

AMERICAL

April • May • June
2009

AMERICAL



AMERICAL JOURNAL

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

JULY, 1970

FALL, 1969

AMERICAL
FALL, 1971

AMERICAL
SPRING, 1971

AMERICAL

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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The Americal Journal is the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.

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Commanders Comments

David W. Taylor



Americal Legacy Calendar in 2010!

As part of our fundraising efforts for the ADVA Legacy Committee, late this year we will mail to all ADVA members, a special, full-color 2010 calendar which will not only feature the holiday's normally associated with calendars but important dates in the history of the Americal Division. The back of the calendar will also devote a number of pages to the history of the Division; listing campaigns, battles and organizational insignia's.

We will begin work on the calendar this spring and we need your help! The page above each monthly calendar will feature a full-page photo of the Americal Division in action. If you have photos from your service that are of good quality please consider submitting them for possible selection for our calendar. You can send the original photo to my attention and I will scan it on a high-definition scanner, and send your original back to you. Or, if you have good scanning equipment, please send me an e-mail with your photo attached to the e-mail. Please tell me in one-three sentences what the photo shows, where it was taken, the unit shown, etc. If your photo is selected you will be given photo credit. Please dig out your old photos, select the best and contact me at: David W. Taylor, 970 Kenner Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256-2908; e-mail: dwtaylor@ohio.net. If you have questions, call (330-723-2517) or e-mail me.

The calendar will be automatically mailed to all members with a return-addressed envelope. We will ask you to make a tax-exempt donation for the calendar. Please be as generous as possible for the Legacy Fund, so we can build memorials to honor the Americal Division. For those who donate \$20 or more, we will offer a 10% discount on your next purchase at the Americal PX. It will be a great way to get reduced pricing for some Christmas shopping!

Together Again in Melbourne, Florida

Please review page 27 in this issue. It features photos from the 22nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Melbourne, Florida. It was a great pleasure to be there and meet with many South East Chapter vets among the over 50,000 vets in attendance. I want to especially thank Jerry "Doc" Anderson who arrived early and set up a tent fly for our ADVA recruiting station and George Mitchell who stayed at the station over two very long days, greeting Americal vets and signing them up to the ADVA. It is dedication such as this that will make the ADVA a stronger organization in the years to come! Thanks men!

ADVA Reunion 2010 to be in Louisville, Kentucky

The Eastern Chapter had volunteered to plan the 2010 reunion in Atlantic City, New Jersey. But, after numerous discussions and visits, the folks in Atlantic City wouldn't budge to offer us reasonable hotel fares, tour prices, etc. It

also appeared that flying into Atlantic City would be not practical for many of our members; the only other airport was Philadelphia, which would have required a one hour bus drive; again, not practical.

The Chapter had no other sites they wanted to explore so I have taken responsibility for the 2010 reunion. We will be making two changes for that year. First, we will hold the reunion in the fall, in the October time frame. This is in response to many members who responded to our spring 2007 national survey and said they would like to have a fall reunion, for a change, as it was more convenient timing for them. Second, I have decided to use an outside reunion company to manage the event. This is something we considered doing for several years as a test case, since it is getting tougher to find enough members willing to host a reunion. The firm we will use is The Reunion BRAT, which comes highly recommended from National Commanders of other Army Division Associations I have spoken to, who have used them in the past.

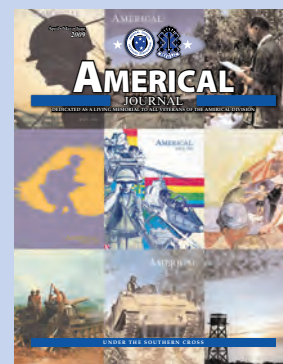
This change for 2010 does not mean we will have permanent reunions in the fall nor does it mean chapters will no longer host reunions. But I feel it is important, due to the special opportunity that has been presented to us, to try a new venue and measure its results. I am committed as your National Commander to do everything possible to make our national reunions more affordable and more convenient for the members. More information will be forthcoming.

New Recruiting Brochures Now Available

We recently updated and reprinted new recruiting brochures. With the spring and summer months approaching there will be many small reunions of Americal Division buddies. Please contact me to get some brochures to use at your gatherings, along with examples of our *Americal Journal* magazine and other recruiting tools that will allow you to discuss the many benefits to joining the ADVA. Let's make this summer a great time for recruiting new members!

See You in Shreveport

Ron Ellis and his committee have worked hard to put together a great reunion this June, including a special tour of Barksdale Air Force Base on Friday and some fabulous entertainment for Saturday night. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there!



Front Cover montage of different covers and back pages from the Americal Divisions Vietnam publications "Under the Southern Cross" Courtesy of ADVA Vietnam Historian Les Hines.

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

The ADVA's membership gains for this period are slightly down from past quarters. During the past quarter, we added forty-four new members. Of these forty-four new members, four joined as life members. Four annual pay members converted their membership to life, and two former members were reinstated during this quarter.

Our association is honored to add another Congressional Medal of Honor recipient to the membership roster quarter. MG (Retired) Patrick H. Brady, of Cibolo, Texas is the newest Honorary Life Member. General Brady served as a med-evac pilot in Vietnam with the 54th Medical Detachment. He earned his CMOH while evacuating wounded Americal Division soldiers under intense hostile fire near Chu Lai in 1968. His complete CMOH citation documentary is available on the Americal Division Veterans Association website americal.org. A note of thanks goes out to ADVA member Thomas Bedient, who assisted us in locating General Brady's current address.

The remainder of my notes for this issue is focused on two important areas of ADVA membership – annual dues payments and address changes. Annual pay member's renewal periods occur three times annually – January, May and September. Annual member cards and renewal notices are mailed the last week of the month prior to the above listed renewal months. Your membership card lists your membership expiration month and year following your name. Also included in the mailing is a pre-addressed envelope for mailing your dues payment to PNC Ronald Ellis, the ADVA Assistant Finance Officer.

If you are an annual pay member and do not receive a renewal notice the month/year your annual membership expires, please contact me at the National Adjutant post office box address listed on the back cover of any recent Americal Journal publication.

We need to know as soon as possible when you have a change in mailing address. An up to date roster keeps our mailing costs down as we have to pay postage for all returned magazines. The back cover can be used to report any new mailing address by sending the completed form with new address to the National Adjutant post office box.

Change of address notifications can be easily reported by e-mail. The best feature about this method is no cost to you. Refer to the ADVA staff directory inside the front cover of any recent publication for my email address.



NEW MEMBERS

Reginald Almklov
160th Engr Det
Hannaford, ND
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Robert L. Baumiller
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Pittsburg, PA
★ *Steve O'Keefe*

Kenneth T. Biscan
17th Cav F Trp
Guston, KY
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Danny D. Blevins
196th LIB A/1/46th Inf
Louisville, KY
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

James A. Bourgeois
196th LIB
Lakewood, WA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Jimmie W. Brown
1/1st Cav B Trp
Bossier City, LA
★ *NC David Taylor*

Donald C. Brown, Sr.
132nd Inf Rgmt Co E
Wheelersburg, OH
★ *Self*

William A. Burrell
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Garden City, KS
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Paul F. Camyre, Sr.
26th Cmbt Engrs Co A
Palmer, MA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Kenneth H. DeChene
198th LIB D/1/52nd Inf
Hiram, GA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Renato Della Rocca
132nd Inf Rgmt Co K
Venice, CA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Lester R. Dray
TF 6814 G-4 HDQ
Litchfield Park, AZ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Thomas Edwards
132nd Inf Rgmt Co K
Fairfield, ME
★ *John B. Fitzgerald*

Harry F. Ehret
198th LIB HHC/5/46th Inf
Essex Jct, VT
★ *NC David Taylor*

David M. Fallon
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Rutherford, NJ
★ *Bob Wolf*

Jeffrey w. Fishman
23rd S&T Bn
Poughkeepsie, NY
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Robert L. Forester
1/82nd Arty
Haltom City, TX
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Larry J. Gallegos
523rd Sig Bn Co B
Albuquerque, NM
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Steven J. Hall
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Marietta, OH
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Robert I. Hubbard
174th ASHC
Atlantic Beach, NC
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Fred V. Jimenez
198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Santa Clara, NM
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Charles Lange
11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
Hartman, AR
★ *Self*

ADVA MEMEBERSHIP April 30, 2009	
	
World War II	579
Vietnam	2,185
Korea	8
Associate Members:	174
Total Members	2,946

John J. Licata, Jr.
3/82nd Arty Btry A
Santa Monica, Ca
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Andrew J. Luciano
11th LIB HHC/4/3rd Inf
Clifton, NJ
★ *Self*

Josef Luptowitz
196th LIB D/4/31st Inf
Palm Springs, CA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Wayne D. Magdalena
Div HDQ 23rd Adm
Jensen Beach, FL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

William R. Metts
23rd Admin Co
Enumclaw, WA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Robert Miller
198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Cresaptown, MD
★ *Ronald Dunning*

Paul R. Pacheco
3/16th Arty Btry B
Swansea, MA
★ *John R. Arruda, Jr.*

Rick Reuter
196th LIB A/3/21st Inf
Evansdale, IA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Charles G. Ross
164th Inf Rgmt Co E
Conyers, GA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Mike Sanchez
196th LIB A/3/21st Inf
Big Spring, TX
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Ken Shaver
164th Inf Rgmt
Devils Lake, ND
★ *Filmore Hammagren*

Scott F. Showalter
51st Inf Rgmt Co E (LRRP)
Crestview, FL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Larry L. Smith
198th LIB D/1/52nd Inf
Bossier City, LA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Lyle Van Hove
11th LIB D/4/3rd Inf
Parker, SD
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Chuck Veach
11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
Huntley, IL
★ *Robert Vertrees*

Alan R. Wilkins
11th LIB E/3/1st Inf
Middletown, MA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Edward Wziatek
198th LIB D/1/52nd Inf
Peoria, AZ
★ *NC David Taylor*

Patrick H. Brady
54th Medical Det
Cibola, TX
★ *NC David Taylor*

James S. Giles, Jr.
11th LIB D/1/20th Inf
Fort Ann, NY
★ *Self*

Larry G. McMahon
198th LIB HHC/1/52nd Inf
Midwest City, OK
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Aaron J. Rochester
198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
West Union, SC
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Wayne E. Butler
198th LIB 1/52nd Inf
Verbank, NY
★ *Bernie Chase*

Roger Kagarise
11th LIB A/3/1st Inf
Roulette, PA
★ *Self*

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

James T. Richmond
196th LIB 1/46th Inf
Blacklick, OH
★ *Self*

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Loyd T. Carr, III
N/A
Tustin, CA
★ *NC David Taylor*

RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

William J. Donaghy
11th LIB C/1/20th Inf
Neversink, NY
★ *Bernie Chase*

William D. Guiffre
23rd S&T Bn Co A
Germantown, MD
★ *Self*

Taps

World War II Veterans

101st Engineers

Ernest T. Hollis
Greenville, RI
Date Unknown

132nd Inf Rgmt I Co

Francis J. Pyzanowski
Pomeroy, PA
Date Unknown

182nd Inf Rgmt

Arthur P. D'Entremont
Allen, TX
December 31, 2006

Gerald J. Dupuis
Gardner, MA
June 12, 2005

Al Re
San Rafael, CA
April 27, 2009

221st FA

Andrew J. Ginkus
Salem, MA
Date Unknown

Peter J. Messina
Havertown, PA
March 19, 2009

247th FA

Irbe E. Hanson
Des Plaines, IL
June 2008

746th AAA Bn

John D. Klemm
Des Moines, IA
March 9, 2009

Vietnam Veterans

523rd Sig Bn

Louis House
Cuba, MO
April 18, 2008

Americal HHC G2- TMF

August (Gus) Anderson , Sr.
Tucson, AZ
February 28, 2009

Don Counsell
Oconomowoc, WI
April 26, 2009

2/1st Inf., 196th LIB

Michael Allen Brown
Irvington, KY
April 25, 2009

Associate Members

Keith W. Nolan
St Peters, MO
February 2009



Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,

Perhaps a topic for a future Americal Journal article could be the times enlisted personnel took on the persona of an officer to gain entrance and service in an Officers Club. A couple of such instances are recounted below from the 23rd M.P. website.

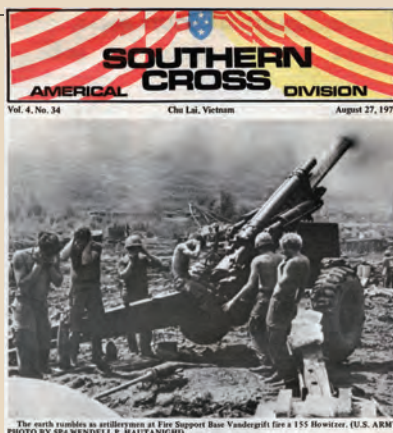
The first story is told by Dutch DeGroot. "We had one of our guys who would put on LT's bars and went right in the officer's club on LZ Bayonet and order a drink. He was as crazy as they come. Bayonet was a small place and it would not have been hard to jackpot him. He worked most of the time in the POW cage. A charmed life saved him."

The second story is told by John Hofer: "I fell in love with a Vietnamese girl for a few hours after meeting her at the Combat Center PX. I wore a lieutenant's shirt while on a two day refit/stand down. I picked it up from our usual piles of uniforms after cleaning weapons, turning in grenades, and showering after a mission in the field."

She also worked as bartender at the Ranger club so of course I had to visit her later that night and the only thing saving me from getting into trouble was the Rangers wondering if I really might be a LT. One beer and I knew I had to leave. I was glad no M.P.s ID'd me as I was only an E-4.

I knew that I could be in trouble by entering the Ranger club as they had a sign at the entrance that said NO LONG HAIR, BEADS. I needed a haircut and all the grunts from my unit always wore unauthorized beads, headbands, etc. and we were proud never to polish our jungle boots."

Dale Meisel; 23rd M.P. Company



Dear editor,

In a recent issue of the Americal Journal, there appeared an article on Operation Lam Son 719 and LZ Sheppard that I would like to comment on. The author mentions in the article that an artillery unit shared LZ Sheppard with the grunts but does not identify the unit. The 155mm towed guns on Sheppard were in fact from B Battery, 1/82nd FA, part of the Americal Division's Division Artillery.

B Battery along with A and C Batteries and the HHQ and Service Batteries of the 1/82nd participated in Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719. Shortly after arriving in Quang Tri province at the end of January 1971 by road convoy from Chu Lai with the rest of the Battalion, B Battery was flown to Sheppard from LZ Vandegriff. When it became impossible to keep the Battery re-supplied by air (all helo assets were busy inserting the ARVN into Laos), B Battery was moved to the Khe Sanh Combat base and later was sent to an unidentified fire base on the Laotian border (probably at the old Lang Ve SF camp). It remained there for a time before moving back to Khe Sanh for another short time then by road back to rejoin other 1/82nd elements at Vandegriff and eventually by road back to Chu Lai. On the way to Vandegriff the battery was ambushed and suffered at least one KIA and a number of wounded when an RPG rocket hit one of the gun section's 5 ton trucks.

The photo above is from the cover of the "Southern Cross" and shows my gun section. I'm the one on the phone. More information on Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719 and the role of the 1/82nd can be found on the web site for the 82nd FA at www.lzhurricane.com.

