

July • August • September **2010**

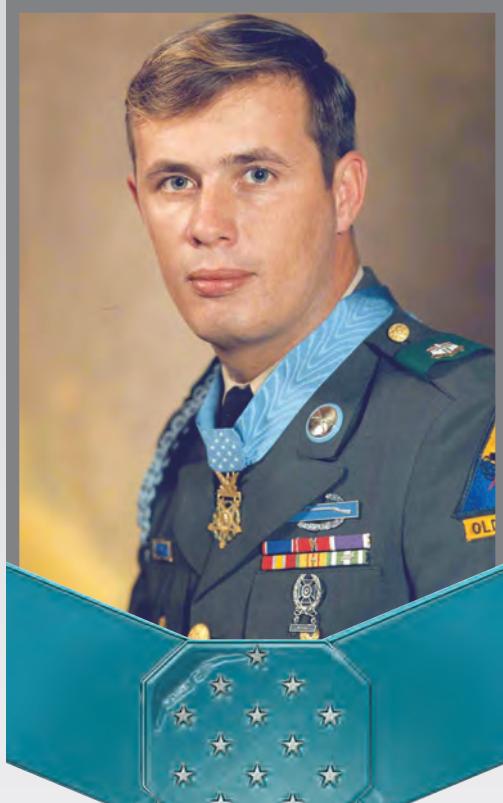


AMERICAL

JOURNAL

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

Nick Bacon
1945-2010



**Rest In
Peace**

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Commanders Comments

By Jay Flanagan

My friends,

Over 40 years ago I returned from Vietnam, served a few months in Fort Jackson, and left the Army on January 14, 1970. Returning to civilian life I found my friends were still my friends but they didn't ask about my service and, to be truthful, I really didn't want to talk about it anyway. For 27 years I pretty much tried to forget and did a fairly decent job of that; even though some things you cannot forget.

Then, in 1997, I found the Americal Division Veterans Association and information about a reunion in Worcester, MA. I printed out the membership form and told my wife, Mary Ann, that the reunion would be interesting. It was being held only a few hours up the interstate highways. She lovingly agreed that we should go to the reunion.

Now, thanks to the ADVA, the locator service on the internet pages, the Americal Journal, and a few phone calls, I have spent the last 12 years trying to remember. Thanks to friends that contacted me because of the locator, the reunions for Charlie Company, the Eastern Region Chapter, and the National ADVA, I have put together many of the missing pieces of my life. Hopefully I have been of assistance to friends who have suffered the same "amnesia".

As added bonuses I've had the honor of representing the Association at two very solemn and moving events. The first was the funeral for former MIA, PFC William "Skip" Skivington, at the Old Post Chapel, Fort Meyer, VA, and his interment in Arlington National Cemetery. Private Skivington (promoted to Sergeant over the years he was MIA) went missing on Mother's Day of 1968 while serving with Company E, 2/1, 196th of the Americal Division. His remains were found in 2006 and identified late that year. The services there are outstanding and I recommend attending one when you have a chance.

The second event was in Norwalk, CT, when the City of Norwalk installed two plaques in the lobby of City Hall. The plaques are for two citizens of East Norwalk who were Medal of Honor Recipients. One was PFC Daniel John Shea of Company C, 3/21st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. of the Americal Division. Daniel received his MOH posthumously for his actions on May 14, 1969. Norwalk put on a great Veterans' Day program with a brass band, soloist, guest speakers, and Mort Walker, creator of the Beetle Bailey comic strip. Please look up information on both Daniel and Skip. Their stories are very interesting parts of our division's history.

The hundreds of World War II veterans who befriended my wife and me, took me under their wings to help in my small roles with the Eastern Chapter, and the character and caring we all show each other have strengthened the bonds we have with the ADVA.

Those are a few of the reasons I am humbled to serve as your National Commander for the next two years. I hope I can give back as much as I've received as a member of the Association.

Projects

My predecessor Dave Taylor has been a great friend in helping me get ready for this position. I hope I can keep strength and success of the many projects he and the commanders before him initiated over the years. I encourage each of you to do your best and get involved with these projects. The association will only stay viable and strong with membership support. Some of the projects we hope you will support are:

Legacy – The current ADVA membership ranges in age from about 60 years old to more than 100 years old. The time to establish the Americal legacy is now. It is urgent that you give your full support to this worthwhile effort. See more information in the Americal Journal and please help in this important effort.

Reunions – The reunions for this year, in The Chicago Land Area, and for 2011 in Colorado Springs, CO, are going well and should be great successes. Our reunion for 2012 is not yet set and we are seeking volunteers to put together, or have someone put together, proposals for 2012. I have reached out to Rochester, MN and the New Jersey Tourism and Visitors Bureau but we need more choices to keep costs down and make the reunions more alluring. Call me if you have any questions or any of the other members who have put together reunions in the past.

Chapters and Recruitment – Please become involved with your regional and unit chapters. If you have a talent for putting together data lists for mailings, have ideas for chapter reunions or meetings, and want to see more activity in your region, get involved. If you have friends who served with the Americal, encourage them to join the ADVA, if they haven't joined already. Every little bit of involvement makes the chapter system stronger.

Scholarships – One of the most successful undertakings of the Association is the scholarship program. The scholarships rely on our donations and raffle purchases. Please be generous so we are able to keep this great program going strong. Our children and grandchildren will keep our story alive, so let's help them in their scholastic endeavors.

I wish to congratulate the incoming elected officers. I'm confident that you made a great choice in electing them and that they will do a fine job for you and the association. I have asked the appointed officers to accept reappointment and so far the response has been positive. They have done great work for the ADVA and I would like to continue their efforts. If anyone wishes to be considered for an appointed position send me a note and I will keep you in mind for any vacated or future positions.

In closing I want to thank the Past National Commanders and outgoing officers for their hard work and example. The incoming officers represent some of the finest and honorable of society today. They will do a fine job for the Association and, with your help, make us better than ever. Reach out to us in time of need and in time of strength. Stay well and stay active!

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

We welcomed a total of forty-five new members to the ADVA membership roster over the past three months. Of these forty-five new members, six joined as ADVA Life members.



I see this new member count as a very positive sign for the association. Typically, our new member applications slow up in the summer time, and with the economy causing tough times for many of us, we are still adding members at a very solid pace. Hats off this quarter to members Dave Eichhorn and James Tarver for their new member recruiting efforts. Dave recruited eight new members and James recruited four new members for the association.

We duplicated our counts for Life member upgrades and reinstated members from the previous quarter; seven upgrades to Life membership and six former members were reinstated to the membership roster.

World War II veteran new members during this quarter is down significantly, with only one WWII veteran joining the ranks this period. One 23rd Infantry Division veteran, who served during the "Cold War" era, joined the ranks of our membership this quarter. New member James Roxbury served with the 23rd Recon unit in Panama. This era and the units comprising the 23rd Infantry Division during years 1954-56 was part of a feature article by PNC Dave Taylor in the last issue of the Americal Journal.

Renewal notices for all annual pay members with a renewal date of May 2010 were mailed at the end of April. If you did 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

September 2010 membership renewals will be going to the USPS for mailing the last week in August. You can check your renewal date, listed in the address box, on the back cover of this issue.

ADVA MEMEBERSHIP

January 31, 2010

World War II	530
Vietnam	2,435
Cold War	9
Associate Members:	180
Total Members	3,154

New Members

Bill Ainsworth
70th Med Bn
Pine Mountain, Ga
★ **PNC David Taylor**

Roger A. Anderson
196th LIB C/3/21st Inf
Two Harbors, MN
★ **Dave Eichhorn**

Paul W. Baker
176th ASHC
Marietta, OH
★ **PNC Larry Watson**

Michael Bixenman
6/11th Arty C Btry
Tinton Falls, NJ
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

William J. Boyd
11th LIB HHC/G-3
Williamsburg, VA
★ **Dave Eichhorn**

James E. Carey
1st Sqdn/1st Cav
Sahuarita, AZ
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Jerry Christiansen
196th LIB C/3/21st Inf
Stanton, MI
★ **Dave Eichhorn**

William Curtit
196th LIB B/4/31st Inf
South Gate, CA
★ **Self**

Jerry Dusatko
198th LIB D/1/6th Inf
Miles City, MT
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

J. B. Evans
196th LIB C/3/21st Inf
Fenton, MO
★ **Dave Eichhorn**

Robert T. Fuentes
Americal Div HHC
Melbourne, FL
★ **George Mitchell**

Juan D. Gomez
196th LIB HHC
New Llano, LA
★ **James Tarver**

Roland R. Handel
176th ASHC
Weiser, ID
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Tom Helgeson
11th LIB D/3/1st Inf
Madison, WI
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Dennis Huckeba
198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Bel Air, MD
★ **John Hofer**

L. Allen Jenkins
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Raleigh, NC
★ **PNC David Taylor**

Sammie Knox
196th LIB C/3/21st Inf
Cornelius, NC
★ **Dave Eichhorn**

Ricardo Lares
196th LIB
San Antonio, TX
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Gregory A. Linard
335th Trans Co
Westminster, MD
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Gerald B. Luck
11th LIB
Richmond, VA
★ **Dave Eichhorn**

Tony Martinez
11th LIB 4/21st Inf
Austin, TX
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

William Matlock
1st/1st Cav B Trp
New Llano, LA
★ **James Tarver**

Raoul McIntosh
23rd Med Bn
Temple Terrace, FL
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Darryl Merriam
14th CAB HHC
N Syracuse, NY
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Michael E. Miller
11th LIB
Laurelville, OH
★ **Self**

William M. Nawrath
723rd Maint Bn Co A
Manchester Center, VT
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

John M. Penzera
23rd S&T Bn
Latrobe, PA
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Deenauth Rambharan
11th LIB B/1/20th Inf
Issaquah, WA
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Stanley Rawlins
1/82nd Arty
South Webster, OH
★ **Self**

Maxie L. Richard
3/16th Arty B Btry
Crowley, LA
★ **James Tarver**

Vern Schleyer
8th Cav F Trp
Naperville, IL
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

Benjamin A. Sims
198th LIB HHC/1/6th
Syracuse, UT
★ **PNC Gary L. Noller**

<p>Patrick J. Stone 11th LIB C/4/3rd Inf The Dalles, OR ★ PNC Gary L. Noller</p> <p>Robert J. Trzesniak 11th LIB A/4/21st Inf Friendship, WI ★ PNC Gary L. Noller</p> <p>William E. Vickery 196th LIB C/3/21st Inf Richmond, VA ★ Dave Eichhorn</p> <p>Larry L. Witt 198th LIB 5/46th Inf Davenport, IA ★ Self</p> <p>Don Wright 132nd Inf Rgmt Oklahoma City, OK ★ PNC David Taylor</p> <p>New Paid Life Members</p> <p>Wilmer K. Benson 11th LIB C/4/3rd Inf Rockville, MD ★ Self</p> <p>Craig T. Carver 123rd Avn Bn Weston, MO ★ Ron Green</p> <p>Raymond C. Hamilton 1/82nd Arty Woodward, OK ★ Self</p> <p>Robert E. Hedrick 1st/1st Cav A Trp Elizabethton, KY ★ Dave Eichhorn</p>	<p>James J. Roxbury 23rd Recon Co Byron Center, MI ★ PNC David Taylor</p> <p>Richard R. Woods 198th LIB 1/6th Inf St Louis, MO ★ PNC Gary L. Noller</p> <p>Francis Bromagen 17th Cav H Trp Union City, IN ★ Bernie Chase</p> <p>John H. Forshag 198th LIB E/5/46th Inf Luling, LA ★ PNC Gary L. Noller</p> <p>Carmine Iosue 11th LIB D/1/20th Inf Sun Lakes, AZ ★ Bill Bacon</p> <p>Richard Moran N/A Fishkill, NY ★ PNC David Taylor</p> <p>Jack Rudder 23rd Recon Co San Pedro, CA ★ Don Ballou</p> <p>Ray Shafe 6/56th Arty Colon, MI ★ Terry Babler</p> <p>Robert L. Swasey 3/16th Arty C Btry Lynnfield, MI ★ Self</p>	<p>Re-instated Members</p> <p>Calvin Blank 198th LIB B/1/52nd Inf Westminster, MD ★ Conrad Geibel</p> <p>Brian J. Mulcrone 23rd MP Co Des Plaines, IL ★ PNC Dutch DeGroot</p> <p>Robert Salisbury 198th LIB 1/6th Inf Wallback, WV ★ Self</p> <p>Paul R. Smith 198th LIB E/1/6th Inf Monticello, AR ★ PNC Gary L. Noller</p> <p>Linda J. Wilson American Red Cross Hudson, MA ★ Self</p> <p>Wayne Wilson 11th LIB B/1/20th Inf Ocala, FL ★ Self</p> <p>John L. Hoffman New Llano, LA ★ James Tarver</p> <p>Terry Shoptaugh Moorhead, MN ★ PNC David Taylor</p>	<p>TAPS</p> <p>World War II Veterans</p> <p>Henry E. Barton 132nd Inf Rgmt Elgin, IL April 28, 2010</p> <p>Clayton D. Brown 182nd Inf Rgmt Co G Portland, OR July 12, 2009</p> <p>Irvin S. Dworkin 221st FA Columbus, OH December 23, 2009</p> <p>William J. English 101st Med Rgmt Leominster, MA January 11, 2003</p> <p>Arthur W. Hanley 164th Inf Rgmt Co A Mt. Vernon, WA Date Unknown</p> <p>Elbert R. Horton 246th FA Timberlake, NC July 9, 2010</p> <p>James J. McGregor, Jr. 57th Cmbt Engrs Co A Saugus, MA November 16, 2008</p> <p>Kenneth L. Sandhop 164th Inf Rgmt Wenatchee, WA July 1, 2010</p> <p>Alvin Tollefsfrud 164th Inf Rgmt Fargo, ND May 12, 2010</p> <p>Frank J. Vitale 245th FA Btry A Maspeth, NY July 6, 2010</p>	<p>Charles H. Willard 121st Med Bn Winston-Salem, NC June 14, 2010</p> <p>Vietnam Veterans</p> <p>Kevin F. Bates 11th LIB B/1/20th Inf Randolph, MA July 5, 2009</p> <p>Christopher T. Martin 196th LIB Worcester, MA April 6, 2010</p> <p>Last Roll Call</p> <p>John M. Blacker 132nd Inf Rgmt Monticello, IL May 12, 2010</p> <p>Edward O. Chewning Unit Unknown Elk Grove, CA July 9, 2010</p> <p>Stephen E. Hopkins Unit Unknown Delavan, IL June 5, 2010</p> <p>Robert B. Ptacek Unit Unknown Chicago, IL May 20, 2010</p> <p>Clarence D. Smith Unit Unknown Worcester, MA June 6, 2010</p> <p>John Sobotka Unit Unknown S. Plainfield, NJ May 30, 2010</p> <p>James Taylor, Jr. Unit Unknown Hilton Head, SC June 3, 2010</p> <p>Fred Williams 221st FA Tallahassee, FL May 2010</p>
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in Memory of
**1SG NICKY DANIEL
“NICK” BACON**
1945 - 2010



Rodney Bowie, Military Personnel Services Corporation, Little Rock

Nicky Daniel Bacon, 64, Medal of Honor recipient, passed away on July 17, 2010. He served two tours in Vietnam to include an assignment as a non-commissioned officer with Co. B, 4/21st Infantry.

Nicky Bacon dropped out of high school to work on the family's farm and help provide for their needs. But he soon grew tired of picking cotton and doing chores on the rural Arizona farm. He had a plan to better himself. So at the age of 17 he set course on a path that would forever change his life and the lives of those around him. He joined the U.S. Army.

