

October • November • December **2014**



AMERICAL

JOURNAL

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



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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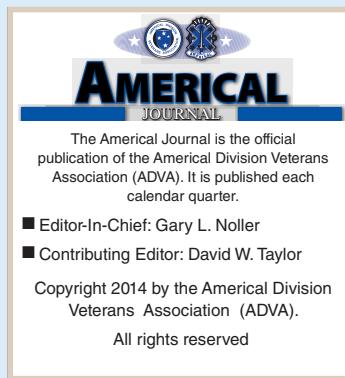


Cover: Battleship USS Texas

One of the many highlights for the 2014 ADVA reunion in Houston was the tour of this historic naval ship which saw action in WWI & WWII

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Americal Division Veterans Association

Annual Reunion

October 28-November 1, 2015

Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel

Norfolk, Virginia

Location

Norfolk Virginia, located at the core of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area, is considered to be the historic, urban, financial, and cultural center of the region. It is a 400 year old scenic waterfront city with 144 miles of shoreline, a thriving port, famous historic sites, and a moderate climate. The area was voted the second happiest of metropolitan areas with a population greater than 1 million in the United States, and the folks are outgoing and welcoming. Check it out at the web site www.visitnorfolktoday.com

Facility

We have selected the best place to stay in downtown Norfolk, next to the waterfront and featuring free covered parking, with in and out privileges all day. The Norfolk Waterside Marriott is located at 235 E. Main St., Norfolk, VA, 23510-1668. The hotel will complete a great top-to-bottom renovation in the next few months. We have been given all the convention meeting facilities on the hotel's 4th floor, which is a great reunion setup with a very large hospitality room, several meeting rooms, and room for our PX store all in one place. The reunion guestroom rate is \$109 plus tax per night, with a special rate of \$129 a night if you elect Concierge Level. Please ask for the Americal Division Veterans group rate. Reunion guests must make their own room reservations at 800-228-9290 or 757-627-4200. The reunion dates are October 28th thru November 1st, 2015, but you can get the reunion rate three days prior and three days after the reunion based on the hotel's availability. Book early! It is difficult to get hotels to block sufficient rooms for our reunions but if you book early we can usually get the room block increased to meet demands. Follow the hotel rules on any room cancellations.

Things to Do

Within two blocks of the Norfolk Waterside Marriott are: the MacArthur Memorial, with Americal Division WWII items on display at the time of our reunion; the departure point for our two hour tour on the Spirit of Norfolk cruise ship; the Hampton Roads Naval museum and the Battleship Wisconsin; the MacArthur Center with 140 unique and extraordinary stores providing shopping discounts for ADVA reunion guests; the Norfolk Virginia Armed Forces Memorial in the adjacent Town Point Park; and the MacArthur Square light-rail Station. Also within walking distance, or by free city shuttles, are the Chrysler Museum of Art and Glass Studio, the Chrysler Hall Performing Arts Center, and dozens of chef-owned restaurants offering affordable fine dining.

Tours Being Planned

The Reunion Planning Committee is coordinating with a number of venues, including: a two hour tour on the Spirit of Norfolk cruise ship with buffet, entertainment and harbor sites including the largest Navy base in the world, Naval Station Norfolk; a tour to Ft Eustis to see the Army Transportation Corp's Museum and Army Watercraft; and an introductory tour of Colonial Williamsburg and other historic sites.

Transportation

Norfolk International Airport (ORF) is six miles from downtown Norfolk and the city of Norfolk is coordinating free shuttle service for the ADVA reunion guests. American, Delta, Southwest, United and US Airways offer convenient daily access (Southwest travel must be booked on Southwest.com). Folks in the Northeast can save 90 miles of driving using the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel vs I-95 and I-64. There is also new Amtrak service to the Harbor Park Station (NFK) in Norfolk, near the reunion hotel.

ADVA Activities

Arrangements will be made to hold the ADVA Executive Council meeting and the General Membership meeting on Saturday morning. Other committee meetings will be scheduled as requested. Specific information on these meetings will be provided at the reunion.

AFR - Event Registration

The 2015 ADVA National Reunion has retained the services of Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) for assistance in planning and operating the reunion. AFR states, "Every single event planned by AFR in the past 26 years has a common thread: the U.S. Military, whether a reunion for retirees or a conference for reservists or active duty. We have planned countless reunions for WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans' associations." AFR will accept your reservations for reunion registrations, tours, and banquets. One benefit of using AFR for reunion event registration is that you will be able to pay for your fees with a credit card. AFR will also provide for designated seating at the Saturday evening banquet. When you come to the 2015 reunion and wish to be seated as a member of a group **please be prepared to have the names of your group ready for submission**. More information on how to register through AFR will be in the next issue of the Americal Journal magazine and will soon be available on the americal.org website.

Chairman

Larry Swank is chairman of the 2015 ADVA National Reunion. He may be reached by e-mail at lswank@aol.com or by telephone at 301.892.0855.

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore

New member additions to the ADVA roster for this reporting period took a big jump due to new member signing up at the ADVA annual reunion in Houston, Texas this past September. We added twenty-two brand new members who paid the additional \$15.00 with reunion registration for a one year ADVA membership. Three reunion attendees paying the \$15.00 were former members who are reinstated to ADVA membership. Normal new member additions, however, are down significantly for this reporting period. Excluding new and reinstated members picked up as Houston reunion additions, we added only fourteen new members.

Members Thomas Ondo, Allen F. Wilson, Ross Carlson, Robert Wolf and PNC David W. Taylor sponsored Americal Division veterans for ADVA membership this reporting period. All new members listed as sponsored by PNC Ronald R. Ellis are Houston reunion sign ups.

Several current annual pay members took the opportunity to step up to life membership in the association during this reporting period. We added twenty-one new life members; six Americal Division veterans joined the ADVA as life members and fifteen annual pay members upgraded to life member status.

Eight former members mailed in dues payments for reinstatement to the association during this reporting period. Three of these reinstated members paid their dues as part of the Houston reunion registration.

The Taps section of the adjutant notes is our way to remember those of our brothers who have passed on recently. Any reader of this publication who knows of the passing of an Americal Division veteran or ADVA member please let me know as soon as possible so the deceased name can be added to the Taps list. On a personal note, I am saddened to learn of the recent passing of long time ADVA member and WWII veteran Domenic Panteleo. In 2008, it was my honor to provide Domenic a ride from his home in Ocala, Florida to Jacksonville so he could attend the ADVA reunion there. I know it was an event he truly enjoyed.

Please take a moment to look at the address box on the back cover of this issue,. Above your name there is a character string that designates your membership status. If you are an annual pay member, your dues renewal date is listed by the first three letters of the month then the last two digits of the renewal year. If that date is earlier than Jan15, your dues need to be mailed as soon as possible. Help the association stay financially healthy by sending your dues payment to PNC Ronald Ellis, the Assistant Finance Officer. Ronald's mailing address is listed on the back cover of this issue.

If you believe your dues renewal date is incorrect, please contact me with information regarding the correct dues renewal date. I will research the membership payment records and advise you of my findings.

You can contact me by telephone or email to give me an address change, or notify me of a member's (or Americal Division veteran) death. My contact information is listed in the directory section of this issue. Any correspondence regarding address changes, membership status or death of a member or Americal Division veteran should be addressed to the post office box in Richardson, Texas. That address is listed on the back cover. You can also fax me your address change or any other membership changes to this telephone number: 972-412-0089.

ADVA MEMBERSHIP

31 October 2014

World War II	418
Vietnam	2,510
Cold War	8
Associate Members:	214
Total Members	3,150

New Members

Jim Adams
B/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Stongsville, OH
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Thomas M. Allen
A/5/46th Inf Rgmt
Mt. Pleasant, IA
★ Allen F. Wilson

Richard L. Auman, Jr.
Division Band
Latrobe, PA
★ Thomas Ondo

Robert Baldwin
C/1/52nd Inf Rgmt
Labadieville, LA
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

John Brayley
B/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Independence, MO
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Eddie Brown
A/5/46th Inf Rgmt
Duchesne, UT
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Clay Bryant
295th Ordinance Co
York, NE
★ PNC David W. Taylor

Robert T. Connors
D/1/52nd Inf Rgmt
Blasdell, NY
★ Ross Carlson

Richard C. Drum
E/1/46th Inf Rgmt
La Place, LA
★ Self

Al Gaidys
1st /1st Cav C Trp
Porter, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Joaquin Garcia
B/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Brownsville, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Jose Garza
A/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Somerset, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Dale Gaugler
B/2/1st Inf Rgmt
Wichita, KS
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Terry Gibson
C/2/1st Inf Rgmt
Highland, KS
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Edwin C. Helwig
26th Engrs Co D
Mt. Pleasant, MI
★ Self

Robert Herr
B/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Plano, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Joe Hines
1/52nd Inf Rgmt
Kingston Springs, TN
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Ted Kelly
B/2/1st Inf Rgmt
Buena Vista, CO
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Carl J. Koppeis
D/5/46th Inf Rgmt
Metarie, LA
★ Self

Jack B. Krohn
A/3/21st Inf Rgmt
Houston, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Jose Lara
C/4/3rd Inf Rgmt
Laredo, Tx
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Scott Longhurst
198th LIB
Pleasant View, UT
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Leonard Porter
No Unit Given
Saint Anne, IL
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Mike Shinn
4/3rd Inf Rgmt
Redwood City, CA
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

William Sullivan
C/5/46th Inf Rgmt
Saint Peters, MO
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Dwight Sypolt
B/2/1st Inf Rgmt
Naples, FL
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Rickey L. Thornton
5/46th Inf Rgmt
N. Richland Hills, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

John D. Young
23rd MP Co
Ford City, PA
★ PNC Dutch DeGroot

David Zuckerman
3/1st Inf Rgmt
Sierra Vista, AZ
★ Self

New Paid Life Members
Samuel L. Cox
23rd Admin Co HHC
Lumberton, NC
★ Self

Richard J. Frain
A/4/31st Inf Rgmt
Tarpon Springs, FL
★ Self

Robert Harris
C/4/3rd Inf Rgmt
New Albany, IN
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Jerry A. Neitz
B/2/1st Inf Rgmt
Bend, OR
★ Self

Carl N. Roegner
A/5/46th Inf Rgmt
Bonham, TX
★ Robert Wolf

Thomas F. Schmitz
1/46th Inf Rgmt
Oneida, NY
★ Self

James B. Adams, Jr.
Div HDQ R&V
Elberton, GA
★ James Lewellen

Odon Bocanegra, Jr.
2/1st Inf Rgmt
Alamo, TX
★ Self

Randolph Bordner
D/1/6th Inf Rgmt
Lees Summit, MO
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Thomas N. Caldwell
B/1/6th Inf Rgmt
Burlington, WV
★ Self

Jerry L. Cochran
196th LIB
Anna, IL
★ Jesse Mendoza

George Dingledy
164th Inf Rgmt HHC
Indianapolis, IN
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Ronald F. Dobiesz
B/1/6th Inf Rgmt
N. Tonawanda, NY
★ David Eichhorn

Keith Jackson
A/3/21st Inf Rgmt
Dallas, TX
★ Self

Doss Kornegay
E/2/1st Inf Rgmt (Rcn)
Harlingen, TX
★ Self

Wayne Lehman
1/52nd Inf Rgmt
Owasso, OK
★ Rich Merlin

James C. Newcomb, Jr.
C/4/21st Inf Rgmt
Cambridge, MD
★ Bob Kapp

Michael J. O'Dea
182nd Inf Rgmt Co G
Naples, FL
★ Self

Lawrence Shover
26th Engrs Co E
Mexico, ME
★ Self

Jack Tonkin
B/1/52nd Inf Rgmt
Humble, TX
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

George Yancich
A/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Jefferson, LA
★ PNC Ronald R. Ellis

Re-instated Members

Joseph M. Coyle
23rd Admin Co
Washington, DC
★ Self

Robert D. Hull
Div Arty
Grant City, MO
★ PNC Rollie Castranova

Dennis R. Longo, Sr.
9th Spt Bn Co B
Gilmanton, NH
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Ron Lorance
11th LIB
Phoenix, AZ
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Ruben A. Martinez
E/1/6th Inf Rgmt
Las Cruces, NM
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Jerome D. Meyer
A/1/6th Inf Rgmt
San Leandro, CA
★ Dave Hammond

Dave Tuchek
E/1/46th Inf Rgmt
Tucson, AZ
★ Don Ballou

Emilio Weaver
A/1/20th Inf Rgmt
Lyford, TX
★ NC David Chrystal

New Associate Members

Heather Corace
Naples, FL
★ PNC David W. Taylor

TAPS

World War II Veterans
Harold Bender
HDQ Med Det
Woodland Park, NJ
August 16, 2014

Thomas P. Bowlus
Unit Unknown
Pemberville, OH
July 11, 2014

Leo F. Buck *
132nd Inf Rgmt
Bourbonnais, IL
January 16, 2014

Dorsey Daniel *
247th FA
Staunton, VA
April 26, 2007

Albert W. Hart, Jr. *
101st QM Corps
Billerica, MA
May 20, 2011

James Inzerillo *
132nd Inf Rgmt
Scarsdale, NY
July 21, 2014

Paul Labounty *
182nd Inf Rgmt Co L
S. Jordan, UT
Date Unknown

Forest D. Laughlin
221st FA
Olathe, KS
September 24, 2014

Joseph G. Myers *
182nd Inf Rgmt Co B
Watsonville, CA
July 24, 2014

Domenic Pantaleo *
101st Med Det
Kennebunk, ME
October 18, 2014

Rocco A. Solto *
132nd Inf Rgmt
Roselle, IL
November 22, 2014

Vietnam Veterans
Richard Glazier
C/4/3rd Inf Rgmt
Bay City, MI
September 2014

Kurt F. Paur
Unit Unknown
Fort Worth, TX
September 4, 2014

ADVA Member *

Americal Legacy Foundation Report

By Roger Gilmore, President

As reported in the third quarter 2014 edition of the Americal Journal, the Americal Legacy Foundation is now a separate organization. It will continue future Americal legacy projects and memorialization efforts as well as the Americal scholarship program. The Americal Legacy Foundation is a public charity and is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

At the ADVA national reunion in September 2014, the Americal Legacy Foundation presented proposals for approval by the ADVA Executive Council to transition the financial operations of Americal Legacy program to the new foundation. Those proposals included moving legacy funds from control of ADVA to the foundation and bring the ADVA Scholarship program under the operating control of the foundation. After some discussion regarding the merits of these proposals, the Executive Council members in attendance voted overwhelmingly to approve the proposals.

Foundation directors met during the Houston reunion to discuss transition planning. Major transition points discussed and approved were opening the new Americal Legacy Foundation bank account, and creation of a unique foundation logo and web site. In addition, the directors elected two new directors to serve on the foundation board.

Mr. Spencer Baba and Mr. Bill Bruinsma were elected as directors. Spencer has agreed to serve as the foundation treasurer, and Bill will continue his role as Scholarship Program chairman.

Foundation by laws allows advisors to be appointed to serve a term of one year. At the directors' meeting, ADVA National Commander David Chrystal, Sr. and ADVA Senior Vice Commander Robert Cudworth were appointed as advisors for the coming fiscal year. We have also appointed a Historical Advisor, Mr. David Colamaria. Mr. Colamaria is a professional historian, working for the Department of the U.S. Navy. His grandfather served with the 182nd Regiment of the Americal in WWII. We feel David's expertise will be a great asset to the foundation.

The Americal Legacy Foundation now moves forward with planning for fund raising and grant requests to continue Americal monument building programs, other historical initiatives and the scholarship program for education grants to deserving applicants.