Ron Griffin; A/1/82FA, 10/70 – 10/71
Oshkosh, WI.

Dear editor,

I just got home from bidding farewell to the official Vietnam Traveling Wall. It was at the Cherry Hill, NJ Americal Legion post for a week. I am not a member of the post, but when I heard the Wall was coming, I contacted the event coordinator. When she heard I had worked the Wall on prior occasions she signed me up.

This event can always use volunteers. The link to the Wall's schedule is below. The schedule also lists the sponsor to make it easy to contact them. I always come away from these events with a good feeling. If you use the link, click on the Cherry Hill event. The post has a good webmaster and she posted plenty of photos and info. VVMF Home Page and Traveling Wall Schedule is at <http://www.vvmf.org>.

I would also like to pass on the correct method for placing a flag on a military veteran's grave. The flag must be centered on the grave marker one foot away. However, the one foot is not necessarily twelve inches. Preferably, it is one service man's, or women's, foot. With the toe touching the center of the marker, the flag is then placed at the heel. I learned that a long time ago when I was watching the graves being flagged at Arlington.

Richard Drapczuk;
richarddrapczuk@aol.com

Dear editor,

I would like to provide you with some follow-up information with regard to my article Three Days Near Tam Ky that was in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2009 issue of the Americal Journal.

As told in the story, SP4 John Priesthoff was killed during the battle. His brother Stephen Priesthoff recently made a trip to Vietnam with a veteran's self-help organization called Soldier's Heart. While in Vietnam it was learned that the DaNang Street Children's Orphanage plans to build a clinic in memory of SP4 Priesthoff. Stephen is heading the fundraising effort for the clinic building.

More information on the project and Soldier's Heart can be obtained from Paula Griffin, Program Manager, 518-274-0501, Ext. 10. E-mail can be sent to her at paula@soldiersheart.net. Soldier's Heart takes veterans back to Vietnam each year to help in their healing process.

Robert Vertrees; vertrees@vcweb.org



Dear editor,

After the passing of 37 years, four former Americal Division information officers were reunited on October 3, 2008 in Santa Rosa, CA, to celebrate the wedding of Henry Grambergu and Lizann Hunt at the Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club. Shown with the Americal flag are Bob Palmer of Mount Pleasant, Texas; Grambergu of Santa Rosa, CA; Jim Jordan of Lexington, Ky., and Frank Griscom of Charlotte, N.C. The four served with the Americal at Chu Lai in 1970-71 and had not been together as a group since leaving Vietnam.

Jim Jordan
Lexington, KY

Dear editor,

The 116th Avn. Co., Hornets and Stingers, joined the 14th Avn. Bn. in July 1970. Their first major action in the Americal Division (23rd ID) was the reopening of LZ Boxer. Later, when the 14th Avn. Bn. was OPCON to 101st Abn. Div. for Lam Son 719, the 116th made two trips to Quang Tri in a combined fight with the 176th Avn. Co. to support operations in Laos.

Doug Womack (71st Avn Co);
dmfwomack@yahoo.com
CW4, USAR, Retired

Ensure prompt delivery of your Americal Journal. Send all address changes to Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant, as soon as possible. This includes seasonal changes.

Dear editor,

My journey closely parallels that of Lloyd Davis. (See Part II of Davis' story in this issue of the Americal Journal. –Ed.) Two of my buddies and I joined Co. E, 132nd Inf. just prior to my 23rd birthday. We wanted to go together. We too found ourselves in Tullahoma, TN for our basic training. As I recall we travelled by truck convoy to Indian-town Gap, PA thence to Brooklyn Navy Yard where we boarded the Santa Rosa. The Santa Rosa was a converted Grace-line ocean liner. We were berthed in the hold in iron pipe-rack bunks.

The ship was stocked with provisions for a Northern voyage. During our 38-day trip to Melbourne, Australia the warm Pacific air caused much of the perishables to be lost. We travelled by the narrow gauge railroad to Ballarat, Victoria. Two of us were billeted with a really nice family- the Jack Redmonds.

Co. E ended up around Bourail. I ended up as a sergeant in charge of a small group of men and three vehicles in a field in the middle of Bourail. Our duty was to keep truck traffic under control. This was great duty as we cooked our own meals and stayed away from company mess.

Alonzo Hodgdon
Barefoot Bay, FL

Dear editor,

My new book, *In Safe Hands*, has just been released by Xlibris Corporation. The book contains 41 true stories about the men and women of the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The CBP is the thin blue line between the United States and the rest of the world. The men and women who serve in the CBP are sworn to keep illegal and life-threatening elements out of the country.

My first published book, *Walking Point*, was the story about my experiences as an infantryman with the Americal Division in the jungles of Vietnam.

I retired after over thirty years in the U.S. government. The last twenty years I served as a supervisory Customs inspector in charge of the drug and terrorist team in the Boston and New England areas. I am now retired and live in Norwood, Massachusetts.

My motivation for writing this book is to let the public know what a wonderful group of people they can rely on to keep America free and safe. The officers from the Customs and Border Protection deserve no less, and I hope my efforts show to the citizens of America how wonderful these folks are. They are in safe hands with the men and women of the Customs and Border Protection.

Mike Cunningham;
michaelcunn@comcast.net

Life Member Cards and Certificates By Roger Gilmore ADVA National Adjutant

The Americal Division Veterans Association's latest membership project is an upgrade for Paid Life members' identification cards.

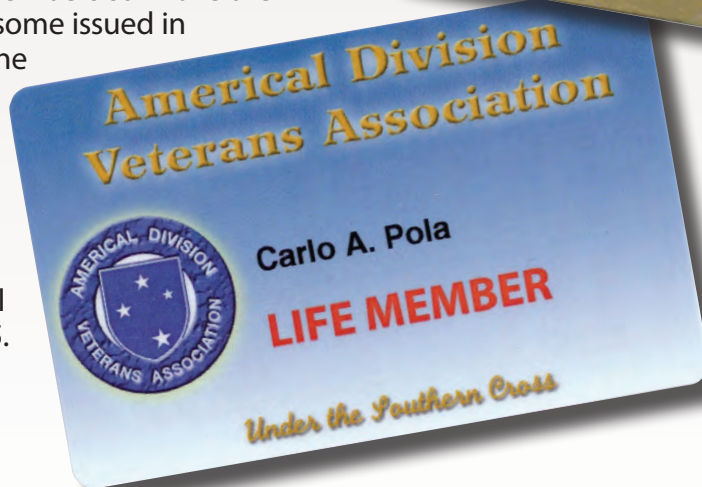
We embarked on this project late last year with a search for a vendor who could produce a plastic wallet size membership card that is similar in size to a personal credit card. We also wanted a paper certificate suitable for framing. It would be a document ADVA life members could proudly display in their home or office. We located a Dallas, Texas area vendor who produced the two documents at a reasonable cost.

John (Dutch) Dutch DeGroot, an ADVA life member and Past National Commander, designed the new Life Member card and certificate. Dutch donated his design talents and many hours working on the wallet card and wall certificate design. Dutch also communicated with the vendor to get all the design and font specification details worked into the final proofs.

The association owes a big "Thank You" to Dutch for all his hard work helping bring this project to fruition. In addition, a note of gratitude goes out to Product Sales Director Wayne Bryant, whose Americal PX sales proceeds provided funding for the project.

And I owe my wife, Von, big thanks for her help with envelope preparation and inserting the documents into the envelopes for mailing. We mailed out over 1,100 new life member card packets at the end of February.

Some of the older members still have their old Life Member card, some issued in the very early days of the association. The pictures below show Life Member Carlo Pola's original life member card and his new wallet card and certificate. The original card was issued in 1975.



Americal Daily News Sheets Added to Database

By Les Hines
ADVA Vietnam Historian

I recently received 18 issues of the Americal Daily Newsheets from late 1967 to early 1968. We did not have one of these in our data base! We have not had a new issue located since 1999! Unless there are other locations I am not aware of we have obtained all the issues available from Carlisle Barracks, PA, Center of Military History (U.S. Army). I would like to thank SSGT David L. Jones (Ret), a veteran of Co. C, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, for providing these newsheets.

If you have items that you wish to donate to the database or if you would like to receive DVDs containing electronic files of the database please contact me. I may be reached at 515-255-4807 or by e-mail at Pelican.123rd.avn@worldnet.att.net.

Below is a sample taken from one of the Americal Newsheets. It reports activity in the Americal Division during the aftermath of the Tet Offensive.

Americal Daily News Sheets- Vol. 1. No. 289 Saturday February 3, 1968

Americal Elements Kill 32 Enemy Yesterday

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Americal Division forces reported killing 32 VC in southern I Corps yesterday. Americal units suffered one soldier killed and three wounded in yesterday's fighting.

Units of Americal's 196th Brigade killed eight VC yesterday in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa being conducted in Quang Tin Province.

"F" Troop, 17th Cavalry found one 500 pound bomb. It was destroyed in place. The explosion killed one VC who ran from his hiding place and tried to disarm the bomb.

A troop of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry killed one VC. After receiving recoilless rifle and small arms fire, artillery was called on a suspected VC position. A search of the area discovered one dead VC. A few minutes later they found blood trails leading to four more VC bodies. Another platoon of the Cav. engaged four VC with weapons. They later checked the area and found one weapon, two clips, two hand grenades and two ammunition pouches.

A company of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry led by CPT Eugene C. Moor (San Rafael, Calif) found 212 rounds of AK-47 ammo, two ammo pouches, one AK-47 clip, two uniforms, one pack and belt. They also found and destroyed one 105mm round and three Chicom hand grenades. Later in the afternoon they found 35 rounds of 82 mortar ammo, one base plate, one 82mm mortar tube, one can of mortar charges, night lights of the mortar, two packs, four canteens, and one flashlight. The equipment was found in a spider hole and tunnel. Both were destroyed.

In a brief change of command ceremony held Feb. 1, on "Charger Hill", LTC William P. Snyder assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry "Gimlets" from LTC Allen R. Champlain (Fayetteville, N.C.).

Eleven VC were reported killed by Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry as they continued operations in the Tam Ky area yesterday. A Cavalry element called in an airstrike which resulted in the 11 kills and one bunker destroyed.

Three enemy were reported killed in Operation Muscatine yesterday as units of Americal's 198th Brigade continued mopping-up VC units that attacked the Chu Lai area two days ago.

The three dead VC, found a few miles west of here, were reported as having been killed by artillery fire of the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery. An element of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, in an ambush site encountered an estimated force of 40 VC with weapons in Operation Muscatine.

Enemy sniper activity increased throughout the brigade's area of operation yesterday. Four separate sniper incidents of automatic weapons and small arms fire were reported. No brigade casualties were sustained from the contacts.

Brigade elements operating 20 miles south of here in the Operation Muscatine area located 2,250 pounds of enemy rice and captured one MAS-36 rifle. The brigade's "H" Troop, 17th Cavalry found six Chicom 82mm mortar rounds during a sweep of an area three miles west of here yesterday morning.

Civic action soldiers of the "Brave and Bold" went back into action – yesterday as they treated 287 Vietnamese in three area medical visits.

Action was reported in Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry's area of operation yesterday as the "Broncos" killed four VC and detained two suspects.

Early in the morning a company of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, engaged and killed three VC in a tunnel. Later in the day a company from the 39th Engineers killed one VC and detained two suspects.

Six enemy were killed in two separate contacts by Americal's 11th Brigade in their area of operation yesterday.

A delayed report from Thursday's action brings the total number of weapons captured to 57. A company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, uncovered six more weapons late Thursday near the coastal town of Sa Huynh, 12 miles south of Duc Pho.

Four incidents of enemy initiated action were reported in the Duc Pho area. Three bridges on Hwy #1 received enemy fire and a vehicle from the brigade's Military Police unit received sniper fire while escorting a convoy north of Duc Pho.

SAIGON – President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam has assured U.S. officials that the state of martial law proclaimed on Wednesday will last only a few days----until the Viet Cong have been cleaned out of the major cities.

Thieu met with U.S. ambassador Ellsworth Bunker briefly Thursday and reportedly told him martial law would be lifted as soon as life could return to normal up and down the embattled nation.

SEOUL- South Korean Premier Chung Il-Kuon says Communists are training thousands of guerrillas for missions in his country. A group of North Korean infiltrators slipped across the border into the Western sector of South Korea Thursday. U.S. Troops exchanged fire with the Communists. No American casualties were reported.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

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SECRETARY

Elmer Wright
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VICE-COMMANDER

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TREASURER

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Dave Eichhorn is looking at the Newport News, VA area for the 2010 Eastern Chapter reunion for the first week in May. No one has contacted me with regard to the chapter preference for a spring reunion or a fall reunion. A chapter reunion in the fall of 2010 will conflict with the schedule of

the national reunion which will be held in the fall of 2010.

The next chapter reunion will be in Portland, ME on September 10-13, 2009. Check the website at <http://home.roadrunner.com/~sidneyalum/advaerc/> for upcoming information. (Please note that in the above web address the symbol in front of sidneyalum is the wave symbol that is usually located on the top left of the keyboard. It is not a dash.) **-Connie Steers**



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



We are hoping for a good turnout of 23rd MPs for the upcoming reunion in Shreveport-Bossier City, LA. We shall be having a chapter meeting at this time. Some of the subjects to be covered are election of chapter officers and the possibility of a chapter reunion in June 2010, perhaps at the MP school (the

ADVA reunion will be in fall of 2010). We will also have a discussion on the MP history project and improvements that need to be done on it.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL IN MI MN WI

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Senior Vice Com.

**Gary Gardner
Jr Vice Com.**
Harold Waterman

Adjutant

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



Comrades- spring is finally here! Another winter is behind us. The monsoons weren't too bad this year. As we all know, it could be worse. Hopefully every one is recovering from the bad economy. Where I work in Wisconsin the unemployment rate is 16%. Many good

people are going through hard times with no livable wage jobs around. Retraining or more schooling is needed to find decent jobs that will give job security. Older veterans don't want to retrain, but are being left no choice. Many high paying manufacturing jobs are gone forever. If you need to change occupations, check with your local CVSO or Veteran Employment Representative to see if you are eligible for Retraining or Schooling Assistance.

I have not received enough interest from members to set up a Great Lakes Chapter Reunion this year. We will try again next year when things pick up again. I look forward to meeting and shaking hands with all fellow chapter vets. They have my respect because they have "been there, done that!" G.I. #1. Who would have known surviving life would be as tough as surviving the war was. The Americal vets I have met, have gone ahead with their lives and became successful. Can't keep a good man down! I have always been a believer in "It's what inside a person that really counts!" Now, some have to start over again. They will, because they were taught by the Vietnam experience to be mentally tough! Support your fellow soldiers that are down, but not out.

If anyone has any ideas for an event or events to promote, please send to me and I will send to Great Lakes Members that I have an email address for. Good luck to all. Peace. "Hire A Vet, Because it is good business!" **-Dale J. Belke**

One Last Campaign for the Old Guard!

