

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1989

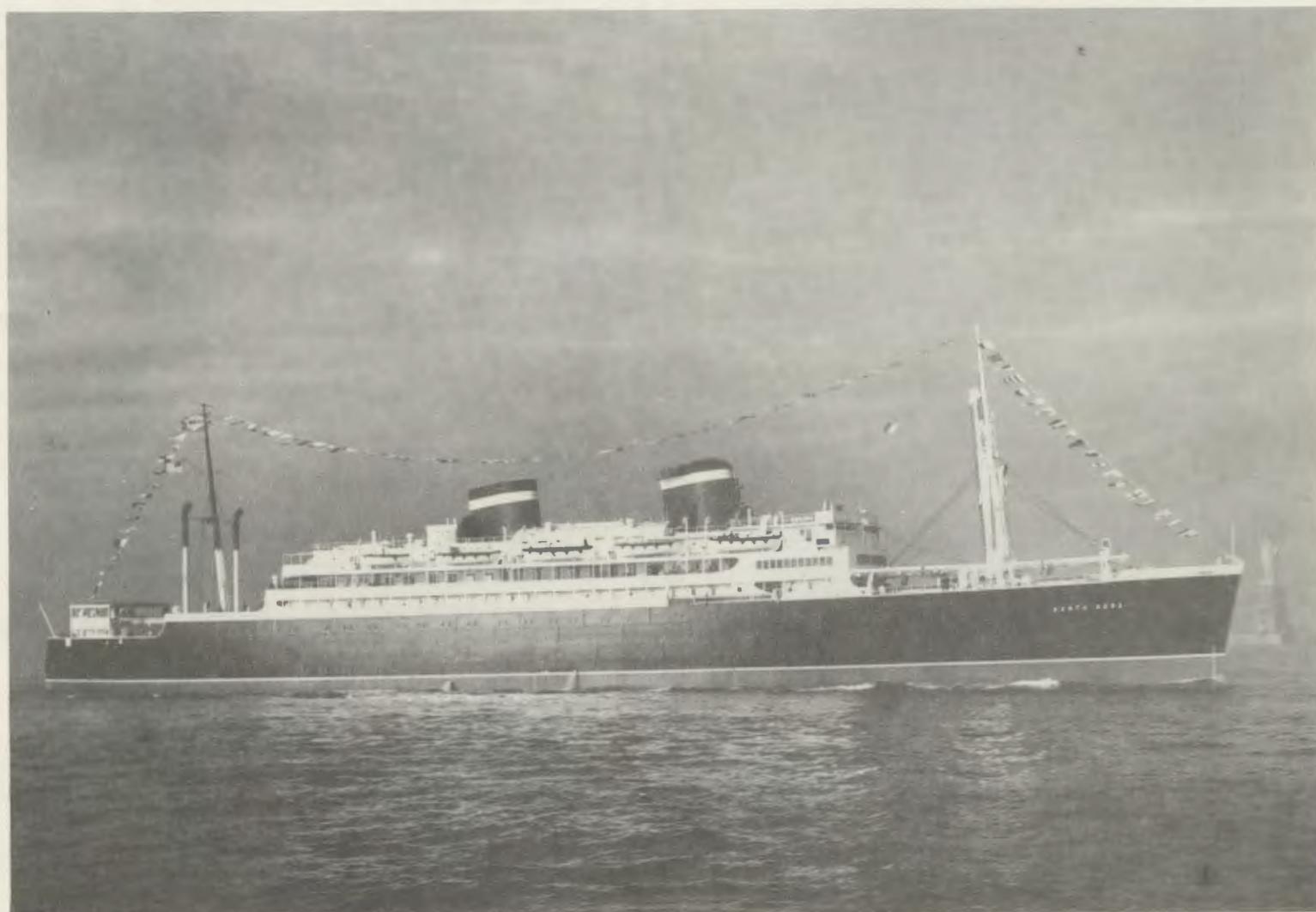
AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor-in-Chief: Oscar Patterson III
Vietnam Editor: Ron Ward

Published Bi-Monthly

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION - P.O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



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MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

February 11, 1989

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA
10:00 a.m. Executive Council Meeting
11:00 a.m. Business Meeting

March 11, 1989

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

April 8, 1989

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I wish to thank one and all that attended our December 11, 1988 Christmas Party and helped make it a success, that so many have said that it was.

The committee just plans these affairs, the attendees are the ones that make it or break it.

I want to thank Leo, John, Jan and Ken (Al) for helping Vickie and Ronnie with the entertainment.

My apologies to Vi Arnott for not introducing him to our people, Vi is the National President of the Yankee Division Veterans Auxiliary.

We collected \$112.00 for the VA Hospital which has already been delivered.

It was nice to see some new faces in attendance and we hope they keep coming back.

Keep in mind the date of the annual Dinner Dance--May 5, 1989. The information on the Dinner Dance and the reservation form is located in the center fold of this Americal Newsletter. Also note the information on the National Convention in the center fold and start making your plans to attend this year--June is not that far off!

In closing, I hope that everybody had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you all a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Bob Thornton
National Commander

ARMED FORCES DAY ARMED FORCES DAY

Saturday, May 20, 1989

Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
Refreshments will be served!

TAPS

Robert Aukerman
132nd Inf
Union City, Indiana
22 September 1988

Joseph T. Mandile
Co F 182nd Inf
Raymond, NH
28 November 1988

Paul J. Coyne
11th LIB
Brooklyn, NY
5 June 1988

Robert L. Spear
182nd Inf
Somerville, MA
1 November 1988

Hubert Doucette
Co F Service Co
182nd Inf
February 1988

Edward W. Vandergrift
132nd Inf
Denton, MD
14 June 1988

Warren Gilbertson
164 Infantry
Gallop, NM
18 December 1988

Thomas E. Zajac
247 Field Artillery
Schille Park, IL
Unknown

Thomas W. Furey
182 Infantry
Stoneham, MA
27 May 1988

Joseph M. Kimball
101 Medics
Newton, MA
19 October 1988

PLEASE SEND ALL DEATH NOTICES TO THE ADJUTANT

SEND ALL DUES
CHANGES OF ADDRESS
TO THE ADJUTANT
ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

-- IMPORTANT --

-- YOU SHOULD KNOW --

| DUES |
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MAY DUES NOTICES

1st Notice Dues Membership Card mailed in ADVANCE of payment.

2nd Notice Dues over due notices were mailed September 1988

3rd Notice Dues over due notices were mailed November 1988

FINAL NOTICE In 30 days your name will be removed from the Roster.

How many other Organizations carry an OVERDUE member for almost ONE YEAR?

Robert J. Bello	Sam S. Borelli
George V. Bradshaw	Albert Cerullo Jr.
Don S. Counter	Raymond Donsante
Michael Fightmaster	George J. Germain
Marvin E. Griffin	Edmund Jaga-Spanian
Joseph A. Laudicina	Donald R. Lloyd
Albert E. Lovely	Charles Malloy
John F. Mooney	Robert J. Rae
Lawrence G. Ranslow	Richard M. Reid
Franklin F. Reinier	Ottis Sims
Joseph L. Smith	Louis Sylvester
James E. Talley	Paul Toniello
Charles W. Wilson	

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robert D. Albers	Pete Barron
Btry B 18th Arty, 3rd Bn	245th F.A.
Pasco, WA	Bay Minette, AL

Leonard H. Brown	James L. Filler
196th LIB	Co. M 182nd Inf.
Newburyport, MA	Broomfield, CO

Joseph R. Giordano	B. Warren Goodson Jr.
Co. E 182nd Inf.	196th LIB
Philadelphia, PA	Beaumont, TX

Rev. J. Francis Gorman	Norman R. Jacobs
132nd Inf.	Btry B 247th F.A.
Park Ridge, IL	Chillicothe, MO

Ronald A. Lipschitz	James W. Mitchell
11th LIB	26th Signal
Bronx, NY	Buffalo, TX

Henry P. O'Melia	LTC. John Sciacca
101 Quartermaster	198th LIB
Winchester, MA	Manalapan, NJ

Albert E. Scott	William H. Shackelford
123rd Avn Bn	246th F.A.
Woodhaven, NY	Rocky Mount, NC

Rene A. Stark	Joseph M. Waters
Co. M 182nd Inf	Service Btry 221st F.A.
Dorchester, MA	North Ft. Meyers, FL

1452NL215560

NEW MEMBERS

Robert D. Albers	Dale J. Belke
B Btry 18 Arty 3rd Bn	Co. B 1/20 Inf 11 LIB
Pasco, WA	Albany, WI
# James Buckle	# Terry Babler

Herbert D. Bowlin	Arthur L. Brown
71st Aviation Co.	4th Bn 21 Inf Co. D 196 LIB
	Alexandria, VA
# Robert Thornton	# 196 Locate A Brother

Emile J. Clad	James R. Clark
Hq Co. 3rd Bn 182 Inf	1st Squadron 1st Reg. TR.C
Chicopee, MA	Burkburnett, TX
# Self	# Charles Manchester

John F. Dolan	Robert T. Holien
4 Bn 31 Inf 196 LIB	164th Taf
Silver Springs, MD	Sandstone, NM
# Robert Thornton	# Robert E. Boyd

Robert W. Hunt	George Lloyd
F Troop 8th Air Cav	Hq Btry 247 F.A.
El Paso, TX	Brewer, Maine
# Charles T. Manchester	# Robert Thornton

Richard E. McCarter	James W. Mitchell
A Troop 1st Sq 1st Cav	26th Signal
Clover, SC	Buffalo, TX
# Bernie Chase	# Charles T. Manchester

Joseph Pellegriti	Robert R. Rodriguez
Co B 1/52 Inf 198 LIB	Co D 1/52 Inf 198 LIB
Huntington, NY	Norwalk, CA
# John Denehan	# Ron Ward

Harry T. Schnell	Ralph W. Sears
21st Recon	Btry A 245 F.A.
Crystal Lake, IL	Montevallo, AL
# Franklin F. Reinier	# Albert M. Haskell

William E. Sweeney	Franklin J. Trznadel
Btry B 11th Arty	Btry B 245 F.A.
Woburn, MA	Chicago, IL
# Robert Thornton	# Herbert L. Murphy

Don Yost	
11th LIB	
West Norriton, PA	
# Bob Hock	

= Sponsor

SICK CALL

The following men are a bit under the weather and would appreciate a card from friends.