Nicky was born in Conway, AR and moved to Arizona when he was six years old. His family lived a sparse life and times were tough. He remembered riding on a small tractor with his father and playing with the family dog. The love of rural life and the respect for his roots never left him.

After receiving training at Ft. Ord, CA he deployed to Germany. The war in Vietnam was heating up and Nicky's destiny was calling. He transferred from Germany to Vietnam. Shortly after arriving in-country he was on a helicopter that crashed with another chopper. Nicky and one other soldier were the only two survivors.

He finished his tour in Vietnam and took an assignment as a training NCO with a unit stationed in Hawaii. The unit was in the midst of preparations for its deployment to Vietnam and Nicky's field experience proved valuable to the unseasoned troops. He assumed duties with Co. B, 4/21st Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade and immediately put his experience and leadership abilities to use.

Co. B received orders to ship out but Nicky was not scheduled to go with them. CPT David Treadwill, commanding officer, asked him to go with them. Nicky had become an integral part of the unit and there was a need for a savvy NCO. With a little convincing a deal was struck and Nicky headed off to his second tour in the war zone.

On August 24, 1968 the North Vietnamese Army began a fierce five-day battle against U.S. forces near the Pineapple Forest west of the provincial capital of Tam Ky. Armored personnel carriers (tracks) of 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment (Dragoons) assaulted the well defended enemy positions. As the battle developed infantrymen from Co. B, 4/21st Inf. and Co. B, 2/1st Infantry were brought into the fray.

On August 26 Co. B, 4/21st Infantry moved out in front of the cavalry's APCs to attack the entrenched and well hidden enemy. They were met with withering fire from enemy AK-47 rifles, machine guns, recoilless rifles, and rocket propelled grenades. Undaunted, Co. B assaulted the enemy bunkers. Several Americans went down in the kill zone. Among the casualties was Nicky's platoon leader, LT Robert Griffin. An enemy bullet tore through Griffin's neck and left him near death. His lifeless body remained exposed in front of the enemy positions.

The enemy continued its stiff resistance. All three platoon leaders of B/4/21 were dropped. Nicky took charge and eliminated several enemy positions. At one point CPT Treadwell told Nicky that he thought the GIs should break

off contact and regroup. Nicky's response was immediate and to the point: "Not without my lieutenant."

Treadwell replied, "You can make one attempt." Nicky was not successful on his first attempt to rescue Griffin. It took two more tries before Nicky pulled the body of his lieutenant out of the kill zone. He had no way of knowing if Griffin was dead or alive.

As the battle wore on the Americans gradually gained an advantage. Nicky mounted one of the cavalry tracks and directed its fire at the enemy. In return the enemy concentrated its fire on the track. This allowed dead and wounded Americans to be retrieved from the fight. The Americans finally pulled back into a defensive laager and utilized artillery and aircraft to bombard the stubborn enemy.

Nicky earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during this intense battle. He was lucky to have survived. Enemy bullets tore through a canteen on his belt, pierced his rucksack, ripped the heel off one of his boots, shattered the hand grip of his M-16, and creased the liner of his steel pot. Although staggered by blasts of grenades and rockets, Nicky miraculously received no wounds.

President Richard Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to SSG Nicky D. Bacon in November 1969. Nicky also earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars for valor, two Purple Hearts, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. His request for a third tour in Vietnam was turned down. He changed branches from infantry to military police and in 1984 he retired as a first sergeant with 21 years of active duty.

He returned to Arizona and was hired as the town manager in Surprise, AZ. He went on to work for the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1990 he relocated back to his home state of Arkansas. He resided in Rose Bud, AR and served as director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs from 1993 to 2005. One of his proud achievements was the construction of the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock.

Nicky served two years as president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He was in constant demand as a guest speaker and continually advocated on behalf of America's veterans. He was a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association and hosted the annual ADVA reunion in Little Rock in 2003.

In 2009 he was diagnosed with an advanced stage of cancer. But he never lost his sense of humor. He was remembered to have said in jest, "I am the recipient of the Medal of Honor and I have stage four cancer. Do you think this can help me get a repairman out to fix my cable TV?" He rejected conventional treatments and true to form he waged a courageous fight and lived longer than his doctor's most optimistic projection.

Nicky once remarked that he was well aware of the fact that most Medals of Honor are awarded posthumously and that those that survive to receive the award in person often do not live long lives. Eleven Americal Division soldiers earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. Seven of the awards were posthumous. Of the four recipients who survived, only one, James Taylor, is now alive. There are 88 living Medal of Honor recipients.

On July 23, 2010 Nicky was buried in the cemetery that he helped build. He will be at rest with veterans that he served with and that he served for. Several hundred people attended the respectful ceremony that concluded with full military honors and a chilling flyover by four U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters.

Robert Griffin, the lieutenant that Nicky rescued from the kill zone in 1968, delivered a compelling account of how his life was saved. "A bullet tore in one side of my neck and came out the other," he said. "I heard a loud explosion and thought I had been hit by a grenade. I later determined that the noise is what it sounds like when your body is hit by a bullet."

"I immediately went down and was in and out of consciousness. I remember Nicky pulling and dragging me out. I was loaded into an armored personnel carrier with dead and wounded. Others were put on top of me and we were taken to a medevac helicopter and flown to the hospital. Once there I remember hearing someone say that there was no use to take me to surgery because I was gone. But I made some movement so they went to work on me."

The Army surgeons were successful in repairing the massive damage done by the enemy bullet. Griffin was thankful that his life was saved and made a career decision. He went to medical school, became a surgeon, and served in that role in the U.S. Army for 30 years. "I wanted to be an Army surgeon and serve Army soldiers and their families," he said. He retired as a brigadier general.

Griffin did not talk with Nicky for 30 years. One day someone told him that Nicky was back in Arkansas. Griffin placed a call to his former subordinate and arranged a meeting. "I am sure that the only reason that Nicky agreed to meet me was to expose me as a fraud," he said. Needless to say, Griffin was no fraud and the two had a once-in-a-lifetime reunion.

Coincidentally, Griffin is also a native of Arkansas and moved to Little Rock after his retirement. This allowed the two to better stay in touch with one another. In a tribute to the man who saved his life, Griffin said, "Anything I have ever done and hope to do I owe to Nick Bacon. Every day that I wake up is due to him."

Nicky is survived by his wife Tamera; sons Britt Bacon, Wyatt Bacon, SSG James Bacon, and William Tohnika; daughters Kristy DeKort and Kim Beck; and numerous grandchildren. SSG James Bacon is currently assigned to a Military Police unit at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

In addition to Griffin, veterans of Co. B, 4/21st Infantry attending Nicky's services included his former commanding officer, David Treadwell, as well as Rusty Gates, Mike Moore, Don Landry, Evan Ketcherside, John Tripp, and Brian DeMary. National Adjutant J. Roger Gilmore, PNC and Mrs. Ronald L. Ward, PNC Ronald R. Ellis, and PNC Gary L. Noller represented the ADVA.

The ADVA Executive Council approved a \$1,000 contribution to the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery Beautification Foundation in honor of Nicky Daniel Bacon. May he rest in Peace. -gln-

The Illinois National Guard: Vietnam Connection

THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD
AND THE
VIETNAM WAR



By Lieutenant Colonel James B. McCabe

America Division veterans are usually knowledgeable about the relationship of the Illinois National Guard to the World War II composition of the division. But there is also a connection to the division with the Illinois National Guard in the Vietnam War.

The 132nd Infantry Regiment was part of the 33rd Infantry Division of the Illinois National Guard at the onset of World War II. The 132nd Infantry was "orphaned" from the Illinois National Guard in January 1942 and became part of Task Force 6814. The regiment soon set sail for Australia to defend against a possible Japanese attack. The 132nd Infantry, along with the 164th Inf. Regt. and the 182nd Inf. Regt., became major components of the America Division in May 1942.

On March 31, 1968 President Lyndon Johnson authorized the call-up of selected reserve units for deployment to the Vietnam War. Among the units mobilized into federal service was the 126th Supply and Service company of the Illinois National Guard. With headquarters in Quincy, IL, the 126th had just completed state service related to civil riots in the Chicago area. The induction into federal service was effective on May 13, 1968.

The mission of the 126th S & S Company was to receive, store, and issue food, clothing, fuel, construction material, and major equipment items such as vehicles to units in the field. The 126th convoyed to Ft. Carson, CO and participated in field training exercises. After training the unit's equipment was sent to Beaumont, TX for loading onto ships for the movement to Vietnam. In September 1968 the transport ship arrived in port at DaNang and its cargo was transferred to smaller vessels for trans-shipment to Chu Lai. The major body of troops from the 126th deployed to DaNang aboard C-141 aircraft and then to Chu Lai aboard C-130 cargo planes.

On arrival in Chu Lai the 126th S & S Co. began its assignment to the 23rd Supply and Transportation (S & T) Battalion of the America Division. The company was responsible for operating a Stock Control Section and controlling the battalion's Class I (rations), Class II (clothing and equipment), Class III (petroleum products), and Class IV (barrier and construction materials) supplies. Soldiers from the 126th S & S participated in convoys from Chu Lai to out-lying locations to deliver supplies and petroleum products. They also carried out responsibilities as perimeter guards for the Chu Lai base.

On July 25, 1969 the 126th S & S ceased operations in Vietnam and was re-deployed back to the United States as part of the withdrawal plan authorized by President Richard Nixon. Troops loaded aboard C-141 aircraft at Chu Lai on August 8, 1969. After stops in Okinawa and Anchorage, AK the troops arrived at Whiteman AFB, MO. They then moved to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO to meet their families and begin outprocessing. On August 16 their friends and neighbors at Quincy, IL welcomed them home with a parade and a ceremony in the city park.

SP4 Gail M. Oitker earned the Bronze Star Medal with V device (Valor) for action under fire during a convoy operation. On August 19, 1969 the unit reverted back the control of the State of Illinois.

Editor's note: This story is condensed from a booklet titled The Illinois National Guard and the Vietnam War by LTC James B. McCabe. Credit to LTC McCabe and Bob Cowles for assisting with the preparation of this story about a unique element of the history of the America Division.

Dog tag reunited with long-lost owner

Richard "Rick" Beville of Cleveland, TN recently received a dog tag that he left behind in Vietnam. The dog tag was returned to Beville by the Tours of Peace (TOP) Vietnam Veterans. TOP is a non-profit group founded in 1998 and retrieves personal affects left behind by U.S. military members. TOP has returned over 1,700 items to American who served in Vietnam.

Beville says he still has the dog tag that he wore around his neck. He speculates that the lost dog tag must have come from one of his old boots left behind when he got a new pair.

He was drafted in 1968 and sent to Ft. Dix, NJ for basic and advanced training. In April 1969 he graduated as a second lieutenant from Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, GA. After a short period of stateside duty and additional training in Panama he received orders for Vietnam. In January 1970 began his assignment in the America Division.

Beville served at LZ Gator where he was wounded in action. After recovering in the 91st Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai he assigned to the division Tactical Operations Center (TOC). Later he assumed command duties at a firebase at Ky Tra. His Vietnam tour ended in December 1970.

He and his family have lived in Cleveland, TN since 1980. He is retired from Dr. Scholl's (now Shering Plough) and is member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets, 40 & 8, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He holds a masters degree in physical education from the University of Illinois.

Editor's note: This story is a summary of a full-length story written by Larry C. Bowers and originally published in the Cleveland Daily Banner.

Cub Scout Makes Memorial Day Special

By Bob Wolf

My grandson, Jeremy Stalnecker, who is only eight years old, was asked to participate in a Memorial Day parade in his hometown of Lebanon, PA. He is a member of a local Cub Scout troop. The Scout troop sat on a float tossing Hershey Kisses (Hershey is only ten miles west of Lebanon), but Jeremy wanted to do something else. In the words of his mother, Andrea, this is what happened:

"He made all veterans, and his mommy, proud yesterday. He knew from the start that he wanted to carry the American flag. He had no interest in tossing Kisses to the crowd. It was only afterward that I realized just what that meant to him. He said, 'Mom, this was the most awesome thing I've done in my life!' I started to cry. Then I clarified whether he meant just being in the parade or it if had to do with carrying the flag. He confirmed that it was carrying the flag.

"Once he had the job secured, he wanted to go to his post and be ready. He found his position, stood there, and held the flag up high. What I failed to realize was an eight year old's ability to comprehend that carrying the flag of our nation in a parade honoring every soldier who never came home would not become a burden he could not bear.

"The parade left with him at the front of our group, and me at the back, filling buckets of candy for the boys on Kiss duty. Every so often I'd look up front, and was walking tall and proud, with the flag pointed high.

"As we drove home later in the day we passed Memorial Park. Jeremy saw all the US flags and the military flags around our Vietnam memorial. He wanted to look at everything so later that evening we returned to the park for a walk.

"The wind from earlier storms had blown down the potted gardenias at the different memorials. He immediately ran to each monument and righted the pots. We read the text of every stone there. I paused and had him re-read four words on the Korean monument - **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**. He gave it some thought and realized that not only is it not free, there also is no way to put a price tag on the cost of the lives lost.

"This is basic knowledge that most adults do not possess. He picked up some trash from the grounds as we went from memorial to memorial. We looked at the flags that flanked the Vietnam memorial. I held each one out so he could read what they were. We talked in depth about the black one with six letters - **POW/MIA**. He's horrified to think that we might have soldiers still imprisoned overseas or that all of our war dead did not come home for burial. He read every brick at our Vietnam memorial walk, then we matched up some of the names with the list of dead from Lebanon whose names appeared on a plaque.

"As we were leaving, he asked a question. 'Would it be okay to get up early a few days every week this summer and come pick up trash and help keep the park clean?' I vowed to assist him with that endeavor. To him, that little triangular park which 45,000 vehicles drive by and ignore every day, is darned near sacred grounds. I think all veterans would be proud of him."



Mother seeks MOH for son

Donald Paul Sloat was killed-in-action on January 17, 1970 while serving with Co. D, 2/1st Infantry, 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. He picked up a live enemy grenade and attempted to throw it away from a group of American soldiers. The grenade exploded and killed Sloat instantly. But his heroic act is credited with saving the lives of his nearby buddies.

Evelyn Sloat corresponded with a soldier who was with her son and was told that Donald died after stepping on a land mine. She believed this account until she recently learned the real story. She also learned that her son's platoon leader stated that he was going to nominate Sloat for a Medal of Honor.

Mrs. Sloat resides in Coweta, OK and has received valuable assistance from U.S. Sen. Tom Colburn (OK) and U.S. Rep. John Sullivan (OK). She has obtained her son's military records and forms necessary to request an award for her son. But she needs more help. She needs to contact her son's platoon leader and company commander that were present when Donald was killed.

Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, researched Americal Division records that told about the action that claimed Sloat's life. He has also contacted soldiers that were in Sloat's unit at the time.

"At this point I have located four officers including the company commander for D/2-1st Inf on January 17, 1970," says Hines. "We have located two eyewitnesses. We have one locked in who saw what is needed. We are trying to locate SGT Mike Ross; a grenadier named Jim Armstrong, the S1 officer Timothy Green, and all other eyewitnesses."

"The eyewitness I contacted clearly saw Donald Sloat pick up the grenade. He was about to throw it but noticed two of his men in the area where he was trying to throw it to. He then pulled the grenade up into himself."

Veterans of Co. D, 2/1st Infantry have indicated their desire to assist Mrs. Sloat in her effort to obtain appropriate recognition and awards for her son. Anyone with information on this incident should contact Les Hines at americanhistory@gmail.com.

