

April • May • June 2011



AMERICAL JOURNAL

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



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Commanders Comments By Jay Flanagan



2011 National Reunion

This year the ADVA National Reunion will be at Colorado Springs, CO and Tom Packard has a good program put together. I'm looking forward to 2011's reunion. The 2011 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. More information will be found in this edition of the Americal Journal and online at www.americal.org/reunion.shtml.

1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment

The 182nd Infantry Regiment is the oldest combat unit in the U.S. Army and its history goes back to pre-revolutionary days. It was called into battle as part of the Americal Division in World War II. On November 12, 1942 the 182nd captured the Japanese defensive works atop the Sea Horse on Guadalcanal. They later fought at Bougainville, the Northern Solomons, and Leyte.

In February 2010 officials with the 1/182nd Infantry Regiment of the Massachusetts National Guard made contact with then ADVA National Commander Dave Taylor and other officers of your Association. PNC Taylor was delighted to learn that the current 182nd Regiment incorporated the Americal Division patch into their unit crest. The regiment has also decided to wear the Americal Division patch on their helmets as a way to honor the long history of the 182nd Infantry Regiment and the Americal Division.

ADVA members were invited to participate in the send-off event for the 182nd prior to their recent deployment to Afghanistan. The regiment held the ceremony in Conte Forum of Boston College on March 27, 2011. Mary Ann and I were thrilled to attend. We drove to Boston to support the unit and represent the ADVA.

I have to tell you, it was wonderful, sobering, and made us very proud to be Americans and part of the long history of our unit. To see the young soldiers, their families and friends, and the support displayed by the four to five thousand in attendance was heart-warming.

I spoke with a couple of the soldiers. I answered their questions about the Americal and in return I asked them questions about their unit. I got the impression they are well trained and serious about their role in present history.

Speakers in support of the 182nd were Lt. Governor Murray, Congressman Lynch, Major General Carter, Boston College President Rev. Father Leahy, 182nd commander Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stewart, and 182nd's top NCO, Command Sergeant Major Robert Marsh. U.S. Senator Brown sent a message which was read by Congressman Lynch.

Congressman Lynch gave the most stirring speech and had all veterans in attendance stand to be recognized. Father Leahy



LTC Thomas Stewart and daughter chat with Jay Flanagan

promised to hold the homecoming ceremony at Conte Forum as long as there is no Hockey or Basketball that day. After the ceremonies concluded I was able to meet with LTC Stewart and offer any support we may be able to provide.

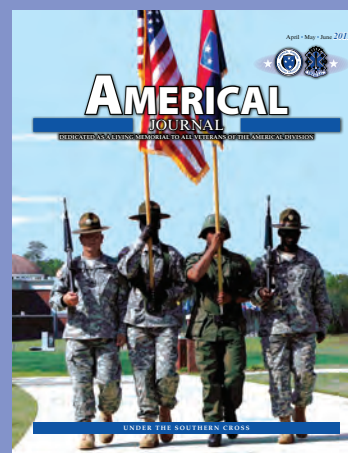
If you would like to learn more about supporting the unit go to: <http://ff182-walpole.blogspot.com/>. When LTC Stewart sends us their official mailing address it will be posted in the Americal Journal. A recent sitrep from LTC Stewart is elsewhere in this edition.

Legacy Committee

There has been great 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 Americal Division and 23rd Infantry 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.



Cover: Color Guard from the 2/46 Inf. presents the colors at the ground breaking ceremony for the Americal Division monument 27 March 2011 at Ft Benning.

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

The association's new member increase for the Second Quarter of 2011 was down considerably from the First Quarter. For the three months ending April 30, 2011, we added forty-eight new members. This quarter we did not have any large scale recruiting initiatives such as we had in October 2010 at the Chicago annual reunion.

Other membership categories were down as well. Only two new members joined as life members. Seven annual pay members upgraded their ADVA membership to Life Member status during this quarter. Three former members were re-instated to the membership roster.

This quarter, four of our new members are World War II veterans. It's great that we see our greatest generation veterans continue to join our ranks.

Members James Tarver, Charles Graves, Larry Stovall and Michael Colligan sponsored new members and paid for their first year's dues.

All May 2011 annual pay member renewal notices (with new member card good until May 2012) were mailed on April 27, 2011. If you do not receive your annual renewal notice by the end of May, 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.

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.

Also, please consider upgrading your annual pay membership status 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.

In closing, a reminder to notify me if you move and change your address. The association incurs a significant cost from the United States Post Office each time we are notified about an address change thru them. Please help keep the association's mailing costs down by notifying me as soon as possible when you move. If you have email, it costs you and the association nothing to send your address change in that manner. See the staff directory inside the front page for my email address.

ADVA MEMEBERSHIP

April 30, 2011

World War II	484
Vietnam	2,473
Cold War	9
Associate Members:	181
Total Members	3,147

New Members

Phillip R. Buzzell

3/18th Arty
Carlisle, PA
★ *Paul Delvitto*

Nelson A. Cannon

No Unit Given
S China, ME
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Joe D. Christian

Americal Div HDQ
Plano, TX
★ *Self*

John W. Danforth

198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Tifton, GA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Norman R. Dennison

182nd Inf Rgmt Co I
St Robert, MO
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Billy J. Edwards

17th Cav F Trp
Seattle, WA
★ *Self*

Phillip Elliston

26th Cmbt Engrs
South Hampton, NY
★ *Charles P. Graves*

George Farkas

335th Trans Co
Madison, AL
★ *Wayne Bryant*

Jimmy C. Flowers

196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Darlington, SC
★ *PNC Ronald R. Ellis*

John W. Glover

23rd S&T Bn Co B
Tallahassee, FL
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Larry E. Gore

1/14th Arty Btry C
Waterloo, SC
★ *Self*

Roy P. Guillot

1/1st Cav Rgmt
DeRidder, LA
★ *Self*

Charles Holdaway

196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Fountaintown, IN
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Joseph T. Imbrogno

196th LIB E/2/1st Inf
Fayette City, PA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Stephen L. Kiefer

11th LIB B/4/3rd Inf
Middlebury, IN
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Dave Kincade

11th LIB C/1/20th Inf
Dwight, IL
★ *Self*

Harry W. Kreger

MI Det
Ocean View, DE
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Duane A. Lemons

198th LIB
Leesville, LA
★ *James Tarver*

Jack G. Lucas

196th LIB
Chapman, KS
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Jon C. Lyons

Div Arty
Lancaster, PA
★ *Self*

Vernon J. Mavencamp

245th FA
Hagerman, ID
★ *PNC David W. Taylor*

Gerald L. Mills

23rd Admin Co
Monroe, NC
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

David G. Mitchell

11th LIB B/4/3rd Inf
Newberry, MI
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

John Moody

11th LIB 3/1st Inf
Gardnerville, NV
★ *Roger Gilmore*

Arthur B. Olson

11th LIB HHC/4/3rd Inf
Spokane, WA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

David W. Raikes

198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Lafayette, IN
★ *PNC David W. Taylor*

Fabian Robinson

164th Inf Rgmt
Hospers, IA
★ *Self*

Donald R. Schroeder

Americal Div HDQ
Sparta, WI
★ *Self*

Ronald L. Scroggins

6/11th Arty Btry C
Vancouver, WA
★ *Dave Hammond*

Richard J. Sebastian

8th Cav F Trp
Medina, OH
★ *PNC David W. Taylor*

Frederick M. Shafer

3/16th Arty
Fredericksburg, VA
★ *Self*

Max Smits

196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
DePere, WI
★ *PNC Ronald R. Ellis*

Leonard D. Sunley

198th LIB D/1/6th Inf
Alvin, TX
★ *Larry Stovall*

E. Phillip Topps
196th LIB C/1/46th Inf
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Louis J. Verderber
198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Conroe, TX
★ *PNC David W. Taylor*

Bobby Ward
198th LIB C/1/6th Inf
Carrollton, GA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

George Watson
132nd Inf Rgmt M Co
Wilmington, DE
★ *Self*

Louis Watt
1/1st Cav C Trp
W Monroe, LA
★ *James Tarver*

Sam Wetzel
196th LIB HHC/4/31st Inf
Columbus, GA
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Ray Wicker
17th Cav F Trp
Radcliff, KY
★ *William G. Walker*

Thomas L. Wilson
196th LIB E/2/1st Inf
Kimball, MN
★ *Charles Unterberger*

Jim Zorens
198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Douglasville, GA
★ *PNC David W. Taylor*

New Paid Life Members

Dana Buckley
198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Glouster, OH
★ **Michael Colligan**

Robert Byrne
11th LIB 1/20th Inf
Darien, CT
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

John W. Brown
198th LIB B/1/52nd Inf
Flagstaff, AZ
★ *Dan R. Young*

Alton H. Coleman
196th LIB 2/1st Inf
McDonough, GA
★ *Self*

Michael L. Jeffirs
196th LIB D/2/1st Inf
Denham Springs, LA
★ *Bob Kapp*

John K. Krodel
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Dallas, TX
★ *Roger Gilmore*

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

Val G. Shaull
26th Engrs Co D
Gresham, OR
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

James M. Thompson
635th MI Det
Fort Wayne, IN
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

Re-instated Members

Sid George
198th LIB D/5/46th Inf
Miami, FL
★ *PNC David W. Taylor*

Ronald Kappeler
198th LIB HHC
Pittsburg, PA
★ *Mark Deam*

Jose Vargas
26th Engrs Recon
Northglenn, CO
★ *PNC Gary L. Noller*

New Associate Members

Brian C. Darnell
Colorado Springs, CO
★ *James Tarver*

John P. James
New Llano, LA
★ *James Tarver*

Daniel L. Leonard, Sr.
Picayune, MS
★ *James Tarver*

Loi Vo
Leesville, LA
★ *James Tarver*

Corrections

William T. Bodie
1/82nd Arty
Leesville, LA
★ *James Tarver*

David E. Smith
11th LIB C/4/3rd Inf
Soap Lake, WA
★ *John W. Anderson*

TAPS

World War II Veterans

Michael G. Egirous
121st Med Bn
Waltham, MA
February 19, 2011

Thomas Edwards
132nd Inf Rgmt Co K
Fairfield, ME
February 21, 2011

Everett Goudy
132nd Inf Rgmt Co C
Milford, IL
April 6, 2011

Anthony Muscarello
132nd Inf Rgmt Co B
Lancaster, PA
September 8, 2010

Rocco Ranieri
182nd Inf Rgmt Co C
Lancaster, MA
March 5, 2010

James Sistar
182nd Inf Rgmt HHC
Waycross, GA
May 2010

Timothy Coffey
221st FA
Quincy, MA
March 8, 2011

Carl O. Cupples
245th FA
Redding, CA
March 15, 2011

Sylves Benson
247th FA
St. Helena, CA
September 1, 2010

Felix Kirk
247th FA
Orland Park, IL
September 2006

Vietnam Veterans

Thomas L. Kline
11th LIB
Coopersburg, PA
March 29, 2011

Francis M. Bromagen
17th Cav H Trp
Union City, IN
February 9, 2011

Howard F. Walker
198th LIB D/1/6th Inf
Loveland, CO
February 18, 2011

Last Roll Call WWII

Carl E. Doversberger
164th Inf Rgmt
West Linn, OR
February 21, 2011

Richard L. Rucker
164th Inf Rgmt
Gainseville, Va
November 17, 2010

Joseph P. Frager, Jr.
182nd Inf Rgmt
Southberry, CT
April 16, 2008

John August
57th Cmbt Engrs
Cambridge, MA
February 10, 2011

Lois M. Coburn
Unit Unknown
Florence, AL
March 28, 2011

Glen E. Freeman
Unit Unknown
Lawrence, KS
January 25, 2011

Walter Herrera
Unit Unknown
San Leandro, CA
March 9, 2011

Philip J. Lapaglia
Unit Unknown
Selma, TX
January 31, 2011

Joseph M. Lees
Unit Unknown
Richardson, TX
February 23, 2011

Robert C. McGiffert
Unit Unknown
Missoula, MT
December 25, 2010

John H. Pransky
Unit Unknown
Charlotte, NC
February 18, 2011

Robert E. Schulz

Unit Unknown
Oshkosh, WI
March 4, 2011

John D. Walker

Unit Unknown
Ottumwa, IA
January 20, 2011

**Last Roll Call
Vietnam**

Ward W. Westerberg

198th LIB
Erie, PA
February 10, 2011

Raymond Van DeVoort

26th Cmbt Engrs Co C
Socorro, NM
January 30, 2009

Associates

Leslie F. White

Salem, NH
Date Unknown

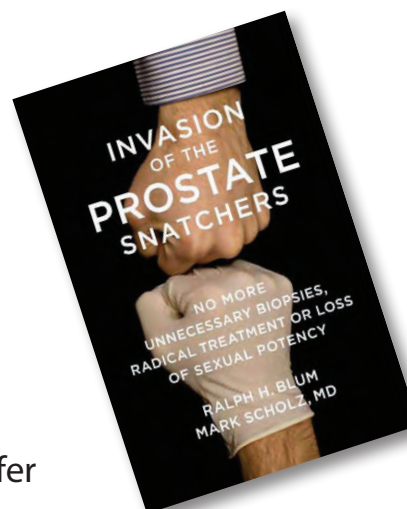
Death Notices

The Americal Journal magazine wishes to publish notices of the deaths of Americal Division veterans. This includes ADVA members as well as non-members. Send notifications to Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant. Provide name, date of death, Americal unit, and place of residence of the deceased. ADVA members are listed first under the TAPS section. Non-ADVA members are listed under the title Last Roll Call.



**Invasion of the
Prostate Snatchers**

**Book Review by John (Doc) Hofer
ADVA Service Officer**



Does the above headline get your attention? As most of us already know, men's aging brings issues with a gland we normally do not give much thought about- unless we have a problem. We may recognize a problem with urination or we may get an unusual finding during a medical exam. This finding could come from a prostate rectal exam or an elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA) test.

The new book, *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers*, has two co-authors. Dr. Mark Scholz is a prostate cancer oncologist. Ralph Blum is a prostate cancer survivor. They discuss controversial issues related to the prostate gland. The book offers a guideline for discussions with a urologist as well as with family members.

Prostate cancer oncologist is a rare subspecialty for medical doctors. This specialist has a focused understanding of prostate cancer and can offer second opinions on diagnosis and treatment. The second opinion will provide a balance to options that may be recommended by a urologist who performs surgical removal of cancerous prostate glands.

I have had a personal experience with a high PSA test number. A young urology resident give me two options- have a biopsy or take antibiotics to see if the high PSA was caused by an infection. I chose to take antibiotics and I had good results. I made this choice after a buddy from my VFW told me of his biopsy experience. I thought should try a more conservative approach since this was the first time my PSA was elevated.

Many of us may have a gut feeling that if diagnosed with prostate cancer the best choice is to cut it out. But I do not want to do that. I survived a tour in Vietnam and I want to enjoy some retirement years.

The book explains issues that may be considered before taking the option of surgery. These issues include the staging of the biopsy results. This ranks the pathological findings of the biopsy tissues as low risk, intermediate risk or high risk.

There are different ways of treating such findings to include the robotic removal of the prostate. Some urologists are quick to brag about but the results of this option. But results are not always as good as expected and may cause many undesirable problems such as impotence, incontinence, and pain.

I am not endorsing any specific treatments. But before reading this book I did not realize how complex this issue is. The decision to have surgery should not be second guessed. I do not want anyone that has had such surgery to have regrets.

