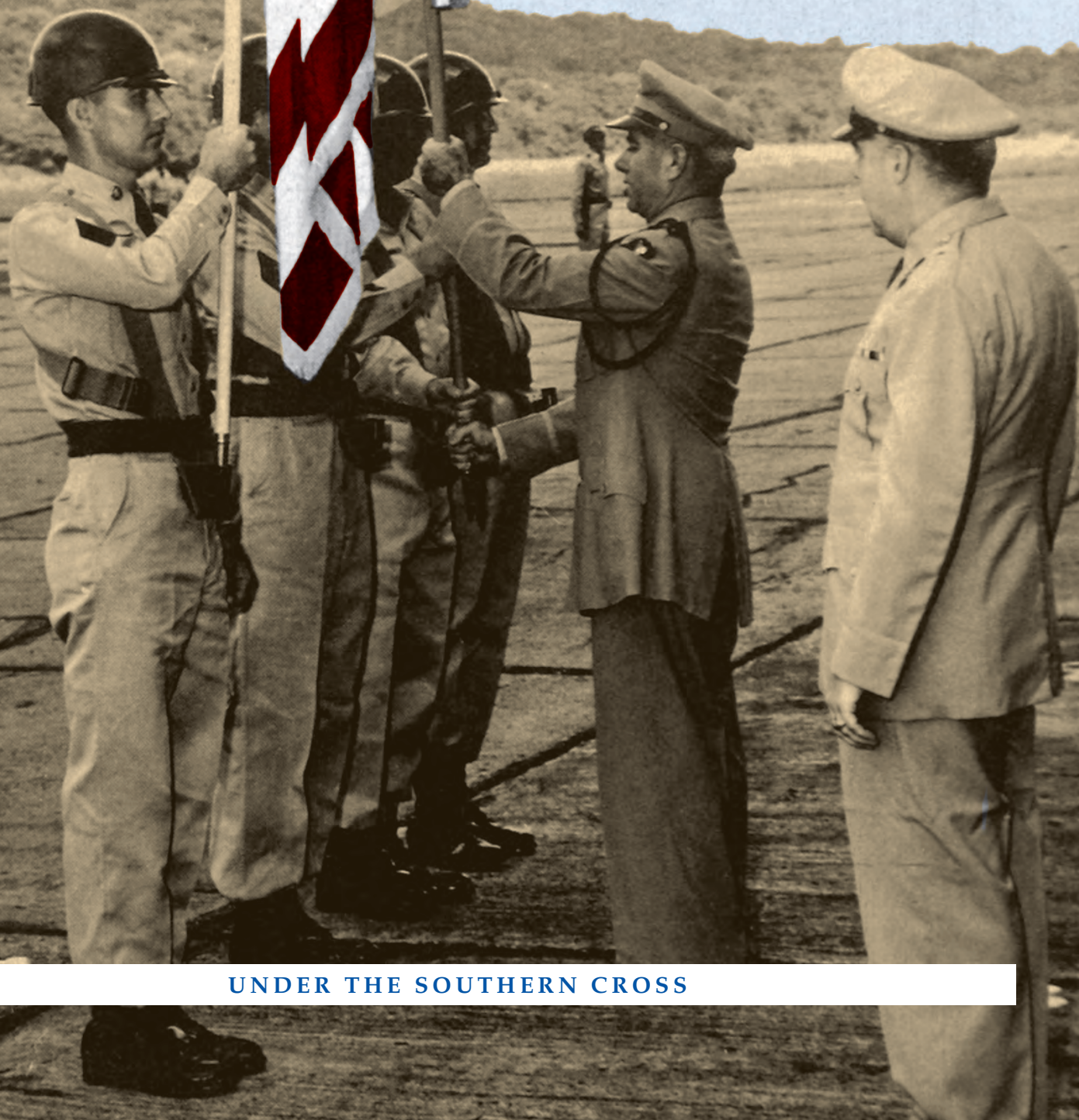


April • May • June 2010



AMERICAL JOURNAL

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



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Commanders Comments

A Time for Change

My two years as your National Commander have passed quickly and I have enjoyed every moment of it, particularly meeting you at reunions.

In the spring of 2008 we mailed a national survey to solicit member comments. I reviewed each return and have tried to make the changes you asked for. Some changes we are still working on but one major request of membership was to move national reunions to the fall for a while, as it was viewed by many as being more desirable than mid-June. The 2008 and 2009 reunions were already scheduled during the survey but this year we will be in Lombard, Illinois in October and Colorado Springs, Colorado in September, 2011.

My top priorities as commander were recruiting and to begin implanting the legacy of the Americal Division long after we are all gone. With the help of many members, we increased new annual members by 455 and new life members by 86. We gained more life members from the annual members who converted their membership to life status. Thanks to Roger Gilmore's efforts 49 former ADVA members were also reinstated.

The Legacy Committee was established and our first major fundraiser, the Americal Legacy Calendar, was an unqualified success. You have seen our first major project, a monument at the new National Infantry Museum outside Fort Benning, Georgia. We are working hard to have it dedicated next year. Other monuments, points of recognition and a history book will follow. We also established an Americal Legacy Award to recognize the work of those who have immeasurably helped us in our legacy effort. Our first two awardees were Bruce Flaherty and Frank Mika.

Under Larry Swank's guidance we have begun a massive retrieval program to copy all available Americal Division photos from the National Archives, as our budget and time permits. We have already secured several hundred photos from WWII and Vietnam and you will begin to see them in Americal Journals, Legacy Calendars, etc. In the future we hope to make them available to members whose units are in the photos.

Downrange Support

In our Letters to the Editor is a letter from the Command Sergeant Major of the First Battalion, 182nd Regiment of the Massachusetts National Guard. Their deployment next year to Afghanistan is being monitored by us and we are proud they will wear the Americal patch on their helmets to remind them of their legacy. We will provide support for them when they are deployed in the combat theatre. PNC Jim Buckle, a WWII veteran of the 182nd, will visit them on several occasions as they prepare to deploy and we hope to have ADVA members at their annual Military Ball this fall. More information will be forthcoming.



Reach Out and Touch Someone

We all know our WWII comrades are leaving us fast, but so too are Vietnam vets. The estimated eight million Vietnam-era million military service members are fading. The number of Vietnam veteran deaths has almost doubled since 2001 and will hit 103,890 this year. That's almost 300 per day and more than five times the average daily U.S. combat deaths during the peak casualty year in 1968. We must continue to recruit Vietnam vets to the ADVA. Joining the ADVA and reconnecting with fellow vets is cathartic. I know the new leadership team will place increased emphasis on recruiting and, in the spirit of friendly competition; I challenge them to beat our record of 541 new life and annual members over the next two years!

Passing the Torch

On April 24th I met in College Park, Maryland with the new ADVA Commander (Jay Flanagan) and Senior Vice-Commander (Larry Swank) who will take the reigns of leadership on July 1st. We met for the day in a hotel covering all aspects of the ADVA, including current projects and future plans. I am confident your new leadership team will continue to move our great organization forward!

As for me, by the time you receive this Americal Journal issue, it will be time to "STACK ARMS!" See you at the reunion in October!



Passing the Torch: ADVA transition meeting with (L to R) Larry Swank, new Senior-Vice Commander elect, Dave Taylor, outgoing National Commander and Jay Flanagan, new National Commander elect.

Cover: Maj. Gen. Lionel C. McGarr, (center) Commanding General, U.S. Army Caribbean and 23d Infantry Division accepts the colors of the newly activated division from the color guard at Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone, December 2, 1954. Looking on is Assistant Division Commander, Brig. Gen. W.E. Laidlaw (right).

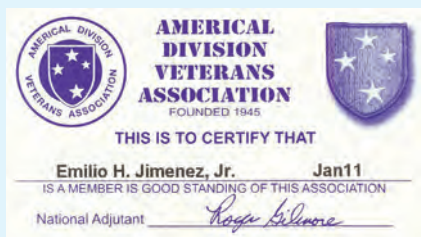
Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

The association had a great start to the new year in terms of Americal Division veterans applying for membership. We added a total of fifty new members to the roster during the past three months. Of these fifty new members, four joined as ADVA Life members. We had seven annual pay members upgrade to Life membership. Six former members were re-instated to the membership roster during this quarter. Of our new members, one joined as an associate.

Our World War II veteran membership continues to hold steady despite the fact the nation loses a large number of these honored veterans every day. Of our new members this quarter, five are WWII veterans who proudly wore the Americal Division shoulder patch in the Pacific Theater. It is good to see the Old Guard veterans out there who find the ADVA and want to connect with their buddies.

Annual pay members with a May 2010 renewal date are the first to receive the "re-designed" annual pay membership card. The new card went out the end of April in the renewal mass mailing. Following is an example of the new annual pay membership card that will be issued for all future renewals.



Again, to all annual pay members - a reminder to keep your dues current. Your annual membership expiration date is listed in the address box, on the line just above your name, on the back cover of this issue. If your dues expiration date is Sep09 or earlier, please mail your dues payment to PNC Ronald R. Ellis. Ronald's mailing address is listed on the back cover.

If you do not receive your notice and new membership card according to your 2010 renewal date, please contact me at the Adjutant post office box address and I will mail you a replacement membership card. You can also contact me by email or telephone. See the staff directory on the inside front cover for contact information.

ADVA MEMEBERSHIP January 31, 2010

World War II	546
Vietnam	2,428
Korea	8
Associate Members:	177
Total Members	3,159



New Members

Roy A. Abbott
196th HHC/1/46th Inf
Chino Valley, AZ
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

John G. Allen, Jr.
6/11th Arty
Springfield, MO
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Thomas W. Beld
198th LIB 9th Spt Bn
Chandler, AZ
★ Self

David E. Brown
1/14th Arty
Citrus Heights, CA
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Burdette F. Burch
132nd Inf Rgmt Co B
Sterling, IL
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Robert F. Buss
132nd ASHC
Peoria, AZ
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Ernest Byrd
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Bunnlevel, NC
★ Steve Fitts

Dargelo Caballero
11th HHC/4/21st Inf
El Paso, TX
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Gary Carder
196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Columbus, OH
★ Jim Crum

Frank Q. Cook, Jr.
11th LIB
Anacoco, LA
★ James Tarver

Layne J. Davis
123rd Avn Bn
Leroy, MI
★ NC David Taylor

Robert L. DeLawder
11th LIB 1/20th Inf
Lakewood, OH
★ NC David Taylor

Joseph W. DiLeonardo
635th MI Det
Elizabeth, CO
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

George Eisenhower
196th LIB A/1/46th Inf
Hauppauge, NY
★ Bill Schneider

Richard A. Eskew
11th LIB B/1/20th Inf
Hillsboro, IL
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

David Evans
3/82nd Arty
Arlington, TX
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Charles P. Graves
26th Engr Bn
Maryville, TN
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Robert F. Grubb
198th LIB 1/52nd Inf
Downingtown, PA
★ Terry Wyrick

William H. Guerrant
23rd Adm Co HQ Spt
Cmd
Charlotte, NC
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Rickie J. Guillot
23rd S&T Bn Co B
New Iberia, LA
★ Claude Frazier

James R. Hall, Jr.
1st Sqdn 1st Cav Rgmt
Tucson, AZ
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

David A. Kendall
523rd Sig Bn
Williston, FL
★ Self

Walter H. Lehman
164th Inf Rgmt
West Liberty, IA
★ NC David Taylor

Willie Macon
723rd Maint Bn HHC
Prince George, VA
★ David Eichhorn

Terry C. Miller
11th LIB
Fairview, MT
★ NC David Taylor

Robby Morrison
198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Central, SC
★ NC David Taylor

Clarence Myers
198th LIB A/1/46th Inf
Las Cruces, NM
★ Bill Schneider

Edward Newton
196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Sawyer, KS
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Claude Parish
164th Inf Rgmt
Bristow, OK
★ David Weaver

William Parks
198th LIB E/1/6th Inf
Pickett, WI
★ *Self*

Darrell W. Parsons
164th Inf Rgmt Co G
Pratt, KS
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Louis F. Pearson, Jr.
523rd Sig Bn Co C
DeFuniak Springs, FL
★ *Self*

James E. Pitra
196th LIB D/2/1st Inf
Holland, PA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Andrew J. Roberson
198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Henderson, NC
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Robert D. Robinson
198th LIB E/1/52nd Inf
Azusa, CA
★ *Self*

Francis Scalise
No Unit Given
Colorado Springs, CO
★ *David Eichhorn*

Frank A. Siccardi
198th LIB
Ridgewood, NJ
★ *Self*

Mathew R. Spearing
198th LIB
Bangor, ME
★ *NC David Taylor*

Raymond E. Spencer
178th ASHC
Kalamazoo, MI
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Edward T. Strunk
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Bartonsville, PA
★ *David Culver*

Phillip A. Tatom
198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Bedford, IN
★ *NC David Taylor*

Joe Turnwald
198th LIB 23rd MP Co
Ft. Jennings, OH
★ *Mark Deam*

Henry R. Willett
196th LIB
Paducah, KY
★ *Self*

Morton Zank
182nd Inf Rgmt
Boca Raton, FL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Eddie W. Zuleger
196th LIB A/4/31st Inf
Litchfield Park, AZ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

New Paid Life Members

John Hastings
75th Rangers Co G
Chicago, IL
★ *NC David Taylor*

William A. Kaluau, Jr.
11th LIB D/1/20th Inf
Kailua-Kona, HI
★ *NC David Taylor*

Willie C. Pruitt
11th HHC/4/3rd Inf
Lorton, VA
★ *Self*

Jimmy Snow
1/82nd Arty Btry B
Enid, OK
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Ronald D. Barton
198th HHC/5/46th Inf
Bucyrus, MO
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Steve Goering
123rd Avn Bn
Flagler, CO
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Victor Lopez
196th LIB C/4/31st Inf
Colorado Springs, CO
★ *Brian Mulcrone*

William P. Lyon
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Vermontville, NY
★ *Self*

James N. Messinger
14th Avn 174th ASHC
Graford, TX
★ *Glen Davis*

Russell R. Printy
198th HHC/5/46th Inf
Woodson, IL
★ *NC David Taylor*

John J. Sikorsky
723rd Maint Bn
Danielsville, PA
★ *Thomas J. Millhouse*

Re-instated Members

Sidney M. Bonk
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Navarre, OH
★ *Larry Watson*

Greg V. Carson
11th LIB B/4/21st Inf
Erie, PA
★ *Self*

Thomas R. Diggs, Jr.
198th LIB D/5/46th Inf
Poquoson, VA
★ *NC David Taylor*

Emilio H. Jimenez, Jr.
523rd Sig Bn Co B
Mercerville, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

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

John R. Pfaendtner
196th LIB B/4/31st Inf
Stanwood, MI
★ *Self*

New Associate Members

Thomas Vitale
Maspeth, NY
★ *Frank Vitale*

TAPS

World War II Veterans

Albert V. Jones
132nd Inf Rgmt
Stockbridge, GA
March 7, 2010

Frank D. Dempsey
164th Inf Rgmt
N. Riverside, IL
June 3, 2009

Joseph F. Dest
164th Inf Rgmt
Hamden, CT
May 30, 2003

Henry Gogan
164th Inf Rgmt
Gainesville, FL
September 12, 1989

Joe E. M. Cuellar
164th Inf Rgmt 2nd Bn
Corrales, NM
March 23, 2010

Thomas A. Frost
182nd Inf Rgmt Co D
Streetsboro, OH
January 26, 2010

C. Gordon Fletcher
221st FA Btry C
Braintree, MA
March 7, 2010

Rheo L. Carpenter
Div HQ 101st Med Det
Fall River, MA
Date Unknown

Patsy P. Smoke
26th Sig Bn
Canonburg, PA
October 13, 2009

Vietnam Veterans

Charles S. Seketa
11th LIB A/1/20th Inf
Liverpool, NY
January 31, 2010

Robert E. Harper
198th LIB C/1/52nd Inf
Corapolis, PA
February 24, 2010

Legacy Committee Report

By Roger Gilmore

The Legacy Committee continues to work with the monument designer, Columbus Monument Company, on the detailed CAD design for the proposed Americal Division monument at the National Infantry Museum site. The third design revision was completed in January 2010.

The Legacy Committee has reviewed the latest design documents and endorses the overall design. Text for unit history on the back walls and the Medal Of Honor pedestal listing of each Americal Division recipient is complete. A few minor revisions to the design may be necessary before the final versions are approved by the National Infantry Foundation (NIF) Monument Committee.

