

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

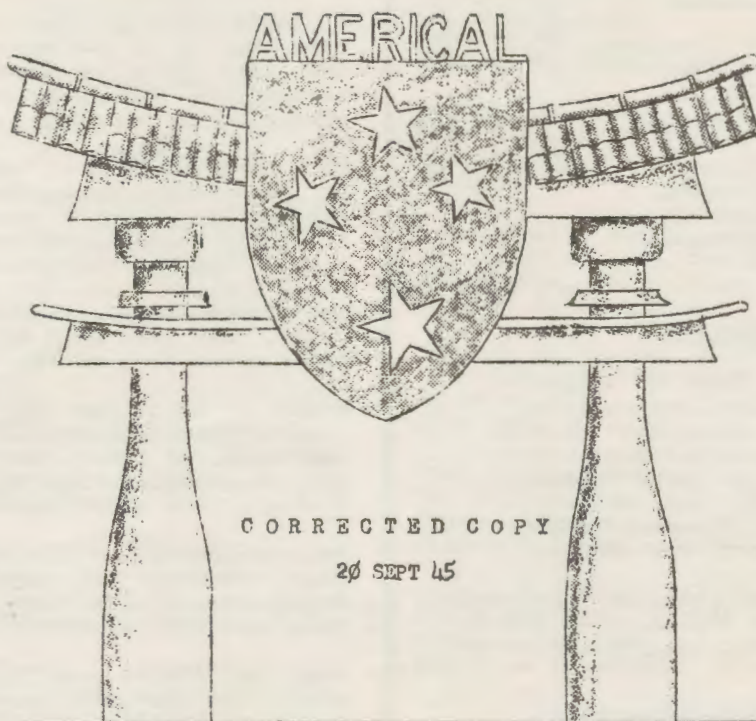
VIETNAM EDITOR: RONALD L. WARD

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1991

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TELEPHONE DIRECTORY



CENTRAL HONSHU JAPAN

≡ RESTRICTED ≡

26th SIGNAL COMPANY SEPT. 20, 1945

1991

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1992

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Roland T. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

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Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

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CHAPTER COMMANDERS

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 William K. Maddox South Mid-West Chapter
 Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter
 VACANT Far West Chapter
 David L. Recob Central Mid-West Chapter
 Lloyd J. Morrell North-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.

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone

VIETNAM EDITOR

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

I would like to say that I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy summer. Our first meeting of the new year will be held on September 14, 1991 in the Americal Museum at Fort Devens. I am looking forward to seeing my old friends and hopefully making some new one.

I have done a little research and found that there are over 60 Vietnam Veterans from Massachusetts that belong to the ADVA and I am extending each and every one of them an invitation to attend this next meeting. I would like to see more of our NAM Vets get involved with our organization and especially with the Executive Council and also the higher offices. The Vietnam era vet is rapidly approaching half of our membership and there are only about 4 or 5 of them involved in working for the organization. The world War II members are getting older and many are in poor health. Without the help of the NAM Vet the ADVA will soon begin to decline. So--lets get a few NAM Vets up to the Museum for the meeting on September 14th!

The membership has been growing by leaps and bounds. We put an add in the Vietnam Magazine and had a great response. An ad in the VFW Magazine is in the works. The Vietnam Magazine is an excellent publication. If you are would like information on this magazine please drop me a line.

I would like to thank all the people that have been signing up new members. (Those fellows from the 23rd MP's are doing a fantastic job!) If anyone has any ideas on how to recruit members please let me know.

On a personal note--I would like to welcome Jerry O. Anderson, from Georgia, to the Americal Association. Jerry and I served together at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and on LZ Bronco, Duc Pho, Vietnam. We were together for two years in Co. C Medical 6 Sep Bn. He was an excellent Medic and a good friend. I am looking forward to seeing Jerry, and also Luis Garza who lives in San Antonio, next year at the Convention in San Antonio.

While I am on the subject of San Antonio, I am looking into the possibility of having as many of the Medal of Honor recipients as possible attend this convention. Ron Ward brought up this up and I think it is a fabulous idea.

Many thanks to Jim Buckle and Ron Ward for the job they do on the Americal Newsletter. The Newsletter is excellent--they don't get the credit they deserve. Great job guys!

Also my thanks goes to Bill Dunphy for sending along the letters and other info on Americal business, that he receives.

I am planning on attending the parade and reunion in Wisconsin in October. Hopefully we can pick up 50 or so new members. We will try to run our usual Hospitality Suite, as usual, where we can all get together and have a few beers.

If you have not yet contributed to the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation, I am asking you to do so now. If you have donated, please send a few more bucks if you can. The fund is still about \$150,000 short and the Committee could really use your help.

