

★ GUADALCANAL

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★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: RONALD L. WARD

Published Bi-Monthly

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1991



NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY WAKEFIELD, MA

1990 NATIONAL OFFICERS

1991

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Roland T. Castranova

Peabody, MA 01960

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Robert N. Thornton

Melrose, MA 02176

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase

So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

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Bernard C. Chase

Joseph Anderson

James J. Flynn

Bernard Carroll

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Daniel J. Ramsey Jr.

Hugh Murnaghan

Leo Ciccolo

Francis Diorio

John LeVert

CHAPTER COMMANDERS

Allen D. Cappella Cape Cod Chapter

Stephen Dennison Eastern Regional Chapter

Edwin A. Heartquist South-East Chapter

William K. Maddox South Mid-West Chapter

Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter

Lloyd J. Morrell Far West Chapter

Because of a by-law change that was approved by a National Ballot, the duly elected Chapter Commanders are now automatically members of the Executive Council.

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AMERICAL NEWSLETTEREDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

VIETNAM EDITOR

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

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SEE YOU IN HYANNIS IN JUNE OF 1991

COMMANDERS REPORT

As I write this report I find myself half way finished with my tenure as commander of our fine association. We just completed one of our best years ever in recruiting new members, predominately men from the Vietnam war. A special thanks goes to Ted Block and Bill Maddox for locating one of our holders of the Medal of Honor, Finnis McCleery. I knew Finnis was alive out there somewhere but didn't know his address. Ted and Bill took the mission and now that Finnis is a member I hope we'll be seeing him at our reunions. If any members want to reach him, send me your correspondence and I'll see that it's forwarded to him. He's been out of touch with his fellow vets for many years now and I think he'd enjoy hearing from his men. Rolly Castranova, Ron Davis, Bob Thornton, and Bernie Chase's name seem to be in each newsletter for recruiting new men. Keep up the good work. That goes for many others who are too numerous to mention in this column.

I had lot's of feed back on the Kokomo Vietnam Vets Reunion. Seems like everyone enjoyed themselves and we can probably expect an even bigger crowd next year. If anyone gets the exact dates for 1991 in Kokomo, let me know so I can begin our planning. Recon was made last time by Bob Kasting and Ron Davis. These two men were largely responsible for the success we enjoyed.

Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day. We had our usual set up at the Hotel Washington although that suite for the first night was not to our liking. It took a loud mouth from New York, Joe O'Brien (196 LIB) to convince the hotel manager that we needed a bigger place and didn't intend to cough up several hundred bucks more for the new accommodations. Good work O'Brien! That new suite gave us the room we needed to entertain in the style we're accustomed to. It was good to see so many of the troops at the hotel and the monument area. I was unable to hear hardly any of the speakers at the Wall on Veterans Day. They new a better sound system with all the aircraft passing over from National Airport. I did catch a major error by the announcer as she named the units placing wreaths at the Wall. She screwed up by calling us the 28th Infantry Division. Get your numbers right lady!

We were privileged to have former Division Commander General Lloyd Ramsey join us again on Saturday afternoon for lunch and a few beers. As in the past, the General looked as trim and fit as ever. We enjoyed his company. There's not too many Generals who are willing to spend an afternoon with a bunch of enlisted men, drinking beer. He's a real class guy and I hope that we can get together with him in the future. We also had Paul Woerner with us that afternoon. He was a former platoon leader with the 11th LIB. Paul gets the prize for traveling the longest distance to visit Washington. He came from Alaska. To round off the group, we even had a "Jar-Head", Kip "Squire" Green, a disabled vet of the 1st Marine Division.

One of our members, John Wills just returned from a trip to Vietnam and no doubt has some interesting observations about the current situation there. I hope we can get some of his story in this issue and then elaborate further next time after he's had sufficient time to organize his experiences. Last year the PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER did quite a story on another one of our members who had visited Vietnam. Russ Miles saw combat with the 11th LIB and decided some 20 years later to return. I think I'd have to hit the lottery before I could consider such a voyage.

Don't forget the 1991 reunion on Cape Cod! I hope to see our largest crowd ever at this one.

TAPS

Lyle B. Aljets  
Co. F 164 Inf.  
Everett, WA  
September 11, 1989

Samuel DeMarco  
Co. E 182 Inf.  
Watertown, MA  
December 13, 1990

John J. Donovan  
Hd. Co. 182 Inf.  
Charlestown, MA  
December 14, 1989

Joseph F. Michalski  
Co. M 164 Inf.  
Panorama City, CA  
May 11, 1990

Leo Quirk  
Co. C 57 Eng.  
Salem, MA  
September 16, 1990

PNC Walter T. Anzoni  
57 Eng.  
Malden, MA  
January 1, 1991

Kenneth A. Smith  
182 Infantry  
Rumney, NH  
December 28, 1990

Francis A. Diorio  
101 Quartermaster  
Lowell, MA  
January 5, 1991

Rene A. Starck  
Co. M 182 Inf.  
Dorchester, MA  
December 22, 1990

Alfred O'Reilly  
Co. F 182 Inf.  
Emery Mills, ME  
November 2, 1990

Joseph Geary  
Co. F 182 Inf  
Waltham, MA  
October 25, 1990

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MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGSFebruary 9, 1991

Provost Marshall's Building Ft. Devens  
Executive Council 12:30 P.M.  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

March 13, 1991

Provost Marshall's Building Ft. Devens  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

April 13, 1991

Provost Marshall's Building Ft. Devens  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Harry Brescia  
Co. D 147th Inf.  
Highland, NY

Francis E. Chesley  
Co. I 182nd Inf.  
Mesquite, TX

James A. Fenelon  
164th Inf.  
Marshalltown, IA

Richard S. Gallant  
26th Signal  
Sandwich, MA

Robert A. Grens  
Co. E 132nd Inf.  
Hayward, WI

Robert B. Johnson  
4/3 Inf. 11Bde.  
Viola, WI

Leamon E. Parrish  
26th Signal  
No. Myrtle Beach, SC

Tommy B. Poppell  
Co. B-HHC 1/46 Inf 196  
Panama City, FL

David L. Recob  
23rd MP's

John S. Smalley  
Co. E 26th Engr.  
Topeka, KS

Michael J. Thyne  
H Troop 17th Cav. 198  
Fairbury, IL

NEW MEMBERS

Joe John Aguirre  
Co. A 101 Med 52 F. Hosp.  
Lincoln, NE  
#Bernie Chase

John T. Algeo  
Cos. D-H-M-Anti T. 182nd  
Clearwater, FL  
#Joe B. Yochum

Larry A. Baker  
H Troop 17 Cav. 198 Bde.  
Benton, IL  
#Ronald T. Castranova

Gary Beffus  
H.H.C. 198 Bde.  
Dundas, Ont. Canada  
#Ron Ward

Orville J. Berg  
Co. D 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Okoboji, IA  
#Ron Ward

James A. Besonen  
252 F. A. Det.  
Grayling, MI  
#Bernie Chase

Ltc. Darrell M. Chancellor  
Cos. E-Recon. 1/2 Inf 196  
Corpus Christi, TX  
#William Maddox

Kenrick A. Claflin  
Associate  
Northboro, MA  
#Frank Diorio

George L. Cooper  
Ser. Btry 11 Arty. 2 Bn.  
Stockton, CA  
#Robert Thornton

Dennis W. Dobrowolski  
Co. B 5/46 Inf. 198 Bde.  
McKees Rocks, PA  
#Robert Thornton

James M. Fenelon  
164th Infantry  
Marshalltown, IA  
#Dennis R. Ferk

Bobby L. Floyd  
Co. B 1/6 Inf. 198 Bde.  
Burnsville, NC  
#Roland T. Castranova

Dan George  
Btry. A 82nd Arty.  
Long Beach, CA  
#Roland T. Castranova

Robert B. Johnson  
4/3 Inf. 11th Bde.  
Viela, WI  
#Roland T. Castranova

Victor Lopez  
Co. C 4/31 Inf. 196 Bde.  
Widefield, CO  
#Brian Mulcrone

Herbert T. Manwell  
Co. F 182nd Infantry  
Dulce, NM  
#Robert Thornton

Edward Martell  
1st Sqd. 1st Cav.  
Dingman Ferry, PA  
#Roland T. Castranova

William C. Montgomery  
Co. E 1/46 Inf. 198 Bde.  
Long Beach, CA  
#Richard Drapczuk

Charles Niewadamski  
Co. D 4/21 Inf. 6/11 F.A.  
Stuart, FL  
#Ron Ward

Richard Rinaldo  
Co. A 2/1 Inf. 196 Bde.  
Newport News, VA  
#Warren G.H. Reed

Leonardo Rodriguez Jr.  
Co. C 4/21 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Pasadena, TX  
#Frank Schulgen

Aloysius J. Sanchez  
Co. D 1st Inf. 11 Bde.  
Roswell, NM  
#Roland T. Castranova

Dr. Baxter J. Smith  
Co. K 182nd Infantry  
Salisbury, NC  
#Woodrow W. Cash

R. Scott Smith  
Co. Recon. 2/1 Inf. 196  
Summer, WA  
#James Buckle

Vincent A. Fay Jr  
Associate  
Marlboro, MA  
#James Buckle

Claude F. Sullivan  
125 Quartermaster  
Macomb, IL  
#Joe Anderson

#Sponsor

Congratulations to everyone who signed up a new member in 1990. We had 226 new members added to the roster in 1990. That's 170 new Vietnam members and 56 new W.W. II members. Let's try to make it 300 for 1991.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?  
CHECK THAT CARD NOW!