National Commander Dave Taylor spent the week of May 10th in Columbus, Georgia (and Fort Benning) to attend the annual meeting of the Army Divisions Association (ADA). During the week he visited our memorial design and construction company, Columbus Monument. The monument design, construction and installation processes were reviewed. Once enough monies are raised in the ADVA, Columbus Monument can construct and erect our Americal Monument within a span of three months.

Taylor also spoke to officials of the Columbus, Georgia Visitors Bureau regarding various ideas and locations to host a dedication event when the Americal monument is completed. In addition, Taylor visited the National Infantry Museum staff to review ideas and procedures for a dedication ceremony and to get an update on their environmental impact studies and design plans for the "Walk of Honor". The 173rd Airborne Brigade monument was dedicated the end of May 2010 at the Walk of Honor. A site for the Americal Monument should be determined early this summer. With the continued financial support of ADVA members, we fully expect to dedicate our monument sometime in 2011.

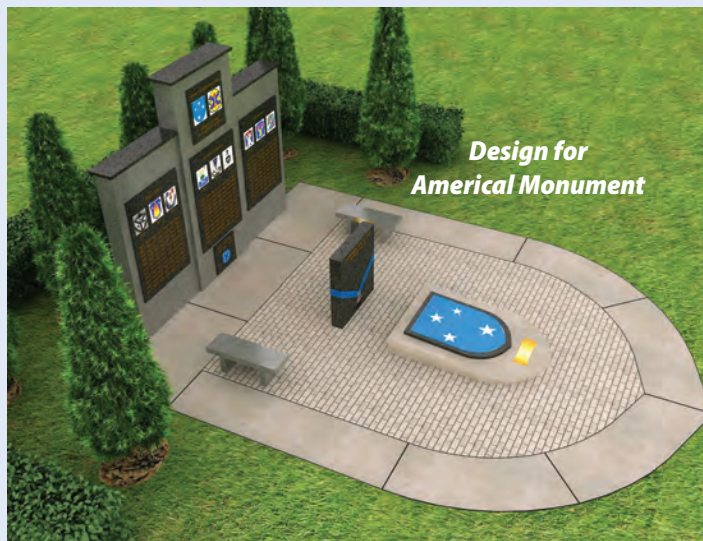
Monument Funding

As of April 30, 2010, donations for the monument by ADVA members, the regional chapters and friends of the association amount to \$33,300.00. This amount is just over one third of the total expected expenditure for the National Infantry Museum monument. To date, the Legacy Committee has incurred expenses of \$5,600.00, the largest cost being the preparation and mailing of the Americal 2010 calendar.

The committee is grateful for the financial support and contributions from ADVA members and chapters. If you have not sent a donation you are urged to do so as soon as possible. We can move to the construction phase as soon as we have adequate funding. Contributions should be sent to Ronald Ellis, Asst. National Finance Officer, 4493 Hwy. 64 W, Henderson, TX, 75652. Please indicate that you are contributing to the monument fund.

The Legacy Committee will conduct a silent auction at the annual reunion in Chicago. Expected proceeds from this fundraiser are \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00. The committee is requesting donations of items for the silent auction. If you have an item to donate please contact me and let me know what you have. You may send your item in advance by mail or bring it to the reunion when you come.

The Americal Division collectible knife is still in stock and available for sale. Proceeds from the sale of this special item go to the legacy fund. Send your order to Wayne Bryant and he will mail your knife right away. The knife will also be available for sale at the reunion in October 2010.



Nominating Committee Report

By Dave Hammond

The ballots for the ADVA 2010 election are in and counted. Over six hundred ballots were received. Thanks to all of you who took the time to participate in the process. A very special thank you to those of you who enclosed donation checks and cash with your ballots. These were forwarded on to our National Commander and Scholarship Chairman to be put to good use in the support of our organization.

Many of the ballots came along with comments. These too were forwarded on to our National Commander. We had several comments from our WWII members, including some thanking the Vietnam vets for taking over the leadership roles and keeping the organization alive. Another expressed concern that there were no WWII members on the ballot for an elected office. This was not intentional. The nominating committee as well as the ADVA Command Staff, Executive Council, Chapter Commanders, and Special Staff, were asked to search out and recommend any members willing to run for an office. Sorry to say, we had no applicants from our WWII membership. If we missed someone, I apologize. Anyone interested in serving in any capacity in the ADVA, please contact the National Commander or a Chapter Commander. We can use the help and I'm sure can find a place for you.

The National Elected Officers, Executive Council, and Scholarship Trustees, for the 2010 election, are listed below. The result for the revision to the ADVA Scholarship By-Laws is also shown below.

National Commander: **Jay Flanagan**. Senior Vice Commander: **Larry Swank**. Junior Vice Commander: **Dave Chrystal**. Executive Council: **Terry Siemer, Dave Taylor, Richard Smith, Larry Watson, Ron Ellis, George Mitchell, Lee Kaywork, Robert Cudworth, Mark Deam, Tim Vail, Dave Eichhorn**. Trustees of Scholarship Fund: **Glen Lippincott, Tom Packard**. Revision to the ADVA Scholarship By-Laws:
561 Votes For 17 Votes Against.



NOW AVAILABLE!

A Special Limited-Edition Offer for the ADVA Only!

The Case Americal Division Collectable Knife is offered exclusively for the Americal Division Veterans Association.

This genuine Case collectable knife set, contracted for the ADVA, features Rogers Corncob Jigged Blue Bone handles with a "Case USA" logo shield. The Tru-Sharp™ surgical steel blades are embellished with the Americal patch and division name and each will be serialized with the number "1 of 300" on the bolster. The knife is packaged in a handsome collectable tin featuring the Americal Division crest on the lid. This first edition series will have a limited total production of 300 sets, thus enhancing the value of the set.

The Americal Collectible Knife is a "medium stockman" knife which measures 3-5/8 inches closed. The collector tin measures 5 inches by 2 inches by 1-1/4 inch. The collector knife and tin are excellent sizes for display purposes anywhere in your home or office.

W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company has been handcrafting USA made pocket cutlery since 1889. Each knife is made in Bradford Pennsylvania with old-world craftsmanship by dedicated artisans. After 120 years of continuous U.S. manufacturing, Case has solidified its place as an industry leader in collectable pocket cutlery.

*We will ship all orders of the Limited Edition Americal Collectable Knife Set immediately and they will be available until all 300 are sold. To order - send check or money order made out to: **Americal Division Veterans Association**. You may also use your Visa or MasterCard. Include the credit card name, credit card number and expiration date in your order letter.*

*The Americal limited edition collectable knife with handsome collector tin is available for \$75.00 (includes shipping and handling). **All proceeds will go to the Americal Legacy Fund.***



Mail your order to:
ADVA Quartermaster
Wayne Bryant
4411 Dawn Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
Phone: 336-621-8756



Tribute to Lester Stone, MOH

A NASA astronaut plans to pay special tribute to Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Lester R. Stone, JR. Stone earned the MOH on March 3, 1969 while serving as a squad leader with Co. B, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, Americal Division. His actions in holding off an enemy force is credited with saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Douglas H. Wheelock (Colonel, USA) graduated from West Point as an infantry officer in 1983. He subsequently went into Army aviation and became an astronaut. He was a crew member on the STS-120 Discovery space shuttle on October 23-November 7, 2007. COL Wheeler is scheduled to launch on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft on June 15, 2010, and serve for six months in space as the Commander of the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS and its crew of three American and three Russian astronauts will carry out ISS Expedition 25.

On April 24, 2010, Mrs. Doris Stone, the mother of Lester Stone, temporarily transferred her son's Medal of Honor into the care of COL Wheeler. The ceremony was held in Mrs. Stone's home in Harpursville, NY. Wheeler will carry the medal with him on his pending ISS space voyage. It is his way of honoring the memory and sacrifice of Sgt. Stone and as a symbol recognizing the service of American men and women to others.

*Thanks to RICHARD R. BLYTHE,
Broome County (NY) Clerk*



WWII Jeep Restorations

Willis Jeep

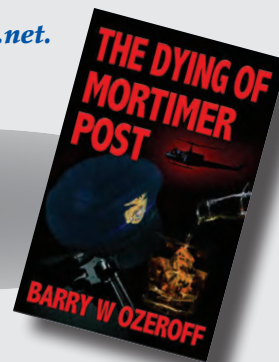
I bought a very old jeep in New Caledonia and I made it run again. This jeep appears to have been made in 1942 and belonged to the Americal Division in New Caledonia. It served in the Headquarters in Noumea. I would like to re-make the original markings that were on the vehicle at that time. I would like to find photos of Willis jeeps used by the Americal Division and/or in New Caledonia.

The photo above shows a jeep with markings on the side near the back of the vehicle (see circled area). Is this the Americal Division insignia? If you can help please contact Francois Fynau; francois.fynaut@gmail.com; Noumea, New Caledonia.

Dodge WC-3

I am restoring my Dodge WC-3 (weapons carrier). I have a full set of hood numbers and after sanding through the eleven coats of paint I discovered the unit numbers. They appear to be the 182 Infantry, H2. I am wondering if there is any way to know the history of this truck and if it was overseas. Thanks in advance. You may send information to Gary Roberts; V.P. IEMVPA;

gary.roberts0553@sbcglobal.net.



Book Notes

The Dying of Mortimer Post is a face-paced novel written by Barry W. Ozeroff. It is a self-narrative that centers on the life of Mortimer Post, a young man who grew up in the 1960s and planned to begin study at Cornell University in September 1967.

But that was not to happen. Post's plans were abruptly changed when a harsh brutality claimed his innocence and caused him to seek escape by enlisting in the Army. He went to Vietnam, survived the Tet Offensive of 1968, and later came home severely wounded in body and mind. Post eventually found his way to California and became a motorcycle officer with the Los Angeles Police Department.

In the book's Vietnam chapters, Ozeroff placed his main character as a crew chief with the 174th Assault Helicopter Company (Sharks). Ozeroff says, "I chose a helicopter unit because I am a helicopter fanatic. I love them, especially Hueys. I've always wanted to write in depth about them. I wanted my character to be a crew chief instead of a pilot because it was important to the storyline farther along in the book."

Ozeroff continues, "I chose the 174th AHC for a variety of reasons. I wanted to place Post in a unit that was operating in Northern I Corps due to its proximity to North Vietnam. I found several units that operated there in 1968, including the 174th. Their website was very detailed and had tons of useful information."

Ozeroff relied on technical advice from veterans of the 174th. In the acknowledgements he says, "I have tried to be as accurate as possible with respect to the units of the Americal Division, its AO, hardware, vernacular, etc., in Vietnam in 1968." He takes some literary license as all fiction authors do. But Americal Division veterans will find many familiar place names, units, terrains, tactics, and tragedies.

The book brings Post up to today- so he is a 60-ish retiree who may or may not be entering the best years of his life. Ozeroff provides a clue, but he may need to pen a sequel in a decade or so for us to be sure. -GLN-



LTC Willis, commanding officer of 46th Infantry; Gaylen Blosser; CSM Thanheiser, the senior NCO at Ft. Knox.

46th Infantry Torchlight Ceremony

The annual 46th Infantry Regiment Torchlight Ceremony was held at Ft. Knox, KY on the evening of March 27, 2010. The ceremony is conducted by cadre and soldiers of the 46th Infantry to honor those who have served and died while assigned to the regiment.

The 46th Infantry currently consists of two or more company size units participating in armored infantry one-station unit training (OSUT). The 46th Infantry was an armored infantry unit in World War II and an light infantry unit in Vietnam.

The Torchlight Ceremony centers on the lighting of one torch for each of the 18 combat campaigns that are credited to the 46th Infantry Regiment. The 46th Infantry was in six campaigns in the European theater in World War II and in twelve campaigns in the Vietnam War. Each torch is lit after the name of the campaign has been called aloud by the narrator and then echoed by the soldier igniting the torch. The soldiers conduct the torch lighting are dressed in uniforms common to the regiment in World War II and the Vietnam War.

The 2011 Torchlight Ceremony is expected to be held at Ft. Benning, GA. The 46th Infantry and all armor training is moving from Ft. Knox to Ft. Benning by the end of 2010. Ft. Benning will be the home of the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE). The MCOE will consolidate infantry and armor schools and training in one location.

Gaylen Blosser served with the 1/46th Infantry in Vietnam and attended the Torchlight Ceremony. He reports, "The senior officers and non-commissioned officers stayed with us for a long time and were so kind to us. It was a very moving experience especially for a former enlisted man like me. Our military leaders are very well educated and very sharp guys.

"General Milano spent a lot of time visiting with us. It was really neat how he came to each of us and thanked us for our service and asked many questions about our experiences in Vietnam. He seemed genuinely interested in our battles and how we dealt with adversity."



Gaylen Blosser, Frank Davis, and MG James M. Milano. Milano is the post commander at Ft. Knox.

Reunions

Recon platoon, 1/6th Infantry, 198th LIB will hold a reunion Nov 5-10, 2010 in New Braunfels, TX. Contact Jim Brown at 512-773-8274 or Dave Burford at 210-748-1203.

Co. C, 2/1 Infantry, 196 LIB will have a reunion on September 17-18, 2010 at Wabasha, MN. Contact Fred Passe by phone at 651-564-0210.

4/3rd Infantry will hold an all inclusive battalion reunion at Ft. Meyer (Washington, D.C.) on Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2010. Contact Dan Behrens at coalcreek@iowatelecom.net.

3/16th Artillery will hold a reunion at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, NV on Oct. 4-7, 2010. Contact Richard Hildreth at 307-871-7165.

H Troop, 17th Cavalry has a reunion in Nashville, TN on October 15-18, 2010. Contact Bill Johnson at kolesnanabj@embarqmail.com.

1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association will hold a reunion in conjunction with the Americal Division Veterans Assn. reunion on October 6-10, 2010. The reunion will be held in Lombard, IL (Greater Chicago area). See event description and registration form in this issue of the Americal Journal.

Locators

Looking for: Information regarding my cousin, CPT Capt. Warner Craig Jacobsen, KIA on June 22, 1968 while serving with Btry. A, 3/16th Artillery. He was shot by the enemy while he was being transported in a OH-23 helicopter near LZ Young. Contact: Curtis Hand; nissmax2@hotmail.com.

Looking for: Special order extract around the period of 19 November 1968 posted by the Headquarters Americal Division that awarded a CIB to First Lieutenant Steven Lenheim of Co. D, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB. Contact: Jon Field; 408-377-9703; JonField@pacbell.net.

Looking for: A list of names of those who served with me in Co. A, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, 7/70-3/71. Contact: Paul Vandergriff; vanbears@comporium.net.

Looking for: Morning report for December 8, 1970 for Co. D, 1/46th Inf., or any documentation regarding action of Co. D on December 7, 1970. Contact: John Elskamp; acjohn103@charter.net.

Looking for: Information about my father, Stanley Sadkowski Sr., a member of the original Americal Division, served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and Bougainville. Contact: Stanley Sadkowski; bigstasiu@Comics.net; 603.661.4756.

Looking for: David Thompson, Co. D, 1/46th Inf., wounded on FSB Mary Ann on March 28, 1971. I am the physician from the 91st Evac. Hosp. who arrived by a medevac on Mary Ann shortly after the attack. Thompson was severely wounded and had tourniquets on both legs. I saw him again a few days later at the 91st Evac. Contact: Francis C. Burton M.D.; fburton1@satx.rr.com.

Looking for: Anyone who knew my father, Clyde James Ball, Co. D, 1/46th Inf., killed on FSB Mary Ann on July 30, 1970. Contact: Ronnie Ball; rjb@cablone.net.

Looking for: Veterans of the 6/11th Artillery, Vietnam. For more information visit our website at <http://www.6-11artillery.org/>.

Contact Larry Solie; larrysoliearty611@gmail.com.

ARTHUR R. WOOD SOUTH EAST REGION CHAPTER

COMMANDER
E. Lee Kaywork



The Annual All Veterans Reunion in Melbourne, FL was held on the weekend of April 23-25, 2010. Thanks to Doc Anderson the South East Chapter once again had a registration tent. This provided a place for our members and those that had served in the

Americal to stop in and say hi. My thanks to George Mitchell for diligently manning this post, along with Doc and myself, throughout the three days event. The SE Chapter held a cookout on Friday evening. Those who attended had a great time.

The extent of activities at the All Veterans Reunion is impressive. The Brevard County Veterans deserve great accolades for their work with this reunion. The Traveling Wall in itself deserves praise. We were on the lake with the Traveling Wall just across from us.