John J. Mullin	Rene Stark
Youville Hospital	[REDACTED]
Cambridge, MA 02138	Dorchester, MA 02125
(Co F 182 Inf)	(Co M 182 Inf)

Austin J. Kelly	Patrick Conte
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Las Vegas, NV 89102	Millis, MA 02054
(132 Inf)	

Lawrence Morrissey	
Tufts N.E. Med Center	
751 Washington St.	
Boston, MA 02111	
(Tel: [REDACTED])	

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER
DC, DE, KY, MD, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV

REGIONAL COMMANDER: Robert T. Hock
Reading, PA 19601
Tel: [REDACTED]

Through the efforts and hard work of John and Honey O'Keefe, we will be holding our 1989 Chapter Reunion September 22-24, 1989, at the Day's Inn, 224 White Horse Pike, Absecon, NJ 08201. We will be looking forward to seeing all our Americal Friends there.

We are setting our dates early so the other chapters will not plan an event to conflict with these dates. Also remember that the National Convention is held in June each year.

WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK - CAPE COD CHAPTER
PLYMOUTH & WAREHAM, AND SOUTH OF
THE CAPE COD CANAL

COMMANDER: Hugh Murnaghan
West Yarmouth, MA 02673
Tel: [REDACTED]

Cape Cod Chapter Members had a luncheon meeting at Oliver's Restaurant in Yarmouth on Monday, November 13, 1988. The December meeting was held at the V.F.W. in Hyannis, Mass. The Meeting on January 9, 1989, will also be held at the V.F.W. in Hyannis. The meeting to be held on Monday, February 13, 1989, will be a luncheon meeting with ladies invited.

SOUTH MID-WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AK, LA, MS, OK, TX

REGIONAL COMMANDER: Charles T. Manchester
[REDACTED], Fort Worth, TX 76116

The Mid-West Regional Chapter has sent to Headquarters the required number of members to become a Chapter. Headquarters has had a Charter made out and will send it to Commander Manchester. We at National Headquarters wish to congratulate Commander Charles T. Manchester for all the hard work he has put into getting this Chapter organized. He is our first Vietnam Veteran to become a Regional Commander.

SOUTH EAST CHAPTER

Homosassa Springs, FL

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR 1989 will be held at the Delta Court of Flags in Orlando, Florida, on June 1, 2, 3, & 4, 1989. This 800-room resort and conference center is set on 25 beautifully landscaped acres and is the perfect place for the ADVA National Convention.

General Crosbie (Butch) Saint has been asked to be our guest speaker. He is a former Americal man. At this time we are anxiously awaiting his reply.

Reservations should be made directly with the Delta Court of Flags. The address is 5715 Major Blvd., Orlando, FL, 32819-7988. Note that your reservation is the Americal Division Convention.

Convention registration is \$10.00 and should be sent to Thomas McQuade, Box 3435, Apt. 626, Nelcrest, FL 33856. Each person attending the convention must pay the registration fee.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 2, followed by the Memorial Service at 5:00 p.m. On Saturday, June 3, the Banquet and Dance will begin at 7:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing a large number of you in Orlando in June.

WHO'S WHO

ADVA Life Member Dr. Oscar Patterson III has been honored by being included in the 1989 edition of Marquis' WHO'S WHO IN ENTERTAINMENT. The book, a companion to the nationally recognized WHO'S WHO, publishes the biographies of people who have made exceptional contributions to the field of entertainment. Dr. Patterson is an Associate Professor of Communications at Pembroke State University and General Manager of WPSU-TV. His biography notes his over 20 years of experience in the field. It also notes that he is a Vietnam Veteran.

HEADQUARTERS
57TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
A.P.O. #716JOURNAL OF THE COMBAT MISSIONS OF COS "A" AND "B"
ON BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND
10 MARCH 1944 TO 30 MARCH 1944

March 9, At approximately 0500 the enemy artillery began shelling the Empress Augusta Bay area from positions outside the perimeter and several hits were made in and around this Battalion Headquarters causing some material damage but no casualties.

March 10, At approximately 0530 the enemy artillery resumed the shelling of our area and several more hits were made in the Battalion Headquarters causing material damage and slightly wounding one man. At 0700 the Battalion was alerted by Division for possible assignment to combat missions. At 0800, Company "B" was attached to the 182nd Infantry and moved into the M L R relieving Company "B" 182nd Infantry. At 1100 Company "B", 57th Engineer Combat Battalion was relieved by Company "C", 164th Infantry, and moved back into the R R L. At 1600 Company "B", 57th Engineer Combat Battalion was relieved from R R L and returned to company bivouac area. At 2100 Company "B" moved back into the R R L.

March 11, At 0700 Company "C" was attached to the 164th Infantry and moved into the R R L at 1100. At 0800 Company "B" moved into the M L R relieving Company "C", 164th Infantry. At 1300 Company "B" relieved by elements of Company "E" and "G", 182nd Infantry and moved back to the R R L. During the nights of 10th and 11th Company "B" sent out two (2) "termite" patrols of three men each in vicinity of Hills 309 and 608 to intercept enemy infiltration. Reports on both nights were negative.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above is a transcription of the original battalion reports. Since the copies are carbons of the originals--and 45 years old--some letters are smeared. Should wrong company be noted, please forgive us. Special problems rose with letters "C" and "G".

COVER STORY

By the time this issue of the Americal Newsletter reaches you, the members of Task Force 6814, we will have celebrated the 47th anniversary of our sailing out of New York harbor and heading to war.

The ships that made up that convoy were the Argentina, Barry, Cristobal, Ericsson McAndrew, Santa Elena, and the Santa Rosa.

The cruise ship that I journeyed to the South Pacific on was the Santa Elena. She became a casualty while in a convoy heading for the invasion of Sicily in July of 1943. She was hit during a torpedo plane attack and sunk while being towed into the harbor of Philippeville, Algiers.

The ship on the cover is the Santa Rosa, the sister ship to the Santa Elena--she survived the war. The Grace Line stated that the two ships were practically identical. What they didn't say was that they were not identical as transports. The promenade deck of the Santa Elena was boarded in and she carried eleven hundred more men than the Santa Rosa--and if you were on board you knew it!

The Santa Elena and her three sister ships, the Santa Paula, Santa Rosa, and the Santa Lucia, were all built at the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock company in Kearney, New Jersey in the early 1930's. The famous sisters were designed especially for tropical cruising. Designed into them, also with an eye toward the future in a world filled with rumblings of world conflict, were the Navy's requirements for ships suitable for conversion to troop transport. It is natural that they were among the first to be "called to the colors" in World War II. It is a lesson worth remembering today that in 1941 these ships were four of less than two dozen American-flag passenger liners qualified fully for rapid conversion to naval auxiliaries. I do not believe that today there is even one American-flag passenger ship that could be converted to a troop transport.

I know that the 2nd Battalion of the 182nd Infantry sailed on the Santa Elena and also some of the 101 Medics, but those are the only units that I can remember.

WHAT SHIP WERE YOU ON?

Jim Buckle
Managing Editor

NORTH DAKOTANS
HIT THE BEACH AT
GUADALCANAL

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

October 13. It was no special day. Just the 287th day of 1942. But it was a significant date for a number of North Dakotans. For it was on October 13, 1942, that the men of the 164th Infantry Regiment hit the beach of Guadalcanal.

The 164th Infantry was made up primarily of North Dakota men. Eli Dobervich was one of them.

Dobervich, now 70, of Fargo, North Dakota, was with the North Dakota National Guard when it was activated on February 10, 1941, and he was with it when the landing boats poured men onto Guadalcanal.

"I remember the Japanese bombers came in while we were on the beach," Dobervich says. "I threw barracks bags around me to protect me. It was kind of a rough day."

The 164th Infantry was the first Army ground unit to go into the offensive against the Axis in

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

World War II--there would be many more rough days for the 164th!

Dobervich continues: "The first night was rougher than the day. The Jap Navy was shelling us. We went through 156 bombing raids but I would rather go through 150 bombing raids than one naval shelling. Bombers come and go and it's over, but the shellings go on for hours. Those are big shells--14 inches in diameter. They made holes 10-12 feet deep. One direct hit and it was bye, bye, baby."

