, splintery mountainsides, with the Chinese deeply entrenched above them. On the 20th, the entire company went after Hill 675-770 and immediately got pinned down. G Co 1st platoon (Keebles) led off, got in trouble and the 2nd platoon came through. 3rd and 4th platoons were pinned down as well. There was a knoll (675) preceding Hill 770 that had three machine gun bunkers triangulating, backed by two short trenches of Chinese riflemen.

The 2nd platoon assaulted this knoll and was immediately repulsed. The 1st platoon, now in support was back a ways. Keeble crawled from the 1st platoon to the 2nd, took a hard look at the situation and then struck out on his own. M/Sgt

Frank Plata (3rd platoon) says somebody told him, 'Keeble's going up alone.' Plata replied, 'Either he's the bravest soldier I ever met or he's nuts!'

It took Keeble several hours, but he took out all three bunkers – two with grenades, the third with rifle – and then took out the riflemen in the trenches. One of the men I've tracked down and interviewed said that when they joined Keeble at the top, the tip of a bullet that went through his chest was protruding from his ammo belt in back. He'd also been hit with mortar fire and concussion grenades, his knee was torn apart and more. But he refused to be evacuated until he was sure the hill was secure and the enemy broke.

Sergeant Sagami wrote later that under normal circumstances Keebles wounds would have gotten him shipped out ... but he was put back on the line within a week (editors note...at this time strength of the line units was so low that clerks, cooks and drivers were sent from the regimental headquarters to the front). Sagami said Keeble could hardly walk, his wounds were bleeding through the bandages, and he had trouble holding up his gun."

For his actions on October 20th Keeble was nominated for the Medal of Honor and received the interim award of the Distinguished Service Cross. Keeble's paperwork however, was lost, and eventually it was resubmitted, but that too was lost. The postwar years were tough on Woodrow "Woody" Keeble because of his severe wounds. He spent a great deal of time in the VA Hospital because of his wounds and in later years suffered from an arrested case of Tuberculosis. He had numerous strokes and by 1969 his right arm was paralyzed and he could utter only a few words. He had done youth work at his local Episcopal Church and was known for his letter and poet writing ability until his health deteriorated. He friends remembered "he had a good soldier's distaste for war and he philosophized about it." Woodrow Wilson Keeble died in 1982.

With the dedication of people like Merry Helm, members of the 164th Infantry Association and others, a concerted effort was made to right the wrong of bumbled paperwork and see that Keeble receive his Medal of Honor. That came to fruition on March 3, 2008 when President Bush, in a White House ceremony, awarded him the Medal of Honor in front of Keeble's few surviving relatives and friends. In the ceremony the President remarked, "It's taken nearly 60 years for Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble to be awarded the medal he earned on the battlefield in Korea. His nominating paperwork was lost, and then it was resubmitted, and then it was lost again. then the deadline passed, and Woody and his family were told it was too late. Some blamed the bureaucracy for a shameful blunder. Others suspected racism: Woody was a full-blooded Sioux Indian. Whatever the reason, the first Sioux to ever receive the Medal of Honor died without knowing it was his. A terrible injustice was done to a good man, to his family, and to history. And today we're going to try to set things right."

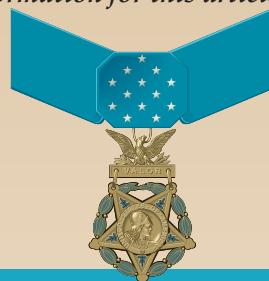
The president continued, "To his last days, he was a devoted veteran. He proudly wore his uniform at local events and parades. Sometimes folks who loved him would see that uniform and ask about his missing medal. They felt he was cheated, yet Woody never complained. See, he believed America was the greatest nation on earth, even when it made mistakes. And there was never a single day he wasn't proud to have served our country.

"Woody suffered his eighth – and final – stroke in 1982. His

son, Russell, took him to the hospital and prayed it wasn't the end. But Woody knew, and he wasn't afraid. Woodrow Wilson Keeble died in graceful anonymity, unknown except to the fortunate souls who loved him, and those who learned from him. Russell put it this way: 'Woody met death with a smile. He taught me how to live, and he taught me how to die.'

President Bush explained, "At the request of the Keeble family and in accordance with the Sioux tradition, two empty chairs have been placed on this stage to represent Woody and Blossom (his deceased wife) and to acknowledge their passing into the spiritual world. The Sioux have a saying: 'The life of a man is in a circle.' Well, today we complete Woody Keeble's circle – from an example to his men to an example for the ages."

Grateful acknowledgement is given to the Editor, 164th Infantry News, LTC (Ret) Shirley J. Olgeirson, for providing background information for this article.



THE PRESIDENT of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty: in action with an armed enemy near Sangsan-ni, Korea on 20 October 1951. On that day, Master Sergeant Keeble was an acting platoon leader for the support platoon in Company G, 19th Infantry, in the attack on Hill 675, a steep and rugged position that was well defended by the enemy. Leading the support platoon, Master Sergeant Keeble saw that the attacking elements had become pinned down on the slope by heavy enemy fire from three well-fortified and strategically placed enemy positions. With complete regard for his personal safety, Master Sergeant Keeble dashed forward and joined the pinned-down platoon. Then, hugging the ground, Master Sergeant Keeble crawled forward alone until he was in close proximity to one of the hostile machine-gun emplacements. Ignoring the heavy fire that the crew trained on him, Master Sergeant Keeble activated a grenade and threw it with great accuracy, successfully destroying the position. Continuing his one man assault, he moved to the second enemy position and destroyed it with another grenade. Despite the fact that the enemy troops were now directing their firepower against him and unleashing a shower of grenades in a frantic attempt to stop his advance, he moved forward against the third hostile emplacement, and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position. As his comrades moved forward to join him, Master Sergeant Keeble continued to direct accurate fire against nearby trenches, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Inspired by his courage, Company G successfully moved forward and seized its important objective. The extraordinary courage, selfless service, and devotion to duty displayed that day by Master Sergeant Keeble was an inspiration to all around him and reflected great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Keeble Honored by President, Pentagon and His Tribe

The President speaking at the White House ceremony, "...to his last days he was a devoted veteran."