MUSEUM

dwtaylor@ohio.net

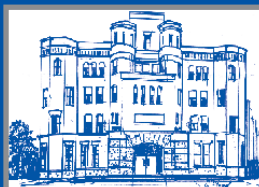
Contributions to the renovation fund of the Americal Museum are tax deductible. Please send your donation

to:

David W. Taylor

970 Kenner Ave.

Medina, OH 44256



FAR WEST CHAPTER

AZ CA CO HI NV NM UT WA OR ID UT MT WY

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The Reno Arch, an iconic landmark in Reno, Nevada, boosts the city as "The Biggest Little City in the World". I don't know how true that is, but I do know it is a great city to hold a reunion. That is just what the Far West Chapter is doing October 18 – 20, 2009. Our headquarters

will be the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa located at 3800 S. Virginia St. Rooms can be reserved now for the reunion rate of \$62.00 per night. Just let the reservation operator know you are with the Americal Division Veterans Association. The toll-free number is (800) 723-6500. Visit their website for more information about the resort at <http://www.atlantiscasino.com>.

The Atlantis offers all the amenities you would expect to find at any large hotel/casino. Located just three miles from the Reno International Airport, the Atlantis offers free airport shuttle service and free valet or self parking. The airport is served by many of the major airlines including Southwest, American, United, USAir, Delta, Horizon and Alaska.

We are assured by Reunion Chairman, Rich Merlin that the reunion will be a good one with a scheduled tour or two and an enjoyable banquet to bring it to a close. Check in early or stay a few days after to enjoy the area. Located in the downtown area, the Truckee River Whitewater Park and the Riverwalk District offers entertainment, dining and shopping opportunities. The National Automobile Museum, featuring the "Harrah Collection" is close by. Less than a one hour drive is Lake Tahoe, offering 70 miles of scenic shoreline. At the south end of the lake is South Lake Tahoe with several Las Vegas style casinos. Across the street in California, you can ride the Heavenly Gondola to the top for a spectacular view of the entire lake and surrounding mountains. Historic Virginia City celebrates its 150th birthday this year and is also a short drive just southeast of Reno.

Reservation forms and tour information will be sent to all Far West Chapter members at the end of May or in early June. Others may obtain reservation information from Tom Packard using any of the contact information above.

FWC membership has increased by 61 members this year to 217. Sixty of them came from the former Northwest Chapter area. We welcome those members and hope to see many of them in Reno. If you're not a member of the Chapter and live in the westernmost 13 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, consider joining us. Contact Tom Packard for an application.

Our quarterly newsletter, the Cannon was just published and successfully mailed electronically to 126 of our members. The other 91 chapter members received a hard copy of the newsletter. This was our first electronic version and it was well received by our members. The chapter was able to cut the printing and mailing costs by about half in sending the newsletter out electronically. We would like to encourage those members who have an e-mail address but received a hard copy of the newsletter, to send your address to Tom at the above address. Thanks to those who gave us your email address. We hope you enjoy receiving the newsletter online.

**U.S. Army - WWII Facts**

There were five types of U.S. Army divisions in World War II- infantry, mountain, armored, airborne, and cavalry.

Ninety-one divisions were mobilized during the war: 68 infantry divisions, 1 mountain division, 16 armored divisions, 5 airborne divisions, and 2 cavalry divisions.

All divisions were activated in the United States except for the following divisions: Philippine (activated in the Philippines), Hawaiian (activated in Hawaii and renamed the 24th division), 25th (activated in Hawaii from troops of the Hawaiian division), and Americal (activated in New Caledonia.)

There were three major theaters of operation during the war: Pacific (22 divisions), Mediterranean (15 divisions), and Europe (61 divisions). Seven divisions served in both the Mediterranean and European Theaters (1st, 3rd, 9th, 36th, 45th infantry divisions; 82nd airborne; and 2nd armored.)

Two divisions were disbanded or deactivated before the end of the war: the Philippine division was destroyed and disbanded on 10 April 1942; and the 2nd Cavalry division was activated and inactivated twice: 15 Apr 41 to 15 Jul 42 and 23 Feb 43 to 10 May 44.

Three divisions did not enter combat: 98th Infantry division, 13th Airborne division, and the 2nd Cavalry division.

By June 1946, 74 divisions were inactivated or disbanded leaving 17 divisions on active duty.

Ensure prompt delivery of your Americal Journal. Send all address changes to Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant, as soon as possible. This includes seasonal changes.

2008 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 2009 contributors will be available next year.

\$1000 OR MORE

John McNown (*in memory of Bill Adams & William Wright*)
Al Cotta
Bob and Kitty Millard

\$500-999

Edward DenBraven
Richard Merlin
Peter Chelemedos
Ron Ellis & Wayne Bryant
(collected at the 2008 reunion)

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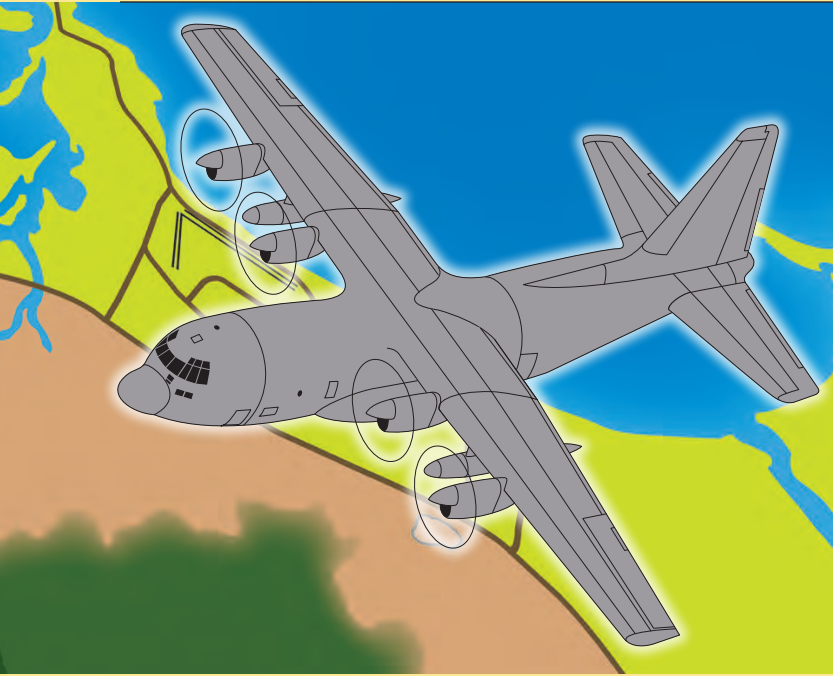
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362d Aviation Detachment (Div) Chu Lai Air Traffic Control

By Kim L. Cantor

A few months ago I received the Americal Journal magazine featuring a display of aviation such as Rattlers, Boxcars, etc. One patch was missing and it was an important one- the 362d Aviation Det. (Div) Chu Lai Air Traffic Control.

Of note is the layout of Tower Power and the runway headings. Yes, they form a peace symbol. More than a few air controllers went on to work in the FAA.

You don't hear much about the air controllers in Vietnam. Chu Lai was the largest airfield run by the Army. At one point we exceeded O'Hare International Airport in Chicago in air traffic.

Before I returned to Chu Lai I spent two months at a place called Tien Phuoc. I was detached to Battery B, 3/16th Field Artillery. Instead of a two-mile long concrete runway like the one at Chu Lai I conducted air traffic control on a 600 ft PSP runway that cut thru the center if the village.

CHU LAI AIRPORT: INCREASED OPERATION

[News release acquired from the internet]
by David W. Taylor

Chu Lai- (24/11/2008). Vietnam Air Services Company (VASCO) has decided to raise the operation of Chu Lai Airport to 4 flights a week instead of the current 3 for the route of Chu Lai - Tan Son Nhat, Director of Chu Lai Airport said on 21 November 2008.

The flights are scheduled by the airport on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday every week. This is a positive move by VASCO in a bid to gradually turn this medium-sized airport into an important one in the region.

Chu Lai International Airport is an airport in Chu Lai, some 15 km from Quang Nam's Tam Ky City and about 35 km north of Quang Ngai City, located in Chu Lai Open Economic Zone, next to Quang Ngai-based Dung Quat Economic Zone. The airport was opened for the first commercial flight from Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport on March 22, 2005.

As of 2008, Chu Lai International Airport, the largest airfield in Vietnam in terms of area, covering 30 sq km with the runway of 3050 m long, has safely operated over 250 flights, transporting more than 12,000 passengers. With this extended operation, in 2009 Chu Lai Airport plans to conduct some 412 flights with 17,000 passengers transported.

Fully aware of the airport's current disadvantages in terms of infrastructure and services, the government of Vietnam has approved an investment plan for this airport, according to which, Chu Lai airport will receive nearly VND 11,470 billion (nearly \$700 million) in investment for enlarging its capacity to 25 landing places by 2015 and 46 by 2025.

The project will include renovation and new infrastructure, including two runways, 3,800m and 4,000m long, and 60 meters wide each, six parking lots and two transit stations. The airport will also receive a new signal light system and control station for average sized aircraft, such as Boeing 767s and Airbus 320s. Vietnamese officials hope the airport will be able to handle 4 million passengers by completion in 2025.

In the future, when the two economic spaces of Chu Lai and Dung Quat become fully filled by investors and operate as one of the country's busiest economic centers, the airport shall not only serve as an important passenger terminal but also an air cargo transport hub, with 5 million metric tons of cargo per year. The renovation of the airport shall also contribute to increased competitiveness of the two economic zones of either Chu Lai or Dung Quat.

Chu Lai Airport Factoids

From Wikipedia

Chu Lai International Airport is an airport in Chu Lai, Vietnam (IATA: VCL). It is near to Tam Ky city, the largest city in Quang Nam Province. The airport is located in Chu Lai Open Economic Zone.

In the Vietnam War, this airfield was an airbase of the United States Air Force. The airport was nearly abandoned after the fall of Saigon, and only used irregularly for military flights. On March 22, 2004, the construction of the terminal began and on March 22, 2005, the first commercial flight from Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport landed here.

As of 2008, Chu Lai International Airport is the largest airfield in Vietnam in terms of area, covering 30 sq. km. The runway is 3050 m long. During the Vietnam War, large aircraft including B-52s landed and took off here

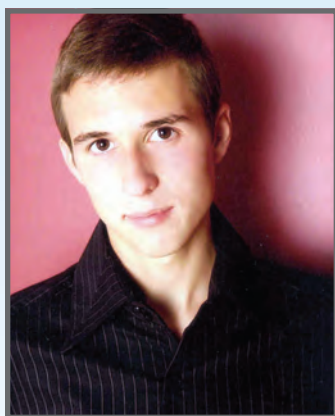


Recent Scholarship Recipients



I would like to thank the Association for your kind award. Marymount is a great school, but even with substantial scholarships and grants, it's a financial stretch. Your award helped immensely in making it all happen.
Glenna O'Connor

I would like to thank my grandfather, Earl Clayton. I will never be able to understand his service and sacrifice for the protection of our freedom. Without people like him, I would have to forfeit so many freedoms that the United States has come to provide. I also would like to thank ADVA members for their scholarship. **Jared Clayton**



Please accept my sincere thanks for the generous scholarship award. The award will be used to purchase my first semester books at Miami University in Oxford, OH. I will do my best to honor both my father for sponsoring me and the members of the ADVA for their generosity.
Douglas L. Chiki

I want to thank you for the generous scholarship. I am currently attending Northern Virginia Community College where I had a full course load this past summer as well as the fall semester. I look forward to applying again for the 2009-2010 school year.
Kelsey Hobar

Locator Requests

Looking for: Anyone from Co. E, Recon, Co. B, Co. D, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB, March 1969 to March 1970. Especially want to find members of the recon platoon or anyone else who remembers me or things that happened then. Contact: Daniel D Barnes; ddb6081@frontiernet.net

Looking for: 1SG Charles Webb and CPT Zion S. Church, 11th Inf. Bde., Dec 1967-June 1968, for help with VA claim. Contact: John G. Herbert; 706-592-2288.

Looking for: Information about my grandfather's service with the Americal-51st Ordnance Ammunition Co. He was part of Task Force 6814 that sailed out of New York in January 1942. He landed in Aussie then went on to New Caledonia then on to the Solomon Islands on November 18, 1942. Contact: Mark Hall; markdavidhall@gmail.com.

Looking for: Information about 3/16th Artillery, Thien Phouc. Contact: Garf1313@aol.com.

Looking for: Daily records for 5/20/1970, 5/30/1970, 5/31/1970 for Co. A, 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB, Quang Tin province, and specifically for anything about Patrick Eugene Lawlor, KIA 5/30/70. Contact: Jean Carafello, 2bha5@earthlink.net.

Looking for: Award orders or other information about my Purple Heart medal. It is listed on my DD-215. I was wounded on a recon mission near Tien Phuoc on March 4, 1971 while serving with third platoon, F Trp, 17th Cav. as a combat medic. Contact: Clarence E. Fune; 95 Ai Ai St., Kahului Maui, HI, 96732-2901; 808-250-1259.

Looking for: Information about an action that happened on May 27, 1968 during a combat assault insertion southwest of LZ Baldy involving Minuteman 19 of the 176th Avn. Co. On the first wave we flew into a trap and received heavy gun fire and aborted the operation. Many casualties were taken by the helicopter crews and the infantry onboard. I received shrapnel in my right hand, the door gunner received injuries, and two infantrymen were also shot. All casualties were taken to the evac hospital at LZ Baldy. I would like to know the exact location, names of other WIAs, the infantry unit involved (possibly D/3/21), etc. Contact: Robert Hartley, hartleyms@hotmail.com.

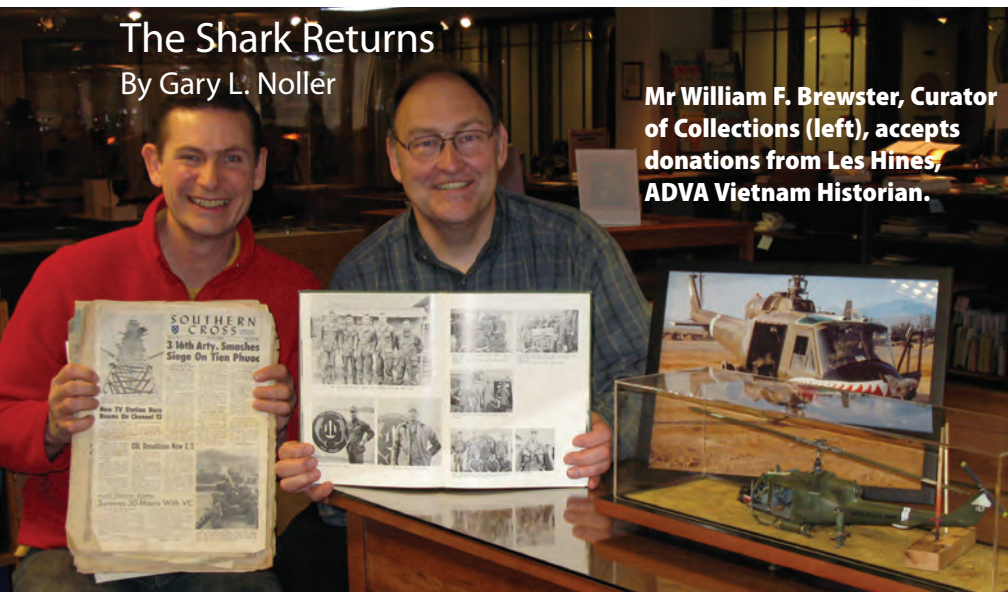
Looking for: men who served with Btry. A, 1/82nd Arty. I have a Btry. A roster with names and social security numbers. I would like assistance in reuniting us. Contact: Jack Logsdon; jlog@hughes.net.