"That really was the only time I was afraid of death, under that shelling."

The 164th Infantry landed on Kukum Beach and some units were sent to relieve the Marines defending Henderson Field.

The Japs were in force at the mouth of the Matanikau River. The North Dakotans and the Marines opened up with rifle and machine gun fire. Mortars and artillery laid down a barrage in front of the Americans.

"Through it all, the Japanese advanced. But only a few of them got to the American lines. At dawn, their dead and wounded were piled high in front of our positions. The North Dakota boys had passed their first test in battle with flying colors."

A Valley city Company helped defend Henderson Field from repeated Japanese charges. The attacks were repulsed after three days.

But the victories were costly. Case in point: Dobervich was one of 20 men commissioned as officers while training on the island of New Caledonia. Sixteen of them were killed on Guadalcanal.

The last big push for the 164th Infantry lasted 28 straight days. Losses were extensive. But it resulted in the capture of strategic hills which paved the way for the encirclement and defeat of the enemy. By February 1943, it was all over. The supply lines on.

The 164th received its share of recognition for Guadalcanal. Secretary of War Henry Stimson said at a news conference: "I am sure that the relatives and friends of these boys, who are mainly from North Dakota, will be proud of the Regiment's fighting record in that area."

The unit received 169 decorations and citations but at a cost--145 men killed and 257 wounded.

Dobervich was one of six brothers that served in the Armed Forces during World War II. One of the was killed on Iwo Jima.

After the war, Dobervich came to Fargo and founded a business. He was called back to duty during the Korean War but stayed in the States where he helped train troops.

"Our North Dakota troops, we were green, just off the farm," Dobervich says, "but we did good." (From THE FORUM, Fargo, North Dakota. Sent in by Donald Berg.)

[See BOUGAINVILLE, JANUARY 1944 elsewhere in this issue. The 164th was just getting started.]

He fell on a day that was so quiet and still on the whole front, that the army report confined itself to the single sentence: All quiet on the Western Front.

He had fallen forward and lay on the earth as though sleeping. Turning him over one says that he could not have suffered; his face had an expression of calm, as though almost glad the end had come.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT by Erich Maria Remarque

YOU'RE IN THE AMERICAL NOW MR. JONES

What is the Americal?

The Americal, or the 23rd Infantry Division as it is officially known, was born in the South Pacific during World War II designating the "American Forces in New Caledonia."

You are now one of these men of the Americal who served gallantly during the drive to Japan during World War II and have, since 1967, helped secure for the South Vietnamese a part of their country which used to be a Viet Cong stronghold.

Much has been accomplished, but the job is by no means complete. The division is now engaged in the nuts and bolts activities of Vietnamization, pacification, and small unit operations. That which you have heard about back home you will now be a part of on the person to person level.

How has the Americal progressed to its current position?

In 1967, General Westmoreland, the MACV commander, directed the organization of an Army task force to send to troubled I Corps in the northern part of the Republic of Vietnam.

First with the help of brigades from the 101st Airborne and 25th Infantry Divisions, Task Force Oregon, which later became the Americal, began search and clear operations in the area.

With the introduction of the 198th and the 11th Infantry Brigades to assist the 196th Brigade, the Americal was born again in Vietnam. The official change of colors was held October 26, 1967, as Major General W. Koster assumed command of the division.

Offensive combat operations continued and intensified in 1968 as the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry joined the division organization.

Task Force Miracle, composed of the 2nd Bn, 1st Inf and the 1st Bn 6th Inf, was sent to Da Nang to counter the 1968 Tet offensive. During this defense, the enemy lost 1,407 men, most of them during the four days of heaviest contact. The year 1968 in the division area of operations was one of heavy contact with relatively large numbers of VC and NVA forces. These units were reduced in number by offensive operations and forced to deploy in small groups.

Lines of communications and supply were opened and secured for both U.S. troops, and the ARVN, and the civilian populace.

Units of the division intercepted and destroyed large units in the process of launching major attacks on Tam Ky and Quang Ngai City, the province capital.

The coming of 1969 ushered in Operation Russell Beach on January 13. The operation was typical of coming operations as civilians were relocated from unsecured areas and then enemy units flushed out from those areas.

Operation Russell Beach relocated civilians from the Batangan Peninsula south of Chu Lai to secure areas along Highway One and then swept the peninsula to clear out the Viet Cong and its political infrastructure.

In March 1969, the division area of operations was divided into three parts which are the same today. The 196th Brigade and the 5th ARVN Regiment joined forces in Operation Frederick Hill in the north.

The 198th Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment shared the Operation Geneva Park sector in the middle, while the 11th Brigade and the 4th ARVN Regiment combined forces for Operation Iron Mountain in the Southern Sector. These operations are continuing to date.

August 1969, brought a major operation as the 196th Brigade combined with the 21st Marine Division

YOU'RE IN THE AMERICAL NOW, MR. JONES...

to inflict 1,000 deaths on the 1st Regiment of the 2nd NVA Division.

The enemy had been threatening the Hiep Duc resettlement village, FSB West and FSB Siberia. Two weeks of fighting on the rolling valley floor reduced the enemy unit to a name only.

When the battle ended, sweeps through the still-blistering heat on the Que Son Valley floor met only small pockets of enemy resistance which were quickly mopped up.

Spearheading Allied operations in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai provinces, the Americal pursues a vigorous rice denial program to choke the enemy's supply system and return the vital staple to the populace.

In addition, giant land-clearing operations along the coast denied the enemy ground he once honey-combed with sanctuaries concealed by vegetation and rough terrain. Civilians evacuated from these areas were resettled at relocation centers, which began to spring up along Highway One and other pacified areas in some of the river valleys.

These pacified areas became enemy objectives again in 1970 as NVA elements tried to take Hiep Duc. Again, they were repulsed and driven back to the mountains, suffering heavy casualties in their flight.

Today, in 1971, the Americal continues to perform its varied missions in helping the people of the Republic of Vietnam protect their country against subversive forces.

Through such efforts as Project Buddy, You Make It conducted by the 723rd Maintenance Battalion, teaching ARVN mechanics techniques for care of vehicles and machinery, the withdrawal of American Forces has been smooth and has allowed continuing peace and security to be maintained in this area.

The situation which you face is not a static one, however, due to the changing tactical needs it is possible that division units will be shifted to other parts of the country for important operations.

What is the Americal?
The Americal is you. It is what you make it.

(Taken from SOUTHERN CROSS, Chu Lai, RVN, Feb. 26, 1979)

DEAR MOTHER

Because my letters are so few,
Mother dear, don't think that I've forgotten you.

No matter how far we are apart,
You'll hold top place in my lonely heart.

Each night when I get back to camp,
Weary from a long day's tramp,
Mother dear, I mean to drop a line,
But the Sandman seems to beat my time.

But, Mother dear, you know I mean to write
Because I think of you each day and night.

Nocturnally the last thing I do,
Is pray and hope the best for you.

But, Mother dear, you know it's hard to write,
With only the flame of a candle for light,
And so I've written these lines to you,
In hopes of keeping you from feeling blue.

Your Allie.....

NOTE: "Dear Mother" was written by Alfred Guttag, a charter member of Task Force 6814 and the Americal Division. The poem was composed on the "Canal" in 1942. Alfred sent a second poem which will be published at a later date, but he asks an interesting question: "Does anyone remember when the pay was \$21 a month before deductions."

BOUGAINVILLE JANUARY 1944

Bougainville (AP)--The 132nd Infantry commanded by Col. Joseph K. Bush moved into the swamps and jungles of this South Pacific island early this month. The 132nd is part of the Americal Division.

Seasoned on Guadalcanal, the division part of the grand offensive in the southern Pacific and has fought a bloody, on-going battle with the fanatical Japanese.

Constantly on the lookout for footprints, cut wires, dropped equipment, even broken branches, the recon patrols from the division move ever further into the interior and guard against Japanese infiltration.

Along the division's right flank is the 164th Infantry. These G.I.s have been given orders to shoot on sight any creature seen wearing a helmet outside of the perimeter, and the North Dakota patrols are ready to do just that.

In order to prevent accidental shootings or bloodshed between members of the 164th and men from the 37th Division, it has been decided that no American can person will wear helmets.

Veteran Americal infantrymen have found that the heavy steel helmets are more a hindrance than a help in the jungles. Men trying to move silently through the heavy jungle tell us that a broken branch snapped against a steel helmet can be heard for yards.

Early on the 7th (of January, 1944), an American patrol from the 164th Infantry was ambushed by a large Japanese force. The Japs took advantage of the initial confusion and circled behind the patrol. The fight continued for more than two hours until the patrol was able to withdraw under fire.

When the shooting stopped, however, 12 enemy bodies were found at a cost of only four Americal wounded, only one of whom required hospitalization.

CARELESS JANE WHAT SHE DIDN'T SAY

I hope you all caught Jane Fonda's act of contrition for aiding and abetting the enemy during the Vietnam War. As Barbara Walters so graciously explained on ABC's "20/20," it was a part of a wonderful process of "healing," a grand emotional coming together to bind up the wounds from those terrible days.

