



FOUNDED 1945

# 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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## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

February 10, 1990  
Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA  
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

March 10, 1990  
Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA  
12:30 p.m. Exec. Con. 1:00 p.m. Bus Mtg.

April 14, 1990  
Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA  
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER  
PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER

## AMERICAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Americal Christmas Party held December 10, 1989, was another great success. We all want to thank Bernie Carroll and Barbara Callahan who co-chaired this party for a job well done. Once again we got a good break in the weather, a snow storm that was threatening the East Coast stayed well south of New England. Among the many seen dancing was Past National Commander Sam Ravagno and his wife Louise. Sam is recovering very well from his recent illness. Sam says thanks to all the members who sent cards or called while he was under the weather. Another member who was seen quite frequently on the dance floor was Leo Quirk and his wife Claire. Leo, who is confined to a wheelchair, still manages to get around the dance floor pretty good. We gave away a few Christmas presents to some of the members who attended. A cash collection was taken and the proceeds were sent to two VA hospitals to help make Christmas a little better for the Veterans there.

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Anthony Acciardi  
Associate Member  
Worcester, MA

Ronald L. Davis  
3/21 Inf. Co B 196 LIB  
Fountain City, Ind.

Alfred A. Garceau  
Btry. C 221 FA  
South Yarmouth, MA

Larry F. Henry  
6th SPT 11th LIB  
Springfield, VA

Ernest J. Luongo  
101st QM  
Falmouth, MA

Steven A. Miles  
Cos. Rcon/B 20th Inf  
Washington, DC

Stephen G. Monroe  
HHC 198 LIB  
Cameron, WV

Jode R. Wilson  
HQ Pro. Marshall 23 MPs  
Oklahoma City, OK

Robert E. "Gene" Wilson  
HHQ 3 Bn 1st Inf 11 LIB  
Charlotte, NC

## NEW MEMBERS

Albert E. Boutwell  
125 QM  
Wilmington, MA  
\*Paul W. Santogeanis

Roy A. Carlson  
Co B 101 QM  
North Easton, MA  
\*Paul W. Santogeanis

Lewis L. Cole  
Cos A/B/HQ 21st Inf  
Millston, WI  
\*Bernie Carroll

Ned Fishman  
Comb. Cent. Div. Arty  
Livingston, NJ  
\*Louis Blumengarten

C. Gordon Fletcher  
Btry C 221 FA  
Braintree, MA  
\*Bernie Chase

Ron Fragosa  
Co D 3 Bn 1st Inf  
Santa Barbara, CA  
\*Jim Buckle

Alfred A. Garceau  
Btry C 221 FA  
South Yarmouth, MA  
\*Bernie Chase

Marvin L. Haar  
Co D 1st Inf 11th LIB  
Toledo, OH  
\*Bernie Carroll

Maurice Henson  
Co A 26th Eng  
Capay, CA  
\*James E. Crum

William Laurie  
132nd Inf  
Waukegan, IL  
\*P.N.C. Paul Jacobs

## NEW MEMBER

Recently at National Headquarters we received an application for membership from Bill Laurie of the 132nd Infantry. Now, we receive a lot of applications every month, but what was strange about this one was the sponsor--Past National Commander Paul Jacobs. Paul, who passed away in 1985, had sent Bill an application in 1984. Bill put it aside or misplaced it. He recently came across the application and me mailed it on to HQs. We want to thank Bill for becoming a member, and once again bringing up the name of Paul Jacobs who was one of the hardest workers the American Division Veterans Association ever had. I know that Paul is smiling up in Heaven these days because he has signed up another new member.

AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION  
JUNE 7 - 10, 1990

It's time to plan to attend the Americal National Reunion in Oakbrook, Illinois (a Chicago suburb), Marriott Hotel, and celebrate the 48th anniversary of the birth of the American Division (1942-1990).

This will be a FUN reunion. Planned events include an active hospitality room, a terrific Chicago sight-seeing tour, a memorial service at the famous Catigny Way Museum and Gardens, entertainment nightly, a membership meeting, Saturday night banquet with entertainment, socializing, and dancing, church services, and more. Our hotel is directly across the street from the world famous Oakbrook shopping center.

Full details covering hotel and reunion registration appear in this issue of the NEWSLETTER. SEE PAGES NINE AND TEN AT CENTER OF NEWSLETTER. Registration details will also appear in the March/April NEWSLETTER. Don't wait, though, you wouldn't want to be left out.

Reunion Chairman - Joseph G. Micek, 132 Inf	- Dr. Robert Muehrcke 132 Inf
Asst. Chair -	- Mitchell Przybycien 132 Inf
Sec/Treas -	- Fred Hitzman 132 Inf
Adm asst -	- Brian Mulcrone 23 MP, 196th
Adm asst -	- John DeGroot 23 MP, 196th

## DEADLINES! DEADLINES! DEADLINES!

IN ORDER FOR THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER TO BE PRODUCED IN A TIMELY MANNER ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF NO LATER THAN THE 20TH OF THE MONTH. IT TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS TO ENTER ALL THE INFORMATION INTO THE COMPUTER, EDIT THE COPY, PREPARE THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRINTER, MAIL THE COPY TO BOSTON, PRINT THE NEWSLETTER, AND MAIL IT TO YOU. FOR ALL FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF NO LATER THAN THE DATES INDICATED BELOW.

ISSUE DATE  
March/April 1990  
May/June 1990  
July/August 1990

DEADLINE DATE  
February 20, 1990  
April 20, 1990  
June 20, 1990

Woodrow R. (Bob) Icard  
[REDACTED]  
Hickory, NC 28601-5728

Bill Falzane  
[REDACTED]  
Medford, MA 02155  
182nd Inf

## THANK YOU

Sam Ravagno would like to express his deep thanks to all ADVA members who sent him cards and who called him during his recent illness.

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER

GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL

PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF  
YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

September/October 1990 August 20, 1990  
November/December 1990 October 20, 1990

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?



## 182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 278, Everett, MA 02146

Greetings to our friends of the ADVA. Looking back over 1989 we enjoyed a new horizon. On August 27, 1989, 291 special invites were sent to those ADVA Veterans who served with the 182d Infantry. These folks were not members of our 182d Infantry Association so we offered them a chance to join with us. This effort was a prime example of two organizations working together for a common cause. This joint effort netted us 32 new members during the last five months of 1989.

You former 182d Infantry folks who DID NOT opt to join with us at that time may still do so. The invitation remains open. Come on over and join with your "182 Buddies." Our special invitation letter of August 27, 1989, is hereby extended indefinitely.

With regret this is the final message from VC Charlie Doyle and the last time a message from the 182d Infantry Association will appear in the ADVA's Newsletter. Unfortunately, our efforts to find a news reporter to replace Charlie were to no avail.

We wish the ADVA every success and extend our thanks for the help you folks extended to us over the past year--especially to Managing Editor Jim Buckle. We appreciate!

Charles L. Doyle

Everett, MA 02146

## GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS

IT ISN'T THE COST OF BELONGING -- IT'S THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and your organization. At the National reunion of the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans in San Antonio, TX, October 12, I was voted into office as the President for a

two year term. I deem it an outstanding honor and a privilege to serve this outstanding group of men as their President.

On August 7, 1942, I was a member of the 1st Marine Division assigned to C Company, 1st Pioneer Battalion for the landing on the island of Guadalcanal. I stayed with the Division until December 1944 at which time I was returned to the states.

The Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans are having their next annual reunion in Fayetteville, NC, on October 4, 5, and 6, 1990. We are anticipating approximately 400 members to attend with the highlight of the reunion being a visit to Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base.

I will continue to have our quarterly paper, "Echoes," mailed to your organization and I would like to receive any newsletter or paper published by your organization.

If I can be of any assistance to you or your organization, please feel free to call on me.

Yours in comradeship  
Gene Keller, President

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

## QUARTERMASTER REUNION

Another Quartermaster Mini-reunion has taken place, this one was held in Winchester, MA, at the local VFW Post on Sunday, Nov. 5, 1989. The turnout was most gratifying.