Americal Monument at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

We were advised in early September 2014 that the Fort Sill post commanding general and his staff approved our Americal artillery monument site plan and design.

The next step in the approval process is review and approval by the Fort Sill Department of Public Works and Master Planning Department. Those plans were submitted to these departments in early October. As of the writing of this article, these plans are still under review.

Once the review is complete and approved, we write to the

Fort Sill Post Commanding General gifting the monument to the post. The monument gifting must be approved by both the post commanding general and the Department of the Army before any work can commence on the monument.

Americal Division Monument Project – Cebu, Philippines

Construction of the Americal Division monument at Cebu was completed in early October. This site is a great tribute to the Americal Division and its Pacific Theater campaigns during World War II. The site commemorates the surrender of the Japanese Army in Cebu to the Americal Division in August 1945.

VFW Post Number 12130 in Cebu is rightly proud of this accomplishment, as are we the Americal Legacy Foundation.

Plans for the dedication ceremony are late March 2015. More information in this issue on the dedication ceremony can be found in the article by WWII Historian David Taylor.



Front of Americal Division Monument in Cebu

Americal Monument At the National Infantry Museum - Update

The second quarter 2014 Americal Journal contained an article about Americal Division veteran Donald P. Sloat being posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal Of Honor. This award was presented to Donald Sloat's family at a White House ceremony on September 14, 2014.

Plans are now being made to have Donald Sloat's name, Americal unit, and incident information added to the Medal of Honor pedestal at the Americal Division monument near the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia.

The work contract has been signed and the sand blasting work is expected to begin at the end of November.

Once the engraving work is complete, a dedication ceremony at the Walk of Honor honoring Sloat will be planned. More details on the dedication date and time will be in a future issue of this publication.

Return to Cebu – March 2015

By David W. Taylor

We have a unique opportunity to place a monument in Cebu, the Philippines, on the exact spot where the Japanese Army surrendered to the American Division on August 28, 1945. The property is owned by Mrs. Esusebia Ycot, who was a five-year old eyewitness to the surrender Mrs. Ycot has deeded a portion of the property for the monument.

Our trip to Cebu will include three days of touring the island, led by Professor Jobers Bersales of the University of Cebu, an expert on the WWII occupation by Japanese forces and their battles with the American.

Currently about seven to ten individuals are planning to fly to Cebu for this week of reliving American history on Cebu. This may include Colonel (retired) Joseph Arnold, son of Major General William Arnold who accepted the surrender from the Japanese Army, or possibly the grandson of General Arnold. This article will inform those who wish to join us. Unfortunately we cannot arrange for a group tour. If interested here is the information you will need to know.

Itinerary

Plan to arrive in Cebu, the Philippines on Saturday, March 21. This will give you Saturday and Sunday to recover from your long flight (The Philippines are 12 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time). It is generally a 16-hour flight from Los Angeles to Manila. You arrive two days later Philippine time. Then you will catch a feeder flight from Manila to Cebu City (1 hour, 15 minute flight).

Our headquarters hotel will be the Cebu Parklane International, corner of Archbishop Reyes Ave. and Escario St. Phone: 63(32) 4117000 or website: www.parklanehotel.com.ph. You may try to get reservations through any discount travel site such as expedia. etc. The hotel is recommended by our American friends who live in Cebu City and are members of the VFW post there, who have provided assistance with the monument. The hotel location provides easy departure each day to our tour sites without going through heavy Cebu City traffic. The Parklane is located across the city's largest mall for shopping and dining. Expect to pay between \$70-\$75/day (US) plus taxes. If you stay at a less expensive hotel, you will be responsible for getting to the Parklane on time each morning to go on the tours.

Monday-March 23

Tour Cebu City WWII sites including former Japanese headquarters and prisoner cells, Japanese defensive sites, tunnels and an extensive tour of Babag Ridge overlooking Cebu City, site of heavy and continuous fighting. Dinner at Chateau de Busay (*Babag Ridge overlooking the city*)

Tuesday-March 24

Travel to Toledo City (western side of Cebu island) to view Japanese tank barriers, pillboxes etc., return to Cebu City for tour of Go Chan Hill (Japanese munitions which blew up, destroying a company of American soldiers), Camp Lapulapu and Sudlon, tour of the old Lahug Airport, also scene of heavy fighting; Dinner at the former airport.

Wednesday-March 25

Travel to Liloan, the former Japanese Naval Base; Cebu City to visit Rizal Memorial Library-former Headquarters of the Japanese Imperial Forces, lunch, tour of Cebu College (Japanese prisoner site), University of San Carlos (USC) former Japanese garrison and inauguration of WWII exhibit with dinner courtesy of USC museum.

Thursday-March 26

American landing ceremony (morning) and WWII photo exhibit with Cebu Mayor (afternoon)

Friday-March 27

Surrender monument ceremony (*approximately three hour's north of Cebu City*); We finish the day in Cebu City with a farewell dinner for the group

Saturday-March 28

Depart from Cebu City if you wish. You may plan to spend time in Manila to visit the defenses of Corregidor (highly recommended). The American Cemetery in Manila also contains the remains of some American soldiers and headstones of American soldier's missing-in-action.

Due Diligence

If you plan to join us please let me know after you have made all arrangements so I know how many people we will have for the tours. I recommend flying Philippines Airlines from Los Angeles to Manila as it will be less hassle getting your connecting flight on Philippines Express to Cebu City. It is up to you. Be sure to allow enough time to connect between flights. My flight costs are \$1,451 for international flights and \$683 to/from Cleveland, Ohio to Los Angeles and back for a total of \$2,164. Your costs will depend on your planning skills. Get Philippine Pesos at the Los Angeles Airport (current exchange rate is about 44.84 Philippine Pesos to 1 US dollar). You'll need them for cabs in Cebu City from the airport to the hotel, tipping, etc.

We will have our American friends in Cebu City rent vans for our tours. Plan to chip in monies to pay for the vans and some tipping for Professor Bersales' time in giving the tours. Meal cost should be very moderate while on Cebu, \$5-15 US for each meal (Exception will be Monday night at the Chateau de Busay overlooking Cebu City – plan on about \$35 for that meal and experience). Philippine electrical outlets are the standard 2-prong type but they are 220 volt. So bring an adapter.

Cebu, the Philippines is extremely hot and humid in March. If you have physical limitations, you should consider not coming. We will be walking over some rough terrain for part of the tours, particularly Babag Ridge.

Be sure your passport is current. It is highly recommended you check the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for traveling precautions. Since we will be traveling to the interior things like malaria and Japanese encephalitis is a concern. Access www.cdc.gov, go to "vaccines and immunizations", click on "vaccines for travelers", select destination as the Philippines, select "mission/disaster relief" as your reason for travel (since you will be walking in the interior of Cebu island), then look at "All Travelers Requirements", and click on the additional topics of "Stay Healthy and Safe", "Healthy Travel Packing List", "Travel Health Notices", and "After Your Trip". Then consult with your doctor or your county health department with their recommendations. Don't wait until the last minute, some shots and pills may be required a month or more in advance of your travel

Shorts are very much accepted with t-shirts for daily tours (do not wear shorts into a church). Be sure to bring a wide-brim hat and sun screen. Plan to bring a couple pair of light weight slacks and collared shirts for more formal visits to the Cebu City sites and for the dedication ceremonies of the American beach landing and at our Japanese surrender monument ceremony.

Dave Taylor ADVA WWII Historian

330-722-7455 or dave.taylor@zoominternet.net

Americal Scholarship Program of the Americal Legacy Foundation

By William Bruinsma

The purpose of the Americal Scholarship Program of the Americal Legacy Foundation (ALF) is to provide college and vocational scholarships to the children and grandchildren, including those by adoption, of current and deceased members of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA), provided the deceased member held good standing as an ADVA member at the time of death, and to any child or adopted child of an Americal Division soldier who was killed or died while on active duty with the Division. A member of the ADVA shall be as defined in the current bylaws of the ADVA.

The Americal Scholarship Program was created in 1994 by the ADVA under the direction of Mr. Joe Chin, National Finance Officer, Mr. Peter Messina, National Judge Advocate, and Mr. Ronald Ward, Scholarship Program Chairman. The founding contribution was made by Dr. Robert Muehrcke, veteran of the 132nd Infantry Regiment. Subsequent chairmen have been Bob Short and Ron Green. The current chairman is William Bruinsma.

The Americal Scholarship Program transferred to the Americal Legacy Foundation by a vote of the ADVA Executive Council and ADVA members at the 2014 annual business meetings at the national reunion in Houston, TX. As such, the Americal Scholarship Program is under the supervision and management of the Board of Directors of the Americal Legacy Foundation. The directors have the authority to approve or deny any requests for grants and to recommend the raising and dispensing of funds. The directors receive no compensation for their service and contribute their time as unpaid volunteers.

In the first twenty years of the Americal Scholarship Program approximately \$500,000 was raised and awarded to over 600 individual scholars. Scholars may apply in more than one year and may receive awards in more than one year. Awards are for undergraduate studies and are not granted for graduate work. Awards are made payable to the educational institution on behalf of the scholar.

The number and amount of awards vary from year to year. Amounts of individual awards have been between \$500 and \$3,500 as decided by the directors. Scholarship applications are ranked by an outside committee that is blind to the relationship of the applicant to any current or former ADVA or ALF officer or director. Applicants are scored entirely on their proven eligibility to apply, the completeness of their application packages, and the quality of their submitted essays.

The funds of the Americal Scholarship Program are obtained primarily from donations and grants, gifts, devises, or bequests. All funds received must be unconditional. The major sources of income are unsolicited gifts and the annual direct-mail fund raising campaign of the Americal Division Veterans Association. Past and current gifts to the Americal Scholarship Program are used only for scholarships and associated costs and are not used for other programs by the ADVA or Americal Legacy Foundation.

Annual scholarship program expenses, mainly for printing and postal costs, are approximately \$2,500. In recent years the annual income from gifts and donations averaged approximately \$30,000. The efficiency of the Americal Scholarship Program is 90%-95% depending on the annual income received. In the immediate past years, annual contributions, investment income, and reserve funds have provided about \$35,000 per year in grants for qualified applicants.

Completed application forms together with all required enclosures must reach the Americal Scholarship Program Chairman at an address he designates no later than 1 April of each year. The application form requires the following of the applicant: name, address, marital status, date of birth, place of birth, high school attended, high school graduation date; father's name, occupation, mother's name, occupation, sponsoring ADVA member's name, dates with Americal Division, unit, and highest rank or grade; if parents are deceased, name and address of guardian; name and address of school to be attended; and applicants signature.

In addition to the above, all of the following information must be included with the **Americal Scholarship Program application:**

1. A letter from the sponsor describing the applicant's eligibility to apply, e.g., the relationship of the applicant to the ADVA member or deceased member. If sponsorship is obtained through a deceased ADVA member, the letter should be written by another family member. Include information about the sponsor's service in the Americal Division or 23rd Infantry Division. Include information about the sponsor's membership in the ADVA. The Americal Scholarship Program will verify the eligibility of applicants.
2. A Letter of Admission from the applicant's college or vocational school of choice. (Disregard if previously submitted.)
3. A letter from the applicant's high school principal attesting to the applicant's character if applicant is attending or has just graduated from high school. (If applicant is currently attending college, please disregard this requirement.)
4. A photocopy of the applicant's high school or college transcript.
5. A detailed statement of the applicant's academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, community service involvement, etc.
6. The applicant's 200-300 word essay on subjects pertaining to Loyalty to the Nation.

Application Submission

Completed application forms together with all required enclosures must be submitted to the Americal Scholarship Program Chairman by U.S. Postal Service mail at the following address, postmarked not later than **1 April of each year:**

**William Bruinsma
5425 Parmalee Road
Middleville, MI 49333**

All communication with regard to scholarships should be directed to the Scholarship Chairman, Mr. William Bruinsma, 269-795-5237, wb3379@gmail.com, or alternate contact, Mr. Gary Noller, 830-377-8115, gnoller@aol.com.

2014 Reunion Wrap-Up

By Gary L. Noller



The 2014 ADVA National Reunion in Houston, TX on September 10-14 met everyone's expectations and provided many reunion attendees the opportunity to visit the nation's fourth largest city. Houston ranks behind New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago for city population. NASA Headquarters and Galveston Island drew visitors who stayed over on Sunday to enjoy unseen sights.

Houston weather was bearable although a thunderstorm on Friday caused the power at the hotel to go out for a while. Across town, rain clouds threatened to open up on the tours to the Battleship Texas and the San Jacinto Monument but they never developed. The weather was clear and mostly mild for the trip to the George W. Bush Library at College Station, TX on Thursday.

Approximately 300 guests attended the Saturday night banquet. Ed "Tex" Stiteler, president of Vietnam Battlefield Tours, narrated a slide show of photos depicting his many trips to Vietnam. Wayne Bryant and his energetic crew were kept busy at the Americal PX and had many new items of interest for reunion guests to peruse. Wayne and his wife Gena were recognized for their many years of managing product sales by the award of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

ADVA members considered and decided several business items to include the future operation of the Legacy Program and the Americal Scholarships. Members voted in the affirmative to move these worthwhile activities to a newly formed 501(c)3 spin off aptly named the Americal Legacy Foundation. Such a move was contemplated when the Americal Scholarships were created in 1994 but the move was not made until this year.

The 2015 National Reunion will be held in Norfolk, VA under the chairmanship of PNC Larry Swank. Members discussed the 2016 National Reunion location and PNC Ronald Ellis, 2014 Reunion Chairman, stepped up once again and proposed to plan a reunion for Albuquerque, NM for 2016.

Two Americal Division veterans from World War II were in attendance. Bill Marshall of Kansas City, MO drove by himself to attend his third reunion. He previously attended reunions closer to home in St. Louis, MO and Kansas City, MO. Bill served with the 121st Med. Bn. and went on all



the Houston reunion tours. He especially enjoyed using the telephone at the President's desk in the Oval Office replica at the George W. Bush Library.

Otis and Joyce Scott, frequent reunion attendees, flew in from Amarillo, TX. Otis served with Co. I, 182nd Inf. Regt. and recently completed a book about his service with the Americal Division. More information on this work will be available in the next issue of the Americal Journal.

DeGroot Earns Accolades

By Gary L. Noller



For over ten years the Americal Journal has benefited from the talents of its Creative Director, John (Dutch) DeGroot. He assumed the responsibility of how the magazine looks to include page layout, cover design, photo enhancement, logo creation, and other duties. He also supervised the production and mailing of the magazine and updates to the americal.org website.

Dutch has decided to relinquish his role in the quarterly magazine. His final contributions will be in this issue. We will miss his creativity and dedication to the highest quality standards. Dave Taylor and I will continue to plan and compose the magazine and will seek the efforts of others in its design and production. Next time you see Dutch be sure to give him your words of appreciation. He did a great job.



Dear editor,

The April-May-June 2014 edition of the American Journal carried a story written by Editor In Chief Gary Noller about the dedication ceremony for the newly completed Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument in Austin, Texas.

This monument is not the first Texas monument honoring the 3,417 Texans killed-in-action in Vietnam. The first monument was erected in 1989 in Dallas, Texas at a site in Dallas' Fair Park. The monument was dedicated by former President George H.W. Bush. The monument also includes a pedestal to those Texans still missing in action.

The monument is a very basic design of five red granite pedestals listing the names of the KIAs alphabetically. The list includes each name's incident date. A perpetual waterfall flows behind the pedestals.