Hearts were in throats and eyes wet from one end of the land to the other as Jane Fonda "apologized." It was a particularly noble and touching thing for her to do, as a few months ago she was removed from Nabisco Shredded Wheat boxes after a firestorm of protest, her movies have been doing badly, and she's facing anger from Vietnam veterans where she's shooting a new picture on location....

The word "apology," in fact, seems a misnomer. It was like a surgeon apologizing for causing you discomfort while he took out your appendix. It was, after all, "for your own good."

Jane said her behavior during her wartime visit to Hanoi had been "careless" and "thoughtless."

Careless? One assumes she means it was inattentive of her not to notice North Vietnamese newsreel cameras filming while she visited an anti-aircraft battery--otherwise she wouldn't have displayed such girlish delight at virtuous little yellow people blowing American airmen to kingdom come....

Barbara Walters pitched Jane Fonda some of the slowest curves in baseball history. She didn't ask about Jane's famous cry to Vietnam War protesters: If you only understood communism, you'd be down on

CARELESS JANE...

your knees praying for it!

She didn't ask, now that Jane's side has won, if she thought the Vietnamese people were happy under communism. She made no reference to the catastrophic state of Vietnam's economy...She didn't breathe a word about what The New York Times admitted is a "Vietnam Gulag...."

I've heard many people say that Jane Fonda should be stood against a wall and shot as a traitor to her country. I wouldn't go quite that far. But while with her, I thought several times that if she knew my mind, and had the power, she'd have had me shot without blinking an eye.

The years have calmed, not changed, Jane Fonda's politics. She is more prudent now.

And no, in the names of those who fought, the solemn promises we didn't keep, and the millions we abandoned, I do not accept her apology.

Richard Grenier in
SOUTHEAST ASIAN & AFGHANISTAN REVIEW December, 1988

PRIZE WINNER

F COMPANY 182ND INFANTRY

Some lucky guy out there from F Company was the winner of a prize in the 182nd Infantry raffle. However, he just signed his name as GORC Company F 182 Infantry. If you know this man tell him to contact Jim Buckle or Charlie Doyle and his prize will be forwarded to him.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Mr. James C. Buckle
The Americal Division Veterans Association
P.O. Box 1381
Boston, MA 02104

RE: David Luther Ghent, Jr.
B Company, January-August 1968
C Company, August-October 1968
1/20, 11th LIB
American Division
Duc Pho 1968

Dear Mr. Buckle:

This office represents David Luther Ghent, Jr., in pending litigation which involves a PTSD issue. Mr. Ghent served in Vietnam in the units noted above during the time periods indicated.

We received a copy of your newsletter from Mr. Roland Castranova, who suggested that we request that you publicize our desire to speak with anyone who served with Mr. Ghent in Vietnam in the next issue of the publication. We would appreciate it if anyone who served with Mr. Ghent in either company in 1968 would write us or telephone our office collect.

Thank you for any assistance you are willing to lend.

Yours sincerely,
Floyd W. Fulmer
Legal Assistant to Robert D. Carrow
The Law Offices of Robert D. Carrow
Mill Valley, CA 94941
TEL: [REDACTED]

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Ron:

Just want to mention it was nice to see you and meet many Americal vets in Ohio at Firebase Cleveland. It was nice to see Americal have an entry in the parade and have a hospitality room at a hotel. It's nice to know there's somewhere a member can go when attending these events.

I noticed that in the Sept-Oct Newsletter there was a photo of me on page six, left side of the page, second from the right wearing a black ballcap. I was also with the Wisconsin Nam Vets which also had an entry in the parade.

I'm sending you some information on another event being planned. LZ BLUEGRASS VIETNAM VETS REUNION IN LOUISVILLE, KY, MAY 20, 1989. I'd like to know if the Americal is planning anything for this event?

Also, I'm interested in any other reunions being planned for the future. I'm interested in attending as many events as possible. Chicago in June, 1986 was my first event. I really had a good time. I'm hoping to meet some of the good old buddies from the 1/1 CAV, A Troop, from 1970. I did meet one guy in Cleveland who I hadn't seen in 19 years and enjoyed talking over old times.

Thanks Ron,
Terry Bahler

New Glarus, WI 53574

Dear Mr. Ward:

I was referred to you by Lloyd Morrell who told me you might be able to help me find information pertaining to Americal Division operations in Vietnam.

I am a writer presently at work on a non-fiction book dealing with Army and Marine combat operations in Vietnam. One of my primary sources of information has been Operational Reports-Lessons Learned. However, some of the key documents from the American Division are unavailable either because of poor quality copies supplied to the National Technical Information Service or the Division withdrew the reports.

The operations that I am primarily concerned with are as follows:

1. FREDERIC HILL: Began 18 Mar 69 (196th LIB)
2. IRON MOUNTAIN: Began 18 Mar 69 (11th LIB)
3. GENEVA PARK: Began 18 Mar 69 (198th LIB)

I have been able to trace these operations pretty well with the available documents, however their final quarters are not to be had. I need any and all information about them you might have, but will (gratefully and thankfully) settle for just the dates the operations terminated.

I am also at a loss, due to document unavailability, for the beginning quarters for the following:

1. CAROLINE HILL: Ended 11 July 71 (196th LIB)
2. MIDDLESEX PEAK: Ended 11 Jul 71 (198th LIB)
3. FINNEY HILL: Ended 11 Jul 71 (11th LIB)

Again, I will be grateful for the dates these ops began. Any and all help you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

David B. Sigler
[REDACTED]
Orangevale, CA 95662

EDITOR'S NOTE: We've been successful in the past helping several authors with research on their books. If you can help this man, contact him at his home address.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
HERALDIC ITEMS

SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

Description: On a blue shield arched at top and base, 2 inches in width overall, stylized tongue of flame (shaped like an "S" reversed) yellow and scarlet with a portion of a rifle barrel with fixed bayonet all in white issuing diagonally from lower right to upper left and crossing over the flame all within 1/8 inch border.

Symbolism: Blue and white are the colors associated with infantry. The tongue of flame alludes to the unit's firepower, and the bayonet, a basic infantry weapon, is symbolic of carrying the fight to the enemy. The flame and the bayonet together refer to the unit's spirit and readiness to engage the enemy in a firefight or hand-to-hand combat with the bayonet.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

Description: A silver colored metal and enamel device 1 1/4 inches in height overall, consisting of a blue dragon's head facing front with red eyes and nostrils, the last emitting red and orange flames upward along each side; entering the animal's mouth in base the blade of a silver sword with point emerging above between the ears. On either side, entwining the flames and curving across the hilt of the sword a silver scroll bearing the motto "Brave and Bold" in blue letters.

Symbolism: The great strength and terrible weapons of the mythical dragon are synonymous with enemies the brigade may face and the sword impaling his head denoted the fighting spirit displayed in the face of great odds and the victorious results. The unit's motto "Brave and Bold" describes the basic qualities of the men of the brigade.

Dear Ron:

It's an interesting story about how these lithographs of the Americal Division Crest came about. While at the dinner table at the annual reunion in Carlisle, I brought up the subject of the crest. I recalled seeing it previously in a history book but couldn't recall just where. No one at the table, including General Ramsey, had seen or heard of one. That is except for Chaplain Bart Berry, who got up and went to his car, returning with a painting of the crest that he had made years before. He sent me the painting and although I didn't think I could get \$2000 worth of printing work done for nothing, I was successful due to my friends in the industry. I've sent a few out to some of my friends as well as a few of the guys in the ADVA who have kept the Association together for so long.

I just received the description of the crest by an accident of faith a few days ago. Also a nice history of our 198th Brigade which I'm enclosing.

Sincerely
Dutch DeGroot
[REDACTED]

Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to the cooperation of Bart and Dutch, we have a supply of these lithos of the Americal Division Crest. Dutch is a printer himself and his connections were able to get this beautiful piece of work done at what I hope was minimal cost to him. If you'd like a print, let me or Dutch know and we'll mail one out to you.

(MORE VIETNAM NEWS ON PAGE 12)

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Sponsored by

F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

NCO'S CLUB

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE

BEDFORD, MA

FRIDAY MAY 5, 1989

Reservations to: John LeVert

[REDACTED]
Waltham, MA 02154

NAME _____

No. of Reservations _____ No. of Guests in Car _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Tables of ten may be reserved

Take Routes 4 & 225 North from 128 - Follow signs to Hanscom

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS APRIL 28, 1989

MENU

Salad

Roast Top Sirloin of Beef ----- Brown Gravy

Whipped Potatoes ----- Fresh Vegetable Medley

Rolls and Butter ----- Tea and Coffee

Ice Cream Pie with Strawberries

Cocktails 6:30 P.M. til 7:30 P.M.

Dinner 7:30 P.M.

\$20.00 per person

Live Dance Band Tony Dumas



HEADQUARTERS

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

February 1, 1989

Dear Friends:

Each year our Association publishes an Ad Book in conjunction with our Annual Dinner Dance, which will be held on Friday, May 5, 1989.

We distribute these booklets, free of charge, to all members, friends of the Association, a special mailing list, and to our advertiser. Each year our advertiser grow in numbers, offering a wide variety of services to the general public. We urge our readers to keep this booklet as a guide and to patronize the merchants contained therein.