Ben Kelly and Paul Santogeannis had flown in from California. They carried with them a list of 50 names and addresses of the local men within the area they were visiting. Big question--how to visit so many in a short period of time.

A phone call for help was placed to "Red" Carroll, Ted Sybil, Joe Thompson, Packy O'Melia, and Fred Chase, all agreed that a reunion would be the answer: Red, to provide postcards, Ted to get them printed, and a committee to hand address them. This was all done in one evening. QM was on a roll.

Ben and Paul, now having time, drove out to Pittsfield, MA, in the western-most part of the state where they visited Joe Alfonso, Frank Cimini, and Steve Kruczowski. The time was well spent talking over old times, people, places, and how they spent the years. The three men all sent best regards back to those that would be at the reunion.

Sorry to say, time ran out before everyone was visited. Ernest Tetrault up in Leeds, MA... Ernie, we know you'll read your copy of the ADVA newsletter and we want you to know that you were being thought of and there will be a next time.

When reunion day arrived, 29 men met at the appointed time and place. All things considered, turn out was good. Many of the men

there had not seen one another since our QM was split on the Canal--about half stayed while the others went with the Division to Fiji in '43. Each was greeted at the door by those who entered before him. Some were known on sight, others, well God and time had made changes, yet in a few moments they became recognized and the room was filled with the noise of many voices, all saying much the same thing: Where have you been?; How has life treated you?; Yea, I got married, had six kids, and on and on. Small groups were soon standing and sitting with comradeship prevailing.

Flashbulbs popped here and there. Groups were called together, talk went on and on. Finally, when they had all left we realized that few had said goodbye. These men had become young again for an hour or two and they didn't want to let go, so one by one they just slipped away, all holding onto the moment.

ASOCIACION DE ESTUDIOS GUERRA  
DE FIETNAM

(Vietnam War Studies Association)

We are a group of people interested in the Vietnam War. We have recently formed a study association concerning the said conflict.

Although each one of us centers their preferences on diverse and different aspects of such prolonged historical events, we all share a general interest in the period from 1965 to 1973 during which the direct participation of the U.S.A. was produced.

Two historical happenings, little known by the majority of the experts on the subject, reinforce our particular interest in the said war:

(1) Troops of the Spanish Army (a part of the colonial force which garrisoned the Philippine Islands) together with French forces conquered the Vietnam Peninsula between 1858 and 1862 ceding Spain its part of sovereignty over that said territory in exchange for vague and indeterminate promises that were never seen completed;

(2) Spain was the only European country which officially sent a small team of military surgeons to Vietnam from 1966 to 1970. During those years, our flag waved in Saigon beside those of the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Our association is interested in everything related to the US involvement in the Vietnam war: from divisional big operations to small unit actions and from post traumatic stress disorder to social and labor rehabilitation of Vietnam vets.

Therefore we want to address you in order to beg your help. In that way we would appreciate getting every publication, periodical or other sort which you are publishing or you have published.

All information you can facilitate to us will

be a great help because we are studying the possibility of publishing some kind of magazine or newsletter.

Thank you for your kindness, we express to you our best wishes.

We would also like to be in contact, at an individual level, with those Vietnam vets who desire it.

Oscar Camargo  
C/ Serrano, 46 - 1a  
28001 - Madrid  
Spain

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADVA

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## YOU CAN MAKE!

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41 to 60.....\$100 4 Payments\*  
61 to 70.....\$75 3 Payments\*  
71 and over.....\$50 2 Payments\*

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

SEND TO

Bernard C. Chase  
National Adjutant, ADVA

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

## HAVE YOU MOVED? NEW ADDRESS?

## CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

[REDACTED]

Boston, MA 02104

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

## DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE. MAIL TODAY!

## AMERICAL ITEMS FOR SALE

Association Patch (small)	\$1.00
Association Patch (large)	3.00
America Patch (Dress Blue)	1.00
America Patch (Field Uniform)	1.00

American Flag Patch	1.00
American Patch Decal	1.50
Window Decal	.50
Medical Combat Badge (Min.)	2.50
Combat Infantryman Badge (Min)	2.50
182 Infantry Regimental (Min)	2.50
American Car Plate	4.00
American Lapel Pin	2.50
Tie Bars W/Shield	5.00
Tie Bars W/26 MP	5.00
Under the Southern Cross (soft cover)	8.95
Cap (Baseball Type)	5.00
White Hat (Overseas) W/Plastic Cover Made to order	27.00

These items may be purchased at the Americal Museum or ordered from: Ken Turner, [REDACTED], Wakefield, MA 01880

NOTE: Mailing cost will be added.

### VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

#### FROM THE VIETNAM EDITOR

I extend a warm welcome to all our new members who recently joined us and a thank you to all the men who decided to take advantage of our life membership plan. The ADVA grows in membership each year. We're here to stay! By being a life member you save some bucks and avoid the hassle of those yearly dues reminders. Also, it's less work for our all-volunteer staff. I hope to see more of you as life members in 1990.

Special thanks are in order to the men who are putting our that extra effort in recruitment of new members. Some names that come to mind are Ken (Chief) Lewis, Rich Drapczuk, Dutch DeGroot, Bob Thornton, Jim Buckle, LOCATE-A-BROTHER, Ed Smith, Pete Messina, Paul Santognanis, Rolly Castranova, and Dan Herald. These are just a few of the men who are helping us to grow. To them and everyone else who has brought in a new man, my hat's off to you.

I was glad to see so many familiar faces in Washington for Veterans Day. Ken Lewis did a great job rounding up men from his company, getting 11 men into town for the weekend. I had recalled a letter from "Dangerous" Dan Vaughan, a buddy of Ken's, that we had printed in a newsletter last summer and was glad to see that he attended. Dangerous Dan has put on a few pounds since his fighting days but he still had that country smile that seemed to be his trademark as I looked over their photo albums. Hope to see you next reunion, Dan! Rich Drapczuk, holder of the Silver Star for his service with the 1/46th Infantry got a good contingent together from his old platoon. I enjoyed meeting them all and I hope they all send in those applications Rich passed out. Stay on em, Rich, till they're all signed up.

On the Friday evening before Veterans Day we were treated to an excellent party and dancing sponsored by the Women Veterans Memorial Project. The action was at the Hotel Washington where the ADVA also had located our hospitality suite. ADVA member Linda Wilson, a former Donut-Dolly, was doing her part to see that the dance was a huge success. The ballroom was

supposed to be limited to a total capacity of 500. I think the crowd was about double that. Approximately 75 ladies who served in Vietnam attended and were given special recognition on the bandstand. It was obvious from the cheers delivered by all the GIs that these ladies are held in great respect by the fighting men. TV actress Dana Delany of the China Beach series made a guest appearance to help out with their fund raising for the proposed Women's Memorial. I hope they made a million! It was an evening I'll not soon forget.

I spent a full week in the Washington area and was able to mooth a good meal at several spots. My thanks to General Ramsey who treated me and 1966er Joe "Drinkin Machine" O'Brien to lunch and a few beers. Joan Lewis, wife of the "Chief", deserves thanks for the great roast beef she prepared for me and 1966er Mike Hollroyd. Adele Reed, wife of Top Sgt Warren Reed, 11th LIB, gets a tip of the hat for taking me to that excellent German restaurant in Newport News, VA. She wanted to make a home-made schnitzel dinner but I didn't give her enough advance notice. And thanks to Linda Wilson who picked me up at the airport and joined me for several meals.

For those of you who missed out on all the fun this past Veterans Day, don't forget, Veterans Day this year will fall on a weekend again. That always makes for better crowds. If you're picking vacations this time of year, why not try to include Washington in your plans? The best time to visit the Vietnam War Memorial is in the company of your fellow veterans and on November 11th we'll be there in great numbers. It will be quite a while before Veterans Day falls on a weekend after this year. Think about it.