FAR WEST CHAPTER

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

COMMANDER

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**SEC/TREAS**

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The Far West Chapter has scheduled its annual reunion for October 17 – 20, 2010 at the Aquarius Casino Resort in Laughlin, Nevada. We'll have our usual hospitality room overlooking the Colorado River which will open for business Sunday afternoon, Oct. 17th. Our

annual chapter meeting where we will elect new officers will take place Monday morning and we are planning a sight-seeing cruise down the Colorado on Monday afternoon. Our banquet is planned for Tuesday night at the resort. During the banquet, we will award raffle prizes of both gifts and cash.

Room rates are just \$29.00 per night plus the taxes. Registration will cost \$25.00 to help pay for the hospitality room and refreshments. The river cruise will cost just \$15.00 per person. The banquet will cost \$35.00 per person.

This will be our 4th trip to Laughlin for a chapter reunion and it promises to be a good one. Just about 3 hours from the Grand Canyon National Park, Laughlin offers very affordable "Las Vegas" style accommodations and entertainment. And there is the same style of gambling. The area also offers a wide variety of things to do away from the casinos.

This reunion will also offer a gathering place for those of you who don't make it to the national reunion in Chicago to be held a few weeks prior to it. All ADVA members are invited. If you'd like to attend, contact Tom Packard at packard50@q.com or 720-635-1900 for more information and a registration form. Chapter members should have already received a reunion mailing. Tom Packard; Secretary.

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

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL IN MI MN WI

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2010 is the year for Vietnam veterans. LZ Lambeau Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home was quite moving. Other states are now considering having one too.

About 70,000 people attended. One of the highlights was the huge map of South Vietnam in the parking lot that vets could sign as to where they served. It filled in as time went by. There were many emotional gatherings and stories told by veterans at the event. Choppers were in the air all day.

Wisconsin Vietnam Americal vets attended the annual Spring fishing trip to LaCrosse, WI area. It always produces great conversation/memories with fellow veterans.

Fall 2010 is also gearing up. There will be Vietnam Veteran Legacy Stones being laid at the Highground Veterans Memorial near Neilsville, WI (9/11/2010), Kokomo, Indiana veteran reunion (9/16-20/2010), and the national Americal reunion (10/7-10/2010) in Lombard, IL.

The Great Lakes Chapter is still trying to gauge interest in having a chapter reunion Spring 2011. We will have an information and interest sheet at the national reunion. We will also be contacting members to see if we have enough willing to attend to make it successful. Otherwise, if you are interested, please send me an email/letter.

If anyone signed up to work the hospitality room at the national reunion, that will now be handled by "The Reunion Brat" company instead. So, everyone can come and enjoy the comradeship without missing anything going on.

I was honored to attend a great get together last weekend of Vietnam veterans. One of those good men just survived lung cancer and the other has just received his second liver transplant due to Agent Orange. Can't keep good men down! They are still "walking & talking"! If you ever wondered what happened to your fellow veteran comrades or would like to show them your respect for them, now is the time to seek them out. No one lives forever. We are all lucky to even be here. Many of us didn't think we would even be around at all yet, but we are.

I for one will never forget my fellow Americal troops "#1 GI!" that I served with in Vietnam! I wish you all the BEST IN LIFE! Chao ong. PEACE. Dale J. Belke; Commander.

Books



Search and Destroy: The Story of an Armored Cavalry Squadron in Vietnam by Keith Nolan. This is the book that Keith Nolan was writing when he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Nolan planned to cover the activities of 1/1st Cavalry from its arrival in Vietnam in 1967 until it departed at the end of the war. Nolan was only able to finish the years 1967-68 before he had to give up writing. A more detailed review will be available in a future edition of the American Journal.

Wake of the Warrior: Terrorism on the Coastal Waters of New England by Michael H. Cunningham. Cunningham served with the Americal Division in Vietnam and is a retired Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official. His novel entails terrorists' plans to use maritime shipping to attack the United States and the efforts of American law enforcement to prevent the attacks. Cunningham is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and participates in patrolling the waters of New England. He lives in the Boston area.

Reunions

Co. E, 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB and 196th LIB, will hold a reunion in April 2011 in St Louis MO., at the Doubletree Westport Hotel. For more information contact Paul Gildner at 231-468-2241 or pgildner1949@att.net.

3/16th Artillery has a reunion for Oct. 4-6, 2010 in Las Vegas at the Tropicana Hotel. Contact Richard Hildreth at vietnam@q.com for more information.

4/3rd Infantry will have a reunion September 30-October 3, 2010 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA. Contact Bruce Flaherty at fblahe617@aol.com for details.

Co. C, 2/1 Inf., 196 LIB will have a reunion on September 17-18, 2010 at Wabasha, MN. For more information contact Fred Passe by phone at 651-564-0210 (home).

178th ASHC (Boxcars) and 400th TC. September 16-19, 2010; Doubletree Hotel, Columbus, GA. More information from Dean C. Nelson, Secretary, 3032 County Rd. H-2, Mounds View, MN, 55112, boxcar088@gmail.com, 763-780-8869.

132nd ASHC (Hercules) and 16th Trans Det veterans are invited to attend the Boxcar Reunion, September 16-19, 2010; Doubletree Hotel, Columbus, GA. Contact Bill McRae at 770/565-7132 or wmcrae@mindspring.com.

Locator Requests

Looking for: anyone who knew my dad, **Sgt Edward C. Schuch**, Americal Division during 1941-1945 in the Philippines and Guadalcanal. He received the Bronze Star but I do not know why. Contact: Ed Schuch, Jr.; (573)218-6755.

Looking for: Information about the **12th Pathfinder Detachment**. Were they assigned to the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion of the Americal Division? If not, which pathfinder unit was assigned to the Americal Division in Vietnam? Contact: Bobby Albers; daalbers55@charter.net.

Looking for: Information and documentation about my deceased uncle, **Joseph Castor**. He was attached to the Americal Division during WWII in the first-strike to deny the Japanese access at Guadalcanal. My "Uncle Joe" was regular Army and received a unit citation of some kind which has subsequently been lost. Contact: Curtis Castor; unclecasey@gmail.com.

Looking for: Information about the **USAT Shawnee** from 1943 to 1945. I served aboard this ship. Contact: Robert Kent; robertkent833@gmail.com.

Looking for: Information, names, people who knew and served with my cousin, **John Natt**, Dec 67 - Dec 68, Co. C, 2/1st Inf. I was in country from Apr/68-May/71 at Chu Lai, LZ Bronco, LZ Bayonet and other locations. Contact: George Natt; nattg@att.net.

Looking for: Anyone from **HHC commo** from 1966-1968. I spent 18 months at Schofield then shipped out by ship to Viet Nam on the USS Gordon troop carrier. Contact: William L. Ziehr; librheiz@hotmail.com.

Looking for: 2-1st Inf. vets from 1969-70 who remember **Charles Simmons**. **Larry Ward** from Akron OH; **Dale Unser** from Iowa; **Hal Zauer** from Iowa; **Robert Dilley** from Seattle. Contact: Charlie Simmons; 8026 Claredale Dr., Memphis, TN, 38133-2055, 901-382-3274.

Looking For: Veterans of **Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB**, 7/69-7/70. We operated out of Hawk Hill. Contact: Martin Odette; 998-994-1050; odiemarty@charter.net.

Looking For: Anyone that was in **Ft. Jackson S.C. basic training**, C-7-2, 1967. Anyone with **Echo Co., 1/46th Inf.**, Recon, or **A Co. or C Co.** that were in Operation Lamar Plain. I was hit on 14 May 1969. Contact: John Gonzalez; 570-643-4611; johnnyg198@hotmail.com.

Looking For: Information on **Edward T Cooper** from the 121 Medical Battalion, Company B. He was my neighbor and passed away in December 2005. Any unit history, rosters, photos, people who knew him, etc. Contact: Patrick Thevenow; pthevenow@gmail.com.



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 live in LaGrange Highlands, IL. One of my neighbors had an uncle who served in the Americal Division in World War II. To honor his uncle my neighbor flies an Americal Division flag at his home. I served with the Americal Division with Co. D, 4/3rd Infantry in Vietnam in 1968-69.

Larry Grabowski; softball16chi@yahoo.com

Dear editor,

Frank Vitale passed away on July 6, 2010. He was 86 years young. He served in WWII in the 245th FA at Bougainville, the Philippines, and Japan. He loved his vegetable garden and going to the Americal reunions. He is survived by his wife Irene and his sons Frankie and me.

Thomas Vitale; neon59@live.com

Dear editor,

My father served in World War II, Americal Division. As with many veterans, he spoke little of his experience. I am attempting to recreate his service history as his records were lost in the fire in St. Louis.

He is Arnold H. Bertrand and he deployed to the South Pacific on Jan 23, 1942. He arrived New Caledonia on March 12, 1942. Inside his prayer book is the notation of 244th Coastal Artillery, Battery E. On April 25, 1943, he attended Easter Mass at the US Naval Base, Lunga. He kept the Mass schedule. On July 5, 1943 he was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant. These documents state 259th Separate Coastal Artillery, Battery C. He deployed back to the states on April 11, 1944. I appreciate any assistance or advise.

Paul Bertrand; paul.bertrand@agfa.com

Dear editor,

Each year, Mercer County (PA) honors military veterans chosen by the Mercer County Veterans Affairs office. This year's honorees include S/Sgt. Don "Ike" Eichelberger. The veterans participate as special guests in the Mercer Memorial Day 500 parade.

Trained as a water-cooled 30-caliber machine gunner, Eichelberger served in Bougainville in Northern Solomons, with the 164th Regiment of the Americal Division during World War II. His specialty was intelligence reconnaissance combat behind enemy lines. He was decorated with two Bronze Stars. (Source: Mercer Memorial Day 500).

Mary Ann Ford

Dear editor,

I was a combat medic with 3rd platoon, Co. B, 3/21st Inf. On the morning of May 28, 1971 a Huey helicopter of the 173rd AHC (Robin Hoods) on a resupply mission to my unit near Que Son was shot down by an enemy RPG. Several of our guys received fairly serious shrapnel wounds, as did some of the helicopter crew, and all were dusted off later that day. Although I have not been able to confirm this personally, another guy told me that the most seriously injured of our guys (the grunts) was not hurt as bad as I feared. But, over the years, I have also wondered how the wounded crew from the Huey fared.

I would like to find members of the helicopter crew so that I might know how they are doing.

Dave Crawford; 703-603-8891; Crawford.Dave@epa.gov

Dear editor,

I served with the Americal Division in Vietnam from December 1968 through December 1969. I was light infantry on LZ Baldy between Chu Lai and DaNang and near the ocean. I was in the middle of the huge TET Offensive. The navy's 16" guns (the New Jersey) were there. I need to know the company and battalion that I was assigned to at the time. This information is not on my DD-214. I did receive a citation for the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry W/Palm but I never received the actual pendant.

Robert (Bob) Bramton; robert.bramton@navy.mil

Dear editor,

I would like to find information about the service of a relative of mine. His name is Harold Good and he served as a combat medic with the Americal Division in World War II. The records center in St. Louis told us all his records were destroyed in the fire. The only other thing I can tell is he was from Iowa. We do have copies of a discharge pay roster with his and other names on it. We hope someone knew him or has records with his name on them.

Jamie Good; jamieg25@gmail.com

Dear editor,

My brother, Sgt Robert J. Hoffmann (Bobby), was in Vietnam from August 1968 until his death on June 3, 1969. My brother died in Chu Lai while in the holding area ready to go on R & R to Australia. I would appreciate any information about exactly where the holding areas were and any photographs of these areas.

Richard Hoffman; richard02h@verizon.net



Dear editor,

On Memorial Day weekend 2010 members of Co. C, (Charlie Tigers), 3/21st Infantry, 196th LIB held a reunion in Winnsboro, LA. It was held at the home of Earl Powers, a Charlie Tiger in 1969-70. Earl, his

family, and neighbors put on a wonderful event for us.

Twenty-four vets showed up and represented years from 1966 to 1971. The photo shows Larry Trush, Tom Podzol, Ron Kociba, Ernie Carrier. We wish to give a big thanks to Earl for putting this first ever Charlie Tiger reunion together. It was a great success.

Thomas Podzol; tpoz48@att.net

Dear editor,

I just recently found out that the 2/1st Infantry, 196th LIB, was issued a Valorous Unit Award (VUA) medal for those members who were part of the unit in August 1969 for Defense of Hiep Duc. My problem stems from the fact that my DD214 was issued upon my release from the Army in August 1970 and does not reflect the VUA for my participation during that operation. The citation wasn't officially made until 1972. What steps do I need to take to update my DD214 with this additional information?

Gerry "Bo" Borysiak; gerry321@hotmail.com

Dear editor,

You might remember me. I'm a journalist in Allentown, PA. You've helped me in the past with my research. Since 1995 I've been working on a book about my cousin Nicky Venditti, an Army helicopter pilot assigned to the Americal Division who died after an instructor unwittingly detonated a grenade at LZ Bayonet. It happened July 10, 1969. I've finished the story and I'm working with a professional book editor but have yet to find a publisher. As part of our effort to interest literary agents and publishers in my work, we've created a website, www.davidvenditti.com, and I have a blog about veterans' stories and histories, <http://warstoriesandveteranshistories.wordpress.com/>. The website and blog concern the Americal Division in the Vietnam War.

David Venditti; cdvend@rcn.com

Dear editor,

I was with Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division. When I first got to Vietnam in late February 1970 our regimental headquarters was LZ Baldy. We spent a lot of time in the Que Son Mountains west of there. I can identify the mountains on Google Earth satellite shots, especially when looked at them from a lower view to see the terrain. It is hard to pick out Baldy because it was such a low altitude. It is easier to pick out the approximate hilltop where Firebase Ryder was located. I can also pick out the location of LZ Ross by first locating Hill 271 just to the Southwest of LZ Ross. Antenna Valley was west of Ross but on the other side of the mountains and just north of Firebase Ryder. Mike Company got hit pretty hard one night while in Antenna Valley and Firebase Ryder provided illumination and high explosive support. Semper Fi

David Ray; dray@tech-pack.com

Dear editor,

Bert Fuller, a commander of the 1/52nd Infantry in 1968, passed away in his sleep on February 4, 2010. Bert joined the 198th LIB in September 1967 when we were finishing up the advanced tactical transport (ATT) at Ft Hood. In October 1967 he went with a small group consisting of Col. Waldie, Maj. White (our MP officer), and me to Vietnam before we deployed the unit. We wanted to get a feel for the terrain.

It was not a well organized operation at Chu Lai. The division had little to offer and Bert and I had to scrounge around for just about everything. At about 0200 Bert and I were in a jeep and we practically hijacked a "dragon wagon" heavy transport truck. We spent the next 15 hours hauling 198th gear from a landing ship (LST) to our brigade site at LZ Bayonet. It was an interesting beginning.

This was Bert's his first tour in Vietnam. He joined the brigade after a tour at West Point. He graduated from West Point in 1947. He and "Doc" Stinson had met at West Point in their Beast Barracks days. Bert was a great guy. We were good friends to the end.

Walt Sanders; Rngr1015@aol.com

Dear editor,

The American Journal published a story about my trip in 2009 to the former location of FSB Mary Ann. It was in the Oct-Nov-Dec 2009 edition. I'm now finalising plans for another trip to Vietnam.

In September 2010 I'm driving my 1966 Porsche 912 from London U.K to Saigon, Vietnam. Its a charity fundraising project to raise money for "MAG" (Mines Advisory Group). These are the guys that go in after a conflict and work to remove landmines and unexploded ordnance from the countryside.

MAG (www.maginternational.org) also works to educate the local kids about not touching or playing with ordnance. The group helps with prosthetic limbs for mine victims. They do some outstanding work in some very difficult countries. They currently have active operations in 17 countries worldwide. They are very heavily involved with operations in S.E Asia - Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

My drive will be a huge challenge - 13,000 miles in around eight weeks. Its route is across deserts, through jungles, and up mountains. All of the trip will be in a 44-year-old car with limited spares and no support vehicles. It's a solo drive, not part of an organised tour or run, there are no other cars going, just me!

