

January • February • March *2011*



AMERICAL JOURNAL

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



WINTERFEST

**New Glarus Wisconsin
25th Anniversary**

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Americal

JOURNAL

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

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Commanders Comments

By Jay Flanagan



National Reunion

The ADVA National Reunion will be held September 8-11, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. The hotel is only minutes away from the Colorado Springs airport and free airport transportation is available. Tom Packard is the reunion chair. See additional information on pages 16-17 of this issue.

For 2012 there are currently four sites looking to put together a proposal for our reunion: Bowling Green, KY; Nashville, TN; Indianapolis, IN; and Northern New Jersey. Should anyone else wish to propose putting together our reunion for 2012, don't be shy. The more choices we have the better a chance of receiving an interesting site and activities.

Veterans Affairs

Another new program from the Veterans Administration in New Jersey just came to my attention early in the year. The Veterans Connection Community Living Program, sponsored by the VA and administered through Morris County, is a pilot program designed to help veterans of any age who are at risk of being placed in a nursing home.

The program provides veterans and their caregivers with financial assistance to access long-term care services. Maria Bozzone, for example, is paid to take care of her husband, and when she has to leave the house she can cover the cost of an aide. "The services we can provide in home are much cheaper than what it would cost to have someone in a nursing home," said Theresa Davis, director of the Morris County Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans. "The consumer will choose and manage the right combination of services." The VA is hoping to open up the program to most of northern New Jersey by the end of the year.

Davis said 18 Morris County veterans have so far taken advantage of the program, including Julius Sabatini, a World War II veteran who fought in North Africa and Europe. Sabatini, 89, lives with his son in Roxbury and is immobile. He has a feeding tube and requires constant care. "This is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," said his son Raymond. "I started to have a rough time, I started to feel I had the world on my shoulders."

The program is able to provide Sabatini with financial assistance that he said has made a world of difference and allowed him to keep his father at home. "I found that I give him the best care and I know my father would do the same for me," Sabatini said. "I'm grateful for this program."

To be eligible to participate, an individual must reside in one of the eligible counties, be enrolled in the VA's healthcare system, and be at risk of nursing home placement. If this proves to be a worthy program I hope it spreads quickly for all veterans.

Facebook

The Facebook page for the Americal Division Veterans Association has acquired quite a few new members since the last journal. Last issue we had 23 members on the site and as of January 2011 we have 101 members. I send thanks to Mark Deam for his help. After seeing my message last quarter he sent out an email to the Eastern Region Chapter and we received a great response from them. Go to www.americal.org and click the link to the Facebook page.

Legacy Committee

There has been progress in raising funds for the monument at the Fort Benning, GA Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum. We still have a long way to go and appreciate any contributions. Knife purchases have gone well and we appreciate any assistance any member is willing to make. This is for your legacy and that of the Division. Please do what you may to help.

Recruiting

Do you know of an Americal veteran who is not yet a member? I do and have about a 50% success rate in recruiting them to the ADVA. With annual dues at \$15.00 and the benefit of finding other friends, learning more of our history and the great newsletter, I don't understand why the others don't join us. When I found the Association way back when, it was a no brainer for me. Do you have the same experience? Please keep trying and hopefully we'll eventually get them to join.

VA Posts Annual Medical Quality Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued the 2010 annual VA Facility Quality and Safety Report on January 5. This reports on VA health care for Congressional review and offers veterans the opportunity to see the quality and safety findings specific to their VA medical center.

"We believe in our mission to provide the best care anywhere for Veterans," said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel. "This posted report shows we are providing high quality overall and identifies the areas where we have opportunities to improve." This is the third year VA is posting the annual report and the second year to do so voluntarily. You may find the report at: <http://www1.va.gov/health/HospitalReportCard.asp>.



Cover: Color Guard gets positioned for the famous Friday evening parade in New Glarus Wisconsin. This was the 25th get together of veterans. *Photography: Dutch DeGroot*

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

I want to begin my adjutant column by wishing all ADVA members and Americal Division vets a belated Happy New Year. May all have a happy and healthy 2011.

The association experienced very good membership gains during the past quarter. For the three months ending January 31, 2011 we added one hundred and one new members. The big boost in new members came at the annual reunion in October where we picked up thirty-four new members. These members paid the additional fifteen dollars as part of registration to get their first year ADVA membership. These members can be identified in the new member listing with the words Chicago Reunion as their sponsor. Of the one hundred and one new members added, seven joined as life members.

Fourteen annual pay members upgraded their ADVA membership to Life Member status during this quarter. Seven former members were re-instated to the membership roster. Three of our new members for this period are World War II veterans.

ADVA members were busy recruiting new members during the past three months. Members Wayne Bryant, Ronald Ellis, Chris Collins, Robert Peterson and James Tarver sponsored new members and paid for their first year's dues.

For January 2011 annual pay members, be advised your dues renewal notice and new membership card were mailed December 29, 2010. If you have not received your annual renewal notice, please contact me and I will re-mail the notice and membership card. If you are unsure about your renewal date or membership status, please contact me and I'll confirm the status. Each issue of the Americal Journal lists your annual pay renewal date in the address box on the back cover. However, the Fourth Quarter 2010 issue did not list renewal dates. We will have that corrected on this issue of the journal.

If you would like to pay your dues by credit card, we accept the MasterCard credit card for dues payment. Please contact our Product Sales Manager, Wayne Bryant, to arrange payment by credit card. You will need to provide Wayne with your complete card billing information when paying by credit card. See the staff directory on the inside front cover for Wayne's contact information.

Another option for annual pay members is an upgrade to ADVA Life membership. The cost to upgrade to Life member status is \$165.00 for members under the age of 75. If you are over the age 75, the cost is \$75.00.

Let's all work to make 2011 the best recruiting year ever for ADVA. Contact that Americal veteran buddy who is not an ADVA member and encourage him to join today.

ADVA MEMEBERSHIP

January 31, 2011

World War II	499
Vietnam	2,470
Cold War	9
Associate Members:	179
Total Members	3,157

New Members

Luis Arauz

11th LIB D/3/1st Inf
Fresh Meadows, NY
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Jerry D. Austin

198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Cummings, GA
★ *PNC David Taylor*

Joe Callahan

3/16th FA B Btry
Manhattan, KS
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Raul Calvillo

11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Villa Park, IL
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Richard Carlson

11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Laurel, NE
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Franklin Carpenter

1/1st Cav
Felch, MI
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Robert J. Cecil

11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
Excelsior Springs, MO
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Brent Chapin

11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
Oshkosh, WI
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Melvin Cheromiah

198th LIB B/1/6th Inf
New Laguna, NM
★ *Chris Collins*

Jack D. Cloud

198th LIB HHC
Las Vegas, NV
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Clyde Curtis

196th LIB
New Llano, LA
★ *James Tarver*

Bruce E. Daily

196th LIB HHC
Seabeck, WA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Joe D'Aleo

11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Durango, CO
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Charles H. Davis

11th LIB D/1/20th Inf
Boston, MA
★ *PNC David Taylor*

Herman L. Delk, Sr.

6/56th Arty HHB
Petersburg, VA
★ *Willie Macon*

Daniel Denke

198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Aurora, CO
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Daniel J. Eckles

198th LIB D/1/52nd Inf
Wilton, NY
★ *Paul Carmel*

Edward E. Fox

3/18th FA
Lititz, PA
★ *Robert L. Phillips*

Lenard Frazier

11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Columbus, OH
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Jessie O. Gause

198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Elizabethtown, NC
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Jimmy O. Gonzales

3/82nd Arty HHB
Tucson, AZ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Richard Graves

1/1st Cav HHQ Trp
Deer Mountain, UT
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Edward A. Griffith

196th LIB 3/82nd Arty
Chenango Forks, NY
★ *Self*

Raleigh J. Guillory

198th LIB D/1/52nd Inf
Hessmer, LA
★ *Self*

James R. Hall, Jr.

1/1st Cav
Tucson, AZ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Allen Hendrickson

11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Phoenix, AZ
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Don Hicks

196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Franklin, KY
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Charles Hildebrandt

17th Cav H Trp
New Castle, IN
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Gerald J. Hughes

196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Key West, FL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Gilbert Hull

635th MI Det HHC
Bellevue, NE
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Charles B. Humphreys

182nd Inf Rgmt
Humboldt, TX
★ *Self*

Ira D. Ingram

1/1st Cav
Mt. Sterling, KY
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Charles Jackson

3/16th Arty
Centennial, CO
★ *Self*

Patrick Kenny

723rd Maint Bn
Webster, KY
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Gregory T. Klaith

198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Salisbury, NC
★ *PNC David Taylor*

Gerald Komnick
196th LIB
Clinton, IL
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Donald K. Kramer
174th ASHC
Ankeny, IA
★ *Bill Campbell*

Charles J. Kroeger
196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Glenco, MN
★ *PNC Ronald R. Ellis*

Ronald Lee
198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Moline, IL
★ *Chicago Reunion*

John Lessick
1/1st Cav C Trp
Celina, OH
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Thomas Lightner
3/16th FA
Vista, CA
★ *Self*

Anthony Lombardo
723rd Ord
Pawcatuck, CT
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Danny F. Long
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Dallas, PA
★ *PNC David Taylor*

Dennis R. Longo, Sr.
198th LIB 6th Spt Bn
Gilmanton, NH
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Tom Lorch
No Unit Listed
Crosslake, MN
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Lester Malanowski
57th Sct Dog Plt
Bokeelia, FL
★ *Self*

Oscar Maldonado
Div Arty
Odessa, TX
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Michael H. Manor
1/14th Arty D Btry
Plano, TX
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Edward Marrs
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Colorado Springs, CO
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Courtney E. Martin, Jr.
26th Engr Bn Co C
Tigerville, SC
★ *Gary L. Schafer*

Richard W. Maychrich
198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
Manville, NJ
★ *PNC David Taylor*

Francis J. McCaa
163rd MI Det
Williamsburg, PA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Richard McCariten
1/1st Cav
Clover, SC
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Jerome Meyer
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
San Leandro, CA
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Charles H. Moe
196th LIB A/1/46th Inf
Wagoner, OK
★ *Bill Schneider*

Clarence A. Monk
3/82nd Arty
Quitman, GA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Ralph Moran, Jr.
1/14th Arty Btry A
Lawton, OK
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Bruce Neilsen
196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Sand Lake, MI
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Ronald R. Ogbin
523rd Sig Bn Co B
Pennsville, NJ
★ *Frank Hofacker*

Glenn A. Ogle
Div Aviation
Belton, TX
★ *Self*

Jack Pow
No Unit Listed
Tuscaloosa, AL
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Harlan Prieve
198th LIB D/1/6th Inf
Colorado Springs, CO
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Lawrence Ranek
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Edwardsville, IL
★ *Chicago Reunion*

James R. Rhode
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Land O' Lakes, WI
★ *PNC David Taylor*

Rafael L. Rivera-Diaz, Sr.
198th LIB C/1/52nd Inf
Peoria, AZ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Arthur Rollins
198th LIB B/1/6th Inf
Rutherford, NC
★ *Chris Collins*

Michael Saponaro
3/82nd Arty Btry B
Conowingo, MD
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Gary Schroeder
11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
Juno Beach, FL
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Harvey Schwab
132nd ASHC
Bessemer, AL
★ *Bill McRae*

Michael Scrip
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Charleroi, PA
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Steve Sendobry
196th LIB A/4/31st Inf
N Salt Lake City, UT
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Daniel J. Shoplock
178th ASHC
Attalia, AL
★ *Bill McRae*

David J. Sims
198th LIB D/5/46th Inf
Burlington, NC
★ *PNC David Taylor*

John E. Slough
198th LIB 635th MI Det
Charlottesville, VA
★ *James E. Lions*

James R. Smith, Jr.
3/82nd Arty HHB
Reading, MA
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Stanley Stirling
198th LIB
Spokane, WA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Evan Sudweeks
196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Kingston, UT
★ *Wayne Bryant*

James Taylor
1/82nd Arty
Berrien Springs, MI
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Larry W. Taylor
No Unit Listed
Kosciusko, MS
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Gerry Thacker
11th LIB A/4/3rd Inf
Sun City, CA
★ *Robert Short*

Phillip Thornton
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
LaGrange, KY
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Michael Tierney
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
St Paul, MN
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Jim Triplett
196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Bellingham, WA
★ *Chicago Reunion*

James Van Der Heuvel
1/1st Cav
Seymour, WI
★ *Chicago Reunion*

Timothy Vaughn
523rd Sig Bn Co C
Oakley, CA
★ *Wayne Bryant*

Jimmie L. Williams
198th LIB
Leesville, LA
★ *James Tarver*

Gordon J. Wilson
3/16th Arty A Btry
Okemos, MI
★ *Self*

Robert C. Winstead
11th LIB A/3/1st Inf
Sandia, TX
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Shiu Young
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Eden Prairie, MN
★ *Chicago Reunion*
New Paid Life Members

Tommy H. Carter
1/82nd Arty A Btry
Brunswick, OH
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Jack Dayan
164th Inf Rgmt
Tampa, FL
★ *Wayne Bryant*

Gary R. Englert
14th Avn Bn HHC
West Orange, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Raymond L. Gage
132nd Inf Rgmt Co A
Palantine Bridge, NY
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Jay M. Gjerstad
39th Cmbt Engrs
Indianola, IA
★ *Bill Campbell*

Kenny Glaenzer198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Waterloo, IL★ *Robert A. Peterson***Ronald Vincent**196th LIB C/4/31st Inf
Barnum, IA★ *Self***Robert F. Allen, Jr.**1/1st Cav
Columbia, SC★ *NC Jay Flanagan***Edward Buttlar**Americal Div HDQ
Valparaiso, IN★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***Tom Crane**196th LIB 1/46th Inf
Meredith, NH★ *Self***Ted Dima**196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Hillsborough, NJ★ *Self***Dennis Esterline**11th LIB E/4/3rd Inf
Villas, NJ★ *Larry Barnes***Harold Fittry**1/1st Cav
Chambersburg, PA★ *PNC David Taylor***Dempsey D. Gottschalk**1/14th Arty
Kansas City, MO★ *Bernie Chase***Charles P. Graves**26th Cmbt Engrs
Maryville, TN★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***David W. Hogan**26th Cmbt Engrs Co B
Lawrenceville, IL★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***James E. Pitra**196th LIB D/2/1st Inf
Holland, PA★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***Richard Ropele**198th LIB E/1/6th Inf
Corona, CA★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***Robert W. Septor**11th LIB A/3/1st Inf
Lake Mary, FL★ *Self***David E. Smith**11th LIB C/3/1st Inf
Soap Lake, WA★ *John W. Anderson***Larry A. Young**11th LIB D/4/3rd Inf
Mayville, ND★ *Self***Re-instated
Members****Gary M. Callahan**198th LIB A/5/46th Inf
West Tawakoni, TX★ *Self***Frederick E. Garman**198th LIB 1/46th Inf
Sun City Center, FL★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***Nolan Hargrave**3/16th Arty A Btry
Centennial, CO★ *Don Ballou***Gerald J. O'Meara**1/56th Inf Rgmt HHC
Schaller, IA★ *Self***Ernest Rodriques**No Unit Listed
Union City, CA★ *Self***Thomas Schubert**No Unit Listed
Gahanna, OH★ *PNC David Taylor***Larry Sullivan**11th LIB HHC
Hollywood, FL★ *Self***New Associate
Members****William T. Bodie**

Leesville, LA

★ *James Tarver***Shane A. Lawson**

Talbott, TN

★ *PNC Gary L. Noller***Roger A. Schysm**

Pitkin, LA

★ *James Tarver***Don A. Scoggins**

Leesville, LA

★ *James Tarver***Mike Spradlin**

Springfield, OH

★ *PNC David Taylor***TAPS****World War II
Veterans****William Tucker**164th Inf Rgmt Co M
Edmond, OK

January 4, 2011

Carmine De Silva182nd Inf Rgmt
Lakeworth, FL

May 24, 2010

Randall Kelley182nd Inf Rgmt Co C
Flint, MI

December 8, 2010

Douglas F. Surette182nd Inf Rgmt Co I
Stoneham, MA

Date Unknown

George E. Tuttle

221st FA

Pelham, NH

November 29, 2010

Victor G. Lander57th Cmbt Engr Bn
Gainseville, FL

December 20, 2010

James R. Carlin57th Cmbt Engr Bn Co A
Greenland, NH

Date Unknown

Joseph M. Salini721st Ord Co
San Diego, CA

March 5, 2010

Vietnam Veterans**Lawrence A. Cote**11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Mohawk, NY

Date Unknown

Rick Andel198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Endicott, NY

March 21, 2010

Marco Capraro

55th Arty

N. Billerica, MA

Date Unknown

Last Roll Call WWII**Nicholas Fanell**

132nd Inf Rgmt

Bridgeport, CT

December 25, 2010

Robert O. Anderson

182nd Inf Rgmt

Fall Creek, WI

October 4, 2010

Jimmie B. Edwards

221st FA

Kerrville, TX

December 22, 2010

John D. Burke

Unit Unknown

Lynn, MA

July 22, 2010

Albert Califuri

Unit Unknown

January 1, 2011

Jerald D. Hinke

Unit Unknown

Racine, WI

December 11, 2010

Bernie Reynolds

Unit Unknown

Bellingham, WA

December 17, 2010

George E. Reynolds

Unit Unknown

North Bend, WA

November 21, 2010

Edwin W. Taylor

Unit Unknown

Hyannis, MA

September 1, 2010

**Last Roll Call
Vietnam****Richard B. Alford**

11th LIB

West Monroe, LA

December 17, 2010

Steven L. Spriggs

11th LIB

Land O' Lakes, FL

January 7, 2011

Scott Griffith

196th LIB B/1/46th Inf

Daphne, AL

December 11, 2010

Danny B. Stevenson

75th Rangers

Homosassa, FL

December 30, 2010

William R. Swartwood

Unit Unknown

Falls Church, VA

November 14, 2010

Legacy Committee Report

By Roger Gilmore

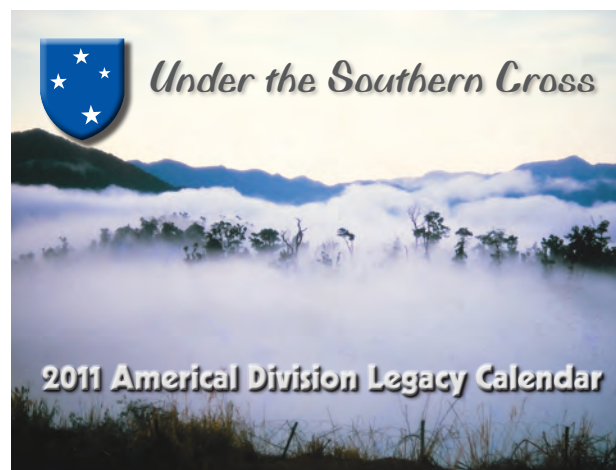
National Infantry Museum Monument Site Relocation

As reported in the last issue of the Americal Journal, the National Infantry Foundation advised us of the need to relocate our monument site at Ft. Benning. The relocation was necessary to comply with environmental and size restrictions related to our monument placement. After viewing the new site this past November, I told the National Infantry Foundation staff we will accept the new monument site.