ADJUTANT'S NOTESDUES NOTIFICATION PROCESS

**1st Notice** Membership cards are mailed in ADVANCE of payment of dues.

**2nd Notice** Overdue notice printed in ADVA Newsletter.

IMPORTANTSEPTEMBER DUES NOTICES

The September dues notices were mailed out during September 1990. 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.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS

S-0007 S-0052 S-0079 S-0131 S-0164 S-931  
 S-0008 S-0053 S-0098 S-0132 S-0165 S-937  
 S-0009 S-0054 S-0102 S-0133 S-0182 S-934  
 S-0012 S-0057 S-0104 S-0153 S-0186 S-943  
 S-0018 S-0059 S-0112 S-0157 S-0187 S-955  
 S-0030 S-0065 S-0114 S-0160 S-0208 S-968  
 S-0034 S-0069 S-0126 S-0161 S-0209 S-992  
 S-0041 S-0076 S-0129

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SICK CALL

William J. McLaughlin Ken Trombley  
 Btry A 221 F.A. Bn. Btry A 221 F.A. Bn.  
 Mashpee, MA 02649 New Eng. Rehab. Ctr.  
 Woburn, MA 01801

Lenny Oliver Michael Doyle  
 Btry C 221 F.A. Bn. Co. E 182 Inf  
 No. Dartmouth, MA 02747 Haverhill, MA 01830

Henry Perkins Helge Lundin  
 57 Engineers 57 Engineers  
 Vero Beach, FL 32968 Quincy, MA 02169

Many thanks to the members that sent in have news of our sick comrades. Please continue to send in the names of deceased or sick members--YOU are our best source of information.

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ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

The AMERICAL MUSEUM at Fort Devens, MA will be closed from November 1, 1990 until April 15, 1991.

An Army decision has been made to charge all non-service organizations, using a government building, for operation costs. This charge will be made for items such as heat and electricity. Because of the high cost of heating the Museum a decision was made at the October meeting to close during the cold months.

Our meetings will still be held at Fort Devens. We will meet in the Provost Marshall's building until the May meeting.

**CHAPTER NEWS****WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER**

Twenty members of the Chapter met at the Dennis Thomas V.F.W. Post # 2578, Hyannis, Mass. on Friday, December 7, 1990. This V.F.W. Post holds a Pearl Harbor Ceremony every December 7th. This year National Adjutant Bernie Chase gave a talk about how December 7, 1941 effected many members of the Americal Division.

The next two meetings of the Chapter will be held on January 14, 1991 and February 11, 1991 both at 1:00 p.m. at the V.F.W. in Hyannis.

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER**

The next meeting of the South-East Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association will be held on the week-end of February 8, 9, 10 at Perry's on Daytona Beach. Twelve rooms have been reserved for our Chapter and a fifty dollar deposit is required with your reservation. They request that all reservations be made before the first of the year. We have always had very successful meetings at Perry's so lets make this the biggest one of all. The number to call if in Florida is [REDACTED]. If outside of Florida call [REDACTED]. Be sure to say you are from the Americal Division.

A meeting will be held on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. This should be convenient for the people who do not stay over or for those who stay only one night. If any other information is needed please contact me at the address below. Mail your deposit directly to Perry's at this address; Perry's Ocean Edge, 2209 South Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32018.

Edwin A. Heartquist  
 Regional Commander

Holiday, FL 34690

This should of been in the last Newsletter, but did not arrive until the Newsletter was printed.

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**CENTRAL MID WEST ADVA MEMBERS ATTENTION!**

Members of Central Mid West States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska are asked to contact David L. Recob, 1241 S.W. 31st Street, Topeka, KS 66611 to become part of this Chapter as active members for participation in social activities and fraternalism as ADVA members. Call him at 913-266-3701 or write to the above address. Those with active addresses on file have already received a letter from Dave on the subject. Lets activate this Chapter in 1991 and find new members to likewise join us. "If-It-Is-To-Be! It-Is-Up-To-Me!" Let's keep our precious memories alive by helping others survive the tough and hard times we all shared in the service of our country.

Dave

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WHY NOT PASS YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTER ALONG TO A FRIEND OF PLACE IT IN A V.A. HOSPITAL

**CHAPTER NEWS****EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER**

DC DE KY MD NJ NY OH PA VA WV

From all the Officers in the Eastern Regional Chapter, we would like to wish all the Chapter members a very Happy New Year for 1991. There might be some members who belong to the National organization but are still not members of our Chapter. If anyone would like to join our Eastern Regional Chapter, please contact the Commander or Secretary/Treasurer at the above address. Anyone who lives in the above listed states is welcome to join. The cost of dues to join the Chapter is only \$3.00. This is one of the greatest bargains for friendship and camaraderie which shows at our annual Chapter reunion held each year. So when you join the National organization why not join our Chapter too. More members and more participation at our reunions make for a merrier time.



While on tour at our 1990 reunion at the Norfolk Naval Base, the USS Enterprise was docked days before it pulled out for duty in the Persian Gulf.

Sincerely,

*Steve Dennison*  
 Steve Dennison  
 Commander  
 Eastern Regional Chapter

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The following dates are the deadlines for the 1991 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

March - April	March 1, 1991
May - June	May 1, 1991
July - August	July 1, 1991
September - October	September 1, 1991
November - December	November 1, 1991

To have that important message out on time please observe these deadlines.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A CHAPTER?  
 THE CHAPTERS HOLD MANY INTERESTING MEETINGS!  
 CALL YOUR CHAPTER COMMANDER TODAY

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

"VIETNAM TOUR TODAY MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK TWICE "

My tour of Viet Nam in December of 1990 was my second Viet Nam Experience. The first being with the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division from July of 1968 until September of 1969. I take great pride in saying that I served with the Americal Division. This second tour of Viet Nam was my experience as I recorded it on tape throughout each day for the three weeks that I was in country. Other Veterans who have travel to Viet Nam before me and those who travel after may not have the same experience, but this was mine.

Before I go into the highlights of this story I would like to give the reader a little background. I came out of the closet about January of 1988. At that time I was a First Sergeant of a Army Reserve Unit in St. Louis Missouri, I had been sent to San Antonio Texas for a Sergeant Majors Conference. Having some free time one evening I stopped at a book store and purchased the "Vietnam War Almanac" by Harry G. Summers, Jr. in which I was surprised to find there was a Americal Division Veterans Association. I attended my first Veteran affair in 1990 at the Chicago Americal Division Reunion. It was during this reunion that I met and struck a friendship with a recipient of a Silver Star and a member of the 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. This man along with his friend introduced me to the annual Kokomo Indiana Veteran Reunion. I now refer to as the greatest time of my life. Thus it is to Mr. Ed Marsh and his good friend Miss Patricia Schafer (LZ PAT) that I dedicate this book.

Over one hundred friends and fellow Veterans asked me WHY I wanted to go back to that hell hole. I gave almost as many different answers to that question, but the one I most commonly gave was I wanted to tour the country, see the sights that I had read about, and try to locate old friends. I didn't know the correct answer, there was just something that was drawing me back.

You may ask yourself was I scared as I landed at Tan Son Nhut Airport wearing my original Army Americal shirt and a hat that said Vietnam Veteran and Proud of it. The answer is no, or at least not until I started down the stairs from the plane and one of the government soldiers looked up at me. (I was the only Caucasian and the only person over 5' 3" on that plane) The guard said something, and the half dozen or so other soldier with guns strapped on their hips and other carrying AK's, turned and looked up at me. At that moment I said to my self "Oh Shit maybe I should turn around get back on the plane." Instead I descended the stairs and stared right into the eyes of one of the soldiers and gave him a deliberate smile and a wink and he nodded back.

I couldn't believe that Vietnamese Americans returning for a visit to their country were putting fifties and hundred dollar bills in their American Passport to be excepted as they went through Viet Nam Entry Customs. If the money wasn't there the customs officials would say that something was wrong or missing with the passport visa. I refused to pay and in turn was almost the last to leave Customs.

During by entire three weeks there were only three or four times where I thought there might be confrontation because I was American and most of those were when we stopped at roadside cafes, I had encountered drunks. The Saigon police refused me permission to travel to Da Lat because of hostile feelings toward Americans. It had

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

something to do with the removal of the rods from the nuclear reactor just days prior to the fall of Saigon (A reactor we build, we destroyed and the Soviets rebuilt) It makes me wonder what did we do there in the closing days of South Vietnam ? I traveled to Da Lat posing as a Canadian.

During my tour I didn't expect to find ARVN officers to tell me that during there many years in the Reeducation camps that they had seen American MIA/POW some as late as 1984. At a park south of Saigon I didn't realize I was filming ARVN POW officers still in reeducation camps until I was ordered by the police to cease video taping. I never dreamed someone would approach me with bones and a dog tag of what was supposedly an American Marine. And when I ordered my chauffeur to stop and pick up a woman hitch hiking I was surprised to find that she claimed to be just outside of Hanoi at the sight where a crew member of a B52 had just been captured she offered him water and kindness. South of Da Nang I receive a letter thought to be from an American still being held in the jungle.

I couldn't believe that the Saigon police charged me 150 U.S. dollars first deposit because rules had changed recently and that Americans traveling by themselves and not in sponsored tour were thought to be spies looking for MIA/POW and for that reason I had to pay for a detective and bodyguard at 23 dollars a day to accompany me. They charged me although the detective was not available to accompany me, the day that I departed by road from Saigon to Hanoi. Upon my return to Saigon, I went to the Saigon police station and was told that the money had been turned in, that I would not be able to get the funds back, and that I should consider it as a tip to the police. I told my interpreter to tell this policeman, word for word, exactly what's said I started out with a few words of profanity. I could see the anger in the policeman face as my interpreter translated my choice of words. Then I said that I had personally talked to Mr. Tran Minh Dzung the Third secretary at the Vietnam Mission, United Nations and that he had told me if I had any problems in Vietnam to contact him. (This was a true statement) I told the policemen that if I didn't get my money back I would contact Mr. Dzung and maybe the policeman, maybe he and his family might get in a little trouble and then again maybe he wouldn't. I was willing to take the chance, was he willing to take the same chance. I saw his eyebrow rise and his eyes open wide. He left the room and returned in almost a run, he apologized and said that he thought it was ok with me to give the police a tip for their protection. Three days before I was to leave for home I was informed I had to pay 30 dollars to have exit permit approved and that the police wanted a 35 dollar tip.