I'm self-funding the trip and any donations I receive will go direct to the charity. My website is at www.londontosaigon.com. Anyone interested in the trip will be able to follow my progress live on the internet. I will have a satellite tracker fitted to the car. A portion of the trip will include Highway 1 from Dong Ha, Vietnam, through DaNang, Chu Lai, and on to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). The trip should be quite interesting for everyone to watch. I'm scheduled to leave London on September 1st.

Max Levell; maxlevell@aol.com

Dear readers,

If you wish to contact anyone above but do not have access to e-mail, please write or call me or Dave Taylor. We will help you make contact.

Gary L. Noller; 830-377-8115
P.O. Box 294314, Kerrville, TX, 78029
gnoller@aol.com.



ADVA Legacy Committee Report

By Roger Gilmore

The monument is inching closer to completion; groundwork has begun!

Monument Placement and Design

The ADVA Legacy Committee has received confirmation from the National Infantry Foundation that a site has been set aside for the Americal Division monument. The site is located along the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum, Ft. Benning, GA.

The Americal Division site is just beyond the newly completed and dedicated 173rd Airborne Brigade monument at the entrance to the Walk of Honor. The photo above reflects the site from a vantage point just beyond the graduation parade field at the museum.

The Legacy Committee finalized the text for the Americal Division history that will be cut into black granite panels and placed on the back walls of the monument. The National Infantry Foundation will perform a fact check on the text and will approve the final version of the division history. Columbus Monument Co. will then proceed with the architectural and engraving work on the black granite panels.

Monument Funding and Donations

As of June 30, 2010, donations for the monument by ADVA members, regional chapters, and friends of the association amount to just over \$35,000.00. The Legacy project has incurred expenses which were paid out of the bank account. The major expenses were reimbursement of the remaining commemorative knife costs and the design costs paid to Columbus Monument Co. Our current Legacy account bank balance is just under \$24,000.00.

By the end of 2010 we expect to raise enough funding to reach a mid-point in the amount of funds required to start construction of the monument. Proceeds from the silent auction to be conducted at the Chicago reunion in October 2010 are expected to add \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the fund. If you attend the reunion please stop by the silent auction and place your bid on items that strike your interest.

The initial issue of the Americal commemorative knife is still available and is selling steadily. We hope to sell the remaining inventory by year's end. Send your knife order and \$75 per knife to Wayne Bryant at the contact information provided to the right. The commemorative knife will also be available for purchase at the Chicago reunion.

Our year 2011 major fund raiser will be the second edition of the Americal Division calendar. It is under preparation at this time and will be mailed to all ADVA members before the end of 2010. Please enjoy the calendar and return a generous contribution to help build the monument.

The success of this worthy project depends on the generosity of Americal Division veterans and their families and friends. Now is the time to do your part to help this monument become reality. Send your contribution to Ron Ellis, Assistant Finance Officer, 4493 Hwy 64 W, Henderson, TX 75652. Please indicate your check is a contribution to the Legacy Monument Fund.

Patriot Park

The Americal Division monument on the Walk of Honor is part of a new 200 acre development called Patriot Park. In addition to the Walk of Honor, Patriot Park is the location of the National Infantry Museum, the World War II village, the graduation parade grounds, and an IMAX theater. The U. S. Army armor training will be moved from Ft. Knox, KY to Ft. Benning by the end of 2010 to form the Maneuver Center of Excellence. This move will be followed by the relocation of the Patton Museum from Ft. Knox to a yet to be determined location in Patriot Park. Long range plans call for a hotel, restaurant, and other commercial developments to complete the expansion.





AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Americal Scholarship Fund granted awards totaling \$42,000 to 35 recipients for the 2010 school year. Since its inception in 1993, the fund has provided 285 awards for a grand total of \$287,500. Some scholars received awards in multiple years.

Donations for the Americal Scholarships are provided by ADVA members and friends. The \$42,000 awarded this year ties the all-time high for annual award amount. The first and only award in 1993 was for \$500.

Detailed information on scholarship eligibility and application can be found on the ADVA website at www.americal.org. The Scholarship Chairman is Ron Green.

ADVA members are expected to vote on a scholarship by-law change at the annual reunion in October 2010. This change proposes to move the deadline for scholarship applications from May 1 of each year to April 1 of each year.

The Americal Scholarship Fund greatly appreciates the outstanding support it receives in its fund raising activities. The next annual raffle ticket mailing will take place in Spring 2011. Memorial donations and other gifts are always accepted.

The following list details the scholar's name, amount of award, school, sponsor, and sponsor's unit in the Americal Division. Deceased members are denoted by the note (.dec.).

Jacqueline Aguirre; \$1,000
Estrella Mountain Comm. College
Roger Miller, grandfather,
A Co., 4/3 Inf. 11th LIB

Kevin Alsbro; \$1,000
Western Michigan University
Don Alsbro, grandfather,
23rd Admin. Co.

Chantelle Olivia S. Berry; \$1,500
Fairmont State University
Richard F. Carvell, grandfather,
196th LIB & 1/46 Inf., 198th LIB

Jared W. Brooks; \$1,000
Otterbein College
Richard W. Brooks, grandfather,
B Co., 182nd Inf. Reg.

Alyssa Buehne; \$1,000
Johnson County Comm. College
Gary Roschevitz, grandfather,
1/20 Inf. 11th LIB

Matthew Burch; \$3,000
Coe College
James A. Burch, father,
26th Combat Engineers

Timothy D. Burch; \$1,000
Greenville College
Burdette Burch, grandfather,
Americal Div. WWII

Parker Dean Bushey; \$1,500
Bowling Green State University
David D. Bushey, father,
A Co., 1/20 Inf. 11th LIB

Elizabeth M. Buss; \$1,000
Arizona State University
Robert F. Buss, father,
132 ASHC

Matthew Clayton; \$1,000
University of Arkansas
Earl Clayton, grandfather,
164th Inf. Reg.

Aaron H. Davis; \$1,000
Southwest Baptist University
Larry F. Henry, grandfather,
6th Support Bn.

Martha K. Fahlgren; \$1,500
University of Chicago
Thomas Zajac, grandfather,
132nd Inf. (dec.)

Alexandra Freeman; \$1,000
Eugene Lang College
Frank Freeman, father,
196th LIB

Troy Freeman; \$1,500
Fordham University
Frank Freeman, father,
196th LIB

Jason D. Fulbrook; \$1,000
William and Mary College
Jim E. Fulbrook, father,
71st AHC

Meredith Gibson; \$1,500
Iowa State University
Jack Leaverton, great grandfather,
221st FA (dec.)

Bryant William Hale; \$1,000
James Madison University
Wayne A. Hales, father,
196th LIB

Thomas J. Herring; \$1,000
Worcester State College
Joseph A. Papa, grandfather,
Co. F, 182nd Inf. (dec.)

Zachary R. Hiser; \$1,500
Indiana Wesleyan University
William E. Hiser, father,
4/3 Inf., 11th LIB (dec.)

Kelsey Hobar; \$2,000
George Mason University
Larry Hobar, grandfather,
6th Support Bn.

Frances Hogan; \$1,000
Case Western Reserve Univ.
David W. Hogan, father,
Co. B, 26th Combat Engineer Bn.

Ashton Nicole Keck; \$1,000
Black Hills State University
Frank R. Yehle II, grandfather,
Co. B, 1/6 Inf. 198th LIB

Sean E. Matthews; \$1,000
University of Connecticut
Dennis E. Matthews, father,
4/21 Inf., 11th LIB

Dominique Ja'Nelle Mayes; \$1,000
Florida A&M University
James E. Mayes, father,
Co. B, 3/21 Inf., 196th LIB

Molly Nawrath; \$1,000
Vermont Technical College
W. Michael Nawrath, father,
723rd Maintenance Bn.

Jake T. Ophaug; \$1,000
North Dakota State University
Theodore Ophaug, grandfather,
164th Inf. Reg. (dec.)

Alan James Orthmann; \$1,000
University of Washington
Dennis M. Orthmann, father,
174th AHC

Patrick S. Parten; \$1,000
University of the Cumberlands
Steve Parten, father,
Co. D, 4/21 Inf. 11th LIB

Kayla Pollino; \$1,000
Full Sail University
John Callan, grandfather,
Americal Division WWII

Lainee S. Reuter; \$1,000
University of Iowa
Rick Reuter, grandfather,
3/21 Inf. 196th LIB

Leighna R. Reuter; \$1,000
University of Iowa
Rick Reuter, grandfather,
3/21 Inf. 196th LIB

Julia VanderMolen; \$1,000
Calvin College
Kenneth VanderMolen, grandfather,
Co. G, 182nd Inf.

Brianna Waldron; \$1,000
Seattle University
Clayton Waldron, father,
1/1 Cav.

Conor Michael Walsh; \$2,000
Harvard University
William F. McGoldrick,
TF 6814, Hq. Co. 182nd Inf. Reg. (dec.)

Josh Williams; \$1,000
Texas A&M at Galveston
John R. Pfaendtner,
Co. B 4/31 Inf. 196th LIB

Formula for an Extraordinary Reunion

By Dale Meisel

Twenty-nine Americal MP veterans plus four days plus Fort Leonard Wood equals an extraordinary reunion. This was the formula for the 23rd MP Chapter's first formal get-together at the US Army Military Police School. The 23rd MP Chapter reunion was held on June 17-20, 2010 and took advantage of an open date created by the ADVA's move of the national reunion to October 2010.

The heart of the reunion took place over two days. An Army bus ushered the veterans and family members to Ft. Leonard Wood for various activities. Sergeants First Class from the post MP school accompanied the visitors. At each stop the veterans were treated as VIPs and as the "Old Guard" they had somewhat reluctantly become to the younger soldiers.

The veterans, all of whom had been trained when the MP School was at Fort Gordon, GA, toured several training facilities on the post. They saw how basic Military Police and other MOSs are receiving very realistic training in preparation of deployment to the modern battlefield. The visited trainee barracks and noted that while the barracks were new they were still open bay and austere. The training units were co-ed but the male and female trainees did not live in the same bay. There were still fire guards at night.

Some of the vets were able to spend time talking with the trainees while they ate lunch together in the dining facility. The young soldiers were proud to be MPs and were interested in the Vietnam experiences of the veterans. It was difficult to determine what the troops thought of this bunch of old guys, but the impression those younger soldiers made on the veterans was spectacular.

The MP School cadre in particular were an inspiration. These seasoned soldiers had been deployed numerous times and were bringing their experiences back to the younger soldiers. The NCOs were motivated, knowledgeable, and dedicated. As a group they created quite a buzz among the veterans- they were that good. The MP Corps remains small but in high demand by theater commanders around the world because of the challenges of the global terrorism and other missions.

The highlight of the second day was the service at the Military Police Memorial Grove. The focal point is a small open-air amphitheater featuring Military Police memorial plaques. Included in the memorial is the 23rd MP Company plaque which was dedicated in 2006.

Chaplain (Major) Jeff Jay, the MP School Chaplain, led the memorial service. Chaplain Jay spoke from Isaiah, and he spoke from his soul. He encouraged those troubled by the past to put their faith in God and they shall "mount up with wings as eagles." He also spoke about his personal experiences while deployed. There was many a teary eye at the service, including Chaplain Jay's. The service included the veterans reading the names of the thirteen men of the 23rd MP Company who did not return from Vietnam.

As Sunday came, the veterans scattered back to their homes. But all came away from the reunion more proud than ever to be Military Policemen.





Secondary MOS: Infantry Cartoonist

by Andy Ladak

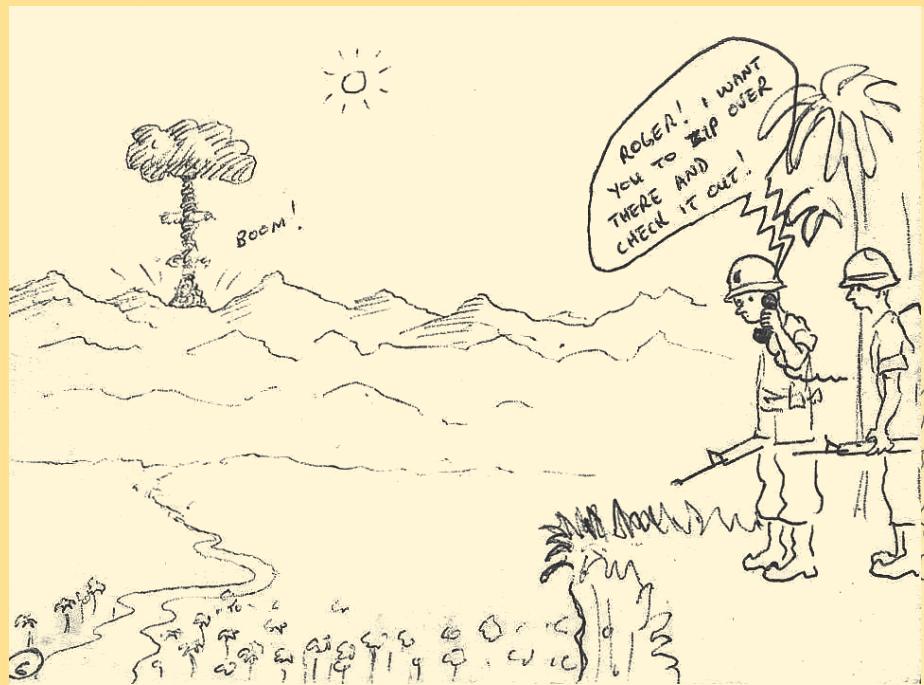
Growing up I dreamed of being a soldier. Alongside the soul of a would-be soldier, though, was also the soul of an artist. My parents nourished my artistic interests, and eventually I pursued a career in commercial art. But dreams of soldiering remained, and I joined the Army ROTC while in college. I graduated in 1969 with an advertising degree—and an infantry commission.

Predictably, I ended up in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader. Assigned to C Company, 5/46 Infantry Battalion, in Chu Lai, I quickly learned that war involves a lot of “downtime,” even during field operations. I also learned that war and military service was full of humorous situations as well as grim ones. To fill the quiet moments, and to amuse my fellow soldiers, I began drawing crude cartoons that reflected our shared experiences.

Cartoons, like much humor, often involve exaggerations of reality. My cartoons were inspired by real experiences, many of them familiar to all grunts of that time and place. For example, consider what the army called “land navigation.” Misreading maps, misusing a compass and getting lost (or, as some of us grunts preferred to call it, getting “temporarily misoriented”) were almost clichés of infantry training and of actual combat, particularly in a jungle environment. Those clichés, combined with the common image of a young lieutenant struggling to lead his long-suffering men in the boonies, were a rich source of jokes—and cartoons.

