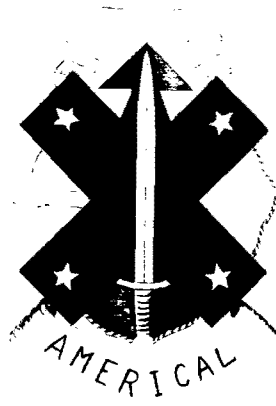


*FORTY-EIGHT  
ANNIVERSARY REUNION*

# AMERICAL DIVISION



JUNE 7, 8, 9 & 10, 1990

**MARRIOTT OAK BROOK HOTEL**  
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

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AN ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION,  
U.S. ARMY WORLD WAR II AND VIETNAM



## AMERICAL DIVISON VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### 1989 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1990

#### NATIONAL COMMANDER

Bernard Carroll, (221st F.A.)

#### SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Ronald L. Ward\* (198th LIB)

#### JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Ronald T. Castronova\* (11th LIB)

#### NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard Chase (221st F.A.)

#### NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Robert N. Thornton (221st F.A.)

### 1990 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1991

#### NATIONAL COMMANDER

Ronald L. Ward\* (198th LIB)

#### SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Ronald T. Castronova\* (11th LIB)

#### JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

LTC Peter J. Messina (221st F.A.)

#### NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard Chase (221st F.A.)

#### NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Robert N. Thornton (221st F.A.)

*\*Vietnam Vets*

## PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

45-47 Thomas J. Griffin\* (101st Med.)  
47-48 Walter T. Anzoni (57th Eng.)  
48-49 Dominc J. Bianculli\* (101st Med.)  
49-50 Gerald E. Martel (182nd Inf)  
50-51 John J. Carey (101st Med.)  
64-65 Howard V. Elliot (57th Eng.)  
65-66 Thomas P. McQuade (101st Med.)  
66-67 Henry B. Morash (57th Eng.)  
67-68 Edward N. Haddad (182nd Inf.)  
68-69 James C. McHarrie\* (101st Med.)  
69-71 William F. McGoldrick\*† (182nd Inf.)  
71-72 Harold W. Goslin\* (182nd Inf.)  
72-73 Daniel G. Merlin\* (182nd Inf.)  
73-74 William L. Dunphy (121st Med.)

*\*Deceased*

*†Two Terms*

74-75 Michael R. Lopardo (101st Med.)  
75-76 Hetor L. D'Amato\* (182nd Inf.)  
76-77 Paul J. Jacobs\* (182nd Inf.)  
77-78 Francis L. Guerriero (101st QM.)  
78-79 Santo J. Ravagno (121st Med.)  
79-80 William T. Schmidt\* (51st Brig.)  
80-81 Thomas B. Mulvahl\*† (182nd Inf.)  
81-83 William L. Dunphy† (121st Med.)  
83-84 Alfred R. Doig (247th F.A.)  
84-86 James C. Buckle† (182nd Inf.)  
86-77 Kenneth R. Turner (182nd Inf.)  
87-88 Bernard C. Chase (221st F.A.)  
88-89 Robert N. Thornton (221st F.A.)  
89-90 Bernard Carroll (221st F.A.)

*(During 1952 to 1963 the ADVA was inactive)*

## AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION COMMITTEE

#### REUNION CHAIRMAN

Joseph G. Micek (132nd Inf. Reg't)

#### ASST. REUNION CHAIRMAN

Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, M.D.  
(132nd Inf. Reg't)

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mitchell Przybycien (132nd Inf. Reg't)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Fred G. Hitzman (132nd Inf. Reg't)  
Briane Mulcrone (23rd M.P.Co.)  
John (Dutch) DeGroot (23rd M.P.Co.)