Each fall, the Texas State Fair draws over two million visitors to Fair Park. Many fair goers make it a point to come to the Vietnam Monument to find the name of a loved one or friend and honor that soldier by placing a small American flag next to the name. Many visitors come to the monument not knowing what it represents, but leave knowing it honors those Texans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Friends of Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a local group of Vietnam Veterans who were instrumental in getting the approval and funding for the memorial construction. Each fall during the Texas State Fair, volunteers from this group are on station at the memorial site to assist visitors finding names on the pedestals, provide the American flags to be placed by names and answer questions about the monument and the Vietnam War.

Photo: Friends of Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial Vice President and ADVA member Tommy Acosta honors an American Division KIA.

*Roger Gilmore
ADVA National Adjutant*

Dear editor,

On page 7 of the Jul-Aug-Sep 2014 edition of the American Journal Ellen Gause told about SGT Ray Utley in a story titled One Final Salute. I have done research for veterans over the past 30 years and there have been few incidents that directly connected me to someone. This was one of them.

In recent years I helped locate information and the men of A/5/46th for Ellen Gause. One of the incidents of interest involved Ray Utley's wounding in a mine explosion. This was part of a treacherous VC scheme using a fake Hoi Chanh that resulted in a disastrous incident for A/ 5/46th.

As I read through the information something clicked causing me to check my personal diary. I found an entry that matched the date of the incident. In the next few days I became 90% confident that I was the crew chief on the medevac that carried Ray Utley out. I was so convinced that I called Ray Utley and also talked to my former pilot about the incident. So many things matched up. I had planned to do more research on this after I retired. This is what I believe.....

I was a crew chief on a 198th Bde. commander C&C mission. We happened to be in the area when the incident occurred. Pilot Mr. Richard D. McCaig whipped in with hard precise moves. Utley was quickly laid out on our corrugated aluminum floor. We lit out to the U.S.S. Sanctuary off the coast.

There wasn't much of Ray left. He had lost his legs below the waist. When we left the hospital ship I did not feel very good about the mission. This man was so grey and busted up I never conceived that he could have survived. The only other man that I had seen with this coloration was a Vietnamese farmer who lost both his legs to a mine....and he had died. I was sure Ray Utley had died.

This is the memory that I carried all these years. In checking on this further I was shocked when Ellen Gause told me that Utley survived. He was in his seventies and a great inspiration to all who came in contact with him. I then called him and spoke to him for several minutes. I thanked him for his great service. Then I called WO Richard D. McCaig (now retired from the California Highway Patrol) who was the pilot that I believe made the difference in getting him to the ship in time. I had hoped to make a trip someday to visit Ray Utley. I am glad that he had a full life with inspiration and happiness making the best of his situation.

Les Hines ADVA Vietnam Historian

Dear editor,

My name is Marissa Goff. I would like to take the time to send a thank you for granting me the American Scholarships for the fourth year in a row! It is truly an honor. This scholarship is very much appreciated. You are all helping me accomplish every goal that I have set for myself and I could not be any more grateful.

*Thank you once again,
Marissa Goff*

Dear editor,

In one of the recent past issues of the American Journal there was a request from Basil Pederzani of C/1/6/198 asking for contact with veterans who served with him. I knew him in 1969-70 and would like to contact him. I can be reached by e-mail at judyva@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Howard Vadasz

Dear editor,

I hope all is well.

My Vietnam Medevac project is moving along quite nicely and although it's still a work in progress it has received plaudits from the right people. By the "right people" I mean from veterans who have somehow located my website at VietnamMedevac.com.

I have met with and interviewed the Medevac crew featured on CBS News back in 1971. The pilot and co-pilot had never "met" any of the men they rescued during the war. Now they have. I visited the three Americal wounded warriors who were rescued during the 1971 mission and one by one set up a "reunion" with the pilot and co-pilot. And yes, we were rolling. The results are extraordinary.

Your Americal buddy Les Hines - a good guy - provided invaluable help.

I hope you'll find time to visit the website VietnamMedevac.com and please, I'd like to hear what you think about it. In the next rewrite "Americal" will be prominently mentioned.

I'd be honored if somehow you could provide a link from your various websites to VietnamMedevac.com. I think all Americal vets would be pleased to see the project as it develops.

I hope to hear from you soon. And thanks again
Morton Dean

Mort Dean is a former CBS News correspondent and reported on the Vietnam War. Please visit his website for up to date information on his planned documentary. -Editor

Dear editor,

On November 11, 2014, we will dedicate a monument to S/Sgt. Jesse Ray Drowley at the site of his grave in Spokane, WA. Jesse is the only Americal Division soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH) in WWII. He served with Co. B, 132nd Inf. Regt. and earned the MOH on January 30, 1944 on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands of the South Pacific.

Previously, our group has dedicated 20 monuments in the Spokane area. Two of them are to Medal of Honor recipients: PFC Joe E. Mann from WWII and S/Sgt Bruce A. Grandstaff from Vietnam. We also were the grass roots starter who pushed for and was successful in getting the VA Medical center here in Spokane named the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center.

There are four MOH recipients buried in Spokane. We hope to dedicate a monument to the fourth, Amos Bradley next year. We also hope to lobby the VA to name the new physical and audiology centers on the Mann-Grandstaff hospital campus after Drowley and Bradley.

Jesse died at age 76 and is buried in Fairmont Memorial Cemetery. His sons live in the Spokane Valley and are very excited about the monument. We hope to have them, members from Fairchild Air Force Base, and if possible members from your organization take part in the dedication ceremony.

Rae Anna Victor, Historical Monuments Committee

WSSDAR Commemorative Events Chair

Jonas Babcock Regent and Historical Preservation Chair

raeannav@comcast.net

Dear editor,

I am happy to report that Roger K. Ferland, a member of the 2/1 Infantry Chapter of the ADVA, was named The 2014 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Roger received the award at the DAV national convention in August.

Roger was drafted into the U.S. Army and served as a platoon sergeant in Vietnam. He lost both legs and sustained other injuries due to an explosive device. He graduated from Duke University Law School in 1974 and specializes in environmental law. He currently lives in Phoenix, AZ.

Additional details are available on the DAV website at <http://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2014/dav-names-phoenix-area-army-veteran-the-2014-outstanding-disabled-veteran-of-the-year/>. An excellent YouTube video about Roger may be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2INkFnGJQM.

Rich Heroux

ADVA Asst. Adjutant

Dear editor,

I wish to thank you for sending me a copy of your July-August issue of the Americal Journal. This issue featured an autobiographical article by my Uncle Donald Wright, formerly a member of the 132nd Infantry on Guadalcanal.

My father, then Captain Howard Wright, commanded Company M of the third battalion. He led the patrol that was sent to recover the body of his brother, LTC William Wright, who was his battalion commander.

During his thirty-five years of dedicated service to his country, he proudly wore the Americal Division patch on his right shoulder. After the war was over, he was given command of the 335th Infantry Regiment of the Army Reserve. He proudly commanded his Regiment from 11 July 1954 until late in 1966 at which time he retired from the service. His tenure as commander of this regiment lasted for more than twelve years. This far exceeds that of any commander in the history of nation. For his service, he was awarded a certificate of appreciation. This was not one of the Army's finer moments.

The next generation of Wrights also distinguished themselves with honor. Two of William's sons served proudly. CWO 4 Bill Wright was recalled from the retired list to serve on General Norman Schwarzkopf's staff during Operation Desert Storm. The other son, Bruce Wright, retired with honors from the Naval Reserve as a full Captain. Bud's son Frank attended West Point and retired as an Air Force full Colonel. He distinguished himself during service in Vietnam as a B-52 bomber pilot. And as Howard's son, I served two tours in Vietnam commanding rifle companies. I retired after 26 years of service. The Wright family is proud of its military service to our country.

Respectfully yours,

Dale Howard Wright (MAJ, USAR, Retired)

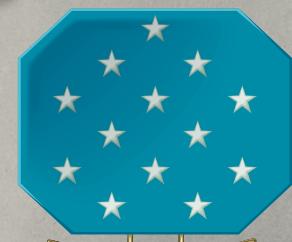




2014 REUNION



Vignettes of Valor



Excerpts from Under The Southern Cross

Edited by Dave Taylor

The Americal WWII Veterans, like their Vietnam War counterparts, fought an "up close and personal war" against their enemy. Jungle fighting called for valor at close range...often where the blink of an eye could mean the difference of life or death.

Baptism on Guadalcanal

The advance infantry elements of the Americal Division, arriving on Guadalcanal, were composed of the 164th Infantry Regiment. They were quickly introduced into fierce fighting along elements of the 1st Marine Division against fierce Japanese attacks to retake the Henderson Air Field.

The 164th Regiment's 2nd and 3rd Battalions came under heavy attack as they fought side-by-side with the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal. In particular was the fighting alongside the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, commanded by the legendary Lieutenant Colonel Chesty Puller, whose battalion stood in the direct path to the Japanese seizing Henderson Field. Puller's battalion was exhausted, understrength and required to cover a two-battalion front, because one battalion was pulled out to defend another area believed to be the main thrust of the Japanese attack. In the dead of night the newly arrived 164th soldiers filled in positions amongst the Marines, with no time to worry about unit cohesion.

During the night of October 25, 1942 the Japanese attacked with a vengeance to push through Puller's battalion and hit Henderson Field. The 1st Marine Division Commander, aware that his Marines were worn thin, told the pilots and support personnel on Henderson Field to be prepared to escape into the jungle and fight as guerrillas. Some of the fiercest fighting took place in the sectors manned by

platoons and companies of the 164th Regiment. The 164th, steeled by the hard life in the Dakota farmlands during the depression, held their ground against the fanatical enemy.

During the bitter seesaw struggle in the eerie darkness, Corporal William A. Clark, with two unidentified companions, crawled forward to recover a pair of damaged light machineguns, the crews of which had been trapped and killed. Inchng toward the enemy under heavy fire that took the lives of both his comrades, Clark reached the weapons safely but found himself some fifteen feet from the Japanese. Despite the fact that he became the target for almost direct mortar, machinegun and rifle fire, he dragged both guns back to his position, dismantled them in the darkness and, using the best parts of both, reassembled one. Hastily placing the "new" machinegun in action, Clark helped stem the tide as it began to sweep over the North Dakotans and the Marines.

By December 9, the Americal assumed control of all operations on Guadalcanal and the exhausted 1st Marine Division departed for a well-deserved rest. But there was much more fighting to come.

On January 2, 1943, for example, the 132nd Infantry Regiment began the assault to take a series of heavily defended hills in dense terrain, including Hills 31 and 27. The 1st Battalion advanced in columns to take Hill 31. When it reached some determined resistance, Company C was assigned to take care of the enemy positions while the remainder of the battalion pressed on.

Private Nathan Greese, a soldier from Chicago, did his best to help his platoon grind out a short gain during the day's action on Hill 31. When fire from a well-concealed pillbox pinned down his unit,

Greese crawled forward into the open to attack the position single-handed. Killing five of the enemy with his accurate rifle fire enroute to the target, the young soldier finally reached the emplacement. Thrusting several hand grenades into the opening, Greese succeeded in killing the occupants of the position and in destroying the troublesome pillbox. His mission accomplished, Greese rejoined his platoon and settled back to an afternoon of more routine fighting.

The 2nd Battalion moved up the steep slopes of Hill 27 to accomplish their objective. They reached the summit of the hill and began digging in. When the Japanese discovered the battalion had taken the hill, they launched several counterattacks on the night of January 2nd. The 1st and 3rd Battalions also went on the offensive once again on the morning of January 3. During the day's fighting PFC Glenn Vosburgh of Sycamore, Illinois, three times exposed himself to Japanese small-arms fire and mortar fire to rescue members of his platoon who lay wounded in beaten zones of enemy automatic weapons. As he returned to his position after his last daring rescue mission the Japanese swung their fire to an adjacent unit. Vosburgh, sensing the seriousness of the situation, quickly removed his machinegun from its tripod, leaped up from his position, and, firing the weapon from the hip, spread accurate automatic fire among the trees and ridges to his front. Vosburgh's bold and aggressive action quickly silenced the enemy machineguns and subsequently enabled his own platoon to gain vitally needed ground at substantially less cost.

During the divisions heavy fighting in mid-January the 182nd suffered numerous casualties in its attempts to reduce Japanese resistance in its sector. Heroic rescues of the wounded under fire became almost commonplace, but one act of bravery by First Sergeant James J. Gaffney of Lowell, Massachusetts, was among the most noteworthy of the period. In the midst of a heavy downpour of enemy mortar fire Gaffney sprinted some two hundred yards through the impact area to rescue an officer who proved later to have been fatally wounded. After

Americal Staff Sergeant Jesse R. Drowley of Luzerne, Michigan was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions on Bougainville, by President Roosevelt in Roosevelt's office. Roosevelt noted that the action which Drowley earned the medal occurred on January 30, 1944, the president's birthday.



Major General Robert B. McClure (left), Commanding General of the Americal Division, congratulates Pvt. Clarence E. Rudick, from Helleman, Arkansas, after awarding him with the Soldiers Medal, on New Caledonia, 1944.

returning to his position and leaving the officer to be treated by aid men, the sergeant sprinted back through the barrage to reestablish disrupted wire communications, thereby allowing operations against the Japanese to continue in full force.

Bougainville – Island Hell

Christmas morning, 1943 saw the lead elements of the Americal Division land on the island of Bougainville to join the Army's 37th Division in relief of the 3rd Marine Division which had established a beachhead on the island. In short order security patrols were sent forward of the lines of defense to look for signs of the enemy while improvements were made to the Army's interior lines. It wasn't long before heavy fighting commenced between the Americal and enemy forces. On January 29 plans were made for an all-out attack eastward from the 132nd Regiments' extended bridgehead across the mouth of the Torokina River.

The operation would include the first use of Army tanks in the Solomon Islands as the 754th Tank battalion attached a numbered of its armored vehicles to the 132nd to make the assault. In its assignment as part of the assault, Company C of the 132nd was

given instructions to clear out an area three hundred yards square to the east of the bridgehead lines.

The company's line of advance was to strike along the beach and turn inland to the edge of the jungle. In the tall grass and heavy undergrowth the enemy had constructed positions on dry soil varying in depth from forty to four hundred yards inland to the fringe of a broad morass which precluded flanking the enemy positions from the north. A frontal attack was the only means available as a solution to the difficult problem of reducing these positions.

At 8:30AM on January 30, in the wake of tremendous artillery and mortar preparation fire, riflemen of Company C and the tanks crossed the line of departure. Determined enemy resistance stalled the advance and intense machinegun fire and enemy mortars inflicted serious casualties on the company. The tanks, buttoned up for protection against small arms fire were unable to locate the trouble spots to the left and right.

One soldier from Company B, Staff Sergeant Jesse Drowley, had been placed in charge of one section of soldiers to hold the perimeter and to act as a reserve group leader if required. As he watched the attack develop before his eyes, he saw three

men of Company C fall not far from his position. The heavy hostile fire kept aid men from reaching the wounded.

Sensing that these men might die without immediate medical attention, Drowley dashed out under heavy fire and quickly dragged two of them to safety and succeeded in getting help for the third. While near the stricken men Drowley discovered the location of a pair of enemy pillboxes which had been holding up Company C's attacks. Leaving one of his men to take the last wounded man to shelter, Sergeant Drowley now took it upon himself a new and more dangerous task.

Racing out across the terrain in full view of the enemy, he reached one of the tanks and attracted the attention of its crew by signaling. Vaulting to the top of the tank, he talked to the tank commander through the hatch, telling him that he (Drowley) could direct the armored vehicle to the two enemy positions. Remaining exposed on top of the tank, Drowley exchanged his weapon for a sub-machinegun loaded with tracer ammunition which the crew in the buttoned up tank could readily follow.