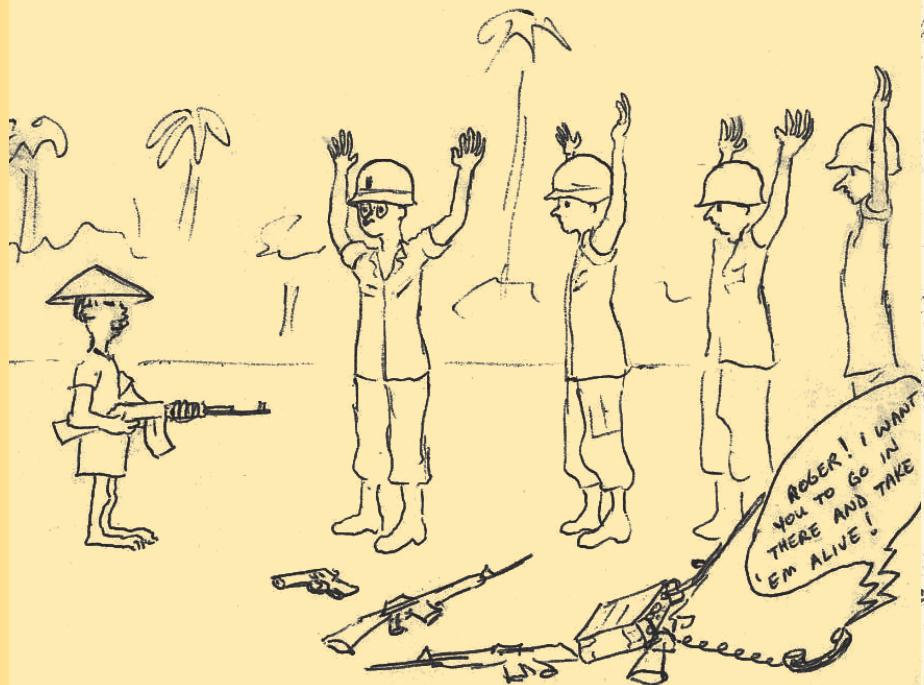
Some of the cartoons I drew in Vietnam are presented here. They are crude in style—and, sometimes, in subject. A few reflect situations that are darkly humorous, but most soldiers realized that humor played an important role in helping them deal with the stresses and dangers of combat. There is truth to the old maxim that being able to laugh about danger, even death, helps us to deal with our fears and traumas.

After returning from Vietnam I completed graduate school and began a career. I also spent 11 years in an Army Reserve Special Forces company. Not surprisingly, that resulted in more cartoons. Over time, I refined my style and used my cartooning skills, along with other creative skills, professionally. But the crude sketches, now yellowed with age, that I drew with a GI ballpoint pen, sitting in the jungle or in hooch in Chu Lai, remain among my most cherished reminders of that long-ago time.



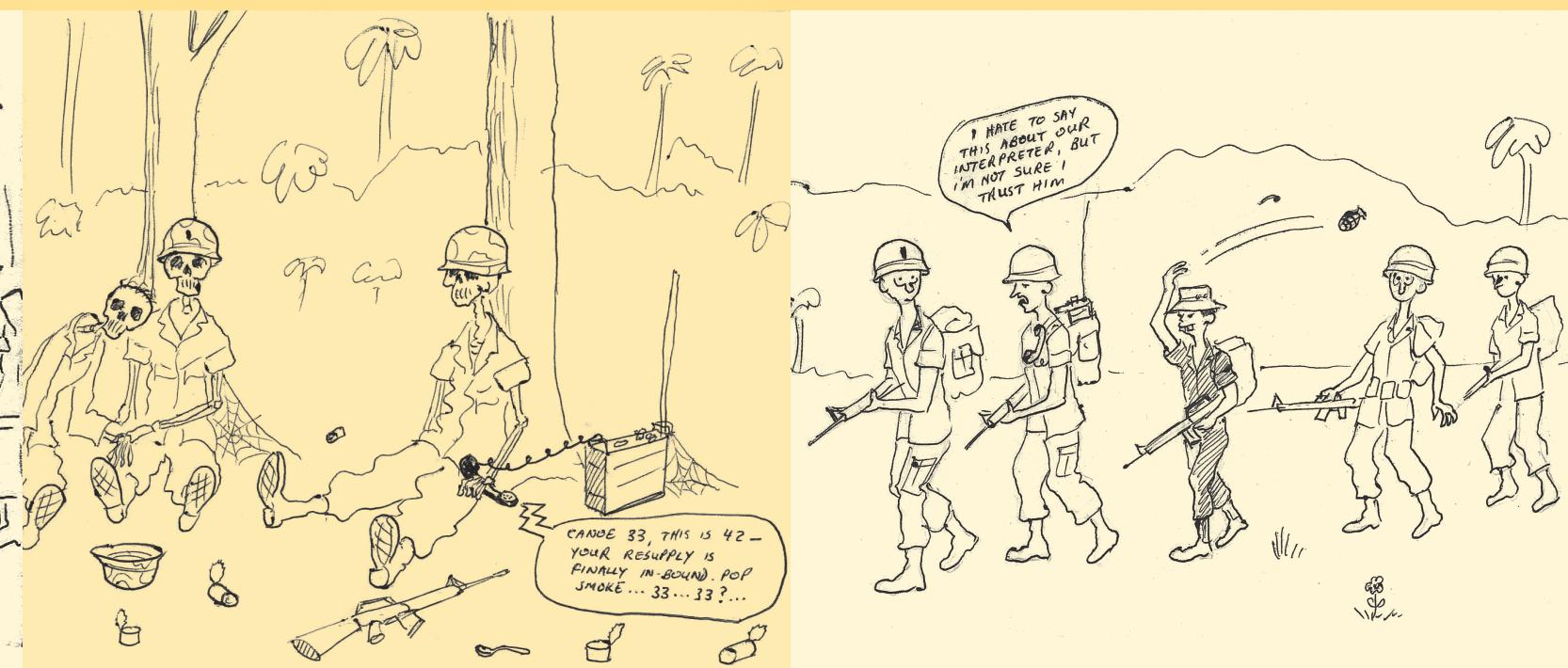
Check it out

When a platoon in the field reported something potentially interesting, the company commander would radio back with orders to “just zip over there and check it out,” as though it was just round the corner.



Go in there

Sometimes distant commanders issuing orders to units in the field didn’t understand the actual situation as well as the grunts on the ground. ‘Nuff said.



Re-supply

Field grunts had a lot of respect for the Huey crews, but when resupply was late and our food was getting low, it didn't take long to start having suspicions about the "real" reasons the birds weren't flying.

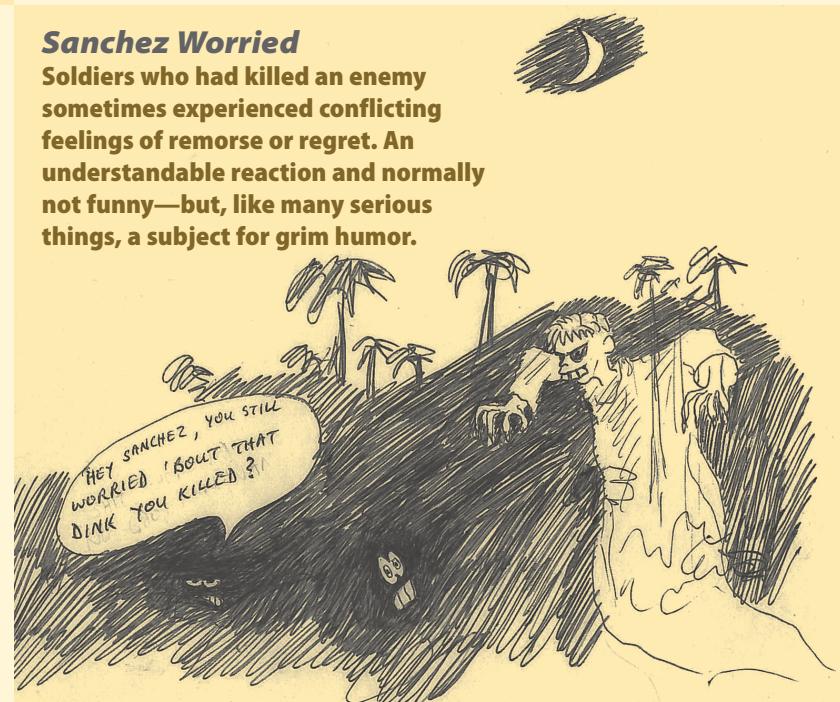


Interpreter

We worked with Chieu Hoi (former NVA) "Kit Carson Scouts" who assisted us as interpreters and guides. Most were brave and reasonably reliable, but they weren't always trusted.

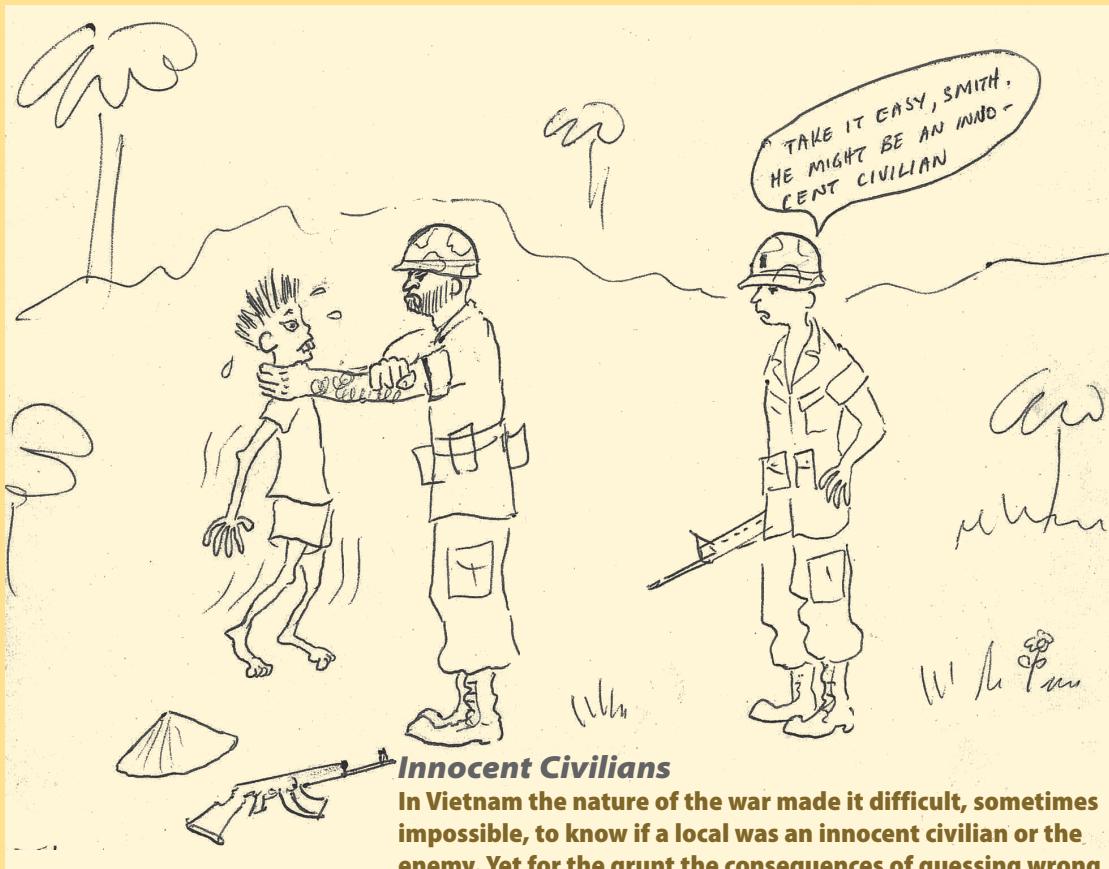
Sanchez Worried

Soldiers who had killed an enemy sometimes experienced conflicting feelings of remorse or regret. An understandable reaction and normally not funny—but, like many serious things, a subject for grim humor.



Looks like the Place

Despite maps that were often outdated, most platoon leaders and NCOs were pretty good at figuring out where they were, but rough terrain and dense vegetation often made accurate navigation difficult. With luck, the worst that would happen was that the platoon was "temporarily misoriented."

**Innocent Civilians**

In Vietnam the nature of the war made it difficult, sometimes impossible, to know if a local was an innocent civilian or the enemy. Yet for the grunt the consequences of guessing wrong could be very serious.



The prospect of being inserted into a "hot" LZ was always unnerving to us and our chopper crews. A more remote danger was landing and being captured. Again, not funny...and yet fodder for grim humor

Article 15

The so-called Article 15 enabled commanders, including platoon leaders, to discipline soldiers for infractions of good order.



Trick

I always thought the VC's alleged competence was a bit overrated—which is why we were often able to surprise or ambush them. Still—there's no question they could be crafty and capable of setting devious traps for careless grunts, so healthy suspicion was a good thing.

In the open

"Enemy in the open" was a common report from units in the field. Depending on the situation, we engaged the enemy with small arms or called for indirect fire or gunship support. During my time in the field, such sightings usually involved small enemy groups, but I imagined a situation when the platoon leader's report was a model of understatement and coolness under fire.



It was joked that, under certain extraordinary circumstances, the commander might be "persuaded" to forgive and forget.



Got the Sniper

Soldiers have always joked about their officers, especially young lieutenants. In my experience good officers acknowledged they had to earn the respect of their men, but also had a sense of humor about the matter.

(All cartoons copyright by author)

Destination: Task Force Oregon Chu Lai (1967)

By Peter Bramble

Part One

Like many other American service personnel, my journey to Vietnam began from a nearby home town airport in August 1966. Besides the heartbreak of having to leave behind my new wife of only one month, my only other recollection about the trip was the in-flight movie featuring the Beatles in "A Yellow Submarine". Having never been a Beatles fan I thought it was quite a discouraging way to start to my 12 month tour.

I arrived in Vietnam aboard an Air Force C-141 Starlifter. I was assigned to the signal unit, I Field Force Vietnam (IFFV) Headquarters, Nha Trang. My principal duties at IFFV included the preparation of mapping sites for the installation of microwave towers and other communication devices.

In January 1967 I met my wife on R&R in Hawaii. Soon after my return to Nha Trang I was presented with orders assigning me to Task Force Oregon (TFO). TFO was being formed in Saigon and information about its mission, strength, and destination was not disclosed. After my arrival in Saigon I spent most of the next several weeks requisitioning the supplies that would be needed to establish a stand-alone drafting section. In early April 1967 we received our orders to report to Saigon's Tan Son Nhut air base for transport to Chu Lai via C-130 aircraft. Most of us were apprehensive because of the uncertainty of the location and mission that we were about to embark upon.