Looking for: copies of or information on how to get the company and battalion daily reports for Co. G, 2nd Bn., 132nd Inf. Regt., during the attack on Hill 27 on Guadalcanal on 15 Dec 1942 through 5 Jan 1943. My father, Capt. George M. Bergeron, was in command of the company at the time. Contact: Richard Bergeron; rjbergeron@gmail.com.

The Shark Returns

By Gary L. Noller

Mr William F. Brewster, Curator of Collections (left), accepts donations from Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian.



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, WI features military exhibits and artifacts from the Civil War to the current time. Among the exhibits is a Bell UH-1C Iroquois helicopter that served with the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War. The chopper is fully restored and is suspended from the ceiling of the museum.

This helicopter has special meaning for veterans of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC). The 174th AHC's gunships went by the radio call sign "Shark" and its slick troop/cargo transport helicopters were known as the "Dolphins".

The helicopter in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum happens to be Shark 157. But it is painted in the colors of a different Vietnam War unit. Veterans of the 174th AHC petitioned the museum to repaint the helicopter to its original Shark colors. Word has recently been received that the museum has agreed to this restoration project. Members of the 174th AHC will soon undertake the changes necessary to recreate Shark 157's distinctive toothy visage.

On April 23, 2009 Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, delivered a 1/35 scale model of a UH-1C helicopter to the museum. The helicopter is in a glass display case and is painted in 174th AHC Shark colors. Hines served in Vietnam as a crewchief and door gunner with the 123rd Aviation Bn. and has a keen interest in Shark 157.

While in Madison Hines also delivered personal copies of the Southern Cross newsheet, a 1967 edition of the 14th Aviation Battalion album, five Chieu Hoi papers, a copy of the ADVA historical data base, and personal copies of recent ADVA journals.

Shark 157 is in great shape but a few items are needed to restore the helicopter to its full war-time regalia. In particular, veterans are hoping to secure a M5 weapons system. The M5 is a 40mm nose-mounted turret grenade launcher that can fire 220 rounds per minute. There is also a need for crew armor protection "chicken plates".

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is located across the street from the Wisconsin State Capitol in downtown Madison. More information on this project can be obtained from James McDaniels <jim.mcd@cox.net> or Marty Heuer <MartyHeuer@aol.com>.

National Infantry Museum Set to Open

By Gary L. Noller

The National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA will conduct its grand opening on June 19, 2009. The \$100 million facility features galleries that depict America's wars and the infantry battles that distinguish them.

On March 25, 2009 the parade grounds at the museum were dedicated in a special ceremony. Basic training graduates from Ft. Benning will pass in review on these parade grounds to signify their completion of infantry training.

The dedication of the parade grounds included a Sacred Soil ceremony. Soils collected from renowned and diverse

infantry battlefields from eight wars were deposited on the new parade grounds. Among the battlefields represented were Yorktown, Antietam, Western Front France, Normandy, Guadalcanal, Corregidor, Korea, I Drang Valley, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The ADVA Legacy Committee proposed that one of the memorial monuments to veterans of the Americal Division be constructed at the National Infantry Museum. This project is led by Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant. Details of the proposed memorial project are scheduled to be presented to ADVA members at the 2009 reunion in Shreveport-Bossier City, LA. (See the Jan-Feb-Mar 2009 issue of the *Americal Journal* for an article about the Legacy Committee and its goals and objectives.)



ADVA National 2009 National Reunion Shreveport-Bossier City, LA

www.americal.org/reunion.shtml

Check the ADVA website for any and all last minute updates for the 2009 ADVA National Reunion. The event will be held at Diamond Jack's Casino and Resort in Bossier City, LA on June 25-28, 2009. Registration forms and details can be found on the reunion page at americal.org and in the previous two issues of the *Americal Journal* magazine.

If you are flying into the Shreveport airport arrangements can be made for Diamond Jack's to pick you up. These arrangements must be made in advance through Roger Gilmore, member of the reunion committee. Do not try to make arrangements directly through the hotel since this is a special service. Hotel transportation to and from the airport must be arranged at the direction of Roger. Contact Roger at 214-497-6543 or e-mail to gilmoraces@aol.com.

A Saturday morning Ladies' Tour of the Gardens of the American Rose Center has been added to the schedule. The tour will be conducted if enough people are interested. The tour will leave the hotel at about 9:00 AM and return by 2:00 PM. It will include transportation and lunch and will be priced at \$20 per person. Final arrangements will be known by the time that you arrive at the reunion and payment for the tour can be completed on the day of the tour.

The Gardens of the American Rose Center is a 118 acre park with more than 65 individual gardens. Each bed is specifically designed to demonstrate the many ways that roses can be grown in average home gardens. Tour goers will be shuttled from the main entrance area to the opposite end of the center and will be able to walk various paths among the different garden areas.

The Friday tour to Barksdale AFB will include a program during the lunch at the officers' club. The Americal memorial service will be held after lunch. This will be followed by a presentation by COL (USAF Retired) Steve dePyssler. Colonel dePyssler will cover VA entitlements and benefits for veterans and their families. These include VA disability compensation and entitlements and widows Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and casualty affairs for all veterans. Colonel dePyssler is a veteran of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War and is a certified veterans service officer.

Word has been received that the tour of Barksdale AFB will include a static display of a B-52 "Stratofortress" bomber and the A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthog". The B-52 made its first flight in 1952 and began service as a strategic bomber in the USAF in 1955. The A-10 began service in 1975 and is designed for close air support of ground forces.

The weather in Shreveport-Bossier City is expected to be warm and sunny. Diamond Jack's Casino and Resort has the largest outdoor swimming pool in the area. A bar and grill is located poolside and is sure to be a popular place to hang out.

NOCC Reunion 2009

Graduates of the Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Course (NOCC) at Ft. Benning, GA in the years 1967-1972 are invited to a reunion to be held October 1-4, 2009 at Ft. Benning. The NOCC graduated 26,000 NCOs from 187 classes during the six year period.

Special events are planned for the reunion to include a visit to the new National Infantry Museum and the dedication of an NOCC memorial on the museum grounds. Friday's activities will include the participation of veterans in an Airborne graduation ceremony and lunch on post.

Reunion headquarters are at the recently completed Suburban Extended Stay Hotel on Victory Drive near Ft. Benning. The hotel has book 100 rooms at a room rate of \$80.00 plus tax per night. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at 706-687-7515. The nearest airports are at Atlanta, GA or Montgomery, AL. Ground transportation is available from either airport.

The NCOC website will be updated with current information pertaining to the reunion. The website is at <http://w3.ime.net/~ncocloca/NCOC-1~1.HTM>. For more information you may contact Scott Guptill, scott.guptill@pgn.com, 503-464-8554 or Tony Dooley, tonydooley101st506@comcast.net, 770-439-5035.

2009 Unit Reunions

Co. D, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB: September 18-20, 2009; Heartland Inn, Des Moines, IA. Call for Reservations: 1-800-334-3277 Ext. 28, mention Vietnam Vet of D Co. for the special room rate of \$50. Contact: Dan Behrens, 10314 150th Street, What Cheer, IA 50268; 641-634-2150 or 641-660-3599 (cell); coalcreek@iowatelcom.net.

Co. B, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB: first company reunion on October 16-18, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brigeton, MO (St. Louis Airport area). For more information contact Kitty Millard at nassaurm@aol.com or call 281 333 3620 or Jim Depew at 513 755 3955 or email gitwood24@yahoo.com. Come, join in the fun and find out what's happened to your brothers since you got "back in the world!."

26th Engineer Bn. (Combat): Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on October 15-18, 2009. On October 17 there will be a dedication of the unit's plaque to the museum. Contact Linda Gordon, 26th Engineers (Combat) Reunion Coordinator & Locator, 550 8th Ave South, Clinton, IA 52732; LindaGordon@mcleodusa.net, 563-242-4061.

Kham Duc/Ngok Tavak Veterans: Hilton Airport Hotel, San Antonio, TX, September 9-14, 2009. Contact Bill or Ann Schneider, 636-942-4042, or e-mail to wschnei591@aol.com.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association: July 23-26, 2009 in Buffalo, NY. For more information see their website at www.196th.org

Memories From Long Ago

By Lloyd W. Davis

A Battery, 247th Field Artillery Battalion

(Editors Note: This is part two of a two part memoir written by Lloyd Davis)

Lloyd Davis (hat) with New Caledonian Paul Pateral, who has recovered an aircraft engine; Pateral was recovering war items for an Americal Museum in 1985.



The Marines invaded Guadalcanal and Tulagi on August 7, 1942. Soon after our division was alerted and the 164th infantry Regiment was sent to Guadalcanal in October to support the Marines. There was only one ship available to move the troops. It took about one week to go from New Caledonia to Guadalcanal and a week back so it was a slow reinforcement process. The entire division was finally moved, the last went in about the last of November 1942. These dates are spelled out in the division history, "Under the Southern Cross."

I was now in Battery "A", 247th Field Artillery Battalion. I was in the instrument and fire control section. We did survey work for the placement of our firing battery and plotted all fire missions on a chart. We were making our own maps as we went along as no maps were to be had. I was part of a forward observation team, a Lieutenant, a communications man and myself. We reported to and accompanied Marine rifle platoons to assist with artillery fire when needed. It could get pretty exciting at times. I have great respect for the Marines as I was with them and saw how they fought; did some shooting myself.

As more Army troops came to the island, our Commanding General, Alexander Patch, took over the island command from Marine General Vandegrift, the Commander of the 1st Marine Division. Then there came a great push to clear the island of the Japanese, much artillery fire and constant

pushing. The island was declared free of Japanese in February, 1943. The whole division was declared malarial and we went to Fiji for rest and recuperation. Our camp was near Lautoka, about 120 miles from Suva, the capital. Fiji is a beautiful island. This was the big island of Viti Levu. Fiji is to England what the Hawaiian Islands are to America; sugar cane and pineapples. After Fiji we went to Bougainville in the Northern Solomon's. My group landed there Christmas Day 1943.

I was now a Sergeant and section chief of #1 gun (105MM Howitzer). No attempt was made to clear the Japanese off the island. Our division and the 37th Division held a perimeter around the air fields. The Japs were cut off from supplies and support. We had many fire missions and some were for long periods of time. The Japs attacked in force where the two divisions met and we fired cannon almost constantly for about 20 hours. The effect of that was that now I am hard of hearing. I was rotated home from Bougainville around the first of October 1944. I went by LCI transport back to Guadalcanal. It was amazing the changes that had been made. It became a very large supply base and there were black-top roads all over. Joe and I went back in 1985 and there is now a city there.

Honiara is the capital and is located on what we knew as Lunga Point.

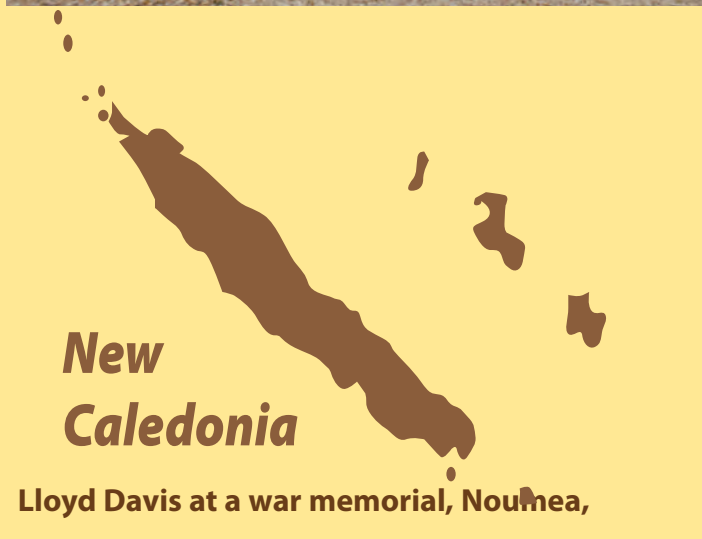
After much delay I got on a transport back to the states. We sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and we went to Fort McDowell on Angel Island, very close to Alcatraz. We went through processing, got haircuts and uniforms and train passage home. First stop was Fort Sheridan in Chicago. I got some pay and tickets to St. Louis. I called Dad and told him I was coming on the I.C. and when. He told me to get off at Eads Station. He was there to meet me and it was a happy and tearful reunion. We went home to see Mom and Mary Louise was there. It is hard to explain my feelings. Almost three years overseas and back home in one piece. I had to report to an office in St. Louis to get further orders. I learned that I would be going to Miami for R&R. I asked Mary Louise if we were going to get married. I've often teased her that she married me so she could go to Miami Beach. We did get married on December 16th 1944.

Remembering the South Pacific

Lloyd Davis returned to the islands of his WWII experiences in 1985. Here are some pictures from his return trip. Regrettably David answered his final roll call on June 15, 2007 at the age of 86. His wife, Mary Louise Davis, provided his autobiography and the photos for this article to the ADVA WWII Historian in July 2008.



**World War II Memorial,
Poindimie, New
Caledonia**



**New
Caledonia**

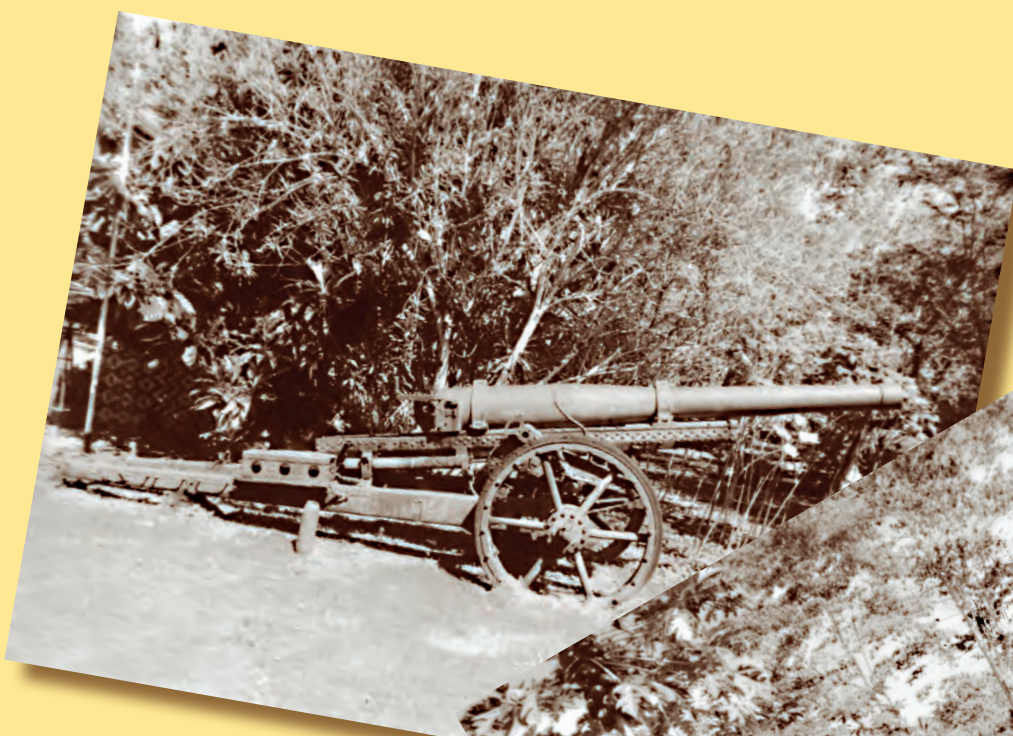
Lloyd Davis at a war memorial, Noumea,



**Fred Kona with Lloyd Davis at the
Vilu Cultural Village War Museum,
Guadalcanal – 1985**



Ghosts of War Guadalcanal – 1985





Remembering Peter Messina

Elizabeth Messina Sweedo

(Editors note: Peter J. Messina is an ADVA Past National Commander who was awarded the ADVA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. PNC Messina answered his final roll call on March 19th. This remembrance is the eulogy his daughter gave at his funeral Mass on March 24th)

Peter Messina is my beloved father. My father's life was shaped like the hot molten lava volcanically erupting from Sicily's Mt. Etna into a hard rock by *tradition, family, and duty*.