As the tank waddled across the sands toward the Japanese emplacements, heavy bursts of enemy machinegun fire and rifle fire slammed around his sides. Round after round caromed and ricocheted off the turret behind which the sergeant crouched. By voice and by tracer fire, he directed the tank to within twenty feet of the first pillbox before the crew could see the position. In the furious exchange of fire which followed, Drowley suffered a severe chest wound.

Stubbornly refusing to withdraw to have his wound treated, Drowley remained on top of the tank, directing the fire and movement of the tank. Again the Japanese struck their nemeses, this time in the left eye, and the sergeant toppled from the turret. Staggering to his feet, he stood alongside the tank until both pillboxes had been knocked out.

Awed and inspired by Drowley's actions, Company C renewed its assault on the enemy positions in the area. With the two most troublesome



Major General Robert B. McClure, Commanding General, Americal Division awards the Silver Star to Lieutenants Milton Weiss, Bronx New York (left) and Didrick Tonseth, Boston, Massachusetts, who risked their lives to haul back wounded men in the thick of enemy fire on Bougainville

pillboxes eliminated by Drowley's actions, the infantry and supporting tanks pushed through the area in the face of less intense but still deadly enemy fire. Staff Sergeant Jesse R. Drowley of Luzerne, Michigan, would subsequently be awarded the Medal of Honor, the only soldier in the Americal Division in World War II to be so decorated.

Steady enemy contact continued on Bougainville among all the Americal regiments. By mid-February the 164th Regiment had established ambush patrols and sniper patrols which silently stalked the jungle trails in search of unwary Japanese. Composed of small groups of keen-eyed marksmen, these "snooper" patrols, as they were called, were assigned the twin missions of noting enemy actions in their areas and of killing as many enemy as possible without excessive risk to their own safety. In one engagement on February 16, PFC Sebastian B. Porretto, a member of a 164th infantry patrol, definitely killed fourteen Japanese and very probably killed two more with just eighteen rounds of ammunition. When asked by his superiors to account for his two missing rounds, Poretto's answer was straight and to the point: "Hell",

he said, "two of 'em got chicken and ducked just as I fired!"

Fighting on Bougainville in early 1944 saw tenacious fighting as the Japanese struggled to hold on to their island positions at any cost. Nowhere was the fighting more savage than the fight for Hill 260 during the month of March. During one of the bitterest moments of the long battle, PFC Jay F. Swenson of Fairview, Utah, was carrying rations to the assault companies on March 15 along with several companions. The small group suddenly came under an intense mortar barrage which rocked the entire area. Just after the small group had taken cover in an open foxhole, a projectile from an enemy mortar plunged into the hole. Completely disregarding his own personal safety, Swenson threw himself on the shell a fraction of a second before it exploded. By absorbing the full force of the blast with his body he was seriously wounded, but none of his companions was hurt. He was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

At the end of March when the Japanese began withdrawing around Hill 260, patrols were established to try to keep in contact with the enemy. One patrol squad leader was wounded close to the Japanese positions. PFC George A. Ligouri, of Bridgeport,

Connecticut, the company aid man, set out to bind up the sergeant's wounds and help him back to the rear. Ligouri rushed forward during the thick of the fire fight and emptied his carbine into the pillbox that was threatening his safety and that of his fallen comrade. When his carbine jammed moments later he threw it to the ground, picked up his sergeant's rifle, and proceeded to silence the position. Then, having assured himself that his patient was reasonably safe, Ligouri rendered the necessary first aid to the stricken squad leader and carried him back to the patrol's positions.

In April the Americal continued the pressure on the Japanese. During an attack by the 132nd, Private Marlyn Caraway of Loveland, Texas seized the initiative personally during the course of the day's action and helped account for at least one of the twenty positions demolished by his unit, Company G. When the flamethrower squad in which he was a rifleman was pinned down by intense hostile fire, Caraway deliberately exposed himself, dashed forward, firing his M1 into a particularly troublesome emplacement. By so doing the Texan drew the full volume of enemy fire upon himself. Taking advantage of the diversion caused by Caraway's bold venture, the flamethrower squad attacked the pillbox and quickly destroyed it. The young riflemen survived his escapade unhurt.

The fighting on Bougainville continued on throughout the summer and into the fall. Valor was not only demonstrated by frontline infantry troops but by support soldiers as well and higher ranked officers. In the thick of fighting along the Numa-Numa Trail, Lt. Colonel John V. Belmonte of Chicago, commander of the 121st Medical Battalion, proved that grave danger meant little to members of the medical profession in forward areas when wounded men required treatment. When an infantryman fell seriously wounded extremely close to an enemy position, Colonel Belmonte rushed to his side, administered first aid and helped in his removal to a safer location seventy-five yards to



Major General Robert B. McClure, Commanding General, Americal Division awards the Silver Star to 1st. Sgt. George W. Barron of Waltham, Massachusetts. 1st. Sgt. Barron assumed leadership of an infantry platoon when the platoon leader was killed in action, and lead it with consummate skill on Bougainville.

the rear. The location chose was, itself, under almost direct enemy mortar and heavy machinegun fire, but the medical officer, sensing that a further delay in the treatment of the wounds might cost the man his life, ordered preparations made for immediate surgery. Using only a flashlight for illumination, he then performed a major emergency operation with the coolness, deliberation and efficiency he would have certainly exhibited had he been standing in an average, clean, well-lighted operating room. Colonel Belmonte's act of heroism, carried out with an apparent lack of concern for his own welfare, typical of the medical profession's devotion to duty in the face of many obstacles, saved the stricken soldier's life.

Private Edward L. Kelley, of Huntington, Pennsylvania, a company aid man, similarly risked his life to bring aid to fallen fellow soldiers. Four times during a day's bitter battle Kelley crawled to within twenty-five yards of a Japanese pillbox from which rifle and heavy machinegun fire was dealing telling blows to render first aid to the wounded. On one of those heroic missions he calmly gave blood plasma to a seriously wounded enlisted man, exposing himself to the full view of the enemy in so doing.

Leaps and Bounds in the Philippines

After Bougainville there was not much time or rest before the Americal was sent to the Philippine Islands, where it fought on a number of the islands to restore control from the Japanese in conjunction with other forces and exclusively land on Cebu to defeat the Japanese.

Operations of the three battalions of the 164th Regiment on Leyte began in earnest on February 12, 1945. Impressive gains were made by

the Regiment and by the evening of February 14, a total of 288 Japanese were killed. The 164th once again displayed their grit and determination that was their heritage forged on the broad plains of North Dakota.

On February 12 an eighteen-man patrol from the 2nd Battalion, searching the Mount Naguang area, ran into a group of enemy shortly after it had split at the fork of a trail. While searching the body of a dead enemy soldier one of the men was wounded and isolated when Japanese fire increased in the immediate vicinity. The entire group was reassembled at which time it was decided to attempt a flanking movement to the rear of the enemy and wounded American. Upon hearing sudden and intense rifle fire and the explosion of a number of grenades, the main body of the patrol joined the smaller flanking party and found Staff Sergeant Malcolm Walsh of Jamestown, North Dakota, blocking the enemy escape route. The bodies of thirteen Japanese soldiers were lying a short distance to his front.

It turned out that Walsh had entered the ravine at one end and he heard the enemy enter it at the other. He deployed his three men to guard his rear and flanks and waited until the Japanese were almost upon him. His sudden barrages startled the enemy, confused them and allowed



The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to Captain David O'Rourke of Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, 182nd Infantry Regiment for extraordinary heroism in the Battle of Hill 260 on Bougainville. The presentation was made by Major General O. W. Griswold, XIV Corps on 17 June 1944 on Bougainville.



Members of the 132nd Infantry Regiment from Illinois who were awarded the Silver Star for action on Guadalcanal are (left to right): Major H. Bulter, Springfield; S/Sgt. William Sullens, Salem; Sgt. E. Hirt, Galesburg; Sgt. J. Machu, East Moline; PFC James McDonald, Dalton.

the sergeant to run up his impressive score. While a litter was being made for the wounded soldier whose rescue was now made possible, the ever-alert infantryman spotted a Japanese officer hiding a short distance away. Walsh sent him off to join his men with one well aimed shot.

The 164th's Company E defended a heavy Japanese attack on their hill the evening of February 28. Again, at 3:10AM on March 1 the enemy attacked again with such alarming proportions that three of the company's positions had to be abandoned in order to form a more tightly knit perimeter.

Private John L. McInnis, of Bossier City, Louisiana, a member of a 245th Artillery Forward Observer Team working with the company, occupied a position on the perimeter when the first hostile attack was launched. Although painfully wounded by enemy hand-grenades in the early moments of the attack, he quickly replaced a slain automatic rifleman, deliberately exposing himself on top of his post and sprayed a rain of bullets along the slope up which the Japanese making their assault. After he had emptied his rifle, he dropped into his foxhole and reloaded his weapon with one hand while he lobbed grenades down the hill with the other. He then stubbornly resumed in his exposed position and once again poured a volume of heavy fire on the enemy, holding his post until

the attack was repulsed. Wounded and unable to walk, McInnis crawled to the foot of the hill, submitted to medical treatment and the returned to his post before the medical personnel could evacuate him.

During the second attack in the early morning hours of March 1, the intrepid artilleryman displayed the same courage and aided materially in turning back the strong and determined Japanese attacks despite his wounds. By standing in the open during the night's melee, McInnis not only risked further injury or death from the accurate enemy fire but also from the friendly artillery and mortar fire falling extremely close to the company's positions. Only when dawn came and the hill was declared to be secured, did McInnis allow himself to be evacuated for additional medical treatment. When notified of his award of the Distinguished Service Cross for his deeds, McInnis asked, "That means I get two bucks more a month, doesn't it?"

The Invasion of Cebu made the island's liberation the unique mission of only the Americal Division among all US forces. Nowhere was the fighting more heavy than the ridges and hills above Cebu City. The 182nd's 2nd battalion was assigned the mission of taking Bolo Ridge just north of the Lahug Airfield. Flamethrowers were employed with much success and one of the flamethrower operators, PFC Bernice A. McCombs of Pinson, Alabama, was up to the task.

The advance of the 2nd Battalion was halted by furious 20mm cannon fire and deadly bursts from well-placed light and heavy machineguns. Disregarding the intense fire McCombs crawled forward; a perfect target with the bulky tank strapped to his back, and delivered a burst of flame to the leading enemy pillbox. This bold act so stunned the enemy, that the troops of the battalion were able to charge forward and neutralize the enemy emplacement. A short time later another Japanese pillbox placed sufficiently strong fire on the attacking infantrymen to halt the advance.

McCombs moved out front again, smothered the enemy position in flame and smoke and waved his comrades forward. Several times more during the day this Alabama native scored additional triumphs over enemy emplacements as he repeated his earlier performance. His actions, according to his Silver Star citation, proved to be one of the decisive factors in the final success of the battalion's mission.

Bolo Ridge was only a preamble to the heavy fighting that awaited the Americal on a series of hill tops and slopes known collectively as Babag Ridge which included daytime assaults and night attacks by both the Americal and the Japanese. In the early stages of one bold and daring Japanese night attack, Sgt. John Louis of Chicago had used all his hand grenades and all those of a number of men in his company. Determined to replenish his supply, the sergeant left the comparative safety of his foxhole, exposed himself to the full fury of the enemy assault, and moved through the open approximately 150 yards to the rear for a small store of ammunition. While returning with a new batch of grenades, Louis was wounded in the leg by a Jap machinegun. Despite the intense pain of his serious wound he managed to deliver the sorely needed grenades without further injury to himself. Refusing medical aid, he remained with his platoon until the vicious attack was turned back.

And so it went, the Americal slugging it out with the enemy until the final surrender of Japanese forces in August, 1945. Small and large acts of valor were common and necessary to beat a desperate enemy throughout the Pacific War, and the Americal's soldiers were up to the task.

And We Loved Them So

By David W. Taylor

America's actors, actresses and other entertainers provided a life-line for the American GI from the hardships of World War II to memories of home where everyone longed to return as soon as possible. Here are just some those entertainers America's soldiers kept in their hearts during the grueling years of fighting in the Southwest Pacific.

Joe E. Brown

One of the most legendary entertainers during the War, especially in the South Pacific, was Joe E. Brown. Early in the war, Joe lost a son, Captain Don E. Brown, who was killed in a bomber crash in California. From that point on Joe began his marathon trips to entertain the troops. "When you've lost your own boy" he wrote in his book, "Your Kids and Mine," "all other lads become your sons." During the war Joe E. Brown traveled 200,000 miles in the Pacific Theatre over a period of three years to entertain the troops. His record was unequaled until Martha Raye's later USO tours. He played in jam-packed halls, hospitals, gun emplacements, rainy ditches and jungle outposts. Once he climbed Canton Island's sole palm tree to entertain the solitary G.I. on lookout duty. Brown was known to start his prayers: "Listen God, this is your kid, Joe..."

Richard Stevens, a Corporal with Company M of the 164th Infantry Regiment of the Americal (and retired Army Colonel) remembered Brown visiting his hospital on Guadalcanal when he was stricken with malaria sometime in December 1942, "Joe was an old vaudeville clown – as familiar to 1930's movie-goers as Bob Burns, Ed Wynn, Martha Raye or Judy Canova. He proceeded to recreate for us many of those hilarious comic routines of his that we knew so well – like his 'Elmer the Great Baseball Pitching Routine'. For a half-hour or so of magical moments we forgot all about the weather, the hospital and our ailments. We were transported, instead, back to a world we thought we'd left behind, we and Joe E. Brown. And, no doubt, ours was but one of many stops for him on the Canal."

Gloria DeHaven

"Yank Pin-Ups" of Hollywood's gorgeous actresses also served a vital function for soldiers to remember the charm and sexiness of America's beauty as represented by its movie stars. One of those was Gloria DeHaven. DeHaven began her career as a child actress with a bit part in Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times" (1936). She was signed to a film contract with MGM studios, but despite featured roles in such films as "The Thin Man Goes Home" (1944) she never achieved full film stardom. During the war years she was in her teens and so was able to continue a long, if not illustrious (by Hollywood standards) career that also reached out to the Vietnam War generation. She appeared in many guest appearances on TV in such shows as "The Rifleman", "Wagon Train", "The Lloyd Bridges Show", "Fantasy Island" and "The Love Boat".

But back in World War II Emil Blomstrann of the 164th Infantry Regiment found DeHaven's youthful and pure face to be a relief from the stress of combat. After some heavy fighting on Bougainville, Blomstrann, to relax and relieve



Comedienne Joe E. Brown on Guadalcanal, 1943 entertaining the Americal soldiers after the hostilities ended. He entertained the Americal on Bougainville as well
(Source: Phil D'Entremont)

stress, found a piece of wood from a broken cot frame and chipped away at it with a knife in his spare time, trying to create the head of a female.

He recalls, "It was a slow process but guys would stop by at the supply tent to ask how it was coming and wanted to know who it was. One of my buddies, Carrol Cooledge from F Company thought I needed photos to work with and gave me some movie magazines. We had recently seen "Two Girls and a Sailor" with June Allyson and Gloria DeHaven and Cooledge suggested it should be Gloria. John Wells, another buddy wrote to DeHaven for life size photos. Her studio sent 8" X 10" photos".

Blomstrann continues, "One of the men on security duty helping to maintain the three airports brought me some red sandy clay that the bulldozers had been digging up. I worked with that but it wasn't satisfactory. Then a young officer from division headquarters came to see what I was doing and suggested modeling clay. A couple of days later, five pounds of modeling clay arrived and a model of Gloria DeHaven was created.

