

October • November • December

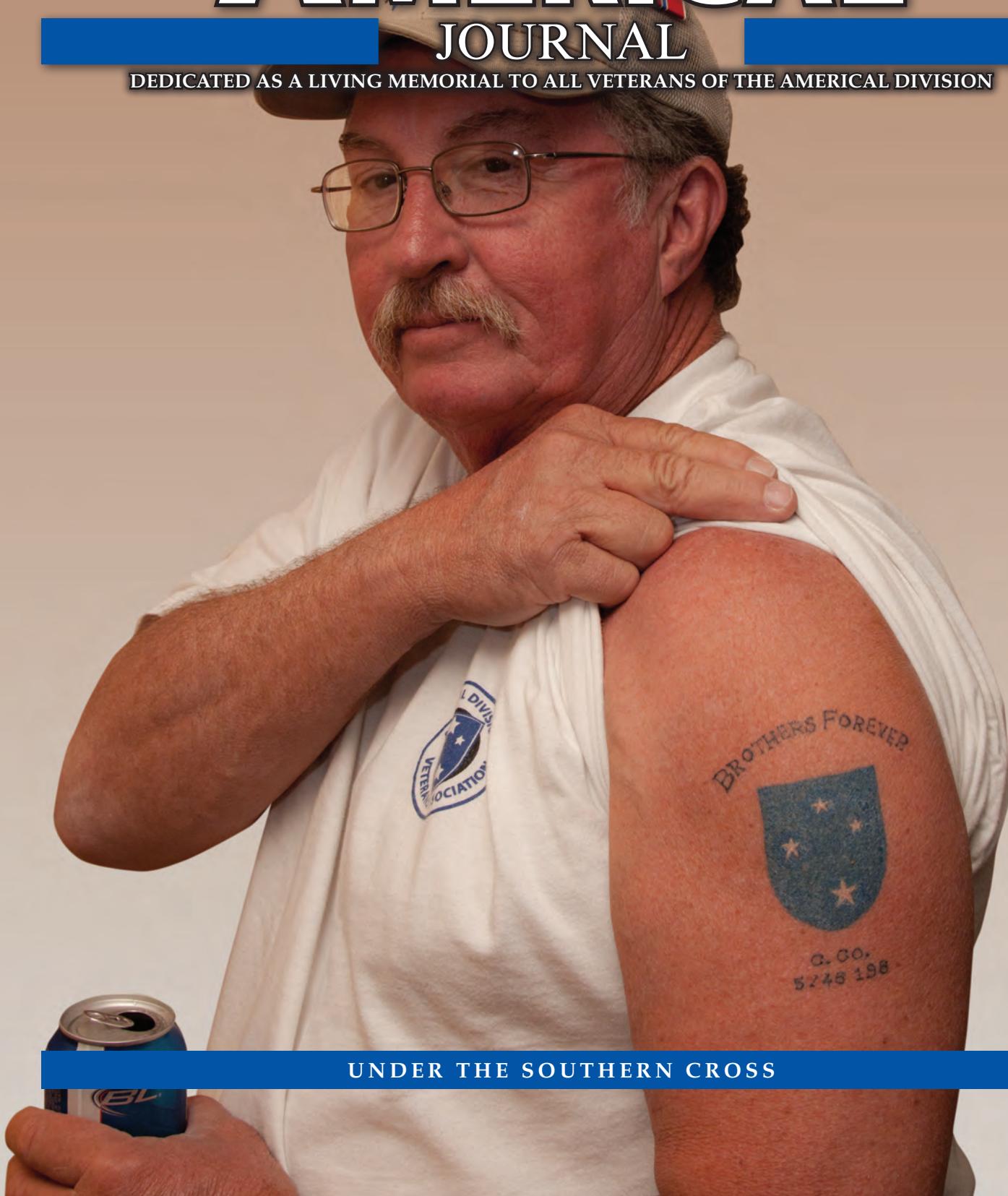
2011



AMERICAL

JOURNAL

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



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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<p>The Americal Journal is the official publication of the American Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Editor-In-Chief: Gary L. Noller ■ Contributing Editor: David W. Taylor ■ Creative Director: John "Dutch" DeGroot ■ Associate Director: Frank R. Mika ■ Chief Artist: Michael VanHefty <p>Copyright 2011 by the American Division Veterans Association (ADVA).</p> <p>All rights reserved.</p>		



Commanders Comments By Jay Flanagan



Nominations and Elections

I remind everyone of the Nominations and Elections for the July 2012 to June 2014 terms. Everyone should seriously consider nominating someone who would help keep this Association running well. If you believe you would fit any position, ask the nominating committee to place your name on the ballot. We need good members with the talent and drive to keep us going.

National Reunion

I want to thank Tom Packard for his great work putting together the reunion. We had a great time in Colorado Springs, had a few great surprises and enjoyed excellent weather, even though it snowed on Pikes Peak. Dale Meisel started things with welcome comments at our Memorial Ceremony in the Air Force Academy's Chapel, followed by our Chaplain Davy Chrystal's Invocation, Dr. Robert Cudworth's moving short history and memorial of our fellow Vets who did not make it home or have since left us. Dennis Ferk, a 92 year old WWII Veteran wearing his Class A Uniform (show off) assisted me with placing and saluting a memorial wreath at the altar. We were then surprised with a verse of "Taps" sung by, we found out later, Dave Navy. It was a nice topping to the ceremony. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed a tour of the Academy and some time in Old Colorado City. The next day a great tour of the Garden of the Gods Park and Trading Post.

At the banquet, Gary Noller conducted the Missing Man Ceremony before dinner, a very moving ceremony. After dinner and reports by the Reunion Chairman and the Commander, PNC Dave Taylor gave a wonderful speech that really moved everyone. Immediately after Dave Taylor finished, without announcement, Dave Navy sang "Proud to be an American" with his beautiful a capella voice. He even added an extra verse substituting "Proud to be an Americal Vet". Great ending for the Banquet and Reunion.

Legacy Committee/2012 Reunion

The membership voted to have our 2012 reunion in Atlanta or Columbus, GA. The Legacy Memorial will be dedicated at the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum in Fort Benning. I urge everyone to watch for the dates in the first half of September and make every effort to attend this important event in the Division and Association history.

Reunions in the future

It was presented by Ron Green for consideration, to have the 2013 reunion in Nashville, TN and the membership approved. Others will put together proposals for 2014 and beyond for consideration at next years membership meeting. All are welcome to put together proposals and promote them for consideration by the members.

1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment

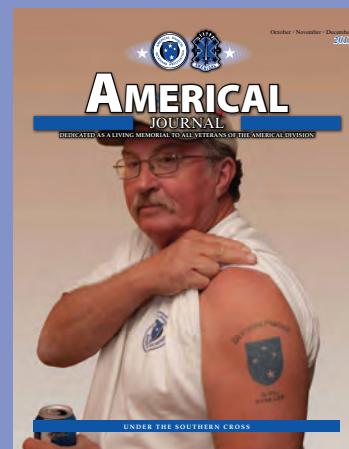
PNC Dave Taylor has received and shared some email correspondence from Lt. Colonel Stewart. He reports the troops are doing fine and appreciate our support. If you wish to support them you may go to <http://ff182-walpole.blogspot.com/> for information on means to help our fine young troops. If you missed the story in past Journals, this unit is the oldest Infantry Regiment in our history. They started out as a unit in the British Army per revolution and, in the Revolution, fought against the British for our Independence. In the beginning of our involvement in WWII the 182nd Infantry was part of the formation of the Americal Division in the South Pacific. One of their first battles was at Guadalcanal in November 1942.

New book by PNC Dave Taylor

I am one third or so through Dave's book: "Our War" and recommend it wholeheartedly. It is not often we get a fair shake by those writing of our experiences and Dave has turned that around with a well written and personal accounting of "Our War".

Happy Holidays

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy and Blessed New Year and any other holiday wish that I may be unaware. Let them all bring you health, peace and good will.



Cover: Reunion photo Ernie Hopkins, Charlie Company, 5th/46th showing his Americal pride.

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

We had a modest gain in new members for the three-month reporting period ending October 31, 2011. Compared to the prior reporting quarter, numbers are down slightly.

For the period, the association added thirty-one new members to the ADVA roster. This is down by ten from the prior quarter. We added the same number of new members for the same 2010 reporting period. Of these new members, eleven were signed up for first time membership as registrants at the annual reunion in Colorado Springs.

Thanks go to 2011 Reunion Chairman Tom Packard for his efforts getting these Americal Division veterans into the association. These new members are identified in the new member listing as sponsored by Tom Packard.

For the first time in many reporting periods we had no Americal veterans from the World War II era join our ranks.

Eight former members sent payments for reinstatement to the association.

We had a modest response from annual pay members to the new lowered Life Member rates. The new rates were published in the last issue of the Americal Journal. Fourteen annual pay members upgraded their membership status to Life. One Americal veteran joined the association as a Life member.

Annual pay members wishing to upgrade to Life Member status can send a check for the amount that applies based on your age to PNC Ronald R. Ellis, the ADVA Assistant Finance Officer. Ronald's mailing address is listed on the back cover of this issue. The new rates by age level are published on the back cover of this issue.

I encourage all annual pay members to consider upgrading your membership status to Life. The new lower rates make a life membership upgrade a great value.

As always, a reminder to notify me if you move and change your address. Please help keep the association's mailing costs down by sending me your new address if 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. A telephone call is also an option for notifying me of an address change. My cell phone number is listed in the Command Staff section of the directory.

In closing, we are entering that very special time of the year – the holiday season when we gather with family and friends to give thanks for our blessings in life. In whatever manner you and your family and friends celebrate the holiday season, may they be joyous.

ADVA MEMBERSHIP 31 July 2011

World War II	453
Vietnam	2,452
Cold War	10
Associate Members:	174
Total Members	3,089

New Members

Clenda L. Anthony

26th Cmbt Engrs
Ponchatoula, LA

★ James Tarver

Dwight Bowyer

No Unit Given
Wichita, KS

★ Tom Packard

David Carpenter

11th LIB
Moodus, CT

★ Tom Packard

John Cook

198th LIB C/5/46th Inf
Longmont, CO

★ Tom Packard

Chuck Costanza

11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
S Padre Island, TX

★ Tom Packard

John F. Donlon

635th MI Co
New Canaan, CT

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Gerald L. Everett

328th RR Co
Annapolis, MD

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Luther Helms

HHC/1/6th Inf
Pineville, NC

★ Tom Packard

John P. Iappini

11th LIB 4/21st Inf
Jamaica Plain, NY

★ John L. Insani

Calvin R. Johnson

196th LIB C/3/21st Inf
Springfield, OR

★ David Eichhorn

Terry L. Kanzler

196th LIB
Selah, WA

★ Self

Charles Logan

198th LIB 5/46th Inf
Anaheim, CA

★ Tom Packard

Steven L. Madison

No Unit Given
Palmdale, CA

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Michael Moran

3/16th Arty A Btry
Milford, DE

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Roland Morrison

196th LIB C/3/21st Inf
Caldwell, ID

★ David Eichhorn

Louis Nauman

198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Yorkville, IL

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Dale Oilar

196th LIB D/3/21st Inf
McArthur, CA

★ David Eichhorn

Joe A. Sandoval

196th LIB
Albuquerque, NM

★ Self

Gregory J. Schmukal

23rd Admin Co
Hernando, FL

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Steven Schopp

198th LIB B/5/46th Inf
Columbia, MO

★ Tom Packard

Benny G. Seals

196th LIB C/4/31st Inf
Grant, AL

★ James Tarver

Kenneth Sisco

196th LIB B/3/21st Inf
New Port Richey, FL

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

James Smith, Jr.

3/82nd Arty HHB
Reading, MA

★ Tom Packard

Robert Spitlet

3/82nd Arty
Sun Lakes, AZ

★ Self

Patrick J. Sweeney

1st/1st Armd Cav B Trp
Portage, PA

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Harry Thompson

198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Austin, TX

★ Tom Packard

Earle Tupper

23rd Med Bn
Rocklin, CA

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Bob Whitworth

11th LIB D/4/21st Inf
Concord, CA

★ Tom Packard

Herb Wielenberg

11th LIB 1/20th Inf
Freepoort, MN

★ Self

Tim Woodville

198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Chico, CA

★ Tom Packard

New Paid Life Members

Bruce C. Lundeen

723rd Maint Co
Fremont, CA

★ Eric Crosser

Robert M.Aube

Unit Unknown
Gorham, ME

★ Self

Everett Barraclough
57th Scout Dog Plt
Staten Island, NY
★ Self

Franklin Carpenter
1st/1st Armd Cav
Felch, MI
★ PNC David Taylor

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

Don Hicks
196th LIB B/2/1st Inf
Franklin, KY
★ PNC David Taylor

Robert M. Howell
328th RR Co
Jacksonville, FL
★ Don Ballou

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

Richard R. McConnell
198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Rice, MN
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Augustus R. Purnell
11th LIB E/4/3rd Inf
Fleetwood, PA
★ Self

Michael A. Ross
C/D/3/21st Inf
Fayetteville, NC
★ Self

Leo A. Selk
11th LIB HHC
Omaha, NE
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Kenneth Vander Molen
182nd Inf Rgmt Co G
Grand Rapids, MI
★ Self

Joseph L. Vincent
198th LIB E/5/46th Inf
Warrenton, MO
★ Robert A. Peterson

Loren C. Wardwell, Jr.
1st/1st Armd Cav C Trp
Muskogee, OK
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Re-instated Members

Kenneth J. Bachewicz, Sr.
101st Med Det
Charleston, SC

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Bernard B. Borowski
6th CAP
Parma Heights, OH

★ R. Thornton

Albert J. Eley
1/82nd Arty D Btry
Dunkirk, IN

★ Don Ballou

Robert F. Love
164th Inf Rgmt D Co
Spring Hill, FL

★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Dwain M. Mayfield
1/14th Arty B Btry
Palo Pinto, TX

★ PNC Bill Maddox

Dennis O'Connor
198th LIB D/1/52nd Inf
Cincinnati, OH

★ Bob Urban

Luis Rodriguez
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Somerset, TX

★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Paul M. Senick
198th LIB A/1/6th Inf
Bethlehem, PA

★ Dave Hammond

TAPS

**World War II
Veterans**

James Everett Abbey
Unit Unknown
Modesto, CA
July 24, 2011

Wilbert W. Benkart*
182nd Inf Rgmt
Cranberry Township, PA
August 2, 2011

Chesley G. Black*
132nd Inf Rgmt Co B
Crouse, NC
July 16, 2011

Harry J. Carnerie*
221s FA
Quincy, IL
Date Unknown

Raymond G. Coia
Unit Unknown
Langhorne, PA
August 20, 2011

Morris "Beau" Diamond
Unit Unknown
Clifton, NJ
October 3, 2011

Gordon B. Durocher*
182nd Inf Rgmt Co H
Colgate, WI
November 23, 2010

Norman C. Eddy*
132nd Inf Rgmt
Naples, FL
April 9, 1992

Ernest P. Fenochetti
Unit Unknown
Lexington, MA
October 2, 2011

Lionel Garant*
164th Infantry Regt.
Fall River, MA
September 3, 2011

Eugene J. Gorniak*
132nd Inf Rgmt
Chicago, IL
Date Unknown

Mario V. Grosso,
Unit Unknown
Lehighton, PA
October 3, 2011

Victor Haburchak*
9th FA Btry A
Nyssa, OR
April 10, 2011

Alfred G. Hartwell*
182nd Inf Rgmt
Louisville, KY
Date Unknown

Robert E. Jeffrey
Co. E, 164th Inf. Regt.
Williston, ND
August 15, 2011

Earl H. Johnson*
164th Inf Rgmt
Mitchell, SD
Date Unknown

Joseph L. Kiwak*
39th MPs
Oxford, MA
January 31, 2009

Robert E. Maloney
Field Artillery
Hamilton, OH
September 13, 2011

Alfred H. Mobley*
182nd Inf Rgmt Co D
Fredericksburg, TX
October 20, 2011

Benjamin L. O'Neal*
246th FA
Beaufort, NC
January 26, 2004

Leonard M. Owczarzak*
746 AAA, Btry D
Brooklyn, MI
August 14, 2011

Arthur J. Smith*
182nd Inf Rgmt
Shohola, PA
August 15, 2011

Russell T. Smith
Special Troops
Ventnor City, NJ
September 13, 2011

Garland Dean Wickham
Unit Unknown
Amarillo, TX
August 8, 2011

Vietnam Veterans

Robert L. Baumiller*
11th LIB A/4/21st Inf
Pittsburg, PA
May 30, 2011

Barton D. Berry, Jr.*
HHC/5/46th Inf
Chambersburg, PA
October 14, 2011

Hugh F.T. Hoffman Jr.
(MG, Ret.)*
Brigade/Division Staff
Falls Church, VA
September 23, 2011

John Kling
111th LIB D/4/3rd Inf
Burnt Cabins, PA
August 26, 2011

Dennis E. Matthews*
11th LIB 4/21st Inf
S. Glastonberry, CT
August 29, 2011

Lonnie G. Morris
11th LIB C/4/21st Inf
Winchester, TN
October 8, 2011

Michael A. Turner
Unit Unknown
Tecumseh, MI
October 6, 2011

***ADVA Member**

Work Begins on the Americal Division Monument at the National Infantry Museum

By Roger Gilmore;
Legacy Committee Chairman



Contract Signed - The Work Begins

The Legacy Committee completed its review of the detail plans and artwork for the Americal Division monument at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA. In August we received the complete detail plans, including all pedestals and artwork, for review. In our review we noted some minor corrections and submitted change requests to the vendor, Columbus Monument Company.