The new site is very near the original site. It will give our monument the visibility and preferred access we requested at the outset of this program. As a kick off to the monument construction, currently planned for late summer 2011, we have scheduled a groundbreaking ceremony at the monument site in Columbus, Georgia. The ceremony will be held at the same time as the 46th Infantry Regiment Torchlight ceremony and FSB Mary Ann memorial service scheduled for March 27-28, 2011.

ADVA Legacy Committee members will headline the groundbreaking ceremony. All ADVA members and Americal Division veterans attending the 46th Infantry Regiment Torchlight ceremony and FSB Mary Ann memorial service events are welcome attend the groundbreaking.

If you live close to the Columbus, Georgia area please come down on Sunday, March 27th and join us in this historic ADVA event. The groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 4:00pm Sunday with Presentation of the Colors. The ceremony will take place at the Walk Of Honor, just south of the parade field at the National Infantry Museum



Monument Funding – Americal Calendar

Our major fund raiser for 2011, the 2011 Americal Calendar, is off to a rousing start. To date, individual donations in response to the calendar mailing total just over \$17,000.00. This is partially offset by the calendar preparation and mailing costs, which amounted to just over \$6,000.00.

Thanks go out to our creative director Dutch DeGroot and calendar coordinator David Taylor. They did a superb job of pulling all the data and materials together to create this tribute to the Americal Division and the thousands of Americal Division veterans who served in various capacities within the division.

Your individual contribution goes directly into the Legacy Fund. This fund is designated specifically to the construction of the Americal Division monument at the Walk of Honor near the National Infantry Museum in Columbus.

If you have not made a contribution towards this very worthy project, please use the contribution envelope included with the calendar mailing and send your generous donation today. Donations should be sent to PNC Ronald Ellis, Asst. National Finance Officer, 4493 Hwy. 64 W., Henderson, TX 75652.

Remember, this is our LEGACY when we are all gone. Please send your contribution today so we have enough funds to begin construction this year.

Case Commemorative Knives – Order Yours Today

Product Sales Director Wayne Bryant still has an ample supply of Case Commemorative knives available for purchase. This fine Case knife product honors the Americal Division, and one hundred per cent of the sales proceeds now go into the Legacy Fund. Approximately 60 knives of the original 300 remain to be sold. This is a one-time special order and will not be restocked. The supply will most likely be liquidated in the next few months. Send \$75 per knife to Wayne Bryant, Product Sales Director, 4411 Dawn Rd., Greensboro, NC, 27405. Purchases can be made with MasterCard or Visa.

Spread The Word About The Americal

By PNC David W. Taylor



Do you work closely with a veterans reunion, veteran's home, specific VA Hospital, or other veteran groups? We have many past issues of the Americal Journal that we would like to send to places where veterans gather. We would like to get these magazines into the hands of veterans who would enjoy reading the articles and stories.

If you have a personal connection to any group or organization that could use reading materials we are happy to send to you a collection of past Americal Journals for their use. Please do not nominate organizations if you have no personal involvement with them. We do not want to send the magazines to locations where they may be discarded.

We can also send copies directly to you to mail out to Americal veterans that you know. Let them know how they can stay in touch with other veterans through the ADVA and the Americal Journal.

Let's spread awareness of the Americal Division and the ADVA to vets who will enjoy our publication and the information within it. Please contact PNC David Taylor for past issues. He can be reached at 970 Kenner Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256-2908 or e-mail: dwtaylor@ohio.net, phone: 330-723-2517.

Agent Orange Update

By John "Doc" Hofer

The Veterans Administration added B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease, and ischemic heart disease to the list of presumed illnesses recognized by VA as being caused by Agent Orange.

Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness do not have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

VA has offered Veterans exposed to Agent Orange special access to health care since 1978, and priority medical care since 1981. VA has been providing disability compensation to Veterans with medical problems related to Agent Orange since 1985.

Ft. Monroe Chapel Window

By Spencer Baba



In late October 2010 I had the opportunity to visit Fort Monroe in the Newport News area of Virginia. It is an active fort today but there are rumors of it being shut down.

Fort Monroe sits on an island at the confluence of several rivers and has a commanding view of the port. It was held by the Union the entire Civil War. Jefferson Davis was jailed there for several months at the end of the war. One story relates to how one overzealous camp commander had leg irons put on Jefferson Davis. They were quickly removed.

While touring the fort we decided to visit the post chapel. The chapel has a special stained glass window for the Special Forces and one for the Vietnam War. Note the Southern Cross in the upper left side of the window for the latter. The inscription reads: In Honor of Those Who Served and Died Under the US Colors in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam Historian News

By Les Hines

I was sent a copy of the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. photo album that was published in mid-1971. I need some help locating the missing four or more pages at the end of the album.

Perhaps someone has a copy they can scan the missing pages and get this to me? It looks like the missing pages are in the 4/31st Inf. Bn. around the Recon section. It is hard to tell how much is missing without having an index or the original.

The copy I have is provided courtesy of Bill Walker, C/1/46/196. I am also interested in any other unit albums that may exist from the Americal Division in Vietnam.

We are still looking for witnesses from Co. D, 2/1st Infantry that have information regarding the death of Donald P. Sloat, KIA 17 January 1970. Paperwork was submitted for the Medal of Honor for Sloat but it was lost in processing. Thanks to Don Alsbro we were able to locate Thomas M. Green in Michigan. Green was the S-1/Adjutant of 2/1st Inf. in 1969-70. COL (Ret.) Si Nerone, former 2/1st commander, hopes that this will advance our efforts for the MOH award.

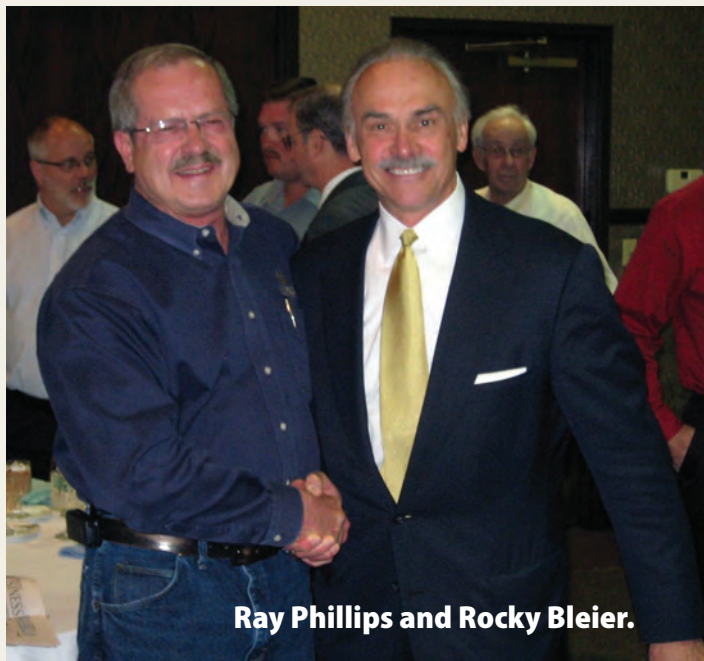
I have been having webinars with Dan Young (1/52nd Inf.). Veterans need to be aware of how much information they have on the 1/52nd Infantry. It is pretty awesome.

We are still developing the concept to convert the Americal Division Tactical Operations Center (TOC) reports to searchable text. We are working on some concepts which may give us the capability to filter the information. With this filter a user can set a search by company or brigade.

Please let me know if you are able to help in any of these areas. Send e-mail to americalhistory@gmail.com or write to 817 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50312; telephone 515-255-4807.

Rocky and Ray

by Ray Phillips



Ray Phillips and Rocky Bleier.

I am a construction administrator with the University of Notre Dame. Rocky Bleier was the guest speaker at our Excellence in Construction Awards luncheon this year. The luncheon consists of architects, owners, and contractors and is held each year to recognize new buildings in the South Bend, IN area and often new construction at the university.

Rocky's and my military time paralleled, but were offset by about a year. I was drafted in 1967, Rocky in 1968. I was part of the 198th Lt. Inf. Bde., Rocky was with the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. I was in Vietnam a few months before being wounded as was Rocky. We were both sent to Zama Hospital in Japan. It was once again a parallel but a year apart.

After the luncheon I introduced myself to Rocky and we started reminiscing about our time in Vietnam and our units in the Americal Division. I guess he and I got caught up in conversation because after we had finished most in attendance had left.

I had heard Rocky speak in the past but it was certainly an honor to meet and talk with a Vietnam veteran that represents us so well.

Editor's note: Ray Phillips served with Co. A, 5/46th Infantry. Rocky Bleier played football for Notre Dame and the Pittsburgh Steelers prior to being drafted into the Army. Bleier was severely wounded near Hiep Duc on August 20, 1968. He recovered and in late 1971 he resumed his professional football career with the Steelers. He played with them for eleven years to include four winning NFL title games: 1974, 1975, 1978, and 1979. He retired after the 1980 season and is now a motivational and keynote speaker.

What War Was It?

by Gary L. Noller

I was recently contacted by an ADVA member with a question regarding the classification of members in the quarterly Adjutant's Notes in this publication. In particular, he asked about the use of the Cold War and not the use of Korean War. I am happy to offer my explanation although I recognize that my explanation will not make everyone happy.

My personal preference was to classify veterans who served with the 23rd Infantry Division in 1954-56 as Korean War veterans. This is due to two facts. The first is that in my discussions with these veterans they often told me that they thought they were headed to Korea when the 23rd Inf. Div. was activated. The second is that the 23rd Inf. Div. was activated during the "official" Korean War era as defined by the Veterans Administration.

PNC Dave Taylor did extensive research into the creation and operation of the 23rd Inf. Div. for the article he wrote for the Americal Journal last year. The research that he completed indicated that the 23rd Inf. Div. was activated as a result of tensions related to the overall Cold War.

Describing 23rd Inf. Div. veterans as Korean War veterans also causes confusion in that some regard this to mean that the 23rd Inf. Div. was an in-country Korea combat unit. It was not. It is also confusing because the 23rd Infantry Regiment was an in-country Korea combat unit and served with distinction as part of the 2nd Infantry Division (Indianhead).

There are undoubtedly ADVA members who served in more than one war. The adjutant's report is to capture information with regard to the war in which veterans served in the Americal Division or the 23rd Infantry Division. This is in no manner an attempt to diminish the veterans who served in the Korean War. They deserve full respect and honor for their service and sacrifices

Scholarship News

The deadline for applications to the Americal Scholarship program is May 1, 2011. Applications must be received by Ron Green, Scholarship Chairman, prior to the deadline.

Members attending the annual meeting in October 2010 voted to change the date of the scholarship application deadline. Beginning in 2012 the application deadline is moved forward to April 1 of each year. This change was made to allow for an earlier completion of the process in the school year. Many high schools have special awards ceremonies for graduating seniors. With the earlier deadline it may be possible that Americal scholarships can be presented at the high school awards ceremonies.

Scholarship award funds are sent directly to the college or university chosen by the scholarship recipient. Funds are expected to be mailed after July 1 of each year and should be available for use prior to the beginning of the new school year.

Award recipients are asked to submit a brief message and photo to the Americal Journal. As of this issue all useable photos have been published. Any 2010 recipient who wishes to have a photo and message published but has not seen it in the journal is asked to contact the Editor-in-Chief. Any remaining photos and messages will be published in the Apr-May-Jun 2011 edition.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL IN MI MN WI

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Gary Gardner
Jr Vice Com.
Harold Waterman



Happy Cold Day!

The 25th Annual Winterfest in New Glarus, WI was again a extremely successful venture that was enjoyed by all who attended. Proud

veterans from 20 states marched side-by-side with their comrades through snow and cold. Their friendships kept them all happy and warm inside.

Constant laughing and joking make for a very good time. The same saying was echoed many times, "I wish I had got together with my fellow veterans many many years ago!" It is good for the mind and soul. To feel free about expressing our emotions and memories of a war gone by, without reservations, is rewarding to say the least.

I have nothing but respect for the veterans that get together for this event. Some are having hard times with medical issues, but they are still super people inside! Can't keep a good man (person) down.

Emily (Donut Dolly) made a wonderful presentation during the banquet that had everyone feeling emotions and caring for fellow veterans. She exemplifies what "Good People" means. Big John had a bad back, but he and the Family Band still played on to the delight of observers.

The weekend seems to go by so fast, and then we all make time for the "Until we see you again"! Come join us next year. What else do you do in the Winter?

The Great Lakes Chapter Meeting produced worthwhile discussion about a variety of subjects. These included health care, new Agent Orange regulations, showing respect and trying to help returning veterans to adjust back to the real world after war, possible Great Lakes Chapter Reunion ideas, and the National Reunion. The fact that everyone attending was a caring person was shown by how the conversation kept going on with worthwhile thoughts.

The 24th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion will be held in Melbourne, FL on May 5-8, 2011. The ADVA National reunion will be September 8-11, 2011 in Colorado Springs, CO. On September 16-18, 2011 we have the 29th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, IN. The 26th Annual Winterfest will be held in January 2012. I hope to see you there. I am very proud to be an Americal veteran! Enjoy the life. "Chao ong". Peace.

FAR WEST CHAPTER

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

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The Far West Chapter is hosting the Americal Division Veterans Association's 2011 Annual Reunion. Tom Packard is the Reunion Chairman and he has been busy setting up the hotel, tours and general itinerary for the event. The reunion will

be headquartered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado from September 8 – 11, 2011. The Far West Chapter reunion will be held in conjunction with the ADVA reunion this year.

Join us Thursday evening for a Western Style "Welcome Buffet" at the hotel. We have a tour of the United States Air Force Academy planned for Friday morning. During the tour we have been granted permission to hold our Memorial Service inside the Cadet Chapel, one of the most beautiful chapels you'll find. After the service, we'll have time to visit the AF Academy Visitors Center before heading to Old Colorado City for lunch, on your own.

Saturday morning starts out with a tour of the Garden of the Gods for those of you not attending the ADVA business meeting at the hotel. Lunch at the Park's Visitors Center is included on this tour as well as a short film on the parks history. The tour ends with a stop at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post, the largest trading post in Colorado. It offers a little bit of everything from trinkets to fine Native American art.

The Far West Chapter annual meeting will take place Saturday afternoon. Our banquet will be held Saturday evening, with a short program and a special guest speaker. Please join us Sunday morning, September 11th, for a church service at the hotel before you head out for the day.

Late summer is a perfect time to visit the Rocky Mountains and Colorado Springs. There are many attractions to visit throughout the area, both in door and out. Make a vacation out of this opportunity by coming out early or staying late to see all the Colorado Springs area has to offer. The road to the top of Pikes Peak is a great thrill for everyone.

The hotel group rate is good both 3 days before and after the reunion. The hotel offers free parking and free shuttle service from the Colorado Springs Airport. The airport is serviced by most of the major airlines. Please complete the registration form located in this issue of the Journal and mail it in if you plan to attend. You'll have a great time.

We'll be looking for onsite volunteers to work the registration desk, the hospitality suite, the tours and anything else that may come up. If you would like to lend a hand, contact Tom Packard at packard50@q.com or 720-635-1900.

It's membership renewal time in the Far West Chapter. All chapter members should have received the chapter newsletter with renewal information in it. If you receive the electronic version of the Cannon, there was a message noting the year your membership expires in the e-mail message announcing the newsletter. If you receive a hard copy, the mailing label will show the year your membership expires. If the year is 2010, then your dues are now due. Make your check payable to the "Far West Chapter" for \$10.00 per year and mail it to Tom Packard, 5215 S. Haleyville Way, Aurora, Colorado, 80016-5903.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

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



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Happy New Year!

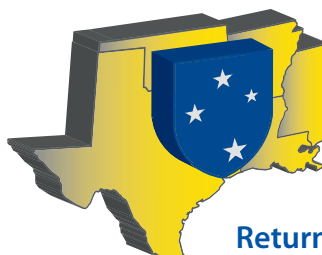
I want to start out and hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope everyone in the eastern region chapter area are surviving the snowy weather.

Deb and I attended veterans homecoming week in Branson, MO during the week of Veterans Day. As usual, the people of Branson made all the veterans feel welcome. All the shows and restaurants had discounts for veterans. There was a welcome center set up with vendors and information for filing claims for service connected problems. The best advice was to get a good service officer to help with the process.

As mentioned in the past issue of the magazine, the East Region will be holding their reunion at the Holiday Inn South in Swedesboro, NJ on May 12-15, 2011. Jack Hass is the chapter reunion chairman. I hope to see everyone there.