Yours in comradeship,
 Roland T. Castronova

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

October 12, 1991
 Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA
 General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

November 9, 1991
 Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
 General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

December 8, 1991
 Americal's Christmas Party
 Concannons' Village Norwood, MA

TAPS

Paul A. Boyce Sr.
 26th Signal
 Dorchester, MA
 July 22, 1991

John E. Connors
 101 Medical Bn.
 Buzzards Bay, MA
 May 27, 1991

Louis E. Falabella
 Co. K 182 Infantry
 Winthrop, MA
 July 20, 1991

Stanley C. Fielding
 Btry. A 221 F.A.
 Port Charlotte, FL
 July 18, 1991

Dennis J. Fullerton
 Co. H 182 Infantry
 Lexington, MA
 May 20, 1991

Joseph Sour
 Co. B 182 Infantry
 Averill, NY
 June 30, 1991

Joseph A. Lonergan
 182 Infantry
 Lowell, MA
 August 31, 1991

E. Angel Garcia
 Co. A 182 Infantry
 National City, CA
 August 25, 1991

Oscar Gollnick
 A.T. 164 Infantry
 Auburn, OR
 March 4, 1991

Winifred R. Brabrook
 109 Station Hospital
 Waterville, CA
 June 10, 1991

NEW MEMBERS

Daniel S. Adamski
 Co. B 123 Avn. Bn.
 Buffalo, NY
 #Roland T. Castronova

William A. Bescoby
 Btry. B 3rd Bn. 82 Arty.
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA
 #William K. Maddox

Gen. Arthur E. Brown Jr
 1/52 Infantry
 Hilton Head, SC
 #Ltc. Peter Messina

Robert C. Clement
 Btry. A 3/16 Arty.
 Clementon, NJ
 #Roland T. Castronova

Woodrow N. Collins
 Co. B 2/1 Inf. 196 Bde
 Roper, NC
 #Roland T. Castronova

Thomas J. Dawson
 Co. C 9th Sup. 198 Bde
 Scotts Valley, CA
 #Roland T. Castronova

Jeffrey Deitelbaum
 723rd Maint.
 Mayslanding, NJ
 #Edward den Braven

Stanley E. Freeman
 Co. B 123rd Avn. Bn.
 New Fairfield, CT
 #Jim Buckle

Alan L. Fuchs
 Btrys. A B C 1/14 Arty.
 Atlanta, GA
 #Jim Buckle

Gary Craig Gentry
 Co. G 75th Infantry
 Lubbock, TX
 #Ron Ward

Jon E. Hansen
 Co. O 26th Engr.
 Orlando, FL
 #Roland T. Castronova

Dean M. Hendrickson
 Co. C 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde
 Ft. Dodge, IA
 #Bill Dunphy

NEW MEMBERS

Paul Hockings
 16 CAT Avn 14 CBT Avn
 Bettendorf, IA
 #Robert N. Thornton

Dale B. Johnson
 Btry. A 6/11 Arty.
 West Covina, CA
 #Roland T. Castronova

Kurt W. Johnson
 Co. E 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde
 Hunt Staliny, NY
 #Roland T. Castronova

James R. Kirpatrick
 Co. C 3/21 Inf. 196 Bde
 Topeka, KS
 #David L. Recob

Daniel LaPierre
 Co. A 4/31 Inf.
 Van Buren, Maine
 #Ron Davis

Steven D. Leinfus
 Co. D 4/21 Inf. 11 Bde
 Rancho Cordona, CA
 #Roland T. Castronova

James B. Lewis
 Co. A 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde
 Coon Rapids, MN
 #Robert N. Thornton