I was proud to have carried with me six small American flags that I had intended to place at LZ Bayonet, Gator, Dottie, Professional, Chu Lai, and the last at the site where I had lost a friend. At various times during this tour, people would refer to me as Soviet, so I decided to place one of the flags on the vans radio antenna, one on the inside mounted on the dash and on occasions place one in my front shirt pocket or pants pocket. The police requested that I remove the flag from the radio antenna ( This was not an official embassy car ).

I was also proud to have taken with me a dozen prerecorded tapes of music that was popular 20 years ago and some of todays vet music. Before

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VIETNAM TOUR (Continues)

I left Saigon I gave some of the current tapes away to owners of small cafes. One of the tapes was recorded at the Kokomo Indiana reunion. When I returned to Saigon we stopped at one of those cafes, and as we entered I could hear Britt Small and his band Festival singing "God Bless America". Goose bumps rose on my arms a feeling of pride came over me. The next song was the Rev. John Steer's, "Wounded Soldier". I can't tell you the feeling that was felt. You would have had to have been there. There is a lot of current and old American music being played in Viet Nam.

I had planned to stop at a number of the old LZ's that were along Highway 1, I kept a sharp eye open for some of the old reference points such as shrines, churches and buildings, as we entered Chu Lai my driver stopped at the main entrance of what was once the Chu Lai Airport. I told him he had made a mistake this was not the entrance, that in fact we had not passed LZ Gator or Bayonet. We stopped a local farmer on the road and he pointed to where LZ Bayonet was 20 years ago. We drove back down Highway 1, I kept saying this is not Bayonet. Where is the big boulders that sat near the PX ? I was told that the children broke up the rocks to use as building material. As I walked the heavy jungle of what was once the 1st of the 52nd tears flow from my eyes. I was able to find the old helo pad where now there is a house and small clearing. I talked to some of the people living in the area, and they told me that a couple Americans had revisited Chu Lai but I was the first to return to Bayonet. From where I stood at what was once Brigade Headquarters I could see the area once occupied by the Engineers, the Rangers, the Cav, the 1st of the 6th, the POW compound, the MP's, the search light on the hill, the 1st of the 14th, the old theater. Except for what looked like a little asphalt on the ground, LZ Bayonet was gone. It was like it was never there. It was almost like someone had brought in a dozer and change the lay of the land, even the mountain that was directly behind seemed to change. There is a home built at the main entrance and the railroad track was rebuilt directly behind. The only area that is not over grown in jungle is where the old Mess Hall and PX of the 1st of the 52nd laid, and the area of the 1st of the 6th, and the Engineers, but I could find no trace that we were ever there everything is gone.



"HUE" JANE IF YOUR OUT THERE  
PLEASE PHONE HOME THEY NEED YOU

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

It was a very emotional time when I located old friends, some I found out who were VC some twenty years ago. One man I took on a shopping spree in Da Nang and told him to buy Christmas gifts for his wife and children. Another man who twenty years early was one of our interpreter, he traveled back with me to Saigon where I talked with the people from the American Embassy in Bangkok who were interviewing those who wished to leave Viet Nam for a new home in America.

I learned the truth from dozens of ARVN soldiers that I interview about what happened after the fall of Saigon. There description of the killing and torture left nothing for the imagination. I found in many cases the new government plowed over ARVN graves saying they wanted no sign of the former regime.

I'm not ashamed to admit that I cried many times as I traveled the country, I saw accidents with as many as thirty people laying dead on the road side. One accident happened just moments before we arrived I ordered the driver to stop thinking I might be able to help using the four life saving steps as I approached the young woman and saw the tremendous amount of blood and bone frag, I knew she was beyond help. I saw many disabled ARVN vets begging with their hat in their hand. I would always motion for them to put there hat back on there head as I would put money in there hand and salute them. As I traveled Viet Nam I would always wave and give the people a smile of good will and maybe make it easy for the next American. One of the most moving thing that I experience was when I was approached by a Vietnamese man and his family who wanted to shake my hand and thank me for all that I had done for his country he asked me to tell other American Veterans he and his fellow countrymen appreciated all that we went through, all of our scarifies all that we gave in the cause for freedom it shall always be remembered in the hearts and minds of Vietnamese people.

If anyone would wish more information about traveling to Viet Nam please free to contact me. I have heard many horror stories of American vet getting ripped off by people booking tours for them. Remember that Viet Nam is a country not a war. I plan to go back again but maybe you should think twice before you go.

John M. Wills



11 Woodview Br.  
Lake St. Louis, Mo. 63367  
1/52 198th Inf. Americal  
July 68 - Sept 69

Book titled "Tour Viet Nam maybe you should think twice" to follow sometime late 1991.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-0001

29 October 1990

Mr. Ron Ward  
National Commander  
Americal Division Veterans  
Association

St. Louis, Missouri 63123

Dear Mr. Ward,

Many thanks for your gracious invitation to attend the Americal Association's annual reunion on Cape Cod in July. I deeply appreciate the kind words of support from you and the other members of the Association. I take great pride in being an alumnus of the Americal Division.

I would very much enjoy the opportunity to attend the dinner banquet on July 9. Unfortunately, I must regret your invitation. My heavily committed schedule prevents me from traveling outside the Washington D.C. area as much as I would like. I'm already scheduled for a trip out of the country the week before the reunion and, regrettably, it is just impossible to plan another trip away so soon.

Although I will be unable to join you, my very best wishes to you and the other members of the Association for a memorable reunion.

Sincerely,

COLIN L. POWELL  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

4/3 Inf. 11th Bde.

Dear Jim:

Hi, received the ADVA Newsletter and application to join. Thank you for this opportunity. I spent Jan. 1970 - Dec. 1970 with the 11 Bde. The first month was in Arty. on San Juan Hill. After that I was a RTO and forward observer with the 4/3 Infantry 11th Bde. From July 1971 - December 1971 I was with the 196th Bde. at DaNang. I am also the author of "Under the Southern Cross a Feeling of War" I seen in the Newsletter that there was some request about it. As of this time I haven't got it out Nationally but it can be got directly from me. The cost is \$6.50 plus \$1.00 postage. An autographed copy can be obtained by writing R. Bruce Johnson P.O. Box 263 Viola, WI 54664.

Sincerely a Nam Vet,  
R. Bruce Johnson

PS A special thanks to James E. Parnell for asking about my book. If this letter generates any sales I will donate \$1.00 to ADVA for every one sold. Say Hi to all my Americal brothers.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
DO IT NOW!

Members;

I'm trying to locate Captain James Richards from B Co 1st Americal Division ( complete unit number was not provided by writer). I helped save his life sometime in March 1971 in the mountains north of Khe Sahn on the Laotian border. I was with 3rd Squadron 5th Calvary attached to the 101st Airborne. I don't know much about him as I only met him once and haven't heard from him since loading him on a dust off. If you could help me locate him, I'd really appreciate it. I can be contacted at the vet center.

Gary W Walker  
c/o Vet Center

Knoxville, TN 37914

Members;

Dwight Fanshaw wants members of the 6th Support Bn. 11th LIB to contact him for the purpose of organizing a reunion. Right now he's researching old orders for names/addresses but we all know how tough that can be. In his correspondence with the newsletter, Dwight wrote " I served as Battalion S1 Clerk from July 68 to March 69 when the Battalion was deactivated and the Americal Division was reorganized to conform to the R.O.A.D. concept and the Americal support command was formed. I then served as Brigade S1 Clerk in Chu Lai at HHD & Band, Support Command." Interested members can contact Dwight at the below address.

Dwight L Fanshaw phone [REDACTED]

Concord, NC 28025

Vietnam Editor;

I'm sending a couple of photos that I thought you would like to have. They were taken at the Kokomo Vietnam Vets Reunion. Photos show you, myself, and my son. They're dark pictures but that new Americal flag sure stands out. My family sure enjoyed Kokomo. It was our second trip to the annual reunion. This year was especially great because the Americal had a tent set up with a supply of beer & soda. I could see that the Americal Division stood out in the crowd.

Jim Roach  
HQ Support Command 68-69'

Editors note: I encourage all you amateur photographers to send your pics to the newsletter. We couldn't print Jim's as they were a bit to dark. If you have photos, we them as SHARP and BRIGHT as is possible. Also, if you want your photos returned, let me know in the same correspondence that they arrive in.

Vietnam Editor;

Please extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the ADVA for their contribution to the Cancer Society and the American Heart Association in memory of my dear and beloved husband Jim. My husband was very proud of his service to his country and equally proud to be a member of the ADVA. My thanks to all his comrades.

Eleanor Russo

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

AMERICAL DIVISION MP'S AT WORK!

GENERAL H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF  
DESERT SHIELD GROUND COMMANDER & AMERICAL VET

General Schwarzkopf is the Commander in Chief of United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) based at McDill AFB, Florida. It is the administrative HQ for U.S. military affairs in 18 countries of the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Northeast Africa including the Persian Gulf region. It was established as a successor to the Rapid Deployment Force. The General was born in 1934 in New Jersey and graduated from West Point in 1956. He has attended the basic and advanced Infantry Officer Schools, the Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and the University of Southern California where he earned a Masters Degree in Guided Missile Engineering. During his service he has commanded Army units from platoon through corps level. He served two tours in Vietnam, as a task force adviser to the Vietnamese Airborne Division and as commander 1/6th. Infantry 198th. Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. He has commanded two infantry brigades, the 172nd. LIB and 1st. Bde. 9th. Infantry Division. He was assistant division commander of the 8th. Infantry Division in Europe and the commander of the 24th. Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. During the Grenada operation, he was deputy commander of U.S. forces. He also commanded I Corps and Fort Lewis, Washington. His awards include Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, three Silver Stars, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, three Bronze Stars with "V" Device, two Purple Hearts, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. He is married and has three children.