We received the corrected plans in early October. Subsequently we approved all plans and artwork as the preliminary step to entering the construction contract with Columbus Monument. Legacy Committee members Ron Ellis and I signed the construction contract at the end of October. Pictured above are Ron Ellis and myself signing the contract with the principals of Columbus Monument Company, Lynn Weekly and Lynn Evans.

As part of the contract, the ADVA is required to put down a deposit of one third of the total construction cost. This was done at the contract signing. The work schedule outlined by Columbus Monument Company has site preparation for construction of the concrete pad commencing two weeks from the signed contract and down payment. Other phases of the construction work, primarily component purchasing and fabrication of pedestals and wall panels, will start mid-January 2012.

As has been our practice, we will keep you informed of construction progress along the way.



Legacy Funding Update

Through October 31, the 2011 Americal Calendar issue has brought in just over \$22,500 in donations from ADVA members, Americal veterans, and friends of the association. This is a tremendous show of support from ADVA members and friends of the Association. The Legacy Fund has received a number of very significant donations from members. We deeply appreciate your commitment to this monument.

The Legacy Committee will mail the 2012 Americal calendar late this year. It is our foremost fund raising campaign for the coming year. Again, we ask you to contribute generously towards our funding goal for the National Infantry Museum monument and our other projects. The mailing will include a contribution envelope for mailing your check or money order. If you do not have a pre-addressed envelope, contributions may be mailed to

PNC Ronald Ellis at:

**4493 Hwy 64 W
Henderson, TX 75652**

National Infantry Museum Monument Challenge Coin

The Legacy Challenge coin mentioned in the last issue of the Americal Journal is now available for sale through the ADVA PX. Product Sales Director Wayne Bryant has an ample supply of the finely crafted coin on hand. The price for the coin is \$15.00. All sales proceeds go to support ADVA Legacy initiatives.

Wayne had a small supply of these coins for sale at the Colorado Springs reunion- and sold all he had on hand. For those members who were unable to attend the Colorado Springs event, a picture of the challenge coin is shown below. This item will be a nice personal memento of the monument. Please continue to support the ADVA and Legacy initiatives with a purchase of the challenge coin.

2012 Monument Dedication Ceremony

The Americal Division monument at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia will be dedicated in the fall of 2012. The ceremony will be part of the ADVA National Reunion to be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Chartered buses will take reunion attendees from the hotel near the Atlanta airport to the dedication site at Ft. Benning.

The Legacy Committee made a bid for the 2012 reunion during the general business meeting in Colorado Springs. The bid was approved by majority vote of the members in attendance. More details on the reunion site and the ceremony plans will be featured in the next issue of the Americal Journal. We will also have early reunion details on the Americal website.

Our Legacy Success -A Progress Update

By Gary L. Noller

PNC Dave Taylor appointed the ADVA Legacy Committee just a little over two years ago. In that short time the committee gained the valuable support of ADVA members, Americal veterans, and friends and family. The planning for the first major project is complete and building is now underway. The progress to date is gratifying and ensures the success of the goals and objectives of the legacy program.

Roger Gilmore, Legacy Committee Chairman, recently signed the construction contract with Columbus Monument Co. for the memorial to be built at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA. A payment of one-third of the cost of the memorial was also made. Construction of the concrete foundations and base is expected to begin in the next few weeks. The \$77,000 monument is expected to be completed in the first half of 2012 and will be dedicated in September 2012. The dedication ceremony will be held in conjunction with the ADVA reunion in Atlanta, GA.

The major fund raising project of the Legacy Committee is the annual Americal Division calendar distribution. This mailing has been a huge success in providing funding for the Legacy Committee goals. The 2012 calendar is designed and has passed proof-reading. It should deliver to ADVA members in December 2011. The commemorative knife sold out its inventory of 300 knives and provided much needed cash for the committee's projects. A special commemorative challenge coin is now available for purchase from the ADVA PX.

The Legacy Committee recently provided financial support for an ADVA monument planned for the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff, KY. Groundbreaking for this memorial occurred on September 17, 2011. William Walker of Vine Grove, KY provided the leadership on this project. The memorial was expected to be installed on or about Veterans Day 2011.

The Kentucky Veterans Cemetery was dedicated on June 1, 2007 and has already become the final resting place of over 2,000 veterans and five active duty members. The memorial to veterans of the Americal Division will honor the departed who once wore the insignia of the division while in the service of their country.

The cemetery is just a short distance from the main gate at Ft. Knox, KY. Its construction was paid for by the Veterans Administration and it will be operated by the State of Kentucky. Burial in the cemetery follows the same rules as burial in cemeteries operated by the VA.

The memorial is a pedestal of black marble with the following text etched on the front: **DEDICATED TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION AND TO THEIR TRADITIONS AND HISTORY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.** The memorial also displays the Americal Division shoulder patch with the inscription Americal Division Veterans Assoc. above the patch and the words Under The Southern Cross below the patch.

Walker worked with a local monument company to design the memorial and plan its installation. He



Left to right- Chuck Heater, Administrator of the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central; Patrick Kenny, 723rd Maint. Bn. (ADVA); William Walker, Co. C, 1/46th Inf. (ADVA); Roxann King, representing Keith Monument Co.

raised approximately two-thirds of the funds needed for construction from local sources. The Legacy Committee determined that this memorial fit the goals and objectives of the Legacy Program and approved supplemental funding for the memorial. The ADVA funds will be provided upon successful completion and acceptance of the memorial at the Kentucky cemetery.

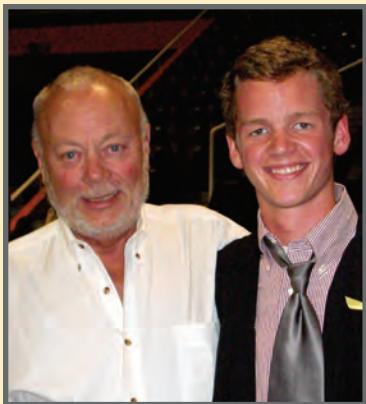
The Legacy Committee seeks to plan and construct memorials as well as provide supplemental funding for fitting memorials planned and constructed by others. In order to receive supplemental funding the Legacy Committee will review the plans for the location and design of the local memorial. The committee will review all text and graphics to determine that they are factual and correct. The committee will also review the design, construction plans, and materials to be used to ensure that the memorial fulfills the objectives set by the committee and will endure for decades. Suggestions will be made as needed.

It is expected that local memorials will be located at VA national and local state cemeteries, military museums, major military installations, and at other locations appropriate for the remembrance of those killed in action and deceased Americal veterans. The Legacy Committee views this work as on-going and not a one-time project. ADVA members who wish to lead the way in their local area are asked to coordinate their efforts with the Legacy Committee as soon as possible. There is a lot of work to be done but not necessarily a long time left to get it done.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude and the gratitude of the Legacy Committee to all who donated and will donate towards this project. No one else is going to do it but us. With enthusiastic support from members of the ADVA, Americal veterans, family and friends, we will leave a legacy of the Americal Division that will be around a long time after we are gone.



ADVA 2011 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

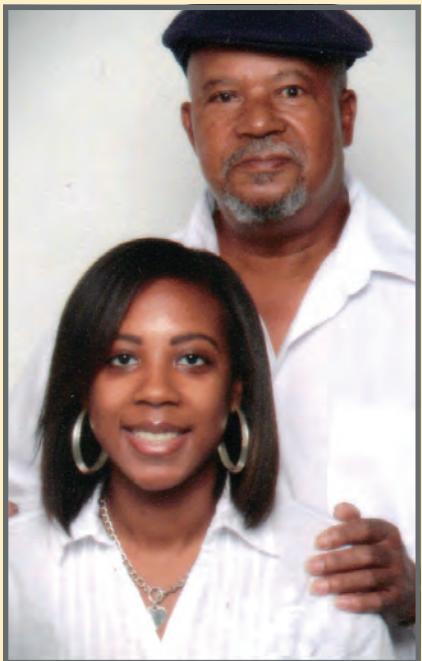


I want to thank all veterans and especially those of the ADVA. For the second year now I have had the wonderful pleasure of receiving financial aid from the ADVA for my studies at University of the Cumberlands. I have high respect for all veterans

and in particular for those who have made contributions to help me with my education.
Photo: Steven Parten (father) and scholar.

Scholar: Patrick Parten

Sponsor: Steven Parten; 11 LIB



It is with joy and pride that I accept this scholarship. My father has helped me every step of this journey. He takes education very seriously and reminds me every day of its importance. It means so much to me to receive this scholarship once again from an organization that means so much to my dad.

Photo: Scholar and James Mayes, Sr. (father).

Scholar: Dominique Mayes

Sponsor: James E. Mayes, Sr.; B/3/21/196 LIB

I want to thank all of you and express my sincere gratitude for making your scholarship award. I was very honored and appreciative to learn I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship. I am majoring in Business with emphasis in accounting at

California University of Pennsylvania. I promise I will work hard and give back to others.

Scholar: David Kucenic

Sponsor: John J. Kucenic; D/5/46/198 LIB



Thank you so much for awarding me this generous scholarship! It means the world to both myself and my family that your organization believes in the furthering of my education. I cannot wait to serve my country in the future in the proud tradition of the Americal Division!

Scholar: Christine Buchwald

Sponsor: Donald Buchwald; 2/1/196 LIB



I would like to extend to you my sincere thank you for awarding me a scholarship. It will be a big help to me and my family to have these extra funds available for my tuition and expenses at Iowa State University. I sincerely appreciate your financial support of my educational endeavors.

Scholar: Spencer Gibson

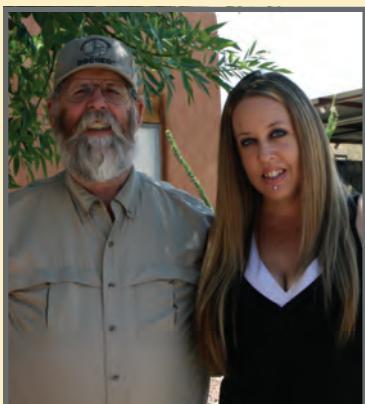
Sponsor: Jack Leaverton; 221 FA



I would like to say thank you for the wonderful scholarship that has helped me pay for expensive books required for classes at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. I know this organization is very special to my father. I thank you again for the generous scholarship that is getting put to good use towards my education. Photo: Scholar and Ron Dobiesz (father).

Scholar: Chris Dobiesz

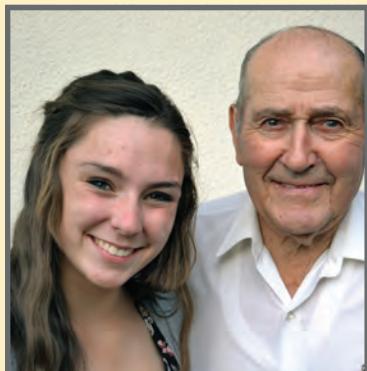
Sponsor: Ron Dobiesz; B/1/6/198 LIB



I would like to thank you for your support in furthering my education. During these tough economic times all monetary contributions are greatly appreciated! Once again- thank you for supporting me in my education! Photo: John W. Anderson (father) and scholar.

Scholar: Bonnie Garrett

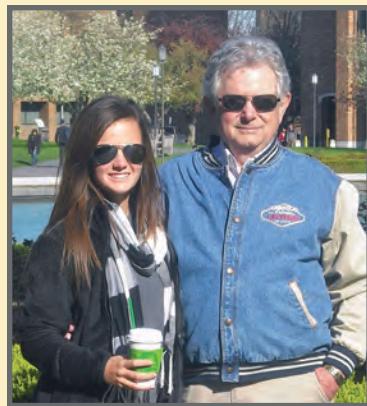
Sponsor: John W. Anderson; F/8 Cav.



I am honored to be chosen to receive such a generous scholarship to assist my studies at CSU Fullerton. I am thankful that I have been able to speak to my Grandpa Frank and thank him for the heroic actions he performed while serving in the American Division. I will work hard to make you all proud of me! Photo: Scholar and Frank Markovich (grandfather).

Scholar: Kandace Markovich

Sponsor: Frank Markovich; 721 Ord.



With college approaching all too quickly, any form of monetary support is much appreciated. My winning this money just serves as another example showing that hard work actually does pay off for those who strive for their best! It is an honor to have my application recognized by such an esteemed association that I both respect and admire. Photo: Scholar and Jack Cloud (father).

Scholar: Taylor Cloud

Sponsor: Jack Cloud; HHC/198 LIB



I would like to thank you for this scholarship. It will grant me this opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a chemical engineer by allowing me to study at Tufts. I would also like to thank the members of American Division for their service to our country. I am proud to be affiliated with this wonderful group. Photo: Rejean Poisson (father), scholar, Cecile Poisson (mother).

Scholar: Kevin Poisson

Sponsor: Rejean D. Poisson; A/123 Avn.



Thanks again to all who gave and keep on giving! You all are truly unselfish, honorable, and generous! Without all of you I could not have accomplished my dream! I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Scholar: Kayla Pollino

Sponsor: John Callan; WWII



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear editor,

I would like to find anyone who may know about a sports medal that was found in a foxhole on Mt. Austen. I believe it was found around the Gifu position but I cannot say exactly where as the medal was brought into my office. I assume a soldier lost it there.

Adam Elliott adam@solomon.com.sb



Dear editor,

I am the History Chair at Newnan High School just south of Atlanta. I teach an elective class about the Vietnam War and the 1960s. I am also involved in bringing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund "Wall that Heals" to Newnan H.S. in October 2011.

I seek information on each of the young men from our Coweta County whose name is on that wall. Total number is 23. I have been working on this project for the last six months and request assistance from American veterans.