Anyone out there who has the battle plan for Kokomo this summer get in touch with the Vietnam Editor. I want to do some advance planning on this event. It's a vet gathering that I haven't been able to attend in the past but have promised myself to be there this year. Ron Davis, do you think you can get the GP Medium tent from the National Guard to use as our HQ?

A reminder that I'm still at the same address. Don't hesitate to send me or Oscar Patterson any material you might have for the newsletter. We welcome all your inquiries, stories, and photos.

Ron Ward

Dear Vietnam Editor:

It was a pleasure to meet you in DC last weekend. It was my first trip there and it was great. I plan on coming back next year. The dance on Friday night, which I felt was super, plus visiting the "Wall" and talking and just being around other vets was my "welcome home." When I walked along the "Wall" for the first time I felt sadness, memories, and a closeness with the names there. My heart still aches for the 58,175 names and their families. I wish there was something I could do for them. I am recently divorced from a woman who was

anti-Vietnam, anti-military, anti-anything to do with Vietnam. For 20 years she tried to convince me to forget that Vietnam was ever a part of my life. I couldn't buy a Vietnam t-shirt or cap without starting a family brawl. I didn't come to the dedication of the Memorial in '82 because I didn't want to start trouble at home. This past weekend in DC seeing all the Nam vets, their expressions, uniforms, ribbons, boots, etc., made me feel great.

By the way, you do a great job with the newsletter. Keep it up. I want to write something for it someday. If you feel this letter is OK to publish, you may do so. Hope to see you in DC next year.

A Vietnam Brother  
David Rose  
Americal Division '67-'68

Former Staff Sergeant Ed Nichols, USMC, heard about our Association in the Vietnam War Newsletter and contacted us for some help in research he's doing on the war. "Sgt. Nick" did two tours. His first was as a grunt with the USMC south of Chu Lai prior to the arrival of the Americal Division. On his second tour he was the PSY-OPS Chief for the 1st CAG. He worked quite a bit with the Americal PSY-OPS dropping millions of pieces of toilet paper all over the area trying to get the enemy to surrender or "Chieu Hoi" as we called it in those days. Following is a list of the info he needs. Maybe some of our readers can help him out.

1. Information on VC rocket attacks on Chu Lai Combat Base 1 Aug 69 through 1 Jun 70.
2. Enemy probes of Combat Base same period.
3. Specifically interested in large scale 122mm rocket attack 5 May 70. He was hit during this attack in the 1st CAG area.
4. Where can he get a map of the Combat Base and the southern area of its defenses?
5. Can we locate the present whereabouts of anyone who was in Americal PSY-OPS Aug 69 through Apr 70?
6. Americal TOC records for the period.
7. After action reports, lessons learned, possibly published by Base Defenses.
8. MP reports for period.
9. Any information pertaining to any USA Criminal Investigation Division in the area.
10. Whereabouts of Richard "Dick" Pretzer. He always shaved his head, he was a senior NCO in our Division.

Sgt. Nick says that any information no matter how small will be appreciated and he thanks us. His address is:

Ed W. Nichols  
[REDACTED]  
Kendalia, TX 78027



This photo was provided to the newsletter by Americal vet Randy Fox. My memory fails me as to which part of the Americal he served with. Randy was making his first visit to the Wall on this past Veterans Day. He joined with the many men from our Division who were in town that week. Randy had been unaware of the ADVA and we've provided him with the necessary application for membership. I hope he sees this photo in his first issue of the Newsletter. Randy is seen giving a shake to Vietnam Editor Ron Ward. Behind us is a wreath to all our Americal comrades who didn't make it back. Funds for the wreath were provided by your Association.

Dear Vietnam Editor:

I wrote a letter to James Smith in Brawley, CA, concerning awards earned by the 11th LIB and my brother's service with the 3/1 Inf. Bn. of that Brigade. My brother, SP4 Francis J. LeBlanc was KIA on August 25, 1968. He was awarded the following decorations: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, National Defense, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, CIB, Expert Rifle, Vietnamese Military Merit Medal, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. These decorations were presented posthumously to my mother here in Waterbury. The Army presented her a plaque displaying the four highest medals. Only 1% of the men who served in Vietnam received the Silver Star.

This year on May 27, 1989, a plaque was dedicated to the 27 men from Waterbury who died in the Vietnam war. I had written to the Mayor asking why there were no plaques to honor these heroes. I even went on talk shows on the radio making people aware of the situation. I am not a veteran but I believe in you men who fought for our freedom.

I would like to see Francis' name go in' your Americal Museum at Ft. Devens. I read about it in a book at the library. You'll have to read



Francis' war citations which I received from the Military Records Center in St. Louis. Mr. Smith said that if I contacted you perhaps you could arrange this for me.

I have two daughters that Francis never saw. They were born after he was killed yet they and my wife go to his grave on each Memorial Day to place a flag and flowers. Maybe the other people can forget about him but not us. He was a brave man and a war hero.

Sincerely,  
Richard A. LeBlanc

EDITOR'S NOTE: I spoke with Richard and he will be sending us those citations for display at our museum.



Dear Vietnam Editor:

Early this year I read in the Washington Post that employees of the CDC in Atlanta admitted that Agent Orange "tests, research, and validation procedures were tainted and therefore the entire process for which it was established were invalid and worthless." Following that I read that certain requirements established by the Department of Veterans Affairs were also invalidated and that research to support these standards or criteria were invalid, arbitrary, and could not now be located. And that a state court threw out all the pre-

viously accepted conclusions of the CDC and the DVA.

Because I did not meet the final criteria of dead or dying or active chloracne by 1990 (I figure I'll make it through the year), I did not follow through with the final application for part of the \$180 million settlement and thus excluded myself from a legitimate claim.

In light of the comments from the CDC employees as well as the reports published about the way the DVA mishandled the test criteria and the subsequent conclusion of a state court, where do I or any of the scores of thousands of folks in my position now stand in relationship to that \$180 million settlement and possible related medical treatment? What about reevaluation? etc., etc., etc.

Maybe there's an attorney in our readership who can answer my questions. Feel free to publish this letter.

Sincerely,  
Bill Strouse  
[REDACTED]  
Gambrills, MD 21054  
Co B 3/1 11th LIB  
Duc Pho '67-'68

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bill, we suggest you call THE AGENT ORANGE VETERAN PAYMENT PROGRAM hotline at [REDACTED] for an application kit. You may also write to them at AGENT ORANGE VETERAN PAYMENT PROGRAM, [REDACTED], Hartford, CT 06104. The program will run through 1994.

#### 196TH LIB D-2-1 REUNION



Veterans Day, November 11, 1989, was a special day to members of D-2-1. It was the first reunion of these men since 1969. This was the result of a dream of Kenny "Chief" Lewis to find some of the men he served with in Vietnam. He went to the 196th Locate-A-Brother reunion in St. Louis in June 1989. Tom Cunningham and Terry English were in attendance and they served with Ken not only in the same company but in the same squad. Tom had a roster and then the dream started to become reality. Jim "Pigman" Crum was called and asked to help lo-

cate other members of the squad. To date, 17



Front row left to right--Michael Holroyd, Hoss Wehrling, Tom Paloutzian, Tom Cunningham. Back row left to right--Michael Falson, Dan Vaughan, Terry English, David Parker, Ken Lewis, Al Burton, George Roessner.

members of the company have been located with 11 of them being in the 3rd Herd. A mini reunion was held in Kokomo with the idea of getting as many of the men together in the Washington area for Veterans Day '89. Eleven members of the company with 9 members of the 3rd Herd were in attendance. They placed a unit crest at the "Wall" where members of their company were remembered. This was the first visit to the Wall for some of the men but as Ken said: "Who better to go with than the men who were there." We can only begin to say thank you for all the work provided by the Locate-A-Brother team, Pigman and Tony May, without whom we really couldn't have begun. Hopefully this will become an annual event and many more members of D-2-1 will be found. We have been told that to even find one person who served with you in Vietnam is lucky. Finding this many of my friends was next to impossible so you can see how fortunate we were.