Vietnam Editor;

I want to congratulate you on your new position with the ADVA. Couldn't be a better man in the slot. The arrival of the newsletter is the highlight of my month. I have some news for you and the rest of the guys. Our platoon, 3rd platoon A Co 3/21st. 196th LIB are having a get together at Jerry Feldman's house in Springfield, Mo. next Memorial Day. Everybody is welcome. As you might remember we take in new guys like long lost brothers. It turns out to be very rewarding as our friendship proves. Whether it's red-legs, bayonet fighters, or polar bears, we like em'. Speakin' of Polar Bears, 4/31st 196th LIB, is Rocky Blier (former NFL player for Pittsburgh Steelers) a member? I admired him for years and was floored to discover that we were in the same brigade in Nam!! More news. I was watching MacNeil-Leherer last week and saw my old company commander on the program. I located Captain Hal Bell through information in Oakland, California. He was real happy to hear from one of his "boys". I was the first to call, the first he'd talked to since Nam. Boy did we have a helluva visit. He's planning on coming to Springfield next summer. He'd be interested in hearing from anyone from the old company.

I need help in locating my old company patch. It was not army issue, was made by local mamma-sans. It said "ALPHA ANNIHILATORS" and had a big fist squeezing sh\*\* outta a little papa-san. I'd appreciate any help from the members. Thanks buddy!

Dan Dinklage A Co 3/21st 196th LIB  
2 McClellan Circle  
Humble, Texas 77339

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN  
HEART FUND, EACH YEAR, IN MEMORY OF OUR  
DEPARTED COMRADES.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?  
CHECK THAT CARD NOW!

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

MISSION STATEMENT  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SALUTE TO VETERANS

This celebration is to honor the Vietnam and Korea veterans and their outstanding contributions to our country. Vietnam vets will honor Korea vets for their sacrifices. The celebration will provide Nam and Korea vets an opportunity to gather. The event will enhance pride, dignity, and self assurance for all of us. We want Americans to observe the successes of the Korea and Nam vets and to appreciate and recognize their needs. We cannot think of a more appropriate weekend, June 14, 1991, to hold such a celebration. Flag Day symbolizes the ideals of our nation: freedom and liberty. We believe that a celebration of this kind is something that will give our community an opportunity to express its patriotism and recognize the men and women who serve our nation. It also offers those who served an opportunity to reflect, remember, and heal.

Editors note: Linn Hoopes (4/3 11th LIB) wrote to the newsletter with the above info concerning a proposed "Chicago Style Welcome Home Parade" to be held in Denver this coming summer. They have a corporation established for the organization and fund raising. Those of us who were in Chicago all enjoyed ourselves so we'll want to keep track of what is being planned for this affair in Denver. I only wish they had picked a different date. It's too close to our own annual reunion at Cape Cod. Linn will keep us updated as new material arrives and we will be passing this on to the members.



Vietnam Editor;

The Vietnam Vets Memorial (Moving Wall) came to Memphis Oct 10-16. As always, it was an emotional experience locating the names of friends. I was impressed with the way it was presented and run. I want to thank John Devitt for his effort in making the moving wall possible, and also the new South Vietnam Vets Memorial Committee for bringing it to Memphis. It was visited by more than 50,000 people. On another note, my wife and I went to see the movie JACOBS LADDER. At the time I was totally unaware it had anything to do with Vietnam. I was shocked to learn that it was about our government using experimental drugs on our fellow grunts to make them more aggressive fighters and or killers. At the end of this movie it was flashed on the screen that these drugs were actually used on our men in Nam. Do you have any info on this? Please let me know.

Jimmy Dancy A Co 4/31 196th LIB

Memphis, TN 38117

Editors note: I saw JACOBS LADDER and found it to be rather far fetched. Drugs were secretly placed in the chow causing the men to become so aggressive that they couldn't wait to kill the VC. Instead, they killed members of our own forces. This was a bloody, nerve wracking film. I had trouble sleeping on the night I saw it and I thought I had strong nerves. Anyway, if you want to contact Jimmy with your ideas or knowledge of drugs being used in our c-rations, drop him a line.

"PULL  
PITCH"

If you flew on a Helicopter in Vietnam as a Door Gunner, Crew Chief, Flight Engineer, Observer, or Medic, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association is searching for you!

For more information contact:

Spencer Gardner  
[REDACTED]Crowley, Texas 76036  
[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

## REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS

## 31 INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Contact:

Oliver Robertson  
[REDACTED]Lawton, OK 73505  
Call [REDACTED]

## B COMPANY 1/46 INFANTRY 196 LIB

Contact:

Allen Wilson  
[REDACTED]Manchester, IA 52057  
Call [REDACTED]

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## DID YOU KNOW--

Cable News Network soon will add a new downlink to its worldwide audience: Vietnam. Construction is now complete on a satellite receiving dish given to the Vietnamese government by CNN founder Ted Turner, and if all goes according to schedule, the first broadcast should be airing in Hanoi by the end of January. For the moment, because of a U.S. trade ban, the cash short Vietnamese will get programming free, a decision that may make Turner almost as popular in Hanoi as his wife-to-be, actress Jane Fonda.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Members;

The newsletter received this story from Maurice Henson who saw action in Vietnam with the 26th Engineer Battalion. It's a long one for our newsletter so we'll be splitting it into two or three parts. Henson did a good job on this and I think you men will enjoy it. It's untitled, but in his letter he told me he was going to "TELL IT JUST LIKE IT WAS"! and I think he did. For the newsletter, we'll make that the title.

TELL IT LIKE IT WAS  
BY MAURICE HENSON 26TH. ENGINEERS

In November 1968, First Platoon received word about an infantry unit needing demo men and we figured that two of us, maybe three would be sent. We were surprised to learn that all of us would be going in addition to an RTO, which made a total of six of us.

We knew that a request for this many demo men meant something big and as we packed our gear into our rucksacks, and then went to get extra cases of C-4 and other explosives, one of our sergeants, Gary Sheppard, went to the CO and requested to go along. At first the CO refused, then changed his mind and decided he should send an NCO along after all. So now seven of us were going on this mission.

The first thing Gary had us do was for some of us to switch weapons with other platoon members as we all had M-79 grenade launchers and 45's. After this was done we loaded up and moved out to the chopper pad to wait for a Huey. Before any of us could think much about this mission, the chopper had arrived and was just touching down on the pad. In a hurry we had all our gear loaded and were soon airborne. As usual with any demo mission, we weren't certain where we were going, but we did know it was a long way as we seemed to be at a high altitude and flying at (I think!) 80 miles per hour. From the air everything seemed so thick, dark green, and very mountainous. We were all thinking, where were we going to meet the infantry unit at. This was soon answered as we touched down on a ridge where the infantry was located. We grabbed our gear and jumped off the Huey as quickly as we could, dragging cases of explosives or rolls of det cord with us.

Gary told us to check our gear and get things ready to move out as soon as we got the word to do so. Meanwhile, he'd check in with the CO and find out how soon we'd be doing just that.

Since we were ready to move within a moments notice, I got to looking around at the kind of country we were in and thought this was really wild looking terrain and it seemed as if no one had ever been in this part of Vietnam before. Looking up the mountain at the thick brush and tall trees made a person feel uneasy as it wouldn't take much to get lost in there. Shortly, Gary returned and told us to leave our packs in a pile since we were only going to be taking the demo. I decided to attach my rain parka to my pack frame along with some of the more awkward items we had. Since our demo was a combination of TNT, C-4, and a few shape charges, we packed it as best we could. The det cord and shape charges were the only things that could be called awkward.

It seemed like within minutes the word was given to single file up the ridge into the brush and trees. A few feet into the trees and it was no longer daylight, but dark! My eyes had soon adjusted and still on the move, with many brief looks around at the trees and such, I kept thinking to myself this looks like a rain forest! Suddenly a hand signal from one of the point men somewhere up

the trail brought the column to a dead halt. Everyone remained motionless not making a sound but soon the column was moving again. After some time, we came out to a well used main trail with branch trails that ran off in several different directions. But, what struck me with awe were the directions carved into the trees along the main trail, in Vietnamese. We continued on up the main trail and soon came across some recently abandoned NVA entrenchments. A halt was called and we all sat down for a while.

Scattered about the entrenchments were parts of NVA uniforms and helmets. But that didn't seem quite so interesting as when the halt was called and it was then that we heard the three birds over on the next mountain side. The bird at the bottom of the mountain called out, then the one in the middle, and finally the bird on the top of the mountain called out. We all knew they were NVA, so we took a cautious brief rest and soon we were given the word to move out. As we got ready to move out once again the three birds sounded in the same order from the bottom to the top of the mountain. It didn't take too much longer before we would finally reach the mountain top and as we continued on, word was passed back about an NVA KIA on the trail at the top of the mountain. We soon came to the KIA and continued on down the trail and shortly there after, another halt was given by hand signal, and two NVA sentries guarding a rice cache were taken out. When we got down to where the sentries and rice cache were, the CO decided to return to the mountain top where the dead NVA had been left on the trail. Then our job began. We started putting charges on the trees to blast them out of the way to start clearing an LZ!

Every charge brought down a few trees and more leaves on the dead NVA till we nearly had him buried under leaves. Soon it was too dark to set any more charges so we had to quit for the night.

Then the monsoon rains started again and soon every one was soaking wet and cold. With our wounded huddled in one spot, we took some C-4 and some limbs from some of the trees we'd blown down and started a fire to try and keep them warm in the cold rain. We then proceeded to try to get some C ration coffee heated to warm us up also. That first night on the mountain top was going to be cold, wet, and miserable, but this was going to be only the beginning of the nightmare for us and every man on that mountain; and it was to become worse for the wounded men!

After eating a little bit, we moved back near a big tree, sat in the mud trying to stay dry, which was in no way going to be easy, and listening to the rain hitting us, the plants, and bushes and in the leaves, of the trees in this triple canopy jungle, and in the leaves covering the ground on the mountain top. We had only one thought in mind, tomorrow we'll get a clearing made to get the wounded medevaced! Then I pulled my rain parka down over my face, fell back in the mud, turned on my side and went to sleep.