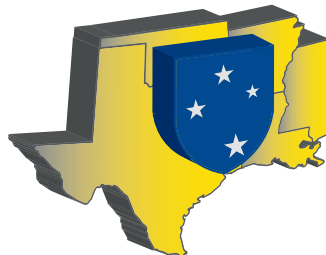
The thousands who show up are treated to three days of concerts and other activities. The presentation of the colors by the many participating organizations takes over an hour to complete. The village of vendors selling food, beverages, military pins, badges and anything else you would need also provides entertainment for everyone. Everywhere one looks there are veterans camping with their families and enjoying the privilege of being a veteran.

Of course age is beginning to take a toll on events like this. The numbers are down from previous years. You see more and more scooters and golf carts. And you realize that those old guys aren't WWII Vets.

This event will continue to serve as a reunion point for the SE East Chapter. You couldn't offer a better venue on a stand-alone basis. Next year's event will be on the first weekend of May so mark your calendars now. With this reunion now in the past we can now turn our attention to Chicago in October.

SOUTH MIDWEST CHAPTER

AR LA OK TX MS



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

We're hard at work on the impending chapter reunion in San Antonio. A visit to historic Fort Sam Houston and some revelry on the River Walk will be the highlights. We expect to have a good turnout. MG Patrick Brady (MOH) is expected to attend and tell us about his new book. Brady was a dustoff pilot with the 54th Medical Detachment. He earned the Medal of Honor for action on January 6, 2010 while evacuating wounded troops from the Americal Division.

I recently sent a mass e-mail to everyone in my address book regarding the airing on PBS of their new documentary about My Lai. A lot of addresses were rejected, and many of you aren't in my address book. If you did not receive this message, sent on April 24, please send me an e-mail so I can get you in the book.



FAR WEST CHAPTER

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

COMMANDER

Rick Ropole
246 Coronado
Corona, CA 92879
951 • 218 • 3071
rropole@esri.com

SEC/TREAS

Tom Packard
5215 S. Haleyville Way
Aurora, CO 80016
614 • 832 • 6512
packard50@q.com



Membership is a chapter priority at this time of the year—both renewals and new recruiting. At this writing there were still 36 chapter members who have not renewed for 2010. Dues expire each year on January 1st. If you're a member and don't remember when your dues expire contact

Tom Packard. Chapter members who have not renewed by May 1st will receive a termination letter with an appeal to renew their membership. If we have not received your check by June 1st, your name will be dropped from the roster as per the chapter by-laws.

A new recruiting effort will commence in the coming weeks. Our target area will be those past members who have not renewed over the last few years and new ADVA members who have not joined the chapter. Far West Chapter membership information can always be obtained by contacting Tom at the mailing or email address above in the title header. The correct phone number for Tom is 614-832-6512.

The Far West Chapter's Annual Reunion is tentatively set to occur this fall in Salt Lake City, Utah. Information will be sent to each chapter member and to anyone else interested in attending as it becomes available.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

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

A.D.V.A.**COMMANDER**

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

This should be my last report to the journal as my term is due to expire. It has been a great three years to serve

as Commander of the Eastern Chapter ADVA.

The annual chapter reunion will be held May 21-23, 2010 in Hampton VA. If you have any questions about the reunion please contact one of the officers or visit our web site at . (The reunion will probably be over by the time the journal is out.)

I want to thank all my officers, especially our treasurer Mark Deam. Without his dedication the chapter would have not have ran smoothly. I hope I did an adequate job as your commander and I thank you for letting me serve.

23rd MILITARY POLICE CHAPTER

WWII Korean War/Panama CZ Vietnam Global War on Terrorism

COMMANDER**Dale Meisel****VICE COMMANDER****Wes Haun****SEC/TREAS**

Tom Packard
packard50@q.com



Two days of events at the US Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri will be the highlight of the 23rd Military Police Company Reunion, taking place June 17-20, 2010. A dinner is planned for Friday night at the Hampton Inn in St. Robert, MO, our host hotel. Just next door at the Comfort Inn, a chapter

meeting will take place prior to a chapter sponsored Pizza Party Saturday evening.

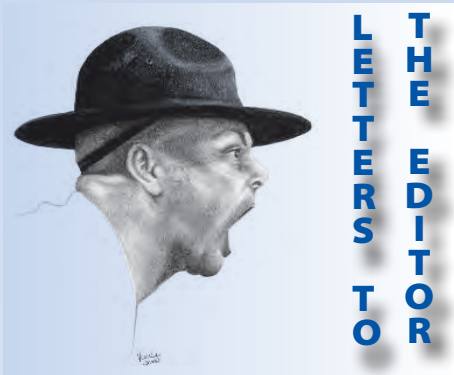
The MP School personnel have gone above and beyond in planning our visit to the school. We will travel Friday morning, by government bus to the MP School where we will walk a tour of the training facility classrooms in the morning. After lunch with the troops at the battalion dining facility, we will continue our tour with a walk through of the barracks, the Special Tactics Training Division and the Basic MP Training Division. We will end the day with an overview and hands on briefing.

Saturday morning has us back on the government bus for a trip to the Fort Leonard Wood Memorial Grove where we will conduct a Memorial service for our fallen 13 brothers with the Post Chaplain. The Mahaffey Military Police and Engineers Museum will top off the morning. After lunch at the Post Exchange, we will travel to the Military Police Station for a one hour tour of the facility.

Sometime during the reunion, Al Feser and Randy Teal will brief us on their two month trip back to Vietnam this year. They will provide a sampling of photos taken during the trip. They accomplished much good this year, helping to rebuild some much needed structural and plumbing needs at a primary school and helping to locate some very long lost relatives.

Some of us will arrive early on Wednesday, June 16 to get that wet bar stocked. We will have our shirts and hats available for purchase, including the new forest green hats. Chapter members will also be able to pay their dues during the event. Chapter members are reminded that your 2009-2010 membership dues expire on June 30, 2010. Please take time to write your check and renew now.

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



Readers: If you need assistance in making contact with the letter writers listed on these pages please contact one of the editors. They will be happy to assist you.

Dear editor,

I am Lloyd J. Morrell's youngest son and I wanted to thank you for the very nice article you wrote about my Dad in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2010 edition of the Americal Journal.

As long as I can remember my Dad always talked about his WWII exploits with the Americal Division and particularly his service on Guadalcanal. Although I grew up in Alaska under the Northern Lights, it seems that I was never far from the Southern Cross depicted on the Americal's patch.

I would say that listening to my Dad's WWII stories certainly steered me toward the military but I wound up in the Navy instead of the Army. I enlisted as a Seaman Recruit and I couldn't wait to get to sea on a ship. It was fairly early in my career when I saw the Southern Cross for the first time and I was quite taken by it since it symbolized so much to my Dad. Even though I grew up looking at the Big Dipper in Alaska, the Southern Cross was really quite striking. Whenever I was in the Southern Hemisphere, I enjoyed looking up at the constellation that many before me had watched, served and died under. I guess it formed a sort of connection with the past for me.

Even though my Dad would probably have preferred that I joined the Army, he seemed content to live my Navy career with me even though he had to learn a whole new vocabulary! When I was stationed in Washington, D.C. about 15 years ago I took leave to take my Dad to the Americal reunion near West Point, New York. It was good to be able to spend some quality time with him, enjoying the festivities and getting to know some of the good folks he served with during WWII and associated with in the ADVA. Thanks again for taking the time to remember my Dad in your newsletter, it would make him very happy.

Jim Morrell; Captain, US Navy (Retired)
jmorrell@bendbroadband.com

Dear editor,

I received word that Bruce Mullenax died on January 12, 2010 after falling from his roof while clearing it of snow and ice. Bruce lived in Oswego NY. He served in RVN in 1971 with Co. C, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB and Co. A, 1/46th Inf. 196th LIB.

Bruce appeared in the photo of Americal veterans attending the New Year VFW Convention that appeared in the Oct-Nov-Dec 2009 edition of the Americal Journal. Bruce was always wearing a smile and willing to lend a hand to anyone who needed help.

Art Hanley; ahanley@verizon.net

Dear editor,

I wish to comment on your article, "When There's Trouble in the Wind", in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2010 issue of the Americal Journal. As far as I was concerned, we were all grunts. It is a term of which I have always been proud. Just don't call that blue and silver badge "the Combat Grunt Badge".

I have told you this before, but it bears repeating: Co. B, 1/46th Inf. was a better unit than that I commanded when I was in the 25th Infantry Division. I was proud to have been your commander.

Peter Gallagher; pgallagh@pacbell.net

Dear editor,

I find the Americal Journal interesting and I read it cover to cover. It is enlightening to learn of the great things veterans are doing for their communities. The many charitable events by the numerous veterans' organizations is a testament to our ongoing service to our country.

In the Jan-Feb-Mar 2010 issue David Taylor makes note of two articles printed in other publications. I read his comments and applaud him for his reaction to the insulting remarks concerning the Americal Division in World War II and in the Vietnam War. I appreciate Mr. Taylor for his comments and prompt reaction to the magazines editors.

Also in this issue of the Americal Journal you state in an article that you have "influence as to what does and what does not get printed in the Americal Journal". I agree with most of your comments in the article. We must use discretion when "talking" politics in a magazine and when printing stories that may be untrue and discredit others. With this in mind, I wish to offer my opinion that the story titled "Soda Girls", also in this issue, was way out of line – not in whole, but in part.

I was an infantryman in Vietnam in 1968-69. I am proud to have served with Co. D, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. Our AO consisted of the Rocket Pocket west of Chu Lai, Dragon Valley, and what we called Rocket Ridge, the mountain range west of Chu Lai. We occasionally spent a few days at Fat City or other remote fire base to knock the bugs off and eat one or two hot meals. During our long treks in the rice paddies and hills we were periodically visited by "Soda Girls". We were suspicious of them and I am sure infantrymen in other units were too.

What I take exception to in the Soda Girl article is the mention, and your approval to include, the statements concerning a "boom-boom" girl- a prostitute in the combat zone. In particular, the story stated the girl was "maybe eighteen" and that the infantrymen stole her money. I do not take issue with the story --- but the story should never have been printed in the Americal Journal. I am one damn proud Vietnam combat veteran and I feel this type of cheap story does not belong in a magazine dedicated to all veterans of the Americal Division. What do we leave to our wives, sons, daughters, and grandchildren when they have access to an article like this for the rest of their lives? Once printed, published, and distributed to thousands, you just can't recall the article. What a great way to tell the story of the day in the life of a combat infantryman in Vietnam.

Tom Luedde



Dear editor,

My father, Calvin E. Carpenter, 89, died on January 7, 2010. He was a lifelong member and avid supporter of the Americal Division. He and my mother, Nelga, shared 63 years of marriage. He was a decorated U.S. Army veteran of WWII. He served in the Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, and Southern Philippines Campaigns.

He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in direct support of combat operations, as well as the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star. I wanted you to know that he was buried with his shoulder patch of "The Southern Cross"; a symbol we often saw around the house when growing up.

Cal Carpenter, Ed.D.; calcarp67@yahoo.com

[Editor's note: The patch on the lower right sleeve illustrates the Southern Cross constellation as well as the island of Guadalcanal. It has some similarity to the 1st Marine Division patch.]

Dear editor,

I have a beautiful 25-jewel watch that I got in Vietnam. It features the Americal shoulder patch on the dial. I think I got the watch at the PX in Chu Lai. I just had it repaired last summer and she works great. I haven't seen anyone else with one like it. Does anyone else have one or is it unique?

I would also like to know where I can gain information on the number of medals for valor that were awarded to members of the Americal Division during her tour of duty in Vietnam. I am so fed up with all the negative remarks made by authors aimed at our beloved Americal Division.

Bobby Dale Albers; daalbers55@charter.net

Dear editor

I read with great interest the comments in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2010 issue of the Americal Journal regarding the negative comments about the Americal Division. I was recently attending an organization's meeting when a new member was introduced as a retired Army pilot. Since I was with the 14th CAB, I took the opportunity to welcome a brother home.

He asked what unit I was with in Vietnam. When I said "The Americal" he responded with a totally inappropriate remark. I was so taken aback by the comment that I had no response. I just walked off, completely insulted.

I well remember Colin Powell proudly wearing his Americal patch while Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. I have always been proud to have been with the Americal. I knew Gen. Hugh Shelton when he was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and I often talked with him about the Americal. He, and most of the other soldiers of our generation, have great respect for the division.

The Americal has a solid reputation, as far as I am concerned, as a top rank fighting division be it in World War II or Vietnam. While we were in I Corps, we fought some nasty battles, but, overall, we kept the AO relatively pacified. As for the rest, you and I know the truth and I am pleased to see the fight to keep our division's reputation as it should be.

Oscar Patterson III, Ph.D.; opatters@comcast.net

Dear editor,

I am the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry. As I'm sure you know, the 182nd was part of the Americal Division in World War II. The 182nd was the American Militia unit that fired the first shot at Concord Bridge, and stood their ground on Lexington Green to start the American Revolution. Many older members of the 182nd Infantry Association were Americal soldiers who fought in the South Pacific.

As the new CSM I am preparing the unit for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. One of the ways we have started is to mark our equipment, to include our helmets, is with the Americal Division patch. We are marking our gear, to include our HMMWV vehicles, with the Southern Cross. I personally have it sewn on the cover of my Army combat helmet.

We don't want to push ourselves onto anyone's history - we want to recognize the past service of our regiment and to honor its veterans and their sacrifice at places like Guadalcanal and Cebu. We would like you to know our intent and why we are recognizing our history, and we want to include our Americal veterans in our regiment's activities.

I look forward to speaking to 182nd Infantry Regiment veterans in the near future. Thanks you for your service, and have a great day.

Robert T. Marsh Jr.; infantrysgm@aol.com

Command Sergeant Major
1st Battalion 182nd Infantry Regiment
Massachusetts Army National Guard

2009 Scholarship Contributors

By Ron Green
Scholarship Chairman

Thanks to all who purchased or sold raffle tickets for the 2009 Americal Division Scholarship Fund. Your concern for the educational welfare of our children and grandchildren is a living testament to the character of our ADVA members. Please continue to support this program by returning your 2010 ticket stubs and contributions as soon as possible. The drawing will be in October 2010, but the checks must be written to the students by June 2010. A listing of 2010 contributors will be available next year.

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<i>(in memory of Joe Feeler)</i>	Paul L. Reitchel	Michael Lombardo	Floyd C. Dunton
Gary McKnight	Carl E. Richardson	George J. Fitzpatrick	Joseph McCourt
James P. Bently	Larry D. Finch	Edward B. Weners	Robert J. Drew
Leslie A. Gorsuch	Cameron Baird	Thomas J. Williams	R.F. Carvell
Donald J. Birkenfeld	Timothy R. Cook	Roger Luckjohn	William L. Wendover
Norman N. Tatara	Lars E. Larson	John A. Bowley	William R. Knight
Richard Carey	Dudley H. Farquhar	Joseph C. Smith	Gary L. Noller
John E. Frederick	Philip L. Bolte	Phillip L. Carpenter	William W. Shugarts III
Warren O. Brodie	James C. Jordan	Michael J. Piazza	Chalbert W. Burchett
John A. Sabolenko	William R. Bevins	Arthur E. Brown, Jr.	Earl Brannon
Douglas Harkins	Daniel D. Zoller, Jr.	Robert E. Doucette	David R. Mower
Jean Warkow	Raymond J. Essenmacher	Harold Phillip Lutz	Zane E. Jacobs
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Floyd C. Nicholas	David Gwilliams	Clarence E. Fune	James W. Stein
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Ethel M. Thornton	Jimmy R. Turner	Harold E. Hansen	Robert Frey
<i>(in memory of Robert N. Thornton)</i>	Stan B. Castro	Jay L. Swenson	Lloyd Morrell
Vern Pesek	Dennis J. Nickels	Louis A. DesPochers	Julian C. Humphries, Jr.
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James G. Ashwell	Edmund DeJonghe	Dennis E. Matthews	William E. Hiser
Robert E. Duesterhoeft	Robert E. Weatherly, Jr.	Lyle E. Cheadle	Frank A. Burnett
D. A. George	Peter R. Moore	James L. Brown	Robert L. Swasey
Robert Carrigan	William J. Bruinsma	James C. Gibling	Terrence Maloney
Dale A. Meisel	Everitt M. Williams, Jr.	Leon Foote	Hugh Stephen Fitts
Rick F. Reuter	Bernard B. Borowski	Doug G. Black	Joan M. Nardone
Lawrence E. Coldren	Richard G. Totten	Malcolm East	Frank C. Dupuy
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Jesse J. Mendoza	Luther A. Chaviers	John J. Shea	Albert R. Pannell, Sr.
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Donald Lee	Michael Kosteczko	Donald J. Berg	John Hofer
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Imelda C. Driscoll	John A. Murphy	Dennis Ferk	<i>(in memory of Joe B. Chin and Bernard G. Carroll)</i>
Thomas R. Schneider	Charles Adams	Bruce Rosin	Paul R. Paturel
William E. Dawson	Sam F. Mazzola	Victor G. Lander	Thomas P. Ross
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William E. Hendricks	Francis X. Bradley	Fred A. Preuss	Edward Gekosky
Tom J. McNicholas	Walter A. Witt	Joel A. Surratt	<i>(in memory of Clayton Brown)</i>
Richard D. Heroux	Robert K. Rodweller	Timothy P. Vail	Joanne E. Stygles
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Mark Your Calendars Now For The Best Americal Reunion Ever!