General Richard A. Cody, Army Vice Chief of Staff, talks about MSG Keeble's life and service during the Hall of Heroes induction of Keeble at the Pentagon, the day following the White House ceremony.

As part of the Sioux tradition, chairs with Keeble's uniform and his wife's shawl (Dr. Blossom Hawkins-Keeble), were present during White House ceremony. MSG Keeble died in 1982 and his wife Blossom died in 2007.

An Army officer reads the Medal of Honor citation on the grounds of the White House, after the ceremony, during a press conference. At left is Kurt Bluedog, Keeble's grand-nephew and center is Russell Hawkins, Keeble's stepson.

164th Regiment America vet James Fenelon speaks at the Sioux tribe "Akicita" ceremony March 22, 2008 at the Dakota Magic Convention Center held to honor Keeble by the Sioux Nation. To his left is an eagle staff with thirteen feathers to represent the 13 wounds Keeble sustained in battle in WWII and Korea. To the right of Fenelon is Bernie Wagner (LTC-Ret), 164th Regiment Association President whose organization pushed for the recognition finally given to MSG Keeble. Both Fenelon and Wagner served with Keeble in WWII.

Grateful appreciation is given to Carrie McLeroy, Soldiers Media Center, Soldiers Magazine / Army News Service for the White House and Pentagon; and Shirley J. Olgeirson for the "Akicita Ceremony" photo.



War's End and Love's Beginning

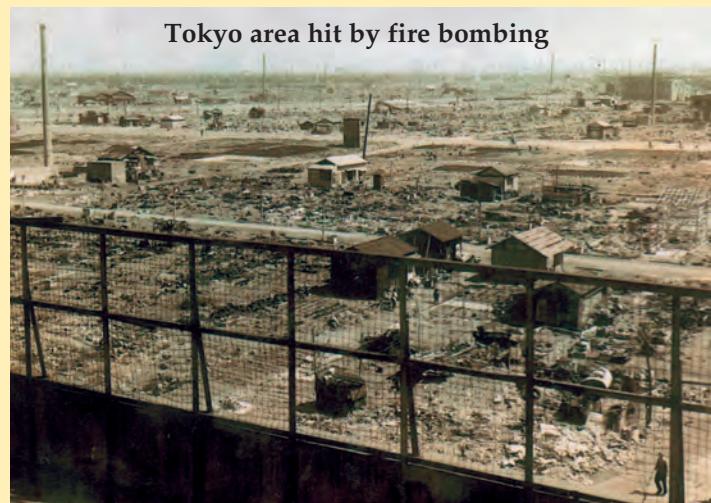
By David W. Taylor

Elmer Wright joined the Americal in the Philippines as a rifleman with Company K, 182nd Infantry regiment, seeing action on Cebu. After "the Bomb" was dropped, the war ended and he found himself with Headquarters Company of the 182nd regiment in Japan, performing clerical duties to determine eligibility points for the regiments' soldiers to rotate home in the October, November and December 1945 cycles.

Since Wright entered the war in its later stages, he had more time to serve. Those who stayed behind in Japan with the occupation forces were offered a deal. They could go home on leave then return to Japan to serve for two years. That appealed to Wright, who was quartered at the Headquarters, Far East Command.

He recalls, "I was in the enlisted section on the second floor attached to the Adjutant General Corps and MacArthur had his offices on the 6th floor. It was pretty heady stuff. A replica of his office is still on the 6th floor of the insurance company that was used as his Headquarters of the Far East Command, but not in the front of the building, instead it is on a side area." MacArthur was not only the Commander of the Far East Command but was the American Ambassador as well.

In April 1946 Wright met a young Japanese girl, age 20, at a social club. Her name was Mitsuyo. Wright was 19 at the time. For him it was love at first sight, but a love that



Tokyo area hit by fire bombing

would require a special devotion because of their vast cultural differences, compounded by the bitter emotions of a savage war. Determined to see it through, Elmer would date Mitsuyo for seven years in Japan before he could marry and bring his new bride back to America.

Elmer remembers, "When the troops arrived in Japan, parts of Tokyo were not touched while other sections were completely destroyed by the thermite (fire) bombs." Rebuilding Japan and the democratization of its society were enormous tasks to be undertaken, but Wright added to his own challenges by dating a Japanese girl. "The Japanese were told if any American was killed then ten times that many Japanese would be killed. It's the policy they followed in their own occupations of islands in the Pacific. They also warned that the young Japanese girls could be raped at any time." Mitsuyo recalls,

"It did not take us long, particularly the young women, to realize this was not true. The majority, particularly the younger Japanese, accepted the Americans as occupiers and the role they had. For the

Japanese soldiers who served in the war it took a couple years to be more accepting." Elmer added, "It was also tough on some G. I.'s who were stationed in Japan. Some of them that I worked with served on Guadalcanal but were understanding of my dating a Japanese girl. I would tell them, 'thanks for not taking any feelings out on my girlfriend'. Their response was, 'Elmer, the war is over.'"