Italian tradition requires that the first born son be named after his paternal grandfather. So, Raimondo and Calogera Messina named their first son, Pietro—translated, it means "Peter" in English and "Rock" in Latin. My father lived up to his name.

There are many famous rocks like Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, The Rock of Gibraltar, Plymouth Rock and Mount Rushmore. Rocks weather storms, stand as quiet sentinels, and serve as monuments and landmarks, which give us a sense of purpose, history and often point us in the right direction.

Like Half-Dome, my father's life was weathered. When he was seven years old, he emigrated from Sicily to America. He learned to speak English and he survived the Great Depression. As a young teenager, he would rise before the sun and go with Mr. Longo, a neighbor and green grocer, into the warehouse district in Pittsburgh. After a full day's work, Mr. Longo would buy him a meal and give him two bags of fruits and vegetables to take home to his mother. When he was in high school, he worked in Isaly's, a Pittsburgh deli. He gave all of his money to his parents. Peter was learning that family was more important than self. Like Half Dome, which was torn in two by violent forces, Peter emerged from the Depression stronger, more confident, and more 'street smart' than ever.

One day he heard that the circus was in town. He had money for a ticket and a box of popcorn. The Ringmaster announced that one of the boxes of popcorn contained a wristwatch. Customers began scrambling to buy popcorn. My father just waited and watched. He observed that all the vendors would sell all their boxes and then would leave the circus tent for a fresh supply--all except one man. He always held back one unsold box when he restocked his supply. My father called this man over and said that he wanted to purchase a box of popcorn. When the man went to give him the top box, my father said, 'No, I want the bottom box.' My father went home with the wristwatch.



LTC Peter J. Messina – A Lifetime of Service

Like the Rock of Gibraltar, my father was a sentinel, guarding his country. He served in the US Army in the Pacific Theater during WWII and in South Korea during the Korean Conflict. He wrote his memoirs about his Army life, entitled, "*Fire for Effect*," which is a military artillery term. Even though he was often in danger, cold, wet, hungry, and lonely, not once in the entire memoir is there a word of complaint. He was simply doing his duty. My father is a genuine member of the Greatest Generation. Peter, the rock, was no longer "a diamond in the rough" but a polished gemstone. He retired from the US Army after having earned many medals and awards and with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Like Mount Rushmore, my father was a monument and a landmark. Just as Christ said to St. Peter, "On this rock, I will build my Church." My father was the rock on which our family was built. When he returned from WWII after four years of hell in the Pacific, his parents were in dire financial need. The bank, that held their 'balloon' mortgage, was calling for the complete payment. Like so many homeowners today, his parents' home could have gone to foreclosure. My father went to the bank; and using his personal savings, which he had accumulated while serving four years in the Philippines, he paid off the mortgage and saved his family's home.



Peter Messina with Son-in-Law Walter Sweedo at the WWII Monument Dedication at The Mall, Washington D.C., May 29, 2004

One of my greatest honors was to take my father to Washington D.C. on May 29, 2004, for the dedication of the WWII monument on The Mall. On that Memorial Day, I remember telling my father that I was happy that he had lived long enough for me to appreciate what he had done and what he had sacrificed. It was one of the few times that I ever saw my father cry.

My father was the “Rock” of our family ... he was the recorder of our family history and he was our “consigliere.” He gave us a sense of history and purpose. He pointed us in the right direction. We have lost our “Rock,” our beacon and our strength.

I am reminded of the movie, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” with Gregory Peck. Peck’s character is a southern lawyer name Atticus Finch. At the end of the movie Scout, his young daughter, is sitting on the balcony floor as Atticus leaves the courtroom. A man quietly leans over and whispers to Scout, “Stand up. Your father is passing by.” Today, we will all stand as my father passes by for the last time. At Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, he will receive full military honors—a flag draped coffin, a bugler playing Taps, and uniformed soldiers firing a volley as our rock is laid to final rest.

“In gratitude from a grateful Nation...” Peter Messina’s daughter, Elizabeth Messina Sweedo, receives the folded flag from her father’s Casket. Standing behind her is her daughter (and Peter’s granddaughter), Maria Samaritano, and to the left of Maria is Elizabeth’s son (and Peter’s grandson) Nicholas Sweedo.



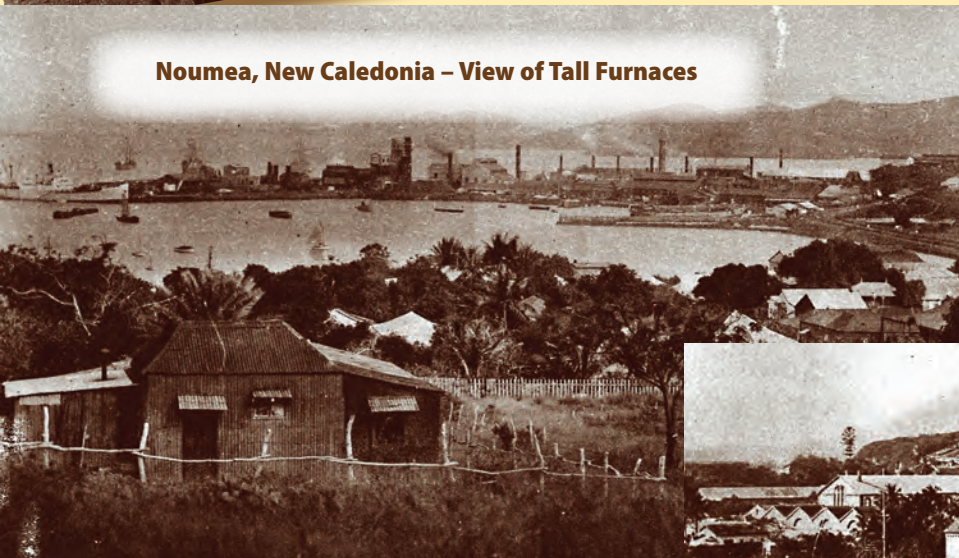
Memories in Pictures New Caledonia of the Past

**Picturesque New Caledonia
– Group of Workers Pose**



New Caledonia – The Nassirah River

Noumea, New Caledonia – View of Tall Furnaces



Editor's note: Tom Carr recently sent images from picture postcards to the ADVA WWII Historian. They were obtained by his father, Americal WWII veteran Lloyd Carr –now deceased- while stationed in New Caledonia with the division. We thought our WWII vets would enjoy these images from the past

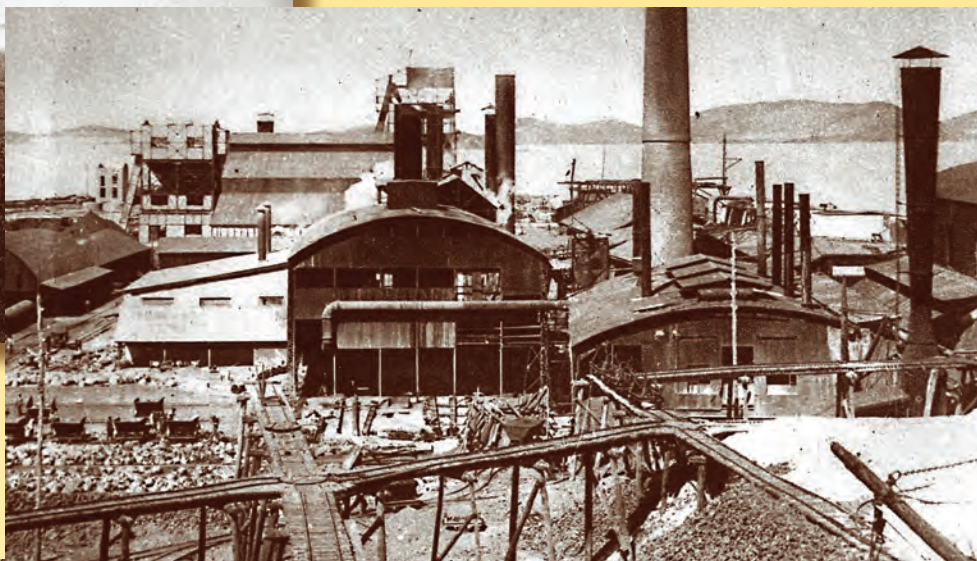


Noumea, New Caledonia – Northern Part

**Picturesque New Caledonia – Group of
Infants from the Ouabouionne Tribe**



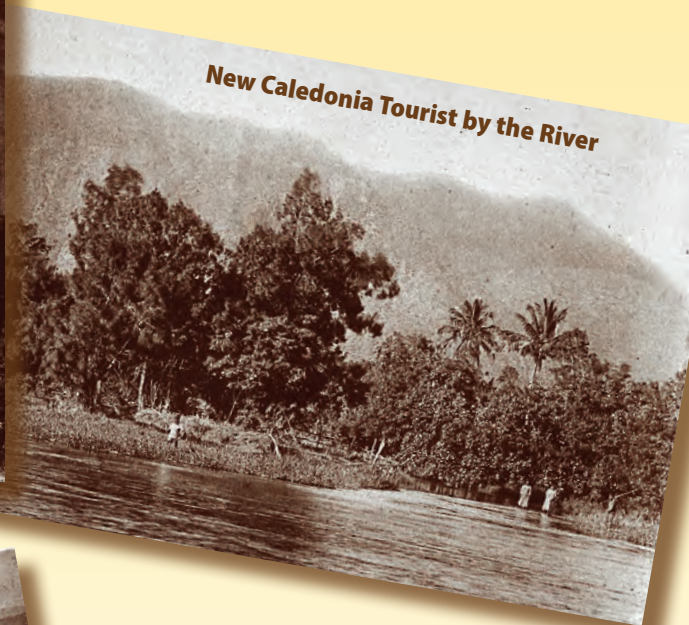
**Picturesque New Caledonia
– Route from Hienghene to Oubatche**



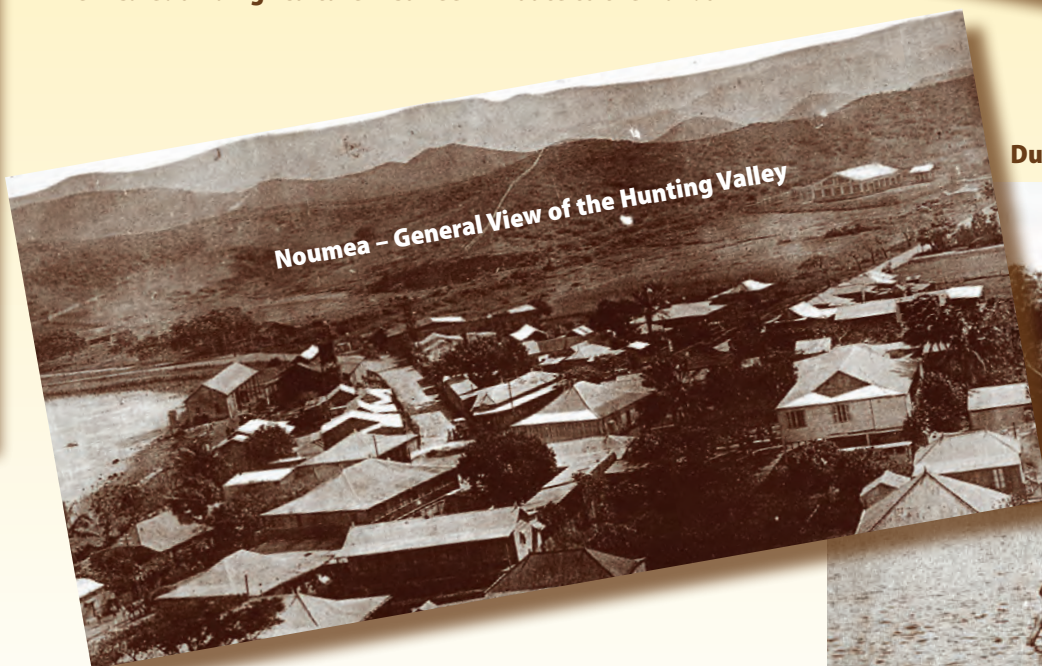
Caledonia Society – Industrial Workers



New Caledonia Agriculture – Coffee En-route to the Harbor



New Caledonia Tourist by the River



Noumea – General View of the Hunting Valley

Dumbea New Caledonia – Group of Swimmers



Hero of "The Great Raid" Dies

He also lost Americal son in Vietnam

By David W. Taylor



**Robert Prince shortly before his death
(Prince family photo)**

The great raider, Captain Robert Prince, died on January 1, 2009. He led one of the most daring combat assaults in World War II; Company F of the Army's Sixth Ranger Battalion raided the Japanese-held Cabanatuan Prisoner of War camp in the Philippines on January 31, 1945 and rescued 512 prisoners, many who had endured three years of starvation, disease and torture. The raid was made into a successful movie, "The Great Raid", in 2005. Much of the raids detail in the movie came from Prince as an advisor.