The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, October 6-10, 2010

Chicago



The 2010 Americal Reunion is at the ultra-modern Westin Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, just minutes from downtown Chicago and only 16 miles from Chicago's O'Hare Airport (specially priced shuttles will be arranged). The Westin is located outside Cook County (Chicago) which means lower hotel taxes for you! **Rooms for the Americal Division Vets are only \$79/night** (plus taxes)! The official dates of the reunion are October 6-10, but members can come two days earlier or stay two days later for the same low rate! (October 4-12).

First Class Hotel Amenities!

The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center offers 500 luxurious guest rooms within easy walking distance to the Yorktown Center and only four miles away from the Oakbrook Center, both offering Chicago's ultimate shopping experience. These two centers offer hundreds of specialty stores and restaurants.

Each guest room at the Westin offers high-speed internet access, Starbucks® coffee, refreshment centers and flat screen LCD televisions! Parking is free for over a thousand vehicles and RV parking space is available as well! A complete fitness center, indoor pool and business center is available 24 hours / day (The Westin is a smoke-free hotel).

Dining at the Westin includes Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse & Bar and Holy Mackerel! Fresh Seafood & Cocktails. Each morning the large Americal Hospitality Room will offer free breakfast breads and coffee for one hour.

Lots to see and do!

Start your reunion on Thursday with our ten-course **Welcome Banquet** at the hotel from 6-8PM to see old comrades and meet new ones.

The opportunities for sightseeing and dining are endless! Try our City Tour of Chicago on Thursday with lunch on your own at the Navy Pier. Members can also visit Chicago on their own by car or using the close-by Metro. Information will be provided.

Friday we will host an Americal tour of nearby Cantigny, the estate of the prominent publisher of the Chicago Tribune, John McCormick, including the war museum, his mansion and the visitor's center. Cantigny is named after the Battle of Cantigny, France in WWI. ADVA vets will walk through World War I trenches sit in a landing craft as soldiers' storm the Omaha Beach on D-Day and walk through the jungles of Vietnam under the watchful eye of a camouflaged soldier on patrol.

The restaurant at the Visitors Center will be for our exclusive use for lunch. ADVA members can tour the grounds at their leisure and have a buffet lunch (included in the tour price) at your leisure.

Spouses Get Ready For a Fabulous Saturday!

Saturday from 10AM to 4PM spouses will be treated to a special tour at the nearby Oakbrook Center. Lunch will be at the Mon Ami Gabi Restaurant with wine tasting, a reception lunch and crepe demonstration. Then spend some serious shopping time at the mall with your custom glamour "signature bag" containing gifts and samples from participating stores as well as a premiere coupon book.

Make Your Reservations Now!

All reservations made by June 30, 2010 will be eligible for a drawing that will give THREE UPGRADES TO SUITES at the same low price as a regular room at \$79/night. Make your reservations now! You can always cancel them by 4PM the day before your arrival with no penalty! Plan to arrive early or stay late. The same low rate applies for all check-ins starting October 4th through October 12th. (Monday the 11th after the reunion is Columbus Day). Call **1-888-627-9031** and reserve your room now to be eligible for a possible upgrade to a suite!



Take the "L" Chicago Illinois



Catigny War Museum



D-Day, Omaha Beach in the Catigny War Museum



**2010 ADVA NATIONAL REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM**
Lombard (Chicago) October 6-10, 2010
Westin Lombard Yorktown Center
70 Yorktown Center, Lombard, IL 60148
1-888-627-9031



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest(s) Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Unit/s: _____ WWII ☐ VN ☐ Handicapped help ☐

ADVA member \$20.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

Non-member (Americal vet)** \$35.00//Person X ☐ = \$ _____

Guest/Spouse of members or non-members \$20.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

****Registration fee for non-member Americal vets includes one year ADVA dues.**

Thursday Chicago City Tour Oct 7, 2010 9AM-4 PM
(Lunch on your own at the Navy Pier) \$32.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

Welcome Banquet Hotel Oct 7, 2010 6PM-8PM
10 Course Welcome Buffet \$43.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

Friday Tour to Cantigny Oct 8, 2010 9:30AM-3:30PM
Price includes ADVA Buffet Lunch \$40.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

Spouses Tour Saturday Oct 9, 2010 10AM-4PM
Price includes exclusive lunch \$51.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet : Cocktails – Cash Bar 6PM-7PM / Banquet & Program 7PM – 8:30PM
Beef ☐ Chicken ☐ Vegetarian ☐ \$50.00/Person X ☐ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Confirmation of the guest's registration and itinerary will be sent out to guests by September 15, 2010. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the reunion. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event, because of commitments made to the hotel, will be non-refundable.

The Reunion BRAT is the ADVA-appointed reunion manager for the 2010 reunion
Questions 360-663-2521 or info@thereunionbrat.com

Mail form and check to:

**Checks Payable to:
The Reunion BRAT
50721 Hwy 410E,
Greenwater, WA 98022**



The Americal's "Hidden Years" Panama Duty in the Cold War

By David W. Taylor



**MG McGarr in 1960,
shortly before
his promotion to
Lieutenant General
(US Army Photo)**

End of the Beginning

The end of hostilities in World War II and occupation duty in Japan saw the end of the Americal Division, the US Army's only division designated with a name as opposed to a number. Late in 1945 the division was inactivated in four echelons, gradually returning its soldiers from Japan through the Port of Seattle, then to separation centers throughout the country.

By November 24, 1945 the first echelon had arrived at the Port of Seattle whereupon the division's units, including the 164th Infantry Regiment and the 246th Field Artillery Battalion, were inactivated. The fourth and final echelon arrived in Seattle December 9th and most of the remaining units in the Americal were inactivated. All that was left were the division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the Division Artillery, HHC Special Troops, the divisions MP Platoon and band. These final elements were inactivated one minute before midnight on December 12, 1945 at Fort Lewis, Washington. After three years, six months and seventeen days the Americal Division passed into history quietly and without ceremony.

Despite the tumultuous upheaval the world experienced in the war, peace was not to last and North Korea's invasion of South Korea brought about the Korean War less than five years later. Hostilities lasted from June 27, 1950 to July 23, 1953 (although the war "era" was extended to January 31, 1955 to include a period of uneasy peace negotiations following hostilities). Some Americal units were reactivated, the largest being the 164th Infantry Regiment (North Dakota National Guard). But the regiment's mission was stateside training. Some Americal soldiers remained on active duty or active reserve after WWII and saw combat again in Korea.

In the fall of 1951 the Joint Chiefs of Staff evaluated their mobilization in response to the Korean War and set a target of twenty-one active duty combat divisions to be in place by 1955. Budgetary constraints, however, required the planning to be limited to twenty divisions. During the fighting in Korea there were eight National Guard and twelve regular army divisions on active duty.

After hostilities ended the total Army strength declined once again as the Guard/Reserve divisions were released,

Authorized Strength- Panama and Puerto Rico Units

UNIT	OFF	WO	EM	TOTAL
TOTAL	451	41	8,877	9,369
HQ, 23d Infantry Division	46	8	110	164
HQ Company, 23d Inf. Division	10	1	105	116
Medical Detachment-Division HQ	1		11	12
23d Inf. Division Band		1	28	29
23d MP Company	7	1	167	175
723rd Ordnance Battalion				
Forward Co A	4	1	119	124
Rear Co B	4	4	107	115
23d Quartermaster Company	8	2	101	111
23d Replacement Company	4	2	22	28
123d Signal Company	11	1	203	215
23d Recon Company	6		153	159
23d Medical Battalion	21		147	168
26th Engineer Battalion	14	2	365	381
33d Infantry Regiment	117	7	2,744	2,868
65th Infantry Regiment	137	7	3,349	3,493
58th FA Battalion (105mm Towed)	30	2	573	605
504th FA Battalion (105mm Towed)	31	2	573	606

FT. BENNING AND FT. STEWART DIVISION- ASSIGNED STRENGTH: 451 OFFICERS, 41 WARRANT OFFICERS, 8,874 ENLISTED.

but the Army and Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson remained committed to an active force of twenty divisions and made use of existing regimental combat teams to do it. Wilson activated the 71st Infantry Division at Fort Richardson, Alaska which included infantry regiments in Alaska and Fort Lewis, Washington and a tank battalion at Camp Irwin, California. He also activated the "Americal", now designated as the 23d Infantry Division, at Fort Amador, Panama Canal Zone with regiments stationed in the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico and the southeastern United States. The two divisions became known as "The Wilson Divisions" Because of their scattered divisional elements, the Army staff further labeled the divisions as "static units" since they would not be capable of early deployment.

Rebirth in Panama

The U.S. Army in Panama had been under the "Panama Canal Department" that was formed in 1917. A part of the Panama Canal Department in World War II was the "Caribbean Defense Command" (CDC). It was from the CDC that 960 Panama jungle-trained officers and enlisted men departed to New Caledonia to help form the 5307th Composite Unit, which later became known as "Merrill's Marauders." The "Canal Department" initially included the 19th Infantry Brigade but its total forces during WWII were greatly increased to 67,000 troops, the troop level deemed necessary to provide an extensive coastal defense network from Panama and Puerto Rico down to Trinidad and Tobago. The coastal defense mission included searching for

German subs. After the war ended the "Canal Department" was replaced by the U.S. Army Caribbean (USARCARIB) on November 15, 1947.

Major General Lionel C. McGarr commanded USARCARIB when, late 1954, the "Wilson Divisions" (71st & 23d) were selected to be activated. McGarr had distinguished himself in WWII as commander of the 30th Infantry Regiment and acting Assistant Division Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division in the European Theatre. His awards included the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars, Five Bronze Stars and seven Purple Hearts. McGarr, as commander of USARCARIB, was now also designated as Commander of the 23d (Americal) Infantry Division and thus "wore two hats". Likewise, Brigadier General W. E. Laidlaw, Chief of Staff, USARCARIB, also became Assistant Division Commander, 23d Infantry Division.

On December 2, 1954 activation ceremonies were held simultaneously at the division's principle locations: Fort Kobbe, The Canal Zone, Camp Losey, Puerto Rico and Fort Benning, Georgia. That day marked the official beginning of the 23d Infantry Division, the former "Americal" which now officially "owned" a number. The "static" nature of the division came from the fact its units at Fort Benning had a primary mission to support infantry training on the post. This made the division's early deployment for war highly problematic.

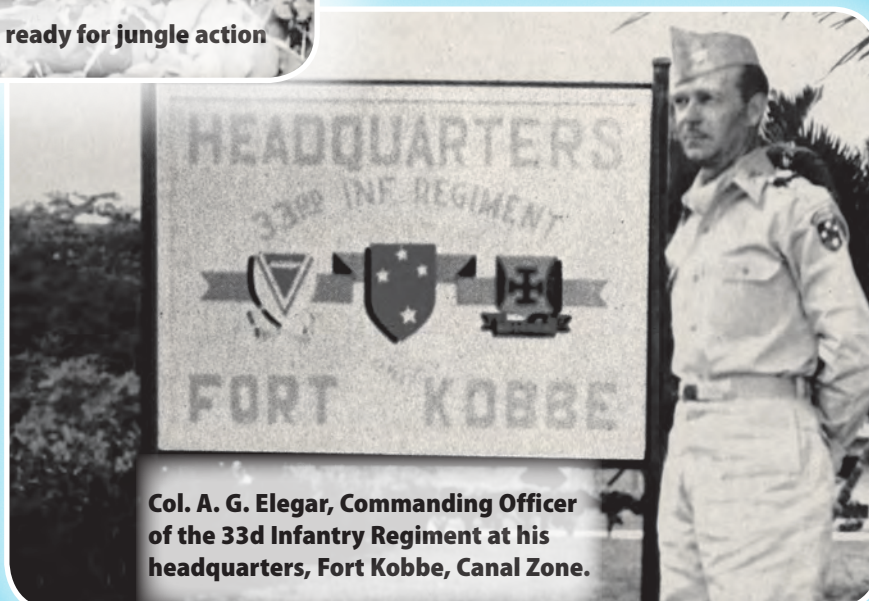
Units stationed on the Panama Canal Zone were: (1) HQ, 23d Infantry Division; (2) the division Headquarters Company, (3) Medical Detachment, (4) 23d Infantry Division



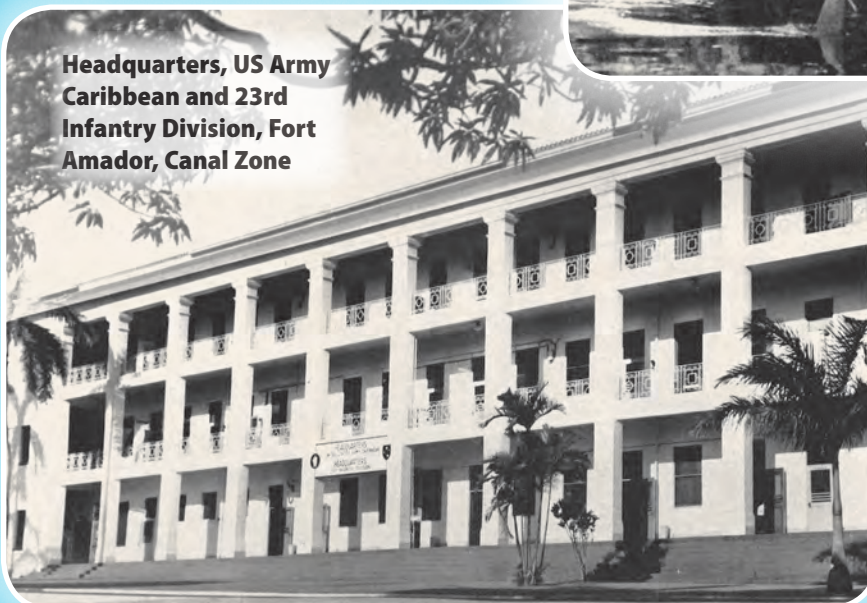
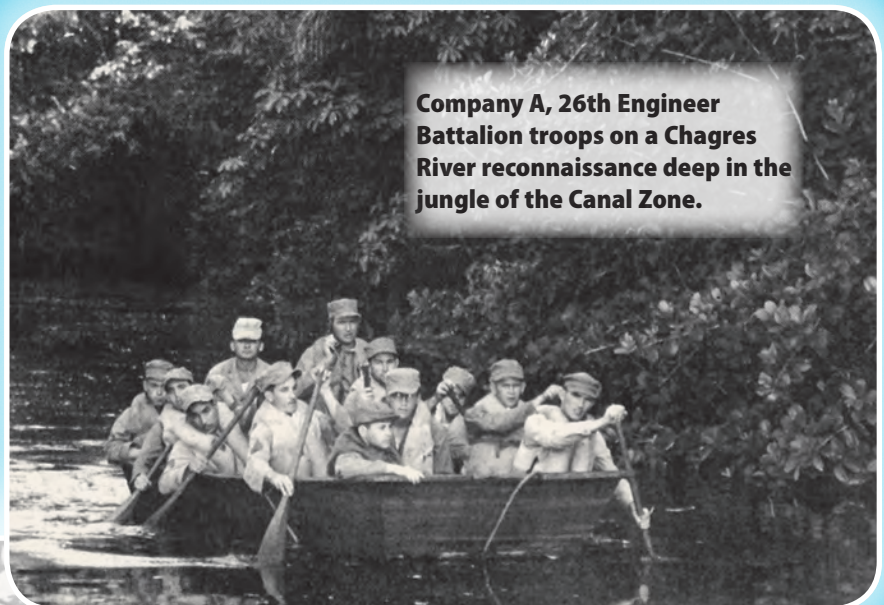
A battery of 105MM Howitzers of the 504th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone, fires a mission during a training problem.