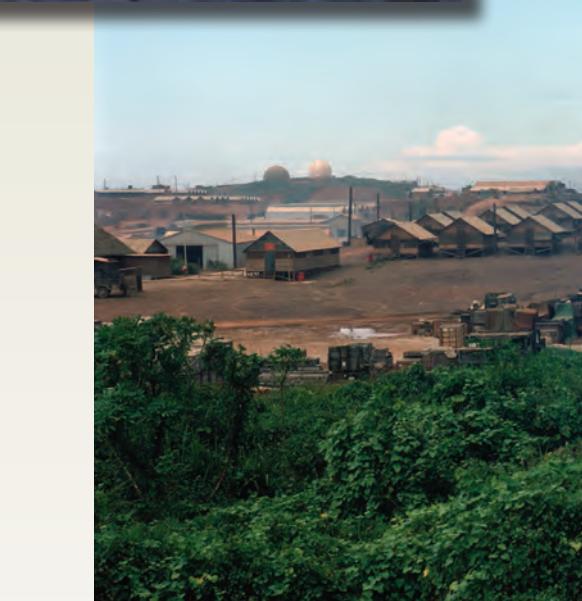
At Chu Lai I was assigned to the G2 section, TFO headquarters. The new camp was located on Rosemary Point, a peninsula at the northern tip of the Chu Lai enclave. The Navy's Mobile Construction Battalion (Seabees) had completed construction of 116 huts and a 500 man mess hall, an amphitheater,

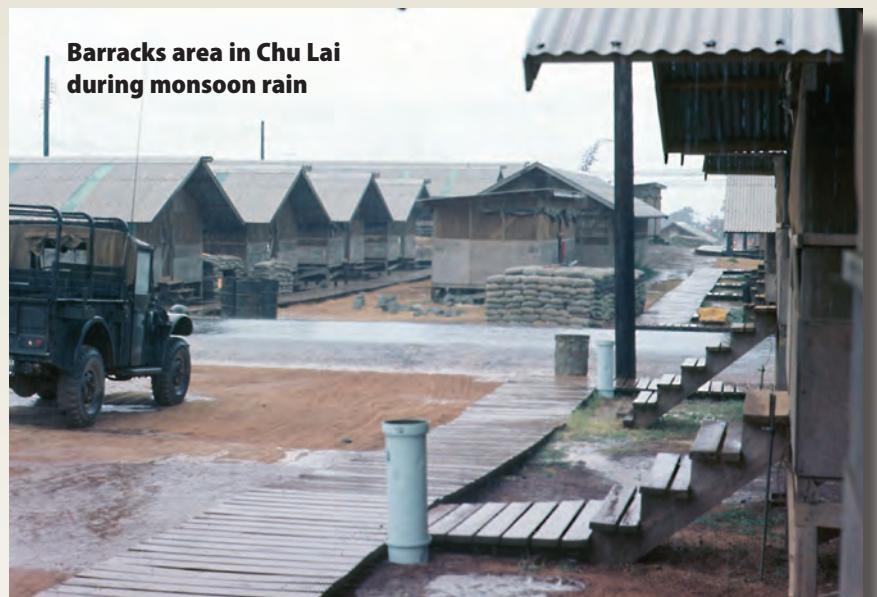
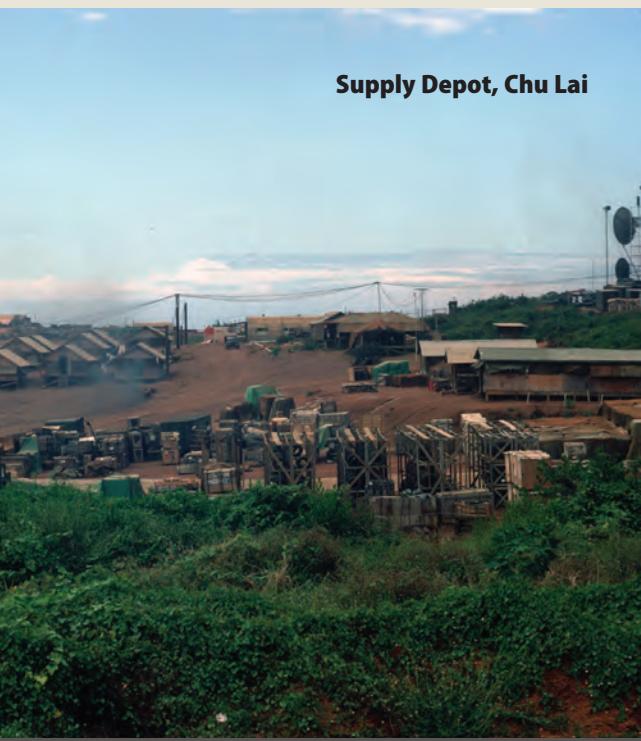


installed showers, built roads, and partially completed construction of six 40' X 100' strand steel buildings and an equipment yard. The majority of this effort took place preceding the arrival of the first plane carrying the main body TFO personnel. Of course, in the weeks after our arrival there was plenty of construction work still under way. For example, TFO personnel spent long hours filling the numerous sand bags that were to be used in construction of mortar bunkers.

My time in Chu Lai was very different from that at Nha Trang. The beach was close, but I only had one afternoon with fellow TFO members to enjoy it while stationed there. The bunkers and lookouts along the TFO perimeter including the shore line became familiar to me as we rotated guard duties on a regular basis. Nha Trang was considered a "secure area" (at least until the Tet 1968 offensive). Therefore, our weapons were kept in secure storage lockers near the barracks. We were always in possession of our weapons at Chu Lai in order to quickly repel the occasional probe of our defenses.

Part 2 of Destination: Task Force Oregon will appear in the next issue of the Americal Journal.





The Last Fire Mission

By R.E. Griffin

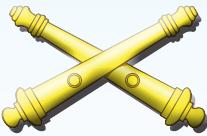
On August 10, 1972 on a firebase near Da Nang, South Vietnam, a 105mm howitzer from Battery B, 3/82nd Field Artillery completed the last fire mission of the United States artillery in the Vietnam War. The artillery mission was fired in support of the 3/21st Infantry (Gimlets), the last American ground combat unit in Vietnam. It was a short mission, fired as much for its symbolic and historical meaning as for its tactical importance. Almost as soon as the last round left the tube, a short ceremony was held to mark the historic event. Battery B then officially stood down, packed up its gear, and along with the rest of the battalion began its trip back to "The World".

Ironically, on September 2, 1966, Battery B fired the first mission for the 3/82nd Artillery in the Vietnam War. The unit had just arrived in Vietnam with part of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade aboard the transport General A.M. Patch. The 3/82nd had been activated the previous year at Fort Devens, MA as the direct support artillery for the 196th LIB. It continued in this mission for most of its time in Vietnam.

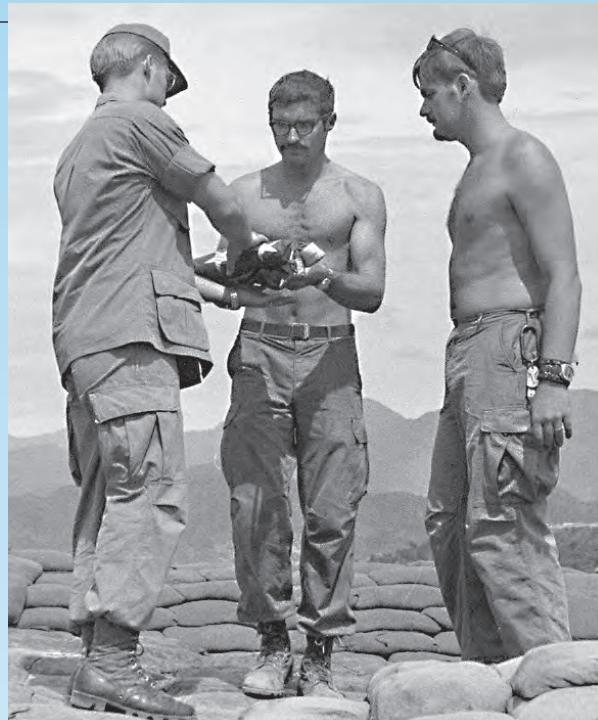
At the time of the last mission both the 3/82nd Artillery and the 3/21st Infantry were part of Task Force Gimlet and were charged with the defense of Da Nang. Both units, as part of the 196th LIB, had already participated in a long list of operations in Vietnam. The list began with Operation Attleboro and includes many of the biggest and most important operations of the war. The hard-fought operations include Cedar Falls, Gadsden, Junction City I and II, Oregon, Wheeler/Wallow, Fayette Canyon, Frederick Hill, Tulare Falls, Lam Son 719, and Middlesex Peak. In addition to supporting all elements of the 196th LIB, the 3/82nd had also provided fire support for elements of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americo). On top of this the 3/82nd Arty performed missions in support of other XXIV Corps units and the Republic of Korea's major units in Vietnam- the Tiger Division and the 2nd Korean Marine Dragon Brigade.

Just prior to the final days in-country the 3/82nd Arty helped to defeat the North Vietnamese "Easter Offensive" in South Vietnam. The 3/82nd expended 294,686 rounds of ammunition during April-May-June, 1972 in the defense of Da Nang, the Phu Bai Combat Base, and other areas of Military Region I.

Battery B, 3/82nd Artillery, and other elements of the 3/82nd are currently serving with a brigade from the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq. The artillerymen are continuing to live up to the 82nd FA Regiment's slogan – **"Can and Will"**.



Major William Ward commanded the artillery battery for its final firing mission. Firing mission was called in by infantrymen of 3/21st Infantry "Task Force Gimlet".



Artillery commander accepts U.S. flag from gunners of Battery B, 3/82nd Artillery.



American soldiers respectfully strike the colors and bring another segment of combat activity to a close in Vietnam.





The last round was “white phosphorus up 400” fired over the abandoned location of LZ Linda. Felipe Guzman pulled the lanyard to fire the howitzer. Jeff Watkins loaded the round and retrieved its brass. Artillerymen on the final crew included George Whitehouse, Gordon Thomas, and others.



Photographers and a film crew recorded the historical event. Some of the photos they took are provided on this page. (George Whitehouse assisted in obtaining photos.)



Trucks wait to load gear and remove guns from the soon to be abandoned firebase. Final mission was fired in defense of the U.S. military installation at DaNang.

Members of the Field Artillery are referred to as “Red Legs” because during the American Civil War they were distinguished by scarlet stripes down the legs of their uniform pants.

PA's T-Shirt

By Nancy Antonietti

This tee shirt isn't folded away in the dresser with its kin. One of the most meaningful gifts I have ever received, it rests on a hanger whose padding lends the shirt a form not unlike that of the skinny young man who wore it more than sixty years ago. The shirt is thin from repeated washings, its once-white cotton is yellowed from the years, and there are small holes at the shoulder and along the hem of the left sleeve. But the maroon caduceus, its entwined serpents circling the winged staff of Hermes, is still vivid against the pale background. Block letters spell out 101st Medical Regiment, the unit to which my grandfather, Alfred Piscitello, was assigned when he was drafted prior to the U.S.'s involvement in WWII.

On April 15th, 1941, Alfred reported to Camp Edwards, on Cape Cod, where he joined a group of servicemen which included National Guardsmen and other draftees from throughout New York and New England. Participation in the U.S. Army held a special wrinkle for Alfred, who had recently emigrated from Italy. Although he was born in America, Alfred was raised in Italy from his second through his seventeenth year.

The possibility of engaging in armed conflict against the country he had just left was a concern in itself. Add to that the fact that the dense immigrant community into which he had settled in Gloucester, Massachusetts had allowed him to comfortably drift along without becoming proficient in the language of his new cadre, and one can begin to get a sense of the internal upheaval he faced.

During his induction, Alfred approached someone in an Army uniform.

"Excuse me, sir, I don't speak English too good," he fumbled. "Is there some classes I can take?"

"We're not running English classes here, private. This is the Army. We're gonna make a soldier out of you," the military man responded. So that was that.

Alfred received intense daily training in the care of battlefield casualties. In the morning, his regiment did calisthenics before breakfast, then reported to the great room. There they learned how to give morphine injections, administer IV's for plasma, and use sulfur to stop bleeding. Alfred practiced applying tourniquets, cleaning and dressing wounds, and getting the wounded on stretchers and loaded into ambulances. They could fit four stretchers in



each vehicle; two on top, two on the bottom. If the wounded were able to sit upright, eight soldiers could fit, seated.

"Private, you're going to drive these men to the clearing station," his sergeant told him.

"But I've never driven before," Alfred said.

"Well, there are other things you can do; base construction, kitchen work, .."

"Heck no, I'll learn to drive."

The ambulance was a 1917 model, left over from WWI, with a standard transmission which bucked and stuttered under Alfred's inexperienced feet. They drove on the flat road, and the sergeant taught Alfred how to coax the clutch and gas pedal into cooperation. Once Alfred perfected the technique of restarting a stalled engine, the sergeant took him up a hill where they practiced stopping and starting on an incline. Alfred was shaking like a leaf. After several attempts, the sergeant told him to drive back down. When they reached the bottom the sergeant said, "You did great," and signed his permit. And that was the extent of his driving course.

Alfred's stay at Camp Edwards was an exercise in biding time. Because he supported his widowed mother, his military commitment would be fulfilled after nine months. Alfred traveled home every Friday afternoon on his weekend pass, making use of all the time he could spend with Frances, the sweetheart he left behind in Gloucester. Although he didn't voice his intentions, Alfred decided that as soon as he completed his training, he would propose to her.

As December approached, all camp personnel were making plans for the holidays. For Alfred, the new year held a special significance, as January 15th would be the end of his nine-month commitment. Then, like a dagger which pierced so many hearts, came the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th. All plans changed.

Alfred was willing to fight for his country, but he didn't want to leave Frances. All his decisions to 'get off the pot' in regard to their relationship meant nothing now. Facing the possibility he might not return, Alfred was not prepared to make any commitments to the girl he loved. He knew his reticence was hurting her right now, but he'd rather carry that with him than the knowledge that he had taken away her chance for a happy future. So he said nothing.

Alfred spent thirty months in the Pacific Theater of Operations, where his Regiment was reorganized into the 121st Medical Battalion of the Americal Division. He saw thirty months of action on the islands of New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and Bougainville, triaging and evacuating

wounded soldiers from the front lines to medical aid stations. The dense brush and steep slopes of the islands made it difficult for the soldiers and the medics. No tanks or ambulances could make it to the front line, which was essentially anywhere in the dark jungle where the enemy turned up, so "Pisky" (as he was known) and his fellow medics had to move the casualties out on hand-carried litters. The close-quarters combat had devastating effects. Soldiers had their limbs blown off, or suffered gaping head wounds. Alfred's job was to treat these men, try to make them comfortable, stop the bleeding, and transport them, hoping they wouldn't die before he could get them to a doctor. He told me he got used to eating his K-rations with other people's blood on his hands.

Alfred tells of some difficult times on Guadalcanal. His diary entry from January 15, 1943 reads: "On duty at airport. A lot of activity. Forty planes have taken off to bomb the Japs' positions on New George Island. The planes were ten B17s, six B26s, twelve SPD, twelve R40-Fs. They all came back at 9 pm. One B17 crashed and I went over with the ambulance. The fire truck was also there. The planes were landing one after the other and the airport was all lit up. Two Jap planes snuck in with our planes and boy they found the place the way they wanted it. They dropped bombs all over the place: I was coming along on the second class runway and I had the light on. Of course, everyone else had the lights on, too. I couldn't hear any noise, but I saw the third bomb drop and it was pretty close. I shut the key off and I jumped out. I fell in the mud, but the rest did the same thing. I lifted my head and the bombs were still dropping, the planes were still flying around, and all the lights were out. I still had the light on, on the ambulance, that I had forgotten to put out. I got up and put it out. Bombs still dropping."

He also remembers visiting a native village, and he wrote, "I never saw human beings living like they do. I can't explain myself to you, dear little diary, but that life seems surreal to me and would to all civilized people. They live more or less like animals, and they sleep on the ground in little huts made of grass. The women don't wear any clothes; they just wear a little grass skirt to cover the "shame" part. They

live on the food of the land, but now they have some of our canned food and also they have some of the Japs' kitchen equipment that got left behind, with which they make fires and do a little cooking. They have all kind of diseases that can be on the earth, and sores all over their bodies. I did quite a good job of covering those sores with bandages, until I ran out of bandage tape and sulfa media."

In March of 1943, after the U.S. forces secured Guadalcanal, Alfred moved to Fiji for training of replacements and reconstitution, as he had contracted malaria. Two diary entries from his stay in Fiji follow.

April 9

I was assigned to an ambulance and they gave me a new orderly. After being with Chase for 11 months, today they separated us. They issued two bottles of beer per each man.

April 22

I took a trip to the 7th. One the way back about twelve miles from the hospital a plane crashed and started on fire. There were two other boys with me. The pilot was out of the plane, but he was burning. I put the fire out with blankets. While we were cutting the parachute, the plane started to explode. We got out just in time. I took him to the hospital.



*Alfred Piscitello
during occupation
duty in Japan*

Alfred arrived in Bougainville on December 24th, 1943. While stationed there, he earned the Soldier's Medal for his rescue of a drowning soldier. Alfred was off duty and heard that reinforcements were landing at the bay. His buddy Cooper was going to pick them up, so Alfred asked to go along, wearing just his shorts and sandals. The Infantrymen were walking off the boat, in full pack. One of the guys got off on the seaward side and he didn't touch bottom. The undertow got him and he started getting pulled out to sea. He wore no lifejacket and the weight of his pack was dragging him under. So Alfred kicked off his sandals and ran in after him and pulled him out.

