

\* GUADALCANAL

\* NORTHERN SOLOMONS

\* LEYTE

\* SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

\* VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

JULY - AUGUST 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



THE OLD AND THE NEW

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

ROBERT N. THORNTON

NATIONAL COMMANDER

BERNARD CARROLL

## 1989 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1990

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Bernard Carroll

Boston, MA 02130

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

#Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

#Ronald T. Castranova

Peabody, MA 01960

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Robert N. Thornton

Melrose, MA 01960

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Ralph Serino

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## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

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Fayetteville, NC 28306

VIETNAM EDITOR

#Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

#Vietnam Veteran

## MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

September 9, 1989Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA  
12:30 p.m. Executive Council  
1:00 p.m. Business MeetingOctober 14, 1989Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA  
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## AMERICAL PICNIC

Saturday, August 19, 1989

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, Ayer, MA  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Coffee and doughnuts will be served starting at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own lunch with whatever you want to go with it. Meet your old comrades and reminisce. In the event of rain, we will hold the picnic inside the Museum. Please let Commander Bernie Carroll know if you plan to attend. Send him a card or phone him. This way we can make sure we have enough coffee and doughnuts for everybody. His address is 4 Zamora Street, Boston, MA 02130. Telephone (617) 522-7936.

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Max D. Conyers  
Co. D 164th Inf.  
Lexington, KYJoseph Ferreira  
101st Quartermaster  
Arlington, MAJames D. Haworth  
Btry. B 247th FA  
Acushnet, MAFrank J. Przybojewski  
523rd Signal  
Jersey City, NJJoseph Vadala  
721st Ordnance  
South Venice, FL

## NEW MEMBERS

Ralph Bouchard  
Co. B 101 Medical  
Port Charlotte, FL  
#Robert ThorntonRobert C. Cook  
B Co. 123rd CAB  
Valrico, FL  
#Roland CastranovaMax D. Conyers  
164th Inf.  
Lexington, KY  
#Bernie ChaseDouglas Dollar  
Co. C 52nd Inf.  
Stillwater, OK  
#James GariganGregory R. Entrekin  
Co. C 1/52 198 LIB  
Wheaton, IL  
#Raymond L. FawkesRaymond W. Enstine, Jr.  
Btry. A 82nd Arty  
Watermill, NY  
#Robert ThorntonFrancis W. Landry  
Co. C 1/52 198 LIB  
Lynn, MA  
#John H. BlanchardDouglas E. Lay  
Btry. B 1/14 Arty 198  
Dublin, OH  
#Ron WardRoyal W. Loveridge  
26th Signal  
North Miami, FL  
#Arthur WoodRandall E. Palmer  
Co. A 46th Inf.  
Nurst, TX  
#Robert ThorntonLeamon E. Parrish  
26th Signal  
North Myrtle Beach, SC  
#Arthur WoodWilliam V. Reid, Jr.  
Co. A 46th Inf.  
Orlando, FL  
#Arthur WoodCharles A. Rosser  
1/20 11 LIB  
Highlands, TX  
#SelfWilliam L. Smith  
Btry. C 245th Arty  
Asheville, NC  
#LTC Peter J. Messina

(Continued on next page)

## HAVE YOU ASKED A BUDDY TO JOIN ADVA?

Edmund A. Stuart  
HQ Btry 180 FA  
Cherry Valley, MA  
#Edward HaddadRandy Weddle  
26th Eng Bn CBT, Co. A-D  
Ballwin, MO  
#Clifford SevereLarry A. Young  
Co. D 4th Bn 13th Inf.  
Mayville, ND  
#Alvin TollefsrudMichael J. Zammitti  
Co. E 182nd Inf.  
Lowell, MA  
#Jim Buckle

## TAPS

Ralph Evans  
182nd Inf.  
Boston, MA  
May 4, 1988Thomas W. Furey  
182nd Inf.  
Stoneham, MA  
May 28, 1988Joseph Hennessy  
121st Medical  
Reading, MA  
March 1989Austin J. Kelly  
132nd Inf.  
Las Vegas, NV  
May 26, 1989Charles H. Malloy  
182nd Inf.  
Medford, MA  
June 1988Walter B. Shaw  
182nd Inf.  
Westford, MA  
May 21, 1989Arthur R. Wood  
182nd Inf.  
Homosassa, FL  
June 8, 1989

## CONVENTION CHAIRMAN DIES SUDDENLY



ARTHUR R. WOOD - 182nd INFANTRY

Arthur R. Wood, a truck driver for 32 years with Monroe & Arnold's Merit Express died suddenly Thursday, June 8, 1989, in his home in Homosassa Springs, FL, apparently of a heart attack. Arthur was 71 years of age and formerly lived in Beverly and Salem, MA before moving to Florida in his retirement.

Arthur served with the Americal Division, assigned to the 182nd Infantry as a combat infantry soldier on Guadalcanal and Bougainville and had been decorated with the Bronze Star in addition to his many other awards.

(Continued in next column)

He leaves his wife Marie and three children: Arthur M. of Newburyport, MA; Brian P. and Maura J. both of Homosassa Springs and two grandchildren.

He was a member of the ADVA for many years and a Charter Member of the Southeast Chapter, serving as Secretary-Treasurer. He was a driving force in establishing the Chapter and served as a committee member for the many Chapter Reunions held twice each year.

Arthur had just completed his last assignment as the National Chairman of the Annual National Convention on June 4th in Orlando Florida. The National convention took over 1 1/2 years to plan--not an easy task. The members who attended are still talking about the well organized and delightful time had by all and we are indebted to Arthur for his time and effort. At the same time he was developing the plans for the Fall Reunion of the Chapter to be held in Florida.

The ADVA and also the Southeast Chapter will greatly miss Arthur and his hard work, his driving force, and his happy smile. If you would like to contact Marie, who was his able assistant in the many projects he performed for the ADVA, her address is  
Mrs. Arthur R. Wood  
Homosassa Springs, FL 32647

Arthur will be missed greatly as a family man, a friend, and as a guiding light of the ADVA.

## SICK CALL

Word has been received that Elbert R. Horton of Route #1 Box 854, Timberlake, NC 27583 and his wife Mattie were seriously injured in an automobile accident. Elbert was in the 246th FA and runs the Artillery Reunion each year. We know he would appreciate cards and letters from his friends and well wishers.