A 33d Infantry Regiment 81mm mortar crew ready for jungle action



Col. A. G. Elegar, Commanding Officer of the 33d Infantry Regiment at his headquarters, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone.

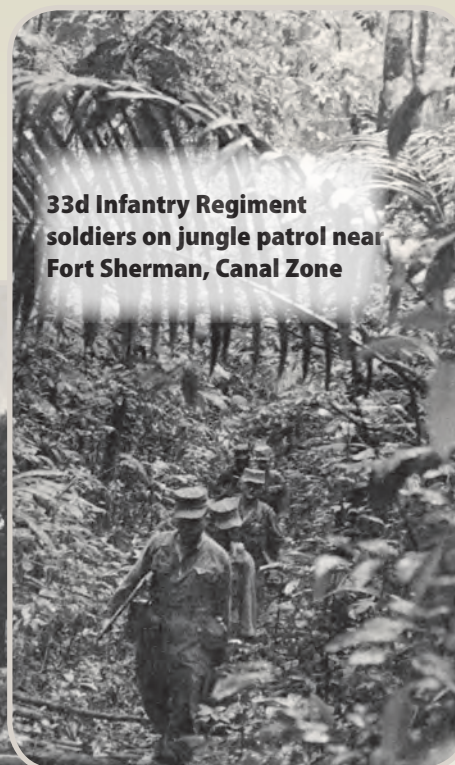




Left-Secretary of Defense Robert T. Stevens (right) troops in line of the new 23d Infantry Division during organization ceremonies at Fort Benning, Georgia. Accompanying him is Lt. Gen. A.R. Bolling (back of jeep) Third Army Commander and Col. Earl Sutton (front of jeep), Commander of the 29th Infantry regiment at Fort Benning.



Right-Headquarters, 65th Infantry Regiment, Camp Losey, Puerto Rico



33d Infantry Regiment soldiers on jungle patrol near Fort Sherman, Canal Zone

Band, (5) 123d Signal Company, (6) 23d MP Company, (7) 723d Ordnance Battalion (minus Battalion HQ Co), (8) 23d Quartermaster Company, (9) 23d Recon Company, (10) 23d Replacement Company, (11) 33d Infantry Regiment, (12) 504th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer Towed), (13) 23d Medical Battalion (minus Ambulance Company) and (14) the 26th Combat Engineer Battalion (minus Companies B, C and D).

Brigadier General Kenneth S. Sweany was the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Antilles (USARFANT) and the Military District of Puerto Rico (MDPR). Some of the forces assigned to him, primarily the 65th Infantry Regiment (Puerto Rico National Guard) were now part of the 23d Division for training and war-contingency planning purposes. The Puerto Rico units were the 65th Infantry Regiment, 58th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer Towed) and Company B, 26th Engineer Battalion.

The allocated units to the division located at Fort Benning, Georgia also supported the Infantry School's training activities. They were (1) The 29th Infantry Regiment, (2) The HQ of the 23d Division Artillery, (3) HQ and HQ Battery, Division Artillery, (4) The Medical Detachment of the Division Artillery; (5) The 23d Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer), (6) The 219th Artillery Battalion (155mm Howitzer), (7) Company C, 26th Engineer Battalion and (8) Battalion Headquarters, 723d Ordnance Battalion. The 714th Tank Battalion assigned to the division was stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Preoccupation with supporting the infantry training at Fort Benning limited the 23d Division units at Benning with the necessary training time to fulfill their missions as part

of the division. General McGarr expressed concern to the Commanding General, Third Army (Fort McPherson, GA) noting, "It will be impossible for those units to complete all phases of ATP (Army Training Program) training" (to be fully combat ready for the division). It was his hope, however, that minimum training objectives could be established for his Benning units to "ensure maximum possible combat efficiency to be an integrated division team." The Benning units became known as "Class 3 Training Program Units" which meant they were "Deployable School Support Units." Had the division been alerted for hostilities outside Panama, it remains to be seen how many of the Benning units would have been deployed.

The U.S. Army Forces Antilles (Puerto Rico) reported to the USARCARIB in Panama and so, for all practical purposes, the 23d Divisions main-stay units came from Panama and Puerto Rico. The original "Military Space Organization" of the 23d Infantry Division in Panama and Puerto Rico is indicated in the table on page 19.

In addition to the above, the authorized strength of the 23d Infantry Division units assigned at Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, Georgia was: 451 Officers, 44 Warrant Officers and 8,874 enlisted soldiers.

The primary mission of USARCARIB and by extension, the 23d Infantry Division, was to protect the Canal Zone during the Cold War and "keep the art of jungle warfare alive in the Army." In 1951, Fort Sherman on the Canal became the home for the USARCARIB's Jungle Warfare Training Center (JWTC) which conducted up to ten three-week courses per year. In November, 1953 the JWTC was attached to the 33d Infantry Regiment to train Panama-based soldiers in jungle warfare and survival. In the spring of 1954 jungle training

of the 33d Infantry Regiment began. This training provided the opportunity for the 33d Regiment to be the only jungle-trained regiment in the US Army.

The USARCARIB was also responsible for the Latin America Training Center whose mission was “to train Latin American military students in US Armed Forces organization, equipment and doctrine in support of US military missions in Latin America.” The center later became known as the “School of the Americas”.

Soldiers assigned to the 23d Infantry Division took great pride in wearing the Americal patch because of the division’s history in World War II. Additionally, at a time when most enlisted soldiers were drafted and had not served in Korea or WWII, the authorization to wear the Presidential Unit Citation the Americal earned in WWII, while they were assigned to the division, was an additional source of pride.

Securing the Canal

It wasn’t long after the 23d Infantry Division was activated that it had its first emergency. General Jose Antonio Remon Cantera was President of Panama, having gained control from a coup in October 1952 but had been re-elected since then in general elections. On January 2, 1955 he was assassinated by machinegun fire at a Panama City Race Track (Hipodromo Juan Franco). The division was placed on alert and all entrances to the Canal Zone were sealed as well as infrastructure sites within the Canal such as canal locks, power stations and the military bases

where the families of the military were quartered. Order in Panama City was quickly restored and Remon’s Vice President was sworn into office. The murder of Remon was never officially solved.

Duty in the Canal Zone in the mid 1950’s was generally considered good duty, even for the enlisted draftees who filled the Army’s ranks. Steve Newland served with the 23d Recon Company and proudly remembers his service. “Our company was formed from the old 45th Armored Recon Battalion. Captain Myers commanded Company A in the battalion and was selected to command the 23d Recon Company. All members of the company were handpicked by him. It didn’t matter if you were RA, US, ER or NG, you were picked if you had two main qualifications: You were a first rate soldier and a top all-around jock.”

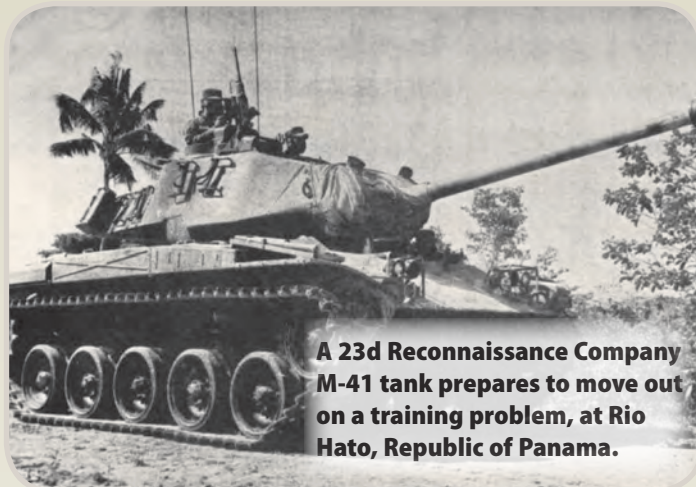
“The Recon Company”, he recalls, “lived up to both of these demands. We were picked as Soldier of the Day and Colonel’s Orderly almost every day on Guard Mount. I myself was picked twenty-seven straight times and we won the Fort Clayton basketball championship. We were hated by the rest of the outfits on post.”

Rolla Cavanaugh also served in the 23d Recon Company, which was composed of a Scout Platoon, Tank Platoon, Infantry Platoon and Administrative Platoon. The Tank Platoon was assigned the M-41 Walker Bulldog Light Tank, full-tracked with a 76mm gun. The Walker M-41 was developed to be a fast and agile light tank for close infantry support and cavalry reconnaissance, yet heavy



Left-Camp Losey, Puerto Rico – Brig. Gen. Kenneth S. Sweany, Commanding General, U.S. Forces Antilles and Military District of Puerto Rico, makes the principle address during the Camp Losey observance of the activation of the 23d Infantry Division.

Top-33d Infantry Regiment tank & infantry squad on maneuvers at Rio Hato, Republic of Panama



A 23d Reconnaissance Company M-41 tank prepares to move out on a training problem, at Rio Hato, Republic of Panama.

enough to defend itself against medium tanks. Cavanaugh remembers “we maneuvered all over with those tanks, including conducting maneuvers in rough terrain in northern Panama”.

One of the primary missions of the Recon Platoon, as well as other division units, was “Vital Installation Guard”, or “V-I Guard”. This included facilities on the Pacific and Atlantic side of the canal as well as the interior zones. Close security was provided to prevent sabotage at power plants, rock quarries, canal entrances and exits and the locks. Barracks on posts were also guarded. A zone patrol might cover six weeks at a time and include every lock on the canal.

Everywhere on the Panama Canal soldiers were reminded daily they were living in the tropics with the humidity, the heat and the presence of jungle creatures, especially snakes. Cavanaugh recalls one night patrol he will never forget. “We were on a night patrol in a jeep, which we used quite a bit. I was in the passenger seat and a Puerto Rican Sergeant was driving. We cut our lights for security and slowly moved when we ran over something. I asked, ‘what was that?’ Then all of a sudden a boa constrictors head landed on my lap and his tail came up from under the jeep on the other side, on the Sergeants lap. The boa was huge and its natural reaction was to wrap around whatever hit it - the whole jeep - to squeeze it to death. We killed the snake but I don’t mind telling you I peed in my pants!”

Fred Fairchild was drafted for two years and served in the division for 18 months in Panama. He was a tank mechanic who worked in the motor pool but also took part in maneuvers, which were periodically run at night. The division saw themselves as warriors both day and night, knowing saboteurs or attacks most likely would occur in the dark. He saw his time on the canal as great duty and lived off post in Panama City while he dated an Army nurse.

Bob Anderson also enjoyed weekend passes in the city and recalls, “For the most part we never had problems with the civilians. I remember on a return trip to Panama after President Carter gave back the canal, several Panamanian’s asked me, ‘Why did you give back the Canal?’ Their employment suffered after we left.” “While off duty in Panama City”, Anderson recalls, “The Panamanian Police

(Panamanian National Guard or the “Guardia Nacional”) were all small and carried Billie Clubs. On weekends the American MP’s would also pair-off with some Panamanian Police Officers and if trouble started and you had to be detained, you wanted to get detained by the MP’s not the Panama National Guard. If a Panamanian police officer threw you in jail for a disturbance they never bothered to tell the American authorities on the Canal so, officially, you were AWOL. If an American MP were present he’d get you back to the base. We used to watch sailors in their whites on shore leave get busted in jail all the time because they didn’t know enough to seek out an MP.”

Jim Roxbury, a tank driver in recons tank platoon adds, “We always had a good time in Panama City on weekend passes but we never wore our uniforms because you were a target for the police if things got rowdy. They’d put you in jail and then require money from the government to get you out. Once we were driving to Hato Rey for target practice, using the roads outside the zone to get there. There were about 25 of us in a 2-1/2 ton truck and three jeeps. We saw three Panamanian guards on the side of the road supervising a work crew from the jail and one of the prisoners was a US soldier. We stopped the vehicles and took our guy from them. When we got him back to the Canal Zone they shipped him back to the states because he could never go back into the city.”

Roxbury also felt his Panama duty was great, despite the spit and polish, because he learned what it was like to be a good soldier. He recalls, “We had four Walker light tanks in the recon platoon and I was the driver for the lead tank. Those things were very fast and agile. I wanted to be especially fast because our tank would be the first to fire and I wanted to be able to move fast. I had a mechanic at the motor pool turn the governors up and synchronize them on those two Cadillac engines to get more speed. I had that tank up to 60 miles an hour.” Roxbury still remembers the intense training of the division. “We would go on maneuvers up in Rio Hato for six weeks at a time. They would send a battalion of paratroopers from the states to jump in and be the aggressors. We moved those light tanks though the jungle, always hiding, sometimes burying the tanks to keep them hidden. It was something. We developed techniques on how to move tanks and trucks through that terrain, as best as possible. Once a year we had an IG inspection and we washed our tanks with fire hoses. Those tanks were the cleanest in the Army.”

Roxbury remembers, “Our Company Commander, Captain Myers, was very gung ho. He took the company on a ten mile march though the jungle, without stopping. It was very tough and some men had to drop out from the heat. When we finished Captain Myers was carrying three or four M1’s from soldiers who could go no further. I was right behind him with the company guidon and had four M1’s and four 45-caliber pistols with belts from others who dropped out. Other soldiers carried more extra M1’s. The commander had the medics get his men left behind but he didn’t want to leave the weapons behind”.

From the barracks at Fort Clayton, the soldiers had a close-up vantage point to watch the many merchant ships come through the canal daily and it was fun to wave at the various nationalities on the decks of ships as they passed through. All except the Russians. Roxbury remembers that the Russian ships were always painted black or dark grey with the hammer and sickle on the side of the ship. "This was in the middle of the Cold War and you never saw the Russian crews. They were never on the ships' deck. Perhaps the authorities were afraid they'd jump ship. They were like ghost ships passing through."

Throughout the 23d Infantry Division's tenure in Panama, training and security were the order of the day. The divisions units under General McGarr's control were trained to a high state of readiness for his stated one goal, to be COMBAT READY. But the bloody and indecisive fighting of the Korean War was causing a new look in America's defense policies during the Cold War. President Eisenhower's administration declared it would no longer be bogged down in ground warfare at a time and place of the adversary's choosing.

Instead aggression would be met with the "massive retaliation" of strategic atomic (nuclear) weapons. This policy called for a reduction in land forces and the revamping of the military's force structure, with new "pentomic divisions" supposedly capable of operating in a nuclear environment. The Army regiment was to be abolished as a tactical entity in favor of smaller and more flexible battle groups with brigades instead of regiments, which were smaller and organizationally more agile.

Postponed for the Future

One of the casualties of this new look at the Army's force structure was to inactivate the 23d Infantry Division. This occurred on April 10, 1956 at Fort Amador. Unseen by anyone, Eisenhower's dictum of avoiding being "bogged down in ground warfare" would soon be forgotten by the president who replaced him with an increased concern over Communist "Wars of National Liberation" and "Falling Dominoes". Eleven years after the division was inactivated in the jungles of Panama, it would be activated again in the jungles of Vietnam. The 33d Infantry Regiment which had served so ably and for so many years in the Canal Zone was inactivated (on paper) on May 26, 1956 and was replaced by the 20th Infantry Regiment because it had a longer history dating back to the Indian Wars and possessed many battle honors. The soldiers of the 33d Regiment simply exchanged

patches and crests and continued to serve in Panama. The move was an attempt to save the 20th Regiment on active duty during a period of force reductions. But they would eventually be replaced by an infantry brigade in Panama which secured the Canal until it was relinquished to the Panama Government.

The 23d Infantry Division in Panama and its reactivation in Vietnam would have an almost eerie connection through its Panama commander, General McGarr. After the division was inactivated McGarr became the Commandant of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas from July 1956 to August 1960. His tenure there was met with frustration by his faculty. Lieutenant General Ernest Graves recalled in his memoirs, his duty as a member of the faculty at the time. "McGarr was the Commandant and he did not have the admiration and respect of most people there. He didn't come through well...he seemed to be arbitrary and the whole curriculum was being revised as the result of the pentomic division. That created a lot of tension on the faculty". Graves wrote, "One of the things that created the most consternation was his rule that any student could complain or criticize any member of the faculty. There were all kinds of challenges going on all the time and the faculty was uptight. They had to respond to McGarr if they were challenged. It wasn't one of Leavenworth's most shining periods in terms of its academic excellence."