One of the KIAs, Cpl. Terry Allen, was killed on June 23, 1968 while assigned to Co. B, 1/46th Inf., 198th Lt. Inf. Bde. I wish to contact anyone who knew him in Vietnam.

Steve Quesinberry
squiz@numail.org

Dear editor,

The 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) set a schedule for future reunions. The reunions are held the third weekend of October each year. Upcoming reunions are as follows: 2012 Portland, OR; 2013 Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; 2014 Myrtle Beach, SC.

Linga Gordon
lindagordon@mcleodusa.net



Dear editor,

In July 2011 I had the privilege of attending the Charlie Co, 5th/46th, 198th LIB reunion in Nashville, TN. It had been over 40 years since I last saw these men and I was a little apprehensive.

It is interesting how time melts away in these situations. We immediately fell back into that easy familiarity that is forged by those who served together in combat. We spent a lot of time reminiscing and one of the subjects that kept coming up was food.

It was generally agreed that considering what they had to work with (the farther that you got from the flag pole in Chu Lai, the poorer the quality of the raw materials) the food prepared by the 5th/46th's Mess Hall was generally good. One of the favorite meals was breakfast.

For a grunt, the opportunity to feast on freshly made bread, scrambled eggs and bacon, fried potatoes, and pan cakes was a rare treat. While we were dining in the Mess Hall, for a fleeting moment, the war was far away. For me, the Mess Hall, and the Mess Hall staff, held a particular significance.

I had an especially bad string of luck starting with a Fever of Unknown Origin (FUO) in late August 1969 that sent me into a coma for three days; wounds and a concussion from a satchel charge on 14 October 1969; and ending with a helicopter crash on 8 November 1969 that almost killed me when I was pinned under the wreckage from the waist up. By the time that Thanksgiving rolled around I was starting to mend physically, but mentally I was struggling.

In my family, Thanksgiving Dinner was a major production with everyone getting into the act, so I spoke to the cooks about helping prepare the meal. It was obvious that my motor skills were still in the recovery stage, which made me more of a hindrance than a help, but they said that I could pitch in and help if I wanted to. I always felt that this was a gracious gesture on their part considering the amount of work that they had to do in a very short time in relatively primitive conditions.

After receiving a direct commission as an Environmental Science Officer in 1979, I served as a judge in the Army's "Philip A. Connelly Awards Program Competition". This is a rigorous competition to determine who will hold the title of the Army's best Mess Section/Cooks. Although the food prepared for this competition rivals that of the best restaurants in the world, the Thanksgiving Meal prepared by our staff could rival any of the meals that I judged in that competition.

If you were one of our cooks, I just want you to know that all of your hard work, under harsh conditions, did not go unnoticed by the men that you supported. All of us salute you.

In closing, on a personal note, I want to take this opportunity to thank the cooks for their support and understanding in a very trying time in my life. I will never forget your kindness or the outstanding meals that you prepared.

Everett (Doc) Rowles
emrowles@live.com

Dear editor,

I am a friend of Johnny William Walker, Jr., who served in the 198th Lt. Inf. Bde. in Viet Nam. He was wounded in approximately May 1969 and was in the hospital at Ton Son Nhut at the same time as a young man (possibly an E2 or E3) under his command. Johnny was broke at the time and the young man was kind enough to loan Johnny \$40 for incidentals.

Johnny has always felt bad that he lost track of this young man and has asked me to help locate him. He says the man was from Chicago and had a bright future as a baseball player prior to being drafted.

I would love to locate the gentleman in question to let my friend send him the \$40 and reconnect with that generous soul.

Alice E. Tisthammer (USAF veteran)

atisthammer@yahoo.com

Dear editor,

I am looking for information on how to obtain a list of Silver Star recipients from the Americal Division for the Vietnam War.

Mike Clayton

mclayton1@hvc.rr.com

**Dear editor,**

I visited the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, Florida in September 2011. I found the Americal patch twice! Bob Hope had it on his golf bag. Larry Nelson has his Americal patch on his uniform on display in his locker area. I took good pictures of both!!

Wes Haun

wes_haun@msn.com



ADVA
on
facebook

**Dear editor,**

Robert G. (Bob) Millard passed away on August 16, 2011 after battling leukemia for over a year. Hundreds of former Americal soldiers met Bob, and many others benefited from his efforts to locate and reunite veterans.

Bob was a member of the West Point class of 1955, and served in the U.S. Air Force before beginning a long career with NASA. Following his retirement from NASA, he and his wife Kitty got involved with tracking down former classmates and organizing a reunion for his West Point class. At that reunion, some classmates asked for help in finding some Americal veterans.

That was the start of an effort of selfless service by Bob and Kitty. Since 2003 they have located more than 800 Americal veterans, and helped organize reunions for at least four units. Kitty stated that it was the pure joy of seeing old friends meet again that motivated them.

Many ADVA members have been blessed with joyous reunions through the efforts of Bob and Kitty. Our heartfelt condolences to the Millard family at this time of loss.

Kenneth Rollins

colkdr@yahoo.com

**Dear editor,**

Tim and Lou Seloover hosted a reunion of second platoon, Co. D, 1/46th Inf., 1970-71 the platoon at their cabin on Bad Axe Creek, De Soto, WI., August 24-29, 2011. Lou and Tim fed us like kings and we had good beer to wash it all down. Some went fishing, some did some skeet shooting, and we did a lot of catching up sitting around a camp fire. For quite a few us it had been 40 years since we been together. As we departed for home there was tears and promises to do it again. Left to right: George Salcido, Joe Wolfe, Jeff Parks, Andy Olints, Bill Meeks, John Ortega, Tim Seloover, Gerry McKay, Larry Snyder, Zeddie Bell and Cowboy Bob in the center front. Wives in attendance were Pamela Ortega, Toni Olints and our hostess Lou Seloover.

Joe Wolf

hwolf14@comcast.net

2/1st Infantry Chapter

COMMANDER
Chuck Holdaway

VICE COMMANDER
Rich Heroux

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Donald Hicks



Having been officially approved as a chapter of the Americal Division Veteran's Association, we, the members of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, would like to thank our comrades for our acceptance into this great organization.

Although we are a fledgling chapter, we hope to continue to grow and contribute to the success and well being of the ADVA. Our main goal is to locate as many 2/1st Inf. veterans as possible, get them involved in the chapter and the ADVA, and perpetuate the camaraderie and brotherhood we all became a part of during our vacation across the pond. The bonds made there will never be broken.

Our annual chapter meetings will be held in conjunction with the Americal annual reunion and the chapter operation will be centered through our web site, www.b-2-1-196lib.com. The site not only covers the 2/1st Inf. but various aspects of the Americal Division and the Vietnam War.

The 2/1 chapter has also initiated a monthly newsletter that is available on the site and is sent to all members of the site. The monthly newsletter may be requested by anyone by contacting any of the officers. Also, there are several links that should be of interest and help to all veterans. I would like to encourage the all members of the ADVA and their families and friends to visit the site and solicit questions, suggestions, and/or corrections.

The current officers of the chapter are as follows: Commander, Charles (Chuck) Holdaway; Vice-Commander, Richard (Rich) Heroux; Secretary/Treasurer, Donald (Don) Hicks. Officers may be contacted via the web site.

-Chuck Holdaway

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL IN MI MN WI

COMMANDER
Dale J. Belke



Another great year for veteran comradeship! Kokomo, Indiana; Stoddard Fishing Trip; Veteran dedications; and meeting new Veterans were all successes.

The 26th Annual Winterfest at New Glarus, Wis is planned for January 12-15, 2012. Last year there were Vets from 20+

states that made it for a short march at 9:30 PM on Friday evening. The banquet keynote speaker is Wisconsin Dept. Of Veterans Affairs Secretary John Scoccos. The Great Lakes Americal meeting is on the 2nd floor of the Chalet Landhaus at 8:30 am on Saturday. Always interested in Reunion ideas. Hope to see you there. I always enjoy hearing: "I didn't connect with other Vietnam Veterans for 40 years. I sure am glad I did now!"

Give your fellow Veterans their due respect and they will do the same to you. We all have "Been There, Done That!" Peace. Ciao. Dale Belke

SOUTH MIDWEST CHAPTER

AR LA OK TX MS

COMMANDER

Cameron F. Baird
P.O. Box 211
Stonewall, TX 78671
830 • 644 • 2704

altdorf@ktc.com



The ADVA reunion in Colorado Springs was awesome. My wife and I got to escape the horrendous heat of the most brutal summer in Texas history for a few days, take in some of the most breathtaking scenery on the face of the earth, and partake of the Americal brotherhood that brings us together once in a while. It just doesn't get any better than that.

One of the highlights of the reunion was our exclusive use of the iconic chapel at the Air Force Academy for a memorial service on Friday. I don't know the attendance figures, but it looked like at least 500 folks were at the Saturday banquet.

Taking in some of the scenic splendor of the Rockies, including the nearby attractions of Pikes Peak and the Garden of the Gods, was a popular sightseeing diversion. In all respects, it was a great reunion.

As previously announced, the SMW Chapter is planning to hold a reunion in Fort Worth, TX. May 18-20, 2012 is the initial target date.

We are looking at hotels in the Stockyard area so we have convenient access to entertainment. This location tends to be on the pricey side, but we hope to be able to find something suitable without busting the wallet.

The basic plan is to charter a bus for a visit to the Museum of the Vietnam War in Mineral Wells, where we will have a memorial ceremony and a BBQ meal. With plenty of time for storytelling and exploring old Fort Worth, it should be a good time and a great opportunity for the Oklahoma folks to attend a function within driving distance. Details will be in the next issue. -Cameron Baird-

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

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

COMMANDER

Joseph Adelsberger
joeordeb_1@msn.com

Vice-Commander
Terry Siemer

TSiemer9528@wowway.com

Treasurer

Connie Steers
11thbrigade@optonline.net



I hope this finds everyone had a good summer and fall. Deb and I were unable to attend this years national reunion but I was told they had a good turnout and everyone had a good time. Looking forward to next year's reunion in Atlanta and the Americal monument dedication at the infantry museum at Fort Benning.

The 2012 Eastern Region reunion has been set and will be held at Crowne Plaza, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, Rhode Island with Dave Eichhorn as chairman. The rate is \$99.00 a night and includes a hot buffet breakfast in the hospitality room. Tours and other activities are still being looked at and will be posted at a later writing. Info can also be found at the eastern region web site and will be updated as info is received. -Joe Adelsberger-

The Nominations are Here!

By PNC Larry Watson

We need capable members who are sincere and care about the ADVA. The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the offices of National Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Executive Council Members, and for Trustees of the Scholarship Committee.

Jay Flanagan appointed me to chair a nominating committee along with Bob Cudworth, Mark Deam, Dale Meisel, Malcom East and Connie Steers. Contact information for each of us appears on the inside front cover of this publication.

Traditionally the immediate past National Commander is a candidate for the Executive Council. Executive Council members are not eligible for more than two consecutive terms of office. Current EC members who have exhausted their eligibility include me, Robert Cudworth, Mark Deam, Ronald Ellis, Lee Kaywork, George Mitchell and Richard Smith. Of course, they remain eligible for any other office.

As I am writing this we have the following nominations: National Commander – Larry Swank, Sr. Vice Commander – David Crystal, Jr. Vice Commander – Robert Cudworth.

Any member in good standing is eligible for office in the ADVA and any member in good standing may offer a nomination. We ask that you submit your nomination to any Nominating Committee member by January 15, 2012.

Please consider making a nomination or accepting a nomination. Now is the chance to become involved in guiding the future of the ADVA.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to thank all of the members who have given of their time to serve this fine association and congratulate them on an outstanding job. These members have become my friends and I have enjoyed it very much. Also, I thank the members for giving me the opportunity to serve.

America Knives Sold Out

By Wayne Bryant

The special collector's edition America knife has sold out and is no longer available. The final thirteen knives were purchased by the daughter of an America Vietnam veteran who was killed in a motorcycle crash. She presented the knives to friends of her father in remembrance of him and his service in the America Division.

The America Legacy Fund received approximately \$7,700 in proceeds from the sale of 300 knives. I wish to thank everyone who purchased knives and supported the Legacy Fund.

The newest item in the PX is the challenge coin that displays the monument that is under construction at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA. Details about the coin is in the Legacy Program report in this issue of the America Journal.

2011 Reunion Wrap-up

By Tom Packard



The Far West Chapter hosted the 2011 ADVA Annual Reunion at the Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs in Colorado this past September. We had a good group of 304 veterans, spouses and guests in attendance. We signed up 13 new ADVA members and a couple joined the Far West Chapter as well. We had a few cancellations, but only one no-show for the event.

The weather was great with warm sunny skies. This allowed those in attendance to enjoy the many activities and attractions Colorado Springs has to offer. The most popular attraction was the Pikes Peak Cog Railway that climbs over 14,000 feet to the top of Pikes Peak. Guests found a light snow covering and temps in the 30's at the top. Just a week after the reunion, the mountain peaks above 11,000 feet got much more snow.

Wayne Bryant reported very good numbers for the product sales at the reunion and Les Hines kept busy with the ADVA History project, printing maps and other information for attendees. And reunion T-shirts sold much better than we expected.

The Thursday night Welcome Buffet was well attended where we enjoyed a western style buffet.

The highlight of the tour of the US Air Force Academy was our memorial service in the Cadet Chapel, led by Dale Meisel. At the conclusion of the service, Dave Navy sang "Taps". This was unscheduled but welcomed and very appropriate.

Forty of our spouses and other guests enjoyed a tour and lunch at the beautiful Garden of The Gods Saturday morning while we held our general membership meeting. After lunch, they were taken to the Garden of the Gods Trading Post, the largest gift shop in Colorado.

Two hundred and fifty attended the Saturday night banquet where they enjoyed an excellent banquet meal. Our guest speaker was PNC Dave Taylor. He gave a short but very inspiring talk. The evening ended with a rendering of "God Bless the USA" by Dave Navy.

Thanks goes out to everyone on the reunion committee for their hard work putting the reunion together. We intended to keep this reunion simple to give all those who attended a chance to enjoy the area on their own and visit with old friends and meet new ones. We are confident everyone had a great time.

Thanks also to Tom Packard for hosting the reunion in Colorado Springs. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the first ever reunion in the Rocky Mountain area. -editor-

The Face of the Enemy Tactics: The Japanese Army in the Defense

By David W. Taylor

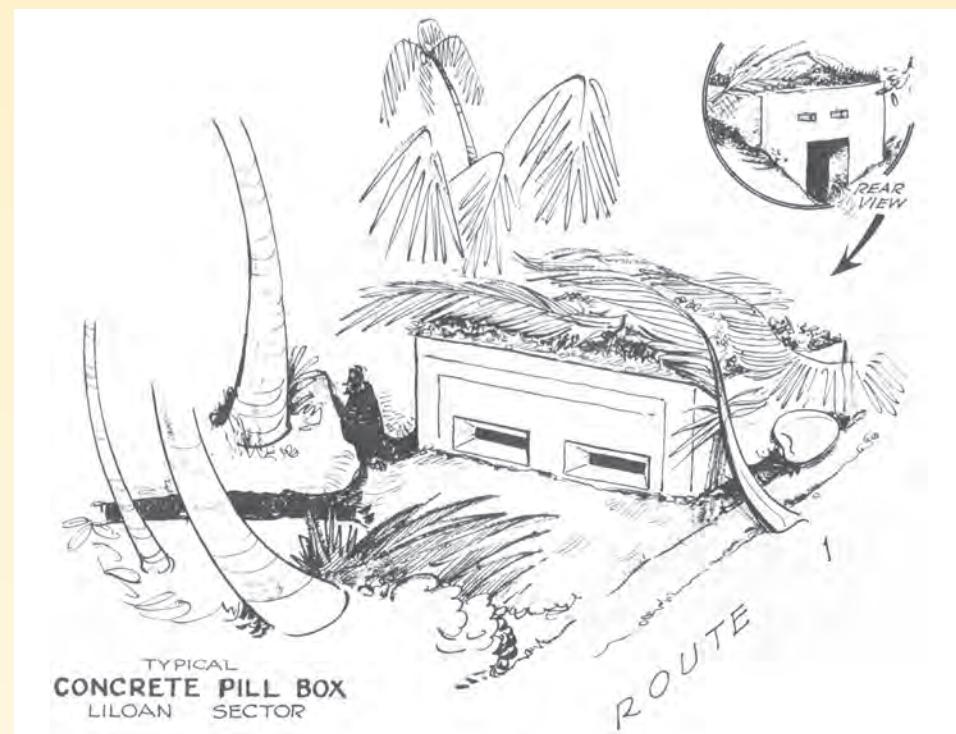
Editor's note: This article is part 5 in a series of articles by the ADVA's World War II Historian. The primary source for this article is a War Department booklet titled: "Soldiers Guide to the Japanese Army" printed in November 1944. The material has been edited for brevity. Drawings of enemy bunker positions are from the manual "Mines, Booby Traps and Obstacles Encountered on Cebu" prepared by the 57th Combat Engineer Battalion, Americal Division and published in July 1945.