## THANK YOU

I wish to thank all the thoughtful members of the Americal for their kind cards of get well wishes and also the many telephone calls the last few days of my hospitalization. The many prayers had to help too since so far everything has come out fine and I am improving every day.

Thank you,  
Bob Thornton

To all my Americal Family, thanks for the cards, visits, and calls. I'm getting better.

Thanks again  
Harry & Nickie Corliss

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

## WHEN YOU MOVE, THERE ARE TWO THINGS

## YOU MUST DO!

SEND YOU NEW ADDRESS TO  
Bernard Chase  
ADVA NAT. ADJ. AND TO  
Boston, MA 02140  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

DUES NOTIFICATION PROCESS

1st Notice Membership card mailed IN ADVANCE of payment of dues.

2nd Notice Overdue notice printed in ADVA Newsletter.

IMPORTANT  
MAY DUES NOTICES

The May Dues Notices were mailed out during May 1989. Please remember that dues are \$12.00 per year. This is your second notice since we mailed your card in advance of payment. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS

M-0417 M-0457 M-0527 M-0585 M-0622 M-0722  
M-0419 M-0479 M-0529 M-0587 M-0670 M-0723  
M-0428 M-0493 M-0533 M-0619 M-0671 M-0724  
M-0435 M-0496 M-0540 M-0620 M-0674 M-0731  
M-0441 M-0500 M-0543 M-0625 M-0675 M-0732  
M-0445 M-0503 M-0548 M-0627 M-0677 M-0738  
M-0446 M-0505 M-0552 M-0630 M-0685 M-0742  
M-0456 M-0509 M-0555 M-0632 M-0689 M-0743  
M-0461 M-0511 M-0556 M-0635 M-0692 M-0744  
M-0462 M-0512 M-0559 M-0640 M-0696 M-0745  
M-0464 M-0517 M-0570 M-0653 M-0697 M-0746  
M-0468 M-0518 M-0573 M-0655 M-0716 M-0757  
M-0469 M-0520 M-0582 M-0658 M-0720  
M-0474 M-0522 M-0583

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

40 or under.....\$125 Payments-5\*  
41 to 60.....\$100 Payments-4\*  
61 to 70.....\$ 75 Payments-3\*  
71 or over.....\$ 50 Payments-2\*

\*NOTE: Payments of \$25 in 6 month intervals. Any member who has paid his dues in advance will receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH\_\_\_\_\_ AGE\_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO

Bernard C. Chase  
National Adjutant, ADVA

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

A LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the ADVA is one of the best investments you can make?  
Take care of yours today!

HAVE YOU MOVED? NEW ADDRESS?

CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS  
Americal Newsletter

P.O. Box 1381  
Boston, MA 02140

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER NEWS

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS  
ASSOCIATION

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

Robert R. Hock - Commander

Reading, PA 19601

Peter J. Messina - Sec./Treas.  
27 Fieldcrest Dr.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Dear Americal Veteran,

Through the efforts and hard work of John & "Honey" O'Keefe, you will find enclosed the schedule of events and a brochure of the hotel where we will hold our 1989 chapter reunion. The hotel rates will be as follows:

SINGLE: \$64.00 per night  
DOUBLE: \$68.00 per night

The Friday night dinner will cost \$20.00 per person. This will be payable at the registration desk on Friday afternoon between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Please mail your reservations directly to the hotel using the form below.

If you have any questions, please direct them to:

Mr. John O'Keefe

Point Pleasant, NJ 08754

We'll be looking forward to seeing you there.

Yours in comradeship,  
Robert T. Hock  
Regional Commander

-----TEAR OFF HERE-----

MAIL TO: Reservation Manager  
Days Inn

Abscon, NJ 08201

FOR: Americal Division Veterans Reunion  
September 22, 23, 24, 1989

NO. OF PEOPLE ATTENDING\_\_\_\_\_  
NO. OF ROOMS REQUIRED: SINGLE\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUBLE\_\_\_\_\_

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_

CITY:\_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP:\_\_\_\_\_

TO INSURE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE MAKE THEM PRIOR  
TO AUGUST 22, 1989.

**164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1111



164th Infantry Association  
Ray Patton, Pres. Frank Weisgerber Sec/Tres.

We will be hosting the Annual 164th Infantry Reunion in Bismarck this October 6, 7, 8, 1989 and I want to extend an invitation to you to join us for a fun weekend; or maybe a little longer if you can spare the time. This is our North Dakota Centennial Year and there will be special events scheduled all summer. Our Veterans Memorial will be completed by then and our Heritage Center will have special displays. Just across the river is Ft. Lincoln State Park, where Custer should have stayed, plus Custer's house, which is restored and furnished.

We thought about scheduling a 20 mile hike (not very seriously). Actually, the only reason would have been to see if you all can still come up with such original and literary excuses as to why you should be excused.

This would be an excellent year for each of you to contact "that guy that you know about that belonged to the outfit but has yet to attend a reunion."

We have help a couple of meetings and have our plans started. Our plans are to hold the entire reunion under one roof in the Kirkwood Motor Inn. We have asked them to reserve a block of rooms for our members and they will hold these until September 21, for our people to reserve them. Single rate is \$45.00 and Double rate is \$51.00. BE SURE TO MENTION THE 164TH TO GET THIS RATE. There is also the Expressway Inn one block south and they have a rate of \$26.90 for a single and \$31.50 for two people in a double bed plus 10% discount for Senior Citizens.

The Kirkwood Inn (1-800-456-6388) is just across the street from our largest shopping mall. (We also have all the usual national motels, but they are not as convenient.)

Our registration will start Friday afternoon, October 6, in the Courtyard. About 6:30 pm we will have the Dressden and Essen Rooms for our meeting, memorial service, etc. and also the men's noon luncheon. The ladies will have their luncheon at poolside.

We hope to have shuttle bus service to take you to the Veterans Memorial and Heritage Center during the afternoon.

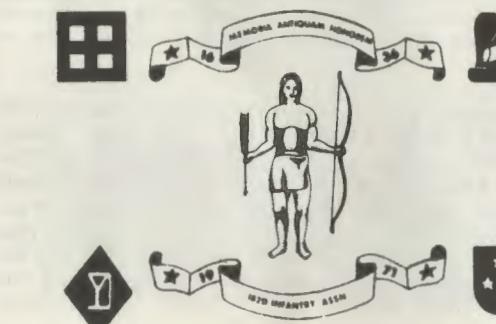
At 6:30 p.m. Saturday, we will be back at the Frankfort Room for hospitality and our banquet at 7:30 p.m. followed by dancing.

