

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

30th Anniversary

MAY, 1972

★ GUADALCANAL

★ VIETNAM

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS



Americal



Division

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ LEYTE

NEW MEMBERS

The ADVA welcomes and extends warm greetings to the following new members of our great Americal Family:

Alfred G. Hartwell-411 Baver Ave., Louisville, Kentucky 40207 - (182 Inf.)

Ernesto R. Huerta-3815 N.Sawyer Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60618 - (23 MP Co.)

John G. Stringos, Jr.-17 Fountain Ave., Somerville Massachusetts 02145 - (196 BDE)

REMEMBER OUR MOTTO

"A TEAM EFFORT IN 1972"

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Although my thanks and deep appreciation to all individuals who, in any manner contributed to the great success of our Annual Dinner-Dance appears to be belated, it was due to the report of the event not being available in sufficient time for publication in the April edition.

PNC Thomas P. McQuade and his Committee organized and conducted one of the most successful events from both a social and financial aspect in the history of the Association. On the evening of the event, the several young ladies who served as hostesses performed outstandingly. And a very special "thank you" to Helen McQuade whose hard work in making this Dinner-Dance such a success is sincerely appreciated by me. The Co-chairmen of the Ad Book, James Flynn and William McGoldrick and their ladies, together with their assistants were most successful in their endeavors. Again, thanks to all.

We are now looking forward to our annual reunion which is to take place June 29 through July 2 in the Berkshires with the hope that an even larger group will attend than has in the past. However, the principal order of business is the annual election of officers and Executive Council. The slate of officers is that recommended by the Nominating Committee, which recommendation was approved by vote of the general membership at the April meeting.

As a parting note, I wish to thank all individuals who visited, sent gifts and remembrances while I was confined at Chelsea Naval Hospital during March. My services to our organization were somewhat impaired during my hospitalization and recovery periods for that reason. I am hoping when you read this I will be in full harness again.

HAROLD W. GOSLIN
NATIONAL COMMANDER

MEETING NOTICE

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday evening June 8th 1972 at the State Armory, Victory Rd. Dorchester starting at 8 P.M. Please repeat this date - June 8 -at least five times and mark it on your calendar. This will be the last meeting prior to the annual reunion and the last monthly meeting until Sept. 14. Please attend. ADJUTANT

TAPS

With deep regret we announce the death on 3 August 1971 of member John Francis Russotto of 64 West 15th St., Bayonne, New Jersey - John served with Co. A, 182 Inf and was a member of the ADVA since April 1965.

MAIL CALL

Santa Barbara
California

Gentlemen:

Please find my check in the amount of \$6.00 for my 1973 dues.

I enjoy reading the "Americal Newsletter," but I have a suggestion. Is it possible to have the 1st staple put on the left hand edge so that the newsletter can be opened page by page, like turning the pages of a book. This staple could be located about one inch above or below the center so that it will not interfere with folding the newsletter for mailing. As the ad on TV says, "Try It!"

Art Mitz
(182 Inf)

Ed: We have discussed this problem with our printer and have ascertained that his equipment is unable to place the staple near the edge.

Dear Dan:

I hope I am not too late in furnishing the enclosed paragraph which you so thoughtfully suggested. Your letter arrive in Vietnam coincidentally with a few thousand tourists from North Vietnam and I have been busy helping to accomodate them in a manner to which they should be accustomed.

MAIL CALL (continued)

must be tourists because their Paris Peace
negotiation assures us that there has been no
invasion.

Recalling that you once published an old
picture of me, I am enclosing a later version,
certainly not with any request that you use it,
but if someone should decide to show me again
in the future, it might as well be the current
face.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Kroesen
Major General, USA
Commanding

Dear Dan:

Thanks for your letter of 21 March asking me
to write a brief salutation on the 30th Anniversary
of the Americal Division.

As a former Commanding General, it is a privilege
for me to have the opportunity to salute this out-
standing division on its 30th birthday.

Best wishes for a most successful newsletter and
my congratulations to you for the wonderful work
you accomplish for the Association.

Sincerely,

Lloyd B. Ramsey
Major General, USA
The Provost Marshall General

Dear Dan:

Inclosed you will find a brief salutation com-
memorating the 30th birthday of the American per
your request.