The Defensive

History has recorded, and nations should remember, that rapid victories such as what the Japanese accomplished at the beginning of their conquests of Asia and the Pacific Rim quickly turned into a slow and debilitating war of strategic defense, from which all gains were ultimately lost. Although being on the defense was extremely distasteful to Japanese commanders, there were occasions when they were confronted with such superior opposing forces that even the rashest Japanese commander had to engage in defensive actions.

Nevertheless, Japanese doctrine regarded the defense as a passing phase in tactical combat. Its purpose was to inflict such losses on a temporary superior hostile force that the enemy's initial advantages in number, equipment, or positions, would be neutralized, and the Japanese force then could pass to the offensive. However the lack of reinforcements and supplies in island warfare ultimately doomed the Japanese to tactical defensive operations on each island they defended, even though they tried offensive attacks at great costs.

In the selection of defensive positions Japanese doctrines and practice conformed closely to the



standards of other armies. Emphasis was naturally stressed on utilizing terrain features to advantage and there was a full recognition of the importance of natural and constructed antitank obstacles on both the Japanese front lines and flanks.

In most cases Japanese defenses were organized in two lines – an advance or outpost line and a main line of resistance. The outpost line was charged with conducting proper reconnaissance to determine the direction, strength and tactical intentions of the enemy. It was also expected to cover the main line of resistance and prevent it from being surprised. When a hostile attack was launched, the advance or outpost line was to delay the attacks progress as much as possible before falling back upon the main line. Ordinarily the advance line was a series of strong points rather than a continuous line, with the intervals between the strong points covered by anti-tank and artillery fire. If a division was engaged in the defense, the advance line usually consisted of one or two battalions. In smaller units the proportions of sub-units were about the same.

In some cases a line of defense

was organized between the advance and main resistance lines to force the advancing enemy to a premature commitment of his forces, to prevent the occupancy of terrain features that would jeopardize the main line, or to delay the enemy attack.

The main line of resistance usually was formed in two sectors; although on a broader front three sectors could be established. The battalion was the normal unit of deployment and was assigned a front of from 800 to 2,000 yards. If the front was very broad, however, battalion "centers of resistance" for all-around defense were organized, with each battalion assigned a front of about 3,000 yards. Depth of the main line of resistance varied from about 700 to 1,500 yards. Automatic and anti-tank weapons were echeloned in depth in this zone.

Counterattacks

Japanese commanders were eager to initiate counterattacks to atone for the ignominious defensive role they were compelled to assume. In fact, they believed the fundamental purpose of defense was to merely wait for the moment when the attacker's forces were disorganized so a quick

and decisive counterblow could be delivered. In almost every situation the defensive force was to have counterattack units in readiness, and every defensive plan was to include directions for the conduct of the counterattack.

Japanese counterattacks were usually directed against the enemy's flanks and were quick and violent. Heavy mortar fire was usually laid down in preparation; designed to be so intense that their enemy would be forced to abandon newly-won positions even before the Japanese counterattack was launched. Often the major counterattack developed from a series of local attacks carried out by groups of from five to eight men each. Naturally, it was difficult to insure even a reasonable degree of coordination under such circumstances, and there were numerous occasions when Japanese units were cut to pieces because of their eagerness to counterattack. Indeed, in some cases Japanese troops forced out of defensive positions had counterattacked immediately without any resemblance of coordination or preparation, and were virtually annihilated.

Delaying Actions: Withdrawals

Heavy hostile pressure could lead Japanese commanders to a decision to organize for a delaying action. The fundamental purpose of such Japanese action was to avoid decisive combat with the enemy while, at the same time, contact with him was maintained. Successive lines of resistance were designated. Mobile forces well equipped with automatic weapons and artillery fought the delaying actions, while the bulk of the reserves fell back to reconnoiter and occupy the next successive resistance line toward which their forward elements could fall back.

If hostile pressure became so great as to necessitate a Japanese withdrawal and the disengagement of main forces during daylight, a local covering force constituted from reserve forces was set up to cover the flanks of the line of retreat. A general covering force was also organized from the reserves, behind which the main elements were formed onto march-columns for the withdrawal. If, on the other hand, the withdrawal was made at night, a "shell" – a thin line of infantry heavily supported by automatic weapons and

a small amount of artillery – was left behind, and the main body was formed to serve as a cover. Soldiers of the "shell" were expected to sacrifice themselves, although the artillery would displace to the rear just before daybreak.

Defensive Positions

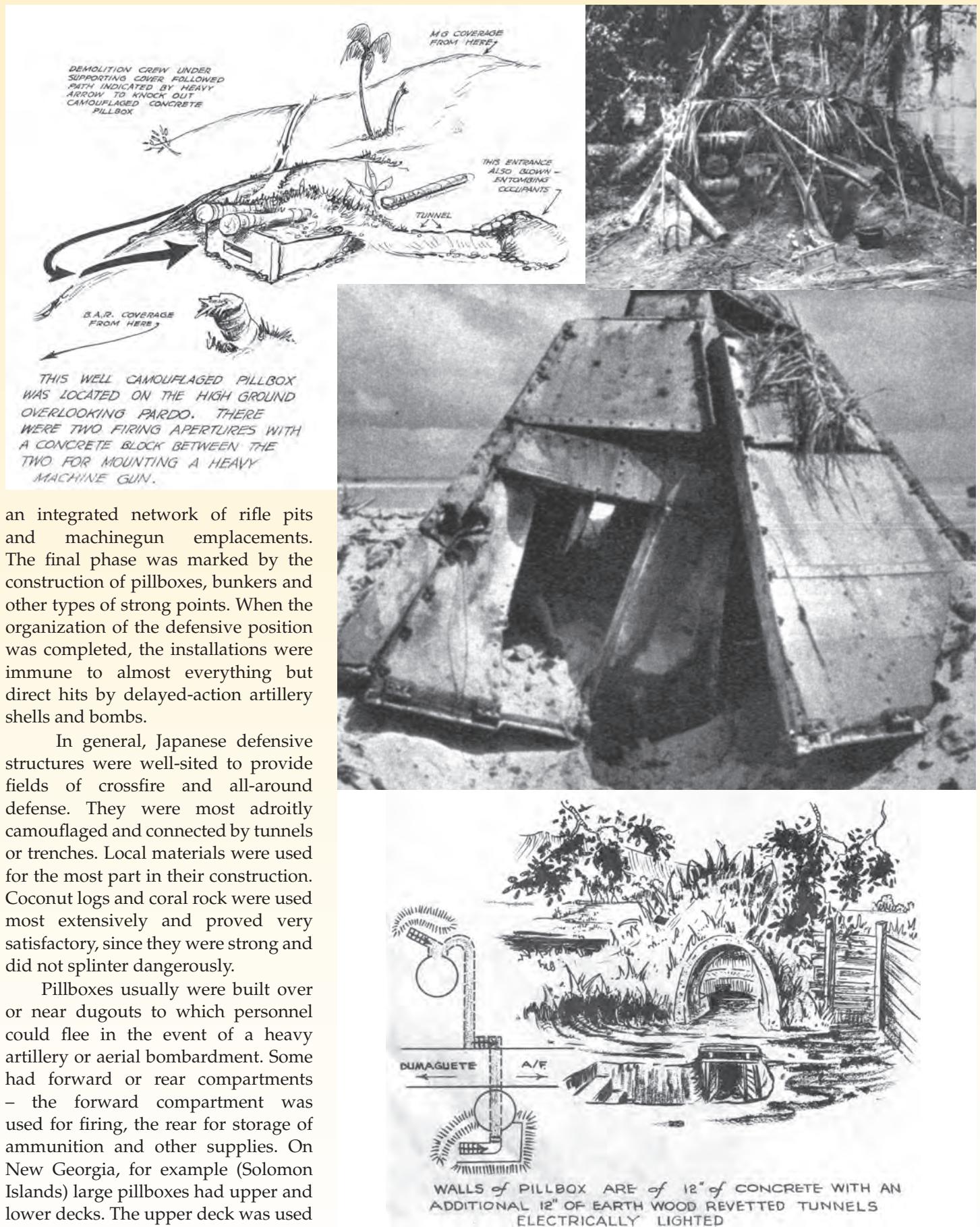
In all the combat areas where Japanese troops were engaged they demonstrated great skill in the construction of fixed defensive positions. They were built to afford a strong defense in both width and depth. Wherever possible, installations are made strong enough to withstand artillery fire and aerial bombing. Each position ordinarily was capable of independent, all-around defense, and great care was taken to ensure the most effective use of available fire power. Machinegun emplacements, pill boxes, bunkers and other strong points that could be built provided a highly integrated defensive network wherein each position can be covered by fire from adjacent ones, and, if a position is temporarily lost, it can be readily regained by counterattack.

Positions were camouflaged with maximum cunning. Construction principles required that suitable living quarters be erected immediately adjacent to the defense points and properly protected. Suitable storage facilities for food and ammunition were also provided and the defensive network was located near an assured water supply.

Japanese doctrine prescribed that "even the smallest unit will prepare deeply entrenched and strong positions against the expected attack", but cautions, "it is most important not to adhere blindly to set forms in construction work, but to adapt such work to fit the tactical situation."

Construction of Japanese defensive positions was a progressive process. Units which assumed a defensive mission dug immediately a series of foxholes. Then, if there was time, they were joined together by communication trenches to form





an integrated network of rifle pits and machinegun emplacements. The final phase was marked by the construction of pillboxes, bunkers and other types of strong points. When the organization of the defensive position was completed, the installations were immune to almost everything but direct hits by delayed-action artillery shells and bombs.

In general, Japanese defensive structures were well-sited to provide fields of crossfire and all-around defense. They were most adroitly camouflaged and connected by tunnels or trenches. Local materials were used for the most part in their construction. Coconut logs and coral rock were used most extensively and proved very satisfactory, since they were strong and did not splinter dangerously.

Pillboxes usually were built over or near dugouts to which personnel could flee in the event of a heavy artillery or aerial bombardment. Some had forward or rear compartments - the forward compartment was used for firing, the rear for storage of ammunition and other supplies. On New Georgia, for example (Solomon Islands) large pillboxes had upper and lower decks. The upper deck was used



for emplacement of machineguns; in the event of heavy enemy bombardment the gunners could drop through a trap door into the lower compartment until the fire abated.

Reinforced concrete pillboxes were vital parts of elaborate beach defense systems on Tarawa. The walls of these structures were from 12 to 16 inches thick, and the concrete was reinforced with steel rods one-half inch in diameter. These pillboxes were sited somewhat ahead of the beach barricade, to deliver frontal fire covering the tactical wire and flanking fire covering the front of the barricade.

Rifle and machinegun positions which formed the primary beach defense on one island were controlled from steel pillboxes spaced about 300 yards apart around the perimeter of the island. These steel boxes were prefabricated, hexagonal truncated pyramids with double steel walls, each wall of which was a quarter-inch thick. Space between the walls was filled with sand. Inside were an upper and a lower compartment, the upper used to house an observer or command officer, the lower compartment used to afford emplacement facilities for two machine guns. It apparently was the intent of the Japanese force on this island to cover those steel boxes with concrete, for one was found capped by 12 inches of this material.

Japanese bunkers were constructed above or below ground, depending upon the water table. They usually were built of logs and coral rock and were from 1 to 6 feet above the ground. Oil drums filled with earth or sand often were employed to provide additional reinforcements for the walls. Different types of entrances were used; some bunkers were entered directly from the fire trenches, others were entered from the rear through tunnels. In any case, the entrances were angled or protected by fire walls to prevent the enemy from tossing grenades into them.

The bunkers defending Buna, Papuan New Guinea, were situated above ground and constructed over a shallow trench as a base. Some were 40 feet long; many, however, were only from 6 to 10 feet in length. A framework of columns and beams was built over the base trench and the walls then were



revetted with coconut logs as much as 1-1/2 feet thick. Two or three courses of logs laid on the top provided the ceiling for the bunker, the walls of which were strengthened with earth and sand-filled oil drums. When completed the entire bunker was covered with earth, sand, and short logs. Jungle vegetation then was grown over the structures, making them almost impossible to discover until advancing troops were directly upon them. The bunkers were used mainly as shelters during aerial and artillery bombardments, but they had fire slits, 8 to 12 inches high and 4-feet long, which were located just above ground level.

Shelters were used primarily for personnel, and often were located in barracks and headquarters areas to provide a place of refuge for large groups of personnel during heavy artillery or aerial bombardments. On Makin Island in the Gilberts group, the dugouts were 20 feet long, and their tops were covered by two or three layers of heavy coconut logs. On Betio Island they were built of alternate layers of coconut logs and coral sand. Side walls and roofs averaged 5 to 7 feet in thickness.

2011 REUNION

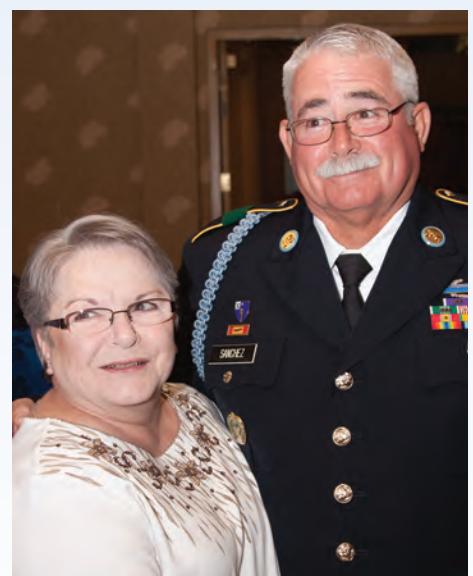






Colorado Springs 2011





70th Anniversary of the Americal Division

By Gary L. Noller

The Americal Division was founded on the island of New Caledonia in May 1942. The Americal Journal will publish a special edition in 2012 in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the birth of the division.

All ADVA World War II members are encouraged to submit first-hand stories about their service in the Americal Division. In August 2011 a letter was sent to WWII members with this request.

Over 100 WWII veterans have already submitted their contributions. If you want to send a story it is not too late. Send your message to Dave Taylor or Gary Noller. Addresses are in the front of this magazine.

Veterans were asked to submit a few words or full-length about something that is very memorable from their World War II experiences. Many veterans stated that it was not possible to state their memories in just a few words. We request that you send what you like- we just want veterans to know that it does not have to be a long story. A few words about a memorable happening are invited too.