Sincerely,  
Ken & Joan Lewis  
[REDACTED]  
Manassas, VA 22110

Dear Vietnam Editor:

It was a pleasure meeting you this past weekend in DC and it was an unexpected pleasure to find out that the American Division has an organized veterans association.

I have enclosed two photos that were taken by Army photographers of me while I was serving with the Americal Division in Chu Lai. The first photo was taken when I received my promotion from SP/4 to Sgt in March '68 at HHC of the 198th LIB. I'm shaking hands with Cpt. Benjamin Simms, Company Commander. Also in the picture is our field first, Master Sgt Moore.



Our original CO was Cpt. Ebert from Pittsburgh who served with the 82nd ABN in the Dominican Republic. He was killed not too long after he left HHC when he stepped on a booby trapped 105 shell. The second picture (see below) was taken inside the Americal Division's MARS station in April or May of '68. I was assigned TDY to the 523rd Signal Bn in Jan. '68 as a MARS operator at Division. After being promoted to Sgt. I was named NCOIC of the station which had call letters ABAAAD. The first rocket that hit Division during the '68 Tet offensive hit the wire that hooked into our two long wire antennas and was diverted straight down or it would have been a direct hit on me as I was in the kill zone, but the casing didn't break up completely and I was in sort of a vacuum which, with some help from above, saved my life. Except spiritual and medical personnel that were in Nam, I feel like I had one of the most rewarding jobs there. To look at a face that had just talked to his mother or wife you could see a special glow being emitted that made my day just a little more bearable. Col. Henderson of the 11th LIB called me one day and asked if I would call his wife to tell her that he had been wounded but it was minor, and not to worry when the Army notified her that he had been WIA. I had two First Sergeants in one day and when I completed their calls I got the wives mixed up with the wrong husbands. The first call was completed and the sergeant left without ever knowing the difference, however the next sergeant only had to say two words before he knew he had the wrong wife.

The saddest calls I had to make were ones where a wife would tell her husband that she wanted a divorce.

The most complicated call I made was where I got a state side contact A7USA at Ft. Lewis in Washington state. He connected me with a long distance operator who connected me with an overseas operator who connected me with an operator in Germany who finally connected me with the wife of the Air Force personnel attached to the Americal Division.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATIONNATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 7-10, 1990 - OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 60521

The Chicago area is noted for it's Reunion facilities. Your 1990 Reunion Committee has planned an active and fun-filled National Reunion. Join us by mailing in the Reunion Registration Form shown below. All of your paid tickets will be picked up at the Reunion Registration Desk, Marriott Hotel.

The Chicago-Marriott Oak Brook Hotel is located directly across the street from the World Famous Oak Brook Shopping Center. The hotel is only a 20-minute drive from O'Hare Field and close to a major super highway. The hotel has ample parking, a swimming pool with sauna and whirlpool, lounges and two fine restaurants, a gift shop, game-room, and a night-club style Hospitality Room for our reunion.

The Oak Brook Shopping Center has 15 restaurants, lounges, Marshall-Fields, Lord & Taylor, Bonwit Teller, Neiman-Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, I. Magnin, etc., etc. (THE LADIES WILL LOVE IT!).

**THE REUNION IS FOR ALL, THAT IS, YOU, YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR BUDDIES & FRIENDS. GIVE YOURSELF A TREAT, COME TO THIS REUNION. YOU'RE WORTH IT !!**

Joseph G. Micek (132nd. Inf.)-1990 Reunion Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*  
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION - '90 REUNION RESERVATION  
 NAME: (print) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ WWII \_\_\_\_\_  
 V.N. \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST: (1st name) \_\_\_\_\_ (last name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ST. ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (Area) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration Fee	@ \$10.00 each person	(No. _____)	\$ _____
Bus Trip-Cantigny War Museum (Americal Memorial Service)	@ \$ 5.00 each person	(No. _____)	_____
Sat. Nite Banquet (Incls. 2-Drinks)	@ \$35.00 each person	(No. _____)	_____
**Sat. Bus Sight-Seeing Tour of Chicago	@ \$15.00 each person	(No. _____)	_____
Sun. Brunch	@ \$ 6.50 each person	(No. _____)	_____
GRAND TOTAL			\$ _____

Please Make Check Payable to: "AMERICAL REUNION - 1990"

Mail to: AMERICAL REUNION-1990, P.O. BOX 508005, CICERO, IL 60650-8005

\*\*Reserved tables for 10 persons available. Mail in names & check for total table; no partial tables. All other seating random.

MAIL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY AS WE ANTICIPATE A HUGE ATTENDANCE AT THIS NATIONAL REUNION ! LET'S SEE A BIG CONTINGENT OF VIET NAM VETS !

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATIONNATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 7-10, 1990 - OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 60521EVENTS

6/7 THURS.	1 - 6 P.M. Registration 3 - 11 P.M. Hospitality (Marquis Room). Entertain. @ 8 P.M.
6/8 FRI.	9 - 11 A.M. Meeting for Membership 9 - NOON. Ladies, visit fabulous Oak Brook Shopping Center, directly across-the-street. 1 - 4 P.M. Memorial Service @ Cantigny War Museum 4 - 11 P.M. Hospitality (Marquis Room). Entertain. @ 8 P.M. 7 - 9 P.M. Registration
6/9 SAT.	9AM - 2PM. Chicago Sight-Seeing Bus Tour NOON - 4PM. Hospitality (Marquis Room). 6 - 7 P.M. Banquet - Cocktails (Cash Bar) 7 - 9:30 P.M. Banquet - Dinner/Speeches/Entertainment 9:30 PM - 12:30 AM. Dancing/Socializing (Cash Bar)
6/10 SUN.	7 - 10 AM. Farewell "Brunch" Breakfast Church Services (Check Bulletin Board & Hotel Desk)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Two (2) free drinks are included with your banquet ticket. Our Hospitality Room will be manned by Reunion Committee members. Drink prices will be very nominal. Enjoy !

While in the Chicago area check with the Hotel desk for many other activities like, sports events, plays, movies, museums, etc. (There are many things to do in the Chicago & Suburban area).

For further information contact: Joe Micek, 4935 Frank Pkwy., Norridge, IL 60656. Tel. # [REDACTED]

RESERVATION REQUEST

**CHICAGO  
Marriott.  
OAK BROOK**

Oak Brook, Illinois 60521

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Club Marquis # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

For arrival on (day) (date) Depart on (day) (date)

Estimated time of arrival \_\_\_\_\_ am or pm

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Rooms for \_\_\_\_\_ People

No Smoking Rooms  yes  no (No Smoking Rooms based on availability)

Name(s) or person(s) sharing accommodations \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order enclosed  Diners Card  Discover Card  
 American Express  Visa  Carte Blanche  
 Master Card (Please include interbank # directly below card #) Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the Oak Brook Marriott to charge my account for one night's deposit and all applicable taxes.

\*Rooms may not be available for check-in until after 4:00 p.m. Check out time is 12 Noon.

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BEYOND THE CUT OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. ROOMS MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE CUT OFF DATE BUT NOT NECESSARILY AT THE SAME RATE. PLEASE APPLY 8% SALES TAX TO THE ABOVE RATES. TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

America Division  
National Reunion  
June 7-10, 1990

ROOM RATES

Singles.....\$53.00

Doubles.....\$53.00

Triples.....\$53.00

Quads.....\$53.00

Cut Off Date: May 18, 1990



I could probably go on and on but you're likely getting bored so I'll close here for now. A lot of the original 198th that were at Ft. Hood would probably remember me best for my flaming red '55 Thunderbird that had a 454 cubic inch Chrysler Hemi in it. I sold it but I've recently bought a '55 Chevy that I have been doing well with at car shows in the street machine class.

Below are some buddies I would like to get in touch with.