This is our main fund raising program of the year, and we would certainly appreciate your support.

Listing as a Booster allows one typed line and the cost is \$5.00
Listing as a Sponsor allows two typed lines and the cost is \$10.00
Payment must be enclosed.

If you will send us your business card we will incorporate it in a quarter page Ad and the price will be \$25.00.

Thank you for your continued support.

Robert N. Thornton
National Commander

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING IS APRIL 21, 1989

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Business Card (\$25.00)
Sponsor (\$10.00)
Booster (\$5.00)

Listing: _____

Make checks payable to A.D.V.A.

Mail to: Robert N. Thornton

Melrose, MA 02176



AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SOUTH EAST CHAPTER

Homosassa Springs, Fl. 32647

The National Convention for 1989 will be held at the Delta Court of Flags, on June 1, 2, 3 & 4, in Orlando, Florida, set on 25 beautifully landscaped acres, this 800 room resort and conference hotel is the perfect place for our convention. The hospitable staff will assist where ever necessary. The management is working on a program for all to be in the same building, with a meeting room, a hospitality room, banquet hall and swimming pool.

General Crosbie (Butch) Saint has been contacted to be our guest speaker. He is a former Americal man and we are waiting for his reply.

Reservations will be made directly with the Delta Court of Flags. The price will be \$392.- per couple or \$292.- for a single. Package price include 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners, banquet and dance, open bar Saturday night for one hour, accommodations for three nights, meeting space, taxes and gratuities. Room rates three days prior and after our stay will be \$55.-plus tax. Reservations must be received before May 1st and a deposit of \$55.- is required.

A registration fee of \$10.- per person is required and sent to Tom McQuade, Box 3435, Apt. 626, Nelcrest, Fl. 33856. Children 18 or under stay free with parents and meals will be worked out with the hotel.

The annual meeting will be held at 10:00AM on Friday and the banquet will be held at 7:00PM Saturday evening. For reservations, mail to: Delta Court of Flags, [REDACTED], Orlando, Florida 32819-7988. Telephone: [REDACTED] Major credit cards accepted. For Registration Fee mail to: Thomas McQuade, [REDACTED] Nelcrest, Fl. 33856.

Direction from Airport: Take the Beeline Expressway (in front of airport) to Interstate 4 heading East to Exit #30 B on SR 435. Stay in right lane and turn right at first traffic light. Hotel is just ahead on right. From Interstate 4, Westbound: (Toward Tampa), Exit 30 B on SR 435 North, on right hand exit ramp. Stay in right lane and turn right at first traffic light (Major Boulevard). Hotel is just ahead on your right. From Interstate 4 Eastbound: (Toward Daytona Beach) Exit 30B on SR 435 North, on left hand exit ramp. Go over bridge and move to right lane. Turn right at first traffic light (Major Boulevard). Hotel is just ahead on your right. From Florida Turnpike: (South bound and Northbound) Take exit 75. After Toll Plaza take I-4 west ramp. Once on I-4 westbound, take exit 30B on SR 435 North. Stay in right lane and turn right at first traffic light (Major Boulevard). Hotel is just ahead on your right.

Mail to Reservations Manager (For Americal Delta Court of Flags Convention)

Orlando, Florida 32819-7988

Number of people attending:
Arrival date _____ Departure _____

Name _____
Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For Registration: Mail to:
Thomas McQuade

Nelcrest, Florida 33856
Number of people attending: _____



AMERICAN AIRLINES in cooperation with
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
offers

SUPER MEETING SAVER FARE DISCOUNTS

To: Americal Division National
Convention in Orlando June 1-4
Host Hotel: DELTA COURT OF FLAGS

45% off regular day coach airfares with
a 14 day advance purchase

-OR-

5% off any promotional fare for which
you may qualify.

All Rules and Regulations Apply.

*For reservations and information call:

AMERICAN AIRLINES TOLL FREE [REDACTED]

Be sure to ask for; STARFILE #S-0159GR

Our Official Travel Agency: A T & T Travel

A T & T Travel will coordinate all of your
travel arrangements for you.

A T & T Travel address: 2010 SE US Hwy 19
Crystal River, FL 32629

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

221 FIELD ARTILLERY B BATTERY

Dear Jim:

Thanks for bringing me up to date with the back
copies of the Americal Newsletter.

I am enclosing a clipping from the Lawrence
Eagle Tribune (MA). I had made a donation, as
noted below, to the Santa Fund sponsored by this
newspaper. It was quite fitting that it was
printed on December 7, 1988, the 47 anniversary
of Pearl Harbor.

In memory of all my comrades
with the Americal Division who
fought and died on Guadalcanal,
Bougainville, and the Philippine.

Mike Buglione

Thanks for remembering our comrades Mike. The
article you sent on the Americal will be printed
at a later date.

AMERICAL DIVISION
FIELD ARTILLERY REUNION
WWII - KOREAN - VIETNAM
WILL BE HELD MAY 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 1989
AT THE
SHERATON ATLANTIC SHORES HOTEL & TOWERS
[REDACTED]
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29577
PH. [REDACTED]

The hotel is offering a "FLAT" rate of \$68.00 a
night plus tax. This rate would be applicable
from one to four persons in a room. Make your
reservations according to the length of time you
desire to stay prior to or after the reunion.
One night deposit is required. The cut-off date
is April 1, 1989. TOLL FREE NUMBER [REDACTED]

Reservations have been made for our group to
attend THE CAROLINA OPRY on Thursday evening May
4th. Tickets are \$9.00 a person if I can get 58
or more people to attend. Let me know by April
1, 1989 if you wish to attend.

On May 5th, anyone that wishes may go to MARY
JUELS for dinner. Happy Hour 3:00-7:00 pm.
Fantastic senior citizens menu 5:00-6:30 pm.
Live entertainment by Steve and Alyce 8:00-12:00.

Buffet Dinner will be in the ATALYA BALLROOM -
Saturday evening 7:00 pm. Dress Informal.

If more information is needed regarding the
reunion write to --K.R. Horton [REDACTED]
Timber Lake, North Carolina 27583

Form for making reservations is below. Don't
forget to mention the Americal Division Field
Artillery Reunion when you make your reservation.

- Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or deposit equaling one night's stay. Credit card number [REDACTED] single occupancy
- Check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m. [REDACTED] double occupancy
- If Towers are preferred, please place a "T" [REDACTED] triple occupancy
- Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to arrival date or deposit is forfeited. [REDACTED] quad occupancy

Date & time of arrival: Day: [REDACTED] Date: [REDACTED] Time: [REDACTED] Sheraton
Number in party: [REDACTED] Number of nights staying [REDACTED] Atlantic Shores
Name [REDACTED] Hotel & Towers
Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED] Myrtle Beach, SC
Phone number: ([REDACTED]) Group Name: [REDACTED]

Special Requests: [REDACTED]

Office Use Only Reservations Received:
Checks will not be accepted without a driver's license and one of the following credit cards
American Express, VISA, Master Card, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, or Discover.

IF YOU SAVE YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTERS AND DO
NOT WISH TO USE THE TEAR-OFF SHEETS YOU MAKE
MAKE A COPY OF THE RESERVATION BLANK

182 INFANTRY COMPANY M

A new VFW Post has been chartered in Lincoln,
MA. Joseph Chin, a Life Member of the
Americal, has been elected an Officer in that
new Post

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Last Veterans Day I was watching the CBS evening news when a story appeared about all the current merchandising of the Vietnam War by everyone from T-shirt salesmen to film makers. Whose face pops up on the screen but ADVA member Dave Grieger. For those of you who haven't met Dave, he flew a Huey in Nam and was retired from the service with the rank of Major. Dave's the kind of guy who you never would have pictured as an officer. I think most of you old grunts know what I mean by that. Of course, I mean no offense to my many friends in the ADVA who were officers. I love all you guys. Anyway, I hate to see a good man like Dave get bad-rapped, especially by CBS, who has never done any favors for the Nam vets anyway. So I wrote a letter to Dave telling him what I thought and his reply included a copy of the letter he wrote to CBS following the news shot. His letter follows.

Lawrence Tisch, Owner CBS
David Burke, CBS News

New York, NY 10019

Dear Sirs:

What a CHEAP SHOT! Unfair!! That whole clip on Veterans Day, the evening of the 11th, was negative and the whole issue was distorted. I think that CBS had a preconceived notion and we (the vendors) were set up to supply the words you wanted.

I agreed to the interview and took the time from my business, regardless of the big rush getting merchandise out for vets who wanted things for Vets Day. The televised interview portion of me ran about 3 seconds and cut to me in the middle of a paragraph. Here are the missing facts:

1. I'm a Vietnam combat veteran with two purple hearts, not a slimy vendor trying to make a buck from vets.

2. My business started as a VA project after I became service connected disabled, as a result of 35% of my left brain being removed. I am 100% totally and permanently disabled.

3. A portion of my profits go to dozens of non-profit veterans organizations. This year I've donated more than \$5000.00

4. Many of my customers come to me because I am a Vietnam vet and they know it. They will not buy from a non-vet. I've dedicated my life to the veteran, 7th year now. My data base is now 13,600 and I started with ONE! We vets are very proud to have served our country regardless of the war's outcome.