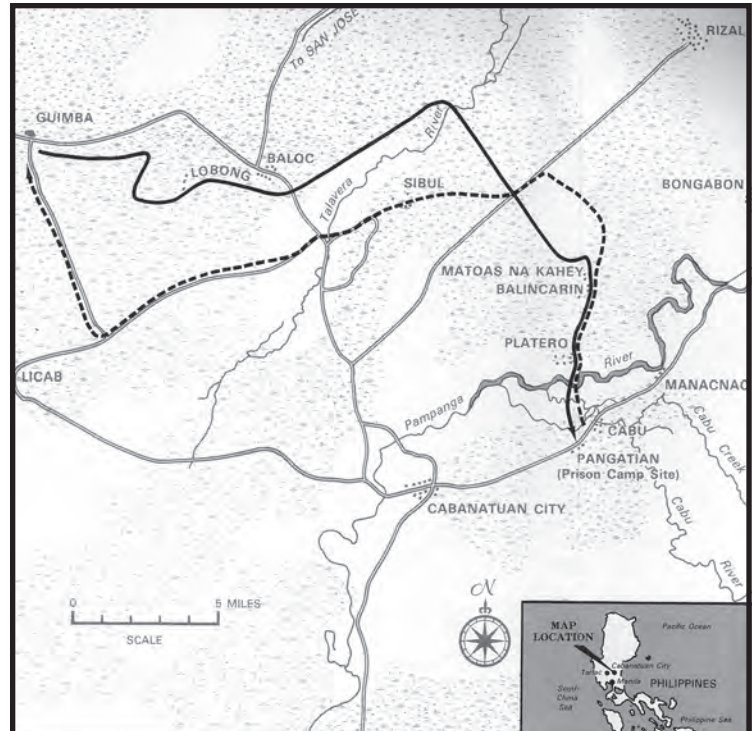
The battalion commander, LTC Henry Mucci, led the raiding force, which included hundreds of Filipino guerillas and the famed Alamo Scouts, through the jungle to the vicinity of the camp. But it fell to Captain Robert Prince, age 25 and a Stanford graduate, to plan the raid in minute detail and then lead the assault himself.

The raid was a complete success with only two Rangers killed and several wounded. No Filipino guerillas died but over 500 Japanese soldiers were killed or wounded. Both Mucci and Prince were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for their actions.

The highly successful raid was heralded across the country and Mucci, Prince and nine other rangers were sent on war bond campaigns across the country which included meeting President Franklin Roosevelt. In an April 1945 interview, Prince reflected that "people everywhere thank me. I think the thanks should go the other way. I'll be grateful the rest of my life that I had a chance to do something in this war that was not destructive. Nothing for me can ever compare with the satisfaction I got from freeing those men."

Prince always deflected credit for his valor demonstrated in the raid, preferring instead, to recognize the prisoners who endured the Bataan Death March the years of captivity before being rescued.

After the war Prince returned to his native Seattle, Washington, married, raised a family of two sons and carved out a successful career marketing Washington State apples.



Cabanatuan Prison Raid: Prince's route to and from the prison camp, January 1945 (US Army War College)



**Steve Prince, E Troop, 1st/1st Cav, KIA August 1969
(Source: James Prince)**

His son Jim recalled, "Dad never talked about the war or the mission to me or my brother until only once when mom urged him to tell us."

Robert Prince survived many harrowing experiences in WWII but war itself would take an additional toll in 1969. His son, SP/4 Stephen Robert Prince was killed in action on August 11, 1969 near Quang Ngai while serving with the Americal's E Troop, 1st/1st Cavalry supporting the 11th Light Infantry Brigade.

Robert Prince's wife passed away in 2003. His remaining son, Jim, a commercial fisherman, noted his dad was "a warm and generous but reserved and humble man." And Americal Division vets who experienced war both in the Philippines and Vietnam will always be humbled by the courage and sacrifice of the Prince family.

Together Again at Melbourne Reunion

April 23-26 saw the 22nd Annual Florida Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion in Melbourne Florida. Many Americal vets were on hand to share memories and camaraderie. The Traveling Vietnam Wall was also present along with former Vietnamese soldiers living in the greater Florida area. ADVA member George Mitchell graciously gave of his time to recruit new members at the Americal tent and National Commander Dave Taylor was on hand to shake hands with Americal vets. Over 50,000 vets were estimated to be in attendance.



MAY 25, 1970: In Memory of Bernie Bray

By Gary Jenkins

Co. C, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB 1969-70

"Turn to page 634 and stand while we sing *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*," the song leader said as he started the morning worship service. I was in my usual Sunday morning place, five seats back from the front. Reaching for the hymnal in the rack in front of me, I thought how appropriate, tomorrow is Memorial Day. As I opened the hymnal something written inside the front cover captured my attention. The words printed there seemed to leap out at me. *This hymnal is given to the glory of God in memory of Bernard Bray 1948-1970, with love and appreciation by Gary Jenkins.* My thoughts turned instantly to Bernie, the man I knew 38 years ago.

I first met Bernie while serving as a platoon sergeant for Charlie Company, 3/21st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. One of my numerous duties as a platoon sergeant in an infantry company was to get to know and care for the men assigned to Third Platoon. Bernard Bray was one of the men I came to know as a friend. His appearance disguised the fact that he was a man of physical and moral courage.

At first glance, Bernie and I seemed very different. He had been in Vietnam four months longer than I. He called Brooklyn, New York home. My home was two miles down a dirt road from Glenwood, a small South Georgia town. Bernie was drafted. I joined. His religion was Roman Catholic, mine was Southern Baptist. Before being assigned to Vietnam he received the customary four months training. I had received the same training, plus NCO School, Ranger School, and Airborne School- more than a year of the Army's best training. I was two ranks above him.

But all that was of little consequence. We had many things in common. We were infantrymen 10,000 miles from home, serving our country. Our faith was strong. Surviving our tour depended on the platoon members and each other. We both wanted to complete our tours and return home safe.



Bernie Bray, April 25, 1970, one month before he was killed.

Bernie impressed me with his dedication to his faith and his courage in performing his assigned duties in the platoon. Bernie was a man you could depend on. One night Bernie and I, along with several platoon members, were huddled around a small fire. Our objective was to see who could make the best hot chocolate with the ingredients from our C-rations. Drinking hot chocolate was one of the few pleasures we had while in the field.

I noticed Bernie was not drinking any hot chocolate when the canteen cup was passed around. I inquired, "Bernie why aren't you drinking any hot chocolate?" He replied I gave it up for Lent. "What is Lent?" I questioned. He explained "it is the period proceeding Easter, which is devoted to fasting, abstinence and penitence." To the average person this does not seem like much, but to an infantryman with not much to look forward to and few pleasures, it was a great sacrifice.

Another time one of the men had a *Playboy* magazine. Someone said, "Bernie turn to the centerfold and hold it up so I can get a snapshot of you." Bernie emphatically refused. He said, "I will pose for a picture, but the

magazine will be closed". Again he showed his courage by standing up for his belief.

My thoughts then drifted to May 25, 1970. The events of that day will forever be in my memory.

Charlie Company left Fire Base Center May 23, 1970 by two lifts of seven birds each. We were combat assaulted (CA) into Thua Thien Province. We moved out, First Platoon was point. Later in the day First Platoon came under sniper fire. The point man was wounded as well as the platoon sergeant. When the day was over we had dusted-off three for wounds, three for heat exhaustion and one for hives. Four weapons along with my borrowed entrenching tool were left on the field of battle. It was an omen of things to come.

The next day Second Platoon went out to reclaim the weapons. They found a papa-san and sent him to retrieve the weapons. The company dusted-off five more for heat exhaustion. We moved into a hooch area for a night laager. The next day, May 25, would be my platoon's turn. The worst was yet to come.

As the sun rose that Monday morning Charlie Company was

coming to life. Men were going about the usual morning chores of an infantry company- taking down tents, packing rucksacks, munching on a can of C-rations, and answering the call of nature. Soon the call rang out "saddle up"; commo checks were made, rucksacks shouldered, weapons checked, and the troops fell into line. Charlie Company was moving out for another day of patrol.

It was my platoon's turn to walk point. Sergeant Steve Nagle's second squad led out, followed by me and my RTO. The rest of the platoon was in line behind us. Our platoon leader had been wounded and was not in the field. I was acting platoon leader and walked in his place behind first squad. My position as platoon sergeant was usually with the rear squad.

Shortly we approached a grassy open area, approximately 40 meters across and 30 meters wide. The trail crossed the center of the open area and made a slight turn to the left as it reentered the jungle. Second squad began to move across the open area. As the point man was about to enter the wood line on the far side, an ambush was sprung and we came under fire.

I was in the middle of the clearing, my RTO was next, and a couple other men were in behind him. When the firing began everyone scrambled for cover. I and all the men behind me dashed to the near wood line. The point squad found cover against the wood line on the other side. They were pinned down.

The ambush was well planned. After the initial burst of rifle fire, the enemy started dropping mortar rounds on the pinned down squad. As the mortars fell all members in the lead squad were wounded except the point man. He was burned when a bullet in the initial fire struck and set off a trip flare in his rucksack. The wounds were not serious enough to keep the men from running to safety if given the chance. It was our job to give them that chance.

We called for additional fire power to lay down covering fire. One of the men who responded to the call was our M-60 machine gunner, John McAuliffe.



**John Papp on a barrier island,
May 13, 1970, twelve days before
John was seriously wounded.**

John joined our platoon on April 10. The First Infantry Division pulled out of Vietnam in April and a large majority of their 17,000 men were re-assigned to other outfits. John was one of them.

McAuliffe set his machine gun up about six feet from me and began covering fire. The enemy was returning fire and McAuliffe was hit in the middle of his thigh with small arms fire. The call for a medic went out and the call was answered by our platoon medic, John Papp. John was not a big man in stature. His size was measured in dedication and bravery on the field of battle. He stood tall in both areas. He rushed forward and began to administer first aid to the wounded machine gunner.

With the help of covering fire the pinned-down men began to run to safety on our side of the clearing. Once all of them were accounted for the wounded were dusted-off. But there was one problem. The pinned-down men left their rucksacks on the other side of the clearing. It would be our job to retrieve them. It turned out to be a very costly job.

We pulled back far enough to call in artillery. The artillery rounds were soon doing their job tearing up the ground in the wood line next to the ambush area. As the artillery rounds fell, plans were being made to retrieve the rucksacks left in the kill zone of the ambush.

The plan was for me to lead a squad

of men and to circle around behind the ambush site, retrieve the rucksacks, and bring them back. We began to make preparations to leave on our flanking mission.

During the covering fire I had expended many rounds of my basic load of M-16 ammo, (21 magazines, 18 rounds each). I needed to replenish my supply. John Papp was not going with us so I asked him for some of his ammo. John handed me some magazines and I noticed they were not full. "Why are these magazines not full?" I demanded. John replied, "There was not enough ammo when I loaded them." Talking with John years later, he told me the real reason. His medical equipment was heavy. He had not fully loaded his magazines to save weight.

After final preparations my squad of approximately six men set out. We turned left off the original trail and blended into the jungle.

At some point a rear-area colonel materialized in the field. I guess he thought he could help. Shortly after mid-day he sent our artillery observer forward to direct more rounds into the ambush zone. When the observer moved forward and began to adjust fire he revealed too much of himself to the enemy and he was shot.

The call that sends chills up the back of an infantryman was sounded. "MEDIC!". John Papp rushed forward in response to the call. As he approached

the wounded man, Tim Snider, a Third Platoon soldier that was close by, issued a warning: "Be careful."

When John approached the wounded artillery observer he noticed that he was caught in some wire. John began to tug at him to free him from the wire. John realized his efforts were in vain, the man was dead. At that instant another enemy bullet was on its way. The bullet ripped into John's upper left arm doing extensive damage to his bone and muscle. Extreme pain flooded his body. (He was later told the round may have come from a captured M-16.)

As the wounded medic tried to slide back to safety his canteens caught in vines and impeded his progress. He was finally helped to safety by the company commander. John and the dead artillery observer were placed on the same dust-off helicopter. On the way to the medical facility the helicopter stopped to pick up an ARVN soldier. This upset John because he both wanted, and needed, immediate medical care.

While John was on his way to receive medical attention my small squad was still trying to circle and get behind the ambush site. The morning cool had turned to mid-day heat and there was no trail, so going was slow. About mid-afternoon we reached the rear of the ambush site. The rucksacks that had been dropped lay before us.

The ambush site had been chewed up by artillery. I thought the enemy must be either dead or gone. By this time I was hot, mad, frustrated and tired. All this almost caused me to make one of the biggest mistakes of my life. Maybe the heat or the strain had affected my judgment. My first thought was to arrogantly stroll into the open area, pick up a rucksack, and walk to the other side.

Before I gave instructions to the men and started my walk, another thought entered my mind. It was "*don't walk; run as fast as you can.*" Why did I change my mind? Perhaps it was my training, possibly my better judgment, maybe thinking of the welfare of my men, or could it have been Divine intervention? I believe the latter.



Plt. Sgt. Gary Jenkins on the move, March 23, 1969. The photo by Dennis Hayes two days before Hayes was killed.

I told the men I would lead off. Each was to follow, grab a rucksack, and run to the other side of the clearing. I started to run and snatched up the first rucksack. Paul Kaluzny was next and seized the second rucksack. As we approached the middle of the open area little tufts of dirt began to spring from the ground. It reminded me of the western shows I had watched as a kid when the bad guys would shoot at the good guys. This time it was real and I was in the middle of the show.

I think we had caught the sniper by surprise. This gave us time to get half way across before he opened fire. Kaluzny dropped his rucksack. I kept mine as we made it to the safety of the wood line. The remaining men except Sergeant Bob Penny were pinned down. Penny veered to the left and made it to the wood line.

Three of the pinned-down men were wounded. But they managed to escape back the way we had come. All escaped except one. My friend Bernie Bray lay dead on the field of battle.

Penny had been one of the wounded and was on our side of the wood line. I made my way to where he was to lend aid. When I arrived at his position he was on his side and had a wound in his lower back just above the belt line. There was a small rectangular spring protruding from the wound. I wondered what it was and thought it may have

been some type of Viet Cong booby-trap. I later discovered the answer.

After we dusted-off Penny and the other wounded we still had work to do. The rucksacks except one were still in the ambush site. And we had to see about Bernie.

My platoon was depleted. Second Platoon came forward to try and retrieve Bernie's body. They were unsuccessful. (It was four days before we recovered his body.) I went back to the area where we had found Penny. I saw an M-16 magazine ripped open. I examined it and I noticed its spring was missing. Now I had the answer to the mystery of the spring I had seen in his Penny's back. Somehow a bullet had ripped into one of the magazines he wore around his waist knocking the spring into his back and deflecting the bullet. This most likely saved his life.

Darkness was coming and we pulled back to the same laager site we had occupied the night before. On the way back we put out a mechanical ambush (booby-trap) and all we got for our trouble was a dog.

As the day closed and we assessed its results. We had dusted-off nine wounded men from my platoon. This left me with nine men fit for duty. Two men had been killed. All the rucksacks except one were in the same place they were dropped that morning.

I had been in the middle of the ambush area twice and escaped unscathed both times. The company was back where we started from that morning. Yes it was quite a day and I was fortunate to make it through unhurt. I was mentally and physically drained but I was as safe as one could be in the middle of the jungle.