Peter Lutz, New York, NY  
 Mike and Mitch Moses, NY  
 Charles Lockett, Philadelphia, PA  
 Don Kilberg, Arlington, TX  
 Jerry Bodine, Oklahoma or Kentucky  
 Cpt. Donahoe, Boston  
 Ron Kappeler, Pittsburgh, PA  
 They were all in HHC 198th LIB between Oct '67 and Sept '68.

Thanks again,  
 Steve Monroe

[REDACTED]  
 Cameron, WV 26033  
 [REDACTED]

TO: Bill McLaughlin  
 Mashpeem MA 02649

I was reading the Sept '89 edition of the Americal Newsletter and saw your announcement for the reunion in 1991. It sounds great. I am wondering if this reunion is for the units mentioned in your ad or is it for all those who served in the Americal?

I was in the 4/3 11th LIB in 1970. Do a lot of Vietnam era veterans go to the reunions? I would very much like to meet some of the men I served with. I was a rifle platoon leader for my entire tour and the only one I keep in touch with is my friend and then platoon sergeant who lives in California.

I know that you must be busy getting this reunion together and I would sincerely like to attend with my wife if it is open to all. If

you do not have time to respond, perhaps the next announcement in the Newsletter could answer some of my questions.

Sincerely,  
 Richard M. Bagdasarian

EDITOR'S NOTE: From the above letter you can see that some members are not sure just what goes on at our annual reunion. The reunion is for vets of ALL WARS, not just Vietnam or Korea or World War II. At the upcoming reunion in Chicago, we expect the largest turnout so far of Vietnam veterans, however.

Dear Ron:

I am responding to the December request from the editor to submit articles. I have written a true story about one of my experiences in Chu Lai. I hope you will find it suitable for the newsletter.

Thanks for the plug about my desire to locate some of the guys with the "Boxcars."

Thanks,  
 Vincent N. Cassano

#### VINCENT'S STORY

In 1970 I was a flight engineer assigned to the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company in Chu Lai, Vietnam (The Boxcars). One day, after a long day of flying, I returned to the orderly room to see if I had received any mail. Sure enough, I had received a couple of letters. I was pretty hungry so I decided to eat dinner before the mess hall closed. I would read my mail afterwards.

The mess hall was a large screened-in structure built on a raised concrete slab about 100 feet from the South China Sea. During the monsoon season the heavy rains eroded the sand around the edge of the slab causing a large ditch. A metal ramp was used to pass over the ditch.

When I finished the cook's culinary concoction, I pulled out a letter from my shirt pocket and began to read. By the time I reached the mess hall door I was miles away.

Suddenly a barrage of Russian 122mm rockets began detonating all around. The explosions were deafening as the ground shook. I was so engrossed in my mail that I became disoriented. Instinctively I dove for the ground, crawled under the metal ramp and covered my head with my arms. I began to say my prayers. Somehow, I found the inner strength to open my eyes and look up. I discovered that the rest of the chow hounds who were still in the mess hall were storming down the metal ramp like a herd of water buffalo. All I saw was boots and legs.

Lucky me, the incoming rounds weren't that close after all.

Vince Cassano  
 [REDACTED]  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23450

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER  
 PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER  
 GIVE IT TO A V. A. HOSPITAL  
 PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF  
 YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

EDITOR'S NOTE: Vince has designed a poster commemorating those who served in the Boxcars. For more information you may reach him at the address listed above.

#### ROLLING THUNDER III RIDE FOR FREEDOM



WASHINGTON, DC MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
 MAY 27, 1990

Assemble Area: North Pentagon Parking Lot, 9 a.m.

Leaving: 12 noon for the ride through Washington to Arlington National Cemetery  
 Arlington National Cemetery: 2:05 p.m. wreath laying and ceremony and taps

Vietnam Veterans Memorial: After wreath laying ceremony we will ride to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay our respects to our brothers and sisters.

Reflecting Pool: Speeches and music at the Reflecting Pool. Please attend the complete rally to show our strength.  
 For the return of our POW-MIAs that our government has abandoned!

All veterans organizations and citizens are welcome. If you don't ride, be at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 12 noon.

No Attitudes: Confirmed

Contact: VNV M/C Club, New Jersey. Dave at [REDACTED] or Artie at [REDACTED]

Ron:

On September 16, 1989, our VFW Post 4437 DeFunaiak Springs, Florida, honored three ex-POW/MIAs from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. This was done in remembrance of National POW/MIA Week. I am sending you the newspaper clippings for the Newsletter.

While watching the national news that evening, to my disappointment, Dan Rather never once mentioned the POW/MIA issue. How soon they forgot our freedom is not free.

Jacob M. Spaid  
 5/46th 198th LIB

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the clippings but they do not reproduce well enough to include in the Newsletter. We did note that the three men honored were Wendall Cauley, World War I, Orville Hewitt, Korean War, and Bill Robinson, Vietnam War. Plaques were awarded and Robinson spoke to the gathering saying: "Once the American flag is put in your heart, you can't burn it out."

#### LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Dear Oscar:

Enclosed is a small poster of a one-man show called Blue Ghost Two Zero. It was a one-man production done by former Warrant Officer Bob Drury of Dubuque, Iowa. Bob served with F Troop, 8th Cav out of Chu Lai. I was fortunate enough to see the show and talk with Bob about the Americal Division Veterans Association however he hasn't sent you his membership that I just happened to have in my pocket. I was stationed within a stones throw of Bob for better than a year and probably worked on his ships. My duty station was with the 335th Trans. Co (ADS), one of the best direct support helicopter companies in Vietnam.

Bob now is associated with the Dubuque Iowa theatre and because his show is so small I would think it would make a great addition to the National Reunion. Oakbrook is relatively close to Dubuque and he might be very interested in doing it for the Association.

Keep up the good work. I've got more things to send for the Newsletter, but this was more important this time.

Sincerely  
 Steve Hanken

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the program, Steve, it looks very interesting. I can't speak for the organizers of the National Reunion, but if they are interested, I'm sure they will get in touch with Bob.

#### CO D 1ST BN 20TH INF 11TH LIB

National Commander Bernard Carroll received a telephone call from Loring M. Bailey who is seeking any information that he can get in regards to his son Loring M. Bailey, Jr., who was in Company D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry. Loring died in Vietnam on March 15, 1970. If any of our members have any information about him please contact Loring's father at the following address:

Loring M. Bailey  
 [REDACTED]

Old Mystic, CT 06372

#### CO B 125 QM

Hi Bernie:

Enclosed is my check for \$50 for a Life Membership. I'm sure this way I will not forget to pay my dues each year. At my age I can't remember how many strokes I took on the last golf hole nor will I worry about how many years to

the last roundup. This way I'll know I'm paid up for the next 200 years. Hopefully, by then I'll be able to shoot my age!

Regards to the Americal and hope to see you all in Chicago.

George Morton  
125th QM

George, get your reservation in early, we are expecting a large group at the Chicago Reunion.

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

It was January 1942 on Guadalcanal. The 221st Field Artillery was firing in general support of the Army and Marines. On this particular day there suddenly appeared on the 221st FA OP a Major General. The General spoke to Col. Landers, CO of the 221st and told him that he wanted one battery of the 221st to fire a mission in support of an infantry attack. Direction Center picked C Battery to fire the mission. Number one gun of C Battery adjusted on the target and after a few rounds they were on the target. At this time C Battery was given the command for the Battery to fire for three minutes. After the fire mission was completed the General turned to Col. Landers and said: "Colonel, that was great firing, but I wanted one Battery to fire, not the whole Battalion." Col. Landers make a quick call to Fire Direction Center to see who fired the mission. He was told that as one of the guns was out of action for service when the Fire Mission was called, only three guns fired the mission. A check was made as to how many rounds had been fired in the three minutes by the three guns available. It was reported back that 100 rounds had been fired. There were a few swelled chests in the 221st OP that day.

### ARE YOU A LIFE MEMBER? WHY NOT?

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir:

I am a member of the Americal Association and I have not received a Newsletter since the July/August 1989 edition! Could you perhaps see that the September/October and November/December editions get to me here, down under.