This situation reminds me of the movie about the trapped rock climber who cut his own arm off. If he didn't do so he would have died. He made that hard choice and survived and wrote a successful book that became a movie.

I urge all middle-aged men to read about prostate cancer. They or their friends may have tough decisions with prostate issues now or in the future. Prostate cancer is one of the diseases that the Veterans Administration has deemed presumptive cause by Agent Orange. This increases the concern of Vietnam veterans about being diagnosed with the disease. A diagnosis of prostate cancer may be emotionally difficult to understand and to deal with.

I strongly recommend that Vietnam veterans have annual physical exams that include a digital prostate exam and PSA test. If you are not enrolled at a VA medical facility find one the nearest one and request an Agent Orange exam. Be sure that a thorough test for prostate cancer is part of the exam.

Torchlight Ceremony carried on at Fort Benning. March 27, 2011

Washington: United States Army has issued following news release:

A quarter-century-old Fort Knox, Ky., tradition has unfolded at Fort Benning for the first time.

The 2nd Battalion, 46th Infantry Regiment, staged its annual Torchlight Ceremony at dusk Sunday in Memorial Grove outside the unit's headquarters on Sand Hill. The event pays tribute to all regimental veterans from World War II through Vietnam and up to today. It honors the 46th's history, sacrifices of its Soldiers and families, and connection with those serving now.

"It's important to carry it on (and) that we as an Army recognize those who have gone before us and are fighting today, and the sacrifices they've made," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Brown, the battalion command sergeant major.

The ceremony takes place each year on the anniversary eve of the Battle of Fire Support Base Mary Ann, waged in the early hours of March 28, 1971, when Viet Cong sappers attacked the U.S. camp in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. Thirty-three Soldiers from the regiment's 1st Battalion were killed and more than 80 wounded. It was the deadliest attack on a single U.S. firebase during the Vietnam War.

Brown said the Torchlight Ceremony is dedicated to all the campaigns the 46th Infantry Regiment has fought in, 18 total, from World War II to Vietnam. The commemoration began in 1987.

Two Soldiers in period uniforms lit torches Sunday for each campaign streamer. Battalion leaders also recognized Irene Holloway, the Gold Star Mother of a Soldier killed on Fire Support Base Mary Ann, who was among the attendees.

A year ago, the battle's veterans voted to move their annual two-day reunion from Fort Knox to Columbus and Fort Benning, battalion officials said. About 70 people attended the 2011 gathering.



The veterans ate with battalion Soldiers at the unit's dining facility just before the Torchlight Ceremony. On Monday, they held a memorial service at Uchee Creek on the fight's 40th anniversary for those killed at Fire Support Base Mary Ann. The yearly reunion and ceremony provide a great lesson to Soldiers in the battalion today, Brown said.

"This will hit home more than sitting in a classroom and talking about what happened," he said. "Here, we have the actual veterans who took part in a firefight there and an assault on a firebase. We have many veterans among our ranks now, too, with multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. We're now on a level playing ground when it comes to talking to these veterans. It's a great chance to exchange stories."

Brown said it's important for the battalion to pass the regiment's traditions and history on to the new Soldiers going through basic training.

"They need to understand why we fight," he said. "It isn't all about a paycheck. It's about what we can do for our fellow Soldiers. I think you can talk to just about any Soldier who's been in a firefight... he was fighting for his brother next to him."

"That's what these men at Fire Base Mary Ann did. They underwent an atrocious assault and they came together and fought back and came out victorious. We want our Soldiers nowadays to understand what the sacrifices were back then and what they may be asked to make one day."

Earlier Sunday, the battalion took part in a groundbreaking for the Americal Division Memorial at the National Infantry Museum. In Vietnam, the 46th Infantry Regiment fell under the Americal Division.

"This year's Torchlight Ceremony marks a pivotal moment in the history of the 46th Infantry Regiment," said Lt. Col. Christopher Willis, the battalion commander. "Although Fort Knox was a wonderful home to the 46th Infantry, we are excited about being at Fort Benning."

The 2nd Battalion, 46th Infantry Regiment, conducted basic combat training at Fort Knox from 1987 to 2010. In January, the unit became the first Fort Knox battalion headquarters to move to Fort Benning under Base Realignment and Closure. It now performs the same mission here.

Editor's note: Thirty U.S. Soldiers were killed on FSB Mary Ann on March 28, 1971. An initial report stated the death toll at thirty-three.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

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Vice-Commander
Terry Siemer
TSiemer9528@wowway.com

The East Region reunion will be over by the time this copy of the Journal is out. As of this time we should have a good reunion as we have received lots of reservations. Jack Haas has plenty of actives for everyone so we all should have a good time.

The ADVA annual reunion will be held in Colorado Springs, CO on Sept. 8-11, 2011. I know it is a good area to visit as several other Americal vets and I took our basic and advanced training at nearby Fort Carson. We were then sent to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and the on to Vietnam as part of the 11th LIB. I have also talked with several other vets who were sent to Fort Carson after their tours in Nam.

I hope everyone has a good summer and hope to see everyone in Colorado Springs.

-Joe Adelsberger, Commander-

23rd MILITARY POLICE CHAPTER

WWII Korean War/Panama CZ Vietnam Global War on Terrorism

COMMANDER
Dale Meisel

VICE COMMANDER
Wes Haun

SEC/TREAS
Tom Packard
packard50@q.com



I am coming to the end of my two year tenure as chapter commander. It has been an honor and privilege to be the commander and I thank my fellow MPs for giving me the opportunity. I thank the rest of the chapter officers for their help, especially our secretary/treasurer Tom Packard. He is the 'glue' that holds us together.

At the end of the road it is natural to look back. Most especially, I am happy that we were able to come together at Fort Leonard Wood, the home of the MP School, in June 2010. It was refreshing to see the level of professionalism of today's soldier and the dedication of the NCO Corps.

Looking back even longer, it has been ten years—Cleveland in 2001—since the MPs first started showing up at the Americal Division reunions in significant numbers. Patti and I approached that first reunion with some trepidation. But we had a great time!

Now, when we return home from a reunion, we are always pumped up. I could have spent that weekend sitting on the patio and enjoyed myself. But seeing our now old friends and still making new ones is an experience we do not like to miss.

So, thanks for the memories, fellows. And please support our new commander. -Dale Meisel, Commander-

FAR WEST CHAPTER

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

COMMANDER

Rick Ropole
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SEC/TREAS

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The Far West Chapter members are busy preparing to host the 2011 Americal Division Veterans Association Annual Reunion. The reunion will be held Sep 8-11, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. September is the perfect time to visit Colorado and the Front Range of the

Rocky Mountains. So, come early and stay late. Complete reunion details and a registration form are published here in the Journal.

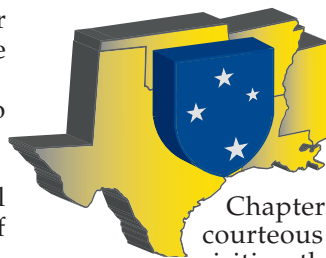
The chapter will not have a separate reunion this year. Instead, we will join the ADVA reunion in September. We will hold a chapter meeting at the hotel during the reunion on Saturday afternoon, September 10.

We are looking for volunteers to work shifts at the registration desk, help coordinate the tours, supervise the hospitality room and assist the reunion staff. If you would like to help, contact Tom Packard at 720-635-1900 or packard50@q.com.

Time is running out to renew chapter memberships for 2011. As of this writing, 27 members have not renewed. What are you waiting for? If you haven't joined the Far West Chapter and live in any of the 13 western most states, including Alaska and Hawaii, let Tom Packard know. He will send an membership application. See you in September!

SOUTH MIDWEST CHAPTER

AR LA OK TX MS



COMMANDER

Cameron F. Baird
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Chapter members were delighted by the courteous welcome they received while visiting the Ft. Polk, LA area on May 20-22. 2011. The present day Army went out of its way to make sure we enjoyed our visit and had time to learn about what in going on at Ft. Polk. We viewed training activities associated with the Joint Readiness Training Command and we met the most fantastic soldiers in the world.

James Tarver did a great job of getting local veterans to support our reunion and make us feel right at home. We enjoyed dining out at local establishments and having time to chat and socialize.

Thanks go to Bill Bacon, Roger Gilmore, and Ron Ellis for advance trips to the Leesville, LA area to help plan our activities.

In Memory Howard William Walker



Howard William Walker, 71, passed away in Loveland, CO on February 19, 2011. He was born in Verdun, Quebec, Canada on October 25, 1939.

As a Canadian citizen, Walker volunteered to join the U.S. Army and fight in Vietnam. He enlisted on June 13,

1966 and received an assignment with the 1/6th Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade. He departed with the unit Vietnam aboard the USS Upshur in October 1967.

He was in the advance party when his unit landed in Chu Lai. In his 33 continuous months of Vietnam service he performed many roles. He was 1/6th Infantry battalion chemical and ammo chief. He also served for nine months as a platoon leader in Co. D. Walker stayed in Vietnam long enough to have a building named after him- a two-seater latrine was fondly named "Fort Walker" by his comrades.

Walker often wore an Alpine hat which earned him the nickname "Robin Hood". The hat displayed the word CANADA in bold letters and listed all the locations in Vietnam that Walker had been. He also carried the nickname "John Wayne" for his attitude and performance in the face of the enemy.

Walker served in Vietnam until July 1970 and retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant on February 1, 1988. His last duty assignment was at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, CO. He chose to be in Colorado and a proud Canadian citizen for the remainder of his life.

LOCATORS

Looking for: Information about my father-in-law, Francis J. Brunet, from near Houghton, MI. He served in the Americal Division on Guadalcanal and was wounded on October 27, 1942. He passed away in 1991. 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 on my brother, Bob Royer. He was killed on May 3, 1971. I would like to know where he was and what all arm patches he may have had. My other brother and I are trying to put things together for the family. We were told he was a tank commander and he was driving the tank when it hit a mine on a road. We were told he was with C Troop, 1/1 Cavalry, (Dragoons). Contact: Jim Royer; bigboy292@comcast.net

Looking for: Anyone who remembers me from 335th Transportation Co., Chu Lai, January 1969-70, to verify that I was the crew chief on our recovery chopper (66-16664). Also need verification that this chopper was shot down on an OH-6 recovery. Other crew were SP4 Miles and SP5 Bridges of the same unit. I also need verification that I crewed for the 16th Combat Aviation Group's Commander, May - July 1969. Contact: Lee Robbins, E-69926, Pleasant Valley State Prison, Box 8500, B3-128L, Coalinga, CA 93210.

Looking for: Anyone who remembers me and the places we were at in Vietnam. I arrived in Chu Lai on December 26, 1967. I remember being in Hue City but would like to know more about our activities. I would also like to know where the 196th LIB headquarters was located when I arrived. Contact: Nick Rios, t299@comcast.net.

Looking for: Pilots or air crew with the 132nd ASHC in operation Lam Son 719 at Khe Sanh. I want to find air crew members who received Silver Star medals for action during this time (approximately February 1971). Contact: Dennis Furnas; 278 Geremma Drive, Ballwin, MO, 63011-5055; 314-438-5055.

Looking for: Information to locate the family of CPT John M. Yeatts, killed in Vietnam in 1969. I was awarded the John M. Yeatts Award in 1983 by CPT Yeatt's mother (?). As I approach the end of my military career I'd like to connect with the family again. I'm sure Mrs. Yeatts has passed, but if I could obtain a mailing address I'd be happy to write a letter. I know he was from Fort Worth, TX. Contact: Lt Col Raul V. Garcia, Commander, AFROTC Detachment 510; The University of New Mexico; Cell - (505) 850 5562 Work - (505) 277 4559.

REUNIONS

Reunion for the Jungle Warriors of Delta Company, **4/3rd Infantry**, 11th LIB will be September 15-17, 2011 in Des Moines, IA. Other 4/3 companies and families of KIAs are also welcome. Contact Dan Behrens, 10314 150th Street, What Cheer, IA 50268, Cell 641-660-3599, coalcreek@iowatelcom.net.

The first reunion of **Co. B, 1/6th Infantry**, 198th LIB, 1967-68 will be held October 19-21, 2011 at Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, Missouri. Contact: Joe De Frank for additional information. E-mail at butchie1220@comcast.net.

Co. D, 1/6th Infantry, 198th LIB will hold a reunion on September 9-11, 2011 at the Best Western - Landing View in Branson, MO. Contact: Lynn D. Baker, LTC, USA (Ret); 272 Virginia Lee Dr.; Cotter, AR, 72626. 870-435-2212; whiteriverwoodturning@yahoo.com.

Co. A, 1/46th Infantry, 198th LIB and veterans of Kham Duc will have a reunion October 5-8, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Contact: Bill or Ann Schneider, 636-942-4042; wschnei591@aol.com.

The Hill 411 Association reunion will be June 23-26, 2011 at the DoubleTree Hotel Westshore Airport. Contact: Gary Young, 417-861-3855, gmyoungy@classicnet.net; or Mike McQueen at 813-685-2022, mikemcq@verizon.net.



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

Dear editor,

Thank you from the Museum on the History of the Second World War in New Caledonia.

The Americal Division Veterans Association was so kind as to offer a flag of the Americal Division and the work recounting its history Under the Southern Cross to the South Province free of charge, as well as various information about the Americal Division veterans which are proving invaluable to the implementation of the plan for a museum on the Second World War.

Your contribution, which is much valued by the specialists associated with the project, is helping to highlight the important role played by your country in New Caledonia during the Second World War.

We are particularly grateful to you and I really wanted to thank you personally for the contribution which constitutes a strong symbolic and historic element of the collective memory.

The South Province will not fail to keep you informed and to seek your help in order to guarantee the complete success of the project.

Yours faithfully,
Pierre FROGIER; Presidente
Assemblée De La Province Sud
Nouvelle Calédonie

Dear editor,

I don't know about the rest of the guys, but it always warms my heart to see the bright, shiny, young faces of the ADVA Scholarship recipients in the pages of Americal Journal. We have much to be grateful for, in seeing our children and grandchildren embarking on their own life's journeys.

I am always mindful of our fallen brothers who never got the chance to have and see their children and grandchildren follow similar paths. It is up to us to live our lives honorably and well for them and to do what we can to ensure a future for our young descendants.

Dick Field; 408th RR Det/Americal RR Co (Prov)
(Direct Support Units, 196th LIB/Americal Div)
Chu Lai, 67-68

Dear editor,

On Wednesday, April 6, 2011, Col. Douglas Wheelock of NASA returned the Medal of Honor awarded to Sgt. Lester R. Stone, Jr. who died in service to his country in Vietnam on March 3, 1969. Col. Wheelock took the medal with him on his last mission to the International Space Station. It was his way of honoring the memory and sacrifice of Sgt. Stone and as a symbol recognizing the service of American men and women to others and as a way to remember the Broome County community.

Col. Wheelock spent the day at the Harpursville Central School District showing a video of his recent mission and sharing his experiences with students and faculty. In the afternoon he returned to the mother of Sgt. Stone. Sgt. Stone was a graduate of Harpursville High School and served in the Americal Division at the time of his death.

Richard R. Blythe
Broome County Clerk

Dear editor,

I read the letter from MAJ Glen C. Davis in the Oct-Nov- Dec 2010 edition of the Americal Journal. I wish to tell about some of my experiences that are very similar.

I had a ROTC assignment at Tulane University after my second tour in Vietnam. I was the Senior Instructor of Cadets. I also carried out the duties of locating the families of men killed in the Vietnam War.