SOUTH MIDWEST CHAPTER

AR LA OK TX MS



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Return to Tigarland!

The chapter is at work putting together a reunion at Ft. Polk, LA. Lots of Americal vets trained there, and it will be a great opportunity to renew some fond memories and see the Joint Readiness Training Command at work training today's warriors.

ADVA SMW chapter member James Tarver is drawing on his resources at Leesville, LA to line up some great stuff to include a tour of the post, lunch on site, and, if the schedule doesn't change, a training exercise. But wait, there's more, including a crawfish boil and maybe some Cajun music. If possible, we hope to dedicate a site for a future Americal monument at the brand new VA cemetery being established nearby.

The target date for this shindig is May 20-22, 2011 but we have yet to receive the official blessing from Uncle Sam. You will have to register early (30 days in advance) for security clearance purposes. All Americal vets in the chapter region will receive details as soon as arrangements are confirmed. If you live outside the chapter area and are interested in attending please call or email so you can be added to the distribution list. Updated information will also be on the ADVA website at www.americal.org/reunion.shtml.



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

ADVA Members: Regional and unit chapters allow you to meet and associate with Americal veterans with common interests. Make plans to attend the next chapter reunion and plan to have a great time. Chapters are always seeking individuals willing to take leadership roles and help plan and execute chapter functions, activities, and events. Chapters also take a leading role in hosting annual ADVA national reunions. Please contact your Chapter Commander and let him know you are interested in participating in the chapter and generously volunteer your leadership skills as appropriate.



Dear editor,

I want the members involved with the Chicago reunion to know how much we really appreciate the work that was done to make it such a success. My wife and I were especially appreciative of the raffling off of the comp hotel rooms since we were one of the lucky three to have won in the drawing. This was a very nice surprise for us since we had extended our stay until Monday. My wife was born in Chicago and has family in the area.

As it turned out she had lived only a few minutes away from the hotel. We not only located the house where she was born in Chicago but also the home where she lived later on as well as the home where her grandparents had lived. We even met a few of her "old" neighbors and had a chance to talk to them about the years she lived there.

We walked around the downtown Chicago area, the Chicago River, and the waterfront. We found the local Vietnam Memorial by accident. It was a surprise. We were deeply moved by the nature of the memorial as well as the acknowledgement by the citizens of Chicago of our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. We sincerely appreciate an event that will be remembered for a very long time.

Dennis E. Matthews, Col (ret)

Dear editor,

During my period in the Americal in Vietnam in 1971, I served as an executive officer and fire direction officer for the 6-11 FA and 1-14 FA on Fire Support Bases San Juan Hill, Fat City, and Professional. I was also forward observer (now called "company fire support officer") for 4-3 Inf.

I enjoy reading the Americal Journal. There are a few nomenclature errors and weapons you left out in your article "Vietnam Firepower - Old and New" in the Oct-Nov-Dec 2010 issue (page 34).

1. 90mm (M67) recoilless rifles are not field artillery, but are direct fire anti-tank weapons.
2. Field artillery weapons included: 105mm (M101A1 and M102 (towed)); 155mm (M114A1 (towed) and M109 (self-propelled)); and 8" (203mm) (M110 (self-propelled)) howitzers; and 175mm (M107 (self-propelled)) gun.
3. Mortars were: 60mm (M2), 81mm (M29), and 4.2" (107mm) (M30).
4. Infantry weapons not only included the 5.56mm (M16) rifle, 40mm (M79) grenade launcher, 7.62mm (M60) machine gun, and M26 grenade, as you listed, but also 7.62mm (M14) rifle (most often used by snipers), 0.45" (M1911A1) pistol, and the 66mm (M72) light anti-tank weapon (LAW).

Gregg H. Malicki

Dear editor,

I am 1970 graduate of West Point. I'm trying to obtain a list of all West Point graduates who served with the Americal Division in Vietnam. I'd also, if possible, like to know what position(s) they held while in Vietnam. I may be contacted at maria@kurtmarkus.com.

Kurt Marku

Dear editor,

Scott Griffith died of cancer on December 11, 2010 in Daphne, AL. He was quite a soldier with Bravo Co., 1/46th Infantry. I believe he wound up with our sniper team. He also was quite a renowned sportscaster. His "on-air" name was Scott O'Brien. He was an announcer with WKRG in Pensacola, FL as well as other stations in the South.

COL (Ret.) Richard F. Carvell

Dear editor,

The 160th Eng. Det. was part of the overall US Army Engineer Command-Vietnam. The 160th was a multi-tasking unit that provided all forms of engineering operations to the various Americal Division units in Chu Lai and on various firebases.

We provided heavy equipment, general construction, utilities, and demolition operations. We did everything from bunker construction, road grading, water purification, land clearing at perimeters, fields of fire, and utility ops.

The 160th at times went temporary duty (TDY) to non-Americal units such as the 101st Airborne up at Camp Eagle. I was once TDY with a five man team to a Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV) advisory force in the Central Highlands.

On that trip we supported a MACV advisory team (they were sort of Green Beret type operators) operating with the Montagnards. Across the river from the MACV compound was a ARVN Tiger force who the night before got into a fire fight with a NVA element. The ARVN compound was shot to hell and part of our mission was to do some construction work there as well as lend engineer support to the MACV team.

To say the least the place was hopping when we got dropped off with our equipment. Scared the piss out of us because we were rained in by the monsoons for over ten days. We couldn't get a chopper in to air lift us out. Every night the chatter from the commo shack made you wonder if you were going to see the next morning.

Pete Kuchar

Dear editor,

I urge all Americal veterans to read the book Kiss The Boys Goodbye by Monika Jensen Stevenson. She researched a deal the U.S. government was going to make with the North Vietnamese to swap live POW's for one million dollars each. At the last minute the US nixed the deal. I want to know who the POWs were and if they were still alive in 1996 when this book was on the market.

Please let Americal veterans know about this story and urge them to read the book and tell me I'm wrong in saying there are POWs the US and North Vietnamese know are still being held captive. Maybe not in North Vietnam, but maybe in Laos. It is most important to read this book and I bet it makes your blood boil. My phone number is (414) 351-deer, e-mail galesgemoll@aol.com.

Jim Gales

Dear editor,

I received word that a Vietnam War pilot who was missing in action since the war was recently returned home for burial. USAF Major Thomas (Tom) Beyer was buried in Fargo, ND on December 18, 2010. He served with the 20th Tactical Support Squadron at Chu Lai Air Base. He flew a O-2A Skymaster spotter plane as a forward air controller. He went missing on July 30, 1968 while on a combat mission. He was declared dead on May 2, 1978. His remains were recovered in 2010 and positive identification was made in November 2010.

Art Hanley

LOCATORS

Looking for: John McGuire (1/14th Arty., 2/68-2/69) and former air observers for Americal Division Artillery. LT Owens, LT La Prorie, LT McCord, LT Scabelli, Lt Frank Salazar, SFC Johnson (Eagle Eye). Contact: Glen C. Davis, P.O. Box 237, Paden, OK, 74866-0237; 405-932-4415.

Looking for: Information regarding the 214th Coastal Artillery (AA) and its connection with the Americal Division and XIV CORP on Guadalcanal and New Caledonia. I am looking for division records, interviews, histories, the real info. I am putting a short history together on the 214th CA (AA) and my father who served January 4-April 1943 on Guadalcanal. They were responsible for protecting the airfields and relieved the 3rd Marine Defense Battalion, 2nd Division. I know from my father's papers his OCS approval came from the Americal Headquarters on Guadalcanal in Jan or Feb 1943. Contact: Robert A. Burns: (210) 477-8525.

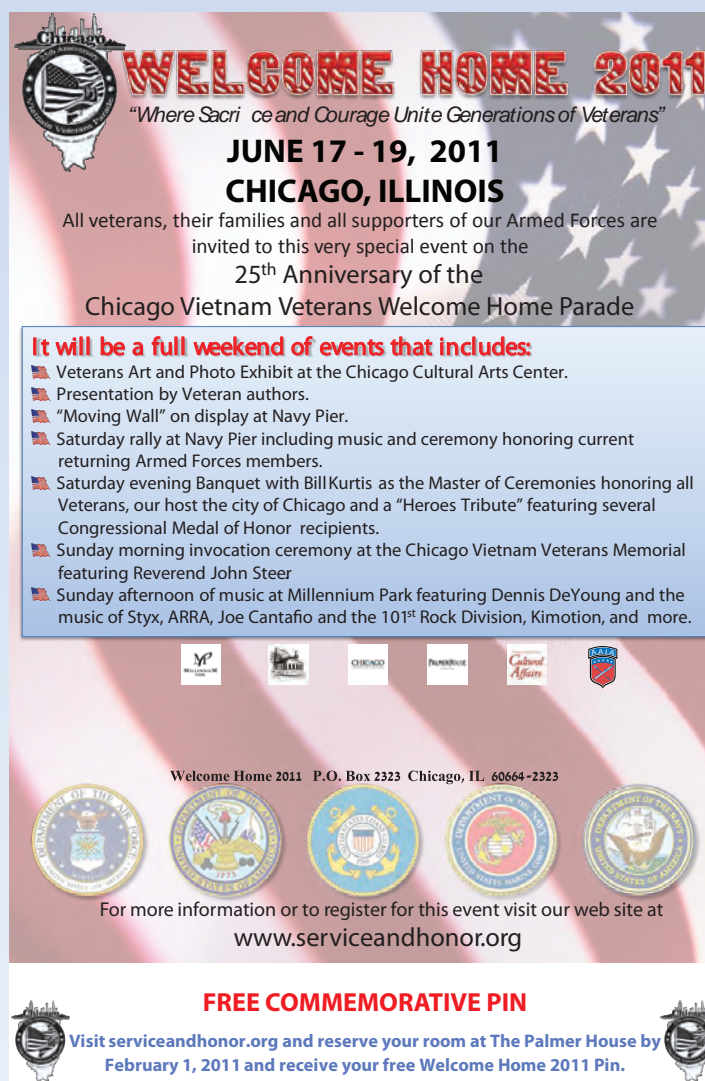
Looking for: Information about my father-in-law, Francis J. Brunet, served in the Americal Division on Guadalcanal. He was wounded on 27 October 1942. He passed away in 1991 and never wanted to talk about his time in the service. My wife and I would like to better understand just when his unit arrived on that island and what they were confronted with. Contact: David V. Olson; whitepineoniditarod@gmail.com.

Looking for: Information about my father. He fought on Cebu, possibly with the 182nd Inf. Regt. I don't have all the small details like company. He has since passed on and I am trying to put some things together about his time in the army and where he fought. I do have things (photos, Japanese items) and some information on him to get started. Contact: Greg Larson; frogger17@me.com.

Looking for: Information about my father. He served in the Americal Division in New Caledonia and Guadalcanal. I recently received from St. Louis, the NA Form 13038 which has the following: William J. Heinzinger; 20 611 973; serving from March 5, 1941 to October 16, 1945; Honorable Discharge as a Technician Fifth Grade. Contact: William Joseph Heinzinger JR.; bill@heinzinger.us; 708 867 4731.

Looking for: Names of those in my chain of command, Co. E, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, December 1968-June 1970. I wish to document action during an attack that took place on LZ Center on May 12, 1969. I remember LT Clark, my platoon leader, and LT Benseman, duty officer during the time of the attack. Contact: Rick Landis; rlandis3@yahoo.com.

REUNIONS



WELCOME HOME 2011
"Where Sacrifice and Courage Unite Generations of Veterans"
JUNE 17 - 19, 2011
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

All veterans, their families and all supporters of our Armed Forces are invited to this very special event on the
25th Anniversary of the
Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade

It will be a full weekend of events that includes:

- Veterans Art and Photo Exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center.
- Presentation by Veteran authors.
- "Moving Wall" on display at Navy Pier.
- Saturday rally at Navy Pier including music and ceremony honoring current returning Armed Forces members.
- Saturday evening Banquet with Bill Kurtis as the Master of Ceremonies honoring all Veterans, our host the city of Chicago and a "Heroes Tribute" featuring several Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.
- Sunday morning invocation ceremony at the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Memorial featuring Reverend John Steer
- Sunday afternoon of music at Millennium Park featuring Dennis DeYoung and the music of Styx, ARRA, Joe Cantofo and the 101st Rock Division, Kimotion, and more.

Chicago, IL 60664-2323

For more information or to register for this event visit our web site at
www.serviceandhonor.org

FREE COMMEMORATIVE PIN
 Visit serviceandhonor.org and reserve your room at The Palmer House by February 1, 2011 and receive your free Welcome Home 2011 Pin.

Co. E, 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB and 198th LIB will hold a reunion in April 2011 in St. Louis, MO. The location is the Doubletree Hotel (Westport). Contact Paul Gildner at 231-468-2241 to learn more about the reunion.

6/11th Artillery all-battery reunion will be held April 8-10, 2011 at the Westin Riverwalk hotel in San Antonio, TX. More information can be found on the unit website at <http://www.6-11artillery.org>.

The 174th AHC (Dolphins/Sharks) operated from were in Duc Pho from 1966 to 1971. The 174th Assault Helicopter Association has been operational for many years and will have their annual reunion in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, April 29-May 1, 2011. Contact Al English, alspbas@comcast.net

Kham Duc/Ngok veterans (including 1/46th Inf., 2/1st Inf., and other Americal units) will hold a reunion October 5-8, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport. Contact Bill or Ann Schneider, 636-942-4042, 314-805-9248, or WSchnei591@aol.com.

In Memory: Joe Salini

By Dolores Salini

My husband, Joseph Michael Salini, died March 5, 2010. He almost reached his ninety-first birthday.

Joe, a young commercial artist from St. Louis, was drafted in August 1941 and sent to Aberdeen, MD for basic training. He was assigned to instrument repair school, given a course in optics, and put into a metal shop where he fashioned the ordnance logo (a flaming bomb).

During their last week there the trainees were given three-day passes. Joe and three others went to the Polo Grounds in New York City and watched the Giants play on Mel Hein Day. After 16 years of playing professional football Mel Hein was retiring. It was December 7, 1941.

After the game loud speakers at Grand Central Station were blaring "All Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines report back to your bases; all leaves are cancelled." Three days later they were sent to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, where Joe joined the 22nd Ordinance. This was a regular army outfit just off maneuvers and ready for action.

In mid-January 1942 they were sent to Indiantown Gap, PA, and from there to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. At midnight they boarded the USS Barry.

Bunks were still being welded into their billeting area five levels below the water line. Each bunk had a new life preserver on it and each person was expected to wear it for the duration of the trip. The bunks were four tiers high; Joe felt lucky to get a top bunk. Bunks were set in double rows and the other side of the bunk next to Joe's was the main hold of the ship. Supplies had been loaded in from a hole in the main deck. The hold covers were left off and it rained on the food stored there. Tons of potatoes and bread were thrown overboard leaving the ship short of food for the entire trip.

On January 23, 1942 the USS Barry, adequate for 800 passengers but now carrying 3000 GIs and 300 nurses, left with six other troopships in a 22 ship convoy. They headed toward the Panama Canal and on to the Philippines. There were two meals a day, and many would line up right after the first meal for the second meal. Fair at first, the meals worsened as the food ran out, and all they had was oxtail-soup.

After the Philippines fell the convoy zig-zagged across the Pacific to finally reach Melbourne, Australia. The Aussies were very generous. The GIs were enroute for over 45 days, had never been paid, and had little money. Joe's outfit was set up in Royal Parade, a large park where tents had been placed. Australian families offered dinners at their homes and no soldier walking down the street went thirsty.

The joy didn't last long. The 22nd Ordnance boarded the USS Cristobal (much bigger than the USS Barry) and headed for New Caledonia, a free-French island. There all the troops of Task Force 6814 gathered and formed a new division. They named themselves the Americal Division in March 1942. Joe was assigned to the 721st Ordnance Company.

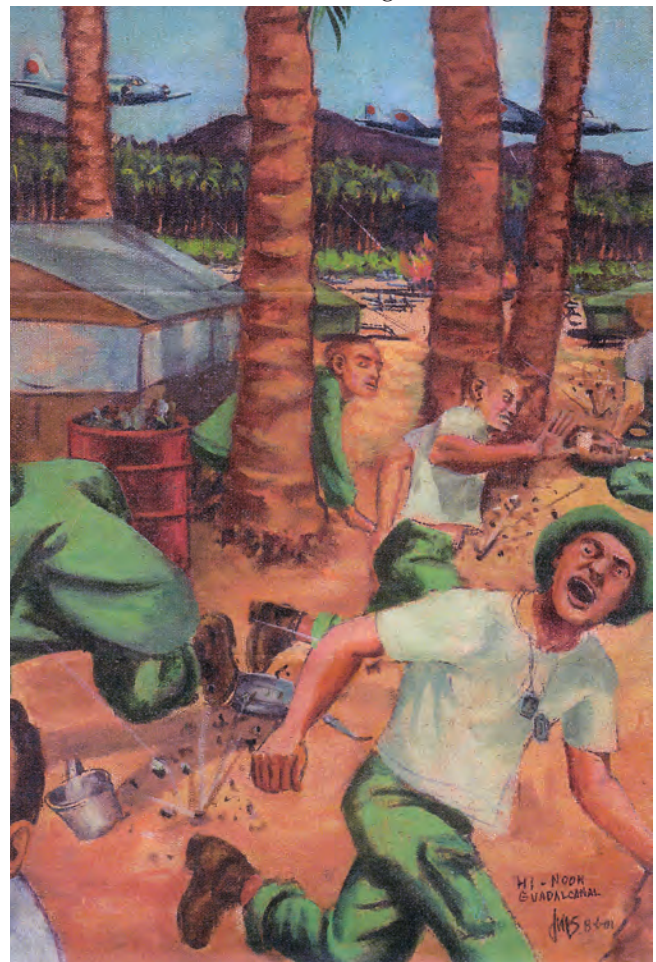
Four years after his induction and with service in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte, and Cebu, Joe finally came up for rotation. He was among the last of 24 GIs of the original Task Force 6814. They went to Leyte for a staging area. Joe was deloused, vaccinated, given new clothes, and put aboard a ship.