I have corresponded with Jim Buckle frequently over the years and he has always sent me my copies of the Newsletter by airmail which I greatly appreciated because ordinary mail would take up to 10 weeks to reach me here.

I am a little concerned that I have only heard from Jim a couple of times since his heart surgery. Hope he's OK.

I'm enclosing a stamped envelope for your use, if you could find the time to answer this letter with news of Jim and whether you have reinstated me to the Newsletter mailing list (by air, if you can arrange it, please.)

Hope you and yours have a great Christmas

season and keep up the good work with the Newsletter. I really enjoy reading it.

All the best,  
Geoff Tierney  
[REDACTED]

Queensland, Australia

Geoff, I assure you that Jim is very well and takes care of a major portion of the Newsletter, getting it printed and mailed and so forth. We will get the back issues of the Newsletter to you ASAP.

### B BTRY 3/16 ARTY

Dear Dr. Patterson:

Have really enjoyed reading the Newsletter these past few months. It's a part of my life that I'll never forget while serving with Bravo Battery, 3/16 Arty at the Tien Phouc Special Forces CIDG Camp. Served from 1/4/69 to 1/5/70. If memory serves me right, Tien Phouc was the district HQ for Quang Tin Province, not Quang Tri Province. That's what we were told. I've never seen any of the people I served with since DEROSing back from that hole. I was the only one from Kansas in the battery. Everybody else was from the eastern part of the US. This has been part of my life that was left hanging in the wind. Remember faces and first names but the rest is sketchy. Would like to make contact with other vets who served at Tien Phouc. So, if anybody out there knows of someone who did, your info and help will be greatly appreciated. Twenty years is probably too long of a wait to try and find people you served with, but I can hope. Also enclosed is an article from the U.S. Veteran News and Report. The name Wilbert Walton definitely rang a bell with me. Believe he was on gun crew #3. Hard to believe someone could disappear into thin air, but apparently he did. He's one of our own and he deserves to come home. It's a real shock to realize after 20 years someone you knew didn't come back. It could have easily been me or you. I know I'm glad to be back and I'm definitely proud to have served with the Americal Division and all my brothers and sisters who served and sacrificed for America in Vietnam.

Sincerely,  
David Frayne  
[REDACTED]

Park City, KS 67219

### ARMY PRIVATE'S STATUS PUBLICLY CHANGED FROM DESERTER TO MIA

For ten years, Wilbert Walton was branded a war deserter despite little evidence to that effect. On Veteran's Day, eight years after having his status changed from deserter to missing in action, Walton's name was finally cleared when it was etched into a black panel of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

According to Department of Defense and National Park Service records, Army Private Wilbert Walton, on January 3, 1970, was listed as "absent without leave" or AWOL from his post

with the Third Battalion of the 16th Artillery stationed in South Vietnam.

Attempts were made by Walton's family, military authorities and Congressmen to locate him. He was classified as a deserter in February that same year.

In March 1981, an administrative review of Walton's case prompted the Army to reclassify Walton as missing in action and presumed dead. According to Major Lois Faires, deputy public affairs officer for the Army Personnel Command, the review probably revealed that "there was a lack of evidence supporting the conclusion that he deserted...They (the FBI) were looking for more concrete evidence, like an address in Canada or someone saying, 'I saw him leave.'"

One veteran stated that it was unfair to label Walton a deserter for more than a decade without any substantive evidence. "It's unfair to him and his family," the Vietnam veteran stated. "Categorizing this guy as a deserter was like convicting him without trial."

### CO D 4/3 11TH LIB

Dear Jim:

I have been an ADVA member for over a year. I look forward to getting the Americal Newsletter and read it from cover to cover as soon as I get it. I am not much of a letter writer, but I noticed that you are looking for articles to publish in the Newsletter.

I was a Platoon Leader with the 3rd Platoon, Company D, 4/3 Infantry 11th LIB from November 1970 until August 1971. I noticed that you had two new members listed in your November/December issue from Delta 4/3. If Peter Rico or Lindley Hoopes get a chance they can drop me a line. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the ADVA.

Through your Newsletter I was fortunate enough to spot an article about a book written by James E. Crum entitled "Pigman-Vietnam 1968-1969." This book captures the reality of Vietnam as seen through the eyes of a Grunt. It is a great book and it brought back a lot of memories.

Keep up the good work. I continue to look forward to reading the Newsletter and especially the letters from the members. If there are any members from my platoon reading this, please write to me and let me know how you are doing.

Jim, if it is not much trouble, could you print a picture of the insignia of the 11th LIB in the Newsletter. I cannot remember what it looked like.

Sincerely,  
Richard M. Bagdasarian  
[REDACTED]

Middleboro, MA 02346

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the letter, Richard. I do not have an 11th LIB insignia in my files, but if someone will send one I will gladly print a copy in the next issue.

### 2/1 196th LIB

Boston Edison Company  
[REDACTED]

Boston, MA 02199-0488

ATTN: Accounting Department

Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed an envelope addressed to you from a Mr. Richard A. Silva. If it could talk, it would tell of its odyssey of having traveled from Somerville, MA, to Boston via Kailua, HI.

I reside in Kailua, HI. I am a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association whose address is Wakefield, MA. I am a member of this Association due to my service with the 196th LIB, 2nd BN, 1st INF, Americal Division, Vietnam, 1967/68. I have been a member of the Association for 20 years and have received its newsletter on a regular basis. This is the second incident where I have found completely unrelated envelopes between the pages of my newsletter.

I am sure Mr. Silva does not need any additional concerns having his payment lost somewhere in the Pacific, so I am taking the effort to return it directly to you.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to the Americal Division Veterans Association as well as to Mr. Silva. Any follow up that is made with the Boston area postmaster regarding this matter is left to you.

If my law office can be of any assistance to any of you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Aloha  
Allen K. Hoe  
Hoe, Yap & Sugimoto  
Attorneys at Law  
[REDACTED]  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

### ARE YOUR DUES PAID? WHY NOT?

### CAMP EDWARDS

Dear Jim:

Here's an item for your next American Newsletter:

### TAPS

Michael J. Mustone  
Co. M 182nd Infantry  
Stoneham, MA  
December 14, 1989

I remember Mike Mustone well--he was in the first group of draftees that joined our regiment in the Spring of 1941 at Camp Edwards. Lost track of him after the Fiji Islands, until October, 1985.

I was checking in at the Delta counter at Logan Airport on a Sunday afternoon to fly back to Dallas-Ft. Worth when I noticed the name tag on the Delta agent--M.J. Mustone. I asked if his father was of the same name and if his father had served in the Pacific with the Army in WW II. Mike, Jr., didn't say a word, just picked up the phone, called his father, and gave me the phone. His father remembered me, after 42 years! I regret, now, that I never followed up in keeping in touch with Mike, Sr. when I came back to the Boston area. There aren't too many of the Company M men left now, only two officers and about 35 men, out of 226 that shipped out six weeks after Pearl Harbor.

It was sad for Barbara and me to read of Curtis Clark's passing away in the Nov-Dec '89 issue of the Americal Newsletter. We would see and chat with Curt at almost all the ADVA gatherings. It was a platoon from his company from the 57th Engineers that were with us in the New Hebrides when we were detached from the division.

I called Fred Wonson, a former neighbor of Curt, to inquire why I wasn't notified of Curt's death. Apparently "someone" was supposed to have told me but I didn't get the word. Fred Wonson was one of the Gloucester, MA draftees assigned to Company M, and he was one of four men who stayed in the company through the four campaigns--Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Cebu, and the occupation of Yokohama--getting his discharge when the Division was deactivated after the war. I believe Fred is an ADVA member.

My best regards to you and to Fran, and happy holidays, too.....