Hindenburg E. Martin
 Co. A 101st QM
 Cartersville, GA
 #Edward J. Smith

Floyd L. Mason
 C.B.M.U. 536 Navy At.
 Williamstown, WV
 #Self

Edmund E. Miller
 Co. B 4/31 Inf. 196 Bde
 Buffalo, NY
 #Roland T. Castronova

John L. O'Neil
 101st Med. Bnd
 Medford, MA
 #Reinstatement

James M. Parker
 D Troop 1/1 Cav.
 A.P.O. NY
 #Roland T. Castronova

Robert S. Parker
 Co. D 4/31 Inf.
 Canton, MI
 #Roland T. Castronova

Melvyn S. Penner
 23rd M.P. Co.
 Cold Springs, NY
 #Larry Gelnett

Randall R. Perry
 Ser. Btry. 3/18 Arty.
 New Orleans, LA
 #Self

Dale Stivland
 Co. A 3/21 Inf. 196 Bde
 Lowry, MN
 #Ron Davis

Samuel David Smith
 Co. A 523 Sig. Bn.
 Wilmington, DE
 #Roland T. Castronova

Horace K. Stroud
 Ser. Btry. 247 F.A.
 Kinston, NC
 #Bethel S. Heugel

Eduardo M. Torres
 Co C 2/1 Inf. 196 Bde
 Houston, TX
 #Noe Mata

Joseph Turnwald
 23rd M.P.'S 198 Bde
 Ft. Jennings, Ohio
 #Larry Gelnett

Paul William Walker
 Co. C 23 Med.Bn. 5/46 Inf
 Poyen, Arkansas
 #Larry Gelnett

James K. Wambo;d
 Hq. Btry. 6/11 Arty.
 West Chester, PA
 #Robert N. Thornton

Donald K. Winter
 Co. B 1/20 Inf. 11 Bde
 Providence, Utah
 #William K. Maddox

Patrick Yoshim
 Support 11 Bde
 Wall, NJ
 #Roland T. Castronova

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP

William C. Collier
 Cos. A-E 1/6 Inf. 198
 Oxford, MS

James R. Kirkpatrick
 Co. C 3/21 Inf. 196
 Topeka, KS

Hindenburg E. Martin
 Co. A 101st QM
 Cartersville, GA

Melvyn S. Penner
 23rd M.P.'S.
 Coldsprings, NY

Dale M. Rink
 Co. C 1/46 Inf. 196
 Milford, IN

Richard G. Totten
 198 Bde.
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Paul William Walker
 Co. C 23 Med. Bn.-5/46 Inf.
 Poyen, AR

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Regional Commander
Edwin A. Heartquist
Tarpon Springs, FL 33589
Telephone [REDACTED]

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

Regional Commander
William K. Maddox
Portland, TX 78374
Telephone [REDACTED]

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER
IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

Regional Commander
Rush G. Propper
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, UT, NM

NOW FORMING CONTACT

JOE D. FEELER
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

Cape Cod Chapter Commander
Allen D. Cappella
Plymouth, MA 02360

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

Eastern Regional Commander
Stephen N. Dennison
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Telephone [REDACTED]

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IOWA KANSAS MISSOURI NEBRASKA

David L. Recob
Topeka, KS 66611
Tel: [REDACTED]

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

NOW FORMING --- CONTACT

Lloyd J. Morrell
Redmond, OR 97756-9612

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, HAWAII, NEVADA
UTAH, NEW MEXICO

HI, I AM JOE D. FEELER CO. H 164 INFANTRY AND I AM TRYING TO REACTIVATE THE FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

ANYONE WHO HAS EVER SERVED WITH OR WAS ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAL DIVISION DURING WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND THE VIETNAM WAR IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN, AND WE URGE YOU TO JOIN. WE NEED AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT. NEWS CONCERNING MEMBERS WOULD BE APPRECIATED AS I WILL BE TRYING TO GET OUT A QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER. (I HOPE)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

JOE D. FEELER
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

This will be very short because I am off having fun at our Chapter Reunion at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. We still have 30 members who have not paid their Chapter dues. Let's go and get that 100% Chapter this year. We can make it happen!

Also, let's go out and sign up that new member for National. We grow as a Chapter as National grows so try to sign up a new member.

I will tell you all about the reunion in the next Americal Newsletter. Hope everyone had a great summer.

Sincerely,
Steve Dennison
Chapter Commander

SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER

The next meeting of the South-East Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association will be held on the 10th and 11th of November at the Day's Inn in Brooksville. The Day's Inn is located at the Junction of I-75 and Route 50. It is Exit #61 off I-75.

The purpose of this meeting is to dedicate a plaque at the National Cemetery at Bushnell on Veteran's Day. A ceremony will be held at the cemetery at 10:30 A.M. and we will dedicate the plaque immediately afterwards. The cemetery is Exit #62 off I-75.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH EAST CHAPTER NEWS (Con't)

A regular meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. on the 10th at the Day's Inn. Rooms have been reserved so send your request directly to the motel. A rate of thirty-one (\$31.00) has been negotiated, plus tax. Call 904-796-9846 or send to address below;

Day's Inn
Brooksville, FL 34602

If more information is required, or there are any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED], Holiday, FL 34690, or call [REDACTED].

Ed Heartquist
Chapter Commander

NORTH WEST CHAPTER NEWS

Before the next Newsletter is published I will have sent letters to all Association members within this Chapter area that I have on my roster. I will be canvassing for ideas and potential sites for an organizational meeting (s). I am especially interested in having the Vietnam veterans jump in with both feet, as they are the cadre to keep the Association strong and growing. I already have had a couple of Vietnam vets offer their assistance and you better believe they will be welcomed with open arms. I have been through this before and know it will take some time and effort to get things coordinated into a chapter, but hopefully in the next few months we will have things in shape to enable us to have a Spring get together. It will be up to the responses. Please let me hear from you.