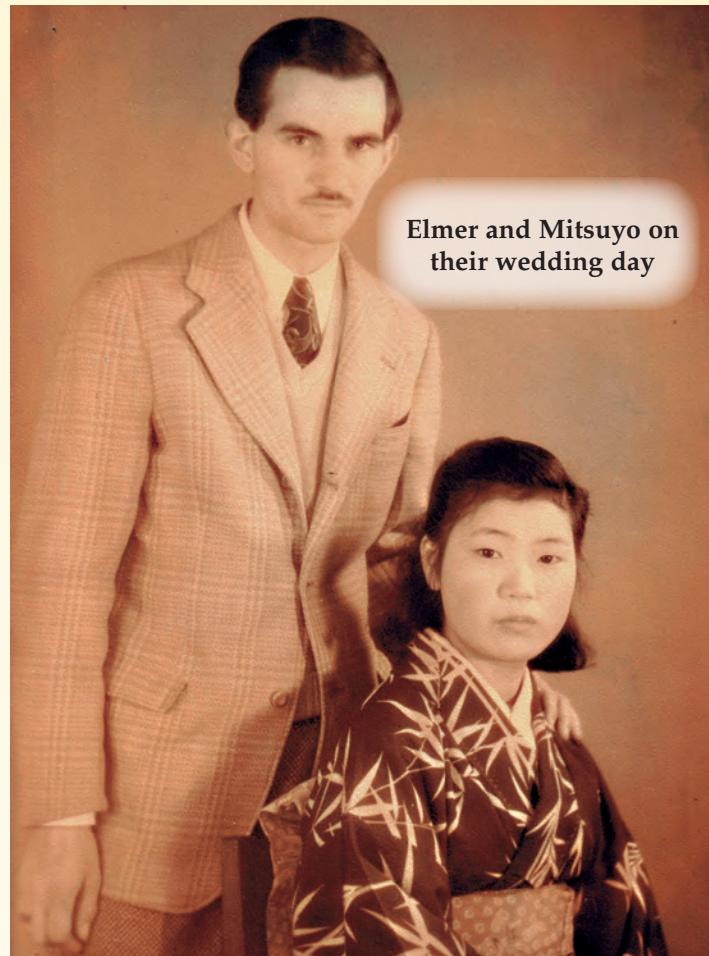
Post-war Japan provided many hardships for the Japanese people but they proved their resilience in hard work and innovation. Charcoal burners were rigged on the back bumpers of cars or front bumpers of trucks to power their vehicles. Mitsuyo remembers, "There were no jobs for the Japanese so many of us survived on the Black Market. Goods would be brought in from the countryside but my family had no relatives out in the country so we took Kimonos (wardrobes) into the countryside." The devastation caused by allied bombing was a complete shock for a society that had been taught to place complete trust in their Emperor. "The first time we ever heard his voice", she said, "Was when he made a radio announcement he was offering unconditional surrender to save lives. We didn't really understand how badly the country had been damaged until we saw pictures. The Japanese government pretty much kept it a secret; the only images I ever saw of Japan's wide destruction was from American newspapers after the war."

Elmer reflects, "The whole post-war situation was pretty much 'touch and go' at first. Early on quite a few of the Japanese workers unions were Communist controlled. Every



May Day they would have celebrations. But McArthur was a genius in how he did things. The Emperor still maintained a special place in society, particularly among older Japanese and that respect for him kept Japan from moving towards Communism. It never obtained much momentum."

As Elmer and Mitsuyo's love developed, so too did Japan



begin to rise from the ashes of war. Mitsuyo reflects, "Before World War II Japan was known for cheap goods, it was part of our culture, but we realized in the post-war period we couldn't survive like that and we became pretty smart." As the economy progressed slowly, so too did Elmer and Mitsuyo's relationship. Both areas had to be nurtured with



Tokyo Street

Bombed out factory



care. "In the early years we dated 2-3 times each week", Elmer recalls, "But we had to meet each other at different places and hide, to keep hidden from the Japanese. Even my future brother-in-law did not approve nor liked interracial marriage. When he found out I wanted to marry Mitsuyo he said, 'That's it --- the family is over'. It took until 1961 when he finally said, 'you know, Elmer is not that bad of a guy.'"

As their love grew so did their awareness of each others cultures, particularly of food. Mitsuyo: "I had my first hamburger at a PX on the road to Yokohama, my first American Pie and my first Root Beer. It tasted like medicine." Elmer: "I had a hard time with Japanese food and always have. I still don't eat much."

Although Wright was discharged in October 1946 he remained as a civilian clerk typist working in the same building. They both wanted to get married and move to the United States but Mitsuyo contracted Tuberculosis. "That kept us from getting married and held us in Japan for four more years" recalled Elmer. "During that time Japan was recovering as far as its infrastructure was concerned but socially, Mitsuyo was considered a street walker because she was dating me." After several years Elmer would occasionally stay at Mitsuyo's family apartment overnight, the men sleeping together on one end of the floor and the women on the other. Finally, in 1953 they were married in Japan in a traditional Japanese wedding.

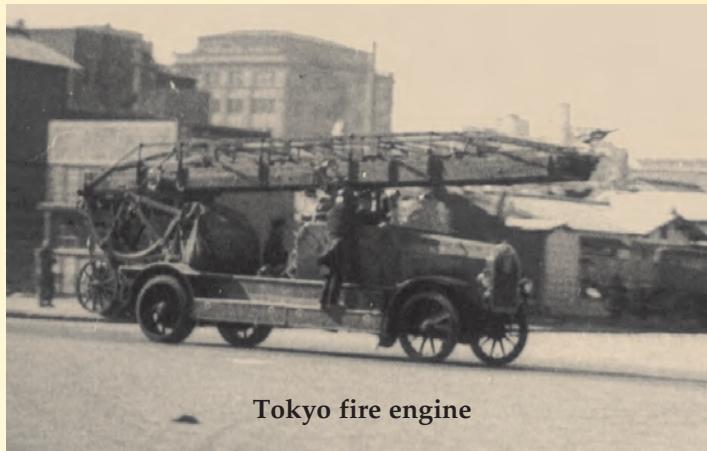


Rickshaw transportation



Tokyo street. Note the tin overhangs (lower left) for market stalls.

Elmer recalls, "When the Korean War started on June 25, 1950 I was working at the Enlisted Branch of the Adjutant General's office in Tokyo. In a very short time the enlisted casualty reports were received from Korea, processed and filled in our office. In June 1952 I was processing one report and found it was a cousin who was wounded on "Port Chop Hill"; he lost his right leg below the knee, left leg broken in



Tokyo fire engine

three places and shrapnel in the right arm above the elbow. I saw him years later in 1965 doing fine. He had a lovely wife, three daughters and a son."

Once back to the United States the problems of social stigma continued. Mitsuyo remembers, "We settled in Newark, New Jersey, Elmer's home town. His family accepted me right away but it took quite a few years to be accepted outside the family. It would not be unusual to be on the street and have someone call me a Jap. Things started getting better in the early 1960's", she recalls "They had the Olympics in Japan which helped broaden peoples view of the Japanese." Elmer was grateful his mother taught Mitsuyo how to cook American food. But nothing came easy to his bride. "I learned English the hard way, 'On the job'. I worked at a counter where people needed materials, I had to listen carefully. Words I didn't know I would ask Elmer each night. But it took me 10 years before I became comfortable with English. I was passed over many times for promotion because of race. I always got the job done but never promoted. Because of that I still don't like to speak much."