Joseph B. Chin

Lincoln, MA 01773  
Co. M 182nd INF

247TH FA BN

Dear Editor:

While watching TV on the U.S. assault in Panama on December 20th, General Collin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff briefed reporters. I noticed with pride his right shoulder patch. It was the fighting Americal Division. I knew then that our fighting men were in the best of hands and with a winner. The Americal shield is finally coming out and being recognized with the finest.

George Lloyd

Brewer, ME 04412

P.S.: Could you help me locate an old comrade of mine, H.P. Lee. He served in the FDC with me on Guadalcanal.

26TH SIGNAL CO

To the Editor:  
I read your paragraph in the Americal Newsletter of Nov/Dec 1989 that stories concerning

the division were getting scarce.

My wife, Catherine, who always reads the Newsletter saw this and suggested that I write some of the things I told her. I'm not a writer and it was a long time ago and I might not be telling it exactly as it was, but I'll try so here goes.

I was a private with the 26th Signal Company and was on one of the seven ships (S.S. Thomas Barry) that left Brooklyn 1/23/42 bound for ? The ship, formerly the S.S. Orienta, carried about 800 passengers in peace time but had a few thousand on board now.

Sailing south in the Atlantic all the meat went bad and had to be thrown overboard and orange marmalade became the main and only course.

We were promised food and leave at the first stop, which was the entrance to the Panama Canal, but we got no leave. The boys were bored, mad, hungry, wild, and in a fighting mood. Articles were being thrown at the officers. A second lieutenant, Harry Miller, company commander, came to me and said, "you were an entertainer before Army service, am I right?" It was well known in my company that I had been a nite club M.C. before the war. I acknowledged. "Do you think you can do anything with this wild bunch?" My answer was, "I'll try."

I walked the deck to the stern of the ship, faced the two or three decks, I don't remember how many, above me, held my hands for quiet and waited. Believe it or not, the screaming and yelling died down. When all was quiet I started my act, a line of gags and stories. It was getting dark, so the flash lights, every GI had one, came on. I was the center of hundreds of beams.

My largest audience ever. There wasn't a sound till I was finished and I could do 30 or 40 minutes, ordinarily.

If any of you former signal company men read this and were there, I would appreciate your correcting any mistakes or errors I have made. Write to the editor. I would love to hear from you through the Americal Newsletter.

Jack Hallman  
26th Signal

HAVE YOU WRITTEN OR CALLED A BUDDY THIS MONTH?  
NOBODY LASTS FOREVER, DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S  
TOO LATE!

COVER STORY

#### POWELL NAMED TO HEAD JOINT CHIEFS

Gen. Collin L. Powell, former commander of U.S. Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga., is the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He succeeded Navy Adm. William J. Crowe, Jr., who retired Sept. 30.

Before becoming FORSCOM commander in April 1989, Powell served as former President

Reagan's national security advisor. At 52, he is the youngest person and also the first black ever to hold the nation's highest military post.

In 1983, Powell was the senior military assistant to former Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger. His other previous assignments include the command of V Corps in West Germany and tours with the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Ft. Carson, CO; 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault), Ft. Campbell, KY; 2nd Inf. Div., South Korea; and 23rd Inf. Div. (Americal) in South Vietnam.

Powell graduated from the National War College and Army Airborne and Ranger Schools. He received a ROTC commission upon graduation from City College of New York in 1958 and later earned a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University.

Powell is married and has three children.  
Army News Service

The ADVA Executive Council voted a life membership for Gen. Powell. His photo on the cover of this month's issue is to honor a former division member who has achieved the highest position possible in the United States' military--Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

#### GUADALCANAL ISLANDER SHARES REMNANTS FROM BATTLE

GUADALCANAL, Solomon Islands - Fred Kona has been waiting 20 years for an invitation to Washington to present his shell money and war club to American veterans of the Battle of Guadalcanal 47 years ago in World War II.

Japanese veterans of the battle took him to Japan in 1985, and he's hoping the Americans ask him to the United States. He gave the Japanese shell money, highly prized by the Solomon Islanders and usually used to buy brides.

"But I got no money to go to Washington," said Kona.

The 50-year-old Solomon Islander says he regards himself as a peace envoy. He is well known to veterans of both sides who have returned to the site of one of the Pacific war's greatest battles.

Among the coconut palms and jungle of his 214-acre plantation, he has assembled a collection of World War II memorabilia.

"Look, this Japanese gun was designed by British, this one by German, he said in pidgin English. "This plane is Grumman Wildcat. Fly very high to dive on Japanese ships."

His collection is virtually the only reminder of the great naval and land battle that began on Aug. 7, 1942, and ended the following February. The Americans lost 1,600 men, and 4,200 wounded, in taking the island. The Japanese casualties were estimated at 15,000 killed or missing.

Kona has wreckage of a twin-tailed P-38 Lockheed Lightning that was shot down by Japanese and salvaged from the sea. He paid \$400 for it.

When he began collecting wrecked planes from the jungle in 1969, he cut them into pieces so he could carry them.

"I misunderstand, so I cut them," he said, adding that he learned later it would have been better to have kept the planes intact.

"There plenty of good planes all over until the 1960s, but people sold them for scrap."

Hauling fragments of wreckage from the jungles over the years, he built up a collection of planes, guns, shells, and helmets that many Japanese and American veterans come to look at when they return to Guadalcanal each year. Many of them weep when they see them.

In recognition of his efforts, the U.S. government presented Kona with an American flag that had flown over the White House.

Australian veterans, to commemorate the sinking of the flagship HMAS Canberra in a famous engagement against the Japanese in the Battle of Savo Island, put up a plaque in his garden.

Next to it is a marble stone memorial from the "Guadalcanal Combined Veterans (USA)."

And it stands next to another simple stone memorial with this inscription in English:

"The Repose of Souls--Tens of thousands of young men who fell in battle sleep here. May the tragic events that occurred on this island in World War II (1942-43) be forever inscribed in our memories. War brings all sides nothing but grief and distress. It must never happen again. To the souls of these departed youth our only words of tribute are the renunciation of war."

People of the World, let us take this pledge and may the blue sea, the great expanse of sky and this green island be a testimonial of eternal peace.

Sleep peacefully, fallen friends.

This monument was erected in memory of deceased friends by a former Japanese soldier, August 1983."

The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Submitted by J. Warkow,  
Maple Shade, NJ

#### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR THE ADVA THIS MONTH?

#### THE WAR WITHIN A WAR

#### FOR THE US, LEAVING VIETNAM WAS A BATTLE ALL TO ITSELF

The American people had grown war-weary. Casualties kept rising but victory was not in

sight and the Saigon government was seen as dictatorial and corrupt. All told, 30,000 Americans had been killed in action by the time President Nixon was sworn in; another 16,000 battle deaths were to occur during the withdrawals. In addition, 10,000 Americans died off the battlefields.

WASHINGTON, AP--Ill-led, ill trained, plagued by corruption and desertion, the army of South Vietnam found itself relegated to backwater skirmishes and hamlet defenses in its own war. The Americans, with half a million soldiers, had taken over, shouldering aside the people they had been sent to "advise."

But back home, the American people lost their stomach for a war that seemed endless, pointless, unwinable, and a new president, Richard M. Nixon, cast about for a way to get out without losing. He toyed with getting tougher.

His defense secretary, Melvin R. Laird, formerly a hawkish congressman from Wisconsin, had a different idea.

Mr. Laird called it "de-Americanization," then changed that to "Vietnamization." It was supposed to mean retreat without defeat. It proved that if talks under way in Paris failed to bring peace in Vietnam, the Vietnamese would be left to fight the war alone. "Vietnamization" would train them and supply them to take over--just as John F. Kennedy once said, so many lives before.

The U.S. military, both in Vietnam and in the Pentagon, resisted Mr. Laird's plan. They read Vietnamization as a slow road to disaster. They felt the South Vietnamese, alone, could not, in the jargon of the day, "hack it."

And so was fought a war-within-the-war, a battle between Mr. Nixon, Mr. Laird, and Henry A. Kissinger, on one side, and the military command in the Defense Department and at military headquarters in the field on the other. It was a battle over whether the United States could extract itself honorably from a war without winning it--or at least get out of the business of fighting it.