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*SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1990*

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**PROGRAM**

6:30: Cocktails (Cash Bar)

7:30: Dinner

8:30-9:30: Speakers, Entertainment

9:30-12:30 A.M.: Dancing, Socializing

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**MENU**

Pineapple Mandarin Orange Cocktail

Caesar Salad

**Roast Prime of Beef Au Jus**

Served with Horseradish Cream

Duchess Potato

Broccoli Florettes

Honey Glazed Carrots

Fresh Rolls and Butter

Turtle Savarin Sliced Tableside

Served with Chocolate Sauce

Coffee, Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee, Milk

*Waiters will pick up your dinner tickets  
at your table prior to serving.*



## AMERICAL Division Combat Narrative



The AMERICAL Division had its origin in Task Force 6814 formed on 14 Jan 42 with the mission of occupying and defending New Caledonia. It departed New York on 23 Jan 42. The force landed in Australia 26 Feb 42 and was sent to New Caledonia 6 Mar 42, arriving there 12 Mar 42 and establishing Hqs at Noumea. There the task force organized the defenses and built installations on New Caledonia and New Hebrides. The AMERICAL Division was

organized from Task Force 6814 which was disbanded on 27 May 42; its name was a contraction of the words "America" and "New Caledonia."

The 164th Inf left for Guadalcanal 9 Oct 42 and arrived there under air attack on 13 Oct 42. The regiment, with the Marines, defended Henderson Field against a major Japanese counterattack 24 Oct 42, then attacked 5-11 Nov 42 and participated in the renewed offensive toward Kokumbona and Poha River 18-23 Nov 42. The division Hqs and 132nd Inf landed on Guadalcanal 8 Dec 42. They attacked Mt. Austen 17 Dec 42 and engaged in very heavy combat at the Gifu Strongpoint 24 Dec 42-9 Jan 43. The 35th Reg, 25th Inf Div then relieved the 132nd Inf Reg. On 16 Jan 43 the 182nd Inf participated in the drive along the west coast. On 1 Feb 43 the 132nd Inf Reg landed at Verahue and reached Tenaro Village by 9 Feb 43. This was the end of the Guadalcanal ground struggle. The division then occupied defensive positions and moved to the Fiji Islands in echelon 1 Mar-10 Apr 43. The Americal Division moved to Bougainville 17 Dec 43-12 Jan 44, the 182nd Inf Reg entering the front line 2 Jan 44 and the 132nd Inf Reg entering 9 Jan 44 at the Torokina Hornet's Nest. An intense tank-infantry attack cleared the area. A Japanese counterattack 10 Mar 44 took the south



knob of key Hill 260 from the 182nd Inf Reg. The 132nd Inf Reg retook Hill 260 and later drove the Japanese from Hill 260 on 20 Mar 44. In Apr 44 the division pushed east of the Mavavia River and secured Hill Masses 165, 155, 500, and 501 and extended the outpost line past the Torokina River. The division continued patrolling the Torokina River, Numa Numa Trail, and across the Mountain Divide. They were relieved by the *Australian 3rd Div* on 10 Dec 44. From 11 Dec 44-7 Jan 45 the division conducted amphibious training and prepared for movement to the Philippines.

The division moved to the Philippines by echelon 8-28 Jan 45 where it relieved the 77th Inf Div on Leyte Island and established a command post at Capoocan 25 Jan 45. The division took control of the tactical mission on Leyte northwest of the Jaro-Valencia-Palompon line on 5 Feb 45 and began pushing toward the west coast of the island. On 19 Feb 45 the 1st Bn 182nd



Inf landed on the northwest Samar as a provisional task force and cleared the San Bernardino Strait from northwest Samar through Balicuatros Islands and west to Capul and Naranjo Islands by 26 Feb 45. Meanwhile, the division opened its attack at Villaba on Leyte and completed its encirclement of the Japanese in the northwest coastal sector and mopped up until 10 Mar 45.

The 1st Bn 132nd Inf landed on Burias and Ticao Islands 3 Mar 45, meeting opposition on Burias on 6 Mar 45. All Japanese forces were eliminated by 10 Mar 45. The 164th Inf Reg continued to mop up in western Leyte under the Eighth Army. The division, led by the 132nd Inf Reg, prepared for the Cebu Island landing. On 10 Apr 45 the 164th Inf Reg rejoined the division. The division left Leyte 24