Sunday (October 8) morning we will have a brunch and say our farewells in the Dressden and Essen Rooms.

(Continued in next column)

We are subsidizing our registration fees out of our savings--single registration will be \$12.50, couple registration will be \$25.00. We will send more details and forms in a later mailing. You will never get a bigger "FUN Bargain" than this. Plan now to spend this time with your old friends, comrades, buddies, etc. And, Oh Yes, bring one of them who has never been to a reunion along.

Start your plans now.  
Raymond J. Patton  
President

**182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION**

Greetings to all our friends and compatriots in the ADVA. To start things off, congratulations to Editor Jim Buckle on your May June 1989

newsletter. It was a triumph, Jim!

A note to you folks who saw service with the 182D Infantry at any time, but have not as yet joined The 182D Infantry Association. If you desire to carry on the heritage of "The 182D", drop us a card or note. By return mail you will receive a resume of our Association, an application for membership, and a copy of our latest newsletter. Join with us of The 182D Infantry Association in remembering and upholding the ancient honor of the 182D Infantry.

Our 16th Annual Memorial Service and Breakfast was held this year at The American Legion Post 210 in Saugus, Mass. on Sunday, May 21, 1989. The affair was a great success! We were pleased to see more next-of-kin folks in attendance this year as we officially unveiled our Honor Roll Plaque to our departed members.

Our Finance Officer, Charlie Doyle, has stepped down after seven years of serving us well in keeping us fiscally sound. Donald E. Estabrooks of Peabody will take over the reins on July 6 for the remainder of the membership year.

Have you heard? We have appointed Colonel (Chaplain) David P. Mahn, Chaplain for the 26th Infantry (Yankee) Division as an honorary Regular Life Member. Chaplain Mahn served with the 182D Infantry for several years before moving on to the 1st Infantry Brigade and then to the Yankee Division.

Our annual cookout will be held on August 19, 1989, at the homestead of Commander Doug and Joan Tarbox, 232 Vine Street, Everett, MA. Any of you folks planning to attend should contact PC Don Tibbets, at home, at 889-0846 for information and costs.

Charles L. Doyle, Vice Commander



## 132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION

CICERO, IL 60650-8327

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend our 1989 - 48th Anniversary reunion Labor Day Weekend, September 1, 2, & 3, 1989.

Reunion headquarters and all activities will take place at THE CHICAGO-MARRIOTT OAK BROOK HOTEL in Oak Brook, Illinois, directly across the street from the world famous Oak Brook Shopping Center.

Please make your reservation directly with THE CHICAGO-MARRIOTT OAK BROOK HOTEL 1401 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois 60521 (phone 312-573-8555). Very favorable room rates have been secured--\$48.00 Single or Double occupancy. These rates hold for any extended period you reserve, before or after the Reunion. Any problems with reservations and you should call Ed Ozzie (312) 692-3010 or [REDACTED] evenings.

1989 - 48th Anniversary Reunion Program

Friday, Sept. 1, 1989-Ice breaker from 7:30 pm to 12:30 am. CASH BAR.  
Saturday, Sept. 2, 1989-Trip to the historic town of Long Grove. Depart Oak Brook at 9:30 am and return to Oak Brook by 3:30 pm.  
Saturday, Sept. 2, 1989-Golf, 9:00 am sharp.  
Saturday, Sept. 2, 1989-Reunion Banquet, 6:30 pm, cocktails, dinner and dancing. \$36.50 each person.

Sunday, Sept. 3, 1989-Farewell Breakfast

For more information contact:  
 Mitchell J. Przybycien  
 Reunion Committee Chairman  
 132nd Inf. Regiment

### FLAG-BURNING OK SAYS SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 this past month that flag-burning is not a crime. The landmark ruling, said Justice Kennedy, was simply "a pure command of the Constitution." The Court held that the First Amendment guarantees of free speech protect those who burn the American flag in political protest.

The nation's reaction was stunned outrage. Said Americal Legion member Charles Inglis of Houston, who fought in World War II and Korea, "I don't give a damn whether its the protester's civil right or not. I fought to protect the American flag..." President George Bush called flag burning "wrong, dead wrong."

Most Americans disagree with the court decision and would find ways to circumvent it. A NEWSWEEK/GALLUP poll indicated that 71% of those surveyed were in favor of a constitutional amendment that would make flag-buring illegal. On Capitol Hill, the U.S. Senate voted 97-3 expressing disappointment in the court's ruling.

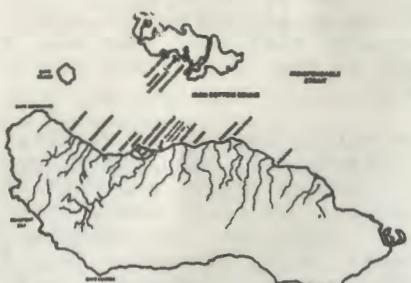


### INAUGURAL AMERICAL DIVISION ASSOCIATION CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

At the recent convention in Orlando, we had 16 players and formed eight teams. There were four games played. The players were Nancy Trites, Jerry Guerrieor, Pete Mastorrio, Randy Frank, Al Trites, John August (Dadda), Pat Farino, Bill Hunt, Bob Thornton, Herb Page, Ben Kelly, Sam Ravagno, Harry Shnell, Jerry Montone, George Morton, and Dolores Kyack.

This was the first tournament and we hope to keep it going and give out some prizes. This being the first, we didn't have any prizes planned but it was a good start. It lasted 1 1/2 hours and fun was had by all. The winners were Nancy Trites and Jerry Guerrieor. They won all four games and even a skunk for nine points. The booby prize honors went to Dolores Kyack and George Morton. So all you Cribbage players start practicing so that next year we can have a larger group.

Submitted by  
 Pat Farino



### GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS

It isn't the cost of belonging — it's the price you paid to be eligible.

Ted Blahnik — National President  
 P.O. Box 181, Coloma, MI 49038-0181  
 616-466-5538

Dear Sir:

At your earliest opportunity would you please insert the following information in your Newsletter.

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS  
 (All branches of the service)  
 October 12-15, 1989  
 San Antonio, Texas  
 Contact: Gene Keller

Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
 [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance for your courtesy.

Sincerely,  
 Ted Blahnik

### VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

#### AMERICAL VET TO HEAD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

ADVA member Bob Cherry, who did a tour with the Americal in Vietnam as Chief of the CID at Chu Lai informs us that he recently joined the Texas State Board of Insurance with the title of manager of the agency's investigative unit. While in Vietnam Bob investigated felony type crimes.