As MAJ Davis stated, this was a tough responsibility to have. This duty had to be approached very carefully so as to not do the wrong thing. There was always a chance to make a wrong decision and to come into a difficult situation while making a notification.

There were always two of us to make the notification to the kin of a dead soldier. On one visit we arrived to notify a mother and father of the death of their son. We made sure we had the correct family. They were expecting us to give them good news.

After we notified them we had a big problem on our hands. The mother started to scream and their two German Shepard dogs became agitated. We were afraid that the dogs would attack us. The father finally controlled the dogs and they did not harm us.

On another occasion we arrived to notify a mother that her son had been killed. We arrived only to find that she was in bed suffering from a heart attack. We did not tell her about her son on this visit as it could have been fatal for her.

We learned to proceed with caution. Prior to making notifications we tried to ensure that we had the right family and that there would be no danger to anyone involved.

Ray E. Poynter (1SG, Ret.)
WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War

Dear editor,

I read the letter submitted by Jim Gales in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2011 edition of the Americal Journal. Mr. Gales urged all Americal veterans to read Kiss the Boys Goodbye authored by Monika Jensen-Stevenson.

My intense involvement in the POW issue began in 1980. In 1986 I was one of six Vietnam veterans to meet with former Reagan administration National Security Advisor Richard Allen with regard to a 1980 offer from Vietnamese Communists to ransom Americans still held captive.

I urge members of the ADVA to do further reading on the POW topic. Two of the most focused are An Enormous Crime by former Congressman William Hendon and POW daughter Elizabeth Stewart and Unwanted Dead or Alive by Robert Pelton.

Do not let our brothers be forgotten. Remember: The war isn't over until the last man is home.

John J. Molloy, Chairman
National Vietnam and Gulf War Veterans Coalition
Co. B, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, 1967-68

Dear editor,

I'm working on information about the 1969 Sapper Attacks 11 June 1969 on LZ West, Siberia, Nui Yon, and Hawk Hill. I started it several years ago but some of the personal accounts that I'd hoped for didn't materialize. Can you assist? Also any pictures of West, Siberia, Nui Yon, Hawk Hill after the sappers attacks with credit and permission to use would be appreciated. Anyone with information on the above may contact me at J.F. Humphries; Bahnhofstr. 4483677; Reichersbeuern, Germany.

J.F. Humphries
196th Lt. Inf. Bde.

Dear editor,

I am in the process of researching the exploits of my father, Leonard I Severson, for a book I am writing. My father was activated while in the North Dakota National Guard unit from Hatton, ND. He passed away in 1998 at the age of 78. May God rest his soul.

My father was a giant of a man, and no doubt, an exemplary soldier. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant. He was among the very first batch to fight in World War II.

I have followed, and by his most graphic stories, learned that his unit's "Baptism of Fire" was a two or three day firefight when the Japs tried to retake Henderson Field on Guadalcanal.

The title of my book will be Sod-Buster Soldiers. I chose this title because my father and his comrades came from the farms of North Dakota. It seems to me that an intense Protestant work ethic was at play. This will be my first book and I hope to write a best-seller. That work ethic of my father's generation was given to me "by osmosis".

I know that time is not on my side. I do not know if there are any surviving North Dakotans that can help tell this history. North Dakotans do not have the longest lives- and especially my father's comrades. Like him, many contracted tropical diseases.

Anyone with advice and information is encouraged to contact me. I am grateful for anything others may have to provide on this topic.

Rod Severson
metaphor.man@live.com

Dear editor,

We are designing a 39th Engineer plaque for display in the Regimental Room of the Engineer Museum at Fort Leonard Wood. The unveiling will be at our reunion 6-9 October 2011.

The 39th Engineers were part of Task Force Oregon (TFO) prior to the activation of the Americal Division. We are trying to determine if there was an official TFO shoulder patch in use at the time. If not, we are trying to determine what shoulder patch would have been worn by those assigned to TFO.

I determined from on-line resources that the planning planning and creation of TFO was completed by United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV). TFO was under the operational control (OPCON) of III MAF (U.S. Marine Amphibious Force). Like most of the other TFO resources, the 39th was previously in northern II Corps and had worked for First Field Force-Vietnam (IFFV) and Second Field Force-Vietnam (IIFV).

When assigned to a unit that is attached/OPCON to other HQs, army regulation AR 670-1 lets the soldier choose their right-shoulder patch. The 39th was assigned to the 18th Engineer Brigade.

We are trying to include all 39th Engineer command relationships of attached/OPCON that would permit other patches. Members have said that they were told to wear patches from the 18th Engineer Brigade, the Americal Division, USARV, Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV), and the Army Engineer Command-Vietnam depending on when they left Vietnam.

I had presented my research to the Army Center of Military History (CMH). They responded that they did not have records that included my requested information and that members of attached units still had their assigned headquarters as patch sources. That reverts to the 18th Engr. Bde. patch. But we are still interested to know if there was a patch that TFO members were authorized to wear to indicate this unit designation.

Jerry Bright
jbrightone@comcast.net



ADVA
on
facebook



Americal veterans posted the following messages on the ADVA facebook page. If you are a facebook member you can get to the ADVA page by putting the word "Americal" in the facebook search field.

Walter Gay

MSG Walter M. Gay, US Army, Retired PDRL, Life Membership. Served with Co B 1st Bn 6th Inf, (Third PLT, Dirty Heard) 198th LT Inf Bde, 23 Inf Div (Americal Div) Chu Lao, Vietnam, from 9 Sep 1970 thru 8 Sep 1971. Have photo of Co B and 1st Bn, Co A 123rd Avn Bn (Pelicans) on Facebook and would like to share with the ADVA. Would like to join ADVA on FACEBOOK.

Jay Flanagan

Donald Black, a Silver Star Recipient for Actions in March 21, 1968 with Company E, 1/6th, 198th Americal Division passed away this week. He also received the Purple Heart. Even though he lived in a bordering town to mine we never formally met. He was a member of different VFW and American Legion posts than me. Donald was 63 and would have been 64 on July 16th. Please remember him in your prayers.

Gary R. Englert

Forty years after the actions during Operation Lam Son 719 for which it is being cited, the US Army is presenting its Valorous Unit Award to the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), the unit I served with in Vietnam. The ceremony will be held at 11:00 AM, Friday, May 20, 2011, at the US Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, AL. If you would like to attend, please e-mail your contact information to MAJ, Peter Velesky (peter.velesky@us.army.mil), the Executive Officer of the 1-14th Aviation Regiment (the 14th CAB's successor organization).

Jenny-Marie Jones

Reunion notice: 1/52nd Infantry ~ Sly Park, CA weekend of Sept 29, 30, Oct 1, 2, 15th or 16th year for this reunion. small but awesome. Anyone and their families can attend but primarily 1/52nd, Americal Division. The 1/52nd reunion in Willis, TX this past March was awesome. Thanks, Phil, Sue, "Butcher" and Loop man. \\ WELCOME HOME BROTHERS !!!

Drew Mendelson

I've been to a couple of great reunions recently. In October 2009 Bravo Company 4/3 of the 11th Brigade -- for whom I was the FO in 1969-70 -- met in St Louis. We're meeting again later this year. And the 6/11th Artillery, also 11th Brigade, met in San Antonio last month. Anyone who wants to can email me and I'll get you what I know of details on the next reunions. Also if you want a copy of my Vietnam War novel "Song Ba To," go to my website <http://thespeechwritingshop.com/>, click on "Drew's Books" and you can buy a hardback or ebook version. Email me and let me know you served in the Americal Div and I'll refund \$2 of the \$16.99 (including shipping) cost. The ebook for either Kindle or Nook is just \$9.99. I'm at drewmendelson@surewest.net

SITREP from Afghanistan

182nd Infantry Regiment Deploys

Dear Friends and Family,

April 19th is an appropriate day to send the first 'Situation Report' (or SITREP) from 'The Nation's First', 1st Battalion 182nd Infantry Regiment. Today is the 236th anniversary of the 'Shot Heard 'Round The World', in which our regiment fought with distinction during the battles of Lexington and Concord. On that day, the militiamen who later became organized as the 182nd Infantry Regiment not only defended their families and property, but pushed the British back to Boston. As you know, because I say it way too much, that this officially started the American Revolution and our eventual push of the British off our land and secured our independence. This victory is comparable to the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team victory over the Soviet Union and the 2004 Red Sox winning the American League Playoffs in four straight games against that team from New York. Much like today's quests for independence and security in Iraq and Afghanistan, independence did not come over night. So be patient but know that if we remain committed as a Nation, we will succeed in securing peace, stability, and freedom for Afghanistan, which in turn lends to the security of the free world.

I'll tell you right now that what I've seen in the past three weeks is a battalion full of soldiers, NCO's, and officers that are totally committed to this mission and our training in preparation. But we've also seen the commitment from our various support groups, such as Military Friends Foundation (MFF), and Friends and Families of the 182nd Infantry (FF182) with their connection to the Town of Walpole, to include the students and faculty of Walpole High School and Middle School. These organizations came through swiftly with their generosity for several soldiers that experienced hardship back home. So as we said at the deployment ceremony at Boston College on March 27th... We're all in this together! We certainly are and because of the work you do, this is your deployment as much as ours. Thank you for backing us up, we couldn't do it without you.

Upon arrival at the mob station, the junior Non-Commissioned Officer Corps of this battalion took charge. They didn't just 'let' things happen...they literally took charge and 'made' things happen. The command and staff of the Training Support Brigade which oversees our training validation said that we hit the ground running and never looked back and they didn't know what to do with us. Additionally, we arrived, fit, ready and organized for the mission. We can thank the members of our sister battalion, the 181st Infantry for preparing us for mob station. In fact many of them took time, while home on leave, to meet with their counterparts in the 182nd to go over details of the job at hand. That's dedication, camaraderie, and esprit de corps and reflects the common bond in which our organizations share. So far we have done well with weapons qualification, in fact qualifying well in excess of the required number of Soldiers on each weapon system. Our intent is to ensure depth at each weapon capability. Many of our NCO and officer leaders have conducted Key Leader Engagements (meetings with tribal elders) with Afghan role players and followed cultural protocols very well.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 182nd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard participate in a stress shoot at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., May 3, 2011. A stress shoot is a weapons range consisting of intervals of shooting and exercise. The 182nd Infantry was at Camp Atterbury for mobilization training prior to deploying as part of a security force mission assigned to a provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Jill Swank/Released)

All of us can really tell that our Soldiers brought their "A" game, stepping up to do the right thing. Yesterday a Master Sergeant (Trainer\Evaluator) with 38 years in the Army said that our platoons have showed up at the live fire shoot-house well organized and performed brilliantly. I'm very proud of how our Soldiers are performing and we haven't even begun to show what we're made of yet. The Soldiers of the 182nd Infantry will Uphold Our Ancient Honors. We appreciate the fight our militiamen brothers gave for our freedom on April 19, 1775, and we intend to ensure it continues without being impeded by those that wish to do us harm. The Afghan people are not the enemy, but the insurgents that threaten them, and the free world, are the enemy. Our Soldiers continue to learn the complex intricacies of operating in the counter-insurgent environment and we'll be ready to bring good things to Afghanistan, and defend all of us against a mutual threat.

We already miss our families and we appreciate you holding down the fort and supporting us in this endeavor. In the end, this deployment just may have brought out the best in people...not just us, but certainly our friends and families that are stepping up in such a huge way. During our temporary separation, focus on personal and family growth, rather than the obvious physical void. Attitudes drive destinies. Until next time....Avitos Juvamus Honores. We Uphold Our Ancient Honors.

Americal 6
LTC Thomas Stewart; Commanding
19 April 2011



Why Create Memorials?

By Gary L. Noller

Two years ago then ADVA National Commander David Taylor created a new committee within the association- the Legacy Committee. Dave wanted the committee to focus on what we as veterans of the Americal Division and 23rd Infantry Division would leave to

others when we are gone.

The Americal Division was created just after the outbreak of World War II. Next year we will recognize the 70th anniversary of the founding of the division on New Caledonia. The veterans who served in this war are all past 85 years of age- most of them are in their 90s, some have reached the century mark.

The 23rd Infantry Division was activated 57 years ago in Panama. It was at the ready in case the Cold War actions at the time heated up to a hot war. Veterans of this era are mostly past the age of 75.

In late 1967 General William Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, revived the lineage, heraldry, traditions, and honors of the Americal Division and the 23rd Infantry Division. Following the pattern of the Americal Division in WWII, he activated a new fighting division on foreign soil. The Americal Division (23rd Inf.) was the largest infantry division in Vietnam. Its soldiers valiantly fought a hardened enemy in extremely difficult terrain. A few Vietnam veterans have yet to reach age 60, but most have.

The Legacy Committee understands the importance of acting immediately. We may be aging gracefully but we are also aging rapidly. We hope to benefit from another 20-25 years of service from ADVA members willing to create and carry out programs of interest to Americal veterans. But time is speeding by faster and faster. The time to act is now. There is no more time to wait.

I accepted Dave Taylor's invitation to serve as a member of the Legacy Committee. I appreciate that Dave took the lead on this important program and that he chose committee members he knew would get the job done. It pleases me very much that this effort has received overwhelming support from ADVA members, families, and friends. This combined effort will ensure that the Americal's legacy will be created and preserved.

The first action of the Legacy Committee is to construct a monument at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA. In March 2011 we broke ground and if all goes as planned the monument will have adequate financing to complete construction by end of 2011. As soon as this project is complete the Legacy Committee will move on to other memorials in other locations.

Roger Gilmore, Legacy Committee Chairman, asked me to provide a few remarks at the Ft. Benning ground breaking ceremony. He asked that I address the mission of the legacy committee and why we are pursuing this effort. I changed the topic a little and addressed those attending the ceremony from a very personal point of view.

Almost 1,500 Americal Division veterans were killed in World War II. The number killed in the Vietnam War is close to 4,000. It is difficult to estimate how many veterans served with the Americal Division and the 23rd Infantry Division- perhaps as many as 150,000-200,000. Each of these soldiers dedicated themselves to the service of our country. They deserve to have their story told and to be remembered for their service and for their sacrifices.

I want the sacrifice of Jim Nufer to be remembered. He was my hometown buddy who was killed on March 11, 1968 while serving with Co. B, 3/21st Infantry. I also feel especially close to Richard Knight and Kyle Hamilton, both killed on March 28, 1971 while serving with the 1/46th Infantry. These friends never made it home to enjoy the many years as I have.

I do not want to forget the many World War II Americal veterans I have known. They helped me understand that there really was not much difference between their war and my war. They convinced me that my service and the service of all Vietnam veterans is as honorable as any.

I often tell others that the best group of people that I have ever known in my life are those I served with in Vietnam. I owe them more than I can describe. I would have never made it back home if it were not for the fact that they looked out for me. They cared that I was okay. They watched

my back. If necessary, I know they would have given their all for me.

The ground breaking ceremony was very special for me. In the big picture it signified in very tangible terms that success is at hand. But it also had a very personal significance. Clyde Tate, Dennis Powell, and Tommy Poppell attended the ground breaking. At one time or another they were my battalion commander, my platoon leader and then my company commander, and my squad leader, respectively. They shall forever have my gratitude for helping me through a very difficult ten months, three weeks, and one day. I got to thank them for watching after me. I want them to be remembered.

In the past two years the Legacy Committee received over 1,000 contributions from ADVA members. I am sure that each donor has a personal story of why this project is important to them- and that they too recognize the need to do this now. All contributions, large and small, are greatly appreciated.