The first quarter 2012 edition of the Americal Journal will be dedicated to the founding of the division. This will include a reprint of a short history of the Americal Division that was published in 1947. Along with this story the special issue will print stories and photos from ADVA members.

The following is a sample of an article that has been submitted for this special issue. Its author is Rev. William T. Elliott, ADVA National Chaplain.

In the Jungles

By Rev. William T. Elliott

In the jungles of the Solomons, an area being semi-secure, the nightly program was to have movies under the stars for those not on duty. These movies were often interrupted by shelling or "Washing Machine Charlie" but not interrupted for long.

I remember a night on Bougainville when the movie was interrupted and an announcement was made that "D-Day had happened and the Allies had landed in Normandy". Someone shouted, "It's about time they got in the war," and the movie started up again. The Americal had already seen action on two islands in the Solomons.

Early in the fighting in the Solomons the food was not the greatest. About the only thing that was not dehydrated was carrots. A few of us from Headquarters Battery of the 246th F.A. started fishing in the ocean when not on duty. We caught sea bass and a lot of sharks and this made for some good eating. We made a grill and the smell of fresh fish caused a crowd to gather. The kitchen crew showed up with bread and and a few bottles of Australian beer made for a memorable evening.

The GIs had a beer issue from time to time when not right on the line or moving forward. This was the time of "Lend-Lease" and reciprocating "Lease-Lend". The best part of this when we got our beer issue that we got four or five bottles of Australian beer. Not the regular 3.2 GI beer, but a quart bottle of powerful real beer. It did not happen often but when it did, we enjoyed the evening.

World War II Locator Requests

More locator requests are posted on the internet at www.americal.org/locator

Looking For: 26th Signal Company World War II surviving members. Are there any members of the WWII 26h Signal Company left? My Dad, Hyman Trusten, formerly of Dorchester, MA, was a member of the 26th Signal Co. from 1942 to 1945. At this writing, August 13, 2011, he is alive and doing not-too-bad at age 91. Did you know him? Contact: Paul Trusten; trusten@grandecom.net, 3609 Caldera Boulevard, Apartment 122, Midland, TX, 79707-2872, (432)528-7724.

Looking For: Anyone who might have known my uncle, Vernon P. Kleb. Know only that he served in the Americal division in WWII, nothing more. Contact: Betty Murphy; bmurph50@yahoo.com

Looking For: Anyone who knew my father, Gilbert Dempsey. My father was in the 182 Infantry and served in Cebu, Phillipines. He passed away in January 2000, and I would love any information anyone has about him and his wartime service. I have the book "Under the Southern Star", a photo, and a commendation he received. Thanks and God bless you! Contact: Terry Dempsey; dempsey4159@roadrunner.com

Looking For: Any info on my dad, Joe M. Gardewin. I believe he was with Americal Division on Guadalcanal. He would have been enlisted. Prior to service on Guadalcanal he was in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks and also Kauai near Koloa. He enlisted in Chicago in 1941 and was from Aurora, Ill, but also lived on a farm near Twin Valley, Minn. Was wounded on Guadalcanal (not seriously) but was evac'ed. Dad never would speak much of the action there, but suspect his best friend was killed by a sniper. Contact: Joe Gardewin, 2551 Wyndgate Ct, Westlake, OH, 44145, 440-471-4718; JGARDEWIN@roadrunner.com

Looking For: Anyone that has information about Uncle James (Jim) Danny Lowrey. My uncle was PFC 132 INF Americal Div, he received the the bronze star and purple heart, I'm trying to obtain information about how he received these medals, also how many landings did he make. What battles did he fight in? Any information would be greatly appreciated. Contact: Charles W. Lowrey (SMSgt, Ret USAF), 111 Campbell Ave, Crestview, FL, 32536, 850-689-2723; candllowrey@cox.net

Looking For: John Alme and anyone who knew my grandfather. My grandfather is Norman Thompson and I'm looking for detailed information on my grandfather's experiences during Guadalcanal and would like to correspond with anyone who may have known him or John Alme. Contact: Brian Thompson, 8049 w 78th pl, Arvada, CO, 80005; 303-421-6059; btepisig@hotmail.com

The 164th Locates Silver In Occupied Japan

From Citizens as Soldiers by Cooper & Smith

The occupation forces in Japan had several tasks to perform, such as taking inventory of the industrial and commercial facilities that had survived American bombing and closing all banks and financial institutions pursuant to orders from General MacArthur on September 28, 1945. Occasionally the Americans had to forcibly prohibit some form of military training of boys attending schools, but, for the most part, the Japanese cooperated with the American forces. The American policy of non-fraternization was probably the most difficult to carry out, more because of American violation of the policy than Japanese.

Occupation duties for the 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, continued in a routine way until a series of events resembling those of a second-rate detective story began to unfold in early October.

While on their mission of taking inventory of Japanese industry, Americans of another military unit had come across over one hundred bars of silver. Further investigation revealed that much more of the precious metal lay hidden in another prefecture, one of those occupied by the 164th, northwest of Tokyo. Captain Richard Cohen, Lt Holland, and 34-36 enlisted men of I Company received orders to search for the silver in the vicinity of Kasugai, a small town within an hour's drive of company headquarters. Since the silver was allegedly stored in the Kusagai-Mura warehouse, Captain Cohen decided to search there first. Local police and other officials informed him that a warehouse by that specific name did not exist, that there were several storage buildings in and around the town. They found no silver.

After searching the warehouses in the town, the patrol began to investigate farmers' storage facilities in the vicinity. When it uncovered ten tons of tin, Cohen's suspicions began to rise. The tin had been consigned to Koshiro Haibera, one of the wealthiest farmers of the region, who owned a large estate a short distance from town. Cohen decided to pay Haibera a visit and ask some questions. The Haibera estate also had two large warehouses, as yet unsearched, but the patrol found nothing there except the very cooperative and polite landlord, the essence of Oriental courtesy. Cohen decided to try another approach by questioning the local shipping clerk in charge of freight receipts.

When the clerk proved uncooperative, even surly at times, Cohen demanded the complete shipping records of the office for the last 6 months or, upon failure to produce the records, he would close the office. Once told the specific nature of the investigation, the local police urged the shipping clerk to comply with Cohen's request. By noon of the next day the captain had the records, and after noticing that Haibera had received 4 shipments of silver, Cohen and some of his men paid the farmer another visit.

Haibera politely received the captain and his men, but a thorough search of the estate warehouses again revealed nothing. Then Cohen noticed a small barn located near the entrance to the estate and ordered the men to search it. Haibera became visibly upset, arousing the American's



suspicions. After removing a thin covering of rice straw, the men of the patrol found hundreds of bars of silver. Though Haibera professed his surprise and innocence, Cohen was not convinced and began to question him vigorously. The Japanese farmer started to give answers, revealing that the Mitsubishi Company had contacted him in April about storing some precious metals for the firm. Apparently fearing that American air raids might destroy the silver and other metals, Mitsubishi wanted to remove them to remote parts of Japan. Before the questioning ended, Haibera revealed the location of other shipments consigned to him. All in all, they added up to over one hundred tons of pure silver and smaller amounts of copper, lead, tin, zinc, and antimony. The captain and his men had spent over a week searching, questioning, and going over shipping records before they had completed their assignment. Most of the I Company patrol remained at Kasugai to guard the metals until they were transported elsewhere, but the regimental papers contain no record concerning the final disposition of the silver.

Shortly after "Operation Treasure Hunt", the designation given the search for the silver after the fact, the Americal Division received orders to return to the United States where it was to be disbanded.

This outstanding record of the 164th Infantry Regiment attracted national attention. Several magazines printed pictures and stories about the men of the 164th during and shortly after the battle for Guadalcanal. After the New York Times sent a correspondent to the Fijis to interview men of the regiment shortly after those haggard and worn veterans arrived, it published a series of seven lengthy articles about the 164th and the important role it had played in the battle. Several other newspapers reprinted the articles. North Dakota newspapers, not to be outdone, included their own stories about the state's new heroes, some of whom had been sent back to the US to recover from wounds or illness. Pictures of the men, along with interviews and feature stories, appeared in many daily papers of the state. All in all, the regiment had drawn a great amount of attention and publicity.

But For the Grace of God...

By Irvin L. Sonstegard

1943 to 1946--the years I spent in the U.S. Army during World War II – are gradually fading from my memory and it seemed a good idea to touch on a few memorable incidents from that period, though not in great detail, while the opportunity exists.

On April 25, 1944 just two weeks after joining Company A, 182nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, and just six days after my 19th birthday, I found myself on a combat patrol in the jungles of Bougainville. The next day proved to be my first contact with the enemy and I wasn't well prepared mentally.

When both friendly and unfriendly gunfire erupted, along with all the other noises of battle – the yelling and screaming out of fear, pain and – perhaps – a bit of basic psychological warfare, my first and only thought was that I had to seek cover and dig in. My entrenching tool was a pick-mattock, a somewhat worthless piece of equipment and I positioned myself at the base of a large tree and proceeded to seek protection. My efforts were fruitless; the tree roots were everywhere and I barely scratched the surface. Worse yet, I wasn't at all sure that I was on the "safe" side of the tree, but luck was with me – I survived the battle and my "baptism of fire".

Back in the relative safety of the perimeter, "A" Company was on the "line" in a trench with rifle positions as well as machinegun positions, which separated us from the enemy. We slept in dugouts, with coconut logs and sandbags overhead. Banana Bears, with their somewhat fluorescent white tails, as well as other forms of "wildlife" kept us company. Accommodations were decidedly less than luxurious!

A month or so later brought a rather harrowing experience. We were on patrol, beyond the Torokina, Saua and Reini Rivers and I was the second scout for my platoon, and no enemy contact had been made. Then a squad of British-trained Fiji Islanders assumed the lead position and the Japanese were engaged. Our artillery fire, called in for support, dropped a few short rounds and this really infuriated the Fijians. During a lull in the fighting we had an opportunity to clean our weapons and,



Irvin Sonstegard at wars end, 1946.

as we were doing this in the relative safety of our shallow foxholes, we heard the sounds of soldiers crashing through the underbrush just yards away. We positioned ourselves for action and, at the last moment, a couple of our own men who had been on outpost duty came into view, identifying themselves at the same time. It could have been tragic but their lives were spared. Not long after, the Japanese engaged us and one of the men in the next foxhole, scarcely ten feet away, suffered a severe head wound. It was late afternoon and at nightfall we were ordered to leave the area and return to our base camp. We were told that this was the first time that American troops had moved at night in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

(WWII Editors note: While this night move was scary and required much fortitude, it occurred after the night move on Guadalcanal, of October 25, 1942, wherein the 3rd Battalion of the 164th Regiment reinforced the Marine lines during the 2nd Battle for Henderson Field and stopped the Japanese attack in its tracks)

Weapons and equipment of the stretcher-bearers carrying our wounded comrades were divided among the other squad members and I ended up with two rifles plus standard equipment. It was a moonlit night and as we started down the jungle trail we had to contend with the fallen trees and other obstacles. Moments later, as we proceeded single file along the trail, and our wounded man was delirious and moaning loudly, a very large fallen tree loomed ahead of me. There was about three feet of clearance below, not enough to allow easy passage with two rifle barrels pointed skyward. I tried to crawl under with no success. Clambering over the tree was almost as

difficult but I finally made it, only to find no trace of my squad members ahead of me and a fork in the trail heading to the left and one to the right. Which way to go? I opted for the left fork and just as I headed that way a squad member came back, realizing that no one was behind him, and cautiously signaled me to take the right fork. Later, I found out that the left trail would have led directly into a large contingent of Japanese soldiers. Again, my life was spared. Our wounded comrade reached our lines but died in the hospital soon after.

It rained almost every day on Bougainville, torrential and straight down. The rain was a source of amazement because I rarely saw any clouds. But rain it did and many of the jungle trees with shallow root systems came crashing around us. Years later I found out that clouds were not always necessary for the heavy rains of the South Pacific Islands, and the sand soaked it up.

A couple of other brief observations; what about those caterpillar-like fuzzy worms that crawled on your skin and left traces of some plant life that made your skin feel like it was on fire? Also, the bright blue, tiny and harmless chameleons and the feared scorpions. Speaking of chameleons, on Cebu, Philippine Islands, I saw some really huge ones – when they stretched their legs and raised themselves from the ground they moved like race horses!

I'll always remember Bougainville – its Mount Bagana, the active volcano which was supposed to erupt while we were there but waited until some time later; but the waters of the small stream flowing down from the mountains were loaded with sulfur and other chemicals and provided almost miraculous relief from the jungle rot brought on by wet fatigues and other clothing. Then too, I can't forget the combat patrols, wading across the fast-flowing rivers, clawing my way up some really steep hills, then grabbing vines or tree trunks on the descent to keep from rolling all the way down. Invariably, our long GI stockings had turned completely black from rolling all the way down through all the mud and water; the socks ended up in the toe area of our combat boots.

January 1945 found us leaving Bougainville and heading for the Philippines. After serving on Leyte, Samar and Capul for some time, our regiment

made the beachhead on Cebu. It was a vicious campaign. The word was that the Japanese planted bombs as land mines and they were indeed numerous. New, untried replacements did not fare well in dealing with this form of weaponry. On March 29, 1945 "A" Company had gained ground on Go Chan Hill, near Cebu City, and it was here that God smiled on me once again. Another soldier and I were ordered to take a message to battalion headquarters on the next hill to the rear. We arrived at the command post atop the hill, located in a mansion of sorts. After delivering our message we went outside to take a short break, partake in some rations and rest before heading back to our company. We had removed our steel helmets when suddenly two tremendous explosions were heard and debris started raining down on us. We did not know what was happening but rumor had it that this hill and possibly others could explode. When we returned to "A" Company on Go Chan Hill we found that some of our comrades were buried alive by the explosions and, although quick action saved some, a total of about 36 members of the company were killed. Why was I spared?

Yes, it would seem that I led a somewhat charmed life while I was in the infantry. For that matter life has been good and I have few complaints. When I went into the service I made up my mind to accept whatever happened and to do my best whenever possible. It paid off. But I must confess that I may have been somewhat naïve when I was asked by an Army interviewer at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, during the course of my induction into the service, as to what did I like to do? I said, and truthfully so, that I liked to hunt with a rifle. Popular opinion has it that engineers are given clerks jobs, cooks are placed in tanks, etc.; in other words a lot of square pegs in round holes. But, in my case, the Army was right on target – I became a rifleman!

ADVA WWII Editors Note: This vignette was written in November 1993. We are grateful for Irvin's wife, Muriel, for providing this document. Irvin Sonstegard retired in 1959 as a printer for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis and was able to travel with his wife for many years. He currently suffers from Alzheimer's and we are grateful he took the time in 1993 to write his reflections. The Sonstegard's are retired in North Branch, Minnesota.

Jap Raider on Guadalcanal

By Jack Masucci

The experience that is foremost in my mind is one that happened on January 13-14, 1943, while I was on Guadalcanal with the 247th Field Artillery. These are two days I will never forget.

It was just starting to get dark and our planes were returning from a raid on a Japanese base. I looked up and saw a plane, without any lights, following our planes in. I then realized that it was a Jap plane pulling an old trick – mixing in with our planes that were in a landing pattern.

At the first air raid warning signal, everyone that hears it yells "Condition red or black". "Red" is for an air raid and "Black" is for an invasion. Just as I started to yell "Condition Red", all HELL broke loose! The next thing I saw was a white flash – it was so close that I dropped down behind a tree. I gave out one yell, "Father!" meaning God. I thought I was a goner. I was prepared to die, but I didn't want to go out suffering.

The next morning I heard that we had lost six (6) men, some of them were doctors. I was then told to take my truck to the cemetery. We wrapped the dead in burlap and buried them.