One of Alfred's most painful memories was of the day he lost a good friend on Bougainville Island. Hill 260 featured a huge hollowed-out Banyan tree whose circumference was so great that men could climb up inside its trunk and use it as an artillery spotting post. This "Million Dollar Tree" made

Hill 260 valuable for both the Japanese and U.S. troops. One of Alfred's best buddies, another medic from his Company, was killed during heavy fighting for control of this hill. The man's fellow soldiers buried him in a foxhole and marked it with a rifle, to enable the Quartermaster to retrieve the body when the fighting was over. But then our troops got orders to pull back, and the enemy ruined all the markers which were left behind. When our troops were able to advance again, they couldn't find any graves. Alfred went looking for his friend's body, but never found it.

Through it all, Alfred carried a picture of Frances in his wallet. Stained and worn, the wallet no longer gave off the smell of leather Alfred savored when he bought it in Italy, and the snap which used to hold it closed had long since ripped out of its mounting. Frances's photo was curved and torn on the edges, but where the girl with espresso-colored hair and eyes which reminded Alfred of the chocolate she favored stood in the center, the photograph remained unscathed. Her smile shone out brilliantly whenever he needed some sunshine.

When Alfred's tour ended, Frances was still single. Two local boys had asked for her hand in marriage during the years in which Alfred was gone. She turned them both away, naturally, because her heart belonged to Alfred. Even though he hadn't asked her to, she was waiting for him to come home. They were married in April of 1945.

Like most of that great generation, Alfred put the topic of his service aside to make a living and help Frances raise the four children with whom they were blessed. He continued his career as an engineer on a commercial fishing boat out of Gloucester harbor, and then moved to a 'shore job' as a machinist at Cape Ann Tool until his retirement in 1984.

I remember clearly the day we headed down the cellar to open a box of his wartime souvenirs. Here were negatives and odd-sized photos, along with a bracelet he had made of island coins, beautiful in both its symbolism and symmetry. We unearthed and restored a picture frame he had fashioned for my grandmother-to-be out of the aluminum of a downed Japanese fighter plane. It was inscribed with her name, and Frances was speechless when she finally received it. The frame now sits on their mantle, holding a period photograph of the two of them which we developed from Alfred's collection of negatives. The box also contained his diaries, tiny little pocket-sized books with cramped writing, from which the above quotes are taken.

And at the bottom, lining the box was the tee shirt. Reverently, I lifted the shirt out of the box and held it to my face. I inhaled deeply, trying to discover some trace scent that would take me back to that innocent, romantic young man, the one who had hoped to put in his time as a draftee and get back to the business of life.



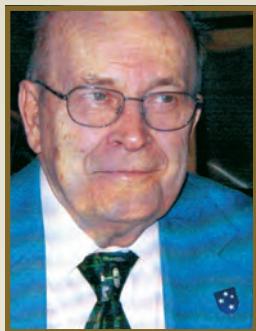
Alfred Piscitello at wars end with Frances



Alfred Piscitello Today

Memories of Humor in Uniform

By Leonard M. Owczarzak



Every G.I. in every war, no matter how serious the battle or losses incurred, could not have continued if somewhere along the line a little bit of humor had not been injected into the most serious of situations.

Many of these events transpired when raw and inexperienced recruits were subjected to the rigors of the learning and indoctrination involved in basic training. There were all manner of daily tasks, KP or latrine duty, orders to follow and rigorous training which could involve addressing down by a tough First Sergeant, or being gigged by an officer during inspection. Your so-called "buddy" had stuffed a cleaning patch down the barrel of your rifle or loosened a bolt that had a part of your rifle landing on the parade ground when you brought your rifle up for inspection!

Not too many young G.I.'s were used to being rudely awakened at 5:00AM every morning, mopping the barracks floor, trying to find an empty sink to shave or an unoccupied toilet, all the while the First Sergeant is bellowing "You jerks better get in line for roll call, rat now!!!" Your reward for all of this was a gourmet breakfast consisting of S.O.S., doughboy hot cakes and watered down coffee.

Orientation lectures could be torture. Squatting on the lawn in the hot sun between the barracks and trying to keep awake as the Non Com went on and on with his boring lecture. It would not have been so bad if you had not been on pass the night before, getting back to the barracks at 3:00AM, only to fall through your bunk because another "buddy" had removed some links in the bed spring after short-sheeting the upper bunk!

The firing range was quite an experience for some of the city boys, many who had never held or fired a rifle. The country boys were able to show their expertise with any kind of weapon, having grown up hunting in the country. The rumor surfaced that it would not be too wise to get too good of a score on the range as you might get assigned to an infantry unit as a sniper!

You had to have a military driver's license to drive any military vehicle. City boys were good drivers because they learned how to dodge traffic in the city, but it was the country boys that knew how to keep them running!

Having passed all the tests, someone higher up decided to give you first class accommodations on a tramp steamer or an old C-47 to get you to a tropical paradise, a very hot dessert or a freezing cold mountain range or forest! Trying to outwit some of the natives or residents of these areas could be quite a challenge. You might think of these foreigners as a strange with a lot of funny customs. They thought of us as "Crazy Americans". I once saw an islander roll over in laughter watching a G.I. trying to open a coconut with a bayonet!

American G.I.'s survived many wars and battles because they were dedicated, brave and able to improvise. They also had that extra weapon the enemy did not have, the ability to use humor in the most trying of situations.

On The Way to War

When our unit was on the way to the South Pacific the most important event, next to entering the war zone, was crossing the equator and becoming POLYWOGS as part of Navy tradition.

Our unit commander was a very liberal person and all though boot camp and basic training he emphasized that as long as we kept our hair in a reasonably trimmed and neat condition, we would not be required to have G.I. or brush cuts.

My best buddy, Fritz Schultz, was very proud of his wavy, blond hair. He felt it was his crowning glory. He was very concerned that when our group was called to go through the initiation ceremony as Polywogs, the Navy personnel would cut or chop out parts of his hair. To avoid this he asked me to cut a crown of hair, about four inches in diameter, out of the back of his head. He reasoned that when he came on the deck the Navy servicemen doing the initiating would think he had already passed through the line, and he would not suffer any further damage to his hair.

Of course I was only too happy to comply with his request. About five minutes later after I cut Fritz's hair, our First Sergeant came down to our hold and announced there would not be any further initiation because the ship's sickbay was already full with the previous initiates. Fritz never forgave me for the bald spot that he carried throughout the war and until he left the service.

I Can Get It For You Wholesale"

Just about every unit in the service had their con-man, finagler or hustler. They could get you things that were rationed or hard to get. It might be for friendship but it usually came at a price.

We were fortunate to have in our gun battery Pvt. Eugene D. Withrow in charge of our "procurement." If our Mess Sergeant was running short of some items, Withrow was put in charge of the truck going down to the ration dump. He'd pick up everything the mess needed plus some "extra goodies" that might be available for bartering later.

When someone developed a thirst for the "hard stuff" Withrow just happened to know some southern boys who were making some very fine raison jack or white lightening. If your taste was for some Jack Daniels, Seagram's 7, Scotch, etc. he could get it, even though the going price for a fifth was \$50 or \$60. The list goes on; combat boots, toilet articles, candy, gum, cigarettes or cigars. Any shortage was a challenge to Withrow.

Withrow was born and raised in a small town in West Virginia and he left home at an early age because of "family-problems." He served with our anti-aircraft battery on December 7, 1941 at the ripe old age of 17. He was a good soldier, short, wiry and tough. During air raids on Guadalcanal and Bougainville every gun sergeant wanted Withrow on his crew because no one could match the speed in which he could pass the ammo. In the Philippines he was the one you took on patrols because he could "smell" an ambush. I always wondered what Withrow wound up selling after the war?

The Face of the Enemy:

Mines & Booby Traps

By David W. Taylor – ADVA WWII Historian

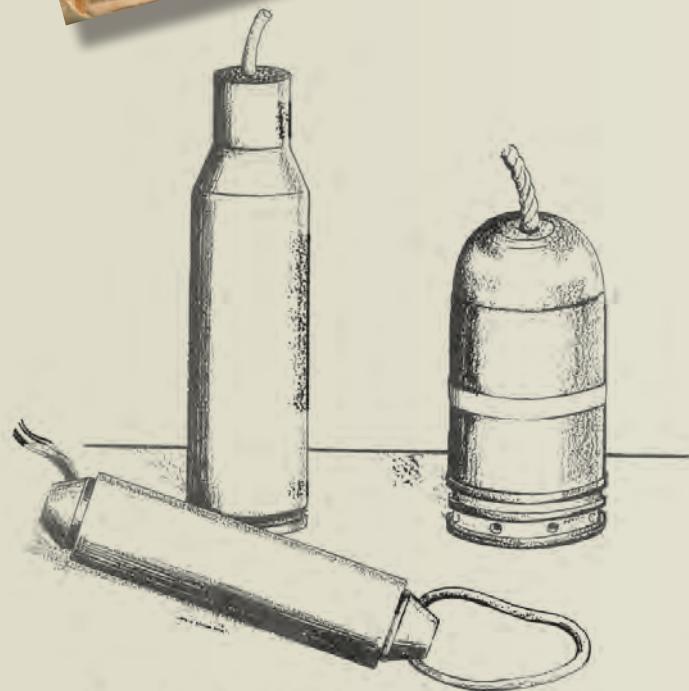
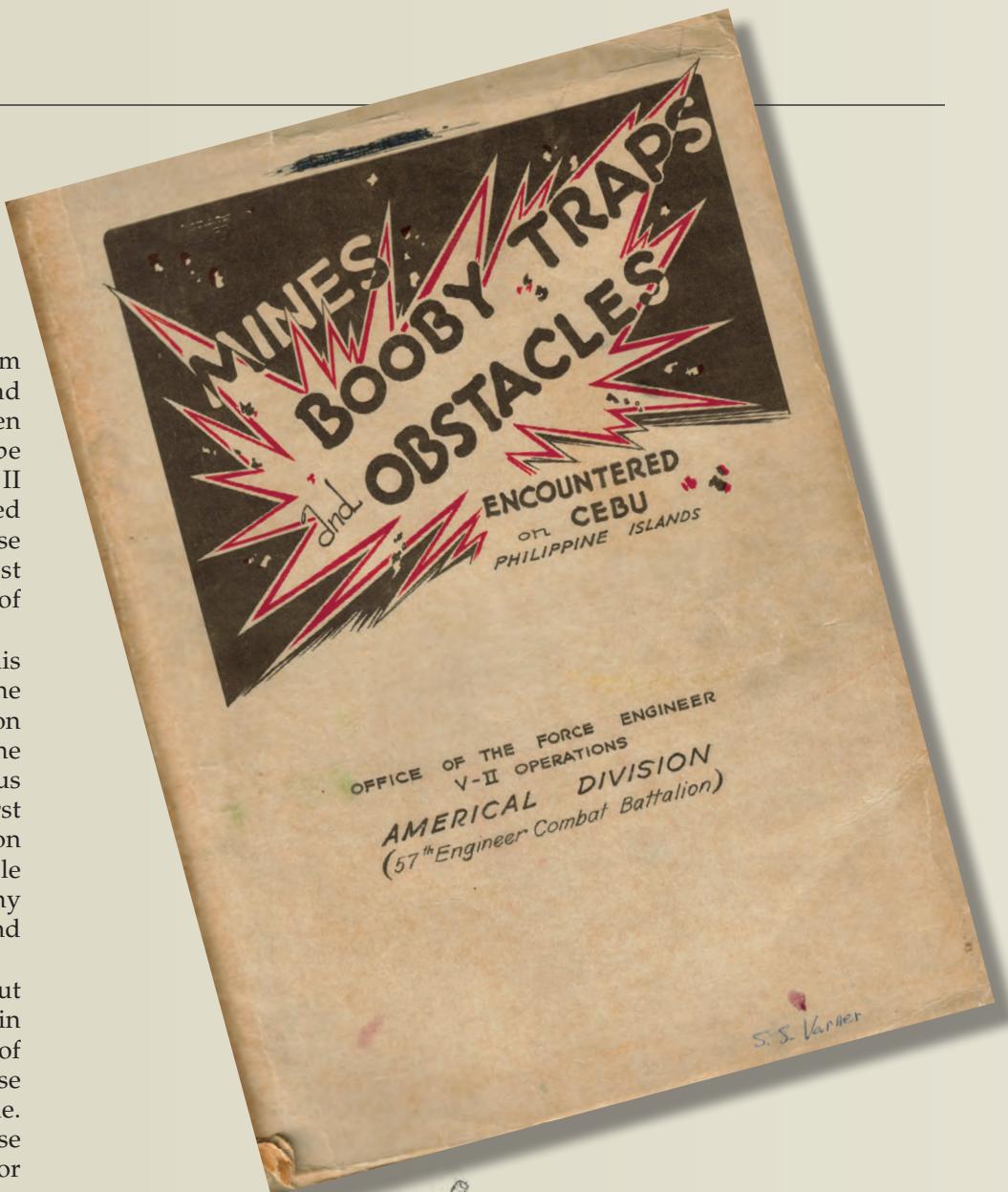
America soldiers in Vietnam faced the scourge of mines and booby traps set by an often unseen enemy. America Vietnam vets may be surprised to learn their World War II comrades faced numerous improvised mines and booby-traps from Japanese soldiers as a means of defense against the advancing American soldiers of the Southern Cross.

Some excellent examples of this deadly tactic by the enemy are the mines and booby traps encountered on Cebu in the Philippine Islands after the America Division made its amphibious landing to liberate the island. The first wave of landing craft coming ashore on the beach encountered a considerable number of mines which damaged many of the LVT's carrying the soldiers and there were many casualties.

The mines encountered throughout the Cebu operation were numerous in quantity and types. The use of mines of standard manufacture by the Japanese was the exception rather than the rule. Most were improvised and Japanese soldiers used everything from nails for strikers to water pipes for grenades.

The diagrams on the pages which follow are part of a 56-page document entitled "Mines, Booby Traps and Obstacles Encountered in Cebu, Philippine Islands." This document was prepared by the 57th Engineer Combat Battalion, under the auspices of the Office of the Force Engineer, V-II Operations. It was prepared for reproduction by The Engineer, Eighth Army and reproduced by the 67th Engineer Topographic Company in July 1945.

An original copy of this document was provided to me by Siegel "Bob" Varner, whose World War II autobiography appeared in the four quarterly issues of the ADVA Newsletter in 2006. I am most grateful for Bob providing this rare document. More images will appear in subsequent issues of the America Journal.