Let me congratulate you on the fine manner in
which you are handling the job as National Adjutant.
I had noted that you have kept the spirit of the
Division's vets on a high par.

Thanks for thinking of me.

Sincerely,

S.W. Koster
Brigadier General, USA
DCG/CofS

Dear Dan:

Inclosed is my salutation commemorating the
30th birthday of the Americal Division.

Do hope that some day I can serve closer and
be able to participate more fully in your
wonderful Association.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Gettys
Major General, USA
Commanding

NEWS ITEMS

Major General Frederick J. Kroesen, who
led the Americal Division in Vietnam has
just been rewarded with command of one of
the Army's top units. General Kroesen,
now Deputy Commander of XXIV corps in
Vietnam, is on orders for the 82d Abn
Div. at Fort Bragg, N.C. with a June 30
reporting date.

A United States flag, believed to have
been made in the late 1790's is among
more than 8000 artifacts in the newly
remodeled Fort Carson Museum and Visitors
Center. The flag is now priceless be-
cause in addition to the 15 stars (repre-
senting the 13 colonies and two states,
Vermont & Kentucky) it also has 15 stripes.

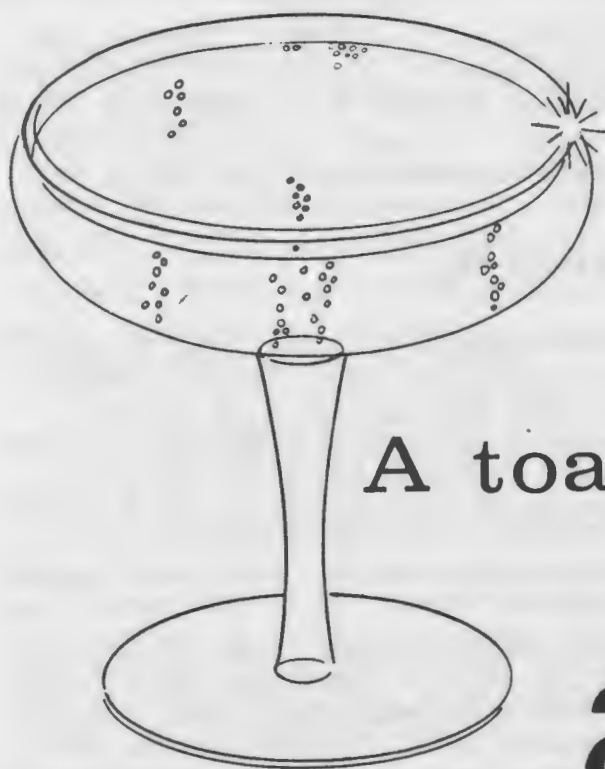
Active membership now stands at 742. How-
ever, we have 77 members who have failed
to renew their membership which expired
in January 1972. We have carried these
delinquent members for three months but
must remove their names from our mailing
list in fairness to those members who
have paid their dues. If your renewal is
due, we urge you to send in your six
dollars as soon as possible. Many members
are due for renewal this month (May) so
check your membership card and remit
your annual dues today.

A new Chapter is being formed in the
vicinity of Fort Polk, Louisiana. Mem-
bers residing in or near that area are
urged to contact James H. Tarver, Rt. 2,
Box 251 3/5, Leesville, LA. 71446.

Members living on or near the West Coast
are urged to join the "Golden Gate Chapter
#1." Contact Reuben A. Penirian, 1471
Sequoia Ave., San Bruno, CA. 94066

Our National Headquarters located at 671
Adams St., Dorchester, Mass is open for
general business every Monday & Thursday
evening, except holidays and meeting nites.
Come on down and get acquainted - we can
always use your help-give up TV (the re-
runs will bore you) and help your Associa-
tion by joining our, "Team-Effort".

THOMAS, Richard L., last known
assigned to 1st Bn, 52d Inf,
198th Inf Bde, Americal Div,
Vietnam, in Sept. 1970. Anyone
knowing, contact Mrs. Cora M.
Thomas, 1924 Capell Dr., Lodi,
Calif. 95240.



A toast to the

americal

The original Americal Division was created under similar circumstances in New Caledonia on 27 May 1942, when the 132d, 164th and the 182d Infantry Regiments were combined into a division under Major General Alexander M. Patch, USA. The Americal participated in subsequent campaigns in the Pacific.