Unfortunately the Wrights were not able biologically to have children but their devotion to each other has remained strong, and very unique. I first spoke to them at length at the ADVA Eastern Chapter Reunion in Bowling Green, Kentucky in October 2004 and have always enjoyed chatting with them at each chapter reunion. Elmer is currently the ADVA Eastern Chapter Secretary. Mitsuyo prefers Elmer to do most of the talking while she listens attentively. But she is not shy to interject occasionally and make a point in the story he's telling. She made a special point to tell me how much she appreciates the hospitality and friendship she is shown at the Americal reunions. The two of them have been challenged many times by their distinct cultures but through it all they have remained strong in their love and devotion to each other. That's a lesson all cultures could learn from.



**Elmer and Mitsuyo, June 2007,
at the ADVA Buffalo reunion**



All In The Family

By David W. Taylor

Allen Query, a native of Spencer, Indiana was drafted into the Army and by August 1968 found himself with the 1st Platoon of H Troop, 17th Cavalry, 198th LIB, Americal Division.

For the next year he and his platoon operated in the America's area of operation from Tam Ky to Quang Ngai City. His missions included patrolling the northern rocket pocket, mine sweeping on highway one, guarding bridges and working on the notorious Batangan Peninsula. His tour earned him sergeant stripes, a Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Allen describes his tour as "Intense and busy". He says, "We worked for the 198th LIB and went anywhere in their AO. Whenever Intel reports said a firebase would be hit we went to it to bolster the defenses. We had lots of wounded in the platoon, for about the 40 men we had, there were 70 Purple Hearts the year I was with them. We had five killed; three were killed at one time when their track hit a mine. One of our toughest areas was around LZ Buff (1/52nd). Once we were working around Tam Ky when a squad of infantry got pinned down near Buff, and their company went to get them out and became heavily engaged. We had to drive down from Tam Ky to Binh Son, then over the terrain (we wouldn't follow dirt roads) to Buff. It took us two days to help get the unit disengaged but the 1/52nd killed a lot of NVA. Another time north of Buff another squad was ambushed and the enemy was so close they couldn't use artillery fire support. So we went in to get them, got on line and assaulted. My 50 caliber machine gun jammed and when it did, a NVA came out of a hole 75 yards away and fired an RPG at me. I watched it sail right over my head and miss us. Another RPG was fired at the track next to me and hit it. One of their men lost both legs.

Three weeks before Allen was to finish his tour, his younger twin brothers (1-1/2 years), Edward (Ed) and William (Willy) were drafted and shipped off to Basic Training at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. After Basic they were given different MOS assignments; Ed was to proceed on to infantry and Willy to the field artillery. Allen at this point was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas finishing his last six months in the Army. Allen didn't want his younger brothers to go to Vietnam in combat assignments and the twins, at Ft. Campbell, wanted to remain together. Ed and Willy's First Sergeant had the



**Query Brothers, Vietnam-Era and Today.
(L to R) Ed, William and Allen Query**

solution, Communications School. In short order both were sent to Ft. Knox and, since they both scored in the upper ten percent of their AIT class, were sent to Ft. Gordon, Georgia for Teletype training.

Upon graduation Willy, the "older" twin by 30 minutes, drew a safe assignment to Germany but, as he recalled, "We both wanted to stay together, even if it meant Vietnam." And so the twins ended up at the Americal Division's 523rd Signal battalion on May 2, 1970, nine months after Allen returned from Vietnam.

Initially they were stationed in Chu Lai, which they were happy about as it proved to be "a relatively safe job not counting the occasional rocket attacks." Their duties included sending secure teletype messages to the brigades and battalion fire bases regarding on-going operations. The VC and NVA were able to monitor the radio traffic used in the field and secure communications about operational matters were critical.

Then they were assigned to Kham Duc, attached to the 196th LIB, and for approximately two months worked near the small air strip sending communications. Mortar attacks were frequent and the brothers defended their sector, never knowing if the mortar fire preceded a sapper attack. In one major attack that's exactly what happened. The mortar barrage was followed up by 18 sappers who headed for a battery of two 155mm Howitzers, destroying one of them, but the other was saved. Ed recalls, "We knew each mortar attack could be followed by sappers, because they knew we were buttoned up defending our positions inside the perimeter. They knew how many mortar rounds were to be fired and when the last one detonated they came through, just like clock-work." On another occasion they watched in horror as a plane crashed on the small air strip.

The air strip almost proved to be their own undoing when the twin brothers, along with a buddy, "Melford", were cruising around in an Army pick-up truck in the area. Ed Query remembers it well, "The terrain was very muddy from the Monsoons and Melford was driving, Willy and I were in the back. We came down a hill onto the runway and the truck began spinning around in a circle. We didn't see the runway until we were on it because of the jungle on both sides. Just as we were sliding onto the runway a C130 was landing on top of us and had to pull out fast and make another pass. We drove like hell back into the jungle, hid the truck and walked back to our area. The pilot was raging mad and the officers were looking for the truck and those that were in it. Thank God that pilot had the presence of

Allen Query, 1st Plt, H Troop, 17th Cav



mind to pull out or we would have been squashed! They never found out who was in the truck. We laugh about it now but when it happened we were petrified."

Two months after serving at Kham Duc Ed and Willy were sent to LZ Judy along the Laotian border in support of cross-border operations and the brigade's efforts to stem NVA infiltration into their area. After approximately two months on Judy they were sent back to Chu Lai for a short period of time, and then faced a unique assignment.

A major Tsunami (tropical storm) had hit East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), killing thousands of people. Teletype operators were needed to help coordinate the movement of relief supplies. Ed remembers he was almost shot on that assignment. "Willy and I and Charles Herbster were detailed to go to East Pakistan. Our Lieutenant, thinking about Vietnam SOP, told us to always keep our M-16's with us. We flew from Chu Lai to Saigon and then on to East Pakistan, landing in the capital city of Dakka. When we landed at the Dakka airport I walked off the plane with my M-16 shouldered and a Pakistani guard on the runway immediately pointed a gun at my chest. I froze. Just then a government official ran to us telling us to 'put your weapons back on the airplane.' The M-16's went back to Saigon and then back up to Chu Lai and our unit, so we did not lose them. Had they disappeared on the C130 we'd have to pay for them. I now realize you don't exit a plane in a sovereign country with a weapon on your shoulder. Our Lieutenant should have known better."