McGarr argued for greater flexibility in U.S. Army doctrine, including a treatise on "a doctrine for limited wars" but he only made brief references to the concept. His focus was to incorporate new high-tech weapons into the Army's doctrine as quickly as possible and develop "smaller...tactical nuclear weapons for use in limited war." Despite this mindset McGarr, now a Lieutenant General was assigned on September 1, 1960 to command the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Vietnam. The MAAG was the forerunner of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) which was in effect when the Americal was activated in October 1967. During McGarr's command of MAAG there was an escalation of US military advisors into Vietnam and his preference was for future US offensive action against insurgent forces while the US Embassy argued for more pacification efforts and defense of the civilian population.

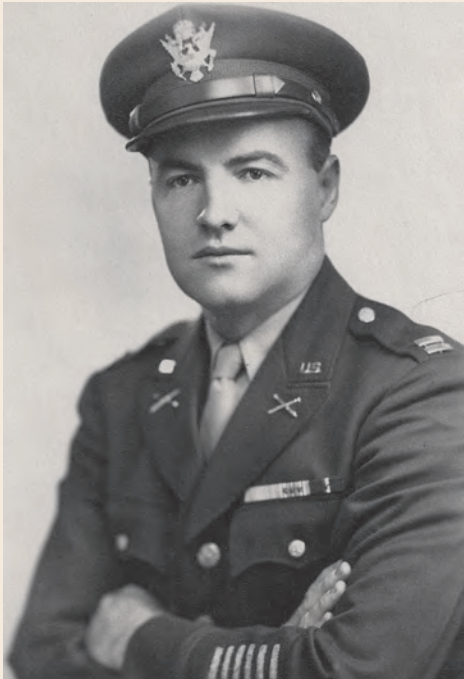
McGarr was succeeded in Vietnam in 1962 by General Paul Harkins the first commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), who was in turn, succeeded two years later by General William C. Westmoreland. It was Westmoreland who would call for the activation of the 23d (Americal) Infantry Division again. And the rest, as they say, is history.



What Did You Do In The War, Dad?

By Louisa A. Fulton

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Together Again

On Veteran's Day in 2009, John Kelley, a WW II Vet stopped at a photo display in the lobby of his assisted living facility, Whitney Place in Natick, Massachusetts. He immediately recognized a 68-year-old photo of Army Capt Robert Fulton. He said to a staffer, "Robert Fulton was my CO in the Pacific. Is he still alive?" The staffer responded, "Mr. Fulton is very much alive and lives one floor up."

Robert Fulton is my father. He is 93 years old, still active and has a hearty appetite and a healthy sense of humor. He moved to assisted living two years ago. Most of his sight has been lost to macular degeneration and his hearing is, well, rather selective.

A reunion was arranged for John and Dad, two men who were together in 1942 on the Santa Elena heading to the Pacific theatre from New York. Face to face again, they shared memories - hardened guys grabbing rosary beads when bombs dropped, mosquitoes that could "carry you away," malaria, dysentery and most movingly, fellow soldiers who did not make it. Kelley remembers monkeys jumping onto the ship's deck as it went through the locks of the Panama Canal and giant palm trees in New Caledonia being retrofitted into watchtowers. They both recall only too well that supplies were severely limited as the U.S. government struggled to provide military forces with the necessary food, gear and firearms. Initially, WWI artillery was put in use.

"He was quiet and fair," John said of my Dad. "But when he said no, he meant no." Dad remembers John as a "very young man (he was, in fact, 17 years old) who kept his nose clean." Watching and listening to these two men made me think, not for the first time to be sure, about the passage of time. They are now beset by age-related conditions. John is in a wheelchair. In 1942, as young, strong, willing soldiers, they defended our country.

When I lost my mother in 2004 after nine months of a hard decline, I visited my Dad often. He was understandably depressed and had never prepared a meal in his life. We forged a different relationship from the one we had always had. The loss of my mother gave me a new perspective on the time Dad and I might have left together. I wanted to learn as much as possible about his life.

I knew that he graduated Harvard in 1940 where he was in ROTC. And after one year at Boston University Law School he entered the Army. Rummaging in the basement, I discovered his dog tags – one wrapped tightly with adhesive tape "so they wouldn't jangle and give away our position," he says. There was also a 1942/43 journal.

And so began a special journey for Dad and me. I read aloud from the journal and, prompted by his words from so long ago, his memories came flooding back. The war experience, as he describes it, was "a definite education for all involved."

Off To War

Tues., Jan. 13, 1942- Camp Edwards, Falmouth, MA: Notified today we are being shipped overseas; Joe Gill, Jim Rouse, Brown and I stare at CO in mixed consternation and amazement. Suddenness of the situation astounds everyone. Telephoned home after supper when the wires cooled off.

The next several entries begin "wild times in the warehouse" as men hurried to load supplies:



Luxury bed near Battery A

**Left- Pt. Cruz: Battery Mess****Right-Pt. Cruz: Preparing Dinner**

Fri., Jan. 23, 1942: We are off. Feelings hard to express. Heavy swell makes ship rock and roll. There are seven troop ships in convoy. Kungsholm, Cristobal, McAndrew, Argentina, Santa Rosa, Santa Elena and S.S. Barry. (The Kungsholm was re-designated the John Ericsson) Complete blackout at night – no portholes open. Many are seasick. About this entry Dad said, “We got bad sun burns, took salt water showers, stood in hours long mess lines. We had boat drills and sub scares. Tension ran high as time passed slowly. We all put up with discomfort and made sacrifices. There was no choice.

Thurs., Feb. 19, 1942: No Fri., Feb. 20, 1942 in our lives. (Apparently there were so many time changes during the voyage that an official announcement on Thurs., Feb. 19 declared “Tomorrow will be Sat., Feb.21, 1942.”)

Wed., March 11, 1942: Landed New Caledonia. March five miles with full pack – terrible. Eaten alive by mosquitoes and red ants during the night.

Tues., March 31, 1942: First Mail Call –actual tears in men’s eyes, as letters from home arrive!

Today, with cell phones, e-mail and Facebook, it’s hard to imagine being isolated for 38 months with only sporadic letters as communication. Now I understand why Dad has always emphasized the importance of writing to friends and family transitioning to new locales or isolated in distant places.

After many entries about an abscessed tooth that repeatedly kicked up causing blinding pain, it was a relief (for both of us) to read:

Sat., Aug. 29, 1942: Today Mike Shelsey pulled out my front tooth! Dad remained toothless for the duration of his service. Speaking of teeth:

Fri., Oct. 16, 1942: Washed teeth with someone’s shaving cream instead of toothpaste.... by mistake. (Dad, I HOPE it was by mistake!)

The Americal Division was formed in New Caledonia.

Assignments/ranks changed over time. Dad eventually became Captain of Battery A, 221st Field Artillery Bn.

Guadalcanal

Sun., Jan. 4, 1943: Arrive at Guadalcanal at 4:30AM. Sun rises, very hot. Batteries A and B stay aboard to unload. Have no bed roll. Rough night in cab of truck. Windows closed - mosquitoes. Stifling hot.

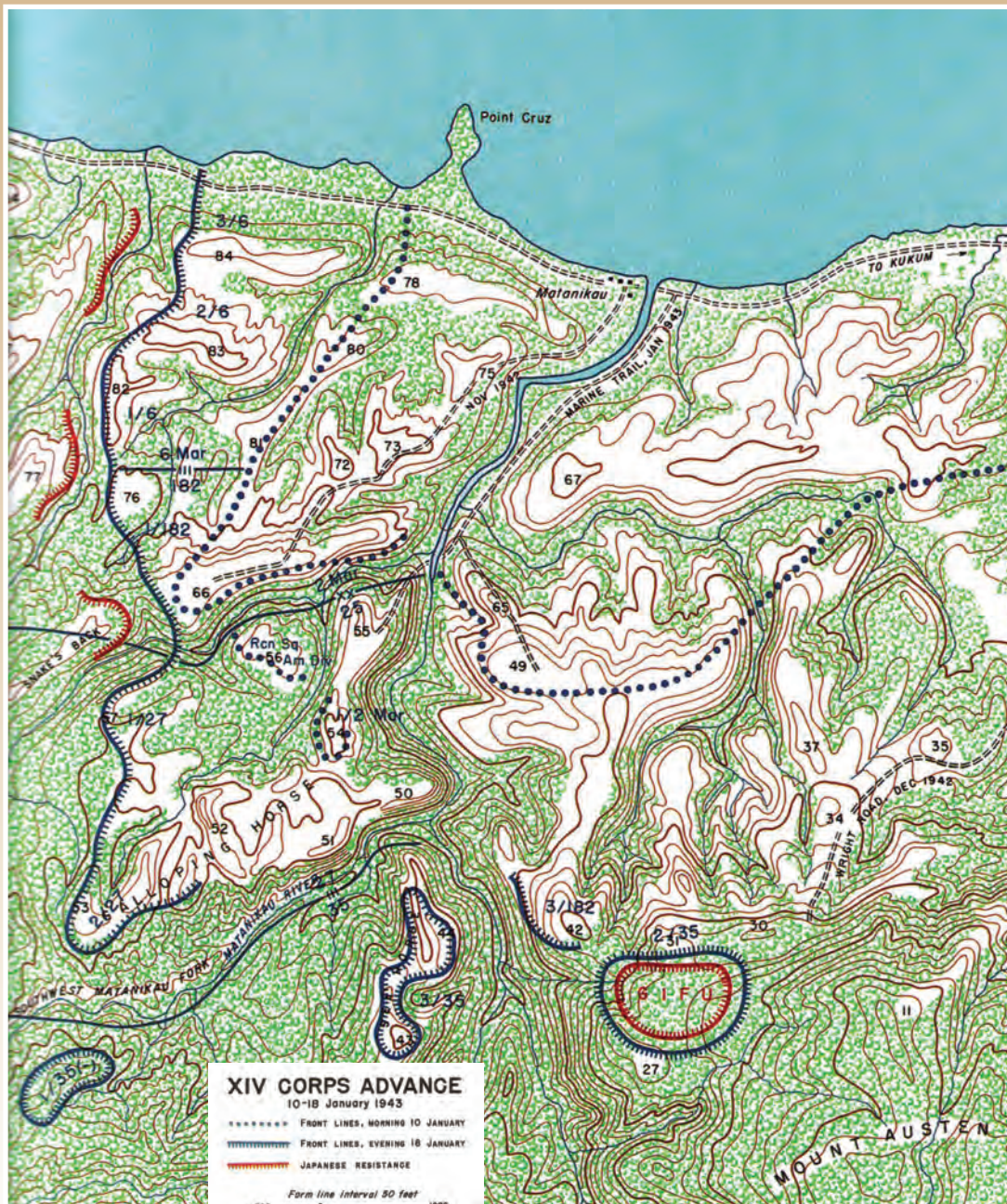
Tues., Jan. 6, 1943: Moved to 1st gun position – terrible mud hole. Gun crew digging in terrific heat and humidity.

Thurs., Jan. 8, 1943: First fire mission. Jap plane bombs airfield and drops run toward our position. I dig with fingers.

The first day of the First Offensive in January 1943. Artillery preparation for the attack on terrain known as the “Galloping Horse” began 5:50AM from artillery from six field artillery battalions, including the Americal’s 221st Field Artillery on Point Cruz. In thirty minutes 5,700 rounds were



Pt. Cruz: Battery Jeep (chains on wheels mandatory for the mud)



fired. The 105mm battery's such as the 221st fired a total of 3,308 rounds; 155's fired 518; 75's fired 1,874. The total weight of the projectiles was 99-1/2 tons. In the following days the 221st supported primarily the 6th Marine Regiment in its push westward.

Jan. 15, 1943 - Point Cruz: Bad gun position. Dead bodies stink. Last night dug frantically with infantry pick. This AM 6th Marines drive on – we stay on 86 – tonight we were hit by Japanese mortars – “Pistol Pete.” Weird Night. Battery positions are bombed.

Feb. 6, 1943: These were nights of condition red and black.

Japs drop flares all around Savo. – eerie scene. I man OP adjacent to battery – saw big fires at sea between Savo and Esperance – apparently Jap destroyers burning. We hear Japs are trying to evacuate.

From Feb. 28 – March 10, 1943, Dad was in the 101st Hospital with jaundice. When he was released he was 40 lbs lighter. He says, “Good thing I had the extra weight to lose.”

He was in Leyte where the situation was escalating prior to the key battle in Cebu, when he heard that he had made rotation. Before you could say “home,” he was packed and hitched a ride with John Kelvaugh to Tacloban. (When



Covered foxhole for Jap air strikes by sleeping quarters and Battery A



Guadalcanal: No sleep for three nights



Guadalcanal: Church services – March 1943

Dad got home, he would keep his promise to visit John Kelvaugh's family in New York.) During the muddy drive, Dad saw his first female U.S. Army soldiers.

The plane heading home was full and as Dad remembers, very quiet. The trip is a long one on many levels, but after a foggy approach to Travis Air Force Base outside of San Francisco, they saw green grass below. Dad said "Tears streamed down my face." No wonder his eyes welled up as he spoke. My eyes welled up too.

He called home (in Massachusetts) from California at midnight, 3AM on the East Coast. He told me he should have waited because he could barely speak his emotions were so overwhelming. I asked him, what he said.

"I said, "Hi Mum."

Dad retired in 1970 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC), now known as JAG. Two brothers, Paul and James, served in the U.S. Navy in WWII. His oldest brother, David Hugh Fulton Jr. (Merchant Marines), was lost at sea when his ship, on its way home, was torpedoed.

Father Brock, a Battery priest with whom Dad became friendly overseas, married my Dad to my mother, Mary Elizabeth Carraher, in 1947. For five decades Dad was a trial lawyer in Boston. We settled in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts where they raised four children, David Hugh II, Stephen, Louisa and Robert Jr.

Dad still corresponds with Irv Dworkin, a member of Battery A, who lives in Ohio.

I'd like to thank the Americal Division Journal for publishing this article. It is meant as a tribute not only from a daughter to her Dad, but to all the men and women who serve in the military.

Thank you.

(Editors note: All photographs courtesy of Louisa Fulton)



Louisa Fulton with father, Robert Fulton

Memorial Day – Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

By Alfred Piscitello

Editors Note: This Memorial Day address was given last year by Americal Vet Alfred Piscitello in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Distinguished guests, citizens of Gloucester, fellow veterans, I am deeply touched and honored to have been asked to say a few words today in honor of our fallen military heroes.

Today we remember the more than one million Americans who have lost their lives to acts of war or terrorism, spanning from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Life as we know it would not be the same without the servicemen and women who gave their lives for our country, as well as those who returned to make our nation the greatest on earth.

I'd like to speak about why Memorial Day is a sacred holiday to me. When I was 22 years old, I served thirty-two months in the WWII Pacific Theater of Operations, as a medic in the 121st Medical Battalion of the famous Americal Division. I was attached to the 164th Infantry Regiment, a North Dakota National Guard, and we made our first offensive landing at Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, to reinforce the 1st Marine Division. We landed on Friday, November 13th, 1942, in the midst of a great naval battle.

I drove one of the ambulances off the landing craft and onto the beach, where we met the Marines at a coconut grove in the foreground of a dense jungle. One of the Marines in charge came up to me and said, "That Red Cross makes a great target for the Japs! Take those crosses off the ambulances, and rip those armbands off your arms." So, we hid the ambulances among the trees and covered them with palm leaves, coconut leaves, and whatever else we could find. There were no roads on the island yet, so we couldn't use the ambulances anyway.

As a medic, treating and evacuating wounded soldiers from the front lines to medical aid stations, I was in a unique position to see just how many lives were lost in those battles. I got used to eating my K-rations with other people's blood on my hands. After the Japanese had evacuated and Guadalcanal was declared secure, we took satisfaction in a battle won, but we knew the war was not over. It was just the beginning.

The 164th Infantry moved to the island of Fiji, to train replacements and regain our health. In addition to the dead and wounded, most of our guys had contracted malaria or other tropical diseases. While on Fiji, my company was transferred to the 182nd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard.

In December 1943, we left Fiji for Bougainville, in the northernmost part of the Solomon Islands, where the Japs were well-established. It was our job to take the island away from them.



On December 24th, Christmas Eve, we landed at Empress Augusta Bay, in Bougainville. The U.S. Marine 3rd Division was already there and they had established a good beachhead at Cape Torokina, at the north end of the Bay, so we weren't in immediate trouble when we arrived.

We landed in Higgins boats again, but this time we knew what we were doing. No armbands, no Red Crosses; we were dressed like the rest of the others. It was a little scarier than the first time at Guadalcanal, though, because now we knew what we were getting into.