The Americal Division was the first U.S. Army Division to bear a name instead of a number. The name, chosen from a list submitted by men of General Patch's command, was suggested by the then PFC David Fonesca, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, a member of the 26th Signal Company, who derived the name from the general phrase "American troops in New Caledonia."



MG Samuel W. Koster



Tanks of the Americal Division take part in push to mop up Japanese forces on Cebu Island of the Philippines during World War II.



MG. A.E. Milloy
March, 1970

UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

To the members of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I extend hearty congratulations on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the division's initial activation.

The first United States division to be activated on foreign soil during World War II, the Americal established a proud combat record in the Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Southern Philippines, and Leyte Campaigns. In Vietnam, the division's colors were once again unfurled, and to its distinguished history were added four consecutive years of combat operations against a determined enemy.

The men and women of the Army join me in saluting the gallant achievements of the division, and in sending to its members our very best wishes.

W. C. WESTMORELAND
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

HEADQUARTERS

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 1381
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



On this, the 30th anniversary of the birth of our division, I extend personal greetings to all. Our division has left its mark in the military annals of our nation. We all should be very proud of our division's record.

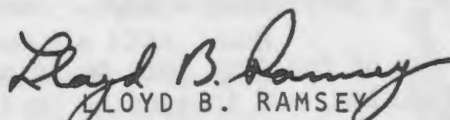
Best Regards,
Sincerely,
LTG William H. Arnold, Ret.
Honorary National Commander



30th ANNIVERSARY
AMERICAL DIVISION

On the 30th Anniversary of the Americal Division, I salute those brave and gallant men who fought so valiantly in World War II and Vietnam to accomplish many difficult missions. I extend my deepest sympathies to those families who lost their loved ones in these conflicts.

The Americal Division, "born in battle," has lived in battle and established a reputation of being one of the Army's outstanding combat divisions. This reputation was achieved by those patriotic officers and men who were dedicated to "Duty - Honor - Country" and fought heroically in battle so that others may live in peace and freedom.

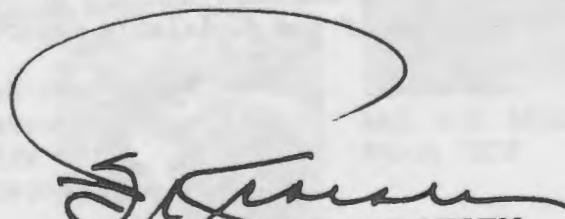


LLOYD B. RAMSEY

Major General, USA
Division Commanding General
June 1969 - March 1970



The 30th Anniversary of the activation of the Americal Division is an occasion on which I know I will be joined by thousands of other Americal veterans who reflect that day upon the combat experiences we have had, the associations and comradeships we enjoyed, and the pride we feel for having served in an organization which accomplished every mission it was ever assigned. It was my great honor to have been the last commander of the Americal during its latest period of activation, and I assure all of the former members of the Division that I passed the colors into the archives with great regret and with the hope that they will not be needed again, but also with the complete satisfaction and confidence that if they are needed, the heritage passed on by former members will sustain and inspire the men who follow us.

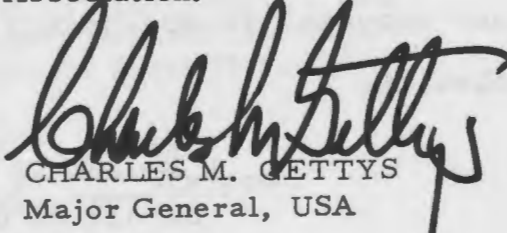


FREDERICK J. KROESEN
Major General, USA



As a former commander of the Americal Division, I take great pleasure in saluting the bravest of the brave, both now and in the past, on the occasion of the Americal's thirtieth birthday. The Americal was truly born in battle in two wars and fought magnificently in World War II and the Vietnam War. I take great pride in my service in this great division and salute those who made the supreme sacrifice as well as all veterans.

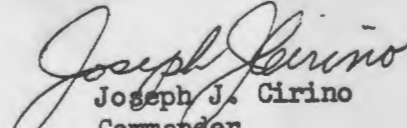
One day I hope to be near enough to Boston to participate in the activities of our Americal Association.