Cherry was born in Van Wyck, SC, grew up in Charlotte, NC, and attended Johnson C. Smith University. He graduated from the Pennsylvania Institute of Criminology in Philadelphia in 1956. He spent 20 years in the Army and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1974.

Cherry, 59, supervises 12 persons within the Legal Services Division. His unit's priority, Cherry says, will be "to root out fraudulent practices in the insurance industry and go after agent who prey on the elderly."

#### DANIEL JOHN SHEA, MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER 196TH LIB, AMERICAL DIVISION

RANK AND ORGANIZATION: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Headquarters Company, 3D Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division.

PLACE AND DATE: Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, 14 May 1969.

ENTERED SERVICE AT: New Haven, Conn.

BORN: 29 January 1947, Norwalk, Conn.

CITATION: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Pfc. Shea, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman with Company C, 3d Battalion, during a combat patrol mission. As the lead platoon of the company was crossing a rice paddy, a large enemy force in ambush positions opened fire with mortars, grenades, and automatic weapons. Under heavy crossfire from 3 sides, the platoon withdrew to a small island in the paddy to establish a defensive perimeter. Pfc. Shea, seeing that a number of his comrades had fallen in the initial hail of fire, dashed from the defensive position to assist the wounded. With complete disregard for his safety and braving the intense hostile fire sweeping the open rice paddy, Pfc. Shea made 4 trips to tend to wounded soldiers and to carry them to the safety of the platoon position. Seeing a fifth wounded comrade directly in front of one of the enemy strongpoints, Pfc. Shea ran to his assistance. As he reached the wounded man, Pfc. Shea was grievously wounded. Disregarding his welfare, Pfc. Shea tended his wounded comrade and began moving him back to the safety of the defensive perimeter. As he neared the platoon position, Pfc. Shea was mortally wounded by a burst of enemy fire. By his heroic actions Pfc. Shea saved the lives of several of his fellow soldiers. Pfc. Shea's gallantry in action at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

(Continued in next column)

Dear Ron,  
 Enclosed you will find several photos of the Shea Memorial in Norwalk, CT. Also enclosed is a copy of his Medal of Honor Citation.

Every year, one week prior to Memorial Day, our VFW Post 6933 Honor Guard, as guests of the Norwalk Veterans



Council, takes part in a ceremony honoring all those who died defending our nation.

We would like you to mention this in the newsletter along with a photo of the monument. Also note the town has renamed an island, which is now a wildlife sanctuary, after this heroic Americal Division Soldier. I'm sure that those who were with Shea will be pleased and proud to find out he is so honored by his hometown and comrades here in Connecticut.

Our post would also like to invite anyone who was in the Americal Division or members of the ADVA to take part in this ceremony. Possibly a reunion can be arranged for sometime in the future for our area. We are located about 40 miles from New York City. Wouldn't it be something to have a Divisional salute for this brave soldier. Our post would be honored to host such an event.



(Continued on next page)



## NATIONAL CONVENTION 1989 - ORLANDO, FLORIDA



## NATIONAL CONVENTION 1989 - ORLANDO, FLORIDA



station surrounded by green sandbags awaited us along with the inevitable "Welcome" sign suitably smaller in size. I was assigned to Company A, 4th Bn., 3rd Infantry, known as the "Old Guard", the oldest of the presently existing U.S. regiments with the 1st Bn. guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The rear area headquarters for A 4/3 was a standard plywood hooch painted blue with a tin roof surrounded by a wall of green sandbags seven feet high on all sides. Company A was operating in the mountains west of Duc Pho spending about two weeks on patrol then a week defending the perimeter of fire base San Juan Hill. The supply room outfitted me with M-16, helmet, ammunition, and field gear. Some of the veterans showed me how to use a safety pin to fix cloth bandoliers of M-16 magazines in order to wear them across my chest. The PRC-25 radio in the orderly room was tuned to the company frequency so I was treated to the company commander ordering everyone to keep up as the unit cut its way through the heavy forest several miles away. I joined the beer and soda fund by having \$10 a month deducted from my pay in order for the First Sergeant to send us whatever canned drinks were available--usually at irregular intervals.

A Huey helicopter with afternoon resupply flew me from LZ Bronco to San Juan Hill. This was my first helicopter ride and I noticed that the doors on Hueys in Vietnam were always open and a door gunner was on each side manning his M-60 machine gun. San Juan Hill was two hill tops with adjoining saddle surrounded by bunkers and barbed wire. Artillery was dug in to provide fire support to units operating in the vicinity and to supply LZ defense. There were many specialty bunkers and buildings inside the LZ with functions from headquarters, to mess hall, to medics, and so forth. A purple smoke grenade was popped at the helipad on San Juan Hill and a rapid unloading took place after landing. This time, the tiny "Welcome" sign had shrapnel holes and was hanging askew from its post. The Army was determined to welcome me even to the most uninverting places.

LTC Fernandez was battalion commander of 4/3 Inf. and we stood on top of his CP bunker while he pointed out company D far below. The tiny figures of D Company were crossing a field toward a woodline and we could see the woodline shooting tracers at D Company soldiers who were firing and advancing. Artillery around us was firing 105mm rounds in support with the tubes depressed toward the valley below. This was exciting, seeing the engagement progress from a far off hilltop and to hear the radio transmissions as well as the occasional explanations from LTC Fernandez interrupted by the blasts of the 105s nearby. I was to join Company A as a platoon leader, though, not Company D.

The evening resupply helicopter took me to A company in the field. Everything looks incredibly green in the cool air as we flew toward the night defensive perimeter. Company A was digging fighting positions, cleaning weapons, and all the other activities that go on in an NDP after a hot day's march. I was delivered with an assortment of resupply ammunition, insulated food containers, several other replacements, mail, and a rubber lined laundry bag filled with soda, beer, and ice.

(Continued in next column)

Carrying the iced soda and beer along with my pack and rifle I went in search of the CP. As the bearer of refreshments I was quickly directed to the command post and made to feel welcome--this time without a "Welcome" sign.

It was easy to spot the veterans at the NDP since new troops wear clothing that hasn't developed the sun-drenched look and veterans carry equipment at could never have been new. Experienced infantrymen also develop a distinctive way of moving, of carrying their packs and weapons and other equipment--something that takes time, time in the busy, to learn.