Mr. Laird, now an executive of Readers Digest, says the United States had little choice but to find a route out.

"I knew we had to withdraw," he said in a recent telephone interview. "We could not continue Americanizing the war. We had to de-Americanize it. I got that into the Republican platform in 1968. The term Vietnamization--I invented that. I named it."

The story of the tug of war behind the Laird strategy is the chief topic of a new volume in a series of books by Pentagon historians on the American experience in Vietnam.

The book, "The Final Years," by Jeffrey Clarke, a civilian historian on the staff of the Army's Center of Military History, documents how a defense secretary forced a resisting military establishment to give the war back to the South Vietnamese, telling details never previously revealed.

It is part of a "comprehensive and objective" account of America's experience in Vietnam which, even before the war had ended, the center had decided to produce.

"Clarke proves beyond a shadow of a doubt what I had suspected and seen traces of in fragmentary documentary evidence 10 years ago but couldn't really prove," says George Herring, a University of Kentucky professor and one

of the country's leading historians of the war. Mr. Herring calls the Pentagon's account "first-rate and balanced." "It is remarkable that they could come out of an Army," he says. "It reflects well on the Army."

Mr. Clarke had access to still-classified war records. He uses 19 pages to list his sources of information--records from the Pentagon, the U.S. Embassy and U.S. military headquarters in Saigon, the files of Kissinger's National Security Council, the debriefing papers of senior American officers and memoirs written by former Vietnamese military leaders at the request of the Army.

His thesis: Washington forced both the idea and the timetable of Vietnamization upon a U.S. military that felt what Mr. Laird demanded--a plan to make South Vietnam quickly capable of prosecuting the war alone--was simply beyond Saigon's capacity to achieve.

"Despite the divergent view of the major U.S. agencies involved in the war effort and despite the unanimous opinion of these same agencies that the South Vietnamese could never deal with a combined Viet Cong-North Vietnamese Army threat, the new administration had instructed the American military command to develop plans for turning over almost the entire ground war effort to the forces of Saigon," he wrote.

Gen. Creighton W. Abrams Jr., the U.S. commander, and his generals insisted that tens of thousands of Americans would be required to stay behind in support and air combat roles if Vietnamization were to have any hope of staving off a communist victory.

But Mr. Laird thought the military was stalling. He demanded a plan to extricate American troops.

Mr. Laird, of course, prevailed. The withdrawals started in mid-1969, continued while Mr. Kissinger sought to reach an accord with the North Vietnamese in both secret and public four-party talks in Paris and ended in December 1973, with the last American troops brought home.

Sixteen months later, the Kissinger peace process having collapsed, communists rolled triumphantly into Saigon and the war was over.

Mr. Nixon had been elected in 1968 after promising to end the war.

Seeking the Republican nomination, he said in New Hampshire in February that if the war had not ended by Election Day "the American people will be justified to elect new leadership, and I pledge to you the new leadership that will end the war and win the peace in the Pacific."

He said he did not mean "withdrawal from Vietnam," but contended the war "can be ended" if "we mobilize our economic and political and diplomatic leadership." But he refused to elaborate, brushed aside all effort to draw him out. Mr. Nixon's idea became known as his "secret plan" to end the war.

Eighteen years had passed since the first U.S. aid had gone to aid the French fight communist insurgents in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Nine years had passed since the first two American soldiers had been killed in Vietnam.

The American people had grown war-weary. Casualties kept rising but victory was not in sight and the Saigon government was seen as dictatorial and corrupt.

All told, 30,000 Americans had been killed in action by the time Mr. Nixon was sworn in; another 16,000 battle deaths were to occur during the withdrawal. In addition, 10,000 Americans died off the battlefields, mostly in planes that were shot down.

"Nixon had suggested the existence of a 'secret' plan to end the war during his campaign," Mr. Clarke writes, but after three months in the White House he "had yet to come up with any alternatives to the application of greater force, and the secretary (Mr. Laird) felt that he had a better idea."

Says Mr. Laird now: "The 'secret plan' was in my head...Withdrawal was the only alternative we had and we had to do it in an orderly fashion. You could have had public support for the first two years, probably, but not beyond that."

On March 5, 1969, six weeks after Mr. Nixon's inauguration, Mr. Laird flew to Saigon to present his concept of scheduled, systematic withdrawals--to take place regardless of what was happening on the battlefield--to Gen. Abrams, a tank commander who in 1968 had succeeded Gen. William C. Westmoreland as chief of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

According to Mr. Clarke's account, the general balked, insisting "that all withdrawals depend on his assessment of the military situation in Vietnam."

The Laird-Abrams struggle continued until April 1970 when the Joint Chiefs of Staff gave Mr. Laird what he wanted--and much of what Mr. Thieu was after. Vietnamization was a reality and the withdrawals continued throughout 1971 and 1972 without a break.

On the diplomatic front, the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Viet Cong signed the Paris Peace Accords on Jan. 27, 1973, removing the one remaining obstacle to total U.S. withdrawal--Hanoi's agreement to return American prisoners of war. The accords called for a cease-fire and set up an international body to police it, but the agreement was almost immediately violated and the war resumed.

By the end of 1973, the U.S. military contingent in Vietnam was down to 50 men; South Vietnam was left to fight the war alone.

On Jan. 8, 1975, the North Vietnamese politburo ordered a major offensive to "liberate" South Vietnam by a cross-border invasion. In March, in the face of the onslaught, Mr. Thieu withdrew his army from the Central Highlands, a move that touched off countrywide panic.

The cities of Hue and Danang fell. On April 11-13, the U.S. Embassy staff was evacuated by helicopter; on April 29, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese and the war ended.

"Vietnamization was not a strategy for fighting or winning the war, or even for achieving America's limited objectives in South Vietnam," concludes Mr. Clarke.

"At best, it was a political strategy for continuing U.S. support for a domestically unpopular conflict and, at worst, a face-saving abandonment of a commitment that American leaders felt they could or should no longer honor."

Says Mr. Laird: "There was no other alternative. We had 570,000 men on the ground in Vietnam. We had 2 million Air Force and Navy personnel supporting them. The Congress was fed up with Vietnam and so were the

American People. The lesson from Vietnam should be that we should follow the advice that President Dwight Eisenhower gave when the French failed in Vietnam--never get involved in ground warfare in Southeast Asia."

THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER/TIMES

THANK YOU

ADVA Members:

Mattie and I wish to thank all of the thoughtful members of the Americal for their kind letters, get-well cards, telephone calls, and prayers since the automobile accident June 21, 1989. We both are able to get up and are on the go but Mattie has to wear a soft collar for sometime.

Thanks to all  
Elbert R. Horton

Dear Mr. Thornton:

Thank you for the honor and respect shown to Curt Clark at his funeral last month. Curt's sister and her family and myself really appreciated having the flags at each side of the casket. Also, we thank you and Mr. Buckle for attending the service. Curt loved the Americal and was faithful to it to the end.

We are all suffering a great loss of our dear brother, uncle, and friend. Thanks again for attending the funeral.

Sincerely  
Elaine Pasco

#### USS FRESNO GETS NEW COMMANDER

The USS Fresno (LST-1182) received a new commanding officer at ceremonies held on 21 September 1989 at the Naval Station, Long Beach, California. Commander James M. Morrell of Tacoma, Washington, assumed command of the Navy ship.

Morrell enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1967 as a Seaman Recruit and thereafter entered Reserve Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned an Ensign and assigned as CIC Officer on the USS Dubuque.

Morrell wears the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, and other awards. He is married to Lt. Verena H. Morrell who is stationed at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Readiness Center, Long Beach.

Commander Morrell is the son of Lloyd Morrell, formerly of the Americal Division. Below is a photo of the senior Morrell, McGann, and Dave Donnelly waiting for the ship to take Service Battery, 221st FA to Guadalcanal.





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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

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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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)