Their ship entered the harbor of Oahu, HI on VJ Day, 1945. Streetcars were seen going into town covered in white uniforms. The city was going crazy and they could see all this from the ship but they weren't allowed to go ashore. They tied up next to a Navy ship and the sailors threw them some fresh oranges. That was their way of celebrating the end of the war.

Joe was not a "joiner" and he lost touch with most of his wartime past as he settled into life back home. In 1958 our growing family moved to San Diego.

We eventually learned that one of our friends in San Diego was also an active Americal vet. He mentioned that there was to be a convention in Reno for AMERICAL VETS in 1996. Joe wrote to join. At that convention we met two men from two different parts of the memories they shared.

After that Joe kept in touch. He looked forward to each Americal Journal. He searched for a name or a familiar story hoping to get together once again with anyone else who "was there". We attended two other conventions, one in hometown St. Louis, another again in Reno.



Hi - Noon Guadalcanal by Joe Salini



ADVA 2010 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Thank you enormously for accepting my application for the ADVA scholarship. The money puts me at an advantage in pursuing my degree in Music Therapy. Thank you to my father also, for serving our country and giving me a chance to apply to for and receive this great scholarship.

Elizabeth Buss; Arizona State University
Robert F. Buss, father;
132nd ASHC



Thank you very much for awarding me a scholarship. It means so much to me and my dad to know that his service in Vietnam can benefit my academic and career endeavors. I

will be continuing with my program to become an RN.
(Photographed with father.)

Molly Nawrath; Vermont Technical College
W. Michael Nawrath, father;
723rd Maint. Bn.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity that you have provided for me to further my learning and experience in the world. Education is something I value highly. It is so important to me that I be taught and take in all that I can about those that will prepare me for the future.

Ali Freeman; Eugene Lang College
Frank Freeman, father;
196th Lt. Inf. Bde.



I cannot thank you enough for your generosity in helping me to fund my college education. It is with my sincere thanks that I am writing this letter to all of you whom have donated to the ADVA Scholarship fund. With the help of all of you, I am making my dreams come true.

Kayla Pollino; Full Sail University
John Callan, grandfather;
Americal Division, WWII

It is with the greatest gratitude and respect that I accept the Americal Scholarship. I am thankful for the opportunity to be here today, going to class, writing papers and many other things that seem trivial in comparison to the sacrifice and bravery of those who served in the Americal Division.

Troy Freeman; Fordham University
Frank Freeman, father;
196th Lt. Inf. Bde.

I am very grateful for your help in reaching my goals of becoming a kindergarten teacher. I promise you I will do my part by working as hard as I can to fulfill my dreams. I cannot begin to tell you the many ways your support will assist me with my educational goals.

Ashton Keck; Black Hills State University
Frank R. Yehle II, grandfather;
1/6th Inf.



I am would like to express my gratitude for the scholarship I received on the associations behalf. It has been a great relief from coming back from basic and AIT this summer to have these funds help with my education and be able to focus on school.

Kevin Alsbro; Western Michigan University
Don Alsbro, grandfather;
23rd Admin. Co.

Mark your Calendars for the Best of The West Americal Reunion Ever! The Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs Hotel, September 8 – 11, 2011

The 2011 Americal Reunion will take place at the recently remodeled Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. The hotel is just eight miles from the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport. The Crowne Plaza is located in suburban Colorado Springs along I-25. Rooms for the Americal Division Veterans are \$91.00 /night. This rate is good from September 5 – 13, 2011, so come early and stay a couple days late to enjoy all that the Colorado Springs area has to offer.

Outstanding Hotel Amenities in a Scenic Location

The Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs offers free shuttle service to and from the Colorado Springs Airport, free parking at the hotel, and complimentary in-room wireless internet service for our reunion. Complimentary local area shuttle service within a three mile radius of the hotel is also available. You'll find a 24-hour fitness center along with a large indoor/outdoor pool. Conveniently located in the lobby, The Marketplace convenience store offers light snacks, fresh salads, and sandwiches all day.

Dining options at the Crowne Plaza include Thibodeaux's Bistro which offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Settle in at Rick's Bar for light snacks and a variety of drink options. Several restaurants are located a short walk or drive just west of the hotel and I-25.

Here's What We Have Lined Up For Your Visit

Start the reunion by joining your friends Thursday evening at the Welcome Buffet in the hotel from 6-9 PM. You'll have a choice of Barbeque Smoked Beef Brisket, Fried Chicken and Rocky Mountain Pan Fried Trout. This is all served with several salad choices, Ranch Beans, Green Beans, Corn on the Cob, Texas Toast and Cornbread, Assorted Teas and Coffee.

Friday morning we'll board buses and head to the U.S. Air Force Academy for a guided tour of the site including a tour of the Cadet Chapel where our Memorial Service is scheduled to take place. Before we return to the hotel we'll stop for an hour or so in Historic Old Colorado City for lunch, on your own, at your choice of the many restaurants located within this three or four block area. This area also has many specialty shops to explore while you're there.



AFA Cadet Chapel



Garden of the Gods with Pikes Peak in the center

Saturday morning during our business meetings the Spouse tour will take in the Garden of the Gods. We'll stop at the Visitor and Nature Center to watch an exciting, entertaining and educational 14 minute film for a little history of the park. We will re-board the bus for a narrated tour of the park and end back at the Visitor Center Café for a catered lunch offering picture postcard views of the park and Pikes Peak. We will complete the tour with a visit to the Garden of the Gods Trading Post filled with unique western items that promise to delight you.

Of course, Saturday night is the Annual Banquet and Program. I promise we'll keep it short or as short as we can. Then on Sunday morning, September 11, please join us for a special non-denominational service before you head home or out for another day of sightseeing.

The area offers countless other attractions that can be visited on your own. They include the Pikes Peak Cog Railway, Seven Falls, Manitou Springs and the Manitou Cliff Dwellings, The Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy, Ghost Town Wild West Museum, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and Will Rogers Shrine, The US Olympic Training Center and The Historic Broadmoor Hotel. Dining options throughout the area are endless, including the Flying W Ranch for an authentic Chuck wagon supper and Western music show (sorry, I was not able to secure a group trip there). If you feel lucky, nearby Cripple Creek offers limited stakes gambling and the bus to get you there stops is just one block from the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Make Your Hotel and Reunion Reservations Now!

The hotel lodging group rate of \$91 + tax is available three days prior to and three days after the official reunion dates of Sep. 8 – 11, 2011. You can call the hotel to reserve your room at 1-888-233-9527 or visit our website at www.americal.org and click on the hotel link. The cut-off date for the group rate is August 8, 2011.

Reunion and room reservations received before May 30, 2011 will be eligible for a drawing for a room upgrade to a suite. For you RV'ers, several RV parks are close by. Please contact Tom Packard at packard50@q.com for information about these parks.



2011 ADVA NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Colorado Springs, CO September 8 - 11, 2011
Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs
2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
1-888-233-9527

ADVA REUNION



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Unit(s) _____ WWII _____ VN _____ Handicapped assistance? (y/n) _____

ADVA member registration \$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 Vet includes one year ADVA dues.**

Thursday Welcome Banquet Sep. 8, 2011 6PM-9PM
Western Roundup Buffet \$42.00/person X _____ = \$ _____

Friday Tour to the U.S. Air Force Academy/Old Colorado City Sep. 9, 2011 10AM -2PM
Lunch on your own in Historic Old Colorado City \$40.00/person X _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Spouses Tour / Garden of the Gods Park and Trading Post Sep. 10, 2011 10AM-3PM
Price includes a catered lunch \$38.00/person X _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet: Cocktails Cash Bar 6PM-&PM/ Banquet & Program 7PM-10PM
Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____ \$46.00/person X _____ = \$ _____

2011 ADVA National Reunion T-Shirt. Pre-order only
Size:
Med _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ 2XL(add \$2) _____ 3XL(add \$3) _____ 4XL(add\$3) _____ \$15.00/each X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Registration confirmations will be mailed by August 15, 2011.
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.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: TOM PACKARD

Mail this form and your check to:
2011 ADVA Reunion
5215 South Haleyville Way
Aurora, CO 80016-5903

Questions: Call or e-mail Tom Packard at 720-635-1900 or packard50@Q.com

Destination Task Force Oregon Chu Lai (1967)

By Peter Bramble

Maj. Gen. Rosson's briefing at the amphitheater took place fairly soon (within two weeks as I recall) after TFO troops arrived at the Chu Lai base camp. Preparing the orientation map was one of the first requests that our new drafting section was asked to prepare for the briefing. We were specifically asked to make the map large enough so that the troops sitting at the rear of the amphitheater could see it.

After some creative thinking Spec. Goodson and I decided to use several white table clothes ("borrowed" from the officer's mess) to create our canvas. With the use of some stitching, tape, paint and 2x2 wood we were able to succeed in creating the map that is pictured. For most of the troops the briefing provided the first insight regarding our location and mission.

Spec. Goodson and I had minimal contact with Vietnamese civilians other than the few that worked around the base camp to keep the grounds clear of debris, etc. We did use some nearby locals to do laundry, but again my contact was minimal.

On average, we worked 16 hour days preparing the twice daily briefing map updates for the General Rosson's morning and evening staff meetings. In addition, we were making other items requested by the various unit commanders, preparing special briefing packages for visiting civilian and military dignitaries, etc. On occasion, we also prepared various visual aids requested by the nearby 5th Special Forces unit. Of course, there was also perimeter guard duty, CQ, etc.

Although I never wore the Americal patch (I rotated out of country before Americal was redesignated), I feel a special bond with Americal because of our work in helping to lay the unit's foundation. In hindsight, it was the most rewarding experience during my entire four year enlistment.





- A. Local villager**
B. TFO briefing map by Spec. Bramble and Spec. Goodson
C. MG William B. Rosson, TFO commander
D. MG Rosson briefing TFO troops at amphitheater
E. Local fishing vessels
F. Spec. Goodson in MG Rosson's office
G. Bihn Hinh's Store laundry staff



Task Force Oregon

Source: The Americal Newsletter July - August - September 1995, Page 22
 In February of 1967, General William C. Westmoreland, Commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, formed a planning group to organize an Army Task Force to send to the I Corps Area.

This planning group, commanded by Major General William B. Rossoni organized a multi-brigade force composed of the 196 Light Infantry Brigade: The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; and the 3rd Brigade, 25 Infantry Division (later redesignated the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division).

Task Force Oregon became operational on April 20, 1967, when troops from the 196th Brigade landed at the Chu Lai Airstrip and immediately began search operations around the base camp. Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division started conducting search and destroy operations in Southern Quang Ngai Province, and in May, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers arrived at Duc Pho and operations in the jungles west of there.

Early operations conducted by Task Force Oregon included Malheur 1 and Malheur 11, Hood River, Benton and Cook. On 11 September, 1967, Operation Wheeler was launched against elements of the 2nd North Vietnamese Division working in the area northwest of Chu Lai.

On 22 September, 1967, Brigadier General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the task force, replacing Major General Richard T. Knowles, and three days later Task Force Oregon became the Americal Division, composed of the 196th, 198th, and the 11th Light Infantry Brigades, even though the latter two organizations were still training in the United States.

Operation Wheeler continued and on 4 October, 1967, the 3rd Brigade 1st Air Cavalry Division joined the Americal and immediately launched Operation Wallowa in the northern sector of the divisions area of operations. Operations Wheeler and Wallowa were combined on 11 November and Operation Wheeler/Wallowa was conducted by the 196th Brigade (which replaced the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade in the Operation Wheeler after that organization departed for the 11 Corps Tactical zone) and the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry.

An official change of colors ceremony was held 26 October and the Americal Division became the Seventh Army Division fighting in Vietnam. General Koster received his second star during the same ceremony.

On 22 October the 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam from Fort Hood, Texas and deployed to Duc Pho where it received combat training from the battle hardened soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry. The 198th currently was in charge of the defense of the Chu Lai Airstrip. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa became the responsibility of the 196th Infantry Brigade and the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry. The 1/1 had been operating in the general area since September, 1967, and officially became part of the Americal Division on 10 January, 1968. The 198th Infantry Brigade remained responsible for securing the immediate area around Chu Lai.

The 11th Infantry Brigade joined the Americal on 20 December, 1967 and moved to Duc Pho for training. The "Jungle Warriors" later conducted combat operations in the Duc Pho area.

Letters from Vietnam

By Bob Rudolph

A few of the letters that I wrote from Vietnam to my brother Erich have survived the years. I transcribed them from the originals and have added some comments to expand and clarify the content of the letters. These letters were written during the time that I was assigned as a platoon leader with Co. B, 1/46th Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.



27 July 1970

Well another day another dink. We got two dinks the other day. We were all the way out by the Laotian border working separately from the company. Five of them were following us and we ambushed them. They were about 200 meters away coming down the side of a hill and completely in the open. We opened up on them with the machinegun and M 79. The M79 is the grenade launcher that looks like a little, fat shotgun. Really it is a 40 mm shoulder fired mortar.

We found two bodies but probably killed three judging from the blood trails and drag marks. We wounded at least one other one and the other one got away. We can't bring them home.

When the helicopters dropped us off at our LZ things didn't look right, I could not get the map to line up with the terrain. The maps can be very bad some times. Anyway I decided to fire a WP arty round 200 meters in the air above a high hill that should have been to my front. Arty fires the round and called splash, which means it is going off. I saw nothing so I had them fire a second round. Nothing again. Just then my platoon sergeant tapped me on the shoulder and pointed to the rear. There, a couple clicks away was the wrong LZ.

The helicopter pilots put us into the wrong LZ. I hope your birthday party went over better than the wet fart you predicted. How does it feel to be able to drink legally?

Your Brother -who shoots up all sorts of bad guys before they can shoot him,

Bob

2 July 1970

Hello Brother,

Well, enclosed is a war souvenir, an NVA stamp. We, my platoon, found rice cash and a hooch complex. We found about 375 pounds of rice, three rucksacks full of clothes and medicine plus AK 47 magazines and all sorts of other goodies. I hope you like the stamps. I am trying to get an NVA uniform for you; I'll send it as soon as I get one in good condition.

We've been in the field now 14 days straight. I've been in four firefights. I walk third or fourth in line and have had the man in front of me walk into an ambush and get shot in the chest. My platoon shot the shit out of the two dinks. I have had a busy two weeks and I want to go home.

The dinks aren't too bad but the elephant grass, with leaves like knives, the leaches and the dink sores, they are infected cuts that keep festering and will not heal, are really getting to me.

Yes, I am growing a moustache. When you are in the field you don't shave that often so it is coming in nicely.

I have had no official word but I should be a 1st Lieutenant now.

We are walking into the firebase (Mary Ann) tomorrow so I'll probably have more chances to write then.

Your Brother (Who thinks Viet Nam is a great place to visit for about 10 days then go home),

Bob

Comments: (I still have one of the NVA stamps. Shortly after writing this letter the first sergeant sent me a black magic marker wrapped in my promotion order with a note to just color my butter bar black. What a great promotion ceremony!)



(Comments: After being inserted into the LZ and figuring out where I was, we moved west a few clicks and night laagered next to a big river. That night we could see lights moving on the other side of the river and hear truck sounds. When I reported this to Bn. they wanted me to cross the river and do an ambush. Since the platoon was at about half strength and operating away from the rest of the company and the river was very wide, deep and swift flowing I asked if I could just fire a time on target with artillery. The response was no, I was out of range for most of the supporting artillery. I talked them out of the idea of an ambush.)

Sunday

2 August 1970

Hi Brother of Mine,

Well how goes all with you in bunker 334 at the home front?

I'm still alive and sore in bunker four, LZ Mary Ann. I have a couple of abscesses and a sore foot right now, otherwise I'm well. (

Dad wrote me a letter. Apparently he saw a letter I wrote you and thought I was trying to BS you with war stories. Believe me I am giving you the straight poop. When I tell you about a contact or how I run my platoon it's the truth. Why should I lie? I don't have anyone to impress except the dinks and believe me a bullet makes quite an impression-I hate puns.

The damn 105 is firing and knocking down little pieces of dirt from the walls. They all seem to land on my head. Also, a bird is coming in. That means a cloud of dust and sand coming through the firing ports of my bunker.

All I can say is keep those letters coming. I'll try to get some tiger stripe fatigues ASAP but I won't be getting into Chu Lai until September. Figure a month for any package I send to reach you.

I've got close now. See you soon.

Love,
Bob

Comments: 334 was our street address at home. My dad was a Chemical Mortar Platoon Leader in WWII who fought in North Africa and Italy. In an engagement a few days before writing this letter I had stepped on a punji stake then got hit in the leg by a partially spent AK round. The medic cleaned me up but it got infected. A few days later I could no longer walk and had to call in a Medivac for myself.)



16 September 1970

Dear Brother,

Well how is it hanging for you kid? Let me tell you for me it's hanging pretty low. The monsoons have started and let me tell you, you don't even know what rain is 'till you see a monsoon rain.

Well you're a big bad senior again. How does it feel to be almost ready to graduate? By the way when will your graduation be? I just might make it home in time to see it. I hope it is better than mine was. Of course just about anything is better than mine was.

So what else is new? Not a hell of a lot is new with me. So far this Combat Assault we've seen no dinks. That's OK with me though.

In case you haven't heard I was going for a job as a Generals Aid. Also, if you did not hear I did not get it. Reason, I wasn't Gung-Ho enough. Not really, they wanted an RA officer and I wasn't RA, so I lose.

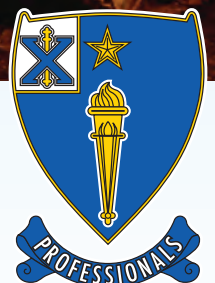
Well for now I'll bid you a hail and farewell from the land of the midnight rain.