Lloyd Morrell

ATTENTION ATTENTION

National Commander Roland T. Castronova is interested in forming a New England Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association. This Chapter would include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and all of Massachusetts with the exception Cape Cod.

If you have any ideas to offer or you are willing to help, please contact Roly at;

Roland T. Castronova
Peabody, MA 01960

It is a good sign to see the Chapters so active. The Southeast Regional, Eastern Regional, Great Lakes Regional, Central Midwest Regional, South Midwest Regional, and the Cape Cod Chapter are all in good hands and doing well. With the Northwest, Far West now being formed and with our National Commander interested in forming a New England Chapter, we have the entire fifty states covered.

We ask all members to support their local Chapter. Through Regional Chapters we can keep in closer touch and no matter where you live you will know that there is "somebody else out there".

KEEP IN TOUCH!

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

COMPANY D 4 BATTALION 3 INFANTRY 11 LIB

Larry and Diane Young played host to a small segment of Company D in the middle of July. We hope that this is the beginning of many happy reunions. Many could not come and there are many that we are still trying to locate.

Present at the Reunion were:

Larry & Diane Young - Host and Hostess
Stan & Lynn Zaunmiller
(with Andy and Sarah)

Bob & Colleen McCabe
(with Gary and Scott)

Don & Debbie Mills

In the eastern side of North Dakota in a small gazebo there were four Army buddies sharing memories, laughing, reflecting, and looking at huge amounts of pictures. None could wear their old uniforms as twenty years have gone by, but one thing remains the same--the comradeship. As the old saying goes: A good time was had by all!

Larry had a surprise for us--hats for Company D! We all stayed at Larry and Diane's house for the night. Food was a hot item on the agenda. We had buffalo burghers, Mackinaw trout from Idaho, and Don's delicious gravy! We all had a wonderful time!

We are still trying to locate the following people;

Jack Stump PA	Jay Cavangnh KY
Randy McDonnal KY	Jim Davis CA
Melbert Cutgrass SD	John Decker CA
John Kilbury Clinton, Iowa	Jerry Allard
Capt. Bob Yeargan KS	Ralph Riccardi NJ
Bob Cherek	Tourue Mason
Sgt. Jim Andrews	Ray 'Barney' Frost
Skip Haner	Bob White CA
Charles Alexander	George Bethel

Any information on the above men would be appreciated. Please contact;

Mrs. Don Mills
Indianola, IL 61850
Telephone [REDACTED]

Ed note: Mrs. Don Mills, Debra, was kind enough to send along a copy of the Newsletter she writes for the Company D members. It is very well done and if you are interested she will mail you a copy. It is put out twice a year. Contact her at the above address. Thanks for the note Debbie.



Larry Young Stan Zaunmiller Bob McCabe Don Mills

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VIETNAM EDITORS COMMO

This was a busy summer for the Vietnam vets. Lots of reunions. Gimlets and Polar Bears met in Las Vegas. Haven't had a report from anyone as yet but no doubt it was a grand affair. Who couldn't enjoy themselves in Vegas? Heard from Fred Thompson of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company. His outfit had their reunion in Reno. This was the annual affair of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assn. As they were all officers, I'm sure they didn't tear up the hotel, or did they? There were some other outfit reunions and forgive me for not listing them all. Send some pictures guys, and we can give you a plug in the newsletter.

The Kokomo reunion is coming soon as I write this column. Next issue we'll update that one with some pictures of the gang. Those of you who took photos, send em to your editor ASAP.

I hope to see beau coup Americal troopers at the dedication of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Oct 19-20, 1991. Your Commander, Rolly Castronova, and myself will be bringing the ADVA colors for the 1PM parade on Saturday. We'll most likely be setting up some type of hospitality room but I don't have a specific hotel as yet. Don't be square, be there!

Washington, DC, Veterans Day, Nov. 11th. I do not think I can make that one this year. If we have a member who would like to set something up at our usual watering hole, the Hotel Washington, get in touch with me to discuss strategy.