The next day a Jap plane returned and hit the same spot as the day before (must have been the same Jap). This time I had dug a foxhole. The tree I had been hiding behind the day before was full of shrapnel holes, this time the Jap knocked the tree down with more shrapnel.

Another time we had a "Condition Black". I was told to go to Battery A and B and move their gun positions to the beach; we were experiencing an invasion. We were told that if the Jap's got on the beach we were to destroy the breach blocks on the 105mm Howitzers.

Once I got them settled, I started back to headquarters, driving during a blackout. A Jap Zero spotted me going across Henderson Field and strafed



Jack Masucci, 92 years young in 2011, with a captured Jap flag.

me. He missed me but I could see the dirt kicking up on the left side of my truck. In my mind I was thinking, "Why don't they shoot him down?"

On another occasion there was a big push on by the infantry and B Battery was calling for more ammo. Smitty and I took off into the jungle looking for B Battery. We knocked down trees on the way, making a path to get through. All of a sudden, from out of the jungle comes a jeep with several officers in it. Upon seeing me they asked, "Where the hell are you going?" I told them that I was looking for B Battery, 247th Field Artillery. Their answer was, "You are in front of the infantry. Find a place to turn around and go back. By the way, you are among the first to know that the island has now been declared secured".

WWII Vets We Need Your Stories!

Please continue to send your stories, documents, memories, photos, etc. to Dave Taylor, ADVA WWII Historian. If you are unable to communicate with me, please have a family member **call me at 330-722-7455 or e-mail me at dtaylor@ohio.net.**

If you wish to leave your WWII memorabilia with your family members, please contact me so we can at least make copies of your documents and photos for subsequent use in the American Journal.

An Americal "Caledonian" Nurse Remembers

By Doris E. Lucas

WWII Historian's note: This article is reprinted from the March-April/May-June 1991 issues of the Americal Newsletter. This story of the Americal's first nurses deserves to be retold

This is my version of duty with the 9th Station Hospital, Task Force 6814-A, later to be known as the Americal Division. In 1940 the winds of war were blowing all around with the draft taking our boys from mothers, wives and dear ones. Doctors and nurses were recruited to take care of our soldiers. On October 23, 1940 my orders read, "Army Nurse Corps, Camp Shelby, Mississippi". From the day I was met at the train I was known as "The Maine Yankee". Our quarters were wooden barracks with small metal beds and orange crates for bedside tables. As no dieticians were present, another nurse and I ran the mess.

Christmas Day came around and, with no one knowing each other, we needed a "get-together something". We signed the order slip for eggs and milk from our Mess and ordered brandy (via potatoes). Before the evening ended, we learned we represented thirty-eight states – and all of us wondering what the future held in store.

Troops arrived by the thousands. Some outfits drilled with brooms as guns. Our country was not prepared for this emergency. Our time was spent preparing the 33-bed wards. My next assignment was the "N.P. Section". This came about because the hospital where I trained in Exeter, New Hampshire required three months at the New Hampshire State Hospital at Concord. There were two wards for patients and one ward for prisoners (boys will be boys). This ward was like the other wards except the doors were kept locked and all the glass had wire in it. We had small rooms for the most disturbed patients – men that could not cope with military life and were to be sectioned out.

September came with things happening to enhance our thoughts of war. Only half of the camp was

allowed off at one time. Officers that we saw one day were missing the next.

On December 7, 1941, a group of nurses headed for New Orleans (it was our favorite place for an R&R). As one drove down canal street paperboys were holding their papers high and screaming "WAR!" We headed for the cocktail lounge at the Hotel Jung. Through loud speakers came the announcements, "All military personnel will return to their post immediately!"

Orders came, for those who had volunteered, for points unknown. This was to happen before Christmas. Due to the failure of our ships being ready for any rapid shipment overseas, we did not leave until early January 1942 for New York's port of embarkation. I learned later that our medical units were to be responsible for the care of the sick and wounded of the approximately 17,000 troops that were in a ship convoy. Those units were: The 9th Station Hospital, 52nd Evacuation Hospital and 4th General Hospital on the USNT Barry. The 101st Medical Regiment was assigned to the USNT Santa Elena and the 109th Station Hospital and Task Force Surgeons Office assigned to the Flag Ship, the USNT Argentina. Nurses were assigned to every ship.

We were never issued uniforms except whites (1918 style) and Army caps. When orders came, they stated one could take several civilian outfits. We had to take coats – mine was a raccoon coat for I had come to Camp Shelby from Maine in cold January. Everything else, all that we held dear, was to be sent to whatever destination we requested. The uniforms were to be onboard, waiting for us. They would come from the Philadelphia Army Depot; NEVER ARRIVED!

The first night on board, still in the harbor, we had a meeting of all hands. The journey would be at least 30 days. Thoughts of Europe now faded as we seemed to be headed for the Pacific. Feeling the vibration of the ship one night, we knew we were sailing. It was the next dawn that the alert sounded and we were ordered on deck immediately. No time to dress, we grabbed our lifesavers and coats, and with long silk nighties and mules

(fancy slippers with heels and fur), we rushed to the decks.

Immediately the order was received that one would remain dressed at all times. All portholes were to be closed at night and nothing thrown overboard. We zigzagged along the Atlantic; first you would see a ship and then you would be alone in the submarine-infested waters.

It took nine days to reach the Panama Canal and a day to go through the locks. We transferred some patients, too ill to complete the voyage, to a hospital in Panama. That night we spent in Colon where a few officers got off to determine our destination. It was learned that we were headed for Perth, Australia. At night we played cards by "She sitting out and he sitting in – that protected the nurses from sin" Two meals a day and our lunch was various inoculations. We were allowed on deck at certain times and the enlisted men, who were billeted in the holds of the ship, were brought up for sunshine.

The next stop was the island of Bora Bora for refueling. The natives and not-so natives came to greet us in outriggers. G.I. caps were traded for bananas via portholes. One beautiful, sunny morning a huge ship was sighted. We thought the Japs were about to attack but it was an Australian ship.

We landed in Melbourne, Australia in March to unload the 4th General Hospital. What a surprise the Red Cross got when they saw our poorly dressed, stinky outfits with fur coats getting off the ship. No matter what, they were glad to see Americans because their forces had been sent elsewhere in the Empire to fight. We were taken to a home for wounded Australians. We were not permitted to leave the home except to get fresh clothes to wear.

The flagship, the Argentina, was our ship for the complete voyage. It arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia but was too large to go dock-side so we were told that wooden barges would safely take us ashore. No dress uniforms! What to do? White ones were too visible from the air so our officers finally came up from storage with enlisted men's uniforms (summer) and their high shoes (stiff!). That was our uniform for many months.

We went off the Argentina with one

boiled egg and a can of stew (no can opener or mess gear issued). The 109th Station Hospital was to remain in Noumea; our hospital, the 9th Station Hospital, was to be at Paita. This was a short duration and then we moved to St. Vincent's. Then the rains came, our tents without floors were sinking and so were our Army cots. Hospital beds and our latrines were a mess, and even our patients crutches were sinking. Needless to say we moved from there to Dumbea Valley, a beautiful, mountainous area with a wonderful mountain stream that became our bath tub. A rope divided the enlisted men's area from our own (how silly!).

Our drinking water was brought to us in a truck and put in a Lister Bag from which we could drink and wash up in the area. We washed our clothes in the stream and when they needed scrubbing we rubbed them on the nearby rocks. Finally we hired the natives to help wash our clothes. They also helped us in loading and unloading equipment. Our enlisted men were trained to put up and take down our four-bed tents and also the hospital tents, all very quickly. We remained in tents without floors the entire stay in New Caledonia.

Our biggest scare came when our doctor operated on a native with the wrong diagnosis. He was diagnosed, as I remember, by a doctor from Guadalcanal. It was bubonic plague. Not one minute was wasted until all personnel and patients were inoculated. No one died. My only battle scar is on my left upper arm, where the shot gave me a draining wound and a 104 degree fever. Dengue fever was a non-fatal disease but that too made us ill.

There were no malaria mosquitos on New Caledonia due to the Eucalyptus tree. We had many patients with malaria from other areas. It was quoted we had as many as 700-1,000 per year. Atabrine was faithfully taken as were salt tablets for the heat.

As there were no Navy hospitals around, we began receiving patients from the Marines, Navy and Army. The Army still had not begun to fight. One outfit, I think it was the 164th Regiment, had received contaminated yellow fever shots and they were very ill; too ill

to relieve the Marines in the Solomon's. When they were being ordered into battle and before they sailed, we broke out grapefruit juice and G.I. alcohol for a wonderful sendoff. We received them back as patients. We were never quite sure of our fate in the Pacific until the Battle of Coral Sea was fought and we had a victory.

Our operating room was a large green tent with mosquito netting. It was made solid by native wood. We bathed the patients in pans of water heated over Australian stoves. Our medical cabinets and equipment were make-shift boxes. We made rounds with a corpsman, especially at night, two of them at our side. Our area had many tents scattered about due to possible attacks. We walked a lot between wards and latrines.

I think our burn patients were the most difficult to care for alongside the mentally disturbed patients for whom we had no treatment. The area on one end of our compound had been fenced to guard the N.P. section, the mentally ill. The other end was for Japanese prisoners with the same setup. I brought my G.I. shoes home with me, even with the soles cut off, remembering the rugged mountain terrain that we traveled on.

We managed to acquire horses from the cavalry and boots to ride when we could. We got dogs, chickens, goats and, above all, our "Victory Pig" with a "V" on his back. We were one big family without transportation. We didn't even see other hospital personnel.

The sad day came when we knew the unit was going to be separated. The doctors were to go to Guadalcanal and the nurses to Esperito Santos. Some of us older nurses went to the command begging to go home. We ended up not receiving our 1st Lt. Bars with the other nurses because of it. We transferred the patients and nurses who were too ill to make the voyage. They went by ambulance to the hospital across the mountain stream.

We went by way of Fiji where we met a very unhappy medical unit – they were never very busy and wanted to be transferred to the action but were told they served as "medical insurance" to be ready to send anywhere needed. Some of our doctors

went to Guadalcanal and some nurses had duty on Navy hospital ships. We "naughty", complaining nurses proved to be correct. At the end of six months most had malaria or other diseases. I had tropical skin dermatitis for which I was sent to New Zealand to a Yale medical unit.

When I was cured I had a chance of going back (which I knew couldn't be for too long) or staying and nursing there. I wished to return to my unit. However, when I reported for duty I learned my unit was already on their way home and I was to return by the first available transportation. What a feeling!

I sailed on a Liberty Ship to San Francisco. I worked while aboard specializing as a Red Cross worker. We landed in San Francisco after seeing the Golden Gate and USA soil again at about 9:00AM. We transferred patients to the Letterman General Hospital and then wanted a place to put our bodies safely in the USA. That wasn't to be, for no places were available for Army, Navy or civilians. At about 4:00AM the Driscoll Hotel gave us a room with Gardenias to welcome us home.

After spending enough days to get proper uniforms (for the first time), riding cable cars, watching women almost fight over nylons, we got our pay and boarded a train for Fort Devens, Massachusetts. A WAC met us at Devens in an ambulance and told us if we hadn't been in basic training we would spend six weeks there. As it was nearly midnight, we went to the quartermaster and got some bedding and slept. Early in the morning we went to the mess hall to hear more rumors. The head nurse met us and said the first home from overseas would get orders to go home as soon as she could get them.

Home in Berwick for one month, then on to Utica, New York. The battles were still raging as my assignment was back to the N.P. wards. We again had the same set-up as Camp Shelby, Mississippi, only this time the boys in our wards had gone to battle and were suffering the results of war.

I was finally discharged as a Captain after five years in this man's Army and a former member of the Americal Division.

In Memory

Father Barton (Bart) Berry

By Gary L. Noller



Chaplain Barton D. Berry, Jr. passed to his eternal reward on October 14, 2011 at the age of 70. He was a chaplain with the 5/46th Infantry in Vietnam and a current national chaplain of the ADVA. He and his wife Janet resided in Chambersburg, PA at the time of his death.

Father Bart received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington College in Maryland in 1963 and his Master of Divinity from Philadelphia, PA Divinity School in 1966. He served as a chaplain in the United States Army from 1966 to 1992.

After retiring from the military Father Bart served in several assignments in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. He performed the memorial service at the ADVA annual reunion in Buffalo, NY in 2007. He retired from the ministry on December 25, 2009.

Dave Hammond served in the 5/46th Infantry at the time that Fr. Bart was chaplain for the unit. Hammond states, "Father Bart was a fine man. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to meet Janet and Bart at a past reunion. Father Bart visited us in the field at a time of need in 1970. A few years back he shared a picture of Charlie Company that I never knew existed. He will surely be missed."

PNC David W. Taylor told of Father Bart in his recently published book *Our War*. On October 20 he attended the funeral service for Father Bart. Taylor lamented the loss of his friend, "My heart is heavy. Another good man down."

During his 26 year career with the United States Army, Berry was the recipient of numerous medals and commendations for his service including the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three stars and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

In addition to his wife Janet he is survived by four children, four grandchildren, and a brother. Father Bart was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

In Memory

Wilbert (Will) W. Benkart

By Hilda M. Benkart



Wilbert (Will) Benkart passed away on August 2, 2011 at the age of 87. He resided in Cranberry Township, PA. He was a member of the ADVA for many years.

Will served as a first scout in Co. K, 182nd Infantry Regiment from 1943 to 1945. He was in Guadalcanal, Fiji, Bougainville, Cebu, Samar, and Leyte. He made three beach landings in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, and the Philippine Islands. He was among the first American troops to enter Japan after the war ended.

The Americal Division was born in battle in the jungles of the South Pacific. It is considered one of the finest of the Army fighting forces. Will was so proud to be in the Americal Division. Will endured several illnesses while in the jungles. This included malaria, jungle rot, and dengue fever.

Will served with Sergeant Alvin York's son. Sergeant York was one of the most decorated U. S soldiers from World War I.

Will arrived in Japan on September 10, 1945 for occupation duty. He left Japan when the Americal Division was deactivated. He arrived in Seattle, WA on November 29, 1945. We were married the next year and had 65 years together. We have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

When he got out of the service Will became a furrier. It was a seasonal occupation so he left it and became a foreman for the Allegheny County North Park. He worked there for 30 years.

Among the awards and decorations he earned are the Combat Infantryman Badge, two Bronze Star medals, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, and arrowhead device for beach landings.

Vets Plan Return Trip To Vietnam

A group of Americal veterans are planning a trip to Vietnam in March-April 2012. Tentative plans are to leave from Los Angeles (LAX) on Friday, 23 March 2012 and fly through Taipei to arrive in Hanoi on Sunday 25 March. The group will spend two weeks in Vietnam and depart Saigon on 8 April arriving LAX on same day.

The cost of the tour is \$3,400 USD with a \$500 deposit due about 90 days in advance. This fee includes airfare to and from LAX, lodging, transportation, etc. Travelers will pay for their own adult beverages and souvenirs. The tour guide, a Vietnam veteran and former Marine, will handle all details of the trip.

If you would like more information on this trip contact Bill Bacon at bbacon11@hctc.net or 210-621-4408. This event is not sponsored by or endorsed by the ADVA but will include ADVA members.

Afghan Crash Recalls Deadly Chinook History

By Gary L. Noller



On August 6, 2011 a Taliban rocket propelled grenade (RPG) brought down an American CH-47 Chinook helicopter in a hotly contested combat area in Afghanistan. The resulting loss of life is the single most deadly hostile incident in the 10-year long Afghanistan war. The shoot-down claimed the lives of 38 NATO troops to include 30 Americans. Many of the U.S. casualties were elite Navy Seals.