Our orders were to take control of Hill 260. We had a lot of casualties before we even reached the hill. It was a terrible battle. One of my best buddies, another medic from my company, was killed during the fighting. To lose my best friend like that...it made me take the war personally. I stayed out there twenty-four hours straight, denying orders, evacuating casualties from the front line to the aid station. I felt a great responsibility for the fact that I was alive while Joe was dead.

That feeling came back to me sharply at the dedication of the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC in May of 2004. Thousands upon thousands of people swarmed the site in a massive tribute to the war in which we fought over the future of the world. At that time, as an 85-year-old veteran I was fortunate to be there with my children and grandchildren, but I noticed sadly that many families came without their veterans. Even though it's obvious that many of my fellow WWII vets are dying of old age, there were also over 400,000 who didn't make it home from the war. That point was made perfectly clear by the wall of gold stars at the memorial.

As I sat in the sun, one of many in row upon row of folding chairs, listening to the distinguished speakers and enjoying the marvelous singers and dancers, I thought of how tragic it would be to have a loved one not come home. I thought of how difficult it was to lose a buddy to enemy fire. I thought of all the ones who didn't make it. And when I stood to sing the National Anthem, it was their voices I heard in my head.

So I thank you all for taking time today to pay tribute to those who marched off to war and didn't return. May we always remember them. God Bless them, God Bless America, and God Bless us all.

Bad Beach Landing on Cebu

By Floyd Bekins

After basic training I shipped out from San Francisco aboard a troopship heading to New Caledonia. I was assigned to the Americal Division and served in Fiji, the Philippines, and the Solomon Islands.

I started in the 247th Field Artillery Battalion HQ's Fire Direction Center as a "human computer". Later, in Bougainville, I was re-assigned to serve in the Division Artillery HQ, in which I continued through the campaigns in Bougainville, Leyte and Cebu.

The Americal Division made a D-day assault landing on the Island of Cebu, on the beach at Talisay, south of Cebu City, on approximately March 25, 1945. From then on we engaged in five more months of combat in Cebu. Each of us who landed on that first day was eligible to receive a bronze arrowhead to wear with the bronze battle stars on his Asiatic Pacific campaign medal ribbon.

When enemy land mines were discovered under the sand on the beach the Americal Division's commanding officers ordered that all vehicles, having already rolled out of their landing barges, must halt and not move. Orders spoken through bull-horns stated, "All troops must remain inside your vehicles..... until land mine detection equipment is brought in by special troops to locate them and remove them!"

Unable to reverse within our tire tracks, and back into our landing barges, whose commanders had already pulled back off the beach and gone out to sea, we were therefore ordered to remain in place.

Per the original plan, I had been assigned to sit, only during the beach landing, on a pile of crated 105mm projectiles in the back of a half-ton weapons carrier. The driver and assistant sat in front and were to deliver the ammo to our artillery positions. I was to leave the beachhead area immediately to join my group at a predesignated area, the execution of which, under the new circumstances, had to be delayed.

For the next 24 hours, therefore, my vehicle would be required to continue to stay put, as a visible sitting target, loaded with three men and high explosives, surrounded by mines, while openly exposed to enemy machine guns above the beach. I was then filled with a more intense fear than I had ever known. What could I do? Only one answer came to me at that moment. It seemed audible.

"Pray!" commanded the inner voice. I began to pray silently, to the unseen God I had learned about from my parents, grandparents and Sunday School Teachers. Just as I was beginning to feel His reassuring presence, my meditations were interrupted by distant explosions. But they were not caused by bombs or artillery shells. They were the booming crashes of thunder! It was a miracle! The tropical rains began to pour down from above. "Thank you, God!" Exhausted, I fell asleep. The rains, cloaking us with safe invisibility, fell non-stop all day long and throughout the night.

Regardless of lying upon a bed of jumbled hexagonal crates of high explosive ammunition, piled hastily into the bed of an open truck - even while rain kept pouring on me - I slept in peace all through the night, while the land mine detection squads were clearing the beach.

I rejoined my unit, and we, with Division Headquarters personnel, temporarily occupied civilian houses in Cebu City, among all cities of the Philippines, second highest in population, only to Manila.

We stayed until the return of their owners, who survived the past three years, hiding in mountain caves. Filipino civilians were contracted to build, with bamboo poles and palm fronds, our new offices and living quarters on some unoccupied coastal land north of the city.

Meanwhile, although after V.E. Day, the war continued, on Cebu, as well as on other Pacific Islands. I became a casualty, and was evacuated by air to the Army Hospital back on Leyte. In mid August, when war ended in the Pacific, I was put on a hospital ship and went home, while my Americal friends went up from Cebu, to join General MacArthur's other forces, to begin the Post-War occupation of Japan.

Editor's note- Mr. Bekins may be contacted by e-mail at summamaxima@cox.net.

The Other Side of the Maetsuyker Beer Party

By Carl R. Lauritsen

The beer party on Maetsuyker ship that carried the 3rd battalion of the 164th Infantry to Noumea, New Caledonia in 1942 often gets told in many ways. One version is detailed in the Oct-Nov-Dec 2009 issue of the Americal Journal. The following is my account.

Before World War II most inter-island and inter-continental travel was by ship. Air travel had not arrived. Cargo ships had staterooms, food, and liquor. The liquor included scotch, whiskey, rum, brandy, and wine. Other amenities for travelers were also provided. Such was this ship.

The officers of the battalion were packed into the staterooms of the Maetsuyker. They ordered and ate from the ship's menu.

I was a second lieutenant in K Company and was the officer of the guard the night the so called beer party took place. My various inspections of the guard showed no singing, whooping, or boisterous activity.

At mess the next morning the ship's officers presented a list of missing liquor and beer. The battalion had no choice other than to assess the men the amount of \$3.46 each, if I remember correctly. All men were paid in cash and there was someone at each table to collect the assessment.

Now you know the rest of the story.

Attack at Kham Duc (1970)

By Mike Ruibal and Robert McFee
With R. E. Griffin

The setting

On the morning of August 5, 1970, a platoon of three 155mm towed howitzers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery took positions near the recently reopened airstrip at the former Special Forces camp at Kham Duc. The 1/82nd Arty was part of the Division Artillery of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

The dark and quiet of that night was interrupted at 0415 hours with frantic shouts of "sappers in the wire". This was immediately followed by explosions, AK47 rifle fire, and incoming rocket propelled grenades (RPGs). The defenders joined the fight immediately and answered with M60 machine guns and M16 rifles.

In a few short minutes the men of A Battery suffered more casualties than in any other single incident during its deployment to Vietnam. Three soldiers were killed including the unit's medic. Fourteen others were wounded in the fierce attack. Three defenders from A Battery earned Silver Stars for their valorous actions during the attack.

This is the story of two of the defenders that were at Kham Duc that morning. Sgt. Mike Ruibal was one of the first to be wounded in the attack. Robert McFee, acting gunner on one of the howitzers, received a Silver Star for his actions that morning.

Mike Ruibal's story

In the first week of July 1970 word came down that my gun (#1) and Sgt. Stuart's gun (#2) were leaving Arty Hill for a new fire support base. We soon loaded up our equipment and hooked the guns to our 5-ton trucks. We proceeded to Chu Lai and waited for additional personnel from LZ Dottie.

At mid morning Capt. Bargette, fire direction control (FDC), commo, and Sgt. Russell's gun (#3) arrived. We formed up for the convoy to Tam Ky.

The battery commander (BC) issued our marching orders to his executive officer (XO). The XO and I then flew by light observation helicopter (LOH) to our staging area at Tam Ky. About noon our convoy arrived



and we received a briefing as to our deployment and mission. After the briefing we prepared the guns for airlift to Kham Duc. That evening the gun crews traveled to a nearby engineering compound for the night.

The next day we returned to the staging area. We unloaded our equipment from the trucks so they could be prepped for the airlift. Our BC, Randy Fleetwood, and Chief of Smoke soon departed on a Huey helicopter for Kham Duc.

A bit later the first Chinook arrived and my crew, some crewmen from gun 2 and gun 3, FDC, and commo boarded the Chinook and departed for Kham Duc. The remaining crews would follow after their guns and trucks departed for the fire base.

Arrival at Kham Duc

On arrival at Kham Duc we met up with the advance party and prepared positions for the guns. The day was a beehive of activity as ammo and material arrived. My gun was the first in and was laid and readied for action if required. This activity would go on until evening approached. All the guns were soon in position, laid and ready. We had infantry all around us but it was still a tense few days until we could get the gun pits and bunkers built.



Sgt. Ruibal First week at Kham Duc.

The next weeks would be standard operating procedure (SOP) as we built up the fire base. We were part of a large operation named Elk Canyon. I was surprised that from the time we landed at Kham Duc through August 5 we fired very few missions. But that didn't mean we weren't busy or that nothing was going on in the first weeks we were there.

A day after we arrived we saw a couple of Sandy's (Douglas Sky Raiders) fly overhead. One of them peeled off from the other. As the pilot made his approach I noticed that he had not lowered his landing gears and that he was still bombed-up. The plane pancaked and slid the length of the runway. The plane obviously sustained damage from ground fire. The pilot was uninjured. It was just like the movies.

Stars and Stripes

One day several journalists from the Stars and Stripes newspaper came to the base. They spotted a flag that I was flying. They came over took pictures of it and interviewed me. Why so much interest? When I left for Vietnam I carried three items with me: a 1922 silver dollar given to me by my aunt for good luck, a dollar bill torn in half from my mother, and a small American flag given to me by my father.

I kept that flag in my cargo pocket until the day we jumped into Kham Duc. The day after arriving I found a stick and attached the flag to it and mounted it on my temporary bunker. Later, Chief of Smoke Jimenez came over and told me to remove it. I, of course, asked 'why'? He told me it would give away our position.

I began laughing and said, "Personnel and helicopters are making noise all day and there are three guns and a ton of people all the way from the airstrip

to here. The NVA are probably on that hill over there drawing up plans now. I don't think the NVA believe we are Chinese or somehow part of them".

That just frosted SSG Jimenez- but not as much as when the people from the Stars and Stripes arrived and interviewed me and took pictures of the flag. A year later, a high school buddy who was in country at the same time as I was told me about the Stars and Stripes article.

On edge and at ease

One day about an hour after sunset we were setting up our perimeter when we heard a powder canister explode. It basically just went "pop" and then the powder bags burned off. It scared the hell out of everyone. We didn't know what set it off- perhaps a sniper round or excessive heat because it was uncovered out in sun all day. But it unnerved us just the same.

One morning as the crew and I were in the gun pit enjoying our warm cans of gourmet C-rations when a mortar round landed about three hundred meters from the perimeter wire. Everyone in the battery turned and looked in that direction. Then a second round hit a little closer and everyone started to move slowly. The next round hit closer and everybody was on the move. We put on our helmets and flak jackets and the gun crews prepared to shoot. As fast as it began it was all over. The section chiefs did not receive any information from the FDC even though the counter battery radar was operating. Everyone kept their equipment close that day just in case of another attack.

Mail call on August 3 brought quit a surprise for me. My mother had put together a care package full of goodies. In addition to the usual fare of a couple of bottles of Tabasco sauce, several cans of Vienna sausage, Spanish rice, jalapeno peppers, Jiffy Pop popcorn, crackers and cookies, she had also included a jar of pickled eggs. The crew and I went nuts and the word got out fast. I liked to share the bounty with the crew and anyone else. I received two dozen eggs and we rationed them out so everybody had some. Of course, the other things were also always available to everyone. The care packages always raised spirits. C-rations got old after awhile.

On August 4 the day was rather easy

as days went here. Most of the base was built-up so we carved out extra bunkers for storage and performed weapons maintenance. I decided to write a letter home to thank my family for the care package and pass along kudos from the guys over the eggs. While writing the letter I observed a deuce and a half truck moving the quad-fifty from its position near the 1/14th Artillery guns. So I wrote in my letter, "They are moving the quad-fifty from the area today. Charlie is afraid of that weapon. It is four fifty-caliber machine guns on a mount that can fire 2,200 rounds a minute for a distance of over a mile. Now that it's gone Charlie is sure to come." I finished the letter and mailed it. No one on the base knew then how prophetic those words would be.

Back on guard

The other NCOs and I assembled at the XO post to receive our schedule for checking the perimeter and bunker line for the night. I returned to the gun pit with Randy Fleetwood and picked Bill Chace, Don Langdon and Daniel Hankins to be with Randy Fleetwood and me as primary crew for the night. The others were to serve as perimeter guard and as stand-by crew. Usually two crewmen manned a bunker together so one could help out at the gun for a fire mission when it came. We put our cut powder in canisters and set out illumination rounds.

On the early morning of August 5 I prepped for my turn for sentry check. The NCO I relieved told me there was coffee at the mess tent if I wanted it. He and I walked over to get coffee and then he headed on to his gun and I headed to the first perimeter bunker forward of #2 gun.

The 1/14th Artillery had its own people on the perimeter so there was no need for me to begin there. It was a light overcast and moonless night. A few stars could be seen here and there. It was pretty dark, but not so dark that you would fall in a hole or trip over something. I made my way around the perimeter letting the sentries get coffee or relieve themselves. When my time was up I headed back to the gun and got Randy Fleetwood on his way.

It was my turn to relieve myself as the coffee had finally gotten to me. I removed my gear and put down my weapon and headed out. When I



returned to the gun pit I decided to have a smoke. I looked out over the battery area and pulled out my smokes and lighter. From the corner of my eye I saw something moving near gun #2. But when I looked closer it was gone. I looked slightly away and again my peripheral vision picked up the figures moving slowly, one behind the other, this time between guns #2 and #3. As dark as it was I was still able to make out silhouettes in a crouched position. And I knew then these guys weren't us.

Under attack

I must have sounded like a crazed man as the word 'SAPPERS' came out of me. The adrenalin surged in me as I sprinted for my equipment. The word sappers had hardly echoed across the battery when there was an explosion on the perimeter. Trip flares in the wire ignited. I could hear Randy Fleetwood screaming 'DINKS IN THE WIRE' as he headed for the gun. I heard the chatter of small arms from the perimeter and the sounds of explosives as I knelt down to get my equipment. I barely put on my helmet and grabbed my weapon when there was a pop and a flash like an arc welder.

For a moment I was dazed and laying flat on my back a few feet from where I had been. Over the top of the gun pit the sky was bright as if a neon sign had come on. Red and white hand flares began to fill the sky as well. I heard Randy racing into the pit and I saw him enter the crew bunker.

I raised my head up. I thought a grenade had gone off under me. I was told later it wasn't a fragmentation grenade but rather a stun type. A couple of those were later found near my bunker.

A sapper was located above and between my bunker and the crew bunker on the berm side of the pit. It's not clear if he saw me as he lit the fuse of a satchel charge. He threw it

into the crew bunker and ducked down to avoid the blast. Before I could shout a warning someone in the crew bunker yelled "SHACHEL". Then the explosion went off. I scrambled to retrieve my weapon and lock and load it. The sapper rose up again as he did before only this time I was ready.

As he rose up I just pointed the weapon and fired. He appeared to drop back and I got on my feet and was after him. It took only three steps to reach his position. As I topped the berm I was surprised that he was still laying there. He was less than three feet from where I now stood. He wasn't moving. But in the light of the flares I could see his eyes blinking.

I did not want to take a chance if he was wounded or faking. I leveled the muzzle on him and fired twice, then flipped the rifle to full auto and emptied the magazine on him in a sweeping motion.

I was empty and needed more ammo. But something was not right here. His eyes were still blinking, slowly this time. But what caught my attention was the muzzle of a weapon he was laying on top of.

Hit or not hit?

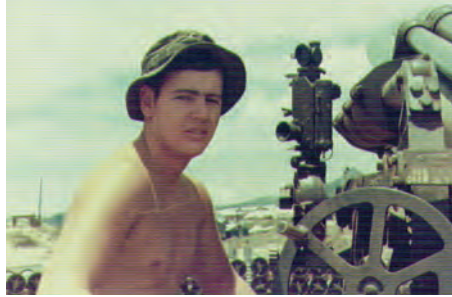
Then there was a sudden pop and muzzle flash. I felt the round hit my right thigh and my leg collapsed under me. I fell almost face first and rolled to the bottom of the berm. I ended in the prone position.

I laid there and it seemed that the explosions and small arms fire were not as intense as before. The tempo was more targeted than chaotic. The area took on a surreal look as the flares caused shadows to dance under there light. Fear began to grip me as realized I was in the open and unarmed. I felt no pain and thoughts raced through my mind if I'd been hit or not or did I just slip and fall in my haste to get back in the pit for more ammo. But one thing was for sure- that sapper.