Yours in comradeship,
Ron Ward

Members;

I was given information on the ADVA by Wayne Jones, a young man who is helping to organize a group called Sons and Daughters in Touch in Texas and Louisiana. My husband was killed in Vietnam on March 28, 1971. I was told you are instrumental in locating men who served in the Americal Division. I am enclosing copies of a yearbook which was returned to me by my husband's unit. His name was Roger Whirlow. He served in Vietnam from June 1970 through March of 1971. He was a SP/4 when he was killed. I had gotten pregnant in November on R&R in Hawaii and was 5 months pregnant with our son, Joe, when Roger died. When I heard of the sons and daughters program, I sent Joe's name in and we recently met in Austin, Texas with about 10 other people who had lost their dads in Vietnam. It was a great experience for us. If you can locate someone who was with Roger over there, we would like to be able to get in touch with them. I also have a copy of the Time Magazine which carried an article about the battle in which my husband died. It is entitled "The Massacre at Fire Base Mary Ann". I'm sure I could make a copy of it and send it to you. I only copied Battery C from the annual. If you would like more of it, I could comply.

Thank you so much for this search you must be conducting for so many. It means more than just about anything to some of us.

Nola & Joe Whirlow

Odessa, TX 79762

phone #

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Members;

A recently published book titled OUR STORY... ONE ON ONE is a collection of personal accounts of 68 men who went to war and returned to a world they did not recognize. One of the chapters is about one of our members, Alan Fuchs, who saw service with the 1/14th Artillery 198th LIB during 67-68. The author states that he will not accept any personal financial gain from the book. All profits will go to helping needy Vietnam vets. For more info, contact one of the men below:

Alan Fuchs

Atlanta, GA 30340-4164

Gary D Gullickson (Author)

Byron, MN 55920

Vietnam Editor;

I just wanted to pass on a report about the 196th LIB's reunion at the Holiday Inn in Chicago this past July. I met a couple of guys from B Co 3/21, my old outfit, that I hadn't met before. One was even in my platoon but had DEROSed a couple of months before I came in country. As you know, a good time was had by all and the dinner was good also. There was a lot of talk about the Division reunion in San Antonio next year. I think a lot of the 196ers are planning on being there. My buddy, Rich Scales and I, are going to make it for sure. The Brigade Association is a good one but boy could it be great if we had a newsletter like the ADVA Newsletter. Guess we have yourself and Jim Buckle to thank for that. I sure look forward to the newsletter every two months. Take care.

Jim Craig

B Co 3/21 Infantry
196th LIB, 70-71

HH 3 BATTALION 1 INFANTRY

I was reading the March issue of the VFW Magazine and I saw that the Americal Division Convention was to be held in June.

I was not able to make the Convention but I thought that I would write and ask if there were any members that remember me.

Duc Pho was our rear area and I was on LZ 411 most of my tour. I was a mail clerk.

I was in the 23 Division HH/3/1 Infantry from June 30 1979 until July 1971. If anyone remembers me please write:

Harold Waterman

Dickeyville, WI 53808

QUOTABLE QUOTES

One of the fondest expressions around is that we can't be the world's policeman. But guess who gets called when suddenly someone needs a cop?

Gen. Colin Powell

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5261

7 August 1968

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WALKER, HOWARD W. S/SGT Company D 1/6 198th LIB
Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
Date Action: 31 May 1968
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. S/SGT Walker distinguished himself by extremely valorous actions on 31 May 1968 while serving as an acting platoon leader with Company D 1/6th Infantry. That night, the company had just broken contact with a NVA force with which they had been engaged and were enroute to their night defensive position in Tam Ky district. Because of the thick terrain, consisting of elephant grass, it was necessary for the company to move in single file. As they neared the top of the hill, the lead element came under an intense volume of machinegun, small arms, and rocket fire from a platoon size NVA force. S/SGT Walker immediately deployed his men and began to lead the assault on the enemy positions, one of which he single-handedly destroyed. As he led his men further up the hill, they came under machinegun fire from both flanks. With complete disregard for his own personal safety he exposed himself to the fire as he re-grouped his men and moved them to cover in a treeline just below the hill. S/SGT Walker's valorous actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

JOHN K SAMET
1LT, AGC

NELS A PARSON JR.
Colonel, GS

Co. A 1/46 Infantry 196/198 LIB

Anyone that has served with or was attached to A Company in Vietnam is invited to our 5th Reunion which will be held in Louisville, Kentucky - July 1993. We Currently have 94 Vets (1967 thru 1971) on our roster. For additional information contact;
Fred Cowburn

Camillus, NY 13031
Telephone

or

Leave message on VETNET #16343 dial

B BATTERY 1 BATTALION 82 ARTILLERY

I recently joined the ADVA. My name was listed in the April-May Newsletter. However, my unit was listed incorrectly. I would appreciate it very much if it could be listed correctly in a future Newsletter. I would like it corrected so if any of the guys from my unit see it they will know that it is me.