The next milestone is to sign the construction contract with Columbus Monument Company and begin work. A few final details need to be complete- and perhaps this will be done by the time you read this. A dedication ceremony can be just a few more months away. The Americal legacy is underway.



Ground Breaking Ceremony Conducted at Ft. Benning



(L to R) Wayne Bryant, Ron Ellis, Gary Noller, Roger Gilmore, Reggie Horton, Lee Kaywork



Soldiers of 2-46th Infantry present arms for the National Anthem.

Legacy Committee News

By Roger Gilmore

The ground breaking ceremony for the Americal Division monument in Patriot Park at the National Infantry Museum was conducted on March 27, 2011. This ceremony marks the achievement of another milestone in the construction of a first-class memorial to the veterans of the Americal Division and the 23rd Infantry Division.

The 2nd Battalion, 46th Infantry Regiment (The Professionals) did a superb job supporting our event. Their staff set up tents, seating, and the podium at the monument site in Patriot Park. They also provided the color guard for posting of colors. Our thanks are extended to CSM Jeff Brown and MSG John Bennett for working with us to get this entire event completed.

The ceremony was a tremendous success. In spite of last minute possibilities of thunderstorms, the storms cleared just prior to the start time and the entire event was completed under blue, Georgia skies.

Bus transportation was provided by Ft. Benning. Veterans and guests attending the FSB Mary Ann memorial service events were transported from Uchee Creek campground to Patriot Park for the ground breaking ceremony.

We had many local ADVA members and Americal Division veterans attend as well. Dignitaries in attendance were LTG (Ret) Sam Wetzel, former 4/31st Infantry Regiment battalion commander; COL (Ret) Clyde Tate, former 1/46th Infantry Regiment battalion commander; and COL (Ret) Roger Dimsdale, former commander of Co. B, 1/46th Infantry.



Attendees applaud the ground breaking for the Americal Division and 23rd Inf. Div. memorial at Ft. Benning.

Dimsdale was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for actions near Quang Ngai on September 13, 1968. COL Tate's son, MG Butch Tate, attended the ceremony with his father.

I began the ceremony with a greeting to special guests and a few fitting remarks about our progress to date. A team from 2-46th Infantry posted the colors and the national anthem was played. Gary Noller, Legacy Committee member, provided keynote remarks on preserving the Americal Legacy. Following the members of the Legacy Committee and ADVA member Reggie Horton hefted ceremonial spades and eagerly broke ground. The estate of Elbert Horton, a veteran of the 246th FA and Reggie's uncle, made a substantial contribution to help tell the history of the Americal Division.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Army buses moved attendees to the post for dining at the 2/46th Regiment mess hall and the annual 46th Regiment Torchlight ceremony.

Monument Funding

As of March 31 the 2011 Americal Calendar issue brought in just over \$20,000.00 in donations from ADVA members, Americal veterans and friends of the association. This is a great response for just our second year into the calendar fundraiser!

So far this year many of you have contributed a very significant amount to the building fund. We deeply appreciate your commitment to this monument. Veterans who served at FSB Mary Ann recently made a generous donation of \$500 in memory of those who died on March 28, 1971.

Individual and group contributions go 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 as well as for future memorials at other locations.

On behalf of the Legacy Committee, thanks to each of you who have made a contribution towards this very worthy project. If you have not sent a donation, please use the contribution envelope included with the calendar mailing and mail your generous donation today.

Donations should be sent to Ronald Ellis, Asst. National Finance Officer, 4493 Hwy. 64 W., Henderson, TX, 75652. At the annual ADVA reunion in September in Colorado Springs, Colorado, we plan to hold another fund raiser raffle offering complimentary hotel rooms at the Crown Plaza hotel. Details on raffle ticket prices will be available at the registration desk.

The committee is determined to have sufficient funds raised and committed in order to begin construction on the memorial by the middle of 2011. Your continued support of this project will ensure that this schedule will be achieved. Our vendor, Columbus Monument Co, told us that the memorial construction may be completed in as little as four months after we execute the contract. Completion can be months away, not years away. The time is now.

Case Commemorative Knives

Product Sales Director Wayne Bryant sold five knives at the Mary Ann Memorial event. His inventory is currently down to thirty-nine knives. If you have not ordered yours you need to place your order with Wayne today. Send \$75 for each knife you wish to purchase to Wayne Bryant, 4411 Dawn Rd., Greensboro, NC, 27405,

This fine Case knife product honors the Americal Division, and one hundred per cent of the sales proceeds now go into the Legacy Fund. This special knife will not be reordered after those in stock are all sold.

Legacy Committee Membership Change

There has been a personnel change on the ADVA Legacy Committee. Effective February 1, 2011, PNC Ronald R. Ellis replaces Rich Merlin on the committee. We welcome Ron to the committee and look forward to his ideas and input for future Legacy initiatives. Ron has been working with the committee in his capacity as Assistant Finance Officer, handling deposits of the many donation checks we receive.

Rich Merlin served on the committee from its inception, and we thank Rich for his input and past work on the Legacy start-up and projects.

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

Battle of Pinkville

At 11:00AM on July 4, 1968, the 198th Brigade Commander's attention was drawn to a report from an American ARVN advisor, flying in a helicopter up the coast to Chu Lai, who observed a large group of Vietcong in uniform just north of a coastal enclave known as "Pinkville" - My Lai (1).

Although the 5th/46th infantry battalion, recently arrived on LZ Dottie, was exhausted from the Burlington Trail and Vance Canyon missions, an operation was quickly organized. Air strikes, artillery and helicopter gunships were laid on and LTC David Lyon, commander of the 5th/46th was told to stand by. Alpha Company had just arrived from the Ha Thanh Special Forces Camp and was the only unit not strung out on patrols on the coastal plain near Dottie. Although its strength was down to eighty-four grunts, Lyon told Alpha's commander, Captain Erb to get ready as a reactionary force. Erb's troops were bone tired from the trek in the mountains. What Alpha desperately needed was some rest. What they got was an air assault into one of the deadliest hamlets in the Americal Division's AO.

At 6:30PM on July 5 Erb's troops were air assaulted to the beach just north of the Pinkville hamlet, near where the VC formation had been spotted. Gunships prepared the LZ with heavy rocket fire, and then shifted fire to the west and south. Erb's troopers were carried in on five slicks in three lifts. His soldiers found enough light in the waning day-time hours to see the enemy bullets reaching up to their helicopters, looking for blood. Yet it was dark enough to see the muzzle flashes across the ground below them.

Sergeant Bob Cummings, a squad leader in the 2nd platoon turned to one of his men, Bob Salter, and asked, "How can a chopper tell if it is being fired at with all this noise?" At that instant they heard loud "cracks" of bullets zinging by. They also saw tracers that seemed to be curving up to meet them. Cummings turned to Salter, "Oh, so that's how you tell!"

Cummings thought Salter, sitting in the open doorway, was getting "edgy" as he began firing down on the enemy. So intent was Salter at answering the enemy fire that Cummings held the straps on Salter's rucksack to keep him from falling out. They landed on a narrow peninsula running north from Pinkville, a beach enclave with the South China Sea on the east and the My Khe River on the west.

The river ran south through Pinkville, creating a canal between the beach and the hamlet. During the air assault, gunships protecting the slicks killed eight Vietcong and set off a total of seven secondary explosions in the area, indicating caches of enemy ammunition were hit. Jet air strikes were added to the gunships, killing more insurgents. Alpha would later find bodies everywhere.

LTC Lyon in his command & control bird flew low to survey the area where the gunships were hitting their targets and his bird took hits from automatic weapons fire. The chopper lost oil pressure and emergency lights came on, followed by a loss of power. Lyon's pilot landed the bird by auto-rotation, essentially guiding it to the ground with dead engines, onto the beach near Alpha's troops.

By this time Erb had placed his 2nd platoon five hundred yards south on the sandy beach, only five hundred yards from the north edge of Pinkville. After Lyon's bird crash-landed the 2nd platoon received heavy machinegun fire from Pinkville. Lyon's Huey crew removed the two M-60 machineguns from the chopper and prepared a defensive position. Within twenty minutes another bird arrived to take Lyon and his crew back to LZ Dottie and Erb was tasked to guard the aircraft until the next day.

Sergeant Cummings soon learned that shit falls downhill quickly. Erb tasked the 2nd platoon leader, Richard Horne Jr., to secure the ditched chopper. Horne in turn ordered Cummings' squad to get it done. Noting that the downed helicopter was not within the defensive lines of the rest of Alpha, Cummings' squad dug deep holes and remained awake all night, their position completely exposed.

At midnight Alpha's commander received a warning from the brigade headquarters at LZ Bayonet, "You are in a heavily booby-trapped area. Expect to find yourselves completely encircled. This comes from a commander who worked in your area before".

By 7:30AM on July 6 Erb moved his headquarters element and 2nd platoon into the hamlet of Ky Xuyen (1) which was close to where he landed on the beach. His 3rd platoon was more than one half mile south on the beach-like peninsula. The 1st platoon was tasked to move north from the 3rd to link up with Erb. The troops with the headquarters element were busy in the hamlet finding tunnels, bunkers and munitions. An Explosive Ordnance Demolition (EOD) team was choppered in from LZ Gator to help out. Crater charges were used to destroy the enemy munitions but there was so much destruction lying on the ground that logs and trees were blown sky high, the soldier's eyes following the timber going up, then dodging the logs when they fell to the ground. There was simply no place to take cover on the sandy beach.

Dead bodies were everywhere. The battalion had initially reported the eight dead VC from the gunships which prepped the landing zone but Alpha's grunts were finding many more bodies with weapons. No one was interested in reporting body counts beyond the original eight previously reported because no one asked for them.

By 2:30PM the engineers destroyed a cesspool of bombs and bomb-making equipment, including an unexploded five hundred pound bomb from a previous air strike. Thousands of flies were everywhere amidst the carnage, the





dead bodies now rotting in the sun. If a soldier opened his mouth for any reason, flies flew in. Before soldiers could get their canteens to their mouths to drink much-needed water, flies flew inside the canteens. If they tried to open a can of C-rations, two layers of flies were on the food instantly. They were everywhere, landing on their sweat-soaked bodies and crawling into their eyes and ears.

The next day Erb moved his troops farther south on the sandy beach to the northeast corner of Pinkville. The canal separating the beach from the hamlet was only thirty yards wide and a small footbridge connected both sides. At 10:05AM Alpha came under heavy fire from Pinkville (My Lai 1) again. After establishing a base of fire from the beach, Erb was ordered to attack the hamlet. He sent small groups of grunts by leaps and bounds over the footbridge to establish a position on the other side at the edge of the hamlet. Gunships were requested to help in the attack but none were available.

Alpha had little choice but to press the fight forward since its position on the beach left it too exposed. Once soldiers on the Pinkville side of the foot bridge gained a foothold, Erb and a larger group of grunts dashed over the bridge to add weight to the fight. The Vietcong got what they wanted. Their trap was set and the bridge exploded from a command-detonated mine. In an instant, bodies were lying in the water and on the beach, seventeen grunts wounded in all, including Richard Horne the platoon leader

and Erb, the company commander. Alpha's grunts received a shocking blow that traumatized everyone. Then loyalty to one another, and guts and determination took over in the midst of disaster.

Although SP/4 Donald Hess's face was bleeding from shrapnel he grabbed another injured soldier and carried him back to the beach while under heavy fire. He went forward to bring another grunt back and treated both, giving comfort to his traumatized buddies. SP/5 Jon Kester was a medic who caught shrapnel in the right eye and over most of his upper body. Ignoring his wounds he organized a medical treatment effort on the beach while under fire, advising the other grunts on the use of field dressings, morphine syrettes, splints and tourniquets. His direction provided order and comfort amidst the chaos.

PFC Stephen Richards, another medic was unable to move because of serious wounds but yelled out instructions for other grunts to efficiently use his supplies. He was able to hang on long enough until a dustoff took him back to the hospital in Chu Lai but he succumbed to his wounds twenty-one days later. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Sp/4 Carl Roegner, an RTO, had been hit in the face but waved off any medical aid while calling in dustoff support. PFC Kenneth Steele, another RTO was wounded in the face and foot. Under the heavy automatic weapons fire coming from the hamlet, he made two trips, carrying two wounded grunts fifty-five yards away from the demolished bridge back to the beach. SP/4 John Bridges had not been wounded but exposed himself repeatedly under the heavy fire to get off effective shots with his M-79 grenade launcher. He crawled thirty yards to grab an aid kit left in the open and brought it back to treat the wounded.

Staff Sergeant William Weber was in the first group that had crossed the bridge. When the bridge exploded he directed fire on the enemy positions. Realizing more effective action was needed, he led his team to assault a gun position in the hamlet. SP/4 Charles Bennett was up with him, firing his M-79 grenade launcher. Both soldiers were cut down by enemy fire.

Those on the hamlet side of the canal were now supported by jet aircraft, which dropped five hundred-pound bombs on the hamlet. By 1:30PM the balance of Alpha was consolidated back on the beach-side of the canal in preparation for a counterattack and to secure the dustoffs for their wounded. Another air strike was made west of the canal at 1:48PM, to suppress the fire still coming from that direction. Clearly Alpha, and by extension the battalion, had hit a hornets nest in Pinkville. It was only the beginning of what would be three days of hell.

Editor's note: This is an excerpt from David Taylor's new book: "Our War, The History and Sacrifices of an Infantry Battalion in the Vietnam War" The book is about the three-year history of the 5th/46th Infantry Battalion in Vietnam. Those who wish to order his book can contact him at dwtaylor@ohio.net or 330-722-7455 or War Journal Publishing, P.O. Box 10, Medina, Ohio 44258-0010.

Sights From Route 1

By Bob Rudolph

Photos by Bob Rudolph

Americal Division soldiers regularly traveled Route 1 from Duc Pho to DaNang and beyond. These photos are mostly from the Chu Lai to DaNang segment.

Various units on Hawk Hill would organize convoys to Chu Lai. The return trip was usually on the same day. Convoys would included heavy trucks carrying bulk supplies such as JP-4 fuel, diesel fuel, and Mogas. The unit having the most vehicles usually sent the security escort for the convoy. Other units would join in and take advantage of the escort.

MP units operated armored cars to enhance security. Control jeeps ran with the convoy and maintained radio contact with nearby fire bases and with helicopters. Heavy gun trucks were fortified with sandbags and provided much needed firepower along the route.

Views along Route 1 showed the typical life in small villages and towns. I found it interesting how much stuff could be loaded onto a bicycle, motor scooter, or three-wheeled van. I once saw a cow riding in the back of a three-wheeled van that was not much bigger than the cow itself. Families of four regularly rode along Route 1 on a small motor scooter. Bicycles were the pickup truck of Vietnam.

Everyone worked the fields- men, women, and little kids. GIs did not like water buffalos and the feeling was mutual. But little boys rode on the back of water buffalos and worked them in the fields. Contaminants including dead and decaying animals polluted the water in rice paddies along the route.

Religious shrines dotted the roadside. Many were new and all were well maintained. The Vietnamese dedicated these shrines to their ancestors. Buddhist monasteries and Catholic churches were also frequently seen. Village buildings consisted of small thatched huts with dirt floors and cardboard sides to very modern luxury villas.





August 11, 1969: Setting The Record Straight By Joseph W. DiLeonardo

Background

A short time ago I received a telephone call from Paul Carmel. I had not spoken with him in 40 years. He had been an intelligence analyst in my office. Paul was unique in that he had been a combat infantryman with the 4-31 Inf. during heavy fighting in the Summer Campaign of 1969. Paul had left the field and re-enlisted so that he could seek a new assignment with a combat support unit. I interviewed him in September, 1969 and approved him as an trainee analyst.