Love, your rain soaked shriveled, dink shooting, war metal wearing, Brother,

Bob



(Comments: My welcome home party and my brother's graduation party were held at the same time. No more letters from my time in the 1/46 survived. The next letter, written in December, announces my transfer to the 196 Brigade HQ at Hawk Hill. I did not want to leave the 1/46 and, at my interview with the Bde. XO, I asked to remain with the BN. After a funny look he told me no, I had to take the transfer. I was assigned as the XO of Headquarters Co as well as the property book officer. Also, in my new address, we no longer were the Americal but were now the 23d Infantry Div.)



On The Road to Laos Operation Dewey Canyon II and Lam Son 719

By R. E. Griffin

Sgt. A/1/82 FA, 10/70-10/71

In the final days of January 1971, US and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces began what was to be the last major US operation of the Vietnam War. Elements of all the major US commands remaining in the I Corps area of South Vietnam were alerted to begin a move by road, air, and sea to the area just south of the DMZ. In addition, several elite ARVN divisions as well as an ARVN armored brigade, ARVN Ranger forces, and the South Vietnamese Marine division participated in what was to be an attempt to sever the Ho Chi Minh Trail in neighboring Laos. For the next 69 days these forces fought some of the most desperate battles of the war.

Most histories of the Vietnam War include a discussion of Operation Lam Son 719. Most discuss "the good, the bad, and the ugly" revealed by the operation. All describe the Herculean efforts of US aviators in support the South Vietnamese. But few histories recognize the contributions of US ground forces during this operation or even record the name of the preliminary US operation that cleared the way into Laos- Dewey Canyon II.

US ground forces were dangerously short of air support due to the commitment of aviation assets to support ARVN troops in Laos. The Americans were short of supplies, materials, and even basic necessities such as ammunition and maps. GIs operated in the very shadow of places with names synonymous with some of the heaviest combat of the war. Names like Lang Vei, Khe Sanh, and the Rockpile appeared prominently in reports and press stories on Dewey Canyon II and Lam Son 719.

The operation was the brainchild of Gen. Creighton Abrams, commander of Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV) and successor to Gen. William Westmorland. Abrams' objective was to continue the disruption of the Ho Chi Minh trail that was created by the mid-1970 incursion into Cambodia. As noted by Stanley Karnow in his book "Vietnam, A History", US planners believed that the Communists were planning a major effort in 1973 and the hope was that a series of operations in 1970-71 would disrupt the necessary logistical buildup.

As described in "Into Laos" by Keith Nolan, Gen. Abrams put special emphasis on security during the planning operation. Most of the units and commanders involved, US and ARVN alike, were not informed of their mission until only days or in some cases hours before the operation began. ARVN forces had never operated in division size units before and the lack of time to plan and prepare for their complicated role proved to be one of the key factors contributing to the failures they suffered during the operation.

A serious handicap for the ARVN, perhaps the most fatal one to their efforts, was that this was to be an all ARVN incursion. Emphasis was on turning over the war to South Vietnam's forces. Political backlash over the earlier Cambodian invasion resulted in congressional restraints

on the use of US forces. No US ground forces, including advisors, were to be allowed into Laos. In affect this operation was a final exam for the policy of Vietnamization.

Phase I of the plan, named Dewey Canyon II, was primarily a US support mission. US ground troops were to open and secure Route 9 from the US combat base north of Quang Tri City all the way to the Laotian border. This was the route that lead into Laos and to the ARVN's objective – the town of Tchepone. Along the way, the old Khe Sanh combat base was reopened as a base of operations for the ARVN.

US combat forces involved in Dewey Canyon II would come from the three major commands still left in I Corps. The core command group was the 1st Bde, 5th Mech. Div. Quang Tri Province was home turf for its principal units: the 1/77th Armor, 1/11th Inf., and the 3/5th Cav. (temporarily assigned to it from the 9th Inf. Div.), and supporting artillery units. The 101st Airmobile Div. deployed the 3/187th, the 1/501st, and the 1/506th Inf. The Americal Division provided the 1/1st Cav., 2/1st and 4/3rd Inf., E Troop 1/11th Cav., H Troop 17th Cav., C Co. 26th Engr., B Co. 23rd Med. , and the 1/82nd Arty. (-). Later in the operation the 11th LIB HQ, HQ and Serv. Btry. 6/11th Arty., C Btry 6/11th Arty., and A Btry. 3/82nd Arty. joined the effort.

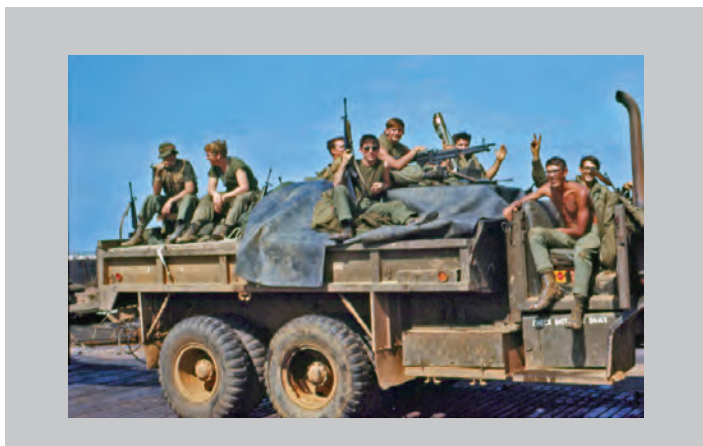
The 1/82nd Artillery, commanded by LTC William P. O'Bryan, played a central part in Dewey Canyon II. Beginning on the January 25, 1971 warning orders to prepare to move went out to the 1/82nd and other units. The 1/82nd began to move three of its firing batteries from scattered fire bases around the Americal Division's home base at Chu Lai. A, B and C batteries were equipped with six M114 towed 155mm howitzers each. D Btry. was equipped with 8" self-propelled guns and was not involved in this operation. It remained under the control of the 101st Airborne to support operations around Da Nang.

The 1/82nd moved by road convoy to the DMZ area. After short stops near the Hai Vanh Pass and at the Quang Tri combat base, 1/82nd reached the Dewey Canyon II area of operations on January 30. By then the road was opened all the way to Khe Sanh without any significant enemy contact.

Following closely behind the lead armor units, infantry and cavalry units fanned out along the road and began securing the area north and south of the main route. In addition to opening up Khe Sanh, LZ Vandegrift was reopened as a logistics and patrol base. Construction of Red Devil Road, a pioneer road from east of the Rockpile area to Khe Sanh, provided an alternate route in case the main road was cut.

The 1/82nd spread out along the road from just west of Quang Tri combat base to near Khe Sanh. C Btry. was to the east at Observation Post C2 (OP C2) and attached directly to 1/61st Infantry. A Btry and HQ and Svc. Btry. (HSB) located at LZ Vandegrift under the control of the 5/4th Arty. B Btry., also under the control of 5/4th Arty., was airlifted from LZ Vandegrift as soon as it arrived and positioned east of Khe Sanh at LZ Sheppard. This arrangement meant that the 1/82's three firing batteries could provide fire support for almost the entire route from the Con Thien-Dong Ha area to Khe Sanh.

Immediately after the 1/82 arrived in the area the lack of advance notice and sufficient time for planning came into play. Barrier wire and materials for the construction of



bunkers proved to be impossible to obtain. Even sandbags were in short supply. There was a shortage of these materials in Vietnam due to the on-going US pullout. There was also an initial period of confusion over which units had been assigned to support the 1/82. Supply problems persisted throughout the operation including the supply of some types of artillery fuses.

A Btry. and HSB played a central role in the early phases of the operation. LZ Vandegrift was situated at about the half-way point between Dong Ha and Khe Sanh. The 155mm towed guns of A Btry. covered most of the area around the Rockpile. This was the initial area of concern for the infantry units securing the road. Vandegrift could also provide fire support for the eastern portion of the route of the Red Devil Road.

A Btry. remained on Vandegrift for the entire operation except for one brief move. It was made on February 4 to a place called LZ Elliot. Located on QL9 in the shadow of the Rockpile, LZ Elliot had been used sparingly as a base for 5th Mech. artillery raids. A Btry. was placed at Elliot to provide fire support for an assault into an area just to the north of the road. What was supposed to be a one day stay turned into two days when the weather on the February 5 was too bad to allow air strikes scheduled in support of the assault.

This delay proved costly for A Btry. Its position was pounded by twenty-two 122mm enemy rockets on the afternoon of February 6. The rocket fire seemed to have been directed by observers on the Rockpile. The rockets were fired in two round volleys that bracketed the battery before hitting within its perimeter. Enemy fire ceased after receiving return mortar fire. One soldier from A Btry, Carroll Mills of Sunnyvale, CA was killed in this action. He was the first US KIA in the operation. Four other US soldiers were wounded.

A Btry. occupied an exposed position with no barrier wire, no sandbags, and no bunkers. The only security at night consisted of a single tank, a pair of M113 mortar tracks, and the battery's .50 caliber M2 machine gun. The battery greeted the news that the operation was canceled with more than a little relief. After firing an abbreviated fire mission of 30-40 rounds per gun the battery packed up in record time. It moved back to Vandegrift while a work party brought back its excess ammo.

Vandegrift, in spite of the fact that it was quickly becoming a large logistics base, proved not to be a safe harbor. Units located at Vandegrift found themselves in the bull's eye. At 1800 hours on February 7 Vandegrift received sixteen rounds of 122mm rockets in what was to become a regular daily routine referred to as the "five o'clock follies". From then until the time it was closed on April 8, the enemy hit Vandegrift with rockets or artillery on at least ten separate occasions. Most of these attacks did little damage and did not cause many casualties.

The worst attack for the 1/82 occurred on March 10 when Specialist 4 Gary Robison of the Headquarters and Service Battery was killed while conducting crater analysis to determine the direction of incoming rounds. He received a recommendation for a Silver Star. On March 28 a rocket hit a storage bunker in the ammo storage area and destroyed an estimated five tons of 8" howitzer shells and powder canisters.

At each rocket attack US guns on the firebase would reply with counter-battery fire. At first this fire was directed at suspected launch sites determined by crater analysis. On February 12 a ground surveillance radar unit was flown to a hill overlooking the firebase and it quickly began to provide our guns with accurate target data. The attacks became less frequent from then on.

Having good target data didn't help when it came to battling with North Vietnamese Army (NVA) artillery. Their Soviet made 130mm towed guns had a longer range than our guns. The efforts of Lt. Col. O'Bryan, commanding officer of 1/82, resulted in the acquisition of several of the larger 175mm self-propelled guns. They were brought in Vandegrift to combat the NVA guns.

In addition to indirect fire from rockets and artillery, Vandegrift was also subjected to at least four attempts by sappers to infiltrate the base. Only the first attempt on March 1 succeeded when several sappers blew up fuel storage bladders.

Two attempts were made on two consecutive nights to infiltrate through the portion of the perimeter manned by 1/82 HSB. On the first night several sappers were detected trying to get through the wire and were killed by small arms fire. On the second night a sapper apparently blew himself up as he attempted to set up a mechanical ambush.

The NVA also attempted to set up a mortar on a hill just to the north of Vandegrift. Unfortunately for the enemy team, they chose to set up near a US sensor. They were quickly detected and a couple of 155mm rounds fired at high angle from my howitzer eliminated the threat.

One evening we noticed a light half way up this same hill. A quick check confirmed that there were no friendly troops on this hillside. Because of the possibility that one of our rounds might go over the hill and hit friendlies we were denied permission to shoot at the light. The light remained visible for several nights so an air strike by two Navy jets was called in. The next evening the light was still there. A few days later two Chinooks arrived with sling loads of 55-gallon drums of what proved to be "foogas". The Chinooks dropped their load on top of the light's location. Cobra gunships then set the drums on fire with rockets. After this there was no more light from the hill.

While A Btry. and HSB enjoyed life on Vandegrift, most of B Btry. was still on LZ Sheppard. This firebase was positioned to support the buildup at Khe Sanh and could only be reached by air. Due to LZ Sheppard's low priority on air support, the resupply of basic supplies such as ammo, rations, and drinking water was a real problem.

Jim Snow, a cannoneer with B Btry., recalls, "LZ Sheppard consisted of two peaks. The lower peak was occupied by four guns of B Btry. The upper peak, which was the smallest, was occupied by a four deuce (4.2 inch) mortar platoon. B Btry. fired many support missions while on LZ Sheppard. LZ Sheppard never received incoming, which was a blessing. The battery layout was almost trail to trail due to small size of the hill. Any enemy strike would have resulted in major damage to people and assets."

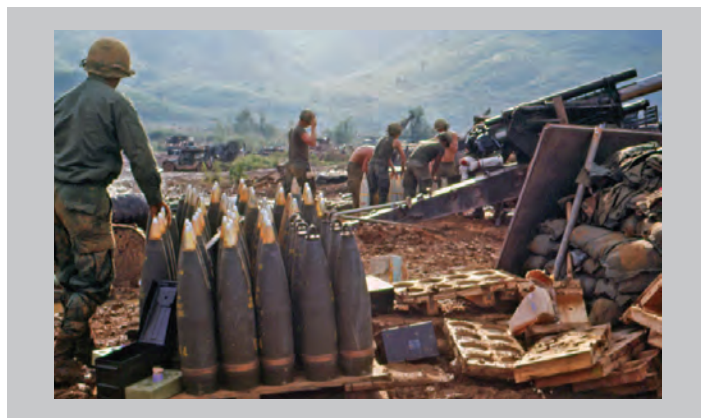
Things got worse for B Btry. after it moved, first to Khe Sanh and later to the old Special Forces camp at Lang Vei. Lang Vei was near the Laotian border and had been abandoned in 1968 after being overrun by an NVA attack. This attack was the first act of what was to become the siege of Khe Sanh. While there B Btry. received rocket and artillery fire from the mountains across the Laotian border. During one attack enemy fire hit Gun 6 resulting in it and its crew being put out of action. PFC Robert L. Wunder of Trenton, MI became B Battery's first KIA of the operation.

On March 29 B Btry. received orders to rejoin A Btry. and HSB on Vandegrift. While moving on QL9 between Khe Sahn and Vandegrift the battery was ambushed by an unknown force of NVA. The enemy used RPGs and small arms fire. One truck and its attached gun were damaged. PFC Richard Laure Stansbarger of Clinton, IA was killed and seven others were wounded.

C Btry. spent the first part of the operation at OP C2. It was located on the eastern portion of the battlefield and was under the direct control of the 1/61st Inf. Bn. Unlike the other firebases, OP C2 had been in continuous occupation for a number of years. Tom Downs, a soldier in C Btry., recalls, "It was a large firebase occupied by only a few infantry and little else. The six howitzers of the battery could disperse at wide intervals and security was less of an issue to the Redlegs."

The firebase received incoming rockets and mortars on several occasions. A mess hall used as a bunker by the grunts received a direct hit during one attack. This resulted in a large number of killed and wounded. C Btry. escaped casualties and damage while on C2. The same held true after March 7 when the battery relocated to Khe Sanh. C. Btry. returned to LZ Vandegrift on April 4 to head back to the Americal Division at the end of the operation.

Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719 was a unique experience for the 1/82nd. Back in the Chu Lai area it was rare for fire missions to involve more than one or two guns at a time. It was usual for only a few rounds to be fired. The most common fire missions were harassment and interdiction (H and I) missions or "scheduled fires". The few contacts with the enemy in the Chu Lai area was usually restricted to small groups of NVA or the ever present booby trap or mine. But things around LZ Vandegrift, OP C2, LZ Sheppard, and Khe Sanh were very different.



During the operation all batteries routinely fired multiple gun missions involving multiple rounds. The extreme case occurred on Vandegrift where a combined force of 15 guns fired missions from 7:00 am until about 5:00 pm at what was believed to be a full NVA division. The NVA was trying to concentrate in the Rockpile area for a move on Vandegrift and to cut the road. Captain Al Andzik, 1/82's Fire Direction Control Officer at the time, estimates that between 7,000 to 9,000 rounds were fired during that one day.

In all, from the beginning of Dewey Canyon II until it departed from Vandegrift for "home", the 1/82 fired a total of 76,124 rounds of 155mm ammunition during 2,486 total missions for an average of 34.6 rounds per mission. An average of 13 guns fired each day firing a daily average of 1,119 rounds.

No official record of all the results of these fire missions could be found and the results of many missions were not observed. Battalion S3 daily reports for the period revealed at least 70 confirmed enemy killed by fire from Vandegrift alone.

While assigned to the Americal Division, the 1/82nd's mission was that of general support and to provide reinforcing fires to the direct support arty battalions assigned to the division's three infantry brigades. During much of Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719, the 1/82 played the role of direct support for five different infantry battalions. On occasion the 1/82 controlled as many as six additional artillery batteries as well as a squadron of aerial rocket artillery.

With an average strength of 465 officers and enlisted, the 1/82 suffered four killed in action and twenty wounded. In addition, two fatalities resulted from non-combat accidents. The first was Specialist 4 Billie Dean Harris from Houston, TX, who drowned on the beach at Chu Lai. The second was PFC Joseph L. White Mouse from Fort Thompson, ND. He was killed when he fell from his truck and was run over during the trip back to Chu Lai.

On February 19, 1971 Operation Dewey Canyon II ceased and Lam Son 719 officially began. The majority of Lam Son 719 action centered on the ARVN in Laos and the forces along the border. The attention of the press at the time and later by historians fixed on the failures of the ARVN in Laos. The American grunts, tankers, cavalry troopers and artillerymen who, stretched out along the road from the coast to the Laotian border performed their missions with professionalism and success. For the men of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery, this twelfth and final operation was a fitting end to its deployment in Vietnam.