Years later as I reflect upon this day I realized we fought all day and I did not see one enemy soldier. I never really knew what enemy unit we clashed with that day. John Papp told me many years later that he had heard it was a NVA rear guard element we had run into. I do know it was a very dangerous, stressful, and exciting day. It was one that I was thankful to live through and one I will never forget.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374**

R&R

PERMISSIVE TRAVEL ORDERS FOR OUT-OF-COUNTRY R&R

ORDER NO: 6-4482

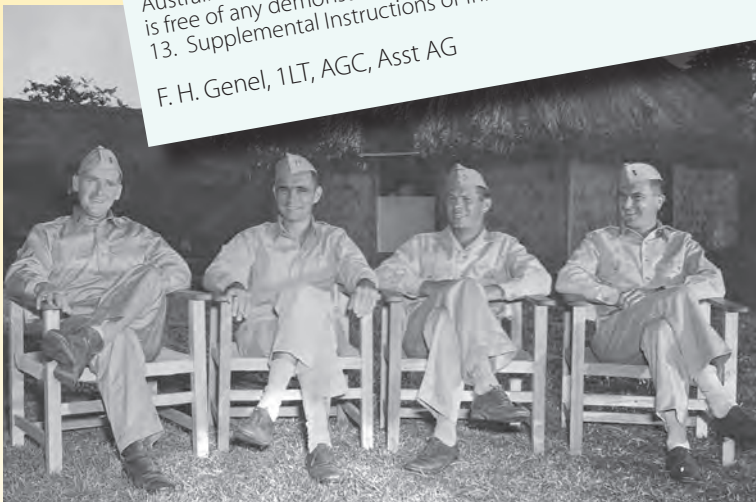
PURPOSE: R&R in accordance with MACV Directive 28-2.

TRAVEL TO BE PERFORMED
DEPART: Danang DESTINATION: Tokyo AND RETURN TO VIETNAM
REPORT AT 0730 HOURS, ON (date), TO THE R&R OUTPROCESSING CENTER LOCATED AT
AMERICAL DIVISION REPL DET, ACROSS FR MARINE AIR FREIGHT TERMINAL, CHU LAI, RVN
FOR TRANSPORTATION TO DANANG.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Upon rept to the out-processing ce, insure you have:
 - a. The equiv of a min of \$200US for conversion to US corr. Fac for cashing checks and money orders are not aval or very ltd at most sites. With the exception of Hawaii, there are no fac for cashing US Savings Bonds at R&R sites.
 - b. Current Armed Forces ID Card and Imm Rec (and pspt if rqd); Lack of proper imm causes more delays than any other item.
2. Max bag alw is 40 lbs (Exception: Hawaii - 66 lbs). Insert a cy of your orders in all bag. You and your bag might become separated.
3. You will perf tvl in mil unif and wear civ clo while actually on R&R. (Exception: Hawaii- unif may be worn on site).
4. All pers must rept on time for rtn flt. Pers missing rtn flt WB rept to their units and ma be rqd to rtn to Vietnam at their own expense.
5. Customs req proh the fol on acft: Narcotics, Marihuana, explo, ammo, fireworks, knives, Vietnamese curr in ex of 500 piasters, gold or silver bullion, graphic art or lit, items in ex of demonstrable needs, more than one bottle of alcoholic beverage and more than one carton of cigarettes.
6. The carrying of any kind of dang art (hand gren, tear gas gren, sig kits, etc), firearms ammo, explo or incd ammo, or any kind of explo device in acmp or unacmp pers bag abd mil acft is prohibited.
7. Airline reg forbid intoxicated pers fr being booked on acft.
8. Pers tvl to Hawaii on R&R are not permitted to lv Hawaii for CONUS.
9. Exp involved in the exec of these permissive TO are borne by the indiv and not reimb by US govt.
10. Pass and/or R&R in the Saigon/Cholon area is not auth.
11. TvL under the auth of this order is not auth in connec with PCS, TDY, or lv except as prov by MACV Directive 28-2.
12. Appl to Australia: Indiv must have on their person prior to bd and while tvl to Australia a cert fr a med of accomp with 24 hr of dprtr fr Vietnam stating that the traveler is free of any demonstrable infectious disease.
13. Supplemental Instructions or Information (for local command use) None

F. H. Genel, 1LT, AGC, Asst AG



[Editor's notes: The foregoing text was pretty much copied word for word from a June 30, 1968 order. As with many orders of this type the individuals covered were not named on the order but named on an annex to the order. The annex also detailed the dates of R&R, branch of service, organization/unit, and other identifying information.

Out-of-country R & R was at Bangkok, Hawaii, Tokyo, Australia, Hong Kong, Manila, Penang, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore. R&R was approved for five days except Hawaii and Australia which were allowed seven days due to longer travel time. [Do you have an unusual or interesting story about your R&R? If so, please consider submitting it to an editor for publication in the Americal Journal. Appropriate photos of appropriate R&R activities are also requested.]

Lou's Story

By Gary L. Noller



He was born near the village of Tien Phuoc, South Vietnam in 1962. He was named Nguyen Van Lou. His parents were killed in a bombing raid soon after Lou's birth and he was left in the care of his grandfather. But the grandfather abused Lou. Lou is a dwarf and the grandfather thought that Lou's condition was a punishment on the family. "Where I came from it is considered to be unlucky to be born abnormal," says Lou. "You are considered not blessed by the gods."

One time the grandfather burned Lou's fingers and hands with burning banana leaves. So Lou did the only thing he knew to do. He ran away from the abuse and searched for a better place to live.

Lou walked for several days and ended up at the U.S. Army base at Tien Phuoc. He recalls, "I never did intend to live with the military, that was not my original intention, I just had to get away from my abusive grandfather."

American soldiers with the 3/16 Artillery at Tien Phuoc took Lou in and began to care for him. When the relocated back to the Americal Division headquarters base in Chu Lai they took Lou with them.

Richard Hildreth was born in Soda Spring, ID and joined the Army in May 1969 after a discussion with his aunt. She was the secretary of the local draft board and she gave him some advice. "I was going to be drafted and it was better for me to volunteer for two years in the Army," he says.

He received training at Ft. Ord, CA as an infantryman (11B MOS). But the Army was short of artillery surveyors (82C MOS) so he received that training as well. He went to Vietnam in June 1970 and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 3/16th Artillery, located at



Artillery Hill. After a few weeks at Arty Hill he moved to Chu Lai. He was there when Lou arrived in August 1970.

Richard recalls what he knew about Lou. "Lou wandered in to Tien Phuoc about half starved. They took him in and got him back to health. The story goes that Lou wanted to go on a helicopter ride. He came into Chu Lai. He liked it better in Chu Lai so he stayed. I believe that one of the cooks took him in and took care of him. We did not know for sure that he was an orphan or if his family had abandoned him. We did know that if no one had taken care of him he would have died."

The American soldiers referred to their charge as PFC Lou. "He was around the battery area all the time," says Richard. "Lou spent a lot of his time at the EM/NCO Club. When we were doing something that we could take him with us, we did. Lou was as much of our unit as any of us. All the guys got a long with him and they liked having him around. He was like a little brother to most of them."

"On pay day we had a jar by the pay clerk's desk and we each put a dollar in it for Lou. Lou would be the last one to get paid. The pay clerk would take the money out of the jar and pay Lou just like the rest of us."

Lou learned quickly from the American soldiers and became very proficient in English. But the soldiers thought Lou should be in school. Richard recalls, "For about a month I got the privilege of taking Lou to school each day and picking him up after school. He went to the Catholic school at an orphanage in town. He did not like going to school and after a while I found out why he did not like school. He was so used to being around us that he would mouth off to the nuns and then get his fingers wacked with a ruler."

At the end of April 1971 the 3/16th Artillery moved to DaNang. Lou went with them but Richard did not- he was headed home. "I was with the understanding that Lou was

being adopted by one of the cooks from Texas", says Hildreth.

The war wound down and American more soldiers left Vietnam. Lou made his way from DaNang to Saigon where he sold cigarettes and lottery tickets on the street to earn his living. As North Vietnamese forces closed in on Saigon in 1975 Lou decided once again he must escape.

"I put myself up for adoption through Holt adoption agency," recalls Lou. "I got some help from Bill Plant of CBS News. They ran some footage of me trying to get out of Vietnam. UPI also put my story in the newspaper."

Laura and Leif Arestad of Ferndale, WA saw the TV news story about Lou and knew instantly that they wanted him to be part of their family. They already had thirteen children, twelve of them adopted. They had a place for Lou.

But Lou had to make it out of Vietnam before the North Vietnamese took control. In April 1975 the U.S. government began Operation Babylift to evacuate orphaned children from Vietnam. Lou was to be on the first flight out of Saigon but his papers were not in order. He missed the flight. He learned that the plane he missed had mechanical difficulties and crashed near the Saigon airport. Many orphans were killed in the tragedy.

In order to leave Vietnam Lou needed a birth certificate. He had some of his American friends take him back to Tien Phuoc. A local village chief wrote out the necessary papers. Lou left on the last Operation Babylift flight out of Saigon.

After processing in the United States Lou finally arrived at his new home in Ferndale, WA. He took the name Robert Luke Arestad. He says, "One of my favorite authors is Robert Louis Stevenson, Luke is for the third book of the bible, and my adopted family's name is Arestad. However, nobody knows me by Robert L. Arestad. All my friends know me simply as Lou Arestad."

Lou was 12 when he arrived in the United States and he immediately returned to school. He loved playing checkers and the half-size violin that was made for him. He and the



other Arestad children kept busy with chores on the Arestad farm. Local newspapers ran stories about Lou growing up in Ferndale. They can be viewed on the internet at www.louarestad.com

Lou still resides in Ferndale and owns his own accounting firm and a general contracting company. Although decades past since he last saw American soldiers in Vietnam, he was not forgotten.

Richard got married in 1976 and is the father of five children and has eight grandchildren. He went back into the National Guard and then the Air Guard and retired from military service in 2000. He currently works as a boiler operator in a power house.

"I tried to find Lou several times throughout the years but had no luck," says Richard. "I was looking in Texas for him and only had the name Lou. Then last year I got onto Military.com and Tom Vescio said that he had seen Lou on a TV program. His last name was Arestad and he lived in Ferndale, Washington."

Hildreth placed a call to the Arestad's and he was soon in contact with Lou. They agreed to meet in Las Vegas. Vegas is one of Lou's favorite places and Richard has a daughter living there.

It was a great visit. Hildreth showed Lou the 1970 yearbook for 3/16th Artillery. Hildreth says, "Lou was around 100 or more soldiers. He was only seven years old. I don't think that he remembers any one of us. There was only one of Lou. And we all remember Lou."

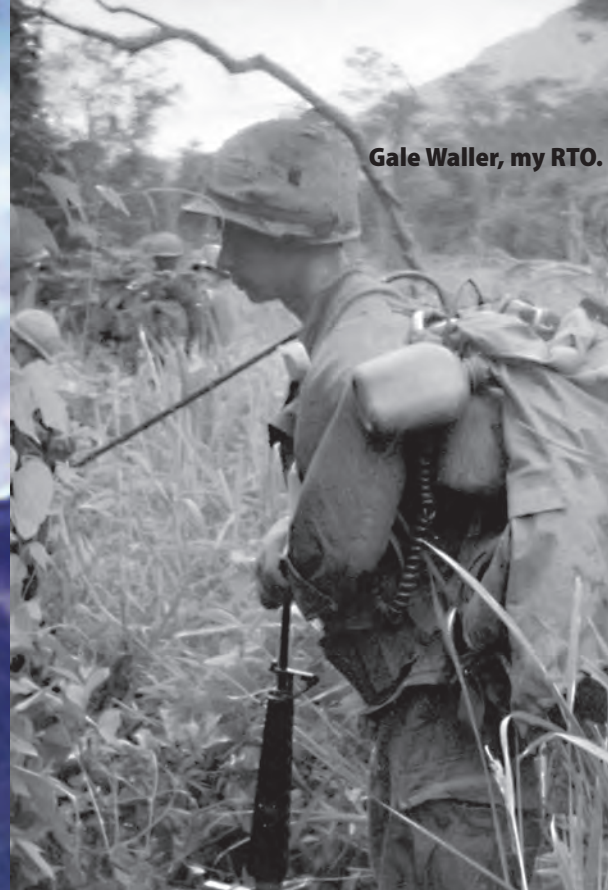
Plans are in the works for more visits between Lou and veterans of the 3/16th Artillery. Richard says, "I am planning this reunion for the first week in October 2010 in Las Vegas, NV. This is for all the 3/16th FA veterans who served in Vietnam. I have made contact with 155 veterans so far. Lou plans to come to the reunion and bring some of his family with him. Anyone who would like more information may contact me. My phone number is 307-875-7618 and my e-mail address is vietnam@q.com."



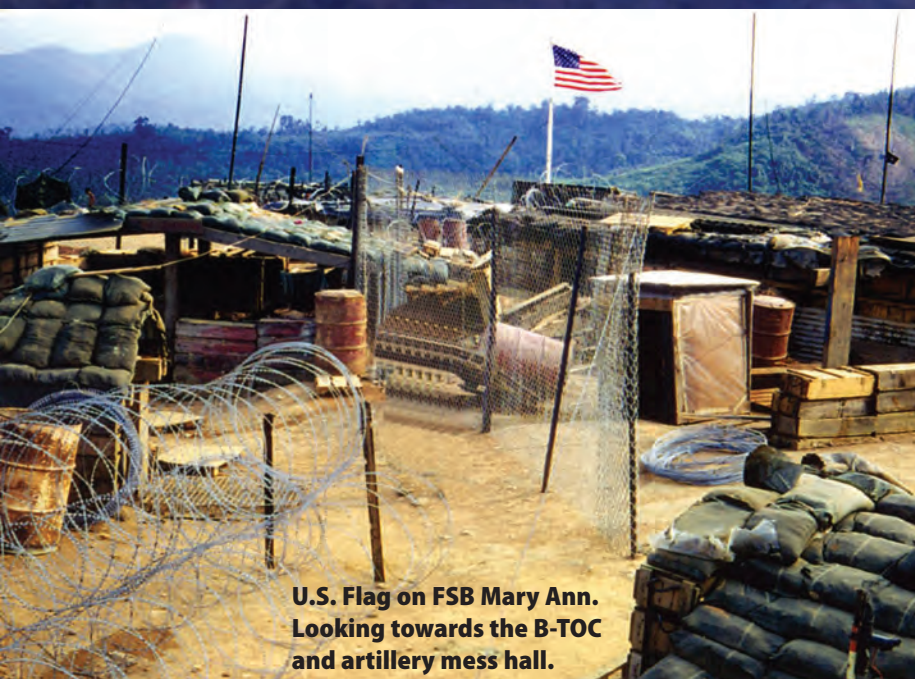
Artillery Forward Observer Combat Photo Album

By Jack E. Curtis

In 1970-1971 I was an artillery forward observer (FO) assigned to Battery D, 3/82nd Artillery. Much of that time I was attached to Co. B, 1/46th Infantry on or around FSB Mary Ann, LZ Young, and LZ Mildred. I later moved to the DaNang area of operations on Hill 270 for counter mortar and rocket fire to protect the DaNang airfield. I was the Fire Direction Officer (FDO) on LZ Rawhide. Additional Vietnam photos may be viewed on my website at <http://www.curtisvideo-photo.com/>.



Gale Waller, my RTO.



U.S. Flag on FSB Mary Ann.
Looking towards the B-TOC
and artillery mess hall.

CPT Peter Gallagher and CP RTOs, Co. B, 1/46th
Inf. Late 1970 or early 1971.



Kit Carson Scout named Hung, 19 years old. He was VC
until both of his parents were killed by NVA.