The next day we were on the move soon after sun up. Within ten minutes I saw sweat begin to soak the shirt of the man ahead of me starting at the edge of his back straps and working out. We moved through mountainous forest in single file. Our area of operation was a free fire zone with no civilians nearby. Talking was discouraged since we could be close to the enemy at any time. On average, we saw the NVA once a day, although some days were busier than others. Our customs, superstitions, and slang became a way of life. One custom was never to point since a watching enemy might use the information to learn our plans. Friday the 13th was considered unlucky since heavy losses had been taken on that date. Special terms abounded--humping the boonies, didi mow, gook sores, and so on.

The sound of our M-16 rifles was distinct from the enemy AK-47s. In thick undergrowth it was often possible to tell where our men were and where the enemy was from the noises of battle. In thick undergrowth it was often difficult to throw grenades and M-79 grenade launched grenades sometimes bounced off trees or exploded in the branches. Once, after a brisk fire fight, a surprised rifleman looked at the dent in his helmet were a captured M-79 grenade had bounced off before arming itself--the M-79 required 15 revolutions to become fully armed. Sometimes the point man would carry a shotgun loaded with 00 buckshot for use in heavy undergrowth. But usually the rifle was used.

Fire support was either artillery, airstrikes, or helicopter gunships. For air support we carried colored smoke grenades so that the pilots could identify our positions by mentioning the color smoke over the radio. My favorites were the helicopters since it was usually possible for the pilot to see where the rounds were going and for us to give advice over the radio while he was firing. Artillery sometimes had dead zones where it wasn't possible to reach the off sides of hills and so forth. Planes operated in pairs and circled the target on the first pass then came in on their bomb run and dropped either high explosives or napalm. Napalm was the choice if our troops were in close contact with the enemy since shrapnel traveled quite a distance and might hit some of our people.

I will never forget the strange gleam that came into the eyes of everyone around me during an assault and immediately afterward. Of course, we were all very excited, tired, and frightened during the attack--and very nervous. Capturing enemy equipment was always a cause for celebration since it helped make our labors worthwhile and was written into official reports. I re

(Continued on next page)

member LTC Fernandez and his S-3 operations officer visiting us in the field and saying how pleased he was with our capture of enemy weapons. As he picked up an AD-47 rifle and sighted it, I almost blurted out not to do this since a dead NVA had lain across the weapon until recently. I'm glad I said nothing, however, since he (Fernandez) seemed to suffer no ill effects.

Our long daily routine blended into weeks and months eventually giving everyone a rich share of experience and stories. Perhaps the fondest memory of my time in the infantry was how soldiers helped each other. Once a stocky little mortarman carrying the mortar tube in addition to his rifle and equipment came back from the NDP and carried the pack of a recently arrived soldier suffering from heat stroke. This mortarman was older than most and had several children. He had grown up in reform schools, but I'll bet he never returned to prison because he understood the importance of comradeship. He didn't have to be asked. The medics, too, always did their best and had a genuine interest in the well-being of their fellow soldiers. At most rest stops, they were busy dressing gook sores or otherwise helping people. Even when reduced to one C-ration a day, soldiers often shared with others or helped when they saw a task that needed to be done such as carrying extra ammo or digging in.

Years after my time with the Americal, several Vietnam veterans were sitting around a table at a Vet Center in Houston. A new man came in and was asked the standard questions about what unit he had been with and the time he had been in Vietnam. He replied that he felt he was only on rest and relaxation leave and expected to go back at any time. The story, then, really has no ending. Every veteran can take up this story where I have left off telling of different incidents, people, and places. I hope they will.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Jim Sobery for this wonderful first-hand account of his tour. I sincerely hope that many, many Americal vets of Vietnam will tell their story of Vietnam. Please send them to me--Oscar Patterson III, Editor-in-Chief, Americal Newsletter, 3459 Brushy Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306. As noted in the May-June Newsletter, I plan to put together a history of the Americal in Vietnam as told by the men who served with the division. More later in this issue about this project.

#### VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT.

The Women Veterans Foundation, Inc., will hold a DMZ to DELTA DANCE on Friday, November 10, 1989, from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the Hotel Washington Ballroom, Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th Street, Washington, DC. The dance will be to support THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT. The dance will feature 60s and 70s music, comp finger food, cash bar, auction of Vietnam memorabilia, and message board. For more information call Patricia Harrington at Saturday Acre Farms [REDACTED]. Please leave a message. Pat will return all calls. Advance ticket purchase is suggested. Send check to DMZ to DELTA DANCE/WVF, P.O. Box 65073, Washington, DC 20035.

#### FROM THE VIETNAM EDITOR

Dear Members:

I would encourage all of you to attend the festivities on Veterans Day in Washington, DC. The ADVA will have a hospitality suite in town, probably at the Hotel Washington. We've used that hotel in the past and they always have treated the Vietnam vets in a manner that causes no complaints from us.

You'll notice that the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project has a DMZ TO DELTA DANCE on Friday, November 10 at the same hotel. The dance will draw a good crowd of vets so this is a chance to perhaps meet some of your old buddies from Nam or past visits to the "Wall." Your Vietnam Editor usually gets a hospitality suite at the hotel each year. Due to personal commitments at home, I had to sit out the last Veterans Day and I felt badly about it when watching all the Vietnam vets on the network news that night. I've planned my vacation around Veterans Day this November and vow to be in DC this year to join all you combat-daddys who show up. Ask any man who has ever been there and he'll tell you that we always have a grand time.

Congratulations are in order for the two ADVA members, Jim (Pigman) Crum and Tony May, who set up LOCATE-A-BROTHER reunion held June 23-25 in St. Louis, MO. It looked to me like they had an attendance of approximately 400 ex-grunts from the 196th LIB. These men did one helluva job in organizing the reunion. If only we could get that many Vietnam vets to attend our Association Convention. The swell turn out was due to WORK! WORK! WORK! by Jim and Tony. the affair was two years in the making. I hope these men will take a brief rest and start to organize the next one.

A friendly reminder to all you men who want the newsletter to print announcements about future reunions, etc. Our publication is BI-MONTHLY and we need for you to contact us at least 45 days before the month that the newsletter will be sent to the membership.