CHARLES M. GETTYS
Major General, USA



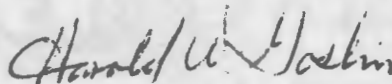
The Officers and the Members of the 182D INFANTRY Association send Birthday Greetings to the Americal Division on the 30th Anniversary of its initial activation. May you continue to grow with success in the years to come.

Very truly yours,


Joseph J. Cirino
Commander

A SALUTE TO THE AMERICAL DIVISION

On this the thirtieth anniversary of the organization of the Americal Division, it is with deep humility that we reflect on those early days in New Caledonia when one of our own, the late David Fonseca, gave the title to the Division which was duly recognized by the Department of the Army. Whether or not we realized it at that time, we were a closely knit group with a common purpose, the accomplishment of our mission and the success of our Division. The total dependence on each other was the root of our success. With memories of those periods of time when we were great, let us all as members of the Americal Division Veterans Association re-dedicate ourselves to the purpose for which we organized. Let us all subjugate our personal interests and contribute our talents to a greater Association.



Harold W. Goslin
National Commander

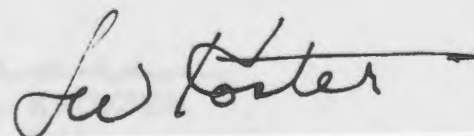


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY TEST AND EVALUATION COMMAND
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21005

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Americal Division, it is a distinct honor for me to note the outstanding achievements of the Division.

Having been its first Commanding General upon reactivation in Vietnam in October 1967 and having observed firsthand its first year of intensive combat, I know that the vast majority of those who served under her colors can be justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

On this occasion I join all veterans of the Americal Division in a salute to our fallen and disabled comrades and those who are still in enemy hands or are missing in action. Their sacrifice was great and so often goes unheralded and unappreciated by those for whom they gave their fullest measure of devotion.





1883



1955

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

On this Thirtieth Birthday anniversary of the Americal Division, it is a privilege for me to send greetings from the members of the 164th Infantry association to our fellow members of the Americal Division. Our association had its beginning in 1883 and since then members have served in the Spanish-American War, Mexican Border, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict. In 1955 the 164th Infantry became a victim of reorganization and became an engineer unit. Our 1972 reunion will be held Oct 13-14-15 at Bino, N. Dak., on the 30th anniversary of the first landing on Guadalcanal. We shall certainly be reminiscing on the events of 30 years ago from New Caledonia and the Solomons and on through the rest of our route in the Pacific area.

On behalf of the members of the 164th Infantry Association, I send best wishes on the occasion of the anniversary of this fine organization and commend you for observing it in the Newsletter.

Yours very truly,

G. M. Christensen D. V. M.

G. M. Christensen D. V. M.
President

Boy! WHAT A
RUCKY DAY.



RECAPPING THE AMERICAL

By Dan Merlin

The Americal Infantry Division is a division of distinction. It was the only combat division in World War II with a name instead of a number, the first U.S. Army division to take offensive action against the Japanese in the Pacific theatre and the only army division to receive the Navy Presidential Unit Citation for gallantry in action. The jungle fighters of the AMERICAL were rushed into combat so quickly they got a name instead of a number but at the conclusion of the war it was a name to be proud of. The AMERICAL was born on May 27, 1942 on the Island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific from a composite force known as Task Force 6814. Let us go back a few months and see how the seed was sown that gave birth to this gallant fighting force, THE AMERICAL INFANTRY DIVISION. January 1942, Brig. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr., summoned to Washington, D. C. by the War Dept. and there informed that he was to take command of the forces being formed for movement to the South Pacific under the code designation 6814.

Army units stationed throughout the United States were alerted and assigned to what was to become known as Task Force 6814.

Many of the key units of this task force were taken from the 26th. Inf. Div. (Yankee Division) of the Massachusetts National Guard stationed at Camp Edwards, Mass. Another key unit was the 132d Inf. regiment, Illinois Nat'l. Guard, which was relieved from the 33d Inf. Div. and assigned to Task Force 6814 on Jan. 14, 1942.

Task Force 6814 sailed out of New York on January 23, 1942 aboard seven troop transports under Command of Brig. Gen. William T. Rose, (C.G. 51st. Inf. Brig.) while Gen. Patch remained in Wash., D. C.