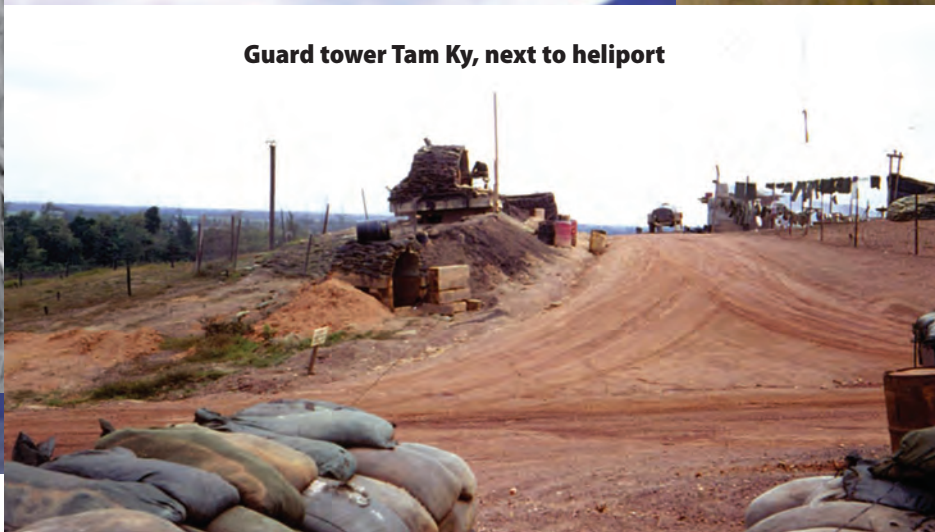
105's on LZ Rawhide firing at suspect enemy location and firing
position for 122MM rockets. Guns are from D Battery, 3/82nd Arty.,
June 1971. Small dark object just above the smoke is the projectile.



Sanitation duty at FSB Mary Ann. Song Trahn River is in background.



Pick-up zone in the jungle south east of LZ Mary Ann. Soldier with dark beard in center of photo is 1LT Donald Navor.



Guard tower Tam Ky, next to heliport

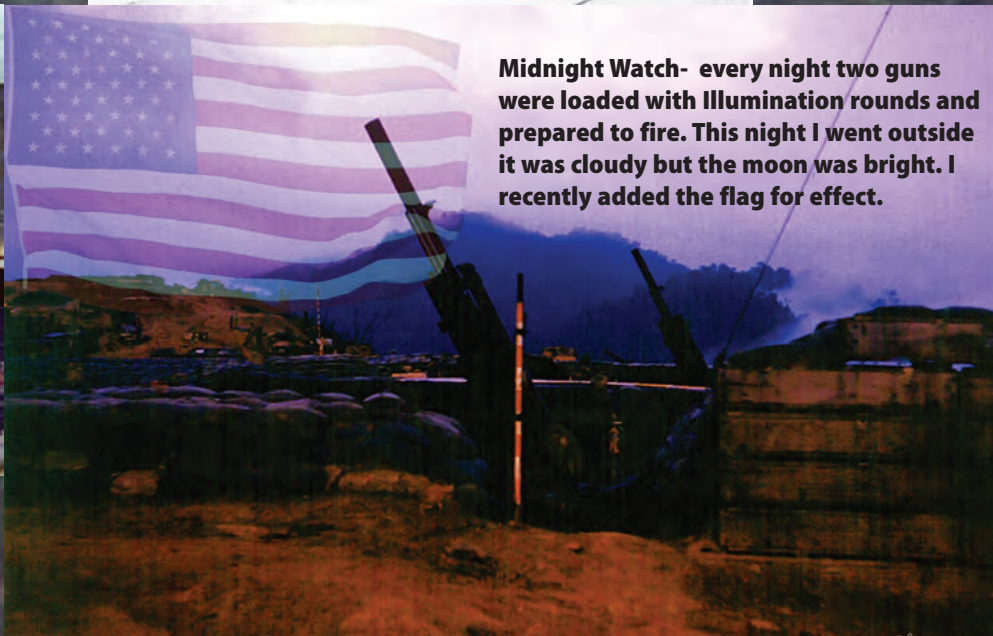
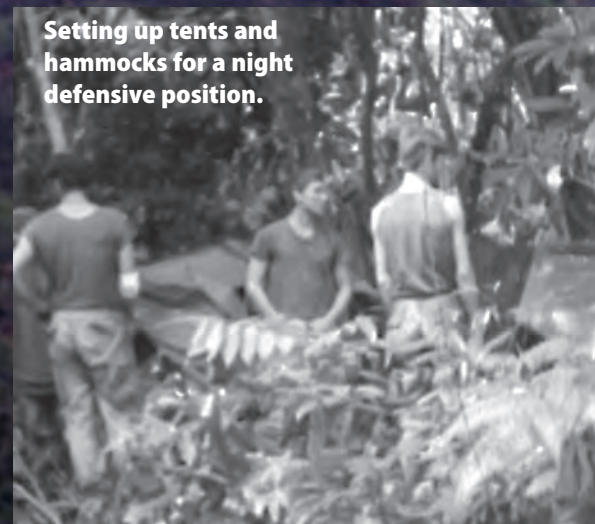


Photo of me at the 1/46th aid station on FSB Mary Ann.

In the dense jungle performing my duty, map in hand, as artillery forward observer with Co. B, 1/46th Inf., December 1970.



Setting up tents and hammocks for a night defensive position.



Midnight Watch- every night two guns were loaded with Illumination rounds and prepared to fire. This night I went outside it was cloudy but the moon was bright. I recently added the flag for effect.

The Things I Carried

By David Fallon

This past March the noted Vietnam War author Tim O'Brien came to New Jersey to speak and sign his book "The Things They Carried". It provided the opportunity for several members of Co. A, 5/46th Infantry, 198th LIB to meet up 40 years later and rediscover each other. There were hugs and tears among long ago brother-in-arms Mike Witkus, Howard Kotlus, Bob Wolf, Jim Pene, Tim O'Brien, and myself.

All soldiers maintain a connection to home, be it letters, care packages, mementos, etc. For Bob (Buddy) Wolf it was his family's photography store. He would sell fellow soldiers a KODAK instamatic camera with film cartridges and prepaid mailers from his family photography store. At this book signing both Mike and I brought our cameras to show "the things we carried". Mike's looked like just came out of the box, but mine showed the scars of war. It was damaged the night I was wounded.

On the night of October 29, 1969 I led a squad of men out for the night's ambush. It was suppose to be a training ambush patrol with four new guys who had less than two weeks in country. The new lieutenant thought I was the most likely sergeant to conduct a safe patrol and bring everyone back. This was because I had five months of combat experience.

Earlier that day I had a premonition that something was not right and I was not comfortable with being on ambush with only four FNGs. I had never met any of them prior to lining up to leave the company perimeter for that night's patrol. I didn't even know their names.

The moon had not risen yet so it was difficult to keep track of each of them in the dark. We stopped in a clearing (about 10-12 meters across) about a click from the company perimeter. We hid in the bushes before crossing the open area. I wanted a head count and to check and see if any VC might be following us (lie dog).

After five minutes I began to lead the squad across the clearing. As I approached the far side of the clearing an automatic rifle fire burst out. The enemy must have been four to five meters to my left. It felt like I was punched in the stomach. I turned toward the incoming fire. I took my rifle off safety and while not really aiming I fired the entire clip. The next thing I remember was lying on the ground. I rolled on my back and tossed a hand grenade.

Four enemy rounds had found their mark on me. Two were in my groin/stomach, one through my left arm, and one to the end of my nose. As I lay on my back I could feel the warm blood spread across my body. I remember being more angry than scared. I was angry at the VC for shooting me, angry at myself for not be more patient before crossing the clearing, and angry at the new lieutenant for sending me out after hearing my premonitions.

When the noise and shooting stopped one of the new guys cried out to see if anyone was hit. I replied, "YES ME, THE SERGEANT". The groin/stomach wounds had damage my left femoral nerve and artery so I was unable to move my left leg. I crawled back to the bushes dragging my left leg along.

We regrouped and one of the guys picked me up in his arms and proceeded to carry me back the company perimeter for a dust-off. I remembered my first night ambush and how at the time my point man got me turned around and lost. I knew these men were lost in the dark so I kept telling the man carrying me which way to turn. I am so grateful for having him with me that night. I wish I knew his name.

My personal belongings caught up with me during rehab. Among them was the camera that I carried on my belt for only a week. The camera frame was dented and a bullet had broken the corner of the case. Had this camera deflected a bullet and spared my life? I took the broken camera to a local photo shop where they retrieve the film and develop 13 photos. It is a special memento I will treasure all my life.



Dave Fallon With His "Combat camera" (Photo: Bob Wolf)

Editor's Notes:

Tim O'Brien was born on October 1, 1946 in a small town in Minnesota. He graduated from Macalester College in 1968 and was drafted into the U. S. Army. He served in Vietnam as an infantryman with Co. A, 5/46th Inf. He returned home in 1970.

O'Brien attended graduate school at Harvard and began his career as a newspaper reporter. His first book was published in 1973. He is the author of many articles for prominent magazines. O'Brien has won numerous awards for his writings.

The following are books written by Tim O'Brien: If I Die in a Combat Zone, Box Me Up and Ship Me Home, (1973); Northern Lights, (1975); Going After Cacciato, (1978); Nuclear Age, (1985); The Things They Carried, (1990); In the Lake of the Woods, (1994); Tomcat in Love, (1998); July, July, (2002).

In Memoriam

Keith W. Nolan, Author

By Gary L. Noller

Keith William Nolan, 44, noted author of Vietnam War history books, passed away in St. Charles, MO on February 19, 2009 after a 13-month battle with lung cancer. Nolan is survived by his daughter, Britt, and by his parents, William F. and Ulla A. Nolan.

Nolan wrote a dozen non-fiction books and several magazine articles on the Vietnam War. He was influenced by his father, a college history instructor and veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Readers sometimes had the impression that Nolan was a Vietnam veteran. But that was hardly the case. He was born in 1965 and was only seven years old when the Vietnam War came to an end. He published his first book, *Battle for Hue: Tet 1968*, in 1983 while he was still in high school.

Several of Nolan's books featured the Americal Division. These include *Death Valley: The Summer Offensive, I Corps, August 1969*; *Into Laos: The Story of Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719, Vietnam 1971*; *The Magnificent Bastards: The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968*; and *Sappers in the Wire*.

Nolan was awarded an Honorary Life Associate Membership in the ADVA in 1996. He signed autographs at the 1999 ADVA reunion in St. Louis, MO. One of the Americal veterans who met Nolan in St. Louis was Robert Dale Albers. Albers served with the 3/18th Artillery in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. He said the following about Keith Nolan:

"I watched Nolan as I waited in line to have him autograph two of his books that I had brought with me. He spoke briefly to each and every vet as he signed their books. I realized that he was very genuine in his respect towards veterans. I was never one to seek out an autograph from anyone but Keith Nolan was truly different. I came away from that autograph signing with the feeling that I had just met a man who was special to all Vietnam veterans.

"Even though I had only met Nolan briefly I now feel a sadness that most only feel at the loss of a long time friend. I will truly miss him. As a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, I can only wonder who now will tell our stories. Stories told with truth and facts from those who were there. So many more stories are left untold- and known only in the minds of the aging soldiers who experienced them."

Over the years I had several occasions to visit Nolan and discuss his books. Like Albers, I too considered him a friend. I once asked Nolan to tell me his personal beliefs on a few topics related to the Vietnam War. He did so, but he warned me that I might not share his views. In a

January 13, 1997 letter to me he wrote about his feeling on the war in general:

"I have to be honest and tell you that although I have a great amount of respect for the quiet courage of the American combat soldier in Vietnam, I'm not a believer in what the war was all about.

It was one thing to back up Saigon with advisors, aviation units, etc., but I don't think the U.S. should have committed regular line divisions in 1965 when the ARVN showed that they couldn't fight their own war. The VC and NVA were simply more dedicated to their cause than the ARVN, and it seems obvious, at least in retrospect, that the cost of beating such a foe was more than the American public would bear for that gang of corrupt clowns in Saigon. We should never have made it our war."

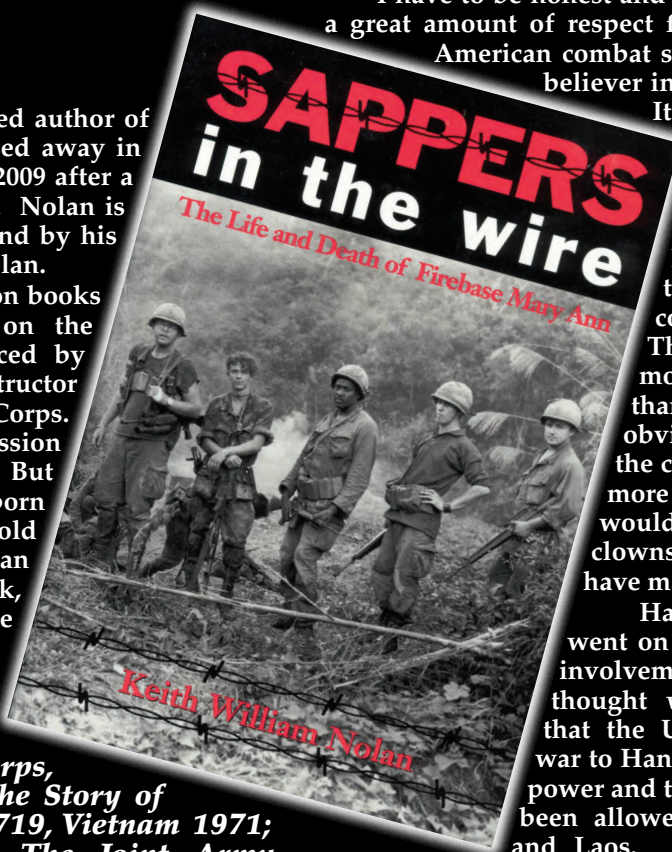
Having said the above, Nolan went on to critique the U.S. military involvement and the errors that he thought were committed. He says that the U.S. should have taken the war to Hanoi with the full weight of air power and that the NVA should not have been allowed sanctuaries in Cambodia and Laos. He felt that the relocation of Vietnamese civilians into redevelopment

camps was counterproductive and that too much attention was paid to the daily body count.

Nolan also gave his opinion about My Lai. He said, "I also have to say that I've always been uncomfortable with Americal Division veterans who feel the need to justify My Lai. To begin with, by all accounts, Lieutenant Calley was a piss-poor leader, the massacre aside, and C/1-20th Infantry was a poorly trained outfit that was virtually ineffective in combat." He also said, "I wish Calley had served a long prison sentence. It's the least he deserved, and America would have looked far better in the history books."

Nolan was working on a book about the Americal Division's 1/1st Cavalry when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He planned to write about the unit from the time it departed the United States until the time it came back home. He intended this to be a major work and to capture the evolution of the Vietnam War from its heady early days through the disenchantment of withdrawal. He had completed the manuscript through 1968. It is not known if the work will be published.

When Nolan learned of his illness he sent a message to Vietnam veterans. He told them that one of his chief regrets was that his young daughter Britt would have to grow up without a father. A memorial fund has been established for her. Contributions can be made to the Anna Britt Nolan Trust in care of First Bank, 6211 Mid Rivers Mall Dr., St. Charles, MO 63304.





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World WarII	1942-1945
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