Back in 2007 when Blomstrann recalled this story, he mused, "I have been married for 38 years and still have the model of Gloria. And, much to the irritation of my wife, as I cannot always remember our anniversary, I never forget Gloria's birthday and I insist we have a birthday cake for her. She is 82 (in 2007) ...still just a kid. I am 91".

Martha Tilton

Martha Tilton was a popular big-band vocalist best known for her recording of "And the Angels Sing" with the Benny Goodman orchestra in 1939. During Tilton's time as a vocalist with Goodman, the band made history when it performed the first-ever jazz concert at Carnegie Hall in 1938. After leaving the Goodman Band in 1939 she went on to her own vocal career.

Tilton was one of the first singers to record for Capitol Records in the early 1940's. Among her biggest hits as a solo artist during the decade were: "A Stranger in Town," "I should care." "I'll Walk Alone," "I Wonder, I wonder, I wonder," "That's My Desire," and "How Are Things in Glocca Morra?"

During the World War II years Tilton participated in two USO tours with Jack Benny, the first to the South Pacific in 1944. Al Lerner, a former big-band pianist and musical director and arranger, recalled visiting West Coast military hospitals with Tilton after the war: "They used to wheel a piano through the wards, and she sang and I played" He recalled, "The patients were so happy to see her. She was a wonderful lady – and admired a loved by everyone." Martha Tilton died in December 2006 at the age of 91.

Carole Landis

Carole Landis was an American film and stage actress who worked as a contract –player for Twentieth Century Fox in the 1940's. Her breakthrough role came with being the female lead in the 1940 film "One Million B.C."

Landis came from a tragic background. Her father abandoned the family before she was born. She was the youngest of five children, two of whom died in childhood. Her early years were filled with poverty and sexual abuse. As a 15-year old in 1934, Landis married her 19-year old neighbor; saw the marriage annulled one month later, married again six months later and they were divorced in 1939.



Make-shift movie theatre and entertainment stage on Bougainville (Source: Ottis Kephart)



Famous composer and singer Irving Berlin, performing on Leyte for American troops. Phil D'Entremont took the photo and noted, "This is the shot of the crowd that attended the Irving Berlin show. He is on stage and I took the picture. Note the female Red Cross worker in the front row, third from left. If that Red Cross worker wasn't there he (Berlin) would have told some off-color jokes and sing some different songs. But he couldn't embarrass her" (Source: Phil D'Entremont)

Landis' first film appearance was in 1937 in the movie, "A Star Is Born" and appeared in hundreds of "cheesecake photos" which endeared her to her movie audiences and, undoubtedly, many of those who would go off to war.

In 1942 she toured with comedienne Martha Raye, dancer Mitzi Mayfair and actress Kay Francis on USO tours in England and Africa. Two years later she entertained troops in the South Pacific with Jack Benny and during those tours came in contact with American Division soldiers.

Landis wrote several newspaper and magazine articles about her experiences during the war, including the 1944 book, "Four Jill's in a Jeep". Landis appeared in many movies with various roles in the late 1930's and during the war years of the 1940's. But, she could never overcome her tragic childhood which resulted in many broken relationships and divorces. She took her life with drugs on July 5, 1948 at the age of 29.

To all of those entertainers mentioned in this article and many more who visited American Division soldiers during the war, they will never be forgotten. And, despite their fame in the entertainment world, their greatest legacy can be seen as giving comfort, laughter, grace and smiles to thousands of soldiers in war, serving so far from home.

Sources for this article include, "The 164th Infantry News", the official publication of the 164th Infantry Regiment Association and The Los Angeles Times.

Americal Division Cookbook Bougainville Edition

By David W. Taylor

Nestled away in one of our many boxes of Americal WWII items, is a typed and field mimeographed booklet titled, "Americal Division Cookbook, compiled by Division Quartermaster Office". Handwritten on the cover by the veteran who donated it, are the words, "Bougainville, March 1944"

The Forward to the book says it all: "The Americal Division Cook Book is a compilation of the best recipes of the kitchens in the Division. As new recipes are developed and sent to this office, further compilations will be made and annexes to the Cook Book will be distributed. All recipes are based on feeding a 100 man mess, unless otherwise specified on the recipe".

So, as a further service to ADVA members, here are some recipes you can present to your spouses. Just tell your spouse to "divide ingredients by 100 then multiply by 2" and a great meal for two will be yours!

BREAKFAST DISHES

Corn Fritters

Ingredients:

12 ounces dehydrated whole eggs
12 ounces water or 4 ounces hydrated whole milk and 2 lbs- 6 ounces water
1 – 14-1/2 ounce can of evaporated milk
2-1/2 #10 cans of cream-style canned corn
1 lb. granulated sugar
3 ounces salt
Vanilla to taste
4 lbs – 2 ounces flour
3 ounces baking powder
4 lbs. lard, for frying.

1. Dehydrated whole eggs should be mixed with the canned corn, and then followed by all other ingredients. The flour and baking powder, mixed together, should be added last. A smooth batter should result.
2. Place 3 lbs. of lard in a large roasting pan, and heat to frying temperature of 360 degrees Fahrenheit (almost smoking hot). Drop fritters in frying pan with a large spoon until the pan is filled. By this time the last fritters are dropped into the lard, and the first fritters are ready to be turned.
3. Turn fritters as soon as they begin to brown. Do not overcook as they will become grease-soaked. Frying time is approximately 2 or 3 minutes on each side. Continue frying until half of the batter has been used. Add one pound of lard to frying pan and finish frying.
4. Stack corn fritters in large pans to keep warm. They may be served either plain or with syrup.

Dehydrated Egg Omelet

Submitted by: S/Sgt. Stanley P. Jagodzinski, Battery A, 221st Field Artillery Battalion

Ingredients:

1-1/2 cans of eggs
1-1/2 #10 cans of flour
3 lbs. of cheese
2 gallons water
4 cans milk
8 ounces salt
1 ounce pepper
6 ounces baking powder

Mix eggs and flour together; chop cheese fine and have batter medium before ready to fry on grill. Add 6 ounces baking powder.

Basic Sweet Dough

Submitted by: S/Sgt. Edward Parker,
Headquarters Battery – 221st Artillery Battalion

Ingredients:

18 lbs. flour
4 ounces salt
2 lbs. lard
2 lbs. sugar
15 eggs
Mace or nutmeg – 1/2 ounce
1/4 ounce lemon extract
3/4 Lb. yeast compressed
4 quarts milk

Cream - sugar, lard, salt and spices, then add eggs gradually and cream until light. Add flavoring. Dissolve yeast in half of the milk, which should be warm. Add remainder of milk to the creamed mass. Mix well. Then add yeast solution and stir thoroughly to dissolve all ingredients. Add sifted flour and begin mixing. This will make slack dough. Regulate milk to have dough not too slack to handle. Set to rise in temperature of about 80 degrees Fahrenheit and cover with a damp cloth. Ferment until dough around impressions made by moderate pressure of two fingers start to recede. The rise usually takes 1-1/2 hours to 2 hours. Work up this dough while it is still on the young side. Do not allow it to ever ferment. This dough is used for buns, donuts and etc.

Raised Donuts (makes approximately 500)

Submitted by: S/Sgt. Murry Marullo,
Company "M", 182nd Infantry Regiment

Mix the following together:

4 lbs. sugar, 6 ounces salt, 4 ounces cinnamon, 2 ounces nutmeg, 1 lb. powdered milk, 8 quarters warm water

Add and mix well:

1 lb. powdered eggs, 2 quarts water, 2 ounces lemon extract, 24 lbs. flour,

Add and mix:

1 lb. yeast, dried. Dissolve in 3 pints of warm water.

Add and mix well:

10 lbs. flour and 4 lbs. shortening
SOUPS

Cream of Pea Soup

Submitted by: S/Sgt. Marcus G. Buckley,
Company D, 121st Medics

Ingredients:

1 box dehydrated pea soup
1 Lb. onions
2 Lbs. diced bacon
1 gallon milk

Make soup according to directions on box. Grill bacon. Mix onions and bacon into soup. Add milk just before serving.

Cream of Potato Soup

Ingredients:

50 Lbs. water
1 mess kit spoon of pepper
8 mess kit spoons of salt
4 ounces dehydrated onions
4 lbs. dehydrated potatoes, shredded
10 #14-1/2 ounce cans milk, evaporated or
2 lbs. 8 ounce dehydrated whole milk, and
6 lbs. water.
Butter – 2 Lbs.

1. Put water, salt, pepper, dehydrated onions, and shredded potatoes in a kettle and bring to a boil.
2. Let simmer for about 30 minutes; add evaporated or reconstituted milk and butter, let simmer for 20 minutes more. Serve hot.
3. If soup is not hot – the main dish of the meal – prepare only one-half of the recipe.



MEAT DISHES

Recipe 6814-A

Submitted by S/Sgt. Louis Ludmorsky, Company C, 182nd Infantry Regiment

Ingredients:

7 cans corned beef
3/4 case meat and vegetable ration
1 Lb. dehydrated onions
1 - #10 can tomatoes
Worcestershire sauce
Celery salt
Pepper

Put beef in pot of boiling water and let it soak for 15 to 20 minutes. Strain beef thoroughly. Brown onions and add to beef. Pick out potatoes from cans of meat and vegetable ration and also add to mixture plus dashes of Worcestershire sauce, celery salt and pepper to suit the taste then mix ingredients. Then make pie crust and bake. Individual pie plates are more impressive, if available. Serve recipe hot with gravy.

Chili Con Carne

Submitted by: T/4 Walter Kocinski, 125th Quartermaster Company

Ingredients:

6 gallons kidney beans
2 canteen cups dehydrated onions
4 - #10 cans chili con carne (w/o beans)
Black pepper
Cayenne pepper

Soak kidney beans overnight. Drain & boil slowly from 5 to 6 hours. Drain again. Mix beans with chili con carne, onions and seasoning. Bake slowly for about 2 hours.

Salmon & Potato Croquettes

Submitted by: S/Sgt. L. C. Smith, Battery C, 246th Artillery

28 - #1 cans salmon

4 Lbs. dehydrated potatoes

1-1/2 Lbs. flour

1/2-Lb. powdered eggs

Cook dehydrated potatoes, drain, mash, and allow to cool; bone salmon, mix well with flour, eggs, and potatoes. Mold into croquettes and fry in deep fat.

VEGETABLE DISHES

Potato Pancakes

Submitted by: T/4 Tamillo, Anti-Tank Company, 132nd Infantry Regiment

Ingredients:

8 lbs. dehydrated shredded potatoes
3/4-lb. dehydrated eggs
2 lbs. dehydrated onions (or 7 lbs. fresh)
Salt, flour, pepper

Soak potatoes in enough water to make soggy. Add eggs, onions, salt, pepper. Mix well. Add enough flour to thicken to smooth batter. Fry on well-greased griddle.

Spinach with Eggs

Submitted by: T/5 Irvin White, Battery C, 246th Field Artillery Battalion

Ingredients:

3- #10 cans of spinach
2-1/2 lbs. powdered eggs

Mix spinach with eggs; season to taste with salt and pepper. Fry for 30 minutes.

Potatoes, Hashed Brown, Au Gratin

Submitted by: S/SGT. Earl F. Soderstrom, Anti-Tank Company, 132nd Infantry Regiment

Ingredients:

15 Lbs. Dehydrated Julienne potatoes
& 3 lbs. cheese

Soak potatoes in water for 30 minutes. Then parboil for 10 minutes. Drain and place in greased roasting pan. Cook until browned, turning frequently. Add cheese, grated. Allow cheese to melt and mix thoroughly; season to taste with salt and pepper.

DESSERTS

Fruit Cocktail Fritters

Submitted by: S/Sgt. William R. Burns T/4 Frank Passa,

Company C, 164th Infantry Regiment

Ingredients:

1-1/2 lbs. Powdered eggs
15 lbs. flour
8 ounces Baking Powder / 4 ounces salt

2 gallons fruit cocktail
10 - #1 cans milk or 4 lbs. powdered milk

Add more flour if canned milk is used, to make batter thick enough to drop from a spoon. Fry in deep fat until golden brown.

Jelly or Jam Turn-Overs

Submitted by: S/SGT. Edward Parker, HQ. Battery, 221st Field Artillery Battalion

Ingredients:

7 Lbs. Flour
3 Lbs. lard
1 pinch of salt and 1 ounce of baking Powder
15 lbs. Jelly or Jam.

Sift – flour, salt and baking powder incorporated into a bowl. Rub in shortening. Make a bay in the center, add a little water, and mix lightly as for pie crust. Roll it in large, thin sheets. Cut in small round pieces. Place in a spoonful of jelly or jam in the center of each piece. Fold in half and seal the outer edges. Bake in medium oven.

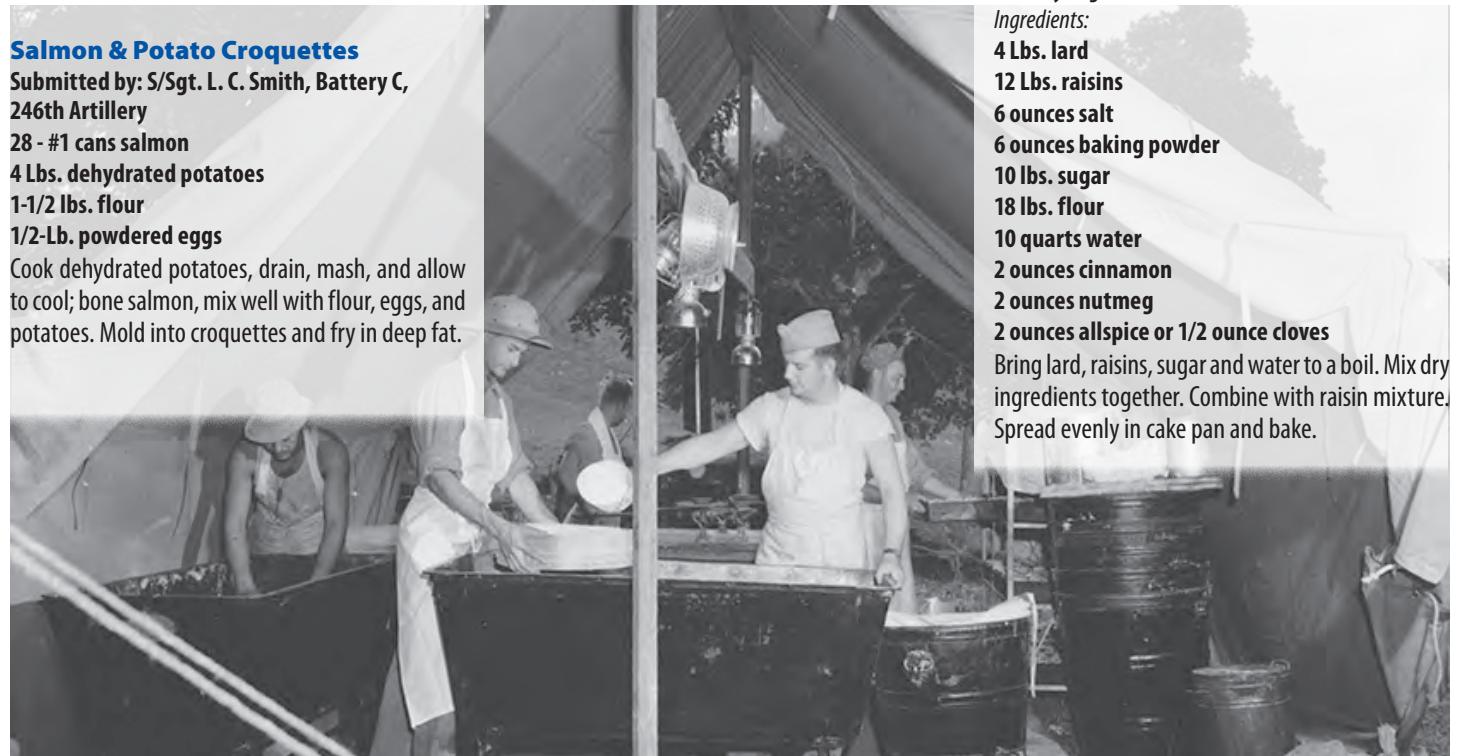
Spiced Raisin Cake

Submitted by: S/Sgt. Nazzario, Company I, 182nd Infantry Regiment

Ingredients:

4 Lbs. lard
12 Lbs. raisins
6 ounces salt
6 ounces baking powder
10 lbs. sugar
18 lbs. flour
10 quarts water
2 ounces cinnamon
2 ounces nutmeg
2 ounces allspice or 1/2 ounce cloves

Bring lard, raisins, sugar and water to a boil. Mix dry ingredients together. Combine with raisin mixture. Spread evenly in cake pan and bake.