Paul was not alone. Two sergeants and three other enlisted men from Paul's old company sought and received re-assignment to my office. I also received a transfer to my office of the platoon leader who commanded on LZ Siberia when the NVA attempted to over run the small LZ on August 11-12, 1969. These men gave me new insights into the Summer Campaign of 1969.

Paul told me he was reading a book written by Keith William Nolan, titled *Death Valley-The Summer Offensive in I Corps. August 1969 Combat in Viet Nam*. I told Paul that I had read the book when it was first published and that I had called the author and complimented him on his great book. However, I also told the author I wished he had spoken to me before he published. I explained to Keith Nolan that the intelligence estimate prior to the campaign was not contained in his book. I disclosed the entire intelligence summary in detail to Keith Nolan. I provided Paul Carmel a condensed version when we spoke on the telephone. This article was an attempt to dispel some of the mystery, at least from the intelligence perspective.

August 11, 1969 Staff Briefing

On August 11, 1969 I was the new Chief, Order of Battle Section, 635th Military Intelligence Detachment (MID), Americal Division. I would not make Captain until September so I was not the rank the position was slotted. I was also trained in counter-intelligence and had very little training in combat intelligence. I did receive orientation training from outgoing Section Chief, Captain Joe Sparaco. Joe had a previous Viet Nam tour as an infantry company commander, and had been the Order of Battle Section Chief for almost a complete tour. He was much respected by Division staff and I respected him as well. I had just graduated from law school in June 1968 and felt that research and analysis were my strong suits. The confidence I had in myself was apparently not shared by others- as I learned at the 1700 hour Division briefing held that day.

I wrote my first intelligence summary on August 11. It contained a review of enemy activity for the previous week and an assessment of what to expect from the enemy for the coming week. The highest ranking intelligence officer (G-2) of the Americal Division was also new. Lt. Colonel



CPT Joe DiLeonardo, 1969

F.A. Nerone had decided that the person who developed the summary should actually present it at the Sunday briefing at 1700 hours. This was also my first (but not my last) briefing given to the Commanding General and Division Staff.

The briefing room was like a small theater. The Division Commander, Major General Ramsey, sat in a middle chair in the first row. On either side of him were the two assistant division commanders. Then there were rows of chairs filled with Staff, subordinate commanders, which might have included some brigade commanders who flew in for this briefing. There were also liaison officers from other units, including III MAF Corps Headquarters.

I orally presented what I had written. I looked into the faces of the officers much senior to me, and could readily see that they were not "buying" what I was saying. Some showed sneers or slightly shook their heads. What I specifically told them was as follows: (1) On August 11, 1969 the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) with limited support from Viet Cong (VC) units would launch a massive campaign against the Americal Division in its entire area of operations (AO); (2) The NVA was specifically targeting American troops and not Vietnamese army units or villages per se; (3) The initial attacks would be by direct and indirect fire on LZs and FSBs (landing zones and fire support bases) throughout the entire AO; (4) there would be some limited ground assaults but at a few positions in the 196th Brigade AO would see a more concerted effort to breach and overrun the positions; (5) The entire 2nd NVA Division with all three regiments would be committed in and around the 4-31st Inf. Battalion AO and 3-21st Inf Battalion AO; (6) The 2nd NVA Division would

remain in strong positions hoping to engage smaller sized Americal units and roll them over; (7) The intent of the enemy was to inflict casualties on as many American soldiers as possible and to influence American public sentiment by contesting the idea that pacification efforts were succeeding.

It should be made clear that the assessment I reached was not my sole effort. In fact, the entire Order of Battle Section, to include Lieutenants Personette, Cassah, and Sciacca, Non-commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) Adams, and all 24 enlisted personnel had a hand in the final assessment. The section met in my office before a map of the entire Americal AO on Saturday August 10. Everyone had a chance to present agent reports, photos, maps and all data and information we received during the previous week. Each member of the Section was also given the opportunity to present his personal opinion or analysis. In the end the decision was mine, but it was in reality a generally accepted assessment by the entire Order of Battle Section.

At the conclusion of my briefing I was questioned about it. Most of the questions were not what I expected. There was a question about my being the new section chief. I was asked if I had a previous tour in Viet Nam. I was also asked if I had any field command. No one asked the questions concerning the data and information upon which the assessment was made. After a few minutes, Major General Ramsey (someone I respected then and still do to this day) simply said in a kind and level voice that he was not convinced the enemy was going to attack.

After the briefing I spoke with the G-2. He told me he saw and heard the opposition to the assessment but he would stand behind my call. My briefing was his briefing. I was impressed that Lt. Colonel Nerone had such moral courage as to back and support the intelligence summary. To his credit the G-2 never wavered. Throughout the duration of the Summer Campaign he always referred questioning commanders back to our assessment as being the correct one.

All Hell Breaks Loose

I decided to go to the Officers Club and have a beer and forget how embarrassed and demoralized I really was. I then headed to my hut and to bed. There was a phone next to my cot so I could be contacted during emergencies. The phone started ringing off the hook not too long after I went to sleep. I was called down to the Division Tactical Operations Center (DTC). When I arrived it appeared all hell had broken loose. I could hear the speaker which broadcasted radio communications from throughout the Americal AO. What I heard was report after report of attacks on LZs and FSBs. The assistant division operations officer (G-3) and DTC operations commander looked at me questioning who was attacking us and what were their intentions. I simply stated this was the commencement of the campaign I had briefed at 1700.

Things eventually got worse. There were ground probes in many locations but at least two concerted attacks. Fortunately the troops at LZ West were alert on the perimeter. They reported back to the brigade TOC there was movement all around the LZ. An order was given to sweep the perimeter with a "duster" (quad-50 caliber machine gun

turret). The rounds hit some of the NVA leaders and the attack was pre-empted. After that the battle fizzled into a "turkey shoot" with heavy NVA casualties.

However, things were far more tenuous on LZ Siberia. The outpost was defended by a rifle platoon (the platoon leader later transferred into my office). The attack was launched in large part from the Controlled Fire Zone of Hiep Duc Village. It was apparent the enemy was determined to overrun the LZ. There were penetrations in the perimeter, but the unit held out. In the early morning hours, the 196th Brigade Commander, Colonel Tackaberry, flew into LZ Siberia in his command and control helicopter (C and C) and with a number of other new arrivals cleared the areas just outside the perimeter. The enemy was determined, but failed, and paid a heavy price. Everyone seemed to think the fighting was now over and many stated their opinion.

On August 12, 1969, I was queried about the future intentions of the enemy and the length of duration of the fighting. I repeated the same assessment many times during the day. Other areas might calm down but the 2nd NVA Division had come to stay and would remain until they decided to leave- or we drove them out. The intelligence officer (S-2) of Quang Tin Province, Dai Uy Te, and his U.S. Advisor along with intelligence officers from the 4th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division helicoptered into Chu Lai to confer with me and my section. All of the ARVN officers concurred that the enemy offensive was finished and fighting would soon end. Dai Uy Te was especially upset that I disagreed and pointed to Quang Tin Province as the area where the fighting would get bloody and last many days.

Author; Christmas 1969





Lieutenants Personette, Cassa, and Sciacca with author, 1969.

The G-2 of course had to personally respond to the Division Commander and explain to the corps intelligence officer (J-2) at III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) why we continued to assess continued heavy fighting. Again Lt. Colonel Nerone reiterated that we had been right for the first two days and he had confidence that the enemy would dig in and slug it out with Americal ground units. MG Ramsey did become concerned and requested support from III MAF. An undersized Marine battalion was sent to Que Son area to the north of the 196th Brigade AO with the hopes of taking some of the pressure off the Americal units in and around LZ West and LZ Center.

I was not alone in my assessment that the 2nd NVA Division had come to stay and fight. The S-2 of 3-21 Inf., Captain Budjwin VanPamelen, had determined that the enemy was all around LZ Center operating in battalion and larger units. Captain Van Pamelen was well respected. He had two previous tours in Viet Nam including a stint as a rifle company commander. I personally met and became friends with Van Pamelen when he subsequently was reassigned to the 635th MID.

The battalion commander of 3-21 Inf., Lt. Colonel Howard, decided to take his C and C chopper over the battle area for an up-close look. An ABC News cameraman and reporter along with the battalion Sergeant Major were going as well. Captain VanPamelen chose to remain on the ground.

Command Chopper Downed

The conditions were very dangerous as the enemy had plenty of anti-aircraft fire. The results of the C and C fly-over were predictable. Lt. Colonel Howard's helicopter was blown out of the area by dug in 51-caliber machine guns manned by soldiers from the 2nd NVA Division.

One of the field companies was ordered to reach the crash site and secure it. For four days the infantry company tried to reach their fallen battalion commander. Each attempt was met by NVA forces who attacked from dug in positions.

After the daily attempts, the company had reached a 50% casualty rate and for all intents and purposes, the company was no longer combat effective.

Then something happened which became a propaganda item for the anti-war activists in America, The company commander radioed back to BTOC that the men were refusing to move out and make another attempt to recover Lt. Colonel Howard. The communications between the battalion TOC and the field company was heard by the brigade staff at their operations center, the DTOC at Chu Lai, and ABC reporters and other news services who had come to the Americal because of the lost ABC reporter.

The men were not cowards; they were convinced it was a suicide mission to try and recover the dead. They wanted to speak with the Inspector General (IG) and the Chaplain. They had determined that after four days they could not take the objective with half the men. It took a helicopter visit from the new battalion commanding officer (CO) and the new Sergeant Major to appeal to the men's pride and a desire not to place the burden of their mission on some other unit. They were also told that the most recent intelligence had the enemy withdrawn and no longer waiting in ambush. The company saddled up and reached the crash site.

The Summer Campaign lasted several weeks before it finally ended. The fighting was fierce and mostly between Americal infantry companies and larger NVA units. In some instances the American units suffered so many casualties that a few men "played dead" and survived by evasion after the enemy had searched the other American dead bodies and then moved on. The enemies losses were horrific. The question often asked is, "Who won?"

Who won?

The Americal Division won a tactical victory as evidenced by the following: (1) the enemy losses were enormous, especially when compared to the Americal; (2) the NVA did not overrun any of the targets where they had made a determined attack, notably LZ West and LZ Siberia; (3) no Americal unit was totally overrun and no American prisoners taken; (4) The NVA broke contact and withdrew from the field of battle. Clearly the Americal Division had won a huge battle.

On the other hand, I believe the NVA won a strategic battle with an impact and consequences most of us in the combat area did not realize at the time. The NVA's objectives were not tactical, but rather strategic, and included the following: (1) proof to the Americans back home as well in the field, that the NVA had not gone away, but were still in South Viet Nam with the will and the ability to continue fighting; (2) the NVA caused a good number of killed and wounded Americal soldiers, which they felt would affect the war weary American Public; (3) the campaign sent a message to the RVN government and the ARVN forces that the NVA were still in southern I Corps and claiming it for the Viet Cong; (4) it showed the Vietnamization and pacification programs touted but the Americans and the RVN were not succeeding in Southern I Corps.; and (5) the windfall to the NVA of the propaganda of an alleged "mutiny" by an American infantry company

to fuel the antiwar efforts in America.

After the Summer Campaign I had few problems getting Division Staff or any commanders to listen and take seriously the intelligence assessments published by the Order of Battle Section. No one ever snickered or challenged me personally when I gave an opinion or rendered a briefing for the Division Commander and staff. While I felt proud of the Order of Battle Section and its new found recognition, I also know it was the failure of recognition on August 11 which prevented any substantial efforts to meet the initial challenge of the Summer Campaign of 1969.

Conventional Wisdom?

For many years after I returned home I felt guilty that I could not convince everyone on August 11, 1969 that there was going to be a major campaign. I realized that the lack of belief in the intelligence assessment allowed the enemy to retain the element of surprise. The enemy could then apply its mass to individual targets and have the advantage to attain their objectives. Over the years I studied military history and found a number of significant battles where intelligence assessments were disregarded, ignored, or attacked as simply wrong.

At the battle at Chancellorsville the Confederate forces were under Stonewall Jackson. He moved his corps around to the right wing of the Army of Potomac and massed his forces there. Jackson nearly rolled up the entire Union Army. Chancellorsville has been studied for years as a major example of the element of surprise. But was it? Actually there were numerous reports that Jackson's troops were on the move but all Union commanders believed "conventional wisdom" that the Confederates were so outnumbered that their actions were probably a retreat, certainly not meant for a major assault.

Another battle of interest is the Battle of the Bulge. Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. had been awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroics at the Normandy invasion. He was the son of President Theodore Roosevelt. Despite these credentials, when he informed higher headquarters that he was convinced the German Army was planning a massive armor attack in December 1944 his assessment was disregarded and ignored. "Conventional wisdom" at that time was the Germans were concentrating on the Eastern Front and had suffered many casualties and losses in the fighting subsequent to the Normandy invasion. The Germans unleashed an armor attack that rolled over one U.S. division and almost enveloped the 101st Airborne Division. Everyone felt that the principles of surprise and massing of forces had caused this terrible debacle. But then the surprise was in the failure to recognize and accept useful intelligence.

Perfect Storm

After my research of historical battles I returned to the events that led up the Summer Campaign of 1969 with a new perspective and a better analysis of what had happened. There were several dynamics at work when the campaign

started. It is true that conventional wisdom in 1969 was that the NVA and VC had realized that they could not win a pitched battle in regiment size units against American forces. Therefore, the thinking was that the enemy would not launch attacks in regiment size units.

Unfortunately, the enemy was doing its own intelligence gathering and was very aware that in 1969 there was a U.S. policy to restrict battalion size operations. The enemy knew that they would be facing only company size units. The understanding also was that the NVA forces had suffered huge losses during the first half of 1969 and were probably not sufficiently reinforced to conduct a major operation. They had reinforced however. It was the perfect storm. The enemy was convinced they could launch an undetected massive surprise operation (like TET of 1968) and employing the principle of mass, could roll over individual companies operating independently.

U.S. Army division and brigade commanders were under political constraints never seen before in American warfare. The emphasis was to show the American public that the war was winding down and that the enemy was weaker in the South Vietnam- thus the reason for restricting battalion size operations. There were pacification efforts and supposed protected villages. Division commanders were tasked with identifying and enforcing controlled fire zones (CFZ)"

The enemy was obviously aware of these political considerations. The opening attack on LZ Siberia was launched from Hiep Duc village- a CFZ. But most of all, the enemy was aware that the American public had grown weary of heavy American casualties. The enemy exploited the political environment to their advantage.

What Could Have Been Done?

Several questions still remain. Even if the division commander had believed the intelligence assessment, what could be done to change the summer campaign? There were several things that could have been done even at the late time and date:

- (1) High level alert should have gone out so that all units would be as aware of the enemy presence as the soldiers on LZ West were.
- (2) The 1-1 Cavalry Squadron was in separate elements, with some being at Hawk Hill and the rest at Chu Lai. The squadron was a ready reaction force available to the division. The elements at Chu Lai, while there was still light, should have been deployed to reform the entire squadron.
- (3) 1-1 Cav. Squadron should have been deployed to Que Son instead of the undermanned Marine Infantry battalion, so as to take advantage of the squadron's armor, firepower, mobility and air assets.
- (4) One battalion and one company from 11th Bde and 198th Bde should have been alerted to be operationally controlled (OPCON) to the 196th Bde so that independent infantry companies already in the field would have back up and support if they ran into a superior NVA force.
- (5) The 4th ARVN Division was co-located with the Americal. Its division commander Colonel Que was known for being aggressive commander should have been requested to

support the fighting in Quang Tin Province by committing multi-battalion units.