Mar 45. After a one-hour naval bombardment, the division formed a beachhead at Talisay, Cebu and took Cebu City the next day. The 182nd Inf Reg fought the Battle of Go Chan Hill 28-29 Mar 45 and then battled to clear the other hills. They were counterattacked heavily on Bolo Ridge. 1 Apr 45 the 132nd Inf was counterattacked approaching Hill 27 on 7 Apr 45, but took both Hills 20 and 26 by 10 Apr 45. The 3rd Bn 164th Inf landed on Bohol Island 11 Apr 45 and destroyed Japanese forces there by 25 Apr 45. Meanwhile the division on Cebu fought the Battle of Babay Ridge 12-17 Apr 45, and then continued combat on the island

until 20 Jun 45. The 164th Inf landed near Looc on Negros Oriental Island on 26 Apr 45 and fought the Battle for the Palimpinon Heights until 28 May 45, the Japanese forces being destroyed on the island near Balasbalas 7-12 Jun 45. The division, with its three infantry regiments, reassembled on Cebu Island and engaged in training for the invasion of Japan from 21 Jun 45 until the end of the war. It took part in the occupation of Japan and was deactivated 12 December 1945.

It was reactivated on 1 December 1954, officially redesignated the 23rd Infantry Division (AMERICAL) and served for almost a year and a half until 10 Apr 56 with headquarters in the Canal Zone. It was reactivated again when Gen. William C. Westmoreland, needing an infantry division in Vietnam but aware that none would be arriving from the United States for some time, and conscious of the AMERICAL Division's relationship with the 1st Marine Division in World War II, decided to reactivate the army division to operate in the northern coastal sector adjacent to the Marines. He first established a headquarters known as Task Force OREGON and, as additional troops arrived, transformed the task force

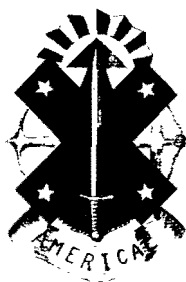


into the AMERICAL Division. Because the Department of the Army policy required that divisions be numbered, the division was known officially as the 23rd Infantry Division (AMERICAL) and was reactivated as such in Vietnam on 25 September 1967. MACV, however, preferred the name AMERICAL, listed it as such in numerous official orders, called it "the Army's only named division on active service," and used the vehicle bumper abbreviation AMCAL. In Vietnam the rugged terrain of southern I Corps Tactical Zone was used by division for its encampment at Chu Lai. This ran the gamut from marshy, coastal lowlands to triple-canopy jungle on steep mountain slopes. The AMERICAL Division battled the strong enemy influence in both Quang Nam and Quang Tri Provinces 11 Nov 67-11 Nov 68 in Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA with two of its brigades. Another brigade was sent to Quang Ngai Province in early 68. During 69 and 70 the division continued to fight in the Duc Pho, CHuy Lai and Tam Ky areas along the coast. In November 71 the division was inactivate and the 196th Infantry Brigade became separate. The 23rd Infantry Division (AMERICAL) served a total of 1,526 days in Vietnam.



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Painting of Crest: **Rev. Bart Berry** / Film and Color Separations: **IPP Litho** / Design and Production: **The Graphics Department, Inc.** / Printing: **The Argus Press**



## SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

**Description:** On a blue Norman shield  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches high and  $2\frac{1}{3}$  inches wide, four white stars of varying sizes all slightly tipped to the dexter, arranged to represent the Southern Cross.

**Symbolism:** The four white stars on the blue field are symbolic of the Southern Cross where the Americal Division served.

## DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

Description: A gold colored metal and enamel device  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in height overall, consisting of a blue saltire bearing four white stars one near each end, and centered vertically thereover a gold sword with hilt in base upon a red field edged with gold and behind the sword point at top a red arrowhead point up upon the center of a gold radiant sun, and centered horizontally with shank passing behind the saltire a gold anchor with crown at left and ring at right with cable passing through and behind the arms of the saltire; all above a hold scroll inscribed "Americal" in blue.

**Symbolism:** The saltire alludes to New Caledonia in the Southwest Pacific where the division was first activated on May 27, 1942, and with its blue color (for infantry) and four white stars forms a "Southern Cross" and refers to the divisions's shoulder sleeve insignia and the area in which the division initially served. The four stars (the brightest in the Southern Cross constellation) also allude to the four campaigns of World War II in which the division participated. The anchor refers to the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) awarded the division for Guadalcanal, and the red arrowhead and Philippine sun for the assault landing in the Southern Philippines and the award of the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. The unsheathed sword with point to top refers to service in Vietnam. The division is the only U.S. Army division to initially bear a name instead of a number. The former designation, "American," was incorrectly adopted as a nickname by the press. The Division crest is both inspirational and historically significant to all who served in the Americal.