I could not help but recall a similar incident that happened 41 years previous to this loss. On August 26, 1970 an American CH-47 Chinook helicopter was brought down by enemy fire at LZ Judy. The loss of life in this action was 31 U.S. killed in action (KIA). The KIAs included 30 passengers and crew aboard the 178th Assault Helicopter Company (ASHC) "Boxcars" aircraft and one U.S. soldier on the ground. Only one person aboard the Chinook, the co-pilot, survived the carnage.

The Chinook loaded troops belonging to 2/1st Infantry and 3/82nd Artillery at Kham Duc and was in the process of landing at LZ Judy when it was believed to be hit by enemy fire. To this day there is disagreement as to whether the enemy fire was an RPG or if it was machine gun fire. Eye witnesses claim both versions to be accurate.

The twin-rotor chopper was fully loaded with troops and a cargo of artillery ammunition. After being

hit the aircraft went down, caught fire, and exploded on the slope of the hill. Most of the casualties were from Co. D, 2/1st Infantry but almost every company in the 2/1st battalion suffered losses. Two KIA casualties were artillerymen. In addition to the one KIA on the ground there were several others wounded on the ground when the helicopter blew apart.

My first mission off FSB Mary Ann with Co. B, 1/46th Infantry in July 1970 was in the area of LZ Judy. We did not encounter much on that three-week patrol. When the Chinook went down at Judy we were back on Mary Ann. We listened to the radio transmissions regarding this tragic loss.

We knew it was a big deal and we could not do anything to be of assistance. But the loss of the helicopter at Judy was plain evidence that the enemy could and would make good use of the opportunity to inflict damage.

I had nearly nine months to go in Vietnam when the heavy loss occurred at Judy. I am not ashamed to admit that this loss caused me to fear flights on Chinook helicopters. Chinooks were the usual mode of transportation from Chu Lai to Mary Ann. Luckily we never used them for field insertions or pick-ups. They are fast and powerful but like most aircraft they are very open to enemy fire during take-offs and landings. Given the choice to fly on a Chinook or walk I would most

likely opt for the latter. Of course, I was never given the option.

Chinook helicopters have been around for 50 years. The models used today are much more powerful and useful than the ones we had in Vietnam. They can carry two Humvees and quickly fly a large contingent of troops in and out of battlefields. But they can also still be associated with heavy losses.

The 30 Americans killed by the enemy downing of a Chinook in Afghanistan is the single most costly loss of U.S. service members in that war. The 31 American killed by the enemy downing of a Chinook at LZ Judy is the most costly loss of U.S. service members in a hostile air loss in the Vietnam War. We owe these soldiers and sailors our honor and respect. May they rest in Peace.

Photo Credit: DOD Courtesy photo
 This stock photo shows the CH-47F model, the Chinook helicopter currently being manufactured for the U.S. Army. The newest Chinook model, incorporates key reliability and maintainability improvement modifications, such as a new machined airframe, vibration reduction, digital source collectors, T55-GA-714A engine, Common Avionics Architecture System, enhanced air transportability, Digital Automatic Flight Control System, and is compatible with joint digital connectivity requirements.

Oliver Gause and Sid Liming Reunite After 40 Years

In late June 2011 Oliver Gause reunited with a buddy he served with in 1968-1969. Oliver Gause and Sid Liming were both with first platoon, Co. A, 5/46th Infantry in Vietnam. They had not seen each other in over forty-two years. They last parted when they got off a plane in Chicago and went their separate ways.

A reunion took place when Sid and Sharon Liming drove from their home in Ohio to spend a week with Gause and his wife, Ellen. As Gause and Liming talked during the week, they discussed other soldiers they served with as they wondered what happened to the ones that had not been located yet. One name that came up was Platoon Sergeant Ray Utley.

Gause and Liming knew that Utley was severely wounded when a booby-trapped artillery shell exploded only feet away from Utley, Gause, Liming and other soldiers as they patrolled on January 30, 1969. They never knew what happened to Utley, or even if he lived or not, after he was carried from the field that day.

After the Limings' visit concluded, Gause's wife, Ellen, contacted the self-proclaimed historian of Alpha Company, Buddy Wolf. Wolf had started looking for Alpha company vets seven years earlier. He primarily searched for those in his platoon, the 3rd platoon. However, in his searches he began to locate and contact vets from the other platoons as well.

Wolf emailed Ellen the only piece of information he had about Ray Utley. It was a reprinted newspaper article that indicated Utley's Bronze Star Medal for Valor, awarded for his actions as a platoon sergeant during his first tour in Vietnam in 1966, had been upgraded to a Silver Star in 2000.

Ellen gleaned one piece of information from that article that led her on an internet search in the Wilmington, NC area. She e-mailed a gentleman she found on that website, and explained her husband and she were searching for Ray Utley. She never heard anything back.

A few days later she went back to the same website to scour for others she might contact. She sent out three more emails from the information she found.

The very next day she got a message back saying the information in her email had been relayed to Utley. So Utley had been found.

They did not know where he was until Utley called Gause on August 23rd from Fayetteville, NC. Utley, now 80 years old, has lived in Fayetteville for many years. Fayetteville is only 45 miles from where Oliver and Ellen live.

Locating Sgt. Utley was a much more significant event than even the visit from the Limings earlier in the summer. For you see, Sgt. Utley lost both legs, as well as two fingers, from the blast in Vietnam on that January day in 1969. Another platoon buddy, Lee Harra, was killed during the same explosion while two others also lost legs. Several others were also wounded, although not as severely as Utley.

Utley indicated to Gause that he pondered over the fact that someone who had served with him in Vietnam was trying to contact him after almost 42 years. He debated whether he should even call Gause. He decided to call because Gause's wife had relayed some of the other soldiers' names from the platoon in her e-mail message in her search



for him. Utley immediately recognized those names from his small, green memorandum book that he had kept it all these years. It listed the platoon roster neatly written in his own handwriting.

Gause and Utley talked at length on the phone that day. Utley asked many questions because here was a real person who could tell him something about what happened the day he lost half his 6 foot 2 inch frame. Utley never heard anything from his platoon after he left the field that day so he never knew that a soldier had died or that others lost limbs and were seriously wounded.

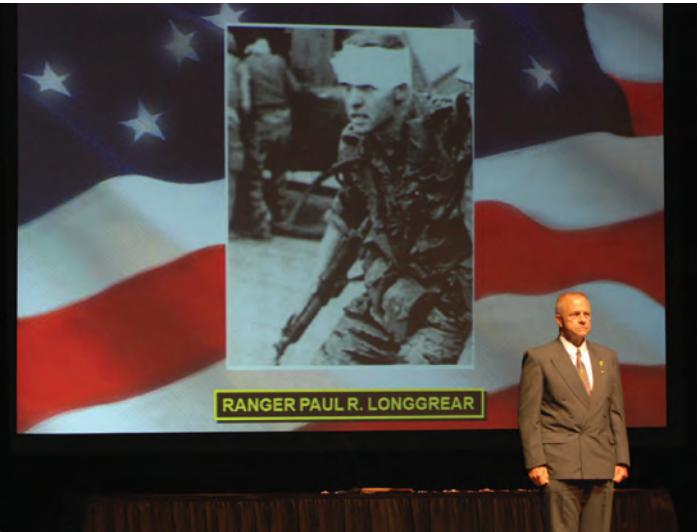
Utley shared that he had spent 18 months in various hospitals after the blast, and eventually moved to Fayetteville to be close to the Veterans' Administration Hospital there. Gause told Utley he and his wife had found eight more Alpha company soldiers, plus one from Bravo Company, after locating him. At the conclusion of their phone conversation, Gause and Utley agreed they would get together soon.

Arrangements were later made for Gause and his wife to drive to Fayetteville. On September 6, 2011 they met Utley and his wife, Karen, at the Utley home. It was an emotional reunion for all of them.

Utley asked numerous questions, some of which Gause could answer, while some he could not. Gause took his pictures he had taken in Vietnam with him that day and shared them with Utley. They also discussed Col. David W. Taylor's book, *Our War*, which Taylor wrote about the 5th/46th Infantry Battalion, the unit in which Utley and Gause served in Vietnam.

Gause shared with Utley that Liming had visited Gause in June. They discussed trying to get some more of their platoon buddies together for a larger reunion. Plans came together much quicker than anticipated. In October 2011 twelve soldiers and six wives met for the first time in over 40 years. Utley was able to find answers to many of his questions about a fateful day forty-two years ago.

Editor's notes- The original story written by Ellen Gause for a local newspaper. Oliver Gause says, "My wife has been a real champ since she made connection with Buddy Wolf. Including Ray Utley, she has tracked down nine Alpha Company vets and one from Bravo Company since late August 2011." The Gause's reside in Elizabethtown, NC. The photo is of Oliver Gause and Ray Utley.



19th Annual Ranger Hall of Fame Inducts Colonel Paul R. Longgrear

Colonel Paul R. Longgrear, United States Army, retired, is inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame based upon his exemplary military and religious leadership, valor during extreme combat, and his long, profound service to our nation. While commanding a Mobile Strike Force Company, 5th Special Forces, at Lang Vei, Vietnam, on February 6th and 7th, 1968, he destroyed two Russian Tanks with Light Anti-Armor Weapons when the post was overrun by a large enemy Armor, Infantry, and Sapper force. He led his unit in destroying nine other tanks, numerous enemy, and the defense of the command bunker for fifteen hours while being surrounded. After refusing several times the offer to surrender, with no food and water left and little ammunition, he concluded no relief forces were coming. Even though severely wounded, he led the breakout and escape by personally destroying a machinegun nest. Later, at a rendezvous point he again exposed himself to enemy fire while directing the incoming relief helicopters.

While recovering from wounds he volunteered to command Basic Training Co E, 1st Brigade, Fort Benning for one year, during which time the company won Best Company during every cycle. Upon being released and cleared for full duty, he again volunteered for duty in Vietnam. He completed Ranger School and reported to command Co A, 5/46, Americal Division. During his command the company attained the highest kill ratio in the 198th Brigade. During the defense of a landing site, several enemy soldiers broke through the perimeter but due to CPT Longgrear's leadership and expertise, his troops rallied and restored the security of the perimeter.

For his actions throughout the war, Paul was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars for Valor, and a Purple Heart. At Florida Southern College, he initiated and then led Senior ROTC cadets through Ranger-type training in SCUBA, parachuting, and leadership. He trained elite ROTC

students during Thanksgiving week break at Camp Merrill and another group during Spring break week at Camp Rudder. Paul was called into full-time Christian ministry in 1976. He served the next fourteen years in the Army Reserve while serving as a church pastor and completing three years in the missionary field. Ranger Longgrear's valor under extreme combat and his consistent leadership and support of civilians, service members, and their families are truly exemplary.

Editor's notes- The Ranger Hall of Fame inducted Colonel Longgrear on July 27, 2011 at Ft. Benning, GA. Text and photos courtesy of Jack Hass via Bob Wolf and Mark Deam.

Note from Dave Taylor, author of Our War. The History and Sacrifices of an Infantry Battalion in the Vietnam War 1968-1971. In my book, I note that Captain Paul Longgrear was initially assigned as Executive Officer in the battalion, but took command of Alpha Company after the previous commander was relieved for gross incompetence. Morale in Alpha had greatly disintegrated.

On his first day as the new commander, one platoon was bunched up and Longgrear ordered the platoon sergeant walking with them to spread his men out. It was too late and a mine was detonated, killing a soldier. The platoon sergeant was relieved and Longgrear never lost another KIA soldier until his final days in the company when an Alpha grunt was killed by a sapper's satchel charge.

Under Longgrear's leadership Alpha became a potent fighting force and a scourge to their enemy. Over the three-year period the battalion served in Vietnam, based on my research as an author/historian I would rate Longgrear one of the top company commanders in the 198th Light Infantry Brigade. The battalion, and most especially Alpha Company, was fortunate to have him.

Capt. James "Snake" Sanders, Jr.- My Hero

By Dan R. Vaughn

Our soldiers are serving and dying in two wars as I write. But many Americans have little concern for the men and women protecting our nation. They worry more about their own day to day lives and seemly mundane issues, to me, like that of whether or not there will there be a pro-football season this year. They are passionate about seeing and cheering for their favorite sports heroes to help spur them on to victory. I hope they will take time out, as I, and remember a bigger team and cheer and pray for their victory.

In the game my heroes play, the score is not measured in points but in death to those who lose and a lifetime of suffering for those who win. The winners must forever spend their lives looking back for those lost in the game. I played on such a team in my youth many years ago and many members of my team have their names listed on a long black wall In Washington, D.C. The names are not arranged by their team's ranking, their number of hits or errors or their touchdowns but in the order in which they fell on the field of battle. They are not remembered for the separate teams on which they played but for their league, The United States of America.

I also have living heroes who played on my team long ago. I searched the name of one of those men on the internet the other day hoping to find him once more before our time is over. My search found only one hit but it brought relieve to me knowing that he will never be forgotten.

My search found his name, Captain James R. Sanders, Jr., on a citation awarding him the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism. To me and the other members of D Company, 2/1 Battalion of the 196th L.I.B. he was known as Lt. James "Snake" Sanders. He was an exceptional officer and in a war in which most officers did not openly wear their rank in combat he wore a large red bandana around his neck to show everyone who was in command – even the enemy. I owe Snake my life because he was a leader who respected the lives of his men and would not let them die without a fight.

On my 21st birthday, February 18, 1969, D Company moved out from our nighttime perimeter within sight of LZ Baldy for a march into Happy Valley to the north of Que Son. Our 3rd Platoon and 3rd Squad had point that day and I was point man for the company. It was not long before the main trail we were using opened up to expose us to a Vietnamese village across an expanse of unplanted rice patties.

We had just walked in a left hand curve in the trail which left me and the next two or three men temporally in the open without cover. The rest of the company was behind us and could not support us as the enemy opened up with automatic weapons from the village. They had purposely



waited until we were exposed with our only cover being our packs which lay in front of us. Their bullets were coming closer and closer as they corrected their aim on the muzzle flashes of our weapons.

The heat from their rounds could be felt coming nearer and nearer and I had given up on living. At the same time Snake was calling in artillery on the village. The fire mission was held up pending approval from headquarters because of the village's location inside a friendly area.

Snake knew we would not survive the wait and ordered the whole company to attack on line. We, who moments before, thought we had met our end stood and cheered as we watched the village assaulted. The entire company charged across the open fields with every weapon firing and a big red bandana leading the way. The enemy was routed and left only piles of shell casings and blood trails but we suffered no causalities. I am alive today because of Snake and the brave men who charged with him through those open fields that day.

I was also witness to another life which Snake saved. In the years since it has endured him to me more so than that of saving my own life.

It happened on a hot afternoon as D Company moved across the Que Son Valley. My platoon was on point for the company when we noticed two older women carrying a homemade litter toward us. It was a big bamboo pole stretched across their shoulders with a wounded Vietnamese woman hanging in the middle suspended in a white sheet.

I knew the woman and the baby which was nursing her breast. I had met her two days before when we used her village as a daytime perimeter to receive resupplies. We were out of C-rations and she had invited some of us to share in a meal of rice as we used her grass hut to wait and escape the heat.

She shared with us and I gave her children and the baby my last C-ration candy bars. It was sometime later when D Company was ambushed and called in artillery support from LZ Ross. It broke up the fighting and the

enemy withdrew but this poor woman was caught in the middle and wounded. Her leg had been cut open from her hip all the way to her knee and by the time she reached us her whole leg had turned green with infection.