(6) For Aug. 11, and nights thereafter, harassment and interdiction (H and I) preparations and target areas should have been plotted by Division Artillery (DIVARTY) and employed to interdict NVA units moving down into the areas around LZ West and LZ Center.

(7) Developed an air plan for interdiction and close air support for the Marine Air Group (MAG) at Chu Lai and request further assets from the Air Force.

There was written motto that hung on the wall in the Order of Battle Office: **"ACTION NOT REACTION."** Our intent was to provide the division with the most timely and usable intelligence so that the Americal could take and keep the initiative through action, not simply reacting to the enemies offensives. It is my sincere belief now, that had we reacted quickly and following some of the above suggestions, the Americal Division could have annihilated the 2nd NVA Division.

A Tribute

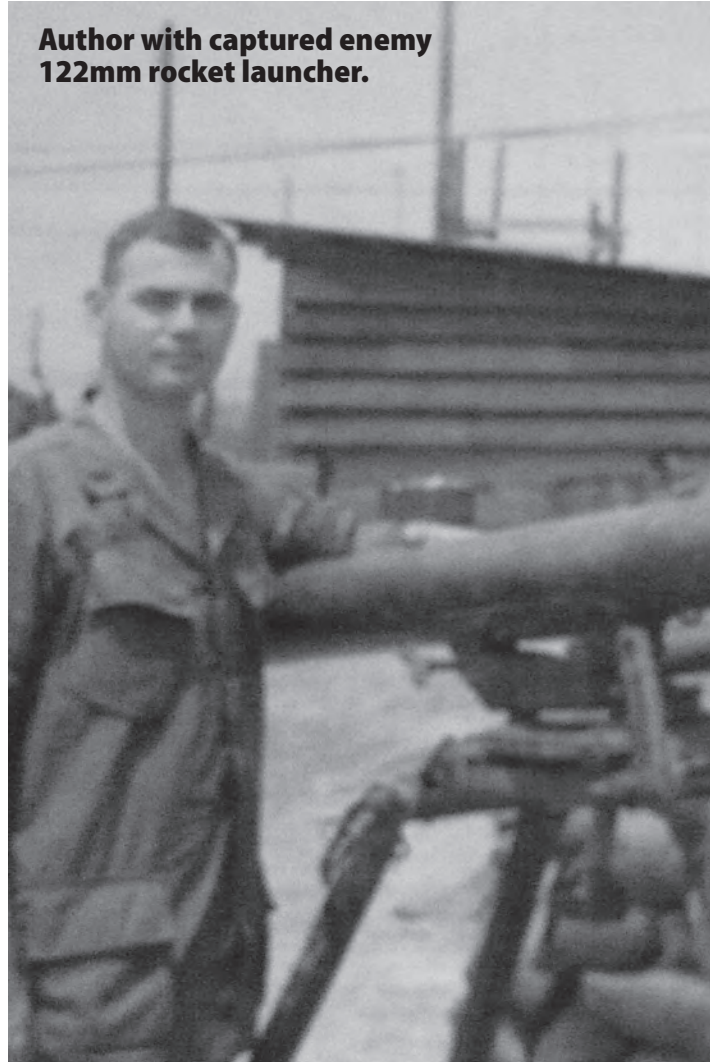
When my tour was over I returned home to California. I suffered the same social indignities so many Vietnam veterans did. Rejected in employment applications including my uncle's law firm. Shunned by former college friends because I was a veteran. Often despised and ridiculed by the anti-war activists, especially in a state like California in 1970.

I would then think of the men who served in the field during the Summer Campaign. I feel a tribute should be given to the company commanders, platoon leaders, and the NCO's that attempted to accomplish their missions and keep the troops alive. But I pay special tribute to the 11 Bravos (infantrymen) and 11 Charlies (mortarmen) who fought in the Summer Campaign, especially in Death Valley.

These young men were often draftees. They were aware that Americans were becoming weary of the war. They probably heard the taunts from friends that the only true hero was the young man who burned his draft card. The alienation and sometimes outright hostility had to weigh heavy on these men as they faced the enemy in August 1969. Their units were often outgunned and outnumbered in some of the heaviest contacts. These men waited for help to come and often it just was not available. Many brave soldiers fought on feeling the hopelessness of being abandoned. To my sorrow many died thinking we had truly forgotten them. They deserved better from their country and deserved better from those making the decisions that cost them their lives.

Most soldiers never know why the battles they fought took place. They only believed that the "powers that be" had made some decisions that led to these battles. The mystery of the "why" usually lasts throughout a soldier's life; never really knowing why we fought in "Death Valley" and why the campaign was conducted they way it was. There are always many lessons to be learned from any battle or campaign. The lesson I learned was, it is the human factor which really determines the success or failure of an army.

Author with captured enemy 122mm rocket launcher.



I am very proud of my service with the Americal Division. I am proud of the Americal Division, especially given the enormous task of two entire provinces (Quang Nai and Quang Tin). However, I am most proud of the soldiers who fought in the Summer Campaign of 1969.

Death Valley by Keith William is an excellent book on the Summer Campaign. Fighting Back by Rocky Bleier is a personal account of one of the companies facing annihilation- but surviving. Bleier was a grenadier who was severely wounded in the Summer Campaign and later became an all-pro running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

About the author: Joe DiLeonardo graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1965 and was commissioned Second Lieutenant through ROTC. He graduated from Santa Clara University Law School and went on active duty in September 1968. He completed training as an intelligence officer at Ft. Holabird, MD and in May 1969 he received an assignment to the 635th MID, Americal Division. His Vietnam tour ended in June 1970. For his service in Vietnam he was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and two Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross medals. He practiced law in California and now resides in Elizabeth, CO. He has been married to his wife Sharon since 1979. They have one daughter, Christina. DiLeonardo is active in the local VFW and politics.

My Visit With The Spook

By Ray Pierce

In late 1969 I participated in a routine mission while assigned to Co. C, 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB. We humped the mountainous bush south of FSB Professional (Pro). We stopped long enough at a nearby landing zone (LZ) to receive a couple of re-supply choppers.

A command and control (C and C) helicopter brought us chow, mail, and a re-supply of C-rations, ammo, and other necessary items. Very unexpectedly, the company command post (CP) instructed me to get on the next chopper and go back to Pro.

The company commanding officer (CO) did not care for NCO School graduates like me. He told me that he would like to make a Specialist 4 (E-4) out of me. He was the ONLY person in Nam that appeared to have had a grudge against me.

When I arrived at the CP to wait for the chopper the CO gave me a suspicious look. I thought that one day he and I were going to have a prayer meeting about this E-4 pay grade he wanted to give me.

As I waited a CP radio-telephone operator (RTO) approached me and said, "By the way Pierce, do you have a security clearance?" I said, "I don't know what you are talking about." He grinned and said. "Riiiiight."

I boarded the next chopper and flew back to Pro. Upon arrival I was told to go to the battalion tactical operations center (TOC) and sign out. Another chopper was inbound to Pro to pick me up.

I proceeded to the TOC and signed out. The chopper carried me and some outbound mail back to Chu Lai. When I arrived at my company rear area my first sergeant told me to report to battalion headquarters. Battalion headquarters instructed me to report to brigade headquarters. Brigade headquarters told me to report to a certain room in a certain building in the division headquarters area at 1400 hours sharp. I was not to be early and I was not to be late. And always the same question, "By the way Pierce, do you have a security clearance?" I wondered if I was in some kind of trouble. I was getting scared.

I reported to the building as required. It was one of the Quonset huts behind the PX in Chu Lai. I arrived in plenty of time. I looked at my watch and literally counted down the seconds to knock on the door. NASA would have been proud of my countdown.

I raised my hand and before my fist made contact to knock on the door a voice on the other side said, "Come in, Sgt. Pierce."

I entered and saluted a full-bird colonel. But this was not your usual full-bird colonel. Something was a little off. He invited me to take a seat and then he asked me a lot of questions. He sat back in his chair with his elbows on the armrests as he rubbed his palms together in an up and down motion.

After a while he said, "You're probably wondering why I called you here." I said, "Yes sir." He asked me if I remembered a Lt. Anderson. I told him that I did not remember a Lt. Anderson. He said, "Lt. Anderson sat in the seat next to you on the flight that brought you here from the states."

A face of someone I had met months before now popped in my mind. I changed my answer and said, "Okay. Yes, I remember him." The colonel told me that Lt. Anderson was



SSG Ray Pierce, 1969

a former Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) team member coming back for a second tour.

The colonel continued, "Do you remember what you two talked about on the plane?" I replied, "Not particularly." The colonel asked me if I'd ever heard of the LRRPs? I said, "Yes sir."

Ahhhhh! This is why this guy did not look like any colonel I've seen before. This guy was a dyed-in-the-wool full-blooded CIA spook! He finally came out with the big question- "Would you be willing to volunteer for the LRRP program?"

I actually thought about it! Then I told the colonel, "Sir, when the LT and I talked my son had not yet been born. I've got a son now and when my time is up I want to go home."

The colonel was not upset. He told me he understood. We talked for another hour or so about things back home. He told me if I changed my mind to let him know. He told me take a few days off if I wanted and to go to the PX or do whatever I wanted to do.

I told him that I really needed to get back to my unit. He told me when I got back to my unit not to discuss what we talked about. I didn't see what the big deal was. He just told me to reply when asked, "I am not at liberty to say." He added, "They will leave you alone."

I arrived back at brigade and experienced an exchange of words. "Sgt. Pierce, what was that all about?" "Sorry sir. I am not at liberty to say." "Oh, Okay." But you could tell he was dying to know.

I followed my route in reverse. Back to battalion and then my company rear area and then to the TOC on Pro. When questioned about my visit to Chu Lai, I replied, "Sorry sir. I am not at liberty to say."

I stayed at Pro for a day or two and then made it back to the bush and the CO that did not care for my presence. "What was that all about?", he asked. "Sorry sir. I am not at liberty to say." I could tell it was worrying him no end.

From that day forward he was a changed man. He never said so much as a petty remark towards me. I believe he was afraid of me for some reason because of my hush-hush meeting with the spook.

Ray Pierce was wounded in early 1970 and returned to the United States. He resides in Aiken, SC where he is employed in the paper industry.

Cebu—The Last Beachhead

By Ralph Noonan

Editors note: this is a reprint from the May-June 1986 issue of the Americal Newsletter. Noonan was a Lieutenant Colonel during the invasion of Cebu in charge of the quartermaster units and remained on active duty, retiring as a General. Ralph Noonan is now deceased. Photo (National Archives) shows landing at Cebu.

26 March 1986 ...Forty-one years ago this morning I was worried that I would get my ass blown off! But I did return! "The Last Beachhead" may not be good literature but it is word for word from my diary. If I remember well, the HQ Battery of the 221st Field Artillery was on the same LST with the 125th Quartermaster Company when we landed.

From the bridge with the commander of our LST we could observe at approximately 0700 hours the cruisers and destroyers pounding the area around Talisay. The shelling continued for about an hour and then the rockets started hammering the beach. The entire area was covered with grey smoke but in the distance we could see the capitol of Cebu resting against the foothills west of the city, which appeared to be burning.

At 0800 hours with two regiments abreast (132nd & 182nd) the Americal hit the island five miles southwest of Cebu City with no sign of opposition from the Japs. This could not have happened six months ago.

In a short time the reports from the beach started coming back. Numerous Japanese land mines had halted the first wave and a stalemate developed on the beach. The assault units could not move safely through the mine fields until mine detectors were brought in. A log jam was developing as other troops poured ashore. For some unknown reasons the Japs were not defending the beach. Once paths were cleared through the mine fields, the assault units were able to advance on the city through abandoned Jap positions.

Dave Hayes and Dick Powell and I went in about 0900 for the purpose of locating places to put ration and gasoline dumps and establish a truck park. We met Brigadier General Ridings on the beach who was pleased that we came in early and he briefly explained the situation.

The beach was completely covered with crude mines – any type of shell the Japs could get their hands on – concealed under pieces of boards. The initial amphibious vehicles had taken a terrific beating. Many casualties - and the immediate problem was to clear the beach and establish a temporary cemetery. I sent out word to Joe Larkin on the LST to bring in the Graves Registration section and our service platoon.

When Larkin came in, a small plot was selected for the cemetery, but it turned out to be a bad spot, again covered with mines! With the help of our engineers and others, casualties were buried. Most of the casualties were badly cut on the legs, the results of the mines.

After locating a good bivouac, we brought the truck companies in. Supply dumps were located in a coconut grove just off the beach on the road between Talisay and Tanke. Mines again bogged us down for several hours, but we were soon handling the rations and gasoline as rapidly as they could be unloaded from the LST.



After a sleepless night on the beach, and a can of "C-Rations", I started out early the next morning (March 27) with Nick and John Viera to locate a spot for a forward gasoline point.

We met Johnny Watt's battalion (1st Bn/182nd) just before they shoved off for Pardo, a small barrio halfway to Cebu City. We went along with them as far as Basek, where we found a good place for our gasoline supply point. Johnny Watt told us that Franco's outfit (3rd Bn/132nd) had reached the edge of the city. We returned to the unit and started gasoline moving forward to Basek.

This afternoon, our second on the beach, Walt Vertner from the G-4 office and I started to visit the gasoline point. We found it operating OK, so we decided to push along further down the road towards Cebu City. The road had been mined for its entire length with large-size aerial bombs, poorly concealed, sharpened bamboo stakes and barriers built of logs and earth.

Near Mambaling, we met General Ridings who told us both Franco and Daehler (1st Bn/132nd) had reached the city and that Bucky Harris (2nd Bn/182nd) was swung inland towards the capitol headed for the Lahug airfield. We continued on to the city and swung down toward the docks. Again, the road was mined but poorly camouflaged; they were easily spotted.

The first place I recognized from my map was the Bank Building and the Shamrock Hotel. The bank was not badly damaged but the hotel was a shell. Walt and I proceeded cautiously along the dock area. The piers seemed to be in good shape and could handle six liberty ships at a time. Several Jap ships were sunk off the seawall but ships could be brought in around them.

Opposite Pier 3 we met Franco and Dahler, who were taking a break before pushing their battalions up through the city to meet Buck Harris near the airfield.

Scouting the area opposite the docks we located several reasonably intact warehouses that could be utilized for storing rations and other supplies.

The Cebu Trade School was claimed as quarters for the company and location of the Division Quartermaster Office. The next morning the 101st Quartermaster Company under Bill Ulbricht, moved up from the beach, settled in, and commenced operations. All prayed that this would be the Americal's last beachhead.