The twins ended up operating radios for a month of disaster relief in East Pakistan, and then headed back to Chu Lai for the remainder of their tour. By early 1971 Ed and Willy finished their military obligation and returned to Indiana. Allen, Ed and William are all retired and live in close proximity to each other. An older brother, Robert, was drafted in the Army in the late 1950's and discharged before Vietnam escalated to ground troops.

The Query brothers remain close to their roots in Indiana and close to their family. For three, Allen, Edward and William, their Americal family remains a special memory as well.

Editors Note: We would like to hear from other Americal vets who had two or more family members serve in the Americal in Vietnam.

Book Review: Killed in Action – Struck by Lightning A Vietnam Combat Medics Story

By Spec. 5 John William Bennett
(Reviewed by David W. Taylor)

I first met John Bennett at the ADVA Buffalo reunion in June of last year. Another vet approached me and said, "Hey Dave, you gotta talk to this guy over there! He was a medic who was struck by lightning in the field and pronounced dead. He woke up inside a body bag at the morgue in Chu Lai. He still had his fatigues on so he reached into his pocket and cut his way out with his pocket knife."

This February 2008 John Bennett published his story in a soft-cover book of 114 pages. His is an unpretentious story of being raised in rural Maryland and volunteering for the draft to escape his troubled home life. To add to his stress, he married his wife the day before he left for Basic Training in October 1966. The marriage lasted but so has John's struggles with the effects of Vietnam.

Bennett entered the Army as a conscientious objector and was sent to be trained as a medic. He was assigned to the 1st/20th, 11th LIB where he spent most of his time as a medic with Echo Company's Recon Platoon. His first time in combat convinced him to carry and use a weapon, and he was not without one for the rest of his tour.

Bennett's story covers his training with the 11th LIB in Hawaii, their deployment to Vietnam and subsequent experiences in the field around Duc Pho, LZ's Thunder and Ross, and OP Dragon. It was on Dragon, with only nine GI's to defend it against an expected NVA attack that a storm swiftly moved in and Bennett, next to lots of metal-cased ammunition, was struck by lightning. For approximately 18 hours he laid unconscious in a body bag before he awoke.

John Bennett's story is also about his fight to get help from the lasting effects on his body after being struck by lightning. The National Weather Service has carefully documented the long-term effects of such an injury, which affects every organ of the body. But Bennett's toe-tag, "Killed in Action – Struck by Lightning" was pulled after he regained consciousness and in short order he was sent back to the field.

The book is written in a plain-spoken conventional tone and was an easy read (I read it in two sittings). Despite some misspellings and grammar errors it flows well. From time to time his story is interrupted with political and social commentary. While his opinions are somewhat distracting to the flow of his story, I concede his right to offer them, as he continues to suffer with great pain from the effects of lightning and Agent Orange and great frustration over a Veterans Administration that does not recognize the long-term effects of lightning as "service connected."

To his credit, John raised a family and is still married to his wife of over 40 years. A portion of the proceeds from his book will go to the Vietnam Veterans Homeless Shelter in Philadelphia, PA. His book is listed at \$10.95 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling off his web site: www.killedinactionbylightning.com. For Americal vets he'll sell his book for \$7.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Just send him a short note listing your unit in the Americal and a check made payable to: CMS, Inc. Send your check for \$9.00 to: John W. Bennett, PO Box 1184, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

The Trip

By Ron Green

Lam Son 719

As I grow older my memory allows me to remember less. So before I forget any more, I want to tell the story of my participation in an operation that has received little attention, perhaps because it occurred near the end of the Americal Division's participation in the Vietnam War.

The key player was the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and the results were less than we had hoped. However, the members of the Americal and in particular the 11th Light Infantry Brigade and separate units acquitted themselves very well. The operation was Lam Son 719 and the fighting occurred just south of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) along QL9 from Quang Tri and Dong Ha to the Laotian border.

Near the end of January 1971 traffic along QL1 began to increase. Responsibility for road security from Duc Pho to the II Corps border fell on the shoulders of the 4/21st Infantry. As the Artillery Liaison Officer (Arty

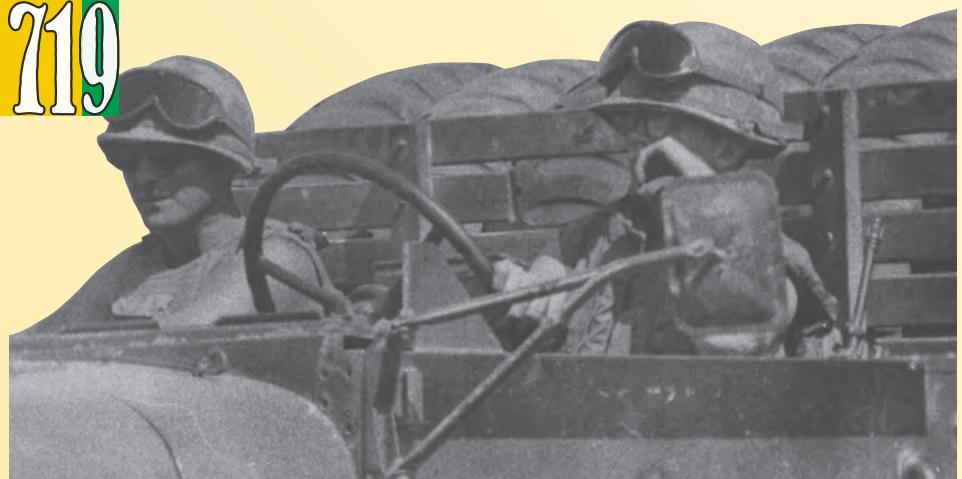


Photo courtesy of Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive

operation was taking place somewhere up north. Curiosity increased when the 4/3rd Infantry turned over its area of operation (AO) to us and left San Juan Hill for places unknown.

About this time I relinquished Arty LNO responsibilities to my replacement and moved back to LZ Bronco as the S-1 of 6/11th Artillery. LTC Leland Hobbs commanded the battalion and he informed me in the first few days I would be going somewhere up north to replace the Arty LNO of the 4/3rd Infantry for a few weeks while he was on leave. He wanted me to have my section prepared for a possible movement in a few weeks.