Snake knew she and the baby would die without help. He called for our medics to give her first aid and a helicopter to evacuate her. The company formed a perimeter to protect the chopper as it landed. It was soon on the ground and she was loaded aboard. Her mother climbed aboard with the baby in her arms but the pilot ordered the door gunner to push them back off the chopper. Snake was enraged and ran over to the pilot's open window and gave him a direct order to take the baby. The door gunner then helped the woman back aboard with the child and they lifted off.

I don't know if the woman lived but there was no doubt she would lose her leg. I have no doubt either that her young son would have also died if it had not been for the compassion of a young officer wearing a red bandana.

Below is his citation I found while searching the internet:

SANDERS, JAMES R., JR.

Citation:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to James R. Sanders, Jr., Captain (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Captain Sanders distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 and 20 March 1969 as company commander during an assault on Hill 187 near Tien Phuoc. As the lead element neared the crest of the hill, the well-entrenched enemy opened up with automatic weapons and grenade fire. Captain Sanders quickly organized an on-line assault to distract the enemy while the wounded were safely evacuated. Realizing that without additional support his men could not penetrate the hostile fortifications, he ordered a withdrawal. He then stormed the hill alone, killed one communist soldier and recovered several weapons left by his casualties. While returning to the rallying point, he sustained a fragmentation wound in his knee. Refusing medical aid he proceeded to call in gun ship air strikes and bombing runs on the enemy bunker complex. On 20 March Captain Sanders and his men quickly routed the enemy and secured the mountain fortress. When the hostile forces launched a counter-mortar attack on his company, Captain Sanders directed suppressive artillery fire on suspected enemy positions and constantly exposed himself to the hail of incoming mortar rounds to aid and evacuate the wounded. Captain Sanders' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 2470 (July 9, 1969)

At the time of his citation he was known to us as Lt. James "Snake" Sanders. He was promoted to captain in April 69 and was replaced when he left the company that month for his next duty assignment.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in July 69 for his actions back in March on the 19th and 20th. I did not know of this award until July 13, 2011 when I found it by accident. He never spoke or boasted about winning the award not even at a reunion where I met him again in 1989.

I am sure many who served under his command still have not heard of the award. I do know that it was earned at great risk to his life. On our second and successful attempt to occupy the hill I saw several empty shotgun shells just a few feet away from what had been an NVA bunker which had been raining fire down on the point element of our company. Snake was the only one who carried a shotgun.

The bunkers we had faced on the 19th had been destroyed by tons of bombs but the empty shotgun shells were still there as proof of just how close he brought the fight to the enemy. During the many enemy mortar attacks on our perimeter over the next few days he was up and risking his life looking thru binoculars to pinpoint their location as he called in artillery support to destroy their positions.

He was fearless in this duty to his command while most men were hunkered down in their fox holes taking cover from the exploding shells. When the shelling would abruptly end he was out of his foxhole helping the wounded and dying with the same humanity he had shown for a hungry baby and its dying mother.

Lt. Sanders was portrayed as Lt. "Tiger" Graham in my book (My Life, My Hell this Grunt's Journey Back to the World). It is difficult to find the words needed to show my gratitude for this great leader and American hero. I can only say that I would still follow Snake Sanders and his red bandana again to the depths of Hell any day.

Dan R. Vaughn, Jr., Sgt. (Infantry), US Army, served with D Company, 2/1 196th L.I.B., Americal Division, August 1968-69.

The Distinguished Service Cross, also known as the DSC, is the second highest award "For valor" bestowed to a soldier. President Woodrow Wilson established the award on 2 January 1918, for the benefit of WWI soldiers. The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to "a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguishes himself or herself, by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor; while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing or foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against opposing Armed Forces in which the United States is not a belligerent party." The "act, or acts, of heroism must have been so notable, and involved risk of life so extraordinary, as to set the individual apart from his or her comrades."

Hawk Hill Photo Book

Photos by Bob Rudolph
Text by Gary L. Noller

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade "Chargers" activated at Ft. Devins, MA in September 1965. The brigade expected to be shipped to the Dominican Republic but was sent to Vietnam instead. The brigade departed the United States on transport ships on July 15, 1966 and arrived as a separate brigade at Tay Ninh City on August 14, 1966. In April 1967 the brigade moved north to become part of Task Force Oregon. In October 1967 Task Force Oregon transformed into the Americal Division (23rd Infantry Division). The 196th LIB was assigned to the Americal Division as one of the division's three infantry brigades.

The 196th LIB headquartered at Hawk Hill. Hawk Hill was also known as Hill 29 and was located seven miles north of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province. The base was west of Highway 1 at grid coordinates BT231315. LZ Baldy was to the north of Hawk Hill and the South China Sea was a short distance to the east.

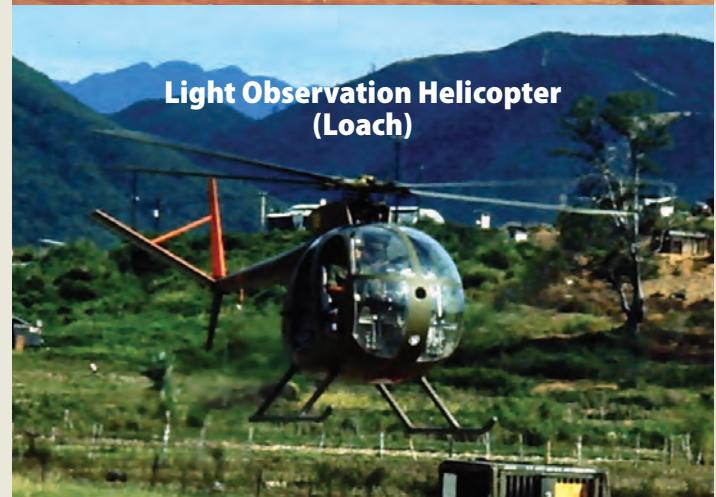
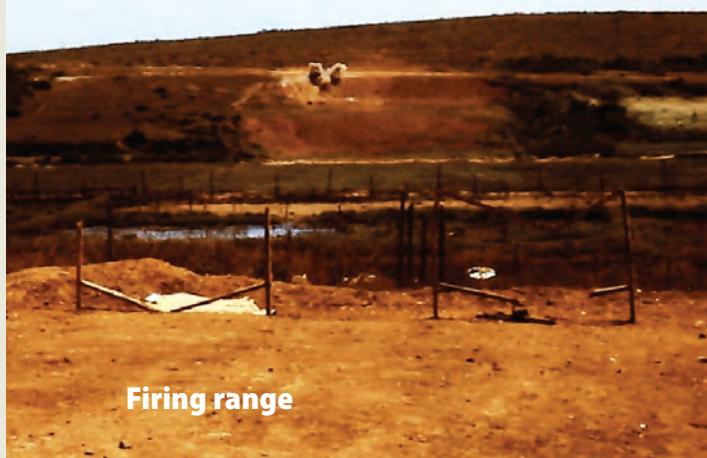
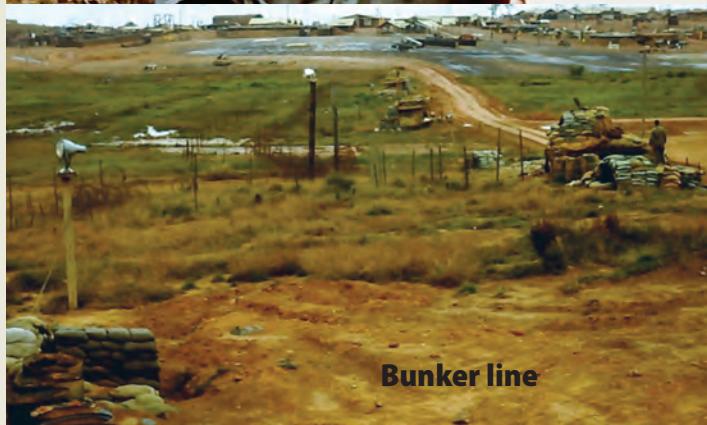
There is evidence to suggest that Hawk Hill was once known as Blackhawk Hill. The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment (1/1st Cavalry "Blackhawks") headquartered at Hill 29 after their arrival in Vietnam in August 1967. I have a memory of the name Black Hawk Hill being shortened to Hawk Hill but I am not able to find a resource for this contention.

In April 1971 the 196th LIB moved to DaNang to secure areas formerly protected by the 1st Marine Division. In November 1971 the Americal Division was deactivated and the 196th LIB was once again a separate brigade. Elements of the Chargers remained in Vietnam until June 1972 and were the last combat infantry units to leave the country.

Beginning in November 1970 I regularly communicated with radio operators at Hawk Hill. I sent messages from the 1/46th Infantry Tactical Operations Center (TOC) located at FSB Mary Ann. I left Mary Ann in late April 1971 bound for Chu Lai and processing to go home. But the chopper diverted to Hawk Hill to pick up more troops. Our two-minute touchdown at the helipad at Hawk Hill ended up being my one and only time at brigade headquarters.

1LT Robert Rudolph served as a platoon leader in 1/46th Infantry in 1970-71. His photographs provide a look at Hawk Hill in April 1971.





In Memoriam

Colonel Charles P. Murray, Jr.

By Congressional Medal of Honor Society

August 12, 2011

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society announces that Colonel Charles P. Murray, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient, passed away Friday, August 12, 2011 in Columbia, South Carolina at age 90.

Charles received his Medal of Honor in Salzburg, Austria, presented by Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, Commanding Gen. U.S. II Corps, on July 5, 1945.

He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy by commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kaysersberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory, Murray fired from an exposed position, disorganizing the enemy ranks and forcing their withdrawal. He then moved with his patrol to secure possession of a bridge and construction of a roadblock, capturing enemy troops while sustaining injuries.

Charles Murray is survived by his wife Anne and many other family members. Funeral services are pending. There are 84 recipients alive today.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Colonel Murray was the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Executive Officer in 1965 and 1966 and the holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The 196th LIB saw action in Vietnam from 1966/67.

He is a Graduate of the University of North Carolina and George Washington University, where he was awarded a M. A. Degree in International Affairs. The Colonel is also a graduate of the Army Infantry School, Fort Benning Ga., The Canadian Army Staff College and the National War College.

His significant peacetime assignments include Chief of the Planning Branch, Plans Division G-4, for the Eight Army in Korea; Executive Officer and Deputy Commander for the 1st. Battle Group, 3rd Infantry, at Fort Myer, Virginia and Personnel Staff Officer for both the Policy Branch and Procurement Division, Officer of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.

The Brigade's only Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel Murray received this country's highest decoration for outstanding heroism near Kaysersberg, France.

During the eight-month period from October 1944 to May 1945, the then 1st Lieutenant Murray also received the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with first Oak Leaf Cluster and French Croix de Guerre with Silver Gilt Star for Valor.

First Lieutenant Murray's official Medal of Honor citation reads:



For commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kaysersberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory. Descending into a valley beneath hilltop positions held by our troops, he observed a force of 200 Germans pouring deadly mortar, bazooka, machinegun, and small arms fire into an American battalion occupying the crest of the ridge. The enemy's position in a sunken road, though hidden from the ridge, was open to a flank attack by 1st Lt. Murray's patrol but he hesitated to commit so small a force to battle with the superior and strongly disposed enemy. Crawling out ahead of his troops to a vantage point, he called by radio for artillery fire. His shells bracketed the German force, but when he was about to correct the range his radio went dead. He returned to his patrol, secured grenades and a rifle to launch them and went back to his self-appointed outpost. His first shots disclosed his position; the enemy directed heavy fire against him as he methodically fired his missiles into the narrow defile. Again he returned to his patrol. With an automatic rifle and ammunition, he once more moved to his exposed position. Burst after burst he fired into the enemy, killing 20, wounding many others, and completely disorganizing its ranks, which began to withdraw. He prevented the removal of three German mortars by knocking out a truck. By that time a mortar had been brought to his support. 1st Lt. Murray directed fire of this weapon, causing further casualties and confusion in the German ranks. Calling on his patrol to follow, he then moved out toward his original objective, possession of a bridge and construction of a roadblock. He captured ten Germans in foxholes. An eleventh, while pretending to surrender, threw a grenade which knocked him to the ground, inflicting eight wounds. Though suffering and bleeding profusely, he refused to return to the rear until he had chosen the spot for the block and had seen his men correctly deployed. By his single-handed attack on an overwhelming force and by his intrepid and heroic fighting, 1st Lt. Murray stopped a counterattack, established an advance position against formidable odds, and provided an inspiring example for the men of his command.

Landing Zone Unknown

Do you know where this place was?
By Bob Brantley

I was in Vietnam in 1968-1969 stationed in Chu Lai and attached to the Special Security Division (SSD). We supplied briefings regarding enemy troop movements to the American Division commanding general.

On one occasion I accompanied our executive officer, CPT John Shay, to a remote landing zone. We briefed the commander of that outpost about heavy enemy movement in his area.

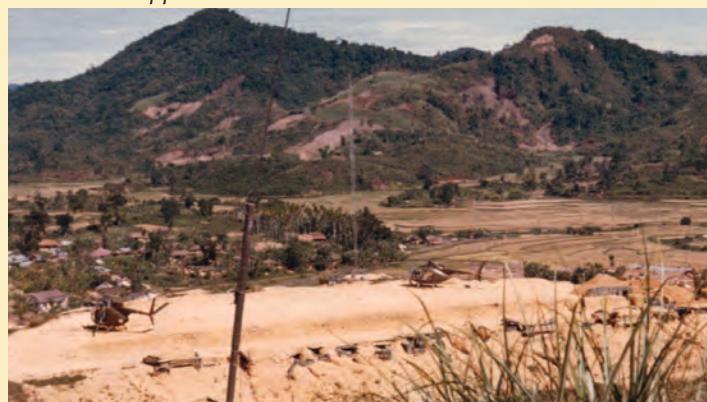
I was able to take three photographs of the outpost. One was from the air and two were taken while on the ground. I do not know the name of this base or its location. Perhaps someone can contact me and provide the unknown information.

One of the photos shows two helicopters on the landing zone (LZ). We flew to the base on the helicopter on the right.

The aerial photo shows two hilltops connected by a small walkway. The walkway led to a large dug-out area that when opened-up formed a trench to prevent the enemy from approaching from that direction.

In the third photo is an old cannon aimed at one of the valleys the base camp straddled. On the bottom left of this photo one can see a little girl sitting down. I remember that at the time ARVN soldiers were living inside the wire. The ARVN soldiers had their families living on the nearby hillside.

Anyone with information on this camp may write to me at 3920 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA, 93292. Any details about this location are appreciated.



Found Photo: Zuma Hospital, Japan

Jan A. "Duster" Heath



I cleaned my closet and found one of the two 'Nam related photos of me. It was taken at Zama Hospital, Japan in Summer 1968. I was in the hospital for five weeks for surgical hernia repair before coming back to the United States.

See Jan's story on pages 33-34 in the Jul-Aug-Sep 2011 issue of the American Journal. The photo came in after the deadline for that issue. -editor-

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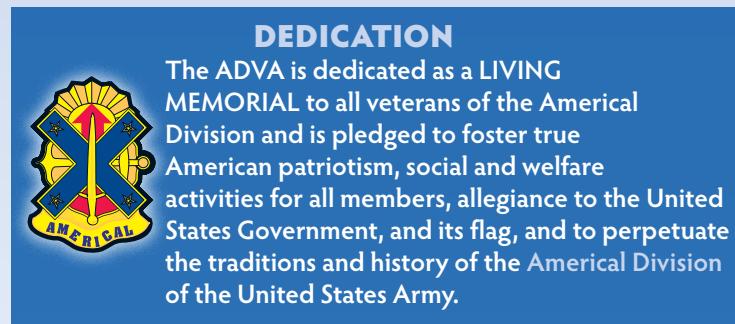
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