A Helmet on a Rifle

*They built a marble monument
In town the other day.
They put it on the village green,
In permanent display.*

*It's a grand and noble symbol
Raised by a grateful land,
But I remember a simpler one
Of steel, wood and sand.*

*I remember the puffs of dust
That swirled around our feet
And the way the rifle barrels
Shimmered and glowed in the heat.*

*I walked with my eyes on the pointman,
He was the first to go down.
I saw how the bullets hit him
And slammed him onto the ground.*

*That day lasted almost forever
But it finally came to an end.
And there were no strangers around
For each man was every man's friend.*

*And then I looked at the Captain,
And he silently answered me,
He took my hand and he nodded,
Then turned so I couldn't see.*

*And I walked back to the pointman,
To the place where I had seen him fall.
Where now the land was quiet,
With a piece of God on all.*

*I covered him up with a poncho,
And then, to be sure he'd be found,
I took his rifle and bayonet,
And jabbed it into the ground.*

*There wasn't much more than I could do,
My tribute seemed too trifle,
So I took a battered helmet
And placed it on the rifle.*

*Years have passed since that fateful night
And now I read his name,
Carved on a marble monument
Enshrined on a Roll of Fame.*

*Yet, that helmet on a rifle
Was a far more fitting shrine,
For the rifle was my brother's,
And the helmet? It was mine.*

R. A. Gannon



The Face of the Enemy Infantry Weapons by David W. Taylor

Editors note: This article is part 3 in a series of articles by the ADVA World War II Historian. The primary source for this and the previous articles is a War Department document, "Soldiers Guide to the Japanese Army", created by the Military Intelligence Service and printed in November 1944. Dave Taylor has edited the materials for the Americal Journal.

Japans conquests in China and much of the Pacific required rapid industrialization in the 1930's with a close - even slavish - imitation of the foreign weapons made by its axis partners and its western enemies. While Japan's manufacturing produced first-rate weapons their industrial output never approached other highly industrialized nations, or the rate it needed to support its immense military deployments.

As they tooled-up their weapons production, the Japanese did show an ability to learn from their combat experience in modifying the design of their weapons and equipment to meet new conditions. For example, at the beginning of their war with America and Great Britain, Japanese infantry units for the most part were equipped with Model 38 (1905) 6.5-mm rifles and Models 11 (1922) and 96 (1936) 6.5-mm light machine guns. While the weapons were useful in jungle fighting because of their lightness and portability, the muzzle velocity and weight of the bullets were inadequate. Consequently the Japanese Army began to replace these weapons with 7.7-mm models. During the battle for Attu in May 1943 (Aleutian Campaign, northwest of Alaska) whole units were found equipped with the new rifle as well as with the heavier-caliber light machine guns.

Japanese ordnance was marked with the last two digits of the year since the foundation of the Japanese

empire. The Japanese asserted their empire was founded the same time in western chronology as 660B.C. For example, 1930 in the western calendar would be Japanese year 2590. A piece of ordnance adopted in 2590 (1930) would be labeled by the Japanese as Model 90. Beginning with the Japanese year 2600 (1940) only the last digit was used, i.e. Model 0. Ordnance produced in 2601 (1941) would be Model 1, etc. Other ordnance was marked with the year of the emperor during the war, Hirohito, whose reign began in 1925 (Japanese year 2585).

Calibers of weapons are given in metric units but in the case of a number of Japanese weapons they were approximations. For example, the Model 88 (128) 7-cm high-angle gun was really a 75-mm antiaircraft gun. Calibers up to 70-mm were usually expressed in millimeters; larger ones in either millimeters or centimeters.

Small Arms

Pistols

The Nambu 8-mm pistol resembled the German Luger outwardly but its mechanism was entirely different. The 8-mm version (Model 14 - 1925) replaced the previous 9-mm (Model 26) introduced in 1893. The Nambu pistol was a semiautomatic, recoil-operated, magazine hand fed weapon. Its eight-round magazine fit into the butt and was held secure by a catch similar to that on the U.S. Colt .45 pistol (M1911A1). A wooden holster which had a telescoping section was used both as a holster and a stock which could be attached to the pistol to adapt it as a carbine. In 1934 the Japanese Army introduced the Model

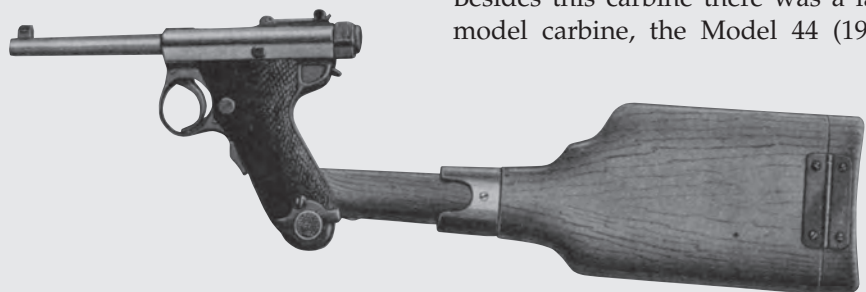
94 semiautomatic 8-mm pistol but the quality of its manufacture was poor in comparison to the 8-mm Nambu Model 14 and its design not as functional. The pistol grip on the 94 was cramped and the barrel shortened.

Rifles

The Model 38 (1905) 6.5-mm rifle, widely used by the Japanese, was a modified German Mauser with an action somewhat similar to that of the U.S. caliber .30 (7.62-mm) M1903 Springfield. It was a small-bore weapon with medium muzzle velocity. Although its design was rather clumsy, its mechanism was sturdy despite the lightness of the weapon in proportion to its length. Because of the long barrel, small caliber, and comparatively low muzzle velocity, there was practically no flash, and the recoil was slight in view of the small caliber and lightness of the bullet.

The Model 38 had swing swivels under the barrel and stock as did the U.S. Garand and Springfield rifles. It was manually operated with a bolt action. The ammunition clip contained five cartridges in a manner similar to the loading of the Springfield. The sheet-metal dustcover of the bolt, which slid with it in loading and extracting, could be detached. Japanese soldiers seldom used the weapon without removing this cover. Ammunition fired in the Model 38 was standard Japanese 6.6-mm.

Transport and Engineer units of the Japanese Army usually were equipped with a carbine version of the Model 38, which had a shorter barrel than the rifle version and a smaller rear sight. Another distinguishing feature of the carbine is it had a sling to the side. Besides this carbine there was a later model carbine, the Model 44 (1911),





Grenade Launchers

Both cup and spigot-type grenade launchers were used with the Model 38 and Model 99 rifles. The cup-type launcher fit over the muzzle and locked over the front sight. From a short, rifled barrel it discharged a hollow-charge grenade 7.08 inches long and 1.58 inches in maximum diameter, containing a bursting charge of 3.81 ounces of TNT. The fuse was not armed until after the grenade had been discharged from the rifle.

The spigot-type was fitted to the rifle like the cup-type and could launch both high-explosive and smoke grenades. It is believed the grenade was placed over the spigot, the safety pin pulled, and a special wooden bullet fired in the rifle. A setback probably caused the firing pin to strike the percussion cap, activating the delay fuse.

The more common grenade launcher was the cup-type Model 100 (1940) designed to fire the Model 99 (1939) anti-personnel hand grenade. It came in two types, one for the Model 98 6.5-mm rifle and carbine, and one for the Model 99 7.7-mm rifle. The grenades were propelled to a maximum distance of 100 yards.

Another grenade launcher, not fired from a rifle but a hand-held tube with a base plate, was the Model 89 (1929) "grenade discharger", most commonly known as "The Knee Mortar". Americal veterans should reference Robert Cashner's article, "The Dreaded Knee Mortar" in the October-November-December 2010 issue of the Americal Journal.

Japanese Army Rifles Table of Characteristics Model 38 (1905) 6.5-mm

Caliber	0.256 inch
Principle of operation	Manually bolt-operated
Ammunition Model 38 (1905)	Ball and tracer; reduced charge ball.
Capacity of magazine	5 rounds
Sight	Peep battle sight set for 300 meters on Model 38 rifles of later manufacture.
Weight without sling and bayonet	9 pounds and 4 ounces
Range:	Effective: 400 yards Maximum 2,600 yards
Muzzle velocity	2,400 feet per second.
Model 99 (1939) 7.7-mm	

Caliber	0.303 inch
Principle of operation	Manually bolt-operated
Ammunition.(1939)	Rimless ball
Capacity of magazine	5 rounds
Sight	Folding arms for taking leads in anti-aircraft fire; Peep battle sight set for 300 meters.
Weight	(unloaded with sling) 8.8 pounds
Range:	Effective 600 yards Maximum 3,000 yards
Muzzle velocity	2,300 feet per second.

a 6.5-mm cavalry carbine. It differed from the Model 38 carbine by having a bayonet which folded under the barrel when not in use.

The Model 99 (1939) 7.7-mm rifle – in some combat areas replaced the Model 38 as the basic Japanese rifle. It was generally identical in construction with the Model 38 but 5 inches shorter. Other features were the monopod attached to the lower band, which could be rotated forward to catch on the stock when in use. The monopod was used when firing at aircraft from trenches. The sling was attached to swivels on the left side of the rifle. The slide on the rear sight had two arms that could be swung out, one left and one right, from the center of the rifle.

The Model 99 was manually operated with a bolt action. It was equipped with a full-length cleaning rod that fit into the stock and was held in place by a catch. Ammunition was true rimless with a pointed nose and could also be used in the Model 99 light machine gun and the Model 92 heavy machine gun. A pink ring on the ammo indicated ball ammunition. Tracer had a green band and armor-piercing a black band.

Japanese snipers often used a 6.5-mm snipers rifle which had an overall length of 50.2 inches. It was fitted with a telescope sight having a 2-1/2 power magnification and a 10-degree field of view.

Hand Grenades

All Japanese front-line troops carried the Model 97 (1937) hand grenade which could not be fired from a grenade discharger. It had a black, serrated cast-iron body and a brass fuse. It was loaded with TNT. The time delay in the fuse was from 4 to 5 seconds.

Before the grenade was used it was necessary to screw the firing pin down into its holder as far as possible. The grenade was then grasped so that the fuse pointed downward. Next the safety pin was withdrawn, after which the head of the fuse cover was struck against some hard object. The grenade was then thrown quickly since the fuse was erratic in timing.

Other widely-used grenades were the Model 91 (1931) which could also be fired from 50-mm dischargers Models 10 and 90. It could also be used as a rifle grenade by substituting a tubular tail-fin assembly for the propellant container.

During the Aleutian Islands campaign another model, Model 99 (1939) was found in large quantities. It differed from the other types in that it was not serrated. Its time delay was 4 to 5 seconds and fired in the same manner as the Model 97 and Model 91.

The Japanese also used high-explosive "stick grenades". They were shaped like a potato masher and non-serrated. To arm the grenade the metal cap screwed to the end of the wooden handle had to be removed. Inside the hollow handle there was a string attached to the pull cord. The wooden handle was firmly grasped, and the ring placed over a finger. As the grenade was thrown the ring and cord were retained, and pulling out the cord activated the friction primer which in turn activated the delaying element.

The Japanese also had an incendiary stick hand grenade, easily distinguishable from the high explosive type by its curved ends. It was filled with phosphorus-impregnated rubber pellets which were scattered by a small bursting charge. A prussic acid gas grenade was also known to be used.



Machine Guns

The Model 11 (1922) 6.5-mm light machine gun was standard equipment in the Japanese infantry squad at the beginning of the war. An unusual feature of the gun was the fact it was fed by six 5-round clips of ammunition. But it fired only reduced-charge cartridges and would not function properly with other types. It used a bipod mount. The gun was gas-operated and air-cooled. Ammunition was loaded through the feed hopper, attached to the left-side of the receiver.

The Japanese also made considerable use of the Model 92 (1932) 7.7-mm Lewis-type machine gun. It was a duplicate of the British model except for the fact that the cocking handle was on the left side and could not be shifted to the right side of the gun. An advantage of the Lewis-type machine gun was that, without removing the gun from its mount it could be adapted for antiaircraft use in about 15 seconds.

The Japanese Model 96 (1936) 6.5-mm light machine gun was very similar in appearance to the British Bren light machine gun, caliber .303. In construction, however, it embodied certain features of French and Czech automatic weapons. Its mechanism represented a considerable improvement upon the Model 11, was handled well and could be fired from the hip.

The Model 96's prominent features were the carrying handle directly in front of the receiver, the operating handle on the left of the receiver, the drum-controlled rear peep sight, and the quick-change barrel with the swinging arm catch. The gun was gas-operated and air-cooled. A spare barrel was carried by the gunner. The gun was fed by a curved-box magazine containing 30 rounds which was placed on top of the receiver. The safety was located on the left side of the trigger housing in front of and above the trigger. In the horizontal position, it was set to fire. When it was in the vertical position the gun was locked.

As in the case of the Model 99 rifle, adoption of the Model 99 (1939) 7.7-mm light machine gun was additional evidence of the trend in the Japanese Army during the war to move toward heavier infantry weapons with some sacrifice of mobility. The Model 99 was similar in appearance to the Model 96 but had an adjustable rear monopod and a nut-and-wedge type barrel release whereas the Model 96 had a pivoting, barrel-locking knob. The flash hider of the Model 99 was screwed onto the muzzle; that of the Model 96 had a bayonet-type locking device.



Mortars

Mortars were very effectively used by the Japanese Army and their performance was fully up to the standards of other modern armies. The Model 98 (1938) 50-mm mortar had three main parts: the base plate, the bipod and the barrel. Its elevation was fixed at about 40 degrees, but provisions were made for limited traverse by loosening the two wing nuts that secured the bipod and swinging the bipod feet on the arc.

The Model 98 fired a formidable "stick-bomb" which weighed nearly 10 pounds and contained about 7 pounds of explosive charge. To fire the mortar it was necessary to insert one or more powder increments into the muzzle. The stick of the bomb was then placed in the tube. Adjustment of the graduated range slide, which was clamped to the muzzle, regulated the distance the stick extended into the barrel; the greater distance the stick extended into the barrel, the greater the range that was obtained.

The explosive charge of the "bomb" was armed by insertion of two friction-type pull igniters in the holes in the base of the charge. Each igniter was connected by a cord to one of the two links extending from the barrel collar of the mortar on each side. A pull-type friction primer was then inserted into the primer seat on the side of the barrel near the base. Pulling the loop lanyard attached to the primary friction primer fired the piece.

The Model 11 (1922) 70-mm mortar was muzzle-loaded but nonetheless had a rifled bore. It was mounted on a wooden base plate and the barrel supported by an adjustable elevating screw. The mortar fired a high-explosive shell made up of a fuse, the body, and the propelling-charge assembly.

The simplest mortar design used by the Japanese was the 70-mm barrage mortar, first encountered in the Aleutian campaign off of Alaska. The barrel was smooth-bore and was attached to a wooden base plate. The wooden base absorbed the shock of firing and prevented the mortar from "digging in".

The Model 97 (1937) 81-mm mortar was almost identical with the U.S. 81-mm mortar M1. There were only two minor differences. The Japanese 81-mm had an offset locking nut for the firing pin and buttress-type thread on the elevating and traverse screws. Operation was identical with that of the



U.S. 81-mm piece and the ammunition was so similar that it could be used interchangeably.

The Model 99 (1939) 81-mm mortar was also similar to the U.S. 81-mm M1 mortar except that it had a shorter barrel, was equipped for trigger firing, and had a close fit between the bore and the projectile to compensate for the shorter barrel. Two men carried the Japanese 81-mm mortar, which could also be carried by horse cart or motor truck.

One of the largest Japanese infantry-mortars commonly used was the 90-mm Model 94 (1934). It was a smooth-bore, muzzle-loading weapon with a fixed firing pin. It was equipped with two recoil cylinders mounted on a one-piece U-shaped frame. This frame fit into the base plate by a ball and socket arrangement. The barrel was connected by a bar to the recoil cylinders which in turn were attached to bipod shock absorbers.

Elevation of the mortar was accomplished by turning the crank at the junction of the bipod legs and elevating screws. A knob at the end of the traversing screw, where the barrel was collared to the bipod, was turned to accomplish traverse. The mortar was laid-in and leveled in the same manner as the U.S. 81-mm mortar and the sight was adjusted in a similar fashion. Both high-explosive and chemical shells were fired from the Model 94 mortar.