Doesn't CBS have the responsibility to make sure that stories/programs must be complete and accurate? I feel I just got a black eye! I'm not a piece of video tape. I'm a person with feelings. In doing my business and through my accomplishments, I've helped fellow Vietnam veterans--this is my way of achieving my own healing process.

I am very sorry to have granted CBS the interview. Now I know how General Westmoreland must have felt! It's a damned shame!

Sincerely
David L. Grieger

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK
WOMEN VETS MEMORIAL UPDATE

The President has signed the bill authorizing the construction of the Women's Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. This bill authorizes a non-profit organization to collect funds and establish the memorial somewhere in the vicinity of the "Wall." There's 2.2 acres surrounding the "Wall" but so far the exact location for the women's monument has not been specified. Final decisions on the design and site of the new memorial wait approval by the Department of the Interior and two federal advisory boards. The project's goal is to raise \$1.5 million for construction. For more information or to help out, write to: The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project [REDACTED]

Minneapolis, Minn.
55415.
[From DAV National Magazine]



A bronze statue the Women's Memorial Project was proposed as an addition to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C. The statue was designed by sculptor Roger Brodin.

AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS UPDATE

Some of you may have given up by now but save the white flags for the time being. Each day we wait makes the pot bigger as interest is gathered. The most recent information I have is as follows: Cash benefits of \$70 million will be paid to long-term totally disabled vets or their survivors. The amount that each vet receives will depend on the total number of eligible claimants and the severity of their disabilities. These payments are expected to begin in 1990, and will be awarded in equal annual installments over a five year period ending 1 Dec 1994. Disability payments are expected to average \$5,700, with a maximum benefit of \$12,800. Lump-sum death benefits will average about \$1,800 with a maximum payment of \$3,400. They're taking about \$52 million from the settlement to fund social service projects for the vets and their dependents. The exact nature of these social service projects is still under consideration.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT
THE AGENT ORANGE PAYMENT PROGRAM

1. The only people who may apply for payments are Vietnam vets who were exposed to Agent Orange while in-country between 1 Jan 1961 and 31 Dec 1971, and who became disabled before their 60th birthday.

OR, surviving spouses or dependant children of

(Continued on page 13)

HAVE YOU BROUGHT IN
A NEW MEMBER?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

(From page 12)

deceased Vietnam vets who were exposed to Agent Orange and died before their 60th birthday.

2. If you have questions about your eligibility, call toll free 1-800-225-4712.
3. Total disability is defined as "the inability to work or engage in any substantial, gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months."
4. You must file an application for payment form even though you may have already have filed a preliminary claim form.
5. To meet the Court's test of exposure, you must supply information about your movements and activity within Vietnam. The test will indicate only that you may have been exposed. You are not required to prove that the veterans death or disability was caused by Agent Orange.
6. The payment program will end on 31 dec 1994. No applications for payment will be accepted after that date.
7. You may request an application for payment kit by calling the toll free number

[See AMERICAL NEWSLETTER / NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1988, page 8 for previous story.]

MORE BOMBS WOULD NOT HAVE SOLVED THE DISASTER OF THE VIETNAM WAR
By Colman McCarthy, syndicated columnist

WASHINGTON -- At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Ronald Reagan dispensed with another Commander-in-Chief Lesson of Vietnam: Drop more bombs next time. "Perhaps at this late date we can all agree that we've learned one lesson," Reagan said near the wall bearing the names of 59,000 American dead: "That young Americans must never again be sent to fight and die unless we are prepared to win"....

Veterans Day gatherings at the wall of names can be occasions of manipulation by politicians. Historically, the U.S. military was prepared to win. Why else did American pilots drop a greater tonnage of bombs on Vietnam than any nation ever dropped anywhere in any war? Sprays of Agent Orange weren't held back, nor were assurances by war supporters in the White House or Congress and war planners in the Pentagon that victory was coming....

The war itself is incomplete. Where are the names of Vietnam's dead? Were they not human beings with lives as sacred as Americans? It's too late to put Vietnamese names on the wall but not too late to erect another wall across the way, with a path of reconciliation connecting the two....

That magnanimity is about as unlikely to happen as an erection of a well-deserved statue for those who served their country by going to jail, Canada, or Sweden. It will be enough if the wall of 59,000 names can remain as a place to remember the dead, not to honor them....

In "Seeds of Peace," a Vietnam veteran writes: They want to call us heroes for serving the country. They offer us recognition and honor, even a national monument. Heroes for serving a country that burned

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

down villages and shot anything that moved."

"Recognition for being the agents and pawns of a ruthless death machine that systematically tortured and butchered civilians, that rained jelly gasoline and poison gas on old men, women, and children."

"A monument for being the tools of a modern imperialist army that vainly attempted for over 10 years to crush, grind, and pulverize the people and land of Vietnam."

Those words--Vietnam was an ignoble cause--weren't written into any politicians speech on Veterans Day....

Sanitizing the last cause is "just" a way of cleaning up preparations for the next one.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I don't know about you, but McCarthy's comments do not set well with me. First, I was there, in Vietnam, which Mr. McCarthy probably wasn't. Second, I have heard stories--read a few--that sound like they came from the "veteran" quoted in "Seeds of Peace." I have, generally, found these people to be of three sorts: (1) never a veteran to begin with; (2) never saw combat if a vet; and (3) a sensation seeker telling "war stories" to please a group of people like McCarthy.

I don't like what McCarthy says, but he has a right to his opinions, whatever they be. I don't, however have to read them or pay good money for them. Two options come to mind: (1) write a stinging letter to the editor of any paper carrying such tripe in an attempt to set the record straight; and/or (2) write another stinging letter to the publisher informing him/her that so long as they carry McCarthy's column in their paper you will (a) cancel your subscription, (b) not buy a copy from a newsstand, (c) get all your friends and relatives to do the same. Several years ago a local department store began carrying Jane Fonda's line of work-out clothes. I cut my credit card into many pieces and sent it back to them telling them that I would actively boycott their stores so long as they carried Fonda's line and would work to see that as many people as possible did the same. Exactly five working days after I mailed my letter, Fonda's line was taken from all stores owned by this chain, never to reappear. The power of the people works. OP III

**1ST ANNUAL
L.Z. BLUEGRASS
KENTUCKY VIETNAM VETERANS
REUNION**



Date: Saturday May 20, 1989
Time: 12 Noon to 10:00 PM
Place: The Belvedere, Louisville, Ky.

★ Free Admission
★ Reduced Hotel Rates
★ Nearby Camping Facilities
★ Live Entertainment
★ Food and Drink
★ Vendors
★ For further information, call or write:
Ed Dodson [REDACTED] Mike Fort [REDACTED] C. Dumus [REDACTED]
Louisville, KY 40204 Louisville, KY 40204 Louisville, KY 40204

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

- IN RESPONSE TO GEORGE -

Dear Editor:

What better way to start the New Year than to wish a Happy and successful New Year to the new editor of the ADVA Newsletter and to send him an offering for his next edition?

The attached essay started as a simple, protesting letter to the editor but it evolved spontaneously to an overly-extended expository paper which you may or may not be able to use.

Since we have not met, unless casually, let me introduce myself and my connection with New Caledonia. This includes being the Surgeon of Task Force 6814 and then serving as Medical Inspector and, later, Surgeon of the New Caledonia Service Command. In addition, I was given other tasks partially because of a slight facility with the French language. Among the French people I made innumerable friends and still correspond regularly with several families, as well as with many who have returned to France. My wife and I visited New Caledonia in 1967 and we have visited with and have entertained many from both groups here in Cincinnati. I have written numerous articles on the South Pacific and found it flattering to have the Surgeon-General History of World War II include some 13 pages of excerpts from my reports. Our own ADVA Newsletter published some six pages of my reminiscences in the Nov-Dec 1979 and Jan-Feb 1980 issues.

I hope you will see fit to publish the attached description of New Caledonia in 1988 for two reasons: (1) the number of us old-timers of World War II is now quite reduced in proportion to the Viet Nam veterans and we relish and look for items that concern our old activities and the aftermath. (2) Although perhaps puzzled over our interest in New Caledonia and over references to events there, the Viet Nam members might enjoy a bit of history of the birthplace of the Americal Division. Incidentally, the references to the New Hebrides (where I was Service Command Surgeon for 1 1/2 years) would be of particular interest to the old Force A of the 182nd Infantry who, very early in the war, were there at Port-Vila, Efate and, later, in Lugainville, Espiritu Santo before leaving for Guadalcanal.

In any case, I wish you joy in your editorial job.

Sincerely,
Arthur G. King, Col. AUS-Ret.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I read Dr. King's essay with great interest and present it to our readers as a comment on the letter from "George" published in the last issue.

Dear Sir:

The letter from "George" in the November-December 1988 Newsletter gives a very simplistic, one-sided view-point of what is happening in New Caledonia. The drive for decolonization, separation or independence is nothing new there, and it not, repeat NOT, restricted to the aboriginal natives. Among the white settlers there had long been many protests against what "George" termed "the mercurial political machinations of the mother country." For example, France long ago forbade colonists to raise tobacco except for personal use because it would interfere with the

The Last: 2nd Lt. Richard Vandegeer, U.S. Air Force, killed May 15, 1975.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Algerian economy. The same with sugar cane and the development of a wine industry which would compete with France's exports. The one local product they could not suppress was nickel, of which New Caledonia at one time provided 14% of the world's supply.