Vietnam Journal

By Andy Olints

Chapter 13

A "Quiet Time"

After spending three days in the hospital after being wounded, I spent the next few weeks in the company area located in Chu Lai. I really didn't want to go back out to the field so I just waited for someone to tell me to get on a helicopter and go back to my platoon. I wanted to help out in the company area as much as I could. Sergeant Kavanaugh was now doing two jobs, supply sergeant and company armorer. He always had something that needed to be done so I helped him. That time in December that I was out of the field was a relatively quiet period, but certain events stand out in my memory.

One day I was called into the company office and there were two MPs present and they had one of the members of my company in handcuffs. I knew the person in handcuffs, but we were not close friends. One of the MPs told me that the soldier in handcuffs refused to go out to the field and he was told that if he didn't go out to the field, he would be put in jail. I was then told that I was to take this soldier to the airport and get on the first plane to Da Nang. I was given paperwork to take with me. I was also given a .45 automatic pistol and ammo. Then one of the MPs told me to shoot this soldier if he tried to run away. He also said that if I didn't shoot him if he tried to run away, I would go to jail. I was then told to get in the jeep with the MPs, who would drive us to the airport. Since I knew this soldier, I asked him if he was going to run. He told me that he was never going back to the field, that he wanted to go to jail, and that he hoped to be thrown out of the Army.

Once we got to the airport we got into a C-130 cargo plane and flew to Da Nang. Flying in a C-130 cargo plane is one hell of an experience. The plane made so much noise that I thought it was falling apart. It was dark when the plane landed in Da Nang and there were two MPs who met us there. We got into a jeep and drove to the jail. The ride in the jeep was one scary ride. The MPs drove fast and it was dark out. I was afraid that someone was going to shoot us as we drove by. The jail was also one hell of a scary place. I gave an MP the paperwork I had and then I signed some other paper work. I was told to get back in the jeep and someone would take me back to the airport. I did get a chance to say a few words to the soldier I had put in jail. I wished him luck in getting out of the Army.

Once back at the airport I found out that there were no more flights to Chu Lai that night. I spent the night sitting in a chair. The next morning I asked where I could get something to eat. I was told I could eat at the Air Force mess hall. All I needed was a military ID and I could have some breakfast. I walked into the Air Force mess hall and I thought I was back in the States. Mess hall food had never tasted so good in Vietnam. The food was great and the Air Force had really nice tables and chairs. Everyone was dressed nicely and to me it looked like I was back in the States. That morning I flew back to Chu Lai.

The only thing I remember about Christmas of 1970 was that I got go to a midnight Mass at a church that was located on a cliff right next to the South China Sea. The back of the church was glass and parishioners could look through the back of the church and see the ocean waves. I got to take a few pictures of the church with the ocean in the background.

I'm not sure but I think Zeddie Bell and Jeff Parks and a few other guys got to see Bob Hope in Da Nang. Da Nang was about fifty miles north of Chu Lai and they got a ride there in Army trucks. After the show Zeddie and Jeff and other members of the platoon were driven back to the company area in Chu Lai and they got to stay in Chu Lai for the night.

I really don't know the exact date, but I think I went back out to the field around January 1, 1971. The weather was a little cold with lots of clouds but no rain. I didn't feel like a new guy going out to the field. I'd been there before, and I hate to say it, I felt OK with being back in the field. I was one of the guys again.

Our company got a new company commander, Captain Kirkey, who was in his second tour in Vietnam. Captain Kirkey was my fifth company commander in six months.

Not much happened for the next two weeks in the field. On occasion, we unexpectedly came across enemy graves in the jungle. One day we found two enemy graves. At the time we were told that the enemy sometimes buried weapons underneath a body. Captain Kirkey said that anyone who would dig up the two graves would get a three-day R and R (rest and relaxation) in Da Nang. I think Sergeant Danny Collier dug up the graves. I must say that there is a lot of odor that comes out of a grave. Once he found the body in the grave, he checked underneath the body for weapons but found none. After checking both graves for weapons, he positioned both North Vietnamese soldiers as if they were sitting up in their graves. Our platoon moved about one hundred yards away and set up our night laager for the night. The next morning most of the platoon wanted to see if both the dead men were still sitting up in their graves. To our surprise, both men had been re-buried during the night. That meant someone was watching us. It didn't take us long to move out of the area.

About the middle of January our company got into helicopters and flew to Fire Base Mary Ann. Once at the base, we got to eat and then we walked off the base heading northwest into the mountains. Not much happened for a week and then one day on a light patrol our other squad (2nd squad) found a small enemy base camp. In the base camp was a can of AK47 bullets, some maps and a little food. You could tell just by looking at the camp that there were some North Vietnamese staying there. Lt. Art Schmidt was still our platoon leader and he asked Sergeant Wehr to set up a claymore mine booby trap on one of the trails leading to the camp.

Lt. Schmidt and the squad he was with reunited with my squad (1st squad) and they immediately told us about this small NVA base camp. Only a few minutes went by and we could hear the sound of a claymore mine exploding. My first thought was that we got a kill. Our platoon then went back to the NVA base camp and found a North Vietnamese Soldier lying in the trail dead. I was

very surprised that both his feet were on the trail and the rest of his body was blown ten feet from the trail by the explosion from the claymore mine.

This man was the enemy and would have killed anyone in our platoon if he saw us first, but I still felt bad for this man from North Vietnam. One second he was walking on the trail and a second later he was dead. I didn't get a chance to see many dead NVA and I just stood there staring at him. Lt. Schmidt took his belt and Sergeant Wehr took his wallet. I think a few other guys took something off his body. We then picked him up and threw him into a small stream. I never told any of the other guys, but I felt bad for this man. I stood there and said a silent prayer for him. I was thinking about his family and wondering if they would ever know how he died or that he was lying there in a little stream. I'll never know if there were more North Vietnamese troops in that base camp and if they found his body and buried it. I put out a lot of claymore mines and never killed an enemy soldier. Maybe I was lucky.

That night Lt. Schmidt and a few other guys had trouble sleeping because they could smell the odor from the belt and the other objects taken from the dead North Vietnamese soldier. Many times in Vietnam you could actually smell the Vietnamese before you got to see them. Think about this: You just killed an NVA soldier. You're wearing his belt and all night long you can smell him. That makes for a long night.

Another reason most of the platoon couldn't sleep that night was that there was a tiger moving close to one of our claymore mine booby traps. This tiger seemed to be



Right after the awards ceremony, the Colonel took back the medals and said the Army would give them back to us when we completed our tour in Vietnam.

confused, as if he knew something was there but he couldn't see it. The tiger paced most of the night and our platoon could hear different sounds coming from him. With the morning light the sounds stopped and we never got to see him. We did, however, see the footprints of the tiger near the booby trap.

Our platoon returned to Fire Base Mary Ann in the last week of January. Our company had an awards ceremony the first morning that we were back on the base. I didn't know it at the time, but if you were in the company and out in the field for three months you were awarded an Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Achievement. Our company had about 75 men in it and about 50 men received this Army Commendation Medal.

Of the 50 men who received the Army Commendation Medal, 35 also received a Purple Heart. It was at that moment I realized it was just a matter of time before everyone in the company would get a Purple Heart. We all stood in a single line formation at attention. Col. Doyle and Captain Kirkey presented the medals. I had seen movies of men getting medals and I also had seen pictures in Time Magazine of men receiving medals, but this was the real thing. Col. Doyle actually pinned an Army Commendation Medal and a Purple Heart on my shirt. I must say I felt real good at the time. But the man I was most proud of was Zeddie Bell, who, at age 18, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. He received this medal for shooting two North Vietnamese soldiers with his machine gun. A year after I got home from Vietnam I went to visit Zeddie. I met his father and gave him the picture of Zeddie receiving his Bronze star.

Right after the awards ceremony, the Colonel took back the medals and said the Army would give them back to us when we completed our tour in Vietnam.

Chapter 14

My worst mission part 1

I was sitting near my bunker on Fire Base Mary Ann when I first heard the news that Charlie Company had found a large cache of weapons. A helicopter with the first load of weapons would be landing on the VIP helicopter pad soon and a lot of guys were going there to see the weapons. When I got to the VIP pad, the helicopter had already landed and some of the guys were taking the weapons out of the helicopter. I couldn't believe my eyes: brand new AK47 rifles that were still wrapped in waxed paper to prevent them from rusting. The helicopter made at least five trips back and forth to Charlie Company to pick up the captured weapons. There had to be a few hundred weapons: AK47s, SKS sniper rifles, a few machine guns, lots of ammo and quite a few rockets.

Most of the men on the base were taking pictures of the weapons. I got to take a few pictures and I'm sorry I didn't take more. Everyone seemed happy to see these weapons, but I stood there thinking that I was glad I wasn't out there with Charlie Company. I just had the feeling that the North Vietnamese soldiers were going to get a little revenge. The NVA were not going to give up all those weapons and not fight back. I was glad to be

on the base and not out with Charlie Company. Nothing happened to Charlie Company that night.

The very next day our company was told to get our packs and lots of ammo ready as we were going out to replace Charlie Company in the field. Five helicopters were used to fly our company (Delta) out to replace Charlie Company. There was only one small landing zone right next to a river so only one helicopter could land at a time. A helicopter would land and five men from our company would get out of the helicopter and five members of Charlie Company would get into the helicopter and be flown back to Fire Base Mary Ann. All five helicopters had to make three trips to complete the replacement of Charlie Company. When my helicopter landed and I got out, the first thing I noticed was how tall the trees were. I took a quick look around and saw nothing but mountains and the river that we landed next to. I just didn't feel good about this mission. I didn't like the idea that for two days helicopters had been flying in and out of this small landing zone. I had this feeling that every North Vietnamese in the area knew exactly where we were.

I had a map that I had folded so that I could see just the area we were in. I never cared about the name of the district we were in because it was a Vietnamese name and I couldn't pronounce it anyway. I always believed that about twenty-five miles west of FB Mary Ann was the country of Laos. When our helicopter left Mary Ann and headed southwest, I figured that this current mission had to be ten to fifteen miles from the border of Laos. That meant we were out in the boonies, and I was hoping that our artillery would be able to reach us if we needed them.

I couldn't wait to blend into the jungle. I just felt a lot better getting away from that landing zone.

Two days later my platoon stopped to have lunch and because we were so uptight about being in this area, we decided to put out a claymore mine on the trail we had been walking. Along with the claymore mine, we set out a trip flare that was used to alert us if anyone walked down the trail. Never in the seven months that I had been in Vietnam had we used a hand-held device to explode a claymore mine, but this time we did. We set up a machine gun on the trail, and while we ate lunch, we had one man sitting right next to the machine gun. Also, next to this man was the device that could set off the claymore. Our plan was that if the trip flare was set off, the man next to the machine gun would set off the claymore mine and then he would start shooting the machine gun down the trail.

Minutes later the flare went off and the man next to the machine gun froze. Everyone stopped eating, grabbed their M16s, and aimed down the trail. In one second I thought, "Don't explode that claymore mine." I had this very bad feeling that some NVA had been watching us set up a claymore mine and decided to sneak down the trail, turn the claymore mine around, and aim it at us. Then the NVA would set off the flare and hope we set off the claymore mine, which would kill our own men. I wasn't the only one thinking that way. We quickly moved down the trail and saw that the claymore mine was not turned around. We never found out why the trip flare went off. We did feel that an NVA tripped the flare and that he was still watching us. Our platoon didn't even finish lunch. We got our gear on and started walking in another direction.



Also in the base camp were a few huts made of four poles and a straw roof. I think there were four huts, each one used for something different.

As our platoon was continuing our patrol, we could hear the sound of an AK47 rifle. Seconds later we could hear the sounds of M16 rifles being fired. The sound of those rifles came from a long distance away, but they were very easy to hear. Lt. Art Schmidt, our platoon leader, had our platoon stop, and he told his radio operator to find out if any of the other two platoons had made contact with the enemy. A short time later we were told that the point man in the third platoon had been shot and killed.

Our platoon was then told to link up with third platoon. On the way to linking up with third platoon, our platoon used some well-used paths that I'm sure the NVA used. There were trees that were 75 feet tall and in some areas the sun's rays could be seen through the top of the trees. I looked at the formation of the men walking through the woods. Everyone kept fifteen feet from the man in front of him. There wasn't a sound in the woods and with the sun's rays and the trees and the men in our platoon silently moving through the jungle, I had one of those Kodak moments that I'll never forget.

It was late in the day when we finally got to third platoon's location, which turned out to be a small enemy base camp. I stopped and talked to one of the members of third platoon and he told me that everything happened so quickly. They had no idea that the platoon was walking right into an NVA base camp. Shots were fired from an AK47 rifle and their point man was dead. There was no other contact with the enemy. I looked around the base camp and I noticed that the dead point man was wrapped up in his Army green poncho. I never got used to seeing a body all wrapped up in a poncho. Moments like that you remember the rest of your life.

This NVA base camp was used to make twelve-foot wooden boats, yes, handmade boats made out in the middle of the jungle. I don't remember how many boats were there, but it had to be more than two. I looked at the boats and there were no nails in them. The NVA drilled holes where they needed them and then used wooden pegs instead of nails. They had old-fashioned saws that they used for cutting down trees and for making lumber from the trees. I wish I had taken pictures of the tools and saws they used. I really didn't like the NVA, but I had to admit, this particular group of NVA were good craftsmen.

Also in the base camp were a few huts made of four poles and a straw roof. I think there were four huts, each one used for something different. One hut was used for cooking and another hut was used as the bathroom. Both of these huts had running water. There was a very small stream nearby and bamboo was used like a piece of pipe to have the water flow through the bamboo and into the huts.

What I didn't like seeing in the base camp were some hand-held rockets. Just looking at those rockets, I knew sooner or later some NVA would be shooting rockets at us.

Due to the tall trees in the area there was no place to land a helicopter so third platoon had to carry the body of the dead point man down a hill to a location on a river that was used as a landing zone for a helicopter. When the helicopter landed, Col. Doyle got out and the body was put into the helicopter. Col. Doyle wanted to see the boats, and he also wanted to see if a helicopter could pick up one of the boats with ropes and fly the boat back to Mary Ann. The decision was made not to fly a boat back to Mary Ann because the boats were too heavy. I thought it was a dumb-ass idea to put a pilot and his crew in danger just to have a handmade boat made by the North Vietnamese sitting on Fire Base Mary Ann.