Task Force 6814 sailed south along the Atlantic Coast to the Panama canal. The convoy cleared the Pacific end of the canal on Jan. 31, 1942 and headed for Australia. On Feb. 26, 1942 the convoy reached Melbourne where the troops of Task Force 6814 disembarked. On March 6, 1942 Task Force 6814 departed Melbourne and moved on to Noumea, New Caledonia, arriving March 12, 1942. On April 9, 1942, another key unit of the unborn division arrived in New Caledonia, the 164th. Inf. Regt. which was relieved from assignment to the 34th Inf. Div. N.D.N.G. on Dec. 8, 1941. On May 27, 1942, General Orders No. 10, Hqs. U.S. Forces in New Caledonia, activated the AMERICAL INFANTRY DIVISION, with Major General Alexander M. Patch, Jr. becoming the Americal's first Commanding General. Then activity increased and on Oct. 7, 1942 the 164th. Inf. received alert orders and two days later began loading on transports at the Noumea docks. Other Americal units started loading a few days later as unit after unit was alerted and moved down to the docks to be loaded on troop transports. The war was getting closer. Then on Oct. 13, 1942, the 164th Inf. Regt. began debarking in Sealark Channel, off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal. The spearhead of the Americal had landed and was soon placed under control of the C.G. 1st Marine Div. The Americals first combat casualty was Cpl. Ken-

neth S. Foubert, Co. N, who was KIA around noon on the 13th.

On Nov. 12th. the 2d echelon landed on Guadalcanal, consisting of the 182d Inf. Regt., 245th F.A., Cos. A&C, 57th Engrs, 1st. Bn, 101st. Medics, and other small units.

On Dec. 8th. additional units landed consisting of, 2d and 3d Bns. 132d Inf., 247th F.A., (less Bty. A), 26th Sig. Co., and Div. Hqs. On 13-14 Dec. the Americal's strength was increased with the arrival of the 3d Bn, 182d Inf. 1st. Bn, 132d Inf. 21st Recon. Troop and Bty. A, 247th F.A. Bn.

The AMERICAL under Gen. Patch assumed control of all combat operations on Guadalcanal on Dec. 9th, relieving Maj. Gen. Vandergrift and his 1st Marine Div.

The end of the campaign on Guadalcanal came on Feb. 9, 1943 and on March 1st. the 1st. echelon of the Americal sailed from the steaming jungles and stench of death which was Guadalcanal enroute to the Fiji Islands.

On April 5th. of 1943 the last elements departed, clearing Guadalcanal of all physical traces of the AMERICAL Div. The AMERICAL spent the following months on Viti Levu in the Fiji Islands, reorganizing, receiving replacements, and training for further combat with the yellow men from Nippon. This peaceful but busy time lasted from May 6th. until Dec. 10th., 1943 when movement orders were issued for a forward combat zone. Troop ships were loaded and moved out of the harbor and by January 3, 1944 the last elements of the Americal had left the Fiji Islands behind. On Christmas morning, Dec. 25, 1943, the 164th Inf. again the spearhead regiment began landing on Bougainville from transports at anchor in Empress Augusta Bay. These troops were under the command of Col. Crump Garvin. Unknowingly to the Americal, they would be on this jungle island for the next year, holding a perimeter against the Japanese advance and guarding several airfields being used for strikes further north. The AMERICAL relieved US Marine units on the line and took over half the perimeter next to the 37th. Inf. Div. (Ohio N. G.). The AMERICAL remained on Bougainville until Jan. 8, 1945 when the first ships bearing units of the AMERICAL departed enroute to the Philippines. On January 21, 1945, the first echelon of the AMERICAL, again the 164th. Infantry reached the Philippines, and went into action on the 27th. Leading the AMERICAL into the Battle for the Philippines was Maj. Gen. William H. Arnold, one of the youngest division commanders in WW II.