Unscathed- by the grace of God

By Courtney Martin

I led the way into the tunnel. It was a small opening in a sandy bank. We started out crawling on our hands and knees. I had a flashlight in my left hand and a 45 cal. Pistol in the other. The tunnel got smaller and smaller the further we crawled.

Grassland announced, "I'm turning back, it's too tight for me, don't you want to turn back with me?"

I hesitated for a moment, waiting for a feeling; a feeling whether it felt right or not.

"No, I am going to try it a little further, it's bound to come to an open room or come to an end. You go ahead, I won't be far behind you."

After Grassland turned back

I was no longer able to crawl on my hands and knees and switched to a low crawl. On my belly pulling forward my arms and pushing feet it wasn't long before crawl soon became tight. I continued forward, crawling an inchworm, my arms extended out front of me, slowly wedging myself in the tunnel point where I could not move my arms... I was stuck... My breathing

became heavier and heavier and I became apprehensive about my situation. A feeling of fear came over me. I broke out in a cold sweat. Damn, this is ridiculous! There is no larger room! The hole is getting smaller the deeper I go into this tunnel. I finally decided to give it up and turn back, but as I pushed back reality set in, I was wedged in, unable to move in any direction. I was stuck! Fear and panic shot through my body like a bolt of lightening. Why in God's name did I allow myself to get into such a predicament? Panic-stricken, I began to fight it, trying to push away the tons of dirt that held me prisoner. My breathing quickly became laborious and sweat poured from my brow, stinging my eyes. All efforts to move were to no avail. My soul cried out for help, for I dared not cry out loud for fear of the enemy hearing me. I knew my comrades outside waiting for me would never hear my cry. God! Please! Please God let me get out of here alive! The torture was worse than a thousand tortures, especially this self-inflicted terror. The memories and thoughts that flashed through my mind during this time, that seemed an eternity would fill volumes of novels. A thought of what heaven was really like, would

death be painful? How would death by suffocation feel? Will this hole in the ground in a strange and foreign land be my grave?

Once Crossland crawled out of the tunnel, Col. Roberts approached him, "Private Crossland what happened to Taylor?"

"He decided to go a little deeper into the tunnel, but it was getting too tight for me so I turned back."

"Did you find any signs of anyone else being in there?"

"No sir."

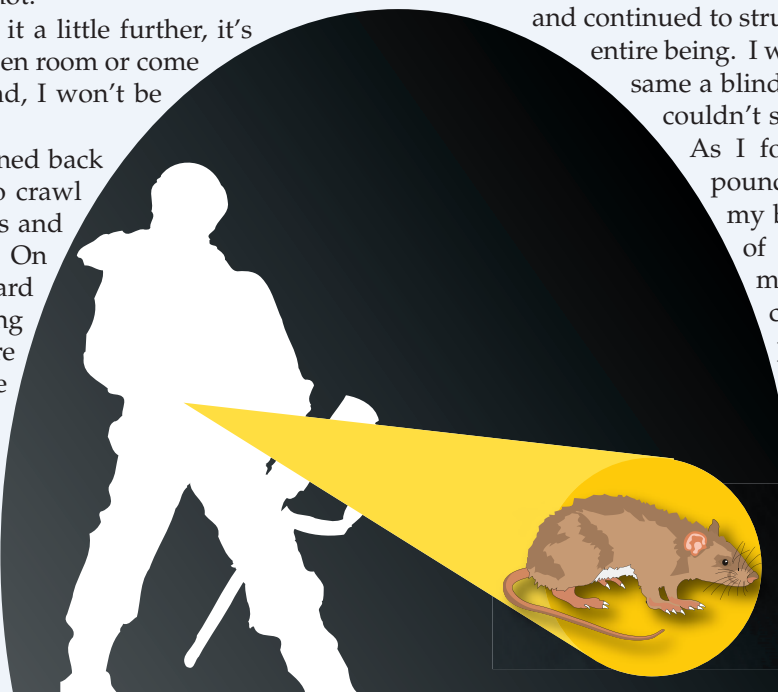
"I'll give him a few more minutes—if he isn't out by then—I'll send someone in after him," the Col. said.

Once I realized that I was stuck I turned off my flashlight and continued to struggle. Darkness enshrouded my entire being. I wondered if the darkness was the same a blind person experienced? I literally couldn't see my hand in front of my face.

As I fought to free myself my heart pounded as it pumped blood through my body. The thump-thump sound of my heart beating rang loud in my ears. I wondered if the enemy could hear it also? I was sweating profusely and coming close to passing out due to a lack of oxygen and overexertion. The reality of being stuck was almost too much to bear. I began to talk to myself. Just calm down and quit fighting it, you got yourself into this mess, you can get yourself out. Just be still until your breathing gets back to normal and you quit sweating.

Minutes that seemed like hours passed. I thought now would be a fine time for Charlie to show his ugly face. If Charlie is in this tunnel I hope he is more afraid of running into me than I am of him. My breathing slowly returned to normal, my brow and palms were no longer sweaty. I tried to push myself backwards and was able to move only an inch. My first reaction was to fight it again. That did not help earlier so I sure as hell didn't want to try that again. I said over and over to myself —Stay calm!—Stay calm! Overreact and you are going to burst a blood vessel and rot in this God forsaken hole. After another waiting period I inched backward... Good... an inch at a time is better than nothing, stay calm, you can make it. I slowly talked myself out of the tunnel.

Courtney Martin served as a tunnel rat with Co. C, 26th Engr. Bn. in 1968. The above passage is taken from his book Unscathed- by the grace of God. The book may be purchased by sending \$20 to the author at P.O. Box 311, Tigerville, SC, 29688.



Memorial Service Postponed 41 Years

By Richard Heroux

Fourteen members of Co. B, 2/1st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. conducted a simple but reverent memorial service for a member lost in combat in March 1969. The memorial service was an adjunct to the October 2010 Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA) reunion held at Lombard, IL.

Unit members made a commitment to visit all the graves of their fallen comrades. We wish to pay our final respects to them and to honor their service to the Nation.

We fought a well organized North Vietnamese Army unit near Tien Phouc, South Vietnam on March 20, 1969. The fighting claimed the life of Sp4 Raul (Heavy) Perez. He is buried in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Ft. Sheridan, IL.

Michael "Frenchy" Kosteckzo and his wife Didi created a memorial wreath that was signed by those in attendance at the brief service. We also presented a replica of the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. emblem. Kosteckzo was in the same platoon as Perez in Vietnam.

The veterans took turns expressing their private sentiments as they stood before the gravesite. Many expressed regret for waiting so long to hold this significant healing experience.

Group photo: Front Row: Chuck Holdaway; Jesse Mendoza; John Careccia; Rich Heroux; Ernie Rodrigues and Roger Grazeoplene. Second Row: Ronnie Pettit; Danny Dingus; Jim Crum; Julius Deriscavage; Michael Kosteckzo; Bruce Nielson; Terry Loyd and Gerry Borysiak.



The Second Battle of FSB Mary Ann

by Gary L. Noller

In the early morning darkness of March 28, 1971 Viet Cong (VC) sappers attacked FSB Mary Ann. The enemy cut through the concertina wire and then infiltrated the base under its own mortar and tear gas attack. They threw satchel charges into American defensive positions and strafed GIs with small arms fire. The Americans lost thirty killed and nearly eighty wounded in an attack that painfully proved that the war was far from over.

The Army immediately began an investigation of the deadly attack. Investigators took sworn statements from the survivors including some recovering at the 91st Evacuation Hospital. Army brass held leadership accountable at every level from division on down.

Keith Nolan researched and told the story of the attack on Mary Ann in *Sappers in the Wire* (1995). He spent over two years combing the records and interviewing as many Mary Ann veterans as he could find. Veterans give credit to Nolan for his thorough presentation- like it or not.

Veterans of Mary Ann have lived with the pain of March 28 for forty years. For the past 15 years they have met on this date to remember their lost buddies. They share the bond that cannot be described. They seek to find comfort in the company of those who know all too well the thread that binds them.

About five years ago the issue of friendly fire deaths at Mary Ann came to life. A prominent and respected internet website that lists the casualties of the Vietnam War carried a notation on each of the thirty who were killed on Mary Ann. It read, "By the time the VC withdrew, 30 American soldiers were dead and 76 wounded. According to the Department of Defense's casualty database 12 of the 30 dead were killed by friendly fires; the Army's TAGCEN file amplifies that by attributing the deaths to artillery fire."

Larry Pistole, a veteran of Co. E, 1/46th Infantry, took the lead to see that the incorrect reference was deleted from the website and the official record corrected. He was told that he needed to provide convincing evidence of the error.

He obtained statements from eyewitnesses who were on FSB Mary Ann. 1LT Dan Mack, Executive Officer (XO) of Co. C, 1/46th Inf., was in the company command post (CP) when the sapper attack began. Next to him was his company commander, CPT Richard V. Knight. A satchel charge flew in an opening and went off. Mack was slightly wounded. He started out the door with Knight right behind him. Mack recalls what happened next, "As I reached the exit door another blast came from inside the CP and blew me out the door. I received shrapnel wounds on my lower back and right buttocks. I believe that was the moment CPT Knight was KIA."

Records were coded to indicate that Knight's death as casualty type "Hostile, died outright" and reason as "misadventure". "Misadventure" is generally accepted to mean "friendly fire".

It is important to know that friendly fire can only be determined by gathering statements from eyewitnesses. Mack's eyewitness account contradicts the "official" record. But more evidence of the error was required for the record to be corrected.

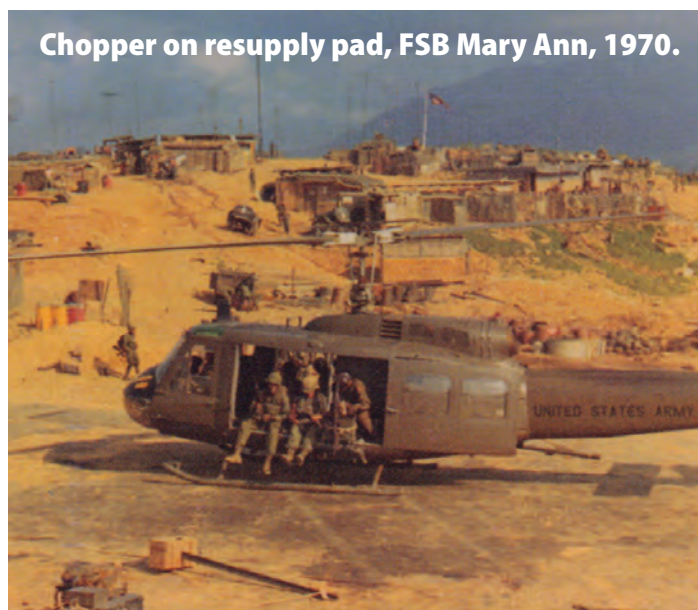


Photo Credit "Pop" Manson

Pistole spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars of his own money to acquire a vast collection of official archive documents related to the casualties on Mary Ann. These documents were evaluated by prominent and respected Vietnam casualty researchers. The documents were also evaluated by officials at the U. S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC), Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC).

The conclusion by all concerned is that the record of friendly fire deaths on Mary Ann is not supported by the evidence. The false record is due to a simple clerical error. It is caused by the wrong single letter code in one box on the "official" record.

There are those who say that Mary Ann veterans needed to move on and not dwell on the friendly fire issue. But not Tom Schmitz. He was at LZ Mildred during the attack on Mary Ann (as was this commentator) and as the 1/46th Infantry staff duty officer he immediately accepted an immense weight of responsibility.

He says, "Our fallen brothers and their families deserved to have the truth promulgated. Being killed in action by an enemy sapper attack is a far cry from being a friendly fire victim of your own artillery. The memories of our commander, LTC William Doyle, and the reputation of our terrific direct support artillery battery deserved to be exonerated."

The Army investigation that commenced hours after the attack and did not find evidence of friendly fire deaths. Years later Keith Nolan did not find evidence of friendly fire deaths. The veterans of Mary Ann have always stated there were no friendly fire deaths. And finally, after 40 years, the record stands corrected.

Larry Pistole fully committed himself to the effort to erase the friendly fire claim. He says, "I did it for them, the 30 guys who laid down their lives in a no-quarters fight for their lives, their country, their home and family, and their fellow soldiers." Upon learning of the correction to the record, he stated, "I can still hardly believe it is over. I don't think I ever wanted to win one more than this." The Second Battle of FSB Mary Ann is now won.

Call to Duty: Panama 1955-56

By Tony Lombardo

As the historian for two organizations I believe that we must document all pertinent information about our military service and the units we were assigned to. Saying that, it is my pleasure to provide some memories and photographs from the days I was in Panama with the 723rd Ordnance Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Division.

After two years of college I volunteered for the draft and entered the US Army active duty in July 1954. I served on active duty until June 1956 and served in the ready reserve for four more years. I received my assignment to Panama while I was in Ft. Hood, TX. Some of my comrades were sent to Alaska, Germany, and Korea.

We sailed from New Jersey on a Liberty troop ship named the USS Abigail Gibbons. We stopped in San Juan, Puerto Rico to deliver some Puerto Rican GIs who were glad to be home. From there we proceeded nonstop to Colon, Panama harbor. We enjoyed watching youngsters dive for coins.

It was very hot and humid when we unloaded from the ship and boarded an old train that they called the fastest in the world. It was the fastest because it went from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in one hour and a few minutes.

My home became Corozal Army base and from there we made duty work trips into the Darien jungle to clear trails and vegetation around ammo storage bunkers buried in large mounds. We carried out guard duty in the jungle area to protect heavy equipment and electrical grids line from theft. After few months later I got assigned to 723rd Ord. Bn. headquarters office and that was a relief.

My recollection is that Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Signal, and Ordnance were all stationed at Corozal. Three of us were close buddies: Fred Reasma, Cherokee Kid, and me. Fred was going to marry a beautiful native girl and take her home. With help from Fred I got a break and received duty in the office at 723rd Ord.

I attended Balboa Junior College on Saturday mornings and got credits for engineering drawing. On days off we took the 3/4 ton vehicles to Santa Clara beach on the Pacific Ocean in nearby Costa Rica. We bribed the Costa Rican border guards with C-rations and cigarettes. We bribed the natives in the same way so we could ride horses all day. It was the "Ordnance Calvary" on that beach. This R&R during jungle duty was the time to let loose and we rode those small ponies up and down the sand and water.

Panamanian nationals helped us clean the vegetation around the ammo bunkers in the Darien jungle. I remember that the natives would not enter the bunkers because of the snakes inside. The snake they feared the most was the Fer-de-Lance (French for "spearhead"). It was a very poisonous and killed many humans. Chemicals were used to kill the snakes inside the bunkers.

One time I came down with a 103 degree fever and was hospitalized for two weeks at Gorgas Hospital. I later found out from an Army doctor that I had malaria. A guy next to

me in the hospital underwent treatment for snake bite. His ass was black and blue from needle marks, but he lived. He was a retired postal carrier, was married to a native girl, and had some kids. He told me he used to hunt for meat every day to feed the family in the jungle.

Several 75 mm radar-controlled sky sweepers protected the Panama Canal from air attack. We trained with .50 caliber machine guns mounted on cabs of two-and-a-half ton trucks. After one training exercise I caught hell for sinking some 55-gallon drums 500 yards out in the Pacific Ocean. Well, no one told me we were suppose to just hit around them. A target is a target.

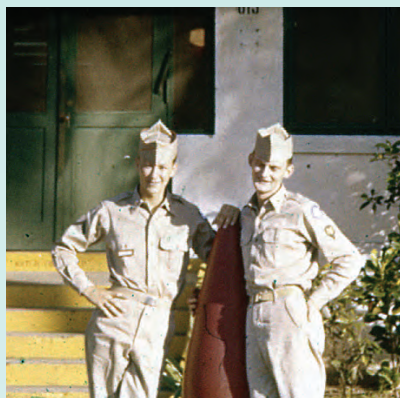
Every morning and afternoon planes sprayed the Canal Zone for mosquitoes and who knows what else. I remember monkeys in the trees making noise in the morning and stepping around dead coral snakes on the main company road. The San Blas Indians did all the KP and laundry. It was something to see the Panamanians cutting the grass with machetes as close as a lawn mower.

After the Army I finished college with the GI Bill. I retired in 1996 and keep busy volunteering in eight organizations. I live in Pawk, CT and stay active in VFW Post 1265 as Service Officer, Judge Advocate, and Color Guard. On Veterans Day 2010 I lined up our color guard for the local parade. A man in a clown costume who I never met before shook my hand and said "Americal Nam" after pointing to my Southern Cross patch. I haven't seen him since.

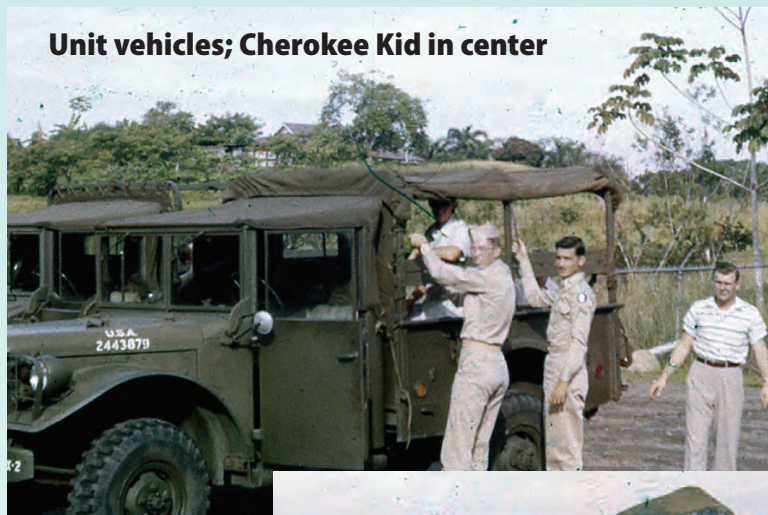
I have not been in touch with my buddies since our days in Panama. Maybe these photos will help establish contact once again. Memories are good to have when you've served with great comrades and citizen patriots.