Once the decision was made not to take one of the boats to Mary Ann, the order was given to cut up the boats using the saws we found in the base camp. All the boats were cut up and the four little huts were torn down. Both second platoon and third platoon stayed in the enemy base camp for two days. During those two days different squads were sent out on light patrol. These light patrols had about eight men in them and lasted about two hours. One of the patrols I was on was with Lt. Schmidt. We walked on trails that were really worn from use by the NVA. We came to a place where we could hear water running. He asked me, "What do you think, should we keep going and see where the running water is or should we turn around?" I said that if there is water in the hills, there are NVA near by. We turned around and I was so relieved.

On February 11, 1971, both second and third platoons were patrolling together. Third platoon was walking point and they had about twenty men in their platoon. I was walking third in our platoon. If everyone had been keeping ten feet behind the person in front of him, that would mean I was walking about 220 feet in back of the point man in a single file. The trail was not straight and in those mountains the trail went up and down and a soldier could see only a few of the men walking ahead of him. It was a clear day but not much sun got through the branches of the very large trees.

About an hour into the patrol I could hear the sound of an enemy machine gun and the sounds of AK47 rifles going off. Being so far in back of the point man, I just dove off to the side of the trail. I then heard more enemy weapons being fired, but I couldn't hear any sounds of M16s (our weapons). To my right and on the trail I could see Lt. Schmidt and Bill Meek, who was carrying his M60 machine gun, running up the trail towards the point man. I looked towards my left and I could see movement. I assumed this movement was enemy soldiers who were trying to surround us. It seemed that most of my squad saw this same movement and we all started firing our M16s in the direction of the enemy. It didn't take long and Lt. Schmidt and Bill Meek were up at the front of the patrol. I could hear Bill firing his M60 machine gun. Then I could hear the sounds of the enemy weapons. Usually an ambush lasts for a minute but this time the firing of weapons didn't stop. I could never really describe the fear and tension that I had right at that time. Nothing in the world existed but me looking out into the jungle trying to see the enemy before he saw me. In that kind of fear you shoot your M16 at any movement. With all this fear I could still hear the sounds of Bill Meek firing his machine gun. I have no idea about time. I was just hoping that this ambush would stop.

All of a sudden I could hear what I thought was an artillery round heading in our direction. The sound gets louder the closer the round gets. Because of the loud noise, you actually feel like you are going to get hurt. You can feel the earth move when the artillery round hits the ground and explodes. A second later another round explodes and you're so grateful that the round didn't land on you. At the time I was wondering what type of artillery rounds were



We were so far from Fire Base Mary Ann that I didn't know if our artillery guns had enough range to reach us.



When I began to move forward to get some ammo up to Bill, I ran for about ten feet next to the trail and then dove to the ground and then kept repeating that pattern.

being fired. We were so far from Fire Base Mary Ann that I didn't know if our artillery guns had enough range to reach us. I just sat there in fear. I have no idea how many rounds were fired, but I couldn't wait for them to stop.

An order was given to set off some smoke grenades to mark our location so pilots in gun ships would know exactly where we were. I set off a red smoke grenade no more than twenty feet from where I was sitting. Seconds later a gun ship flew by and fired his mini-guns with the rounds landing no more than ten feet from me. I looked up and could see the bullets hitting the trees and branches, hundreds of rounds that looked like rain falling through the trees. Everything happened so quickly. I couldn't believe how good these pilots were at firing their weapons so close to our men on the ground.

Now here was the big surprise. There were no artillery rounds fired from Fire Base Mary Ann and no helicopter gun ships in the area of the NVA ambush! What really happened was that F-4 Phantom jet fighters were dropping bombs and firing their mini-guns. I couldn't believe it. I was so scared and so up tight I didn't even know that the Phantoms were flying over our heads. I didn't know about the jets till years after I got home from Vietnam.

Even with the jets dropping bombs, the NVA were still firing their weapons at our company. Bill Meek was still up front and firing his machine gun. Then I heard those words I never wanted to hear, "Andy! I need some ammo." Did I hear what I thought I heard? I was going to pretend I didn't hear Bill. Then once again I heard those words, "Andy! I need some ammo." One second later I said to myself, "After this ambush is over, you have to look Bill in the eye and if you don't take some ammo up to him, you will be a coward." I then said to myself, "I would rather die than not be able to look at Bill again knowing that when Bill asked for

help, I didn't respond".

Everyone in the platoon carried extra ammo for the machine gun. Usually I had about 60 rounds of machine gun ammo clipped together around my waist. It looked like a belt. When I began to move forward to get some ammo up to Bill, I ran for about ten feet next to the trail and then dove to the ground and then kept repeating that pattern. When other members of the platoon saw me, they threw their belts of ammo at me. Most of the men told me not to get on the trail because the enemy machine gun was firing down the trail.

The trail started to head downhill for a while and then started uphill again. It was then I realized that the third platoon was in a "saddle" or a gully and on top of this "saddle" was the enemy. It was so easy for the NVA machine gunner to see almost all of third platoon and shoot them one at a time. I got to the bottom of the "saddle" and I could see a few of the men in third platoon who were wounded. As I started up the "saddle," I saw one of the dead soldiers from third platoon. I had to stop and look at him. He had a lot of gunshot wounds to his legs and the fear of death on his face. I ran uphill for about ten more feet and there was the medic from third platoon holding another dead soldier in his arms. The dead soldier had a plastic tube in his mouth because the medic had been trying to breathe air down the tube. The poor medic was in shock. He held the dead soldier in his arms and just sat there. I felt so bad for the medic. He had two soldiers die within minutes of each other.

Before I reached the location of Bill Meek and Lt. Schmidt, I was able to get a quick glimpse of Bill Meek positioned right in front of the patrol. He was lying on the ground blasting away his M60 machine gun and keeping the enemy away. I finally got up to Bill with a lot of machine gun ammo and as soon as I dropped the ammo off, I really wanted to turn around, go back 200 feet, and stay away from the front line. But Lt. Schmidt started giving me orders, "There's your section of woods and you're responsible for it." Lt. Schmidt was a take-charge guy and during the ambush he tried to organize what was left of the third platoon. But without Bill Meek running over two hundred feet with his 26-pound machine gun to get to the front of the patrol, a lot more guys would have been killed. I'll never forget seeing those two men function so well under enemy fire.

I followed Lt. Schmidt's directive, lay on the ground, and looked for anything that moved. All of a sudden this loud sound flew right by me. It was the sound of a hand-held rocket (RPG). The rocket hit a tree and exploded, but no one was injured. Seconds later another rocket flew by and this rocket was even closer to me. I could feel the heat of the rocket as it went by me. I dove through some brush and when I got up my arms were bleeding. I thought I had been wounded but I wasn't. The second rocket marked the end of the ambush. No more weapons were fired and I think the enemy took their dead and disappeared. Lt. Schmidt told me he had been face to face with an NVA and emptied his M16 at the man. Other men in the third platoon said they shot some NVA, but no bodies were found.

Both Lt. Schmidt and Bill Meek received the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism. I always felt that Bill Meek should have received a Silver Star for that day. I was

there and I truly believe if it had not been for Bill, more men would have died that day.

The medic in the third platoon was in shock and not able to help with the wounded soldiers. It was the second platoon medic who took care of the seven men who were wounded. Minutes after the ambush was over, the Medevac helicopter arrived. There was no place for the helicopter to land so the helicopter had to hover above the trees. The medic in the helicopter lowered a harness that was attached to a rope (called a jungle penetrator). Both the harness and the rope were attached to an arm that came out of the door on the helicopter. Once the men on the ground got a wounded soldier into the harness, the medic in the helicopter would power lift the harness up to the helicopter and then pull the wounded soldier into the helicopter. The first Medevac helicopter loaded four of the seven men who were wounded into the helicopter and then flew to a hospital in Chu Lai. A second Medevac helicopter arrived to pick up the other three men who were wounded. It took a very long time to load all seven men into the helicopters. I have to give a lot of credit to the pilots and the medics who were in the Medevac helicopters. To hover in a helicopter over tall trees for a very long time to load all those wounded soldiers in an area where the enemy was located took a lot of courage.

I helped put a wounded soldier into a harness and stood there watching as he was pulled up to the helicopter through the trees. I stood there thanking God that I wasn't wounded. I don't think I would have had enough courage to be put into a harness and hoisted fifty feet into a helicopter. The thought of falling or having an enemy soldier shoot at me while I was being pulled up through the trees was overwhelming. Being wounded was bad enough, but being pulled up fifty feet into a helicopter was something I never wanted to experience.

After the seven wounded men were evacuated to a hospital, the remaining men in third platoon took care of the two dead soldiers. First, the dead soldiers were wrapped in their ponchos. Then two homemade stretchers were made using tree branches for poles. Shoe strings and belts were used to tie the poncho covered body to the poles. It took four men to carry one dead soldier.

The packs and weapons of the nine men who were wounded or killed were given to members of second platoon (my platoon). I was told that my squad would walk point back to the night laager we had used last night. I didn't want my two point men to carry anything extra, since every soldier was already carrying his own pack and a weapon, so I distributed the packs of the nine men from third platoon among the men of second platoon and myself who had not been assigned to carry one of the bodies. Both second and third platoon walked in a single file back to the night laager. I walked third in line and tried to keep an eye on my point men to insure that they were keeping a reasonable pace, but once in a while I looked back and to see the four men carrying a stretcher with a dead man on it. It wasn't easy to carry the dead man because the body kept swaying from side to side, and with the trail so small and the terrain difficult to walk on, it just wasn't easy to walk fast. Behind these four men carrying a body were four more men carrying a second body. I looked at the bodies and said

to myself, "... the agony of defeat." That moment was the agony of defeat. Looking at those eight men carrying two dead bodies had to be one of the saddest things I will ever see in my life.

Once back at the same night laager we had used the night before, I tied my hammock to the same two trees I had used the night before. It was hard to believe that I was finishing the day in the exact same spot that I started.

After the men set out claymore mines on the trails, I told each man what time he had for guard duty that night. It was late in the day and time for supper. I just couldn't stand the thought of having C-rations for supper so I decided to have a cup of Lipton noodle soup. After a day like the one we just had, you say to yourself, "I want to go home." That can't happen so you eat something from home and then read some letters from home.

I sat there looking out into the jungle and every once in a while I turned around and looked at the command post in the center of our night laager. In the command post were Captain Kirkey, Staff Sergeant Wolfe and their radio operator. Lying on the ground right next to Captain Kirkey and Staff Sergeant Wolfe were the two men who had been killed. Captain Kirkey was on the radio and I assumed he was talking to Col. Doyle, who was located at Fire Base Mary Ann. I'm sure Capt Kirkey was giving the names of the dead and wounded men to the Colonel. And I'm sure Capt Kirkey was given his orders of what to do the next day with the company.

Sergeant Wolfe left the command post and went around to the men to see how everyone was doing. Sergeant Wolfe also checked to see how much ammo we needed and whether any other supplies were needed in the platoons. He also got the locations of the claymores so he could send the locations to Mary Ann. Both Captain Kirkey and Sergeant Wolfe checked the maps and called in to Mary Ann three locations that artillery could fire on if our platoons had any contact with the enemy that night.

I sat there eating my soup and looking out into the jungle. After the trauma of that day, I felt compelled to constantly turn around and stare at the two dead bodies wrapped in ponchos lying very close to the feet of Captain Kirkey and Sergeant Wolfe. Thirty-eight years later I can close my eyes and still see those two bodies lying there.

I wrote previously about saying the rosary at night while I was lying in my hammock. That night after the ambush I said the rosary two times. It is funny how after you say a few prayers, it gets your mind off what happened that day. It has a calming effect.

The next morning I woke up and the first thing I looked at was the dead men. I looked around at the thirty men left in the two platoons and I said to myself, "Who is going to die today?"

*Text © 2014 by Andy Olints, veteran of D/1/46/196
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Previous installment was in the APR-MAY-JUN 2014 edition.*



Medal of Honor Awarded in White House Ceremony By Leslie Hines ADVA Vietnam Historian

Donald P. Sloat's family received the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor on September 15, 2014. Sloat served with Company D, 2/1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

The President did a great job honoring the two men who recently received the Medal of Honor. There was also a "Hall of Heroes" induction at the Pentagon hosted by the Secretary of Defense on September 16. The Command Sergeant Major of the Army hosted reception at the Pentagon on the evening of the 16th.

The men who served with Donald were able to connect with the family and the family was very appreciative of the way that their Donald was honored. It was very emotionally draining for me as they honored Donald's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Sloat, in the ceremony at the Pentagon. She did not live to see the MOH awarded; but her other son and her two daughters were able to attend the presentation.

I worked very closely on this project with Evelyn Sloat for two years and I had hoped that she would have lived to see her son honored. After the ceremonies I checked in with the family and they were very pleased with how Donald is now honored for his heroism. I was also able to connect with nine 2/1st Inf. veterans who attended the award ceremonies.

Karen (Sloat) McCaslin wanted to wear Americal Division pins. I went to the Wall and found a vendor who provided four Americal Division pins. A grand-daughter of Evelyn Sloat, Donald's two sisters, and Donald's brother all wore Americal Division pins during the ceremony at the White House.

A select group of attendees each received a "Challenge Coin" from the President. The Secretary of Defense shook hands with the guests at the White House as they left the ceremony. A reception following had thirty or so generals in attendance. The ceremony at the Pentagon was held to induct Bennie Adkins and Donald Sloat into the Hall of Heroes. Speeches by the Secretary of Defense, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the Army, and the assistant Secretary of Defense were capped by speeches by MOH recipient Bennie Adkins and Dr. William Sloat, the brother of posthumous MOH recipient Donald Sloat. Another reception after these ceremonies included speeches by the Command Sergeant Major of the Army and MOH recipient Bennie Adkins.

Bill Hacker was able to attend. Dewayne Lewis, Jr. was not able to attend. The widow of Mr. E. Tipton, (Beverly) was able to attend. These last three represented the three men who were saved by Donald P. Sloat. Mike Muhlheim, Carl Jacob, James Clyburn, and Phil Smith, 2/1st veterans, were in attendance.

Photo: From left to right representing the enlisted men from Co. D, 2/1st Inf. Bn.: James Clyburn, Mrs. Beverly Tipton (widow of B. E. Tipton), Michael R. Muhlheim, Phil Smith, Mr. Bill Hacker, and Carl Jacob. Dewayne Lewis, Jr. could not attend.



Major General Lloyd Ramsey, former commander of the Americal Division in Vietnam, was not able to attend. General Lee, former 196th brigade commander, was in attendance and was in good health. Colonel "Si" Nerone, former 2/1st Inf. battalion commander, attended the White House ceremonies but was slowed the second day of ceremonies by injuries he had incurred to his back last year. Former Co. D commander, Captain Roger Sherrard, attended. Former company commander and former platoon leader Paul Woodin's widow was not able to attend. Paul Woodin was great to work with and did a lot for our team. It is sad that he passed away before seeing the MOH award presented.

I look forward to obtaining a video of the award ceremony from the government at some time in the next few months.

I am hoping that there will be an ADVA ceremony to re-unveil the ADVA MOH tablet at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA after Donald P. Sloat's name has been added. The immediate family will need some down time before they can deal with this. February 6th is the birth date for Donald P. Sloat and may be a good date to hold this special unveiling. The Sloat family had 45-50 members at the White House ceremony and many of them may wish to attend the event Ft. Benning.