#### 196TH LIB LOCATE-A-BROTHER BANQUET



L to R: Mike Matalik, Jim Craig, Ron Ward, Jerry Feldman (All ADVA Members)



Members of the 196th LIB who were among the first regular troops sent to Vietnam. They went over by ship as original Brigade members departing from Ft. Devens. (EDITOR: Sorry, but we don't have all the names. If some of you can identify all of these men, please send the list to the Editor-in-Chief.)



L to R: Tom Cunningham, Ron Ward, Ken Lewis. Cunningham and Lewis were in the same squad in Vietnam.

### A GOOD BEGINNING

Great men are they who see that spiritual force is stronger than any material force--that thoughts rule the world.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom, and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that too.

W. Somerset Maugham

Photo: [REDACTED]

Photo

## U.S.S. URUGUAY

NOTE: I want to thank our members who sent in stories on the U.S.S. Uruguay and another "thank you" to Pete Barron for sending the following history of the Uruguay.

It was news to me that Task Force 6814 had two sections and that the second section did not leave New York until the first of March. That is why the 72nd Field Artillery is not listed in **UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS** as part of Task Force 6814.

The 72nd Field Artillery was absorbed into the Americal Division artillery when the artillery units were reorganized on New Caledonia.

Jim

BTRY B 245TH BN

Dear Jim:

I have read Steve Nichols' letter telling about the S.S. Uruguay and I must say that I agree with all parts of it. **UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS** lists the ships in the January 1942 sailing of TF 6814 from Brooklyn P.O.E., but I don't remember any mention of the second convoy of TF 6814 leaving there in early March 1942. When the January convoy sailed, the 72nd F.A. was still in Ft. Bragg, NC. On February 7, 1942, the 72nd left Ft. Bragg in convoy for Ft. Sill, OK and almost immediately after arrival we left by train for Ft. Dix, NJ and then by train to Brooklyn P.O.E. and loaded on the SS Uruguay about March 1st. I do not recall the names of the other ships in the convoy. I imagine Seymour Rosenwasser from New York could name them. If there still may be some doubt in someone's mind about this convoy, I am enclosing a copy of my certificate of initiation into King Neptune's Realm on the good ship Uruguay on March 15, 1942, the day we crossed the Equator. I don't know how I managed to keep this certificate, but I did it somehow.

I think all of us on board will remember the critical water shortage on the Uruguay and the stopping at Bora Bora that Steve wrote about. It came a sudden rain shower the afternoon we were there, and that shelter half was ready. I took my turn at holding one corner of the shelter half and at drinking the water. A cruiser, the New Orleans, I think, pulled along side the Uruguay and was pumping water into our tanks, but the water had not been turned on yet. To this day, I think that drink of water might have been the best I have ever had. There was another time in our early days on Guadalcanal that I had a canteen of water almost as good, but saying I had a drink of GOOD water on the Canal is another story and I won't go into that now.

I read that Carlo DePorto had sent his 1987 News Letters back to you. Maybe I could do that too, if there is a need for them. Carlo and wife were at the F.A. reunion at Myrtle Beach, SC, back in May. It is always good to seem them.

Keep up the good work on the Newsletter

Sincerely,  
Leslie M. Draffin

## U.S.S. URUGUAY

I, Neptunus Rex, Son of Saturn, Brother of Jupiter; Ruler of the Seven Seas and of all living things therein; Lord of the Wind, and Waves, and Tides, do hereby issue this—

## Proclamation

All ye men on earth,—ye mariners who sail the seven seas, and ye denizens of the deep; Know Ye; That on this 15th day of March, 1942 on the good ship "Uruguay"

Corp. Leslie M. Draffin

in the course of crossing that fabled line that doth gird my domain around its middle, has been duly instructed in the mysteries of my realm and subjected to arduous tests and trials by my good and faithful servants of

## The American Republics Line

and having proved a worthy Shellback, is hereby declared duly initiated into the solemn mysteries of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Neptunus, and forthwith elevated to the exalted office of a

Good-Neighbor-in-Waiting in my Royal Equatorial Court  
and is entitled to all the nautical rights, privileges and obeisances pertaining thereto—

## Neptunus Rex

Attest \_\_\_\_\_ Captain, S.S.  
(Custodian to the Royal Fin)

*There was no way the Captain could sign all  
the lines in the box*

S.S. URUGUAY

Dear Jim:

How nice of you to take the time to write to me. I'm very sorry you were not able to get your phone call through. My address and phone are not restricted to the Americal family—

Best calling time is A.M. or after 8:00 p.m. My wife of 44 years, Sylvia, is in a coma, 3 1/2 months now, and I spend all of the allowable visiting time with her, about seven hours per day.

Controversy is the journalists dream. I shall dig for more information, but in the meantime, perhaps, you can contact C.C. Holloway, a member of the ADVA residing in Florida. He was my C.O. at the time in question—SS Uruguay.

My discharge papers put the date of departure as March 4th and arrival in Melbourne as April 23rd. In the meantime, I shall contact my buddies and see what info they have.

After I establish my credibility with you, I'll have more stories if you wish, and pictures, too.

Forgive my penmanship, I have an arthritic thumb. Keep up the great job.

Sincerely  
Steven J. Nichols

N. Tarrytown, NY 10591

HAVE YOU WRITTEN A BUDDY RECENTLY?

## T.F. 6814

Dear Jim:

Please note that Taps has sounded for one of our Americal vets.

Stephan Kostygan  
245th or 246th FA  
Stuart, FL  
April 25, 1989

Incidentally, Steve sailed, as I did, on the back end of Task Force 6814 on the Moore McCormick liner Uruguay out of Brooklyn and later from Melbourne on the Grace Line Santa Clara. The Uruguay was the sister ship to the Argentine. The Santa Clara was a sister ship to the Santa Elena. The old 72nd FA had a very unusual prelude from Ft. Bragg to Noumea. That happening is a small book in itself.

Thank you for your efforts...and keep the Newsletter coming.

P.S. The Uruguay was scrapped a few years ago in Fieldsboro, NJ, a few miles from my home. Yes, I visited it.

Charles W. Young, Jr.  
Div. Arty - HQ Btry  
403 Collier Avenue  
Trenton, NJ 08619

## MORE ON THE URUGUAY

Built in 1928 at Newport News, VA, as the SS California, this ship spent the greater part of her pre-war/post-war commercial life in the Latin American-East Coast USA passenger trade. She took the name Uruguay in 1938 and went to work as a trooper in 1942, under direction of the War Shipping Administration following sailing schedules as set up by the U.S. War Department. Her operator, both in war and peace, was the Moore-McCormack Lines.