William P. Zachary Jr.
B Btry 1/82 Arty.
Jacksonville, Illinois

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

Members;

Here at the newsletter we get a fair amount of mail from one of our old demo-men, Maurice Henson. I'm told he corresponds with several other Americal vets who I'm sure will testify to the fact that Henson certainly does like to recount the good as well as the bad experiences he had in Vietnam. One of our men has dubbed his letters the "Henson Manuscripts". The following is but a segment of one of his letters. We'll be continuing his saga in a future issue. His story will bring back some old memories for those of you who have climbed the hills of I Corps.

Of the 327 days I spent in Vietnam, 248 of those days, I was a demo-man. This made it hard to remember who was old and who was new. I can't recall ever being at LZ Baldy when the 1st Platoon would get new "FNG's". But I sure remember scaring many of them when returning from a demo mission. When a Huey touched down in the company area, a crowd would gather as if they thought maybe Bob Hope found them, or maybe it's just the Donut-Dollies and one will get her skirt blown over her head. They'd be shocked when they saw mounds of mud moving in their direction. Going in those VC and NVA tunnels was dirty business. They'd have that look on their faces like they been hit by a 2X4. Us demo-men would wonder if we perhaps stunk too bad. As we headed for the hootch, you could tell who the 1st Platoon FNG's were. The shocked looks on their faces had been replaced with fear. We'd have to tell them that we were in their platoon but had been gone for a few weeks on a mission with the infantry. We used to go so far out, the Army showed up at my mother's house in July 69 and told her I was KIA. One mission I remember, I and Sgt Gary Sheppard were mountain climbing with a recon unit. Of all the gear I had to take, I also had to take a mine detector, IN THE CASE YET! I sure intended to lose that thing. Picture climbing a mountain one handed and hang onto the mine detector with the other. I felt like one Dinky-Dau GI. Charlie seeing me probably thought I was one well equipped GI, as I had brought along my own Samsonite luggage.

COMING SOON...1ST PLATOON, ROADSWEPT POINTMAN....
A HENSON MANUSCRIPT

I need your help in writing an accurate manuscript concerning the evacuation of Kham Duc Special Forces Camp. I am a retired Army aviator. In 1967-68 and again in 1970 I served as an aviator of O-1 Bird Dog recon aircraft in support of the Americal Division. During my first tour (220 Avn Co) I was based for nine months at Chu Lai and Quang Ngai, and flew many missions to and around Kham Duc. The camp fell on 12 May 1968 when I was state-side. My second tour was at Chu Lai where I flew many missions (21st Avn Co) over Kham Duc which at that time was abandoned.

I write short history articles on the Civil War and Vietnam for magazine publication. I recently wrote an article for VIETNAM COMBAT on the May 10, 1968 "Fall of Ngok Tavak", KD's forward operating base. My editor wants me to combine my Ngok Tavak account to the fall of KD for a book project.

The following Americal units were involved at Kham Duc. 1/46th Infantry, 2/1 Infantry, and 3/82 Artillery. I need eye witness accounts of the KD action. Any veteran with information is encouraged to contact me.

Hardy Z. Bogue

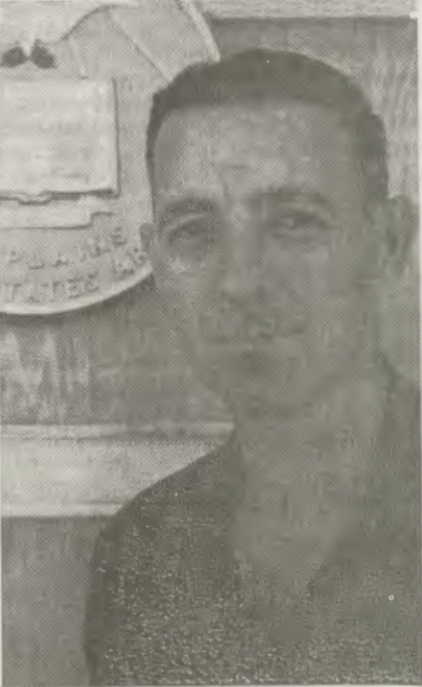
Columbia, SC 29209

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

TROOPERS MOURN THE PADRE WHO CARED

This is a story about a hero, a man who died in the service of his country after winning the Silver Star and three Purple Hearts in less than a year in Vietnam. He was credited with no enemy kills. In fact never once did he lift a weapon against another man. He was Chaplain (Major) Don Bartley. Along with five other men, the padre died in the lethal blast of an enemy mine on a quiet afternoon seven miles outside of Danang when nobody expected trouble. Chaplain Bartley was short with less than a month to go in Nam. Because of the harrowing pace he set for himself in the Americal Division during the early months of his tour and because of three wounds, he had been re-assigned to MACV HQ for his last 50 days. He was taking part in a TV documentary on chaplains in Vietnam when he was killed. Bartley, a Presbyterian minister, didn't become a hero by dying. He was a living hero, but as is often the case, he is only fully appreciated now that he is gone. In the security of a fortified firebase or in the peril of a firefight, he inspired men who wanted his services. The troopers who knew him said it best.