Sloat Name Added to Americal Monument at Ft. Benning By Gary L. Noller

At the time of publication a tentative date of February 6, 2015 has been selected to unveil the name of SP4 Donald P. Sloat on the Medal of Honor pedestal at Americal Division monument on the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum, Ft. Benning, GA. Details have not be set at this time. If you wish to know details when they are finalized please let me know and I will provide you with information as to the exact time and date. Contact me by phone at 830-377-8115 or by e-mail at gnoller@aol.com.

Sufficient space was allowed on the monument for the addition of the name of Donald P. Sloat. Addition of the name is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. The Sloat family requested February 6, 2015 to coincide with Donald Sloat's birthday.



Posthumous Award of the Medal of Honor

SP4 Donald P. Sloat

Age: 20; Hometown: Coweta, Oklahoma; Unit: Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., Americal Division; Date of Combat Action: January 17, 1970; Date of Award Presentation: September 15, 2014; Place of Award: The White House, Washington, D.C.; Presented by: President Barack H. Obama; Receiving the Award on Behalf of the Sloat Family: Dr. Bill Sloat, brother of Donald P. Sloat.

Official Citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of Congress the Medal of Honor to

Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Company D, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, during combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on January 17, 1970. On that morning, Specialist Four Sloat's squad was conducting a patrol, serving as a blocking element in support of tanks and armored personnel carriers in the area. As the squad moved up a small hill in file formation, the lead soldier tripped a wire attached to a hand grenade booby-trap set up by enemy forces. As the grenade rolled down the hill, Specialist Four Sloat knelt and picked up the grenade. After initially attempting to throw the grenade, Specialist Four Sloat realized that detonation was imminent. He then drew the grenade to his body and shielded his squad members from the blast, saving their lives. Specialist Four Sloat's actions define the ultimate sacrifice of laying down his own life in order to save the lives of his comrades. Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company D, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division and the United States Army.

Additional Awards Earned by SP4 Donald P. Sloat

Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Badge with Rifle Bar, Sharpshooter Badge with Machinegun Bar, Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar

Remarks by President Barack H. Obama

Don Sloat grew up in the heart of Oklahoma in a town called Coweta. And he grew big -- to over 6'4". He loved football, and played for a year at a junior college. Then he decided to join the Army. But when he went to enlist, he didn't pass his physical because of high blood pressure. So he tried again. And again. And again. In all, he took the physical maybe seven times until he passed -- because Don Sloat was determined to serve his country.

In Vietnam, Don became known as one of the most liked and reliable guys in his company. Twice in his first months, his patrol was ambushed; both times, Don responded with punishing fire from his machine gun, leaving himself completely vulnerable to the enemy. Both times, he was recognized for his bravery. Or as Don put it in a letter home, "I guess they think [that] I'm really gung-ho or something."

And then one morning, Don and his squad set out on patrol, past that rice paddy, down that trail, when those shots rang out. When the lead soldier's foot tripped that wire and set off the booby trap, the grenade rolled right to Don's feet. And at that moment, he could have run. At that moment, he could have ducked for cover. But Don did something truly extraordinary -- he reached down and he picked that grenade up. And he turned to throw it, but there were Americans in front of him and behind him -- inside the kill zone. So Don held on to that grenade, and he pulled it close to his body. And he bent over it. And then, as one of the men said, "all of a sudden there was a boom."

The blast threw the lead soldier up against a boulder. Men were riddled with shrapnel. Four were medevaced out, but everyone else survived. Don had absorbed the brunt of the explosion with his body. He saved the lives of those next to him. And today, we're joined by two men who were with him on that patrol: Sergeant William Hacker and Specialist Michael Mulheim.

For decades, Don's family only knew that he was killed in action. They'd heard that he had stepped on a landmine. All those years, this Gold Star family honored the memory of their son and brother, whose name is etched forever on that granite wall not far from here. Late in her life, Don's mother, Evelyn, finally learned the full story of her son's sacrifice. And she made it her mission to have Don's actions properly recognized.

Sadly, nearly three years ago, Evelyn passed away. But she always believed -- she knew -- that this day would come. She even bought a special dress to wear to this ceremony. We are honored that Don -- and his mom -- are represented here today by Don's brother and sisters and their families. On behalf of this American family, I'd ask Don's brother, Dr. Bill Sloat, to come forward for the reading of the citation and accept the gratitude of our nation.

Video of the MOH Award Presentation

A 25 minute YouTube video of the SP4 Donald P. Sloat MOH award presentation may be found at
www.army.mil/medalofhonor/sloat



Evelyn Sloat Inspires Successful Effort To Honor Her Son

By Leslie Hines ADVA Vietnam Historian

Evelyn Sloat first contacted the ADVA in 2009. At this time she had already obtained a great deal of documentation from the government about the heroic actions of her son, Donald Sloat. She was working with Senator Thomas Coburn of Oklahoma. She even had the forms we needed to file for the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor (MOH). She generously shared everything she had with the team of veterans that shared her dedication to her son's heroism.

My action was to start locating men who had been wounded with Donald P. Sloat or had been in the unit at the time of the action. We needed their statements to complete the forms. Critical to this effort were finding the three men that Sloat had saved. I found the names in the Division Casualty Reports. These were Bill Hacker, Elwood Tipton, and DeWayne Lewis, Jr. I was able to locate everyone except Mr. Elwood Tipton. Tipton had died just seven months prior to our being contacted by Mrs Sloat.

I also sought Colonel Francis Nerone, Battalion Commander, 2/1st Inf. Bn., and Captain Steve Lovasc, Company Commander, Company D, 2/1st Inf. Bn., at the time of the combat action involving Sloat. Their signatures were necessary to complete the forms. I was able to locate them from articles I had found in our historical data base.

I had Americal Division casualty reports that had been previously provided to the ADVA by retired Col. Wayne R. Johnston, a veteran of 1/6th Inf. Bn.; Americal Division TOC S2/S3 reports previously provided by Bruce Flaherty, a veteran of D 4/3rd Inf. Bn.; and an issue of the "Charger" news sheet from June 1, 1970 from Gary Jenkins, a veteran of 3/21st Inf. Bn. All these items combined with the materials obtained by Mrs. Evelyn Sloat were very useful in our efforts.

We received help from Mrs. Tipton, the widow of Elwood Tipton, in locating orders and leads to locating men from Co. D, 2/1st Inf. Bn. It began slowly with a few hits on the searches and we then had more leads. We worked with Bill Bacon, former Captain and a veteran of the 2/1st Inf. Bn., who also helped us gather much needed information. In the end we had sought statements and additional leads from over 80 veterans.

Once Colonel "Si" Francis Nerone and former 1LT Paul Woodin were located things were much better. Together we worked through a myriad of issues that came up. Our strategy came from Colonel Nerone.

We needed a minimum of three eye witnesses. We sought leads to locate potential witnesses. We eventually received affidavits with required diagrams and related facts. We then reviewed the statements to insure the stories were consistent with the reports. We worked through several challenges.

One rule we maintained was that we did not share information with anyone that might influence their official statements. And we had to rely only on the statements that were provided by the witnesses and we would not make inferences of our own. To do so would invalidate the whole concept of honor inherent in the nation's highest award.

One question we sought to answer was why hadn't the award been processed back in 1970? We located adjutants



Mrs. Beverly Tipton and COL Francis (Si) Nerone at White House ceremony.

to general officers who would have been involved in these processes in 1970 and could not find anyone who remembered the MOH proposal for Donald Sloat. We eventually moved on after we had made a very strong effort to resolve the question.

Mrs. Sloat was constantly checking in on our progress. Colonel Nerone fortunately took over point on this although I continued to receive her calls from time to time. It was difficult to take on her questions when I could not report significant progress. But we never did stop working and eventually we gained momentum.

Colonel Nerone directed our efforts. He guided Paul Woodin and I through several seemingly impossible situations until we were able to submit the recommendations with signatures from Maj. General Ramsey (former Americal division commander); Lieutenant General James Lee (former 196th Brigade commander); Francis Nerone (former 2/1st Inf. Bn. commander); and Steve Lovasc (former Co. D, 2/1st Bn. company commander).

Paul Woodin came to my home in Des Moines, IA from Washington state to meet with me after the forms had been submitted. We shared a few hours. I was very impressed with him and I could tell he was inspired by the memory of Donald P. Sloat. Unfortunately, Paul Woodin died suddenly shortly after his trip to Des Moines.

Evelyn Sloat passed away on Christmas Eve, 2012 at the age of 84.

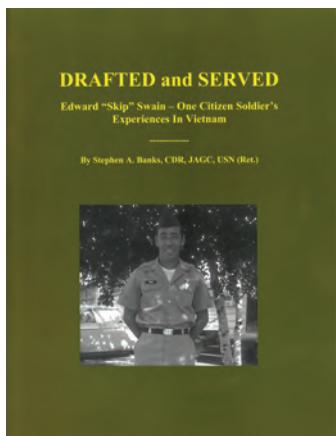
At the end the effort to obtain the MOH award was successful. We had won a fight against time. Although we lost to time in that we could not share this moment with either Mrs. Evelyn Sloat or Paul Woodin.

Drafted and Served: Edward "Skip" Swain – One Citizen Soldier's Experiences in Vietnam

Author:

Stephen A. Banks, CDR, JAGC, USN (Ret.)

Reviewer: Gary L. Noller



Edward "Skip" Swain's trip to Vietnam started like that of many other 11B infantrymen headed to the war. He got drafted, took basic training at Ft. Dix, followed with advanced training at Ft. Polk's "Tigerland" and shipped out. He ended up with Co. E, 4/3rd Inf., 11th Lt. Inf. Bde.

But he did not stay with the Old Guard for long. An opportunity developed that took him to Co. B,

123rd Avn. Bn. (Warlords) as one of The Animals in the Aero Scout platoon.

Stephen Banks, the author, has known Swain since childhood and seized to opportunity to describe Swain's military experiences. Banks was able to obtain a huge amount of official military records and his account of Swain in Vietnam is almost like daily diary. Soldiers who served with Swain were able to flesh out the details of such things as routine aerial recon missions to the more dangerous snatch missions to capture enemy soldiers.

The Warlords flew routine missions as well as acted as a rapid response team. Their flights usually included an observation chopper (Skeeter), two gunships (Hueys or Cobras), and an assault helicopter (Huey Slick). The Slick usually carried five Animals and quickly inserted them to snatch enemy weapons, supplies, and soldiers.

The Animals were not considered air crew but they did live in barracks near the Ky Ha heliport. The frequency of missions were sometimes determined by aircraft availability and the weather but they were always on call for action.

Fighting with the enemy was as fierce as that of a line company and The Animals lost several members during Swaim's tour. Luckily for Swaim, he ended his time in Vietnam in November 1969 without becoming a casualty. He processed out of the Army at Ft. Lewis, WA and took a cross-country train back home to Buffalo, NY.

Bank's writing style reminds me of the work of Keith Nolan and the biography of Swaim is also a great unit history of The Warlords. Anyone wanting to know more about the use of Aero Scout platoons in Vietnam should not pass up this outstanding account of this small but very effective fighting element. The book is available by Kindle for about \$5 and in softcover for about \$20.

Save Your Money

By SFC Joseph H Wolfe, Jr US Army (ret)
D/1/46 1970-1971

The book review, "Not All Heroes," author Gary E. Skogen, reviewer Donald J. Berg, printed in the Jul-Aug-Sep 2014 issue of the Americal Journal has this veteran of FSB Mary Ann upset. The first thing I will note is the fact that the reviewer was in-country during a very different time frame, 1967-1968. By 1971-1972, Chu Lai and all of Vietnam was a very different place and the war had changed.

I read the book written by Skogen and submitted a very negative review of it to the Amazon website. The author, in my opinion, is a real fraud who by his own admission wasn't doing the job of a Criminal Investigation Division (CID) agent. He truly was a disgrace to them, but I'm sure there were a great number who served CID honorably.

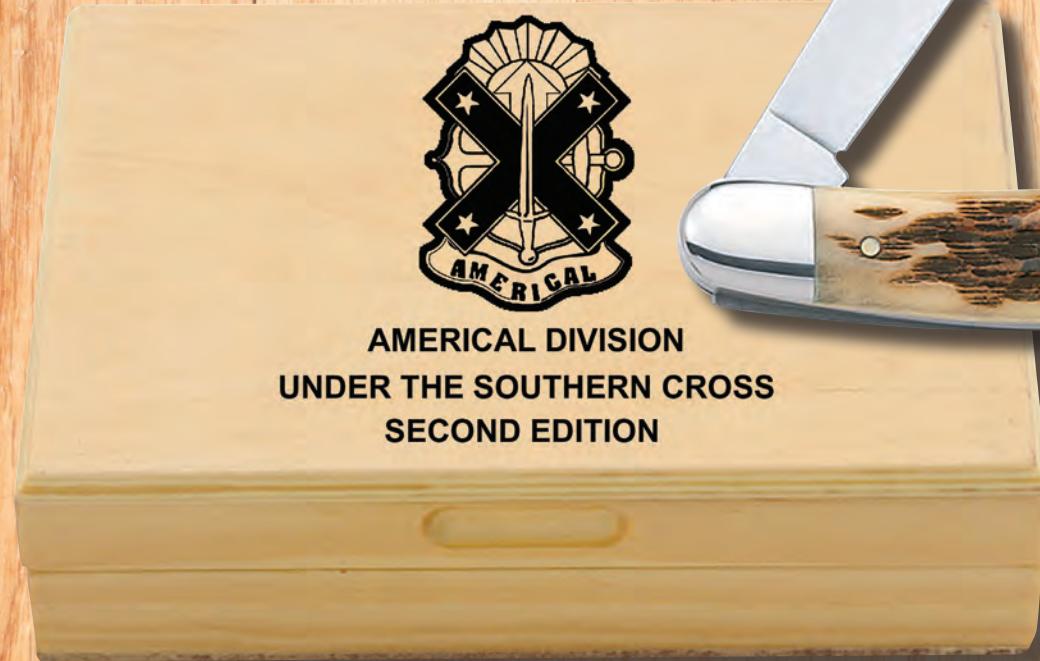
The pages of book that I call into question contain his comments about the events of March 28, 1971 at FSB Mary Ann. He also claimed to have flown out to the abandoned location of FSB Mary Ann in June 1971 and did a quick search for drugs. FBS Mary Ann was in no-man's land, so I can't understand a small group of non-combatant type soldiers going there after the base was closed. It would have been against Americal Division and Army policy to send them out there without armed security of at least a infantry platoon.

I served on Mary Ann from October 1970 to March 1971. I can tell you what the author described wasn't the same place. He did a real disservice to all the brave young men who served on Mary Ann during a trying time of the war. Folks back home thought that the war was over and that we weren't being fired at, but nothing could further from the truth. What was written could have been gleamed from the book "Sappers In The Wire" by Keith Nolan. Nolan's book had some things I did disagree with, but it was a great book and overall gave the 1/46th Professionals their due. If you haven't brought the book, "Not All Heroes," save your money, it isn't worth your time to read such rubbish. Just keep in mind this guy wasn't a real combat soldier, just a sorry REMF.

Skogen was on active duty in the U.S. Army from January 1966 to September 1973 with service in Vietnam from February 1971 to January 1972. He readily admits to not following high standards of personal conduct in Vietnam. He retired from the Los Angeles Police Department. But if I had been arrested by him and convicted of a crime during his tenure I would ask for a new trial because, in my opinion, he has a record of distorting the truth dating back to his days in the Army in Vietnam.

Joe Wolfe's book review was previously available on the amazon.com website but as of this writing it has been removed. -Editor

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perpetuate the traditions and history of the
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