That Sunday evening found me reading in the hootch I shared with CPT Harper, the headquarters battery commander; the communications officer; and 1LT Bob Speary, the assistant communications officer. All of a sudden the field phone rang and Harper grabbed it. All I heard was, "Yes sir, yes sir, yes sir," and finally as he hung up and said, "Oh shit." When I asked what happened he told me "we are ordered to have the battalion headquarters and headquarter battery ready to move by 0700 tomorrow and we should pack as though we would not come back to this place."

We spent a couple of hours lamenting over not being able to quickly move a unit that had been in the same location for over two years. Then we got started and set to work on our assigned mission.

Monday morning dawned to a 2 1/2 ton truck and the 3/4 ton mail truck loaded with the entire battalion S-1 section. This included a large crate

with the sergeant major's personal belongings. By 0700 we were lined up on the road adjacent to the main gate at LZ Bronco. The convoy was long and our mail truck led the entire procession. As we waited we watched the hootch maids come to work. That was a bit of satisfaction since it meant that they did not know we were moving. The chances were also good that neither did the bad guys.

Finally a gun jeep from the 23rd Military Police (MP) Company arrived and we began our trip to the north. While we were caught in a traffic jam in Quang Ngai City a boy with a cooler of popsicles tried to trade me for an M-79 grenade launcher that I had acquired. Then we were on to Chu Lai where we waited on a hard stand to wait for dark.

The next part of our trip was to be by naval transportation. When darkness fell the convoy moved to the docks and began loading onto a landing ship-tank (LST). Korean Navy personnel manned our LST. An old Korean chief petty officer was not going to leave us alone until all of our vehicles were tied down. He insisted that his crew was not going to do the work. So we learned how to secure vehicles to the flat-bottomed landing craft.

As dawn started to break an infantry battalion joined us aboard the LST. They occupied most of the limited number of bunks. The morning dawned beautifully as we set sail out of Chu Lai harbor and into the South China Sea. SSG Christie, the personnel sergeant, and I retrieved a couple of folding chairs from our truck and enjoyed a tantalizing breakfast of C-rations. After



Fuel truck on QL1 stuck by RPG rounds right thru the windshield.
Photo Tom Roche 23rd MP Company

LNO) for 4/21st Inf. I witnessed the almost continual convoy of vehicles on QL1. With vehicle bumper markings covered and often with air support overhead the convoys created an aura of suspense. We watched from LZ Debbie and were only told that a big



Mortar attacks such as this were quite common during the Lam Son 719 operation. These images taken at Camp Carroll (astride QL1) by Tom Roche 23rd Military Police Company while waiting to move out. On the mortar photo on the right, you can see one of the Americal's tanks sitting on its low-boy trailer.

breakfast I was lucky enough to find an empty bunk below and get some much needed sleep.

That night I decided to sleep on deck. I blew up my air mattress and spent a very cool night under the bed of the mail truck. I slept crosswise to the edge of the vessel's deck to avoid rolling off should the sea get rough.

The next morning we landed at a small dock just outside the old imperial city of Hue. After forming the convoy our trip continued through the city and on north. We passed near Camp Evans which my dad had helped open with the First Cavalry Division about two years before. We saw Camp Eagle, the headquarters of the 101st Airborne Division, and Quang Tri, the home of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized). We finally arrived at Dong Ha and headquarters battery settled into a position that had been occupied by a firing battery of 5/4th Artillery.

The following morning I set out to find the 4/3rd Infantry. I determined that they were located on a small hill just off Khe Sanh. To begin this phase of my trip I hitched a ride in a convoy headed to LZ Vandergrift. At Vandergrift I located the 155 mm artillery battalion that was providing direct support to the 4/3rd. The artillery unit also had three guns at LZ Shepard where the 4/3rd had its headquarters. I asked the battery commander to help me get out to LZ Shepard. He told me that his ammo section would try to get me a flight out there on a resupply helicopter the next day.

That night I curled up under a field desk and got some sleep. I spent the next day at the ammo sling out point trying to get a helicopter to land. The young soldier operating the point did a great job but he was not able to get a helicopter for me. So I spent another night at the battery headquarters. My trip hit an unexpected delay.

The following day was successful and a Chinook helicopter stopped and picked me up. I landed at the artillery knoll at LZ Shepard where the first sergeant met me. I asked him where the infantry battalion was located. He pointed to a higher hill about five hundred yards away. It looked like the last portion of my trip was to be on foot.

I picked up my gear and went through the defensive wire. I walked up the saddle of the two hills and passed an area that looked like former artillery gun positions. Upon arriving at the headquarters of the 4/3rd Inf. I immediately reported to the battalion commander, LTC Coates (he was later killed in a helicopter accident), and MAJ Frakes, the battalion S-3.

My trip was concluded and it was not time to get to my assigned duties. The 5/4th Artillery had assigned an LNO to the 4/3rd to serve until I arrived. That night the LNO and I go to work as the convoy of tractor-trailer trucks laden with aviation fuel was ambushed about two miles from Khe Sanh. Night convoys of combustibles—welcome to a different kind of war! **(To be continued).**

Editor's notes:

The major roads of Vietnam are prefaced by the letters QL. QL is the abbreviation of the words "Quoc Lo" and translates to English as National Highway.

The large operation that prompted Green's trip north was called Lam Son 719. It was an operation by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) across the Laotian border near the demilitarized zone (DMZ). The ARVN mission was to strike at North Vietnamese Army (NVA) installations and supply routes in Laos.

This invasion was supported by a large U.S. military force to include combat roles by aviation and artillery units from the Americal Division. Other Americal units carried out security and logistical missions. The toll on all sides was very heavy with American helicopter units sustaining severe losses to enemy antiaircraft fire.

In his 2004 book called Rattler One-seven: A Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's War Story, Chuck Gross explains the meaning of the name Lam Son 719 as follows. Lam Son was the name of the hometown of a Vietnamese war hero who defeated the Chinese in an important battle in the 15th century. Thus the words Lam Son connoted military victory. The number 719 was made up from digits the year of the operation, 1971, and its location along QL 9.

For further reading I also suggest Into Laos: The Story of Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719, Vietnam 1971 by Keith William Nolan (1986). -gln-



Mrs. Mary Anne Allison, sister of Lt. Henry Warner, with John Gonzalez, former commanding officer of D/4/3.