The SS Uruguay may be said to have been in world-wide service as a trooper, for she was likely to be seen in the North Atlantic or Indian Oceans as in the Southwest Pacific or the Mediterranean. From 1942 to 1946 she made more than 30 voyages from U.S. ports.

When her war service closed out, late in 1946, she resumed duties as a commercial passenger ship along with her two sisters the Argentina and the Brazil. With newer cruise liners on the run, however, the Uruguay was laid up in 1960 and placed in a Reserve Group in Virginia. She was scrapped in mid-1964.

The Uruguay measured 601 feet in length, 80 feet in beam, and had a 34 1/2 foot draft. She had a turbo-electric drive and her twin propellers gave her an 18-knot speed (20.7 mph). Gross tonnage was 20,180. As a trooper she had accommodations for 4,470 passengers.

NOTE: Thanks very much to Pete Barron of Bay Minette, AL, for this piece on the Uruguay.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?  
CHECK YOUR ADVA CARD RIGHT NOW!  
NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT BECOME A LIFE MEMBER!

## BRIGHT, SHINING LIE--COMMENTS

Dear Sir:

I read with interest your plan to write a history of the Americal Division in Vietnam and, perhaps, I can be of help.

During my tour as Newsletter Editor, roughly 1970-1983, three Vietnam editors offered help for the first time, as men of your generation were slowing coming into ADVA. The three were Joe Brady, Eugene McGrory, and Kent Shields (not an Americal member).

Eugene McGrory is still a member of ADVA. His address is 51 Christine Drive, Braintree, MA 02184. When he began his duties, I winnowed out a complete set of Newsletters to date as well as a great deal of material which had been sent to the Division Association by the Americal from Vietnam--pictures, newspapers, medal citations, action reports, etc. If you contact him, there is a good possibility much of this material is still in his possession, and could help you.

Second, my predecessor, Dan Merlin, had saved every clipping he came across from magazines and newspapers on the My Lai issue. These I assembled and then went through all the action reports in several cartons of papers from ADVA files which had devolved to me, winnowing all that fell within that time frame. My nephew in Washington at the time, working for Rep. Tip O'Neill, got me a Peer's Report on the Court Martial findings. All of this material went to the U.S. Army Military History Institute in a package for the "Americal Division Section" there in care of Richard J. Sommers, Ph.D.

In view of the second look being taken at the Army's direction of the Vietnam war in books such as Neil Sheehan's *A BRIGHT SHINING LIE*; JOHN PAUL VAN AND VIETNAM and *ABOUT FACE* by LTC Hackworth, I am sure a background book from someone in the Division would go a long way to clearing the stigma that has settled on the event and the Americal.

Yours truly,  
Bill McLaughlin

Mashpee, MA 02649

EDITOR'S NOTE" Bill, thanks for the kind letter and the wonderful information. If Eugene McGrory reads this I hope he will get in touch with me. The information you described would be invaluable for the book project. And yes, one major reason for the book is to clear the stigma the fell, without cause, on the Americal in Vietnam.

## MORE COMMENTS ON "BRIGHT SHINING LIE"

Dear Oscar,

Read your thoughts in the latest American Newsletter and decided to renew old correspondence while passing on comments regarding Sheehan's *BRIGHT SHINING LIE* as well as your perception, quite correct, that what happens/what people think happened all too often succumbs to rumor mill of history.

(Continued on next page)

First, regarding Sheehan: He uses two examples, from what I've read in excerpts and reviews, to make his point about the futility of the war. One is the battle of Ap Bac and the other is Vann's time as advisor in Hau Nghia Province. It is entirely true that elements of the 7th ARVN Division got their butts kicked at Ap Bac. Sheehan says it was the 261st VC MF Bn. VC documents said it was elements of the 514C LF Bn. Either way, ARVN 7th with support troops was humiliated. This is supposed to be the example by which the entire war can be understood. Sheehan, I'll venture, never again mentions the 7th ARVN or the Delta. So I will. Within two years, both the 261st and 514C Bns. began experiencing great difficulties in recruiting--sometimes resorting to shooting those who refused (see Andrews THE VILLAGE WAR, Univ. of Mo. Press). Eventually, the 7th ARVN evolved into THE supreme unit of the northern Delta and routinely beat both NVA and VC units in the 7ths AO. Their CO, Gen. Nguyen Khoa Nam, was outstanding on all counts. No corruption permitted. An extensive division farm was developed to feed dependents. Meanwhile, the 261st and the 514C ended up hiding behind the iron skirts of three NVA regiments. They did not fare so well against the 7th, either. Sheehan, I'll wager, never mentions this.

OK, on to Hau Nghia. Yes, it was a VC snakepit during Vann's time, about 1966. Again, that's all Sheehan can be bothered to say, or so it appears to me. Province RF/PF, under sterling leadership from Prov. Chief Col. Thanh, not only hammered local VC and rolled up VC infrastructure, but went nose-to-nose with three NVA regiments coming in from Cambodia in the 1972 offensive. See Herrington's SILENCE WAS A WEAPON for lowdown on Hau Nghia. In 1974 I went to a remote village in Hau Nghia which had once been under VC control. Deeds to land, under the GVN land reform program were being given to formerly landless farmers. The area was secure. I, another American, and a Vietnamese drove out, unescorted, in a jeep. Several of the PF at the site were formerly VC and were most effective at beating the VC at its own game. In sum, the war was being won, and quite soundly, in Hau Nghia. Does Sheehan mention this?

Consider in both cases the deplorable situations of which Sheehan writes. They were valid in the early to mid '60s only. The shoe was on the other foot after 1968, and increasingly so after that.

Vietnam is far too important for anyone's sloppy history and there's an abundance of such tripe out there right now. A good example is the National Council for Social Studies curriculum which is replete with cliched, warped, incomplete history.

Make no mistake, I do not wish to cover up, ignore, or otherwise obscure our shortcomings in Vietnam--they were many. But, I'd venture to say that we were better than the other side on all counts--militarily, morally, and so on. The paradox is that we did so well by being far too mediocre and unimaginative.

As one who was there in 1975, I'll say that our aid cutback and diplomatic abandonment of SVN was an obscenity. ARVN troops had a weekly basic load 60 rounds. Arty was cut back 90% (Continued in next column)

and all the while the NVA was assembling the largest juggernaut ever seen in SE Asia.

Drive on hard with your Americal History (watch out for Baker's NAM, there are those who accuse him of making things up). Just keep up the good work and help fight the war for history.