I looked over my right shoulder to where the sapper laid. My heart stopped. He had vanished.

I saw the back of a combat boot on me. Whose was it? I reached out and pushed the boot off me. It was the moment of truth. The boot was my boot and the pain hit home. I rolled into a sitting position and the pain came again. The pain seemed to ebb

Assistant Gunner, Loader PFC Bob McFee



some as long as I didn't try moving about.

I heard Hankins voice calling for me from the gun pit. Then I heard the wonderful sound of the gun being loaded and fire illumination. We were still alive and in the fight and Hankins was the cavalry.

I started yelling out my position. But with all the noise no one could hear me. So I did a dumb thing and threw rocks into the pit to try to get their attention. Then it dawned on me that the guys in the gun pit might think I was one of the bad guys and kill me.

Rescue

Then I heard someone coming up from behind me. I turned to look, expecting a bad guy, only to see one of our cooks, Larry Carreras, coming to my rescue. "Let's get you out of here," he said as he began to lift me up. "Can't do it- my legs busted," I said in response. I told him about the sapper and he handed me his weapon. He told me to hold on and that he was getting help.

As I waited for his return a shiny object lying by my left leg drew my attention. It was a piece of metal in the shape of a half moon. I picked it up and noticed that my left side was wet with blood. The piece of metal was a dog tag that had been in my pocket.

More illumination filled the sky. Hankins had gotten some help and the mortars on the 1/14th side joined in the fight. The pace of the battle seemed to slow a bit. We were now definitely on a search and destroy mission.

Larry soon came back with another guy and a litter. They got me on it and we headed to a safe area. When we arrived at the safe area Larry put a flak jacket behind me so I could sit up. They went off to help others.

Other wounded were all around me. They and others protected our

position until we could be taken to the aid station by the airstrip. A vehicle arrived and wounded began to get in for the short trip to the aid station. Capt. Bargette ordered them to get me on first. I was soon loaded in and on my way.

As soon as I arrived at the aid station the medical personnel began to cut off my boots and clothes, get vitals, and insert IVs. They sat me up to look at my back and I could see the wound to my right leg. They bandaged it and then they placed an inflatable splint on it.

Dustoff to Chu Lai

My left leg looked worse. It was covered in blood all from my knee up. Parts of it looked like bloody hamburger. The medics worked fast to get compression bandages on my back and leg. A second pint of blood was put in my arm as a dustoff arrived to get the wounded to the hospital in Chu Lai.

With the wounded aboard we took off and headed out. I must have started going into shock. I had no clothes on and I was cold. The medic covered me and tried to keep me conscious.

Our dustoff landed somewhere between Kham Duc and Chu Lai. We were taken to a medical tent where we waited for a flight to Chu Lai. New bandages replaced the old ones and I received two more pints of blood. We were there a only a short time before we boarded a second dustoff for Chu Lai.

We landed at Chu Lai at daybreak and we were taken to the hospital. Triage personnel checked our vitals and rushed us in for X-rays. As I entered X-ray I saw Sgt. Russell and the others waiting for examination. But I had priority. Pain set in as I was being X-rayed and prepped for surgery. As soon as the anesthetic mask was placed over my face it was lights out.

Waking up

Only the medical staff knew how long I slept. When I woke up I thought maybe I was dead. It was like I was swimming to surface of water and the sound of an angel asked if I was going to wake up.

My eyes clearing, I looked to the sound of the angel. And there she was. The nurse asked how I felt and said that I'd been trying to wake up for a while. It

must have been night because the lights were dim in the ward. After checking me over she left for other duties.

I looked at my surroundings. I had only a clear IV hooked up to me and my right leg was in the air in some sort of contraption. The following day my surgeon came to check on me and to inform me of the extent of my injuries.

I still had my right leg. The bullet passed through my inner thigh and shattered my femur. The surgeon had to remove bone and bullet fragments and I would remain in traction until the bone mended. Three rounds in a two inch pattern entered my back just below my spine where my butt cheeks ended.

My left leg was the worst. Several rounds entered and exited my left outer thigh and hip area. The bullets clipped off the upper piece of the pelvic bone, then proceeded up and around my back. I had multiple exits in the upper inner thigh.

I was not hit in the abdomen as some may have thought after they visited me at the hospital. A routine exploratory operation was performed to investigate and to repair any internal damage in that area. The surgeon estimated that I was hit by no less than nine rounds at point blank range. I had no arterial or nerve damage, but I suffered extensive muscular damage. Surprisingly, with all that havoc, not one internal organ was touched.

Headed home

In the days that followed, Capt. Bargette, Bill Chace, Don Langdon and others came to see me. Someone even brought a carton of smokes. In mid August I was taken back to surgery to close up my left leg and put me in a body cast for the trip home.

My first stop was Cam Rahn for twenty-four hours, then on to Japan

for a week. The next flight would take me to Travis Air force Base in California. The next day, August 26, I was put aboard a DC-9 Nightingale to Los Alamitos NAS. From there I went by ambulance to the Long Beach Naval Hospital. I would spend six months healing at the hospital and wear a leg brace for a year.

On the afternoon of August 26 the hospital contacted my family and they came to see me. I returned the flag to my dad and the torn dollar bill to mom. The 1922 silver dollar? My aunt said to keep it, for "GOOD LUCK". And the dog tag? I straightened it out and placed it on my key chain to remind me of how lucky I truly was.

Robert McFee' story

During the operation at Kham Duc I moved over as gunner to a gun section under SSG Moore. We were located close to the Battery FDC. On the morning of August 5 I was asleep in a personnel bunker at the edge of the gun pit when I was awakened by some explosions. I saw some figures running through the area near the gun pit. At first I assumed they were GIs. But when I realized they didn't have cloths on, I knew they must be NVA.

I grabbed my flask jacket and my weapon from the bunker. I took aim on the figures but when I pulled the trigger the weapon didn't fire. I ejected the round in the chamber and I tried to fire again. I had the same results and I ejected another round. That's when I realized the weapon was still on safe!

Something attracted my attention so I turned around and saw a sapper standing about 15 yards away. He pulled the pin on a satchel charge and I remember seeing a flash as the fuse lit. I remember the flash lighting up his face. The guy had a goatee and I remember thinking to myself 'that's the face of the devil'.

It must have looked like one of those old movies as I took off running with him chasing me. He tossed the charge towards me and it went off. I don't know how close it was to me but it blew up gravel and debris. I was knocked down to my knees but I quickly got up. I turned, took a few steps, and shot the sapper. He went down.

A number of sappers had taken

cover under one of the battery's 5-ton trucks. I spotted them and I opened up on them. I hit two. Four sappers were later found dead under the truck.

By this time I had moved out in an open area between our battery and a 105mm battery from the 1/14th Artillery. With all the shooting going on and with my position out in the open I was concerned I'd get shot by my own guys. I headed for the 1/14th position because it was closer. I quickly got into a hole with one of the 1/14th guys.

The 1/14th guys were hunkered down in their bunkers and not yet fighting back. I yelled at the guy in the hole with me and at the others around me to start shooting. They soon reacted and fired beehive rounds towards the jungle. They killed several sappers outside the wire including one that had climbed up in a tree and fired into the area with an AK-47.

Meanwhile I spotted a sapper over in A Battery. He was on top of a bunker and moving towards our FDC position. Since I had fired several rounds from my rifle and ejected several more I wasn't sure how many rounds I had left. I told the 1/14th guy to shoot the sapper. As he fired, the sapper ducked down and kept going. So I fired at the sapper and he went down.

It seemed like the action had taken hours. But in reality all this occurred in about 15 to 20 minutes. It was beginning to get light and I went back into the A Battery area and helped load a few of the wounded onto the medivac choppers. It was only then I realized the satchel charge had peppered my arms and wrist with small stones.

Note from R. E. Griffin: While I was completing the composition of this article I was informed by Mike Ruibal's wife that he passed away on February 1, 2010 at a veteran's hospital near his California home. Mike had been hit nine times at close range by an AK47. He received a Purple Heart. Unfortunately, he also received a medical discharge that ended his dream of an Army career. His story should have been told long ago, along with the stories of so many of our comrades who have left us. This is for you Mike, Bob and all the others. Thank you all.



Kham Duc Sgt. Ruibal and the famous American Flag.



Book Review Dead Men Flying

by MG (Ret.) Patrick H. Brady; Merriam Press, 2010.
Review by Gary L. Noller

"Chu Lai Dust-off.... Chu Lai Dust-off.... I have a mission.... Over." Soldiers of the Americal Division made this radio call thousands of times. And it was always answered by "angels from the sky".

It was gut-wrenching for any soldier to have a badly wounded buddy near death in bush. The only consolation came from the fact that quick action could get the casualty to a hospital for life-saving care. This quick action relied on helicopter ambulances and medical crews made famous by their radio call-sign: Dust-off.

Patrick Brady served two tours in Vietnam as a Dust-off pilot. His first tour was "Down South" in the earliest years of the Vietnam War. When he arrived there were only a handful of helicopters dedicated to air ambulance service. There was no doctrine, no proven methodology, and no "book" to follow. He and others would have to invent the ways to do dust-off.

Brady served 57th Medical Detachment under the leadership of Major Charles Kelly. Kelly was a man of raw courage set the example for all who followed in his steps. He inspired his subordinates by stating that all would be well so long as the medical crews did everything they could for the benefit of the patients. A commander on the battlefield once advised Kelly to abort a mission due to enemy fire at the pickup zone. Kelly simply replied, "When I have your wounded."

The war claimed Kelly's life but it established a fitting legacy in the actions of those he trained. Dust-off pilots often broke all the rules with their risky evacuations at night, during bad weather, and in hot pickup zones- and sometimes all three at the same time.

Brady seemed to have a special skill when it came to inventing techniques for flying dust-off missions. He found a way to fly in darkness, in the fog, and in the hail of enemy bullets. He would sometimes rescue patients in situations others deemed too dangerous. These became known as "Brady missions". But to Brady he was simply keeping the focus on the patient.

After his tour in Vietnam the Army assigned Brady to Ft.

Benning, GA. He served with the 11th Medical Battalion of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test). This unit would later go to Vietnam as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). But Brady was bound for another Vietnam area of operations- I Corps and the Americal Division.

The Chu Lai area was an especially nasty area of the Vietnam War. The Americal Division was activated in October 1967 to fight against a hardened enemy in a harsh environment. Brady and his crews were assigned to the 54th Medical Detachment with a base on the north end of Chu Lai. They would cover the Americal AO from the South China Sea to the Laotian border.

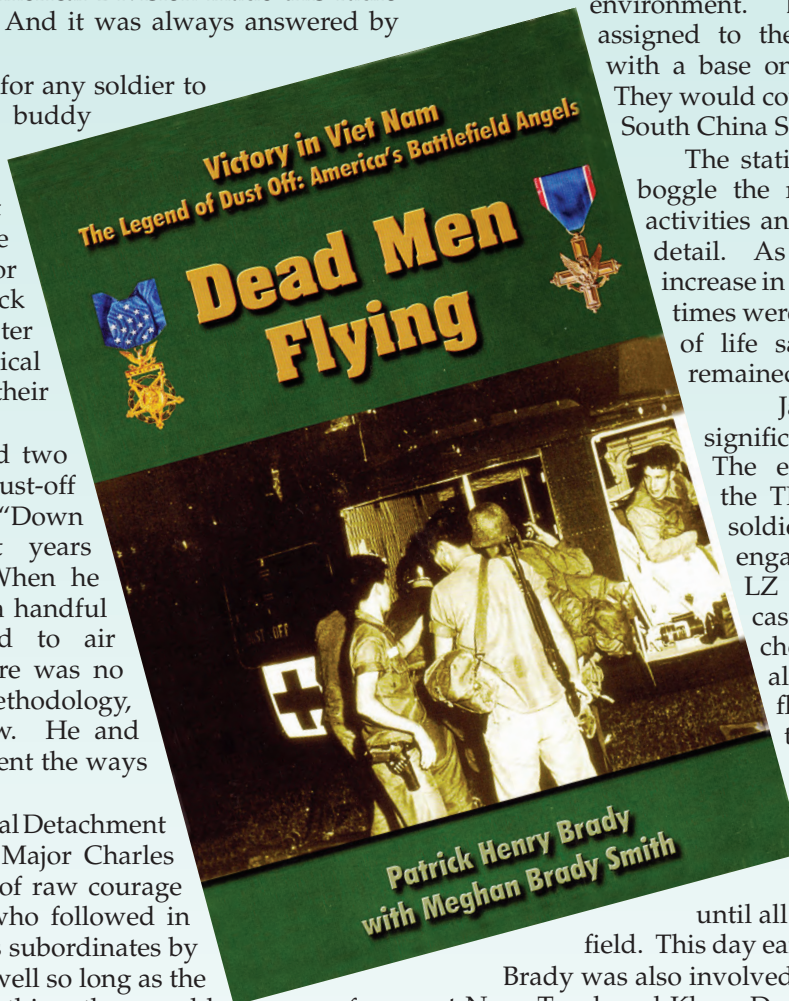
The statistics and heroics of the 54th boggle the mind. Brady describes the activities and actions of his unit in great detail. As time moved on so did the increase in casualty counts. But response times were shortened and the efficiency of life saving efforts improved. It remained all about the patients.

January 1968 was especially significant for the Americal Division. The enemy was gearing up for the TET offensive. On January 6 soldiers of Co. C, 3/21st Infantry engaged in heavy contact near LZ West and sustained severe casualties. The enemy knocked choppers out of the sky at an alarming rate. Major Brady, flying as Dust-off 55, entered the combat zone under fire five times and rescued scores of wounded. He traded-in damaged aircraft for good ones and returned for more wounded. He did not quit until all the wounded were out of the field. This day earned him the Medal of Honor.

Brady was also involved in the May 1968 evacuations at Ngoc Tavak and Kham Duc. An NVA division attacked the Special Forces outposts with some of the fiercest fighting seen in the Vietnam War. Kham Duc was reinforced by troops from 2/1st Infantry and 1/46th Infantry. The Americans held ground as the enemy was relentlessly bombarded from the air. The order to evacuate Kham Duc came on Mother's Day, but a huge price had already been paid on both sides.

At the end of his first Vietnam tour Brady did not know if he had a future in the Army or not. He had no such misgivings at the end of his second tour. He is credited with flying over 2,500 combat missions in Vietnam and with rescuing over 5,000 patients. He remained in the Army and attained the rank of Major General.

Brady is a champion of his family, his faith, his country, and its flag. He has an undying love for the soldiers he served with and for those who serve today. His closing words in his book refer back to his early days as a Dust-off pilot: "In my dreams I am again a captain, not a general, hurrying into the mist of a moist morning fog...."



A Year to Go

By Lyle L. Van Hove

Into Bien Hoa, to DaNang, Chu Lai, then Duc Pho
Off the chopper in 'Nam with a year to go.

Standing there waiting with all my new gear.
Just look in their eyes and see the fear.

Over 500,000 men in 'Nam and there stands one I know.
We are far out in mountains, but here no snow.

Off I go with Orv, it's my first patrol.
Within hours he's wounded, the NVA want control.

First day in the bush, I see you need a lot of luck.
Got to pay attention and know when to duck.

Out in the field we wear no rank.
Old timers are in charge, new guys walk the flank.

Started walking Slack, then Point and Drag.
Finished carrying radio, no jobs here to brag.

The old guys say to be careful and do your job right.
Always stay alert and be ready to fight.

Learning about war wit all these young men.
Hoping to turn nineteen and go back home again.

Packages and letters from home is how we get by.
Tried to protect another so no one would die.

Saw and did things I will remember for life.
We just wanted to get home to family, girlfriends or wife.

Doe was killed in an ambush and lost Shorty to a mine.
Our numbers are down but replacements they will find.

Went to DaNang after Christmas to see Bob Hope.
My year is half over, only a few months to cope.

Made lots of friends, but lost a few.
Was has a cost and they paid our dues.

Ten months in the bush, then a rear job in Chu Lai.
Great to be out of the field, but hard to say good-bye.

Got a job at Division so can keep track of our men.
When they go on stand-down I hope to see them again.

My tour of duty is over, just one last good-bye.
I'll never forget 'Nam and the young men that die.

Editor's Note: Lyle Van Hove served with Co. D, 4/3rd Inf., 11th Lt. Inf. Bde. from July 1970 to July 1971. He received a Bronze Star medal and the Purple Heart medal. He resides in Parker, SD.



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