Tom Behrens (left), killed-in-action 31 OCT 68; Duane Downing (right), killed-in-action 23 FEB 69.



We Shall Never Forget
By Bruce Flaherty

Bruce Flaherty (left) reads a flag presentation certificate at the Wall in Washington, D.C. on July 4, 2006.

I served as an infantryman in Vietnam from June 1968 through May 1969. My unit was Company D, 4/3rd Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. In 2004 I met Mr. Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, at a reunion of D/4/3 veterans in Des Moines, IA. Les knew about the work I had done to obtain the S2-S3 Daily Journals for the 4/3rd Inf.

Records for Veterans

Les Hines asked me if I would be interested in helping to get the TOC reports and other records for the Americal Division in Vietnam. I told him I would be happy to help. To date I have collected over 19,000 pages of division records. I have also collected over 10,000 pages of 4/3rd Inf. S2-S3 reports. I have taken on this task to help those who might need help in getting information for any claims with the VA or to just remember what many of us forgot. Veterans can view the 4/3rd records on the internet at www.buffgrunt.com.

A typical request is for information to substantiate a claim. A fellow veteran wrote, "I would like to thank you for listing the daily logs of Co. C. It filled a lot of gaps I had in my head. On August 12, 1970 I got hit with shrapnel. I applied for my Purple Heart but was turned down because they could not find proof." The information contained in the daily logs was sufficient for this veteran to obtain his Purple Heart medal as well as several other deserved awards.

Memorial Flags

Veterans of D/4/3 will have their sixth reunion in 2008. The reunions are due to the efforts of one man in particular, Mr. Dan Behrens. Dan is the brother of Tom Behrens, a member of D/4/3 who was killed in action 1968. Dan began searching the Internet looking for information about his brother and to contact anyone who might remember him. Because of Dan's tireless work a group of thirty or so of his brothers "brothers" have been brought back together.



Former members of D/4/3 gather at the Wall on July 4, 2006.



Bruce Flaherty in Vietnam.



Citation for flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of Tom Behrens.



Jim Herdzik (left). 1LT Henry Warner (right), killed-in-action 27 AUG 68..

Dan's work in reuniting us is made me think of how to show our gratitude to him. At our 2006 reunion in Washington D.C. I came up with the idea to present an American flag to Dan and to two other families of D/4/3 KIAs. We obtained three flags that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol on July 4, 2006.

We made a presentation of the three flags at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We presented a flag to Mrs. Mary Anne Allison in honor of her brother Lt. Henry Warner. Tom Behrens flag was sent to his brother Dan. A flag to remember Duane Downing went to the Downing family who in turn donated the flag to the St. Johns Veterans Memorial Organization. That flag now flies over the memorial.

On Veterans Day 2007 two more flags were flown over the Capitol. One honors all members of the 4/3rd who were killed in action. The second honors the medics of the 4/3rd who were killed in combat. I plan to send these flags to the Purple Heart Museum in New York. I also want to donate six flags to the Old Guard Museum at Fort Mead, MD. This is one flag for each company in the battalion.

Future Plans

My plan for additional individual flags is to locate the families of all 4/3rd Inf. KIAs and provide them with memorial flags. My reason is simple- to let the families know we did not forget their loved ones. Each five ft. by eight ft. cotton flag that is flown over the U.S. Capitol costs \$27.05. I have received some contributions from veterans to help defray the costs of this special project. Any additional contributions to help complete this project will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank the following people who made contribution towards acquiring memorial flags: Mr. Tom Skiens, Mr. Russell Blais, Mr John "JJ" Williams, Mr. Ron Chura, Coy & Lynne Napier, Mr. Dan Behrens, Mr. Dave Lutz, Mr. Les Hines, and especially Mr. Ron Price.

Editor's note: Bruce Flaherty can be contacted by e-mail at bflahe617@aol.com or by postal mail at 3526 168 Street, Flushing, NY, 11358.



Re-enacting a Band of Brothers

By Gary L. Noller

Photos Max Popov



Personnel obtain genuine era uniforms and equipment at their own expense from a variety of resources.

According to Popov, the purpose of the group is to "educate the society about the gone days. We try to show people the life of the average soldier in the war including his dreams, activities, and daily routine. And, of course, we try to feel everything ourselves. We try to tell people that the past can't be forgotten. As Winston Churchill said, 'The nation which doesn't remember her past won't have a future.'"

The group is as authentic as possible. "We use M-56 equipment, wear jungle uniforms, steel pots, rucksacks, and fire and clean rifles, though they are AIRSOFT and not real blank firing rifles," Popov states. "We stay on guard in foxholes and guard towers, go on patrol for search-and-destroy missions, clear the area, and build blocking posts.

"We listen to rock-n-roll, The Doors, and Johnny Cash. We eat C-rats, drink from canteens, and sometimes enjoy bottle of warm Miller beer, read old books, look at Playboy, burn shit, and chat about the life of 1960s. We live in 1960s. There is no sign of the current time in words, things, soul, or atmosphere."

To be authentic a re-enactor may expect to spend \$1,000 to \$1,500 for personal equipment. Popov states, "If you want to be a really hardcore living historian you will need equipment set M56 for 1967-1969 and M67 for the late dates. The A-class uniform is needed for the official celebrations." Platoon gear such as tents, mermite cans, and radios is also obtained for the portrayals.

Annual activities include two or three weekend events that feature a unit on patrol.

"During these events we 'work' in the field," says Popov. "We have some nice places near Kiev which are a little bit close to Vietnam terrain. For an urban setting such as DaNang we use an abandoned youth summer camp not far from Kiev."

Many Americans are familiar with war re-enactors who portray significant events in American history. These events usually feature the Revolutionary War and Civil War periods. Indian War and World War II events are also held around the country. But re-enactments of the Korean War and the Vietnam War are rare.

A group of about twenty participants is reenacting the "Gunfighters" of 1st platoon, Co. A, 1/6th Infantry, 198th Lt. Inf. Bde., Americal Division. They have been organized for several years and portray the life of Vietnam War soldiers several times a year.

Although the group relives the actions of a U.S. Army unit they are not Americans. They are like Americans in that they are rich and poor and from a variety of occupations to include bank employees, students, engineers,

managers, business directors, and unemployed. They live in and around Kiev, Ukraine.