Tony today in VFW color guard uniform



Tony (left) and Fred Remsa in front of Bn. HQ



Unit vehicles; Cherokee Kid in center



Tony in fatigues



723rd Ordnance HQ office building

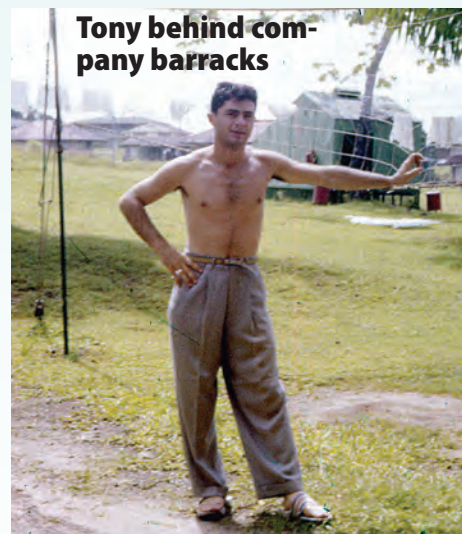


Tony on Costa Rican pony at Santa Clara beach.



Tony in center on hood; Fred Remsa next to Tony (with towel); Cherokee Kid between Tony and Fred

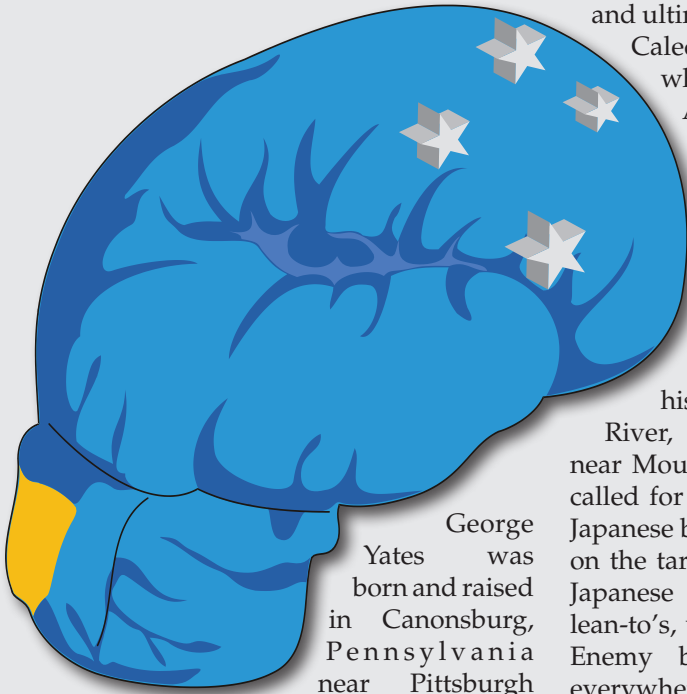
Tony at HQ, 723 Ord. Bn.



Tony behind company barracks

Back When "Champions" Were Real CHAMPS!

by David W. Taylor



George Yates was born and raised in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh and returned to his hometown after World War II, never to leave again. He retired as a Vice-President - Commercial Banking with Pittsburgh's PNC Bank in 1984. In his retirement Yates follows his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers football team and the area hockey team, admiring the athletic abilities of those who have risen to the level of professional sports.

But among his treasured memorabilia of the past, are photographs when he too, rose in the ranks of athleticism to be counted among the very best. But in Yates experience, it was not as a professional player in front of tens of thousands of adoring fans, making a huge salary, flying from city to city in relative comfort. For George Yates and his fellow athletes, "fame" came between intense combat and sacrifice, during a time of war and hardship. And in that brief interlude George Yates became the senior welterweight boxing champion of the Americal Army Division.

Yates proclivity towards boxing may have had its beginnings when, as a senior in high school and an excellent wrestler, he was invited to transfer to the Valley Forge Military

Academy outside Philadelphia, to help get their wrestling program started. Immediately after High School Yates enlisted in the Army in January 1943 and ultimately found himself in New Caledonia in December 1943, where he was assigned to the Americal's 182nd Infantry Regiment's Intelligence & Reconnaissance (I&R) Platoon and sent to Guadalcanal towards the end of that campaign.

George Yates first combat action was on Bougainville where, after his patrol crossed the Torokina River, and approached an area near Mount Bagana, his squad leader called for artillery fire on a suspected Japanese base camp. As they moved in on the target they found a make-shift Japanese field hospital composed of lean-to's, which had been abandoned. Enemy bodies were decomposing everywhere and Yates found one Japanese soldier-patient with his toe in the trigger of his rifle. Too weak to retreat, he had shot himself rather than be taken alive.

In early to mid-March 1944 the Japanese launched major attacks

along the Americal and 37th Infantry Division's main line of resistance as well as attacking Hill 260, a key observation point. Yates took part in the cleanup at the end of the Hill 260 battle which had included hand to hand fighting. He recall's, "After the battle for Hill 260 there were about three hundred Jap bodies laying all around and I'm sure a lot more just beyond the hill in the jungle. One of the men in Company E, Jim Simpson, was in the long battle and would later take part in our boxing group but he couldn't win a boxing match. Well, in the battle for Hill 260, he was awarded two Silver Stars. He was quite a soldier!"

"Colonel Dunn, our regimental commander didn't know what to do with all the Japanese bodies. They ended up getting the Sea-Bee's to dig a mass grave with their bulldozers and we buried them there. After the war it was the only information we could give the Japanese government about the dead. No one was identified, they were all buried together".

Yates remembers, "Sometime after the major Jap offensive on our lines and the battle for Hill 260 ended, things started to settle down because the Japs were so horribly beaten. There was a

Sizzling Title Bouts in the Americal Division Finals



Champion titlists of the Americal Divisions 46-card boxing tournament on Bougainville pose with Major General Robert B McClure, division commander. From left to right: PFC Milo Davis, 119 Bantamweight, Snohomish, Washington; PFC Roger Pattenau, 133-3/4, Lightweight, Ecorse, Michigan; PFC Oscar Stockland, 127 Featherweight, Luverne, North Dakota; PFC Wilfred Corona 145, Welterweight, Sacramento, California; General McClure, Palo Alto, California; PVT George Yates, 155-1/2 Senior Welterweight, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania; PVT Bernie Reynolds, 167, Middleweight, Bellingham, Washington; CPL Paul Perrotti, 177 Light Heavy-Weight, Cleveland, Ohio; and PFC Paul Friedman, 204 Heavyweight, Minneapolis, Minnesota.



The original 182nd Regiment boxing team on Bougainville. Top row from left to right: Red Burton, George Yates, Frank Milloy, Red Cantwell, Bill Hurst, Bob Slyter, Gene Brooks. Middle Row left to right: Senor Castillo, Larry Amya, Lara, Sam Nahama, Bendi, Joe Gallien, Bernie Goldberg and Coach Major Vinciullo. Front row left to right: Toni, Jim Rodriguez, Bowlin, Roger Pattenauade, Jose Avila.

Major in our 182nd Regiment, Major Salvatore Vinciullo, who was a physical fitness buff. He wanted to start boxing matches in the regiment for morale purposes. He went to Colonel Dunn who approved it. I came back from a patrol and saw some guys working out at boxing and thought, 'Maybe with my wrestling experience I could take a shot at it'. I asked Vinciullo and he encouraged me to work at it. Later, the boxing idea caught on and, with General McClure's approval, the other regiments started forming their boxing teams as well"

Yates continues, "Prior to the Americal boxing tournaments I fought a match with a guy from the 37th Division (Ohio National Guard) who had boxed before going in the Army. He had a busted nose and cauliflower ears from his boxing days and he did beat me, but I didn't think he was that good. So that gave me encouragement that maybe I could do something here" Yates was impressed with what the Americal was able to do with the boxing tournaments. "The matches were well-organized. We had boxing rings built to specifications like back in the states, with lots of seating. I think that with some of the championship fights we drew a thousand soldiers

around the ring"

Yates trained with the 182nd team and was impressed with the talent they had. "I was in the welterweight category and just below my weight class was Roger Pattenauade in the lightweight class at only 140 pounds. He was only 140 but if he hit you he could knock your head off. He became the lightweight champ of the division."

George Yates progressed in his welterweight class taking on boxers from the 132nd and 164th Regiments in

the division boxing tournament which featured "46-cards" (matches). His third fight was with Mike Bush from the 164th and Yates recalls, "That was a tough one. He hit me with some good shots which I still remember today. No one got a knockout but I won the decision". Yates went on to a record of nine wins, one loss and one draw to win the senior welterweight championship of the Americal Division.

The boxing fame of the contenders was short-lived, however, and all went back to their assignments to fight the continuing Japanese resistance on Bougainville. After Bougainville there was no respite for the division and no opportunity for its one-time pugilists to have another tournament. The division saw heavy combat in the Philippines until the Japanese surrendered. Yates is circumspect about his short time in the ring. "We built up some real nice friendships in our short boxing careers but the war tore that apart. PFC Charlie Miller from the 132nd Regiment, whom I beat for the division championship, was killed on Cebu. Sgt. Chester George and PFC Robert A. "junior" Castle were great supporters of our boxing team. George was killed on Leyte and Castle was killed on Bougainville during the boxing tournament".

While on Cebu Yates was given a mission with some of the I&R Platoon to guard some engineers from the 57th Engineer Battalion who were clearing



George Yates (right) with Charles Miller, 132nd Regiment Soldier whom Yates beat for the Senior Welterweight championship of the Americal Division. Miller was later killed in action on Cebu.



Major General McClure shakes hands with Senior Welterweight Champion George Yates, who finished with a record of 9 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw. From Right to Left: Middleweight champ in silk robe, Bernie Reynolds, undefeated in 12 pro bouts in Wisconsin; Bantamweight champ (Bellingham, Wisconsin) Milo "Shorty" Davis (Golden Glover in the USA; Featherweight Champ Oscar Stockland (North Dakota) winner of 42 out of 50 fights; Light Heavyweight Tony Perrotti (Cleveland, Ohio) a tough boxer at 177 pounds and Bob "The Ape" Friedman (former football star at the University of Minnesota).

mines in front of some tanks. "We came under heavy machinegun fire and the man next to me from the engineers, PVT. Walter F. Hunt was killed, shot in the face". He recalled, "Two men were killed instantly and three more were wounded. Joe Gallind and I went out and pulled in the wounded from under the machinegun fire". Later, Yates was on Go Chan Hill when it was blown up by the Japanese which caused massive casualties. Yates was seriously wounded. "The lights went out on me that time" he recalls. "I was sent to a hospital in Leyte"

While convalescing in Leyte, Yates received word from the Red Cross his brother, a flight engineer and tail gunner, had been shot down in Germany. His brother and his aircraft crew were listed as "Missing in Action" so he could not apply for home leave as the "sole surviving son". After the Japanese surrendered Yates was informed his brother and the crew's remains were found in a field.

By agreement with the families of the entire crew, their remains would be brought back to the states in 1950 and buried in Rock Island, Illinois, with a military funeral. When he was in the hospital in Leyte Yates also learned he was awarded a Silver Star for his actions in pulling the wounded engineers to safety while under heavy fire.

Yates was back with his unit when the Japanese forces surrendered in the Philippines and he was selected to be on a special surrender detail. He remembers, "General Arnold, our division commander at the time, wanted all tall soldiers for this detail when the Japanese came in from the hills. The first rank was composed of soldiers who were all six feet or taller. The second rank was soldiers five feet ten or five feet eleven and the third rank were soldiers at least five feet eight inches with no one shorter. There were several thousand Japs who ultimately surrendered and Arnold wanted to stick it to them" Yates also recalls,

"We were very concerned about the Philippino's causing problems because they hated the Japanese so much. We really emphasized that with the locals, we didn't want them killing the Jap prisoners. It worked out Ok."

George Yates also served with the Americal Division during occupation duty in Japan, but looked forward to returning home to his beloved Canonsburg, PA. In Japan someone got the idea to start the boxing matches again and an officer approached Yates with the question, "Would you like to defend your championship in Japan? "No sir!" came the quick reply. The startled officer asked, "Is there a reason?" Yates responded he had two reasons. First, he was not in the same shape after being wounded on Cebu and second, someone had offered him a job in Special Services after the Bougainville campaign but it never materialized. As far as Yates was concerned, "I have met my obligations!"

George Yates and his fellow soldier's who trained hard and suffered knocks



and blows as boxers in a division at war, only to return to combat shortly after, represent the spirit of the American fighting man in World War II. It is a spirit not found in professional sports today. Perhaps it is because times have changed or we as a nation have changed.

Several years ago the Cleveland Cavaliers phenom basketball star, LeBron James, remarked the reason his team did not win a Saturday night game is because they had to fly to another town after a Friday night game, and "they were tired." Immediately an Americal Vietnam veteran called a sports radio talk show opining how he and his fellow soldiers managed to "get the job done" day after day, carrying 60-pound rucksacks in 100-degree heat, with little sleep or food; and no flights from town to town to be feted in luxury hotels between contact with the opposition.

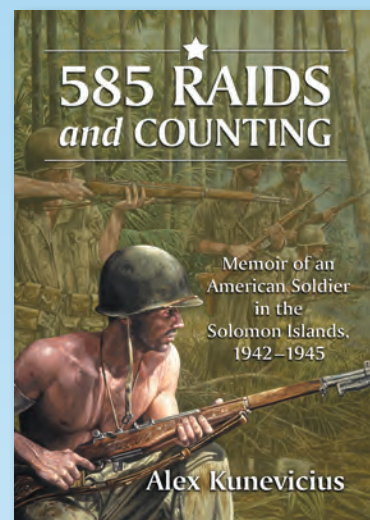
Yates and his fellow Americal boxers in World War II experienced the same challenges. They were "Champs" in every way and represent the true meaning of the title.



George Yates, January 2011

585 Raids and Counting

**Americal Soldier, Age 91,
Shares Memories of War in New Book**
by David W. Taylor



After receiving his draft notice on March 5, 1941, 21-year old Alex Kunevicius harbored dreams of joining Patton's First Armored Division. Instead, he was placed in a noncombatant Army Ordnance Company and taught how to repair weapons, an assignment in which he initially saw little glory. After Pearl Harbor, however, he and his fellow technicians proved indispensable by keeping American guns firing during the invasion of island after island in the Pacific War.

Kunevicius was assigned to the Americal's 22nd Medium Ordnance Company early in the division's fighting on Guadalcanal. In his memoir he recounts his experiences as an ordnance man, on his ocean voyages from island to island, enemy air and artillery attacks and fighting heat and disease as his unit provided critical maintenance support for the assaults on the enemy. Kunevicius' recollections offer a vivid portrait of life behind the lines and reveal the enormous value of support units to the war effort.

One innovation Kunevicius had his hands in was when a lieutenant came to their company and complained his troops couldn't throw their hand grenades far enough. Kunevicius developed a grenade that could be shot from a rifle. He details the innovation in a section titled, "The Hand Grenade That Fly's" His unit was encamped near Henderson Field on Guadalcanal and consequently was a prime target for daily bombardments by Japanese ships, planes and artillery. He and his fellow soldiers put all their wallets in one place, agreeing that whoever survived would send their belongings home. "There was no panic" he recalls, "Just grim acceptance"

Alex Kunevicius' knack for innovation served him well after the war. Among his accomplishments, he invented the self-adhering vinyl body side moldings for cars which are still used to this day. At his company's high point he had three plants running at full capacity until in 1977 he merged with Libby Owens Ford, the maker of auto windshields and windows. He retired from the industry in 1980.

"585 Raids and Counting" by Alex Kunevicius is published by McFarland & Company Publishing, located in Jefferson, North Carolina. The book cost \$35. United States shipping charges via U.S. Postal are \$5 for the first book and \$1 for each additional book.

Those wishing to order online can access: www.mcfarlandpub.com (click on the individuals drop-down menu). Americal vets can also order toll free by phone (800-253-2187), 8 am to 4:30 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday-Friday. Orders can also be placed by mail to: McFarland Publishing, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640.

The Face of the Enemy The Japanese Soldier

by David W. Taylor
ADVA WWII Historian

(Editors note: This article is a continuation of "The Face of the Enemy" series begun in the July-August-September 2010 issue of the Americal Journal, which discussed Japanese mines and booby traps)

For many years prior to World War II the Japanese Army was taken lightly in military assessments by western powers. But just prior to America's entry into WWII Japan's rapid conquest of islands in the western pacific, its victories (if not total dominance) on the Chinese mainland, and conquests of islands leading to the doorstep of Australia and New Zealand, gave rise to, what some thought, was an invincibility of the Japanese soldier.

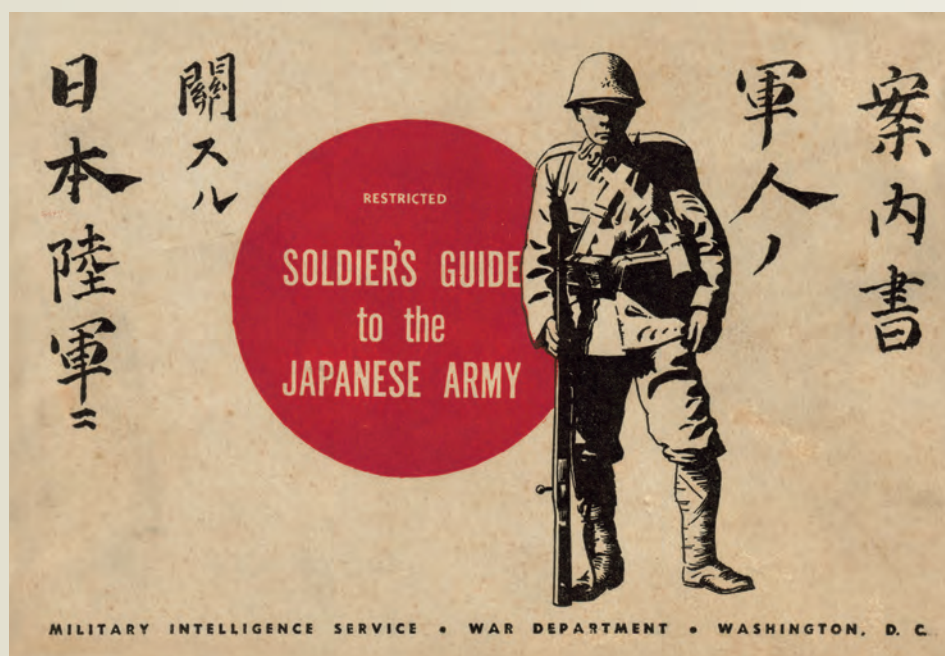
It appeared to most observers the Japanese soldier was unconquerable in jungle terrain. His fanatical death-courting charges, especially during night attacks, and last ditch defenses appeared to some analysts, that the Japanese soldier was invested with almost superhuman attributes. However, combat experience against the Japanese by British and American forces soon provided a more realistic assessment.