The next morning Gary woke us up and I was dreaming that I'd been in a mud wrestling contest with two girls somewhere!, and when I sat up looked like I had been in such a contest, but there wasn't two girls to be found. Then I realized where I was, in a triple canopy jungle in Vietnam on a demo mission. I looked over at my three friends from AIT Thornton Fields, Garry Gillespie, and William Downey (our RTO) and noticed they looked like I did also! Dave Mills and Tim Gravette had already gotten up out of the mud to try to light a cigarette and a piece of C-4 to heat water for a dip of C-ration coffee. Gary came back and said we'd start work on

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

50th ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

NATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 6 - 9, 1991 - HYANNIS, MASS.

The Hyannis area is noted for it's Reunion facilities. Your 1991 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 at the Hotel.

The Hotel is located on route 132. By car take route 6 on the Cape and get of at exit 6, this is route 132. The Hotel is about one mile from exit 6, on the right side of the road. The Hyannis Airport is less then one mile from the Hotel. From Logan Airport in Boston, you can take a Plymouth - Brockton Bus to Hyannis. The Bus Terminal in Hyannis is about a little over a mile from the Hotel.

There are four big shopping centers with over two hundred stores, less then a mile from the Hotel.

THIS REUNION IS FOR ALL AMERICAL VETERANS, YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR FRIENDS AND ALL OTHERS WHO CARE TO COME. HELP CELEBRATE THE FIFTIETH YEAR THAT THE WORLD WAR TWO VETS., ENTERED THE ARMY.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION - 91 REUNION RESERVATION

NAME: (print) \_\_\_\_\_ W.W. 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ VIETNAM \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

ST. ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (Area \_\_\_\_\_)

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

Registration Fee @ \$10.00 each person (No. \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Trip Heritage Plantation and Sandwich Glass Museum Saturday. @ \$15.00 each person (No. \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies Craft Show Friday (No charge) (No. \_\_\_\_\_)

Bus trip to Camp Edwards Friday. (No charge) We may be limited to 200. The first 200 request we receive will go.

One hour harbor cruise Friday afternoon @ \$5.00 each person (No. \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thur. No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fri. No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SAT. No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wine & Cheese NO. (\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to AMERICAL REUNION 1991.  
Mail to Bernard Chase [REDACTED] South Yarmouth, MA 02664

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL REUNION JUNE 6-9, 1991 - HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

50th ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

6/6 Thurs.	1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Registration (Lobby)
	6.00 p.m. - 7.15 p.m.	Hospitality (Presidential Suite)
	7.30 p.m. - 12.00 M	Dinner and entertainment
	7.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.	Breakfast
	9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	General Meeting for Men
	9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	Craft Show for Ladies
	11.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Bus trip to Camp Edwards
	11.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Bus for shopping
	1.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.	Harbor Cruise
	5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.	Wine and Cheese Party
	7.30 p.m. - 12.00 M	Dinner and entertainment
	7.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.	Breakfast
	10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Bus Trip Heritage Plantation and Sandwich Glass Museum
	4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Band Concert Army Band (Courtyard)
	5.15 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.	Church Services
	6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.	Hospitality (Presidential Suite)
	7.30 p.m. - 12.00 M	Dinner - Dance
	7.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.	Breakfast
	9.00 a.m. - 12.00	Checkout

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

508-771-6100  
Package #1 June 6 - 9 three nights lodgings at hotel, three breakfast, three dinners, wine and cheese party. \$390.19 Single, \$517.10 Double. This includes all taxes and gratuities.

\* Package #2 June 7 - 9 two nights lodgings at hotel, two breakfast, two dinners, wine and cheese party. \$264.22 Single, \$352.92 Double. This includes all taxes and gratuities.

For further information contact Bernard Chase 82 Phyllis Drive South Yarmouth, MA 02664 Tel. (508) 394-0943 or William McLaughlin 59 Florence Avenue, Mashpee, MA 02649 Tel (508) 477-9791.

Mail Hotel Reservation to Cape Cod Plaza Hotel, P.O. Box 936, Hyannis, MA 02601 A 48 hour notice of cancellation required for refund of deposit. A deposit of \$78.00 per room is required in advance. Cut off date is May 6, 1991.

CAPE COD PLAZA HOTEL  
AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
[REDACTED]  
HYANNIS, MA 02601

Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. Children \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Americal Division Veterans Association

do not write below this line

AMERICAL DIVISION  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

June 6 - 9, 1991

\$390.19 single occupancy, package  
\$258.55 double occupancy, per person.

Please return this card along with a  
\$78.00 nonrefundable advance deposit  
or credit card guarantee, per room  
reserved, by May 6, 1991. A 48-hour  
notice of cancellation is required  
for refund of individual deposits.

Package Includes: 3 nights accommoda-  
tions, 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts,  
wine & cheese reception, all taxes,  
gratuities and service charge.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

## VIETNAM TOUR (Continues)

clearing the LZ as soon as we got some coffee, and could begin. We all said "we could start anytime". As we thought about the wounded and wanted to hurry and get them out. When I stepped out to where the wounded had been near the fire, another sight shocked me enough that I wanted to begin immediately! There with rain running off them were several body bags and I knew this clearing had to be completed today!

All day we set charges and blasted and kept dragging brush down the hill and before we knew it the day was over and darkness was coming on again. Also the rain had returned. As I headed back to where I had spent the night before, and walking past the body bags I looked at a wounded soldier, who looked like he'd been shot through the left shoulder and thought to myself "Buddy, I failed you I'm sorry".

That night in the rain and darkness, trying to stay dry and thinking about the next day I finally fell asleep. The next morning we again got ready to start setting charges to clear the LZ but first I glanced at the wounded soldier from the night before and promised I'd make sure he and the other wounded and the KIA's were medevaced today. They wouldn't have to spend another night in the rain. All day long we blasted and dragged brush and set more charges and by now this seemed to be the day I was going to keep my promise to that soldier. Then with the sun going down and soon the darkness, rain starting again, came the word we didn't want to hear, "we were out of demo!"

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE



Sp4 Maurice W. Henson  
A Co. 26 Engr. Bn 196 LIB  
1st Platoon Demoman/Tunnel Rat

Maurice was known by the nickname Hentz or MO. He was nineteen years old in the above picture and served in Vietnam from May '68 to April 69. He was wounded on 8 Apr 69 on Hill 90 -- Antenna Valley.

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## WE NEED YOUR STORY

It is very important that you keep those letters and stories coming into the Americal Newsletter.

We depend on the members for material to keep the Newsletter informative and interesting.



Mike Burnes Commander Ron Ward James Dalton  
THIS WREATH WAS PLACED ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL,  
WASHINGTON DC, VETERANS DAY 1990



Bill Ochs Larry Young-Hines Tony May



David (Night Train) Lane Jim Oseth 196 LIB  
SETTING UP THE HOSPITALITY SUITE  
VETERANS DAY WASHINGTON DC 1990



GATHERING OF THE "BURNING WORMS" 196 LIB

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

BATTERY A 3RD BN. 16 ARTILLERY

Dear Veteran:

My father served two tours in Vietnam, '63-64 and in '69. The second tour was with the Americal Division B/3/16 Arty. He was 1/Sgt with 21 years service when he was severely wounded by enemy mortar fire.

My father survived the war only to die of cancer on May 20, 1988. He never really talked much about his experiences and I'm curious to learn from the guys that were there.

Specifically, I would like to get in touch with anyone from the 3/16 - and, if someone could help me find out what happened in mid August of '69 - so that I might learn of the event that forever changed our family.

Thank you from a veterans son,

Melvin K. Frieda

[REDACTED] Cross City, FL 32628-1500

\*\*\*\*\*

## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

23 INFANTRY DIVISION 3 BRIG 4 BN CO A

Seeking the family of Sp4 Vernon Hart to give story of his heroic death and also some recreational pictures. Please contact:

Peyton Kane

[REDACTED] Anacortes, WA 98221

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOCATE - A - BROTHER

Locate-A-Brother was formed by two men to act as a clearing house and a gathering point for men of the 196 LIB. If you have not already signed in you can do so by contacting:

Jim Crum

[REDACTED] Tony May

[REDACTED] Canal Fulton, OH 44614

Phoenix, AZ 85355

\*\*\*\*\*

## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

ARTILLERY F O B CO. 3rd BN 21 INFANTRY

Sergeant Richard La Barge served in Vietnam in 1966 and would like to hear from anyone that remembers him when he was the Artillery F.O. assigned to B company, 3rd Battalion, 21 Infantry, 196 LIB.

If you remember Sgt. La Barge please write to him.

Richard La Barge

[REDACTED] Easthampton, MA 01027

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
DO IT NOW!

## COVER STORY

## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The picture on the cover of this issue of the Americal Newsletter is of the former National Guard Armory in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

This Armory is typical of the hundreds of armories that could be found in every state of the United States. Large cities were home to more than one armory but small towns, in out of the way places, also played host to an armory.

This Armory is the ninth, and last of a succession of buildings that has housed the military units of Wakefield through the years.

At one time in history the military unit and the local armory were the center of the social life in many a small town. In the days of the Volunteer Militia many Military Balls were held, cakes were baked, and fairs were held, to supply the military unit of the town with necessities.

Wakefield has sent its military unit to participate in every conflict that our country has been involved in--from the Indian Wars up through World War II.

And so again--January 16, 1941, fifty years ago, Company E, 182 Infantry, 26 (Yankee) Division, answered the call.

This was the first unit to be called up that would later become part of the Americal Division. The 164 Infantry, then part of the 34 Infantry Division, was Federalized on February 10, 1941. The 132 Infantry, then part of the 33 Infantry Division, was Federalized on March 5, 1941. It would be almost five years before these units would return to their home armories, after what was supposed to be a one year training stint.

Many of the old Regiments have now disappeared or have been reduced to Battalions. Many of the old armories are gone. Perhaps not destroyed but instead have been sold and turned into commercial ventures.

Several years ago the Second Battalion of the 182 Infantry was eliminated, E company was gone, and the town was without its own military unit for the first time since 1844.