Sincerely,  
Bill Laurie  
[REDACTED]

Mesa, AZ 85201

### AMERICAL VIETNAM HISTORY

Dear Oscar:

I read recently about your plans for a history devoted to personal accounts of Vietnam by Americal Division veterans in the Americal Newsletter, and decided I will make a submission. Your project certainly is worthwhile--one I have thought of undertaking myself in the past.

I was a rifle platoon leader in the 1/52d Inf. operating off firebase Stinson during the period July '69 to July '70. I would like to write about two incidents of how the media reported the war and another about a soldier in my company who risked his life to save a small Vietnamese baby. I plan to relate these in one brief manuscript and believe I can logically tie the events together. If you have suggestions for this idea or author guidelines for your book I would appreciate hearing from you.

Because I am in the publishing business, don't hesitate to let me know if I can help your project. Before I left Vietnam, the Division Public Affairs Officer asked me to extend to edit an "annual" or pictorial display book for the Division. I regret I did not do this, and to my knowledge the book was never completed. I have thought, when I learned of the Americal Association, of producing the book now through my business and offering it through the Association.

I am now a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve and may soon attend a two-week course at Ft. Jackson. In this case, I have planned to drive up to Ft. Bragg as I was stationed there several years. If I do this, perhaps we could meet.

Douglas Dollar, Ed.D.  
Publisher  
New Forums Press, Inc.  
[REDACTED]

Stillwater, OK 74076

EDITOR'S NOTE: Doug, I look forward to meeting you when and if you visit Ft. Bragg. I also look forward to receiving your manuscript. I am sorry that I have not written you a personal note--one is on the way, soon, I promise--but your reporting on the 1/52d during '69-'70 is just what I am looking for. I was in Nam at the same time.

Dear Dr. Patterson:

Enclosed is my manuscript for your file toward (Continued on next page)

your project. I hope you will find some of it useful. I witnessed many brave acts by individuals that had never gotten any recognition or any medals yet I always felt they should have. The media called this the war without heroes. They should have been at Tra Bong with me. I could have pointed out about a hundred or so. I was with the Americal Division from March '69 to April '70 attached to A Battery, 3rd Bn. 18th Artillery, LZ Cindy, Tra Bong, SNV.

I did not see much direct combat, but as you will read, my Vietnam experience was quite harrowing. I did not believe in the war at the time and didn't want to be there, but once caught up in the Big Green Machine I served as best I could. When I left Vietnam I was as confused as ever, but seeing how the NVA terrorized the Montayards, I felt we were doing something to prevent these poor people from getting butchered. The following years, thanks to the media and the general mistreatment of the veterans of that war, have been painful and unhappy ones for us all. I urge you to write and compile this book to try and set the record straight. We didn't act like animals and commit atrocities. Most of us just wanted to serve our country and get home alive.

I recently sought out and met with two old buddies, Tim Pagenelli and Jim Kessler. To talk about what we endured together 18 years ago was a real experience. We certainly looked older, but it was just like yesterday that I watched them climb aboard a chopper and wave good bye, yelling "short" for the last time as they DEROSED out of LZ Cindy. I recently sent them ADVA membership slips, I hope they join.

Thank you and God Bless,  
R.W. Horlein  
Spec. 4 (Ret.)  
[REDACTED]

Stamford, CT 06906

EDITOR'S NOTE: R.W., Thanks ever so much for the manuscript. It is exactly what I am looking for for the book. I will write you personally, I promise.

Dear Dr. Patterson:

Enclosed are a few short "chapters" from a book I planned to write several years ago about my Americal experiences. They seem right for your project since I never published them. I was ROTC out of Georgetown University in 1967 and spent my Vietnam tour (July '68-April '69) as a POW interrogation officer at the Chu Lai IPW compound, and then a few months as the OIC of MI Team #3 at LZ Bayonet for the 198th Inf. Brigade. Your's is a good project. Good luck with it.

Eric Smith  
Capital Gazette Newspapers  
2000 Capital Drive  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eric, thanks for the chapters. They will probably become part of the planned book.

ADVA Members: I have also heard from others about the proposed book on the Americal's Viet (Continued in next column)

nam tour. Bob Dale Albers of Pasco, Washington, called and we had a wonderful chat. I also received a call from R.W. Horlein of Stamford, CT. I have not been able to return the call, but I would like to hear from you again. The project looks good right now, thanks to all those who responded.

### AMERICAL HISTORY ITEM 2

In the May/June Newsletter I wrote at some length about the book I am trying to write dealing with the Americal in Vietnam. The response from that article was simply wonderful, BUT IT WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTING. I estimate that over 100,000 men served with the Americal in Vietnam. To make this book work I need to hear from as many of them as possible. Please, take a few minutes and write down or tape your story. Your individual experiences are a valuable part of the Americal's history and the best way to preserve them is in book form.

Right now I plan to prepare the book along two major themes. I plan to deal with each brigade, division aviation, and support troops in separate sections and to further organize the stories by year. For example, one section would cover the year 1968, one 1969, one 1970 and so on. Within each yearly period, I would have first-person accounts representative of the 196th, the 198th, the 11th, division aviation, and division support.

For this book, however, I am not just interested in stories or diaries--these are important, yes--but other information is as well. One person sent me three boxes full of letters written home from Vietnam. That is valuable information. Another sent me copies of pages from a diary kept in Vietnam. A third sent some copies of Division and Brigade newspapers and newsletters. Please look through your Vietnam memorabilia and make copies of anything you think would be of interest. Better still, send me copies of what you have and let me see if I can find a place in the book for it.

The Americal fought a good fight in Vietnam. In modern history books the only mention of the Americal is in association with My Lai. That isn't our story, however. We didn't get continual TV coverage like our brothers in the Marines nor have we been the subject of a major movie like our friends in the 25th. While some of our units were among the first regular troops sent to Vietnam and the last to leave that unhappy country, it seems as if our division's Vietnam history has simply faded away.

I live near Ft. Bragg, one of the largest Army bases in the US. I was recently on post and a trooper saw the Americal patch on my windshield. This soldier asked me what unit was represented by the patch. He had never heard of the Americal. It is our job to make sure that everyone knows about us and about our outstanding service in Vietnam. PLEASE WRITE OR CALL: Dr. Oscar Patterson III, Fayetteville, NC 28306 [REDACTED]

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#### 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

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Bn. \_\_\_\_\_

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