While the military capabilities and fighting ability of the Japanese soldier was respected, the inherent weaknesses of the Imperial Soldier, his training, credo and tactics became better understood and allied forces began to effectively fight against these weaknesses.

Characteristics and Training

The Japanese soldier was small in stature compared to American and British soldiers. His average height was 5 feet, 3-1/2 inches and his weight 116 to 120 pounds. Although rigorously trained, most soldiers were awkward and suffered from poor teeth and poor sanitation habits when deployed in the field. This is primarily due to the fact most soldiers were of a peasant background with an early life of hard work and privation.

The Japanese soldiers humble background certainly helped in their training, where physical conditioning,



wall-scaling, arduous marches - which included much double time and uphill movement - and training in blistering heat or bitter cold, helped to make them accept the deprivations of war-time conditions.

Field exercises in training were as realistic as they were strenuous. Every effort was made to simulate the noise and confusion of battle, which included using live ammunition which, on occasion, caused casualties. All infantrymen and engineers were taught sniping and scouting techniques, even though most were not called to perform those duties in actual combat. Night attacks by the Japanese were legendary because they were heavily emphasized in training, at least one night exercise per week. Before the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into the war, many Japanese soldiers were sent to China for actual combat experience before being sent to the islands to combat British and American soldiers.

Decorations and Morale

The Japanese soldier was urged to respond to the needs of his comrades and share food and equipment under harsh conditions. When making battlefield observations about the enemy, exaggerations and lies were shunned as being dishonorable. Taking care of one's individual health was stressed as a virtue of the highest importance.

Decorations and awards were considered important in the Japanese

military system. There were several awards but within those awards were classes of "membership". The highest award was the "Order of the Golden Kite" Admission into the order was granted in recognition of "conspicuous service against a foreign foe" There were seven classes of membership with the highest class closed to enlisted men. In addition to the honor, inclusion in the order carries with it a lifetime annuity.

Other awards were "The Order of the Rising Sun" available to civilians and military who have performed meritorious service which also carried a life annuity. There were eight classes with only the lowest available to enlisted men. Length of service and good conduct are recognized by inclusion into The Order of the Sacred Treasury, which had eight classes, two of which are open to enlisted men.

Medals of three classes were awarded for distinguished, meritorious and exceptional service respectively. Campaign and good conduct medals were also presented as well as badges of proficiency in various technical skills. Medals were awarded to the next of kin of those killed in action, or to service men that died within three years after contracting a fatal disease from military service.

Decorations and awards up to the fifth class of the Order of the Golden Kite could be made in the field after approval from the War Ministry in

Japan. Officers received their awards from their division commander while enlisted received awards from their immediate unit commander. Prior to and during World War II, decorations and medals were returned to the government after the death of their holders.

Despite the inducements of decorations and awards and training to the contrary, major crimes and military offenses were not uncommon in the Japanese Army. Robbery, rape and trespass were recurrent offenses in the war zones and studies show that military training did little to curtail desertion, destruction of military equipment and abandonment of sentry posts. Still, constant military propaganda directed at the Japanese soldier carefully nurtured his hatred of the allied forces, especially the Chinese (who were considered sub-human) and American and British soldiers. Natives on the islands who supported allied forces were also treated with disdain. The



A Japanese officer wearing decorations. The highest are seen on the left, just as the order of American decorations are worn. The first three (left to right) are Imperial Order of the Golden Kite (4th or 5th grade); Imperial Order of the Double Ray of the Rising Sun with Paulinia Leaves, and a Manchurian Medal followed by campaign or commemoration medals. Around the neck is the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure (2nd or 3rd grade).

Japanese soldier's religion, which was inseparably entwined with his patriotism, convinced him that he was achieving his highest destiny by sacrificing his life in the profession of arms.

Conduct in Battle

The Japanese soldier, despite his unruliness and cruelty when serving in occupation duties, was strong in battle. On the offense, for reasons mentioned above, he was determined and quite willing to sustain sacrificial losses without flinching. When committed to an assault plan, Japanese troops adhered to it rigidly, even when severe casualties would dictate the need for abandonment or modification of the plan.

The Japanese soldier was an expert at camouflage and considered it a military virtue to conduct deceptions and ruses, even those that feigned surrender to cause the enemy drop its guard and then kill them. The Jap soldier's tenacity was at its zenith when he was fighting with his comrades and his unit enjoyed the advantages of key terrain or fire power. In those conditions their fire discipline was good and they remained fanatical, prepared to die rather than retreat. Surrender was considered a great disgrace not only to the soldier but it extended to his family back home. His religion taught him that it was the highest honor to die for his emperor.

American soldiers in WWII know only too well, that Japanese in hopeless positions have fought to the last, and the wounded begged their comrades to kill them to avoid the ignominy of capture. "Fight hard", the Japanese soldier was told. "If you are afraid of dying, you will die in battle; if you are not afraid you will not die ... Under no circumstances do you become a straggler or a prisoner of war. In case you become helpless commit suicide nobly."

It is of interest to note that as the war progressed, and the lack of supplies and heavy casualties of the Japanese forces took their toll, morale was seriously eroded, especially when it became clear the Japanese empire would lose its occupation of foreign lands. Morale was also seriously eroded when the Jap Army erected graves within their areas of control for its soldiers that died. One enemy order read, "Too many graves with

markers are not good for security or morale. Also, it is unfair to erect grave markers for some persons and not for others. Such a grave will be erected at the home of a deceased man, it is not necessary to erect one for him on the battlefield."

Japanese units have, by no means, always been steadfast under fire. They have been routed when situations not expected have caused panic. Much of this has to do with the soldier's cultural background. The group pattern of their lives as civilians, with no emphasis on individualism, the restraints of religion, deference to the head of the family and subservience to the state, left an indelible impression on the soldier. By and large the Japanese soldier was unimaginative and slow to improvise when thrown upon his own resources.

Loss of officers was a great blow to Japanese units, for the enlisted ranks frequently failed to assert any self-reliance and initiative because their training failed to do so. Japanese soldiers on occasion were thrown into panic by an unexpected move by their enemy during an attack or by the bungling of their own plans.

Another characteristic of the Japanese soldier that contrasts with the myths built up around him is that many Jap soldiers were notoriously bad marksmen. This meant that their cover and concealment failed to be optimized by their rifle fire at greater than 50 yards for single-aimed shots. Massive small arms fire was another matter.

Japanese troops could be unnerved by heavy enemy artillery fire and particularly by off-coast fire from American warships, but for the most part, their carefully prepared fortifications and credo of sacrifice kept them from breaking under massive concentrations of indirect fires. Captured documents indicated the Japanese did have a healthy respect for the accuracy of American small-arms fire and were most awestruck by the lavish expenditure of ammunition of all types by the American forces. It was this type of heavy fire power that was unceasing, and the continuous supplies of food and equipment that wore at the morale of Japanese units.

Japanese response to air attacks was no different than American or British forces coming under air attack from the Japanese. However, as the war progressed and Japanese air power was seriously eroded, morale



suffered among the Japanese Army at the inferiority of its own air forces. Captured documents revealed that Japanese soldiers were mortified that the “son’s of heaven” should be forced to accept a situation in which their enemies were so palpably superior.

Finally, while on occasion Japanese soldiers would flee from allied ground attacks, the Japanese soldier generally favored this kind of combat. Their Army training emphasized hand-to-hand encounters and were indoctrinated with the conviction they were superior in this kind of fighting. Moreover they drew confidence in the longer length of their bayonets over American bayonets. This is especially true at night which gave them a unique advantage in the dark. It was because of these kinds of attacks that fighting was so close-in against the Japanese, with levels of hand-to-hand combat not seen since the middle-ages. As the war progressed American artillery barrages were so massive in support of night ground attacks the Japanese suffered massive losses just getting to attack the American’s main lines of resistance.

Supply, Rations and Clothing

The Japanese Army’s equivalence of the U.S. Army’s Quartermaster Corps was the “Intendence Department” In 1942 the Intendence Department of the entire Japanese Army consisted of 2,700 officers of which 20 were generals and 630 field officers. There were four sections in the “department” dealing

respectively with food, clothing and personal equipment, pay and housing. Each division had its own intendence section with sub-sections in each regiment operated by an officer and eight enlisted men. In the battalion intendence was handled by a second lieutenant and about 10 enlisted men; at the company level by a warrant officer and several supply clerks.

The Intendence Department maintained freight depots in Japan that fed into field depots in each theatre of operations. Each “branch” (food, clothing, etc) filled the requisitions of the division field warehouses. Subordinate units used their organic transportation assets in drawing their supplies and it was here that the Japanese Army experienced the greatest weakness of their supply system. Supplies time and time again could not be picked up because of inadequate transport facilities. Moreover, Japanese commanders overestimated the capabilities of their forces with overly optimistic confidence in victories. Conquest of territories provided indigenous supplies, but overconfidence in victories caused them to seriously underestimate their supply needs. Finally, once Japan’s sea power was seriously debilitated by major battles such as the Battle of Coral Sea, the supply chain in the Pacific broke apart.

There has been much misunderstanding of the food needs of the Japanese Army. Myths have sprung up concerning the ability of the Japanese soldier to subsist on

extremely small quantities of food and it was popularly believed that he ate little, save some rice while in the field, as a normal course of diet.

After-action reports revealed the Japanese soldier was subject to hunger like any allied soldier. He appreciated variety in his diet and meals at regular intervals. Inadequate rations, which plagued the Jap soldier after the Americans started their island-hopping campaign, caused a depressing influence on individual and unit morale in the Japanese Army.

Japanese Army Uniforms

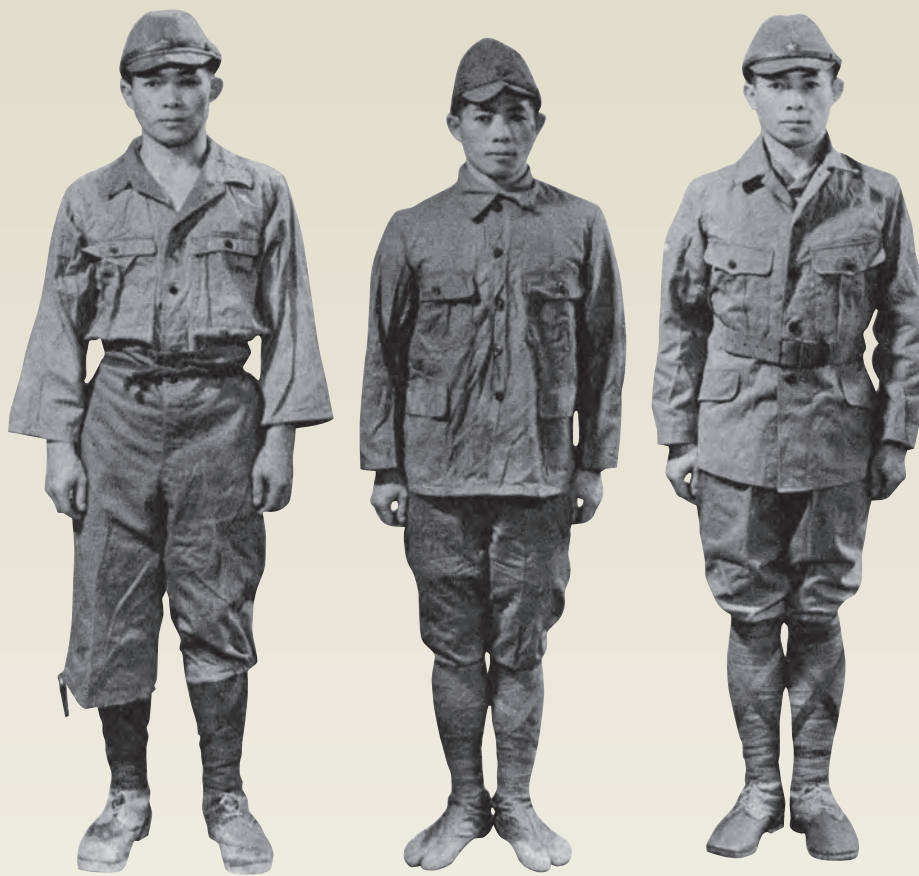
The Japanese Army had long been in need of a “modern” uniform prior to World War II, when it still wore uniforms from the Russo-Japanese War in the early 1900’s. The design for a new, functional uniform was postponed due to its attempted conquest of the mainland of China in the 1930’s. The new uniforms had a decided bias towards tropical wear to accommodate so many soldiers serving in conquered islands in the Pacific Rim.

New innovations to the “B” uniform (fatigue and combat) included a turn-down collar which could be worn open in the tropics. The coat for enlisted and NCO’s was single-breasted with five buttons and four flapped pockets with the two breast pockets having buttoned flaps. Trousers were styled like breeches and secured with tapes at the waist and ankle.

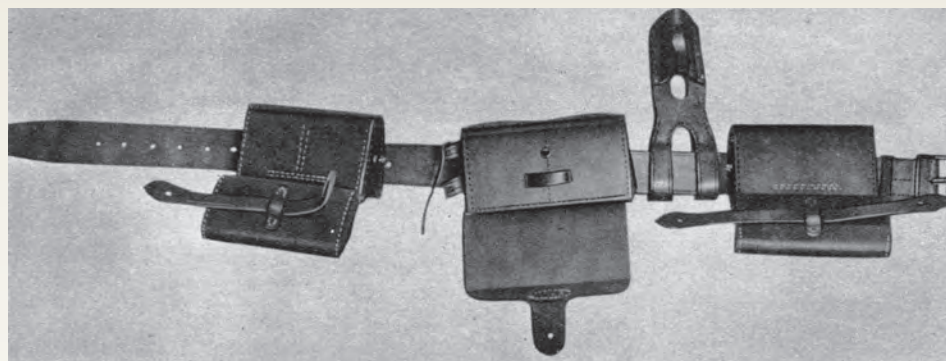
The Japanese Army marching shoe or boot had unfinished leather on the outside and either a leather hobnailed sole or a rubber sole with rubber cleats. They were also issued



Chow line and cook stove



Tropical uniform with loose shorts (left), lightweight uniform (center), tropical uniform



Belt with ammo pouches and sling for bayonet scabbard

Clothing and Personal Equipment Issued in the Japanese Army

Helmet, steel	1	Pack	1
Cap, cloth, khaki, peaked	1	Haversack	1
Trousers, drill, long, pair	2	Hold-all, canvas	1
Tunics, drill	2	Mess tin	1
Shirts, cotton khaki	2	Belt, leather	1
Underwear, cotton sets	2	Pouches, leather, ammunition	3
Socks, cotton pairs	2	Water bottle	1
Shoes, split-toe, rubber, pairs (Tabi)	1	Gloves, mosquito, pairs	1
Boots, leather, pairs	1	Head mask, mosquito	1
Shelter half, khaki, waterproof	1	Respirator	1
Puttees, pairs	1	First Aid field dressing	1

a split-toe sneaker (Tabi). Undershirts were either grey or white with single breast pockets. Winter or cold weather uniforms were made of olive-drab wool. The summer or tropical uniform was of khaki cotton or twill.

Officer wear coats were not unlike those issued to enlisted men. However, officer's uniforms were not issued clothing and varied in quality, color and cut. They tended to mimic the older style uniforms of the early 1900's with fancy belts that included cuts for swords and broad bands of cloth on their cuff's to signify their ranks. Later insignia was also worn on collars.

A review of "other supplies" such as personal hygiene items, recreational items, etc, is not warranted since, as noted above, the Japanese Army supply system rapidly broke down once the Japanese Navy, considered by Japans War Department to hold the most influence of all its forces, started to deteriorate under Americal and allied naval power. The Japanese enlisted mess kit was the same type worn by the German, Italian and Soviet armies. It consisted of an aluminum container 7 inches wide and 6 inches high, slightly curved. Beneath the cover were nested dishes, which, including the cover, provided up to three dishes beside the main deep mess can. If the climate permitted, soldiers carried ready-cooked food for several days. Officers used an oblong mess kit slightly smaller in size.

Canteens were of two types. The one for officers was much like the German soldier canteens. It had a felt snap-on cover and was topped by a cup. Enlisted canteens generally were of brown-painted aluminum of 3 and 4-quart sizes, and were carried in a manner similar to the officers, by a strap hung over the left shoulder and hip.

It can not be over emphasized that the Japanese soldier's issue of uniforms and equipment, while judged to be adequate when issued, was not optimal and deteriorated in availability due to three major factors. First was the attitude of the Japanese Imperial Forces that emphasized its naval power, particularly of its aircraft carriers and battleships, which required much of the empires military expenditures. Second, within the Japanese Army supply system transportation relied heavily on the organic assets of the division's, regiments and battalions, which quickly eroded once western powers entered into the war. And third, the deterioration of Japan's vaunted Navy rapidly brought a deterioration of Japans ability to supply its Army.

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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.

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