"He was a straight guy. A lot of people will hesitate to pour out their problems to a stranger, but he managed to understand and remember the problems of everyone he counseled. He gave the distinct impression that he really cared about your welfare," remembered SP/4 Ted Simmons, 2/21st Inf, of the 196th LIB. Said Major Russel Williams, Bartley's CO for most of his tour, "He knew everyone at the fire bases on a personal basis. This was most important to him." The words of others reflect the actions of the man and Bartley's actions were gallant indeed. Three times he was wounded yet he was able to sustain his fellow soldiers in the heat of battle. He won the Silver Star in March when he was cited for his impromptu role as a medic as well as a chaplain. He erected four chapels, including one at LZ Baldy just in time for XMAS 68'. The 30' by 60' structure was the pride of the Virginia native.

Editors note: Thanks to Larry Hines for this article which had appeared in the OVERSEAS WEEKLY 26 July 1969.

FOREVER AGO

A FEW DAYS, FOREVER AGO, REFLECTED A PLACE,
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GO,
THERE'D COME A "KNOCK" FROM 'UNCLE SAM',
TORE MY DREAMS WITH A TELEGRAM,
GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, "HERE I AM",
YOU'VE "WON" A TRIP TO VIETNAM.

NEWLY WED, PROMISES JUST MADE,
BRAND NEW JOB IN THE DEFENSE TRADE,
FROM MY ROCK BAND I HAD AN INTERLUDE,
FORMED MYSELF AN "ATTITUDE."

BASIC TRAINING, WHAT A BITCH,
'FTA' THIS SOLDIER HITCH,
SENT ME OFF TO RADIO SCHOOL,
GONNA FIX'EM, BE REAL COOL,

RANK AND FILE HAD THEIR FUN,
SENT ME INSTEAD AS A 'HIRED GUN'.
DIDN'T THINK ANY WOULD SURVIVE,
I WAS PRAY'IN JUST TO STAY ALIVE,
IN BOONIE-JUNGLES ON OUR OWN,
DOIN' OUR 'NUMBER,
IN A "TWILIGHT ZONE."

JUST A PLACE I VISIT,
SOME HAZE IN A DREAM,
YET SO REAL AT TIMES, IT DOES SEEM,
LIKE SOME 'LOVE' AFFAIR NEVER RESOLVED,
AN ENDLESS PUZZLE, NEVER SOLVED,
SO MANY ?'S, WILL WE EVER REALLY KNOW,
'BOUT THOSE CRAZY TIMES,
FOREVER AGO.

J. "DUSTER" HEATH
'NAM '67 - '68

Vietnam Editor;

I just received the newsletter and was saddened to hear that Col Waldie, CO of the 198th LIB, had died. I was in the 198th from it'd beginning at Fort Hood and I was around him quite a bit in Nam as I was in HQ Company. I'm sorry that I wasn't able to make any of the Americal functions last year except for the reunion I attended in Pittsburgh in July of 1990 with some close friends that were also in HQ Co. In October I was operated on for cancer, and in Nov and Dec I had to take radiation treatments which really kept my activities to a minimum. Things seem to be alright now, except I can't seem to get the iron in my blood built up to an acceptable level. I'm running four miles at least five times a week but it's more of an effort now than it used to be...could it be old age? I'm always glad to hear from anyone that was in HHC of the 198th from July 67 until August 68. I'm especially interested in locating Mike Lockman who is from somewhere in California, and Ron Hayhue from somewhere near St. Louis, Mo. If anyone could help, I'd really appreciate it. Ron, you did an outstanding job as National Commander. Congratulations on a job well done!