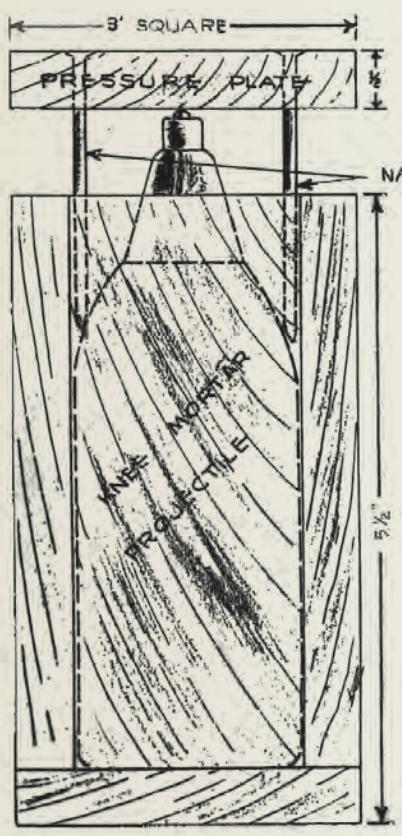


IMPROVISED JAP HAND GRENADES

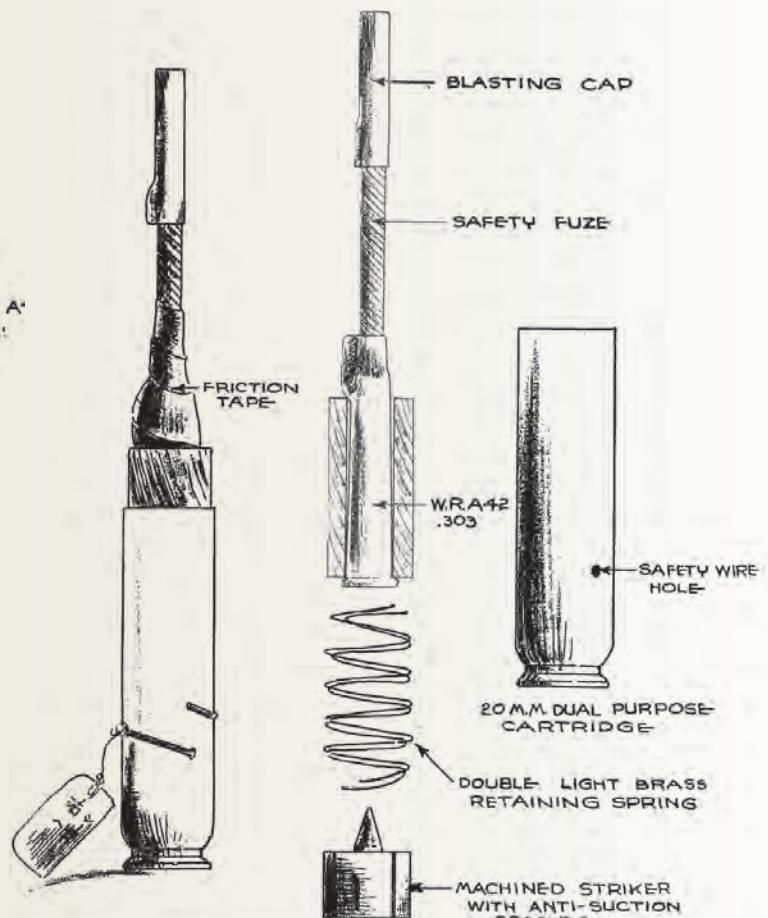


THIS 50KG JAP ARMY BOMB HAS BEEN FUZED WITH AN ELECTRICAL BLASTING CAP.

SEVERAL BOMBS FUZED IN THIS MANNER WERE FOUND IN THE CONSOLACION AREA BURIED HORIZONTALLY WITH THE ELECTRICAL WIRES LEADING TO CONCEALED POINTS OF OBSERVATION.



JAP BOOBY TRAP
FOUND NEAR DUMAGUETE NE 1941

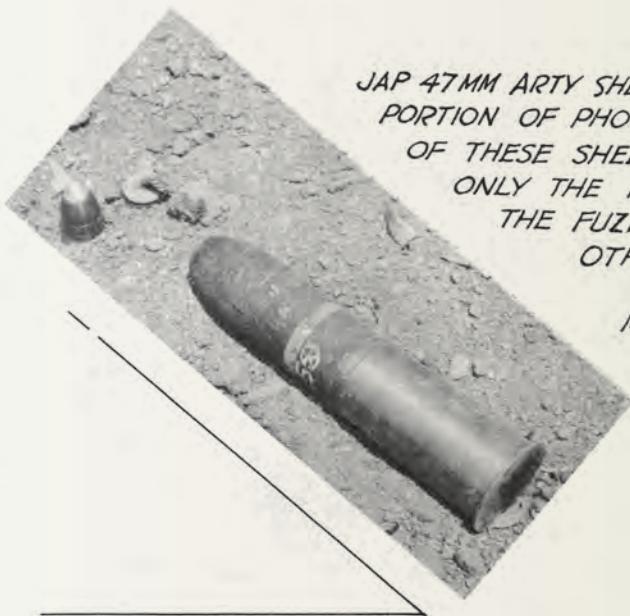


JAP INERTIA DETONATOR

**Do with less-
so they'll have
enough!**



RATIONING GIVES YOU YOUR FAIR SHARE



JAP 47MM ARTY SHELL. THE UPPER PORTION OF PHOTO SHOWS TWO OF THESE SHELLS BURIED WITH ONLY THE FUZE OF ONE AND THE FUZE-WELL PLUG OF OTHER EXPOSED. THE SHAPE AND MARKING OF THE SHELL IS ILLUSTRATED AT RIGHT



TWO 47MM ARTY SHELLS PAIRED UNDER SAME PRESSURE BOARD. MANY MINED AREAS CONSISTING OF 15-20 PAIRS OF SHELLS WERE FOUND IN CONSOLACION AREA. NO DEFINITE PATTERN WAS ADOPTED BUT THE SHELLS WERE SPACED ABOUT 5 FT. APART. THE AREAS MINED WERE USUALLY ROAD INTERSECTIONS AND IN ONE INSTANCE, A NARROW STRETCH OF ROAD FLANKED ON BOTH SIDES BY RICE PADDIES.



THIS 50KG JAP ARMY BOMB HAS BEEN FUZED WITH AN ELECTRICAL BLASTING CAP.

SEVERAL BOMBS FUZED IN THIS MANNER WERE FOUND IN THE CONSOLACION AREA BURIED HORIZONTALLY WITH THE ELECTRICAL WIRES LEADING TO CONCEALED POINTS OF OBSERVATION.

MANY TYPES OF WOODEN BOX MINES AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN FOUND THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION. THE TWO EXHIBITS AT THE EXTREME LEFT ARE LAND MINES FILLED WITH MOLDED PICRIC ACID AND FUZED WITH LARGE TYPE JAP BLASTING CAPS AND NAIL-STRIKERS.



THE SMALL BOX IN THE CENTER HOUSES A FUZED KNEE MORTAR SHELL.

THE REMAINING BOX CHARGES, (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE FUZED WITH TYPE A-3-A BOMB FUZE AND STRIKER, -FLASH CAP - SAFETY FUZE AND THE LAST TWO - BLASTING CAP FUZES.



JAP 77MM ARTY SHELLS. THE LARGEST NUMBER OF THESE SHELLS USED AS MINES WERE ENCOUNTERED ON GREEN BEACH. HERE THE FUZES WERE COVERED WITH INVERTED WOODEN "V" TROUGHS ABOUT 6 INCHES ON A SIDE AND 2 FEET LONG.

THESE WERE TO ACT AS PRESSURE BOARDS. IN PHOTO THE FUZE OF THE BURIED SHELL IN FOREGROUND IS EASILY DETECTED WHILE THE ALUMINUM PRESSURE SHAFT IS THE ONLY VISIBLE PORTION OF SHELL BURIED IN BACKGROUND.



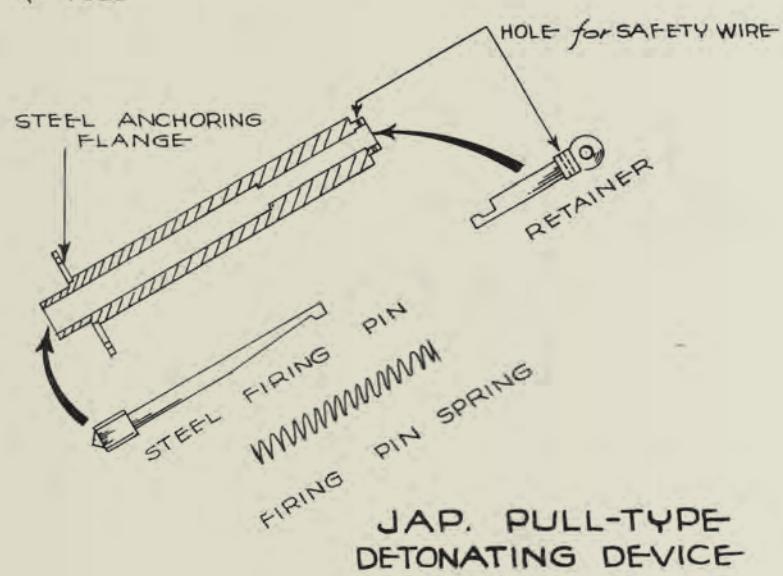
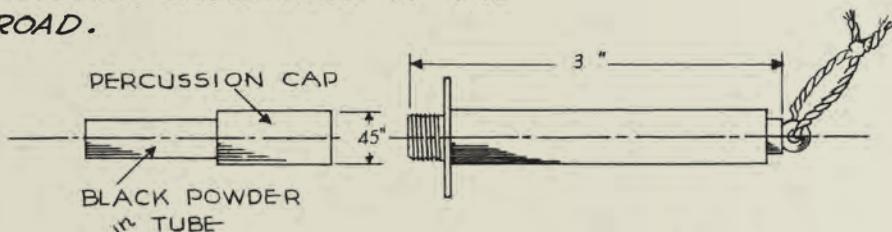


50KG NAVAL AERIAL BOMB. TO THE LEFT OF PHOTO ILLUSTRATES HOW BOMB WAS BURIED TAIL DOWN AND FUZED WITH A MODIFIED TYPE A-3-A BOMB FUZE.

THE SHEAR WIRE OF THE FUZE HAS BEEN REMOVED AND REPLACED BY A PIN AND PULL WIRE. THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE STRIKER IS PROVIDED BY RUBBER BANDS DRAWN TIGHTLY OVER THE FUZE COVER.

THE FUZE MODIFIED IN THIS MANNER IS PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO BE DETONATED BY AN OBSERVER BUT MAY ALSO FUNCTION AS A PRESSURE FUZE.

THE MAJORITY OF THESE BOMBS USED AS MINES WERE FOUND IN THE GUADALUPE SECTOR - AROUND BRIDGE APPROACHES, IN CORAL PITS, AND ALONG SHOULDERS OF THE GUADALUPE ROAD.





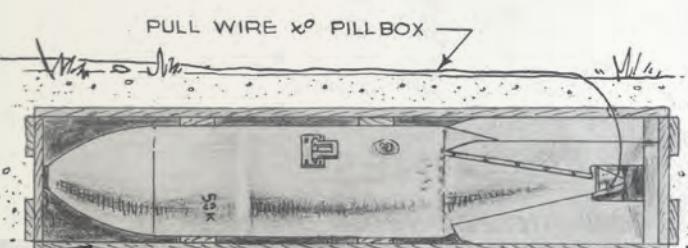
NEAR CONSOLACION A 47MM SHELL, TWO SECTIONS OF BANG-ALORE TORPEDO AND A 50KG ARMY BOMB WERE FOUND BURIED IN RELATIVE POSITIONS AS SHOWN IN PHOTO.



THE SHELL AND BOMB HAD ARMED NOSE FUZES. IT WAS INTENDED THAT SYMPATHETIC DETONATION FROM THE ARTILLERY SHELL WOULD DETONATE THE BANGALORE TORPEDO WHICH IN TURN WOULD DETONATE THE AERIAL BOMB. --

IT IS VERY DOUBTFUL THAT THE BANGALORE TORPEDO WOULD BE DETONATED IN THIS MANNER.

REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK, RR RAIL AND BARBED WIRE TYPE ROAD BLOCK FOUND IN CEBU CITY AND ADJACENT AREAS.



50kg ARMY BOMB & POINT x BELOW



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.

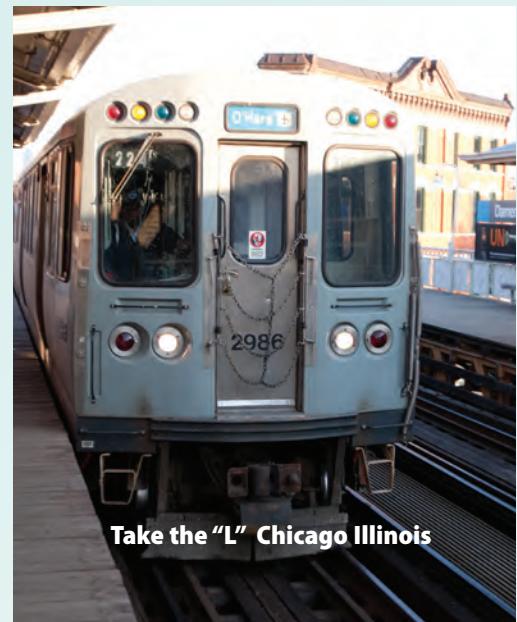
The restaurant at the Visitors Center will be for our exclusive use for lunch. ADVA members can tour the grounds at their leisure and have a buffet lunch (included in the tour price) at your leisure.

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!



Downtown Chicago



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**



AMERICAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION PX

www.americal.org/px/





See AMERICAL PX at www.americal.org

Phone 336.621.8756

ADVA PX Order Form

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2302	ADVA Patch	\$4.50			
2303	Americal Shoulder Patch (Blue)	\$4.50			
2304	Americal Shoulder Patch (Subdued)	\$4.50			
2305	ADVA Sticker	\$3.00			
2306	American Flag Patch	\$4.50			
2307	ADVA License Plate	\$8.00			
2308	Americal Shield Pin (Large)	\$4.50			
2309	Americal Crest Pin	\$4.50			
2310	ADVA Window Decal	\$3.00			
2311	Americal Lapel (Small)	\$4.50			
2313	CIB Mini	\$5.00			
2314	CMB Mini	\$5.00			
2315	(A)182nd (B)11th (C)196th (D)198th Crest Pins	\$4.50			
2316	Baseball Cap - White (1 size fits all)	\$14.00			
2317	Baseball Cap - Khaki (1 size fits all)	\$14.00			
2318	T-Shirt, ADVA Gray (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$18.00			
2320	Americal black License Plate Holder	\$5.00			
2321	Americal Koozie	\$3.00			
2322	Americal Luggage Spotter ***2 for 9.00	\$5.00			
2323	Americal Division History - DVD	\$15.00			
2324	Under the Southern Cross - Book	\$15.00			
2325	Why Didn't You Get Me Out - Book	\$15.00			
2326	Baseball Cap - Spec Blue or Black (1 size fits all)	\$14.00			
2327	Americal Coffee Mug NEW	\$9.50			
2328	Americal Grey Sweatshirt (Med, Lg,XL,XXL)	\$35.00			
2329	ADVA Challenge Coin`	\$10.00			
2330	Americal Division polo shirt, Lt Blue (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$28.00			
2331	Americal flag w/grommets	\$46.00			
2332	T-Shirt Americal Brigades (Med, Lg,XL,XXL)	\$18.00			
2333	Americal Nylon Wallet	\$6.00			
2334	Americal Tie	\$23.00			
2335	Americal Umbrella NEW	\$14.00			
2336	ADVA Pen black	\$7.00			

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Application For Membership /Change of Address American Division Veterans Association

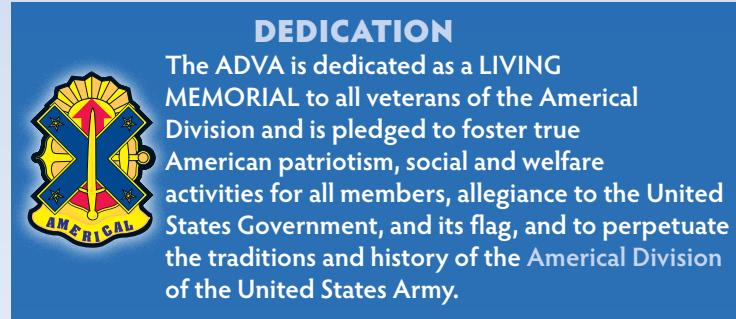
Send applications and dues to:
PNC Ron Ellis, Asst. Fin. Officer
4493 Highway 64 W
Henderson, Texas 75652

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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



DEDICATION

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

American Unit: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sponsored By: _____

DD214 (Optional): _____

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

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