The Wakefield Armory was sold by the state to the town. A contest was held to find a suitable name and the name entered by the brother of an E Company member was chosen.

The name that Daniel Burbine suggested was--

## THE AMERICAL CIVIC CENTER

The building now stands as a tribute to the men from Wakefield who served in the military units that were once housed there, and to the men of the Americal Division.

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to hear about what happened to the National Guard Armories in your town. The Militia and National Guard wrote a lot of our history. It should never be forgotten.

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

Hq. 1st Bn. 182 Inf.

Hi Buddies:

Just finished reading the Sept.-Oct. Newsletter. In one regard I hope that the Old Guard won't be completely shoved aside in the ADVA. We may be older but we are not yet feeble. So please let us still give our guidance and advise in membership in ADVA.

From one of the Old Guys

Robert R. Crews  
PS, Please find my membership dues enclosed for 1991.

101st Med. - 52nd Field Hosp.

Dear Sir:

I just received the Americal Newsletter and have given it to my dad. And I can tell you that he was surprised and very pleased-Thank you.

I have enclosed the application for membership with Dad's signature, along with necessary records for verification.

I'm pleased to learn that the membership includes former members of the 101st Medical Regt. I'll be hoping to hear if they might be willing to share any experiences regarding the 52nd Field Hospital. I plan to publish the experiences of the 52nd as a unit history, if the material is available. The Association has offered me the opportunity to further my research for which I am grateful.

Respectfully,

Raymond G. Aguirre  
[REDACTED]  
Lincoln, NE 68502

101st QM

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a check donated in the memory of Teddy Stefanik of 46 Pearl St. Holyoke, Mass. 01040.

Teddy passed away while mowing his lawn a few weeks ago on that hot afternoon of a massive heart attack. His family requested donations to a Veterans Association of choice and seeing my dad was in the Americal Division I decided to notify you.

Your Newsletter is a very nice publication. Keep up the good work.

Lyn Heady

Thank you for your kind words about the Newsletter. We will add your donation in Teddy's name to our pledge to the Guadalcanal Solomon Island Memorial.

\*\*\*\*\*  
We would like to have your story to print in the Americal Newsletter. Pictures would be great! Please put your name on the back of the picture and it will be returned as soon as the Newsletter is mailed.

## 52nd Field Hospital

The 52nd Field Hospital, now stationed in Davao, has made a long and honorable contribution to the winning of the greatest war in history.

It was back on Guadalcanal in the early days of 1943, that the one hundred converted infantryman who make up the backbone of the outfit swung into action, learning medical work the hard and practical way, under fire. Those were the days when the Japs still had a hard hitting air force and were trying desperately to knock us off our Solomon Island foothold on the ladder pointing north. In this muddy, highly malarious pest hole, hit by more than one hundred enemy air raids, the 52nd did its assigned job and did it well. The ex infantrymen, bolstered by a few replacements, solidified into a smoothly functioning medical unit.

The biggest thrill the boys had on the Canal came on June 16th, the historic day when 92 Jap planes were sent spinning out of the sky by our growing air power. The Rising Sun emblem was seldom seen over the Island of Guadalcanal after that. The next mission for the 52nd was on the next step up the ladder pointing north-Bougainville. The now seasoned outfit landed on this volcanic island on December 10, 1943, with the 37th Division. Here in addition to almost nightly sleep wrecking air raids it had to contend with something more deadly and fearsome-Jap long range artillery. Many was the night when the boys had to hurriedly carry patients into underground shelters, and many were the individual bits of unrecorded heroism under fire.



The 52nd after Bougainville was no longer the Field Hospital for the Americal and 37th Infantry Division. It went on to the Philippines and hit the Talomo Beach on May 7, 1944, with the 24th Infantry Division. Once again they did a great job taking care of the 24th Infantry wounded and sick, like they had previously done for the 37th and Americal Division.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?  
CHECK THAT CARD NOW!

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## BENDIGO ADVERTISER

## EX-U.S. SOLDIER RETURNS TO BENDIGO

Troops on the way to the battlefield do not always leave good memories with civilians--but Bendigo survived such an experiences with fond thoughts.

That, at least is the remembrance of retired businessman Phil McKean and of the former U.S. Army officer who stayed with him in 1942.

Former Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Doig returned to Bendigo this week, for the second time since World War II.

He was one of 4000 U.S. soldiers destined for the South Pacific battle zone, given a six day break in Bendigo after a 44 day sea voyage back in February of 1942.

"It was very, very hot," recalls Mr. Doig. "Why we were ever shipped up here I will never know, but we had a most enjoyable time. Everybody was so kind."

"We had been at sea for 44 days enroute from New York to Melbourne and they put us on a train in Melbourne and took us to Bendigo."

Mr. McKean and his wife, Eve, offered to billet soldiers and were given the then Lieutenant Doig.

"Didn't you take me to a dance the first night," recalled Mr. Doig.

Mr. McKean, laughing replied, "Not the first night. You were too tired. But there were dances organized during your time here."

Mr. Doig had the responsibility of checking on the billeted soldiers. "I had to go to every house," he said. "The only complaints we got from the families was that we were not staying long enough."

Mr. McKean added, "They were very well received and well behaved. I don't recall one being drunk."

Mr. Doig said this was before the troops had gone into battle, but said they were still well behaved on later rest stays on Fiji after fighting in the famous battle for Guadalcanal.

This was his second return trip to Bendigo since the war, the previous being in 1970. Has Bendigo changed much? "Oh yes, very much. I started with a feeling that Bendigo was beautiful in 1942 and I still feel the same way," said Mr. Doig. "I like the cleanliness, even though the town has grown in size it is still very clean and well established."

Mr. McKean has visited the Doig family twice in their home town near Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Doig, 79, was an executive officer of the John Hancock Insurance Company, one of the largest in the United States. He is Past National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association that hosts annual get-togethers of the veterans.

Continues next column

His Battalion, the 180 Field Artillery, lost only four out of 500 men. "The casualties were much higher in the Infantry. They were in closer contact, while we in the Artillery had the support weapons," he stated.

Mr. McKean lived near the Kennington Sports Oval at that time and he remembers the U.S. troops being kept hard at drill in the Oval.

The two families have kept in touch since 1942. Mr. Doig said: "I've been able to follow along with the development of his family with pictures of them as they grew up and got married, then the grandchildren - a photographic update of the McKleans."

Mr. Doig left a list of former U. S. soldiers and the families they stayed with that was printed in the paper.

Ed Note: Enjoyed talking to Al upon his return. He had a great trip!

\*\*\*\*\*

★ GUADALCANAL ★  
SOLOMON ISLANDS

WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The following members have sent in contributions to the Guadalcanal Memorial Foundation:

Leo H. Volta  
Clint Zimloch  
Jack Hagerty  
Joseph A. Thompson  
Alfred A. Pretucci  
Albert S. Re  
John J. Bent Jr.  
Peter W. Kierbiedz  
Henry P. O'Melia  
Bernard J. Carroll  
Gerard T. McPhillips  
Frederick R. Wonson  
Kenneth E. Bessler  
Ernest Begnoche  
Arthur G. Streck  
Joseph H. Evans  
John R. Foley  
Gordon E. Copeland  
Edgar J. Amirault

Contributions are still being accepted.  
Please send to: Robert Thornton  
[REDACTED]

Melrose, MA 02176

\*\*\*\*\*

## CO. E 182 INFANTRY

Dear Sir:

Please accept this donation toward the erection of the American Memorial on Guadalcanal, in memory of my late husband, Kenneth E. Bessler, who served there.

Claire V. Bessler

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## REUNION REUNION REUNION

## 101st Medical Regiment &amp; 121st Medical BN

After four (4) very successful luncheons and our 1st Reunion this past year, by popular demand we are planning the 2nd Reunion. We have surveyed many locations and have selected the following:

WHERE: Sheraton Tara Wayfarer Inn  
Bedford, New Hampshire

WHEN: October 20th thru October 23, '91  
(Something New-Check-in on Sunday)

RATES: Couple \$305.00 Single \$245.00  
(Tax & Gratuity included)

Extra Night \$69.00 plus 7% NH Room Tax  
If you are interested PLEASE let us know so we can reserve an additional block of rooms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION will be mailed to your home at your request such as schedule of events, meals, deposit and cut-off date.

## CO-CHAIRMEN

William S. Coronella William J. Dunphy  
Somerville, MA 02144 West Roxbury, MA  
02132

Tel. [REDACTED] Tel [REDACTED]

NOTE: Please return your answer to Bill Dunphy or telephone our homes no later than MARCH 15, 1991.

## DETACH AND RETURN

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

TEL. # \_\_\_\_\_

DOUBLE \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE \_\_\_\_\_ EXTRA NITE \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## 182 INFANTRY

My husband and I would like to make this donation toward the Guadalcanal Memorial in memory of my father, John J. Bent Jr., who passed away this past July. My father was in the 182 Infantry for 3 1/2 years and served with them on Guadalcanal.

Mr. & Mrs. Francis M. Warner

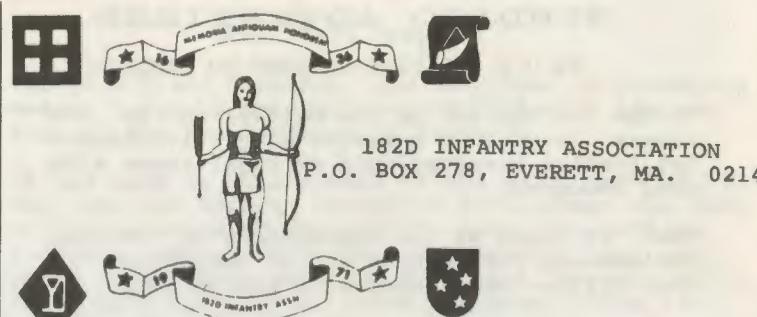
\*\*\*\*\*

G CO. HEADQUARTERS 2 BN 182 INFANTRY

I'm enclosing a check for the Guadalcanal Memorial. Wish it could be more as I think this is a great thing we are doing.