In 1941, those of us in the original Task Force 6814 remember the subtle conflict between the "Metropoles" and the "Colon." The former were not only the administrative heads sent over from France, but the managers of the mines and the nickel industry. These were people whose primary interests were in the mother-country, people who would return there--to France. On the other hand, the colonists had deep roots in the island. Some were descendants of the pioneers who had arrived as early as 1847 with James Paddon, or of the French dissidents exiled after the 1871 revolution, or of the many Irish emigrants of the 1880's. Many of them rose to high managerial and administrative positions, and, as they became more and more involved with international affairs, shifted their loyalty, for the most part, to the mother country. They, like the "Metropoles," became enmeshed in French politics.

At the onset of World War II when the decision had to be made whether to stay with the Vichy government or to join deGaulle, there occurred episodes which most "Neocaledonians" would like to forget. Separation from France was seriously advocated by many of the "Colons." They argued that the United States or Australia would never permit the Japanese to take over New Caledonia, a colony which France was unable to protect. In the Conseil-General the deGaullists won by a very narrow majority and those who voted for either Vichy or independence were brutally and effectively silenced by internal exile--the way it was done in Russia.

To control New Caledonia, General deGaulle sent a "Mission" headed by Admiral d'Argenlieu with infuriated the New Caledonian public by its high-handed, autocratic and unfeeling conduct. On March 20, 1942, d'Argenlieu arrested the popular Governor Sautot and members of the Conseil-General and thus started a minor revolution. The "Broussards" from up-country armed themselves and marched on Noumea, requiring the local militia to be called out to stop them. There were riots in the streets, but fortunately no deaths. The revolution failed only because of the impending Japanese invasion and the definitive Coral Sea battle on May 5. However, the "Colons" won a partial victory in that deGaulle recalled d'Argenlieu and his mission. Freddy Fourcade, the new representative of deGaulle, (who had the good sense to marry one of the colonists) succeeded in healing the rift between the different factions, and thus put an end to the separatist movement for the time being.

To understand what is going on now in New Caledonia, one must review the events of 1980 in the New Hebrides. This was a condominium of Great Britain and France, and both countries were eager to rid themselves of the problems of what was often referred to as pandemonium. Of particular importance there among the Melanesian people was the John Frum Movement, a bizarre millenarian cult which promised the elimination of all foreigners and the elevation of the aborigines to complete dominance. It started some time prior to 1940 in the New Hebrides and spread from the island of Tana to all of the other islands of the archipelago and even beyond. In the late 1970's, when the mother-countries loosened their hold on the condominium the

The First: Major Dale R. Buis, U.S. Army, killed July 8, 1959....

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

separatist activity surged among both the white settlers and the Melanesians. Even though originally the John Frum devotees indulged in voodoo mumbo-jumbo and considerable violence, the more educated Melanesians and mixed people seized control and used its mystique to acquire native followers for political strength among the different parties. The multi-party system almost wrecked the fledgling "Rapublik B'long Vanuatu."

as it was called officially after its establishment on July 30, 1980. Its chief minister, Walter Lini, was a moderate right-wing stalwart elected with the support of the white planters. According to the "Wall Street Journal" of July 2, 1980, he was violently opposed by the John Frum Movement, whose leader was Jimmie Stevens (a Scot-Melanesian) and the armed uprising was financed by Michael Oliver, an American anti-communist real-estate millionaire from Carson City, Nevada.

In New Caledonia, the situation is almost as complicated, although it is doubtful if the John Frum Movement played any great part. The local melanesian tribes had a history of murderous violence going back at least to the massacre of hundreds of white settlers in 1878. The 68,000 or so Melanesians looked to two brothers-in-law (Maurice Lenormand and Jean Guiart) who, in 1952, united the Catholic tribes and the Protestant tribes to form the "Caledonian Union," which used political methods only. They obtained 15 out of 25 seats in the Conseil-General and pushed for complete from France. With the shift in politics in the mother-country, they changed sides and became devoted deGaulists. But in 1962, they reversed themselves again and adopted the idea of a "Civilization Canaque." The Caledonian Union, the party--led by a white settler, Pierre Declercq--became the most vehement of the separatists.

By 1978 both the Melanesians and the whites were divided into numerous parties which mirrored French politics. In 1981 the "independantistes" received 23,000 of the 50,000 votes cast in the general referendum, and Mitterand, the French premier, supported them. As Governor-General of New Caledonia, he appointed Edgard Pisani, who was as unpopular as had been Admiral d'Argenlieu in 1941. His mere presence evoked ideas of revolution, similar to what happened in 1942, only this time the militants were Melanesians rather than "Broussards." The opposition to the independence plan of Pisani was led by the Melanesian Dick Ukeiwe and Roger Laroque, a descendant of very early settlers. The politics of separation make strange bed-fellows indeed. The compromise worked out in Paris last November to allow 10 years for more political maturity, education, economic adjustment and true self-determination must be viewed favorably.

- CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL MEMORIAL -

Dr. Patterson

Congratulations on becoming Editor-in-Chief of the Americal Newsletter. It is an excellent publication.

I too served most of my time with the 14th CAB. My tour in Vietnam was from 31 December 68 - 8 Dec 70. I had been an enlisted man in the States and then got a direct commission with the Medical Service Corps (the administrative branch of the medics). Upon arrival at Chu Lai early in January '69, I was assigned as

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

182ND INFANTRY

Dear Jim:

Thought you might publish something in the Americal Newsletter regarding our recent trip to Japan.

When we found our cruise ended in Japan, we wrote to George Fukui with whom I had been corresponding and he was waiting for us when we arrived at the Tokyo Hilton.

He was king and generous with his time, showed us around and took us shopping. He also took us to a typical Japanese Pub that was situated underground. Maybe they are expecting more bombings?

I was the only American but we had a few drinks and enjoyed a good bull session. Also, met a fellow that was grateful that we ended the war when we did. He was completing Kamikaze training when it was over. He is now employed by Coca Cola.

Also, had lunch with Reverend Oishi and cocktails with another Cebu vet named Akira Tanaka.

They were most hospitable and we were able to see parts of Japan the average tourist never sees. Quite a difference from my first visit with the Americal. Seriously, I would recommend it to our guys as the changes are unbelievable.

Regards
Al Re

Note: I met George Fukui and Reverend Oishi when I was in Tokyo two years ago. Bill McLaughlin set up the original correspondence and they met us and took my wife and I around Tokyo. George had a fantastic sense of humor. When I remarked on how modern Tokyo was, George said: "We had to build a new city, you people destroyed 98% of the old one."

Both George and Reverend Oishi surrendered to the Americal on Cebu when the war ended. The Reverend has a scar on one arm and still carries a carbine slug in his shoulder as a memento of his first meetings with the Americal. Jim



Al Re

George Fukui

So young, so brave,
with certain patriotism
and resolve
they served.

When you move and don't tell us,
it costs us 30 cents to get your address.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

125TH QM 132ND INF B CO

Dear Bernie:

Just a short note to thank you for the September-October Newsletter sent to my new address. I just want to remind you to publish my new address in the January-February issue of the Newsletter.

The place here in Laguna Hills, CA is really far more than I expected for a place to retire to. I recommend this place for everyone who wants to relocate. It has the weather, social activities, part-time work (if you want to work), new friends, and it's busy from morning to night.

If anybody from the 125th AM or B Co. 132nd Inf. wants to come out here for a visit, just call me or write to me at my address.

Thank you very much, Bernie, and have a very Happy and Healthy Holiday, and to all of the Americal Division Veterans, a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Joe Zukerman
[REDACTED]
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Tel: (714) 455-0692

26TH ENGINEER BN (CBT)

Dear Mr. Chase:

You will find enclosed my 1989 dues. I would like to know if you have any more members that were with the 26th Engineer BN (CBT) in the Americal Division Association. If so, could you send me a list?

I would especially like to hear from members of C and D Co. who served during 1970-71. We supported the 11th Inf. Bde. with demolition teams out of LZ Bronco.

Thank you,
Robert W. Burnham
[REDACTED]
Leeds, ME 04263

Bob, our rules forbid us to send out names of our members. We are printing your letter so that if any of your pals are out there, they will have a chance to contact you.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR FLAG CASE

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has joined forces with a public interest law firm in a supreme Court case that will decide whether a Texas law which prohibits desecrating the flag is constitutional.

The defendant in the Supreme Court case of Texas vs Johnson claims he has a constitutional right under the First Amendment to burn and destroy the American Flag.

The case arose out of a demonstration in 1984 in Dallas during the republican National convention where protesters took a flag from a flagpole, doused it with lighter fluid and burned it while shouting anti-American epithets.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

COMPANY M 182ND INF

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 for Life Membership. Rene was very proud of being a member of the Americal. He has not been well for the last ten years, and has been in a nursing home for the last two years with multiple problems. He is 100% service connected disabled.

Even though he doesn't always understand, due to strokes, I know he would always want to be a member of the Americal. He was a member of Company M 182 Infantry and was hurt at Guadalcanal.