The reenactment group was founded in 1996 by Max. L. Popov, the Director of Representation for the German wallpaper firm Rasch in Ukraine. Popov was born in 1974 and holds a degree in international economics from Kiev National University of Economics.

The platoon consists of a command element of platoon sergeant, medic, and RTO. It is filled by two rifle squads, a weapons squad, and a mortar squad.





"This is a special time—the 1960s. This is the era of my parents' youth. I also wanted to find comparisons between the Vietnam War and the Afghanistan War of the 1980s. I wanted 'jump' there and to feel everything myself."

He chose to portray a unit of the Americal Division because of information he found on the americal.org website. He communicated with several 1/6th Infantry vets and other Americal Division veterans by e-mail and quickly learned how to represent the Vietnam War.

Co. A, 1/6th Infantry was selected in part due to its association with GEN Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the battalion in 1969-70. Popov says, "The Gunfighters were one of the best units! They were a real Band of Brothers. I am really honored to be part of them."

Popov is himself a military veteran.

"I served two years from November 1992 to November 1994," he says. "My unit was 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Separate Training Brigade. I was Sergeant-Instructor (Drill Sergeant) in the Squad Leader Training Course." His unit served under the



Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Popov looks forward to activities in 2008. He says, "At every new event we step deeper and deeper into the 1960s. Besides that, we become more and more close to each other as a

Band of Brothers."



Authenticity

The photos on these pages show that the re-enactment scenes of soldiers in the field are very close to true life. This authenticity is to include some behaviors that may need remedy. As a shiny green infantryman in Vietnam I received a dressing down from my First Sergeant because of my lack of performance. Can you see my error in one of these photos?

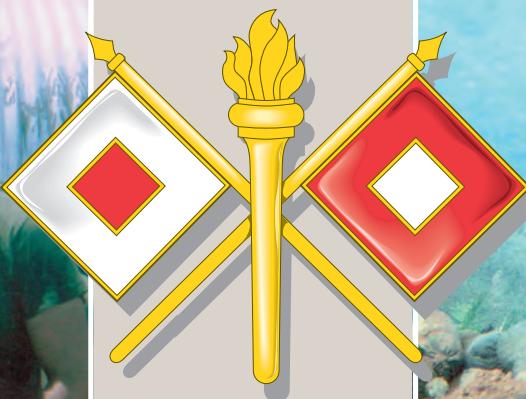
-Editor-in-Chief-



The group also participates in an international event in Kiev, Ukraine or St. Petersburg, Russia. The year starts with a training camp in BCT/AIT format. There are also less formal meets to observe US Army Day, TET, Veterans Day, 6th Infantry Regiment Day, and the 4th of July.

Popov chose to reenact the Vietnam War for a variety of reasons. He says,





Commo Connections

By John L. Carey



I arrived in Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day, 1968. This was my first assignment following the basic officer course at Ft. Gordon, GA. My duties were with the signal platoon of 4/21st Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. Although I was a Signal Corps officer my entire time in Vietnam was spent with an infantry battalion.

Here I encountered some of the greatest young men in the world. They showed me how to be helpful in my new role and ensured that I did not get into too much trouble. I eventually learned what needed to be accomplished and how to do it.

During my first eight months in Vietnam our battalion moved its forward landing zone an average of once every 13 days. One or more of our line companies was virtually in constant combat with the 3rd NVA Division. We operated throughout most of western Quang Ngai Province and we spent a lot of time "digging in" with the standard issue entrenching tool.

During the last four months of my tour our battalion was reassigned to a fixed landing zone. Our mission had a heavy emphasis on providing security for convoys traveling through our section of Highway 1.



When the battalion's combat assignment required the forward landing zone to move the guys in our forward signal team had to start transitioning communications well before dawn. We knocked down fixed antennas, rolled up cable, and pulled in the telephone lines from all over the landing zone. As soon as possible, the generators were cut off and their electrical wiring was pulled from the TOC, medical bunker, and various command posts. Everything was made ready for loading onto the helicopters.

As soon as we were dropped into the next landing zone we scrambled off the helicopters, making as many trips as required to off load all of our radios, telephones, switchboard, generators,

wires and cables. Our first mission was to establish communications with the infantry companies in the field as well as the medical, artillery, air, and occasionally naval support covering both the field companies and our own location. We provided to and received support from nearby battalions.

After the antennas were up and we had radio contact we immediately fired up the generators and dug their pits. The equipment had to be protected from incoming mortar rounds. Several guys continued digging and filling sandbags for the generators while others quickly installed telephone wire to critical points on the landing zone. Sandbags were then filled and laid end to end over all of this communications



and electrical wiring to avoid damage from anything less than a direct mortar hit. Those sandbags also helped prevent people from getting tangled up in the wire at night, especially when we were under fire.

After everything was working correctly we quickly turned to digging in for our own protection during that first night. Eventually we dug ourselves a larger and reasonably safe shelter below ground. Corrugated half pipe pieces were placed on top of two rows of sandbags. Once this corrugated metal "roof" was in place we covered it with a sheet of plastic and three layers of sandbags. That particular construction technique gave protection (we prayed) from a direct

81mm mortar hit.

While all this was happening the signal guys back at battalion HQ worked night and day to repair all the generators, radios, and telephones for ASAP return to the field. Without their constant efforts and attention to detail we would have lost communications on any number of occasions.

I do not remember all of the names of those I served with in Vietnam. I would appreciate any information that can be provided about these fine men. I would like the opportunity to connect with them once again. I can be reached by phone at 678-715-0821 or by e-mail at jandccarey@aol.com.







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)	\$14.00			
2317	Baseball Cap - Khaki (1 size fits all)	\$14.00			
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)	\$14.00			
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:

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



Send Check or Money Order made out to the Americal Division Veterans Association

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

Include the credit card name, credit card number, and expiration date on the order forms.

Application For Membership /Change of Address



American Division Veterans Association

Send applications and dues to:
PNC Ron Ellis, Asst. Fin. Officer
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.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

American Unit: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sponsored By: _____

DD214 (Optional): _____

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



David W. Taylor
970 Kenner Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256-2908

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Akron, OH
Permit No.870

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: Please do not cover mailing address when returning with change of address information.