I joined the 182 on Bougainville as a replacement and stayed with them until Japan. I started with G Company, and shortly after transferred to Headquarters 2 Battalion. Served in the anti-tank platoon for the duration.

Keep up the good work,  
Albert S. Re



182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 278, EVERETT, MA. 02149

DO YOU REMEMBER? On January 16, 1941 your 182d Infantry Regiment was ordered to active duty, attached to the 26 'Yankee' Infantry Division. On February 3, 1942 our regiment reverted from Division control to non-divisional status, attached to Corps command. We remained so until August 1942 when we were assigned to the Americal Division. This has us celebrating two anniversaries in Jan-Feb '91. The '50th' of our order to active duty for World War II, and the 49th for our release from the 26 Div.

Annual "Turkey Shoot" was held at the meeting hall on October 18, 1990. This year's winner (\$10.00 each) were Chester B. Hanson of Everett and Donald N. Horsman of Saugus.

On November 10, 1990, the active 182d Infantry Battalion held their 354th Anniversary Ball at Steven James house in Middleton. Our 182d Association was well represented. Commander Doyle awarded the Association's "Soldier of the Year Awards" to S/Sgt Harold P. Leete and Spec. Kenneth C. Miller, both of the Battalion's Headquarters. On November 17, 1990, our annual Gift-O-Rama, Dinner Dance, and Installation of Officers was held at the VFW Hall, Post 639, Malden, MA. KUDOs to PC Donald Tibbets, and his committee, for another great affair. Adjutant Robert A. Cox received the 1990 Past Commander's Award, at this ceremony, for exceptional support of the Association in 1990. Congratulations Bob!

Every two months I read the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. It astounds me when I see the large number of former 182d Infantry people who are written up in this Newsletter, who are not members of The 182d Infantry Association. to you former troopers--Can we allow this to continue. Why not drop me a postcard or note at P.O. Box 278, Everett, MA 02149. By return mail you will receive some materiel on our Association and information on how you can become a member of our family. Help us to "Remember our Ancient Honors!"

Charles L. Doyle  
Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

## CO. F 182 INFANTRY

Dear Robert:

Please accept this donation to the Guadalcanal Memorial in memory of my cousin and close friend, Ernest Begnoche, F Company, 182 Infantry, killed on Guadalcanal November 1942.

Hector Begnoche

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## 221 FIELD ARTILLERY SERVICE BATTERY

Enclosed please find check for the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Fund. I sent a similar check directly to the fund last year and I hope that the Memorial will be completed before the Japanese own the Island and forbid same.

Sincerely,  
Jack Hagerty

\*\*\*\*\*

## B CO. C CO. 57 ENGINEERS

The enclosed check is for the Guadalcanal Memorial.

I was with B Company and then C Company of the 57th Engineers as Company Commander.

I hope that there are many men still living that worked for me back then. The best of luck to them all in the future.

Clint Zimlich

[REDACTED]  
Broadview Hgts. OH 44149

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEDICAL DETACHMENT 182 INFANTRY

Enclosed check in memory of two Combat Medics, from Wakefield, MA, killed in action, line of duty, on Guadalcanal.

Charles DeCecca  
John Nutile

On the other side of the ledger--on Vita Levu, Fiji Islands some of the natives would greet us with these words, "Bula Joe, Got cigarette?" Haven't heard it since!

Regards to the Veterans,  
E.J. (Ramrod) Amirault

\*\*\*\*\*

## 51 INFANTRY VIETNAM

Enclosed please find my check to help build the American Memorial on Guadalcanal.

Sincerely,  
Gordon E. Copeland

\*\*\*\*\*

WHY NOT PASS YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTER ALONG TO A FRIEND OF PLACE IT IN A V.A. HOSPITAL

\*\*\*\*\*

## ASSOCIATE

Enclosed is a check toward the building of the Guadalcanal Memorial, a lasting tribute to those who fought and died in the bitter battles of Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands during World War II.

God Bless You,  
Peter W. Kierbiedz

## 101 Quartermaster

FRANCIS A. DIORIO

It is with deep feelings that we report the death of Fran Diorio.

Fran has been the Assistant Director of the Americal Museum and one of the hardest working members of our organization.

He put many hours into helping the Director, Ken Turner, reorganize the Museum and make it what it is today. He was always obliging and performed any task with a smile.

The Americal Division Veterans Association extends sincere sympathy to his wife, Mary.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

\*\*\*\*\*  
COMPANY B 57 ENGINEERS

Just got out of the hospital, after spending twenty one days and I'm doing a lot of letter writing to my old buddies. I was being treated for asthma, diabetes, cellulitus and congestive heart failure. All for an old --- that has never been sick! Well, at least I bunched them all into one attack.

I have been trying to locate George J. Reed, Company B, 57th Engineers. I do not have his full address and would appreciate it if you would forward the enclosed letter.

Thanks,  
Henry E. Perkins

Henry, I forwarded your letter but no doubt you have heard the news about George. 1990 was a very bad year for the 57th Engineers.

## 57 ENGINEERS

I am sorry to report that on 7 December 1990, Leo Quirk passed away. Leo had been a member of the 57th Engineers. For the past several years he had been confined to a wheelchair. I never once heard him complain of his condition, although he was in great pain most of the time. Leo was very proud that he was a member of the Americal Division, he wore the Americal Division lapel pin on his cap with pride. I will miss seeing him at Bedford VA Hospital when I go for my checkups.

Sincerely,  
William C. Howard

\*\*\*\*\*  
DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

## THOMAS WOODROW WILSON

His daughter would like to find someone that knew her father in the service. He served in the Americal but she does not know what unit. His nickname was "Woody" and he enlisted from Milford, MA.

If you know of him please write:  
Peg Testa

[REDACTED]  
Acton, MA 01720

\*\*\*\*\*

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

3rd BN. MEDICAL DETACHMENT 164 INFANTRY

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing a picture taken on Cebu, shortly before the war ended. I hope it is legible and interesting enough to publish. If any of these old soldiers are still around I would like to hear from them. It's been over 45 years since this picture was taken, and that's a long time. I hope all the comrades in this picture, and those in our outfit, have had a very good life and are still enjoying good times.



STANDING  
CLIFF BURLEIGH DICK ANDERSON ED ? ? TRACEY  
KNEELING  
MILT BEHRENS FRENCHY MARCEAU

I joined the Americal on Leyte as an Infantryman, but soon became a Company Medic with the 3rd Bn., 164 Infantry Regiment. After Leyte I went with the 3rd Bn. to Mindanao, Cebu, and on to Japan. We deactivated in October of 1945, and because I did not have the required points to return stateside, I was transferred to the 8th Army Headquarters, Surgeons General's Office. Needless to say that turned out to be very desirable post war duty.

I did not know there was an Americal Association until last year when I met Our Great Lakes Commander, Rush Propper. A bunch of us retirees walk for health at one of the local shopping centers. After our walk we all congregate, have some coffee, and swap yarns. That's where I met Rush, and I am glad that I did. I have always been proud that I served with the Americal, and I am pleased that I am now a member of the Association.

Before I close I would like to mention something that happened here locally a few years ago. On Armistice Day there was a picture and a write up, (in our local paper) of 3 veterans saluting our flag, and represented the 3 latest wars - WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. One vet was a huge Gunnery Sergeant who had served on Guadalcanal with the 1 Marine Division. He had lost his right arm during the campaign, and the day of the article I happened to run across him at the VFW Post I belong to. I told him that I thought the paper wrote a nice article. I also told him that I had served in the Army and not the Marines. I thought that might get to him, but without his knowing what my outfit had been, he told me in a few words that as far as he was concerned the best damned army outfit he had ever fought alongside was the

Continues in the next column

America on Guadalcanal. I told him I was proud of having been a member of that Division, but I also had to confess that I wasn't quite of age to serve in the very important Solomon Island Campaign. I thought that was a very good testimonial coming from a Marine. He has since passed on, but he sure gave the Americal the credit they deserve.

In closing, I would like to say that the Americal Newsletter is an excellent publication and I always look forward to reading it. Even though I enjoy reading the fine veterans publications, this one has a closer relationship when you can narrow it down to a smaller group of comrades. Please continue the good work.

I do hope to go to next year's Convention. It looks like everyone had a great time in Chicago.

Cliff Burleigh

\*\*\*\*\*

## 23 DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

My wife and I plan to attend the ADVA's Christmas Party scheduled for Dec. 9, 1990.

We truly enjoyed last year's Christmas Party so this is not a gambling venture for us, but simply a forward look to the Americal congeniality and comradeship which is always so prevalent at all Americal functions.

Enclosed is a check for the tickets to the Christmas Party and also a check for the Association's Christmas "Cheer to the Hospitalized Veterans."

I also extend to all elected officials and the entire Americal family a very joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with "Good Health and True Happiness."

Sincerely,  
Rheo L. Carpenter.

\*\*\*\*\*

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In the May-June 1990 I made the statement that the Town of Wakefield did not have a Memorial to its Vietnam Veterans. That statement was incorrect and below is the proof. This Memorial is dedicated to the three men in the Korean War and the six men in the Vietnam War that made the supreme sacrifice.



## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## 97 PACK MULE F.A. BN.

Thank you for your phone call. I will tell you what I know about the Pack Mule outfit.

We were trained with mules at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and then we were shipped overseas on the President Monroe, with out the mules--boy were we happy! The happiness didn't last too long however, because some mules were shipped from Panama for our outfit.

Once you get used to the mules they weren't that bad. Some were as tame as kittens and some were wild. I always managed to wind up with a wild one. Road marches of up to 20 miles in four hours was part of our training. In the Army the mules come ahead of the G.I.. They had to be fed and bedded down before we could take care of ourselves. We even experienced a stampede!

I was kicked by one mule and thrown from another--all I was trying to do was get a mule-back ride. Never again.

We took the mules over many a mountain in New Caledonia. They were certainly sure footed, but one mule did lose his footing and rolled down a mountain, with six 75MM shells in two crates. He was O.K.--just stood up, shook himself, and got back on the trail.