Thank you,
Virginia Starck

2ND BN 11TH ARTY

Dear Comrades:

I am already a member of four other Veterans organizations--the V.F.W., the American Legion, the AmVets, and the United States Vietnam Veterans of America.

These are in addition to a couple of other clubs like the Elks, the City Club, and the Mass. Rifle Assoc. I only have time to be active in one of them, the V.F.W., But I have decided I would still like to join this one.

My outfit was one of the first ones to be assigned to the Americal Division when it was first reformed and I was in it at the time. We were part of Task Force Oregon.

As a specific division veterans group, of course, it has a more personal touch than just any veterans group, which is why I decided to join it on top of all the others.

I believe the man that my V.F.W. Post is named for was a veteran of the Americal Division. He was S/Sgt George J. Hall of Stoneham, Mass. It is Post 620, Stoneham, Mass. He was a Medal of Honor winner.

Thank you,
William Sweeney

1/6 INFANTRY 198 LIB

Greetings from Hawaii!!!

Being a youngster (40) and not enduring or experiencing W.W. II, I took a little time out the other day and sat on the roof of my car at Aiea Heights. It was 7 December 1988. At ten before eight I looked over my shoulder to KoleKole pass and then down to Pearl Harbor below. It was hard to believe that hordes of aircraft flew that route over this beautiful island 47 years ago.

I served in Vietnam with the 1/6 Infantry of the 198th Brigade. I never have been able to find anyone else from that unit that was there in 1971. Turtle Doc Setty and Kuykendall, Capt. Gomes and everyone else has faded away. Even on active duty now I see very few Americal patches. In five years I won't see any. Hell, I don't see any patches on anybody below Sgt. First Class or Lt. Colonel, unless they popped down in Grenada in 1983.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Well, the sunshine is beckoning me. My folks in Rhode Island tell me that the white stuff is on the ground up there. I've forgotten what it looks like.

Aloha,
Bob "Killer" Kain

Bob: Your letter arrived in the middle of blizzard!

Since my last letter, at the behest of George Mederios, to the Americal Newsletter was well received, I thought that I would pass along this humorous incident which occurred while stationed at Lautoka, Fiji Island.

The 39th M.P. Platoon was bivouacked in an old abandoned Mission School just outside of Lautoka. Our C.O. was Major Townsend who was a good friend of Division Commander, General Hodges. The Major being a true Southern gentleman, would entertain the General at the Mission by giving luncheons occasionally to show his esteem for the General, and also to make a few points in his favor.

On one occasion, the Major commissioned our cook, Baltimore, to have some natives gather a mess of crabs to make a fine crabmeat salad for the General as a special treat. Baltimore complied, and boiled and shucked a large bowl of fresh crabmeat which he securely pad-locked in a wooden ice box, to be served the next day.

As you all know, G.I.'s were always hungry, especially for such tidbits as this crabmeat. The boys were sitting around having a few drinks when someone suggested that crabmeat would be quite tasty right about that time. Although the ice box was padlocked, it didn't take that much ingenuity to remove the screws from the ice box hinges and replace them again.

The next day, I was C.Q. for the day and nursing a big head. While getting my orders from the Major at breakfast, Baltimore rushed in crying: "The general's crabmeat is gone." I thought the Major would have a stroke. He ordered me to fall out the platoon and stamped out to speak with them.

You have to visualize the Major. He was about 5' 7", weighing about 130 pounds soaking wet. The average M.P. was 6' tall and weighed about 175 pounds or up. The Major was screaming what a "dastardly deed" had been committed, and, while he wouldn't court-martial the crabmeat thief, if he stepped forward he would "thrash" him soundly with fisticuffs. Of course, that broke the men up with the end result that everybody had to fall out with full field pack and rifle for a ten mile hike.

The hike didn't accomplish much as most of the guys had malaria and they dropped like flies as the march progressed. The Major also promised he would put the whole platoon so close to the Japs in the next action that they (the Japs) would think we were fighting on their side.

The Major had joined us at the end of Guadalcanal and left for the States two weeks after we landed on Bougainville--promoted to Lt. Col. for his Culinary Arts.

Arthur G. Guarante

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE RECENTLY?
CONTRIBUTED ARTIFACTS TO A MUSEUM?
GIVEN A SPEECH?
MARCHED IN A PARADE?
WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING THAT FURTHERS
THE AIM OF THE ADVA
LET US HEAR ABOUT IT!

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

101 QUARTERMASTER 125 QUARTERMASTER

Dear Jim:

Thank you for the fine job you are doing with the Americal Newsletter. Hang in there and keep up the good work.

Sorry to have to tell you that someone on your staff goofed! "Peabody" Ben Kelly, as we of the 101 Quartermaster know him, did so many wonderful things this season 1987-88. First, he joined ADVA and then became a Life Member, then he sent a contribution for the Americal Museum in New Caledonia--not satisfied with that, "Peabody" Ben sent a check to Dr. Robert Muehrcke, chairman of the Guadalcanal Memorial Foundation (a project every Americal Division Vet should invest in).

Well James, our Newsletter of Jul-Aug 1988 has our "Peabody" Ben in the 101 Medics--and you left out the important part of his name--"Peabody." Thanks for a correction or two.

Yours in comradeship
Paul "O'Hara" Santogeans

P.S. "Orchids in the Mud," a saga of the 132nd Infantry in World War II by Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, is a book not easy to put down once you start reading it. I suggest it for everyone except the mothers of those sons that didn't make it back. However, the book could very well be a tribute to those very sons.

Paul: Sorry about that error. He did so many good things for the ADVA I guess I wanted to spread him around! Seriously, the candle burns low many nights when I am writing and sometimes my fingers don't do what my eyes tell them. Jim

The Last Sunrise

I lay in my bunk during the night
and listened to the rounds hurled aimlessly.
We sent them God knows where
their rath to bare upon His
trespassed sanctity.

The morning sun had not yet come
and I yearned to feel its magic.
For the new day sun upon my face
was warmth that washed the tragic.

God. How I waited for the sunrise
that I could gaze with eyes fixed fast
and wonder if God was angry enough
to make it be my last.

I donned my vest with thirty eight,
my left boot held a knife,
for if shot down and still alive
I would war with my soul for my life.

God grant me strength that I may
commit the last act of defiance completely...
If the enemy is near and capture is clear
I can not be taken by surprise,
for if as they near I can see in their eyes
I will have seen the last sunrise.

Steven R. Helm
"Dragon 3D"
1968-69 & 1971-72

OPEN LETTER TO ALL
ADVA MEMBERS

From time to time I plan to include some personal comments in our newsletter. Not a formal editorial, but rather calls for help, comments upon experiences, and so forth.

My first "Open Letter" is to ask for your help in making our newsletter better serve our readers and our members. You can help be in several ways. (1) Write letters for publication. Send them to me, to Jim, or to Bernie. (2) Send me clippings from newspapers or magazines or other newsletters. (3) Allow us to use your photos, especially those of your life in the Americal. And, (4) in general, keep in contact with your association. Of course letters and clippings and photos should relate to the ADVA.

Just today I received a newsletter from The University of Tennessee. It was full of personal news. Who was doing what. I don't know about you, but I truly enjoy reading about people I knew.

For me, a Vietnam veteran, it is quickly approaching 20 years since I was in the Americal Division. I have some very clear memories of Chu Lai, Duc Pho, and the likes. But most of all, I have memories of people. As I was preparing this issue I received a letter from Louis Blumengarten. I remember Louis when he was Medical Service officer for the 14th CAB and I was Adjutant. I also remember, all too well, the rocket attack he mentions in his letter. Completing casualty reports and inventorying personal effects was always an unpleasant task.

I haven't seen Louis since December, 1970, but now, at least, I know where he is. There are a lot of other people I haven't seen for almost 20 years now, some were my best friends in Nam. I would like to know what happened to them. This newsletter is one channel for such information.

For you, the original Americal vets--Task Force 6814 and New Caledonia--it won't be long until the events you took part in will be history by half a century. How wonderful it must be to read about someone you remember from 50 years ago.

And, oh yes, even us Nam vets enjoy your letters about the "canal" and Bougainville and the adventures you had. All the history books ever written can replace your personal memories. And the pictures...Psychologists tell us that smell is most apt to trigger memories, especially long-term ones, but when I see a photo, it seems to take me back to the place, the time, and the people.

This is your association and your newsletter. I would like to hear about you.

HAIKU

Incommensurate
Defensible Position
Victory Folly

Vietsarms Done
Reprehensible Dictum
Disillusion Sought

We fly low on deck
Skids in the grass intrusive
Tough Americans.



JAMES C. BUCKLE
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mr. Gary L. Noller

Lenexa, KS 66219

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	1967-1973

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

Dedication

ADVA is dedicated as a LIVING MEMORIAL to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American 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.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Telephone:

Address — Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Americal Unit Rgt.

Bn.

Co/Bty.

Other

Dates of Service — From:

To:

Serial No.:

Date of Birth:

Blood Type:

Religion:

V. A. Claim No.:

V. A. Office — City:

State:

Occupation:

Wife's First Name:

Date:

Signature:

Sponsored by:

(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$16.00

PLEASE: Attach a copy of the following information to your application.

1. DD 214 Form.

2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.

(All copies of records will be returned)