Gen. Arnold had taken over command of the division from Maj. Gen. Robert B. McClure on Nov. 4, 1944. Gen. McClure moved up to Corps. The AMERICAL remained in the Philippines (going into action on Leyte, Cebu, Samar, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Mindanao) until the Japanese surrender on Aug. 14, 1945. On the morning of September 1st. the AMERICAL took a last look at the green and brown hills of the Philippines and their last scene of combat and sailed over the horizon towards the homeland of the Japanese empire. On Sept. 8th. the 132d Inf. and 164th Inf. regiments debarked at Yokohama and were assigned to their assembly areas. Thus began the



AMERICALS occupation of the enemy homeland, Japan. By the end of Nov. '45, the last units of the AMERICAL had moved out of Tokyo Bay enroute to Seattle, Wash. Only a handful of the original members of Task Force 6814 remained, all volunteers to the very end. On December 12, 1945 the AMERICAL INFANTRY DIVISION retired to the list of inactive U.S. Army units. It is all history now, it was only a name, but what a name, its life was short but the traditions it made were second to none in all the annals of American Military History. Well Done — AMERICAL.

The Total Costs:

Campaign	KIA	WIA	MIA	Total
Guadalcanal	533	902	4	1,439
Bougainville	301	898	13	1,212
Leyte, Samar	165	550	0	715
Cebu, Bohol, Negros	449	1,969	9	2,427
Totals	1,448	4,319	26	5,793

Medal of Honor: S/St. Jessie R. Drowley, Co. B, 132d Inf. Bougainville.

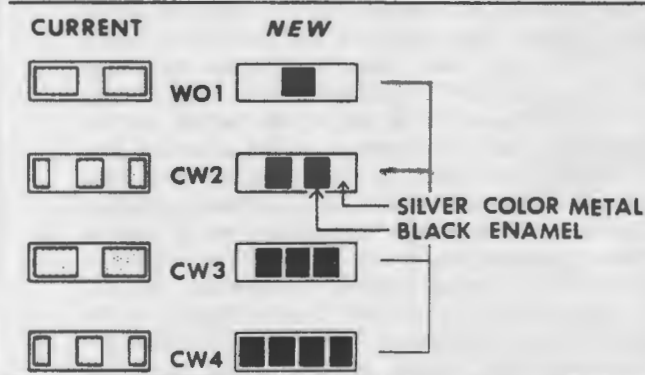
Distinguished Unit Citation: Co. E., 182d Inf. Bougainville 10-11 Mar. 44.

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) — Americal Div. Guadalcanal.

Awards and Decorations:	Medal of Honor	1
	D. S. C.	45
	D. S. M.	4
	Silver Star	544
	Legion of Merit	76
	Soldiers Medal	61
	Bronze Star Medal	2,512
	Air Medal	39
	Purple Heart	4,869

DEADLINE FOR JULY-AUGUST ISSUE, JULY 30th

New Look For WO, CWO



WASHINGTON (ANF)—Warrant officers and chief warrant officers grades W01 through CW4 will be required to wear new insignia beginning Dec. 1, 1972.

The purpose of the new design is to make warrant and chief warrant officers more readily identifiable.

The new insignia will be made of a silver-colored metal with black enamel rank designations.

Present insignia for warrant officers in grades W01 and CW2 are gold colored metal with brown enamel designations. Present formats for CW3 and CW4 insignia is silver-colored metal with brown enamel.

The new insignia will be available at installation post exchanges in August and at quartermaster clothing stores in October. Shoulder boards for the Army blue uniform will also be available in post exchanges in August.



MG William H. Arnold
November, 1944





23rd Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96374

Americal Division



MG C. M. Gettys



SGM J. D. Rogers



MG L. B. Ramsey
Provost Marshal
General



JAMES L. BALDWIN
Major General, USA



FOUNDED 1945

Editor: DANIEL G. MERLIN, JR.



MG Frederick J. Kroesen assumes command
of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), 9 July 1971

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER
P. O. BOX 1381
BOSTON, MASS. 02104



Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted men now serving with or who have served with the Americal (23d INF) Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods:

World War II (South Pacific)	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam	1967-

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 and Task Force Oregon. Branch of service is immaterial.

Benefits of Active Membership Include:

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOTING PRIVILEGES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

ANNUAL REUNIONS

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

AND MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES

***If You Served with the
Americal Division***

You Belong in the "AMERICAL FAMILY"

Dedication

ADVA is dedicated as a *LIVING MEMORIAL* to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true Americal patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

**All Good Guys Wear White Hats
JOIN ADVA TO-DAY**