B Battery of the 97th went to Guadalcanal with the mules. After Guadalcanal the mules were taken away and I believe they were shipped to Burma.

Our Colonel on New Caledonia was Colonel Charles Tinkham. He was the best Colonel in the United States Army. He treated us fair and square. I'll never forget him.

Our next Colonel was Colonel Hartford. He was a nice guy but all Army. However, I never did see him ride a horse or a mule. He was always in his command car.

In my outfit was a Joe McCarthy who used to write for the Boston Post. He used to write the column, "Caught in a Draft." He died around ten years ago.

One guy I will never forget is George Foley, formerly of 16 Leonard St., Cambridge. He married a policeman's daughter from either Melrose or Malden. I have never been able to locate him. (Does anyone out there know him?)

I transferred out of the Mule Outfit and spent three years on New Caledonia with the 196 Port Co. which later became the 850 Harbor Craft.

The experiences that I had in the Army I would not trade for a million bucks!

Just got through Christmas at my home and I prayed for all the G.I.s in Saudi Arabia. It's no joke being away from home. I pray for all the soldiers at home or overseas.

An Old Mule Skinner  
Joseph Marseglia

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMPANY H 182 INFANTRY

Hi Jim:

Just finished talking to you and decided to get this note and pictures off to you right away.

I was with H Co. 182 Infantry and was relieved on Hill 260 the day before the big attack. This day also happened to be my birthday.

When some of the older boys left for home I was fortunate enough to be put in charge of the Post Exchange on Leyte and I held that position the rest of the time including the time we spent in Japan.



STAGE ON BOUGAINVILLE

Sure am happy that the Americal is still remembered--the Americal Newsletter is proof of that.

I will be sending in my application today. I am also enclosing the pictures I promised. They are of the stage where Bob Hope and others performed on Bougainville and the Post Exchange on Leyte.

I have the last copy of the Americal paper issued in November 1945 in Japan. If you would like a copy I would be more than happy to send one along.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Durocher

Ed Note: A copy of that last issue would be great to put in the Americal Museum. Send it along. I'll see that you get a copy of the Jan-Feb 91 Newsletter if I have to deliver it myself.



POST EXCHANGE ON LEYTE

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## A CO. B CO. 182 INFANTRY

First, I am not a hero. I am a very lucky Dogface Infantryman. I did not join the 182 Infantry until after the battle for Hill 260.

I was assigned to Sgt. Shemor's squad in B Company and my buddy, Don Sites, was assigned to Sgt. Robinson's squad.

Our first night there was very scary and every little noise made me jump. But I settled down and became one of the boys very quickly.

Both Don and I made several patrols with our squads, all without incident. About this time the Island began to quiet down and it was decided that because the 182 was originally from Massachusetts that a Fife and Drum Corp should be formed. Since I had some musical training I was asked to join this new unit. I did not turn out to be a good Fife player but stayed around Headquarters Co. until the unit was disbanded.

With the help of the 1/Sgt, can't think of his name, I was transferred to the Wire section in the 1st Bn. Hdq. Co.

About this time, my original squad under Sgt. Shemor was on a routine patrol and were ambushed. The entire squad was wiped out. They had been told that the area was quiet and that no enemy were in the area. It seems that previous patrols had not been doing their job.

Following this the 182 sent combat patrols into the area. The patrols were out about two weeks and the enemy was completely cleaned out of the area.

In spite of the rumors that we were going to New Zealand for R & R. However, we stayed on Bougainville for our R & R. Guess I hadn't yet learned not to believe rumors.

Once again I was transferred. This time to A Company. I became a runner and then radio operator for the Captain. After a short stay here I was once again back in Message Center at Battalion Headquarters.

When the Americal moved up to the Philippines most of the Division went to Leyte but my outfit went to Samar where we served as communication center for the whole island for a month or two. We then returned to Leyte and prepared for the beachhead on Cebu.

I was assigned to accompany a Major Murphy in the invasion. I believe I was the third man ashore when we hit the beach. The area was loaded with anti-personnel mines and I saw many casualties that were caused by them.

Later that day, after I had returned to Message Center, I was having some tasty C rations when I felt the ground shake. After I remembered that I was not still on Bougainville with an active volcano, I dove into the nearest fox hole. I found out that the 1st Battalion was advancing up a hill and the section of the hill that A Company was

Continues next column

holding exploded. (See Under the Southern Cross Page 284-285) A Company suffered heavy casualties.

I had lived and talked to these lost men from A and B Companies. I remember and miss my former buddies. So, good bye Dear Buddies, you are missed and not forgotten.

Robert R. Crews

\*\*\*\*\*

## 26 SIGNAL

I search every issue of the Americal Newsletter for names of those I served with in Guadalcanal, New Caledonia and the Fiji Islands and especially those with the 26th Signal Company in World War II. I've contacted almost all those names that have been listed, either by phone or letter.

However, this year has been very exciting for me! First, in July I met Captain Earl Cook, my former Company commander while stationed in the Fiji Islands. Captain Cook became Company Commander when Captain Miller was transferred in April 1944. He now resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Over lunch, we had a great time reminiscing the "war" and looking at old pictures.

Then, in September, my wife and I, attended the Eastern Regional Chapter Reunion, held at Fort Monroe, Virginia. There we met Harold Stein, William "Bill" Gold and John Finnichio, and their wives. We had a great time together as we shared old photographs trying to add names to go with the pictures.

It brought me MUCH pleasure to meet these former comrades after being out of touch for 47 years!! Actually, none of us have changed too much - maybe a few pounds heavier, a little less hair - some streaked with white! Everyone agreed it's a little hard now to place names with faces.

Sincerely,  
Sherman Lilly



Capt. Earl Cook Sherman Lilly

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
DO IT NOW!

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## 57 ENGRS PNC WALTER T. ANZONI 57 ENGRS

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of a former National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Walter Anzoni served as National Commander 1947-1948.

Born in Malden, MA, and a life long resident, he served two years on the Malden City Council. When re-elected for a second term, he received the largest vote given to a candidate for that office.

A graduate of the Army General Staff School, he was a member of the 182 Regimental Combat Team when it was sent to the Pacific in January of 1942. He served with the Americal Division on Guadalcanal, winning commendations for his work with the engineers in building defenses in the Pacific Islands.

He retired in 1962 from the National Guard. At that time he was Provost Marshal of the 26 Infantry Division and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Donations in Col. Anzoni's name may be made to the Immaculate Conception Church Building Fund, [REDACTED], Malden, MA 02148

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## HUMAN INTEREST BOOK ON GUADALCANAL

A Book on the Guadalcanal Campaign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Americans landing here in the Solomon Islands will be released in August of 1992.

the book will be of human interest and will cover personal accounts of the war on Guadalcanal. Diaries, a lot of photographs of the past and present, and personal experiences from soldiers.

Unlike other books written about World War, this book will cover wartime experiences from both American and Japanese soldiers who fought each other here in 1942.

The work on the book is a co-operative effort of four people.

Bill Bartsch, a United Nations man based in Geneva, Switzerland will work on reports, diaries, and old war photographs from American archives. He will also collect experiences from American soldiers who were on Guadalcanal in 1942.

Mike McCoy, and Australian based in Honiara will take shots of the war relics of the past and present.

He will photograph sites, aerial photos of Guadalcanal battlefields and may do some underwater shots of old warships and transports, that lie on the bottom.

Jackson Lea of the Tourist Authority, will do the research and field work on Guadalcanal.

Continues next column

On the Japanese side, Akio Tani, the former artillery officer based at Kokumbona during the war, will collect diaries and information of the Japanese experience during the Guadalcanal campaign.

Akio Knows many Japanese who served on Guadalcanal during the battle.

Bartsch said, "This is a cooperative effort by four different people. What we want is the experiences of soldiers from both sides who fought here on Guadalcanal."

Each side did what their governments wanted them to do.

Bartsch has made four trips to the Solomon Islands since 1975.

He plans to write an epilogue about mutual cooperation between the American and Japanese soldiers to locate bone of dead comrades.

From: Solomon Star Sent in by Joe Micek

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEDAL AND CITATIONS PHILIPPINE ARMY HQ.

I told you that I would get some articles to you for the Newsletter. But the more that I do the farther I get behind.

While doing some research on the Americal, I came across the Medals and Citations authorized by the Philippine Commonwealth Army Headquarters in 1946. Since quite a few members of the Association are WW II, and the with the Reunion on Cape Cod in '91, maybe you can bring them up to speed on "Lineage and Honors".

I have had a lot of members ask about what was authorized for the Americal Division, World War II. I think this list might clear up a few questions. As I see it the Division honors include, but not limited to the following:

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY)  
PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION EMBLEM  
THE PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL  
THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE MEDAL

It would be nice if the Committee for the Reunion on Cape cod could come up with some of the Ribbons and Medals to sell to any qualified World War Vet. Also it would be appropriate to print a description of the medals in the Americal Newsletter. I am sure that some have never seen nor heard of them.

Sincerely a friend,  
Warren G. H. Reed  
MSG (Ret) USA

Ed Note: Will pass you suggestion along Sarge. Also will have a description of the Medals in a later issue of the Americal News. (Sgt. Reed is a veteran of three wars.)

\*\*\*\*\*

WHY NOT PASS YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTER ALONG TO A FRIEND OF PLACE IT IN A V.A. HOSPITAL



JAMES C. BUCKLE  
4 WILSON AVENUE  
WAKEFIELD, MA  
01880

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1991

Mr. Gary L. Noller P.L.

Apt. #130  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66219-2121

#### Eligibility for Membership

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

World War II (South Pacific)	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam	1967-1973

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

#### Dedication

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

### AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Telephone:

Address — Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Americal Unit Rgt.

Bn.

Co/Bty.

Other

Dates of Service — From:

To:

Serial No.:

Date of Birth:

Blood Type:

Religion:

V. A. Claim No.:

V. A. Office — City:

State:

Occupation:

Wife's First Name:

Date:

Signature:

Sponsored by: Gary L. Noller

(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)