In the Bougainville fighting the Japanese used a much-improved version of the Model 94, known as the Model 97 (1937) 90-mm mortar. It weighed 120 pounds less than the Model 94 and this lightness was a great advantage in difficult jungle terrain where such weapons were ordinarily hand-carried. The new model also had the same maximum range and other firing characteristics as the earlier version.

Antitank Guns

The Model 97 (1937) 20-mm antitank rifle was a single-purpose, semi or full-automatic antitank weapon. It was frequently referred to as a machine cannon in view of its full automatic character. Since the piece only weighed 150 pounds it could be carried by two men and be maneuvered in any terrain. The normal method of carrying however, utilized handles in the brackets affixed to the front and rear of the cradle and required three or four men. Both armor-piercing shot and high-explosive shells with point-detonating fuses were fired from the Model 97.

The Model 98 (1938) 20-mm machine cannon was an all-purpose weapon. Light in weight and very maneuverable, it could be placed in a battery as an anti-aircraft gun by an experienced crew in less than three minutes, making it an effective weapon for defense against low-flying aircraft. There were close similarities between the Model 97 and 98 but the 98 could be fired either as a semi or full automatic weapon. The 98 was gas-operated and magazine fed.

The Model 11 (1922) 37-mm anti-tank gun was also encountered but was largely superseded by weapons of more modern design by the time American forces entered the war. Four men in a gun crew had to carry the weapon, which in appearance was similar to the U.S. 37-mm gun M1916.

The Model 94 (1934) was a 37-mm gun used as an infantry close-support weapon. It had a long slender barrel, a low mount and spade brackets on the trails. The weapon could be either manhandled or horse drawn.

Finally, the Model 1 (1941) was a 47-mm gun introduced at the outset of America's involvement in the war, a more modern design used as an anti-tank and anti-personnel weapon. It had a long barrel with muzzle reinforcement, exceptionally long trails and rubber-tired, perforated steel-disc wheels. It was designed for motor transport only, with the trails closed and locked with a yoke. It was fired in the same manner as the Model 94 37-mm gun, firing rimmed and armor-piercing high-explosive rounds with a brass case. The case had a comparatively large diameter and was necked down to take a 47-mm projectile.

My Short but Intense Tour with the Americal

by Alexander J. Mozzer, M.D.

ADVA WWII Historian note: This article is from the September-October 1986 Americal Newsletter. I am reprinting it again because of its unique perspective on the Cebu campaign in Cebu City. I have supplemented the article with photos of the destruction in Cebu City, which Doctor Mozzer describes in his article. The photos are from the archives of Armand Levy (182nd Regiment). Levy's pictures were provided to me by his daughter, Alexis Gable in 2005. All photos are used with her permission

This article is from my diary written in World War II. I was a doctor in the Medical Corps, U.S. Army. Although I had been overseas in Australia, New Guinea and Biak for almost three years, I had not served with an infantry unit until I was transferred out of the 4th General Hospital in New Guinea to the First Field Hospital in Leyte, Philippine Islands. In March of 1945 I was promptly put on detached service with the Americal Division, because I would have interfered with the rotation home of one of their officers. He had 20-24 months of overseas service and I had almost 36.

I served with the 121st Medical battalion from early March 1945 until being wounded on March 28, 1945. I might have the distinction of being the person with the shortest service with the Americal before being wounded. I have "adopted" the Americal as my outfit. **From the diary -----**

March 26, 27, 28, 1945 – The Invasion of Cebu

The attacking convoy came into Cebu Harbor, the morning of March 26, 1945. The harbor was located at the southwestern part of the island away from Cebu City proper. Invasion morning was bright and sunny. The Navy gave the shore a terrific bombardment. Smaller boats came close to shore and raked it with rockets. There was no response from shore, as the Japanese had moved to the mountains overlooking Cebu City.



Americal Troops of the 182nd Regiment Advance on Cebu City

After about a one half hour of bombardment the assault troops and boats went in. The area also had been bombed for two weeks by our airplanes. After the assault troops went in the LST's and other boats went in. We learned later that the first troops sustained casualties from mines planted and hidden ashore. The Japs had pulled out, passed north through Cebu City and then into the mountains. The night before the invasion I had a room but did not sleep.

The civilian population had also evacuated the city. The Japs had burned or destroyed most of what was left of the city, or that portion that was left untouched by our bombs. After several hours our LST moved closer to shore and we disembarked into a smaller boat called a "Duck". I sat on the beach for a while and watched General Arnold, the CO of the invasion. After a short period on shore, the Medical Section got together and marched toward Cebu City, following the infantry troops.

By the 27th of March the Americal Division troops were already in the city. Here and there groups of Japs had been left behind the lines. Sniper fire occurred now and then. I was fortunate in not being hit at this time of our march inland. The

Japs left behind, had orders to make trouble behind the lines. I was not used to hiking and the first night I had blisters on my feet. Our medical unit slept in a brewery. There was a spot of blood near where I slept. Someone may have died there. I slept on the floor curled up in a blanket, and the sleep was fitful with awake periods.

On the morning of March 28, 1945 we received transportation to and through Cebu City, to the northern outskirts facing the mountains where the Japs were entrenched. We set up in an old school building in the back of the capitol building. The same morning we looked around. I visited the courthouse on the same street. I saw the remains of two American flyers in a trench who had been burned alive, after being drenched with gasoline by the Japs, when the invasion started. I also saw a hole, a big one, all filled with Filipinos, with bullet holes in their heads. They were black and bloated. A horrible sight to be sure.

The infantry was only 1/2 to 1/4 -mile ahead of us and was now making slow progress. The unit I was with was called a collecting company. During the day I collected some ambulatory wounded (soldiers) and took them back to the Stone Church which was now

a hospital. I did not know I would be a patient there myself before the day was over.

About 5:00PM Captain L _ _ _ , a medical officer in charge of our unit, a few medical aid men and myself, set off to explore the area up ahead toward the mountains. I think the Captain was looking for a place to set up an aid station. I was skeptical about going but went regardless. I do not recall the names of the officers or the men with us except Captain _ _ _ _ CO of our company. He was about 40 years old and had already been overseas about 40 months. He was from somewhere in California. Some of the officers from our organization had already been up to where we were going. During the day the Japs shelled the city from positions in the mountains. Every now and then we would hear a loud bang where a shell had landed.

Near the Capitol Building, there was considerable sniper fire also. I was reluctant to go that way thinking it was foolish. The Captain evidently was interested in looking this building over for possible use as a hospital. A Spanish type building with a wall around it and one entrance and one exit. This building had been used as a Jap hospital. It had been struck by bombs but portions were still standing. There was a big unexploded bomb in the basement. In the courtyard to the rear there was a bomb crater. The unexploded parachute bomb made me feel uneasy and I wanted to be away from it as soon as possible.



The damaged Capitol Building of Cebu; behind it loom the hills and mountains that the Americal Division took by force from fierce Japanese resistance.

I know it was no place for a small hospital. If I had followed my own instincts and inclinations I would possibly not have been wounded. But who knows, I may have been wounded or killed later.

We were close enough to hear the infantry rifle fire. We heard loud explosions nearby now and then. There were Jap mortar shells but the captain thought the noise was from our own artillery firing at the Japs. He apparently was not aware of the danger as I was. We went out into the courtyard in back of the building and looked around. We had come in a jeep which was parked out front. I moved back toward the other men in the group.

Someone, I think it was the Medical Administrative Officer

yelled for us to fall down flat and we did. A loud explosion occurred and we were showered with dirt. We got up and ran several times to reach the road where the jeep was. On reaching the corner of the building, we again hit the dirt. The Medical Admin Officer had combat experience and he would yell for us to run and then tell us to fall flat.

The final mortar shell, the fifth, injured Captain _ _ _ _ and myself. The explosion blew a large piece of wood into my right thigh above the knee. It hit me in the right spot otherwise I would have bled to death had it been higher up the leg where the femoral artery is closer to the surface. Captain _ _ _ _ I learned later, got some shrapnel, pieces of the mortar shell, in his back. The entire group had disappeared except one man who lay still. I learned later he was killed. I was still able to move so I ran to the front of the building which was more out of view, and laid in the gutter. I should have noticed the shelling coming in earlier but I did not. As I laid there I wondered if I was going to die. The Japs, watching from the mountains, had bracketed us with mortar shells.

I looked at my leg and saw there was a large hole with a flap of flesh. I did not know the wood was still in the wound. Although the wood piece was large, about six inches long, I was not bleeding much. In a short time I yelled out and the Medical Admin Officer came out of the air raid shelter. He and some of the other men moved me onto the jeep. They also moved the Captain.



Brewery where Mozzer slept the first night in Cebu City



He had made it to the air raid shelter, apparently after the last shell had fallen. He seemed in a daze or in shock. We were taken down the road, around a large, newly-formed shell hole, to our hospital in the stone church. Before that we had stopped at a medical aid station for morphine. They had landed after we did, had not as yet set up and had no morphine. I received a hypo of morphine when we arrived at the Stone Church.

I was wounded at approximately 6:00PM on March 28, 1945. About 10:00PM that evening a debridement of my leg was done. The person in charge of the medical unit was Colonel Belfonte. The surgeon who operated was Dr. Edmund L.

Whelen of Malden, Massachusetts in the 182nd Regiments medical unit. The operation was done under sodium pentothal intravenously. The church hospital was quite crowded and a priest had given me last rites, "just in case".

There had not been many casualties on March 26th or the 27th because the Japs were in the mountains. Many more casualties came later. I learned later that they had underestimated the casualties and the medical units were overworked. When the infantry reached the mountains the casualties began to mount and arrive at the stone church in large numbers. There was a great confusion of cots on the main floor of the church.

I slept all night from the effects of the sodium pentothal anesthesia. The next day there was no food. The men working in the hospital were so busy that we were only given food when we could catch their attention as they went by. Most of us were not hungry anyway. There were several sick or wounded Japs nearby. Having seen some of their atrocities and treachery, I did not want them near me.

On March 29, 1945, a plane flew over and strafed the church. I could hear the bullets entering the top of the church. I did not know what to do so I rolled off the cot onto the floor. The moving was painful and did not make me feel any better. The plane, I learned later, was one of ours making a mistake.

About the third day I was moved from the stone church to an LST. The LST was full of wounded including our Captain _ _ _ _ , who had the bunk above me. I made some remark that we should not have been where we were when we were wounded and he "shushed" me as he was afraid he would be found at fault. I later wrote to him at his home in California but he never answered my letter. From the LST Captain _ _ _ _ was evacuated to Leyte by seaplane. I was left behind with the other wounded. I was to remain on the LST for nine days and nights. After nine days I was moved to the 66th General Hospital on Leyte. My next move was back to the United States arriving on May 30, 1945

Destruction in Cebu City



They Way We Were ... Reflections of the Past

ADVA WWII Historian note: These reflections were obtained from issues of the Americal Newsletter in 1986 and 1988 and are worth repeating

Guadalcanal

By Robert W. Carbray
(Colonel-Retired – deceased)

In 1942 and 1943 I was a PFC Machine Gunner, heavy type water-cooled, assigned to Company M, 132nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Infantry Division on Guadalcanal.

I will never forget just before Christmas of 1942 about the 17th of December in the morning, Company L, reinforced by our Company M, moved out from the perimeter in the direction of Mount Austen toward the north end of Guadalcanal. To our rear was the remainder of the Third Battalion standing ready to follow at a moments notice.

As the leading elements of the company neared the forward slope of the hill, intensive bursts of Japanese defensive fire broke the jungle silence. Enemy defensive fire continued all day. From well-concealed positions in the dense undergrowth came fire of all calibers from rifles, light and heavy machine guns and mortars. We were completely nailed down so we dug in to wait further developments.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Lt. Colonel William C. Wright, my Battalion Commander hustled the rest of the battalion into action to endeavor to reach the crest of Mount Austen without further delay. By late afternoon the entire Third Battalion was in a position along the line of Company L and Company M.

When the remainder of the battalion was committed it was planned that we attack as soon as all troops were in position. However, the long, arduous forced march had exhausted the riflemen so that the attack could not be carried out. So the assault was postponed until the following

morning, and so we had to set up a reconnaissance to look over the situation.

The air strikes and artillery concentrations were called upon to soften up the Japanese resistance enough to allow the battalion to drive through to its objective. The next day, 18 December, in the wake of intense aerial bombing and artillery fire the Third battalion struck forward up the slopes of Mount Austen, but almost immediately the advance ground to a halt as some of the Japanese lashed forth with a tremendous hail of defensive fire. We tried to gain ground all through the day but we were thrown back.

Then again on 19 December, we tried again but were bogged down almost as soon as it started. My Battalion Commander, LT. Col. Wright, hurried forward to make a personal investigation into the cause of the delay and lack of progress. As he was with the most forward elements of his command, fire from a well-concealed Japanese machine gun mortally wounded him with a single burst. Several attempts at rescue were forced to withdraw by heavy Japanese fire. Finally, an S-2 patrol reached Colonel Wright – but he was dead.

The 57th Engineers named a supply road they were building, Wright Road, in respect of the courage and devotion of our late commander. We finally took Mount Austen on Christmas Day of 1942 but we suffered many casualties.

That is how I saw it.

(Note: Carbray received a commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving with the 24th Infantry Division in the Korean War. In 1965 he graduated at the top of his class in the Army Command and General Staff College. In 1968 and 1969 he commanded the 3rd/21st Infantry Battalion of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. After military retirement he worked for the Chicago Police Department and rose to the rank of Homicide Detective working out of the tough Maxwell Street Station. He eventually retired in Arizona, but always claimed he carried “hip pocket” orders in case another war broke out).

New Caledonia

By Joe “Del” D'Alessandro

When we (E Company, 182nd Infantry Regiment) landed on New Caledonia we had the task of guarding radio stations, docks, bridges, etc. I was picked, with about five other men, to patrol a bridge about 10 miles from where our company was stationed. Of the five men I just remember one. He was Private “Pee Wee” Moulton. We were to maintain a guard 24 hours a day. The reason I remember “Pee Wee” was because he had an ulcer. “Pee Wee” would buy milk from the local natives and pasteurize it by boiling the milk and putting it in a glass container, the putting it in the river to cool. Our mess sergeant would bring our rations out once a week. Included in the rations would be strawberry jam. “Pee Wee” would make strawberry shakes as Army chow did not agree with his ulcer.

As I stated above, we were to keep guard on the bridge constantly, which we did for a while. Then, being a “smart ass” corporal I decided a guard during the day wasn’t necessary. If any one of us heard an Army vehicle coming -- and we could hear it coming for miles on either side of the bridge – he would grab a rifle, belt, bayonet and helmet and onto the bridge he would go.

This system worked for a while. One day as we were lying in our squad tent, which was located at one end of the bridge, I looked up and low and behold what did I see but a brand new green Chevy sedan with two big red stars on the bumper. And pacing back and forth on our bridge, hands clasped behind his back, was General Patch, our Division Commander. He kept repeating, “Where’s the guard? This is the time the Japs strike. This is the time the Japs strike!”

Well, I ran onto the bridge and what could I say? He caught me cold turkey. My system failed. No argument here. How could I, with two stripes on my sleeve, argue with a man with two stars on his shoulder. General Patch told his adjutant (a Major) to take my name and the name of my outfit. He and his staff got back into the car and sped away. I thought for sure I would be court-martialed, or at the very least I would lose my stripes. As it happened this never came about, although my company commander did mention the incident to me later on. I guess I was lucky that time.

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