Home [redacted] Steve Monroe
Work [redacted] Cameron, WV 26033

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAL DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96374

GENERAL ORDERS 1 June 1970
NUMBER 5319

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

BRATTEN, THOMAS E. JR. CAPTAIN, FIELD ARTILLERY HQ and HQ Service Battery, 1st. Bn. 14th. Arty. Americal Division Artillery APO 96374
Awarded: Silver Star
Date of service: 28 May 1970
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Bratten distinguished himself by intrepid actions on 28 May 1970 while serving as an Artillery Liaison Officer attached to the 1/6th. Infantry. On that date, a company of the battalion was conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Lac Son when a well concealed enemy mine was detonated, causing several severe casualties. Upon learning of the accident, Captain Bratten immediately directed his helicopter to the stricken element's position. Fully aware of the possibility of additional enemy activity, he unhesitatingly entered the heavily mined area in order to administer first aid to his fallen comrades. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Captain Bratten maneuvered through the enemy mine field aiding the wounded personnel despite the fact that several more explosive devices had detonated. Ignoring the danger involved, he continued to assist his comrades and offer encouragement until he was severely wounded as a mine exploded near his position. Through his timely and courageous actions, Captain Bratten was instrumental in saving the lives of several fellow soldiers and served as an inspiration to his entire unit. His personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

James M. Eubanks A.G.Hume
LTC, AGC Colonel, GS
Adjutant General Chief of Staff

Editors note: In the May-June issue of the newsletter, page 5, we printed a story about then LTC Norman Schwarzkopf winning a Silver Star while aiding a unit stuck in a mine field. Schwarzkopf's Artillery Liaison Officer also earned a Silver Star that day as this citation shows. Regrettably, the newsletter incorrectly identified that officer. We regret our mistake and offer an apology to Captain Bratten, a valued member of our association.

BATTERY A 6/11 ARTILLERY

Dale Johnson who served in Btry. A 6/11 Arty in 1970-1971, is looking for a former member of Btry A who might remember him. He is having trouble with the Veterans Administration over his disability claim. If any member remembers Dale please contact him:

Dale B. Johnson
[redacted]
West Covina, CA 91790

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

Vietnam Editor;

Thanks for printing my last letter regarding Don Mills. I got a note from him and his wife last week thanking me. They received several cards. Don's wife Debbie said they really help during the hard times. Thank you for writing him and I know Jim Sobery was quick to respond too. As for Steve Liberatore, he was my platoon sgt in Aug 69' with "dust off delta" 4/3. To make a long story short, we were airlifted to the wrong hill, got ambushed and Steve took a M79 HE round to the head. It hadn't traveled far enough to arm itself. He had a M79 himself which malfunctioned so some good old hand to hand resulted. Needless to say, Steve won. That was Aug 26 1969 and Steve left the company to run the EM Club at Duc Pho following his recovery. Steve now runs a nite club in Cincy and also is a concert promoter.

I am on the volunteer fire department and ambulance service here in Dike, Iowa. I was recently chosen to be a member of area 7 critical incident stress debriefing team headquartered at Waterloo. Should any department in our AO suffer a line of duty death or traumatic event, our team meets with those involved and debriefs them. In other words, as our motto states, "our team keeps your team on the job." A contributing factor to me being selected was my background as an RTO in Vietnam and the ability to keep cool under pressure. People have finally realized that emergency workers are not invincible and that they sometimes need help too. Take care and give em hell!

Linn Hoopes



JACK KANADY D/4/3 11 LIB LINN HOOPES

Members;

We got word here at the ADVA that thanks to the newsletter, two former members of D Co 4/3 were able to locate each other after twenty or so years. Linn Hoopes and his old comrade, Jack Kanady, met in Iowa for a weekend of videotaping each others slides and photos, swapping old stories and trying to drink all the beer in town. The guys from 4/3 are trying to put together a video of all the pictures they can get related to that units service. A narration is being included. Any other troops from that outfit are encouraged to contact Linn Hoopes. They're currently having a slow but good success rate. Hoopes address below.

Linn Hoopes
[redacted]
DIKE, IA 50624

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Vietnam Editor;

My name is Greg Linscott. I served as a combat infantryman in D Co 1/52 198th LIB from Jan 68 of Jan 69. Needless to say the Persian Gulf War stirred up a lot of old memories. In May of this year I decided to see if I could get in contact with some old buddies. Turned out to be a pretty frustrating attempt, but got lucky on a couple of guys and have started to build up a slow but steady dialog with them. I have discovered that quite a few of the guys don't want to communicate. I've been able to talk to wives and family members who initially seemed enthusiastic that an old war buddy had called, but the vets themselves do not want to respond. Maybe all the negative press in the 70's and 80's have left deep scars that haven't healed. At any rate I'm sure you've heard all this before, but I think I'm a normally adjusted fellow and if my emotions are any key to what other vets are thinking about right now I think that there must be thousands of men and women who served in the Americal who would love to join. 23 years of silence about a war that we payed dearly for and suffered incredible conditions, it's about time that those people had the opportunity to at least talk to each other. My family, friends, co-workers don't have a clue as to what we experienced in Vietnam and the humiliation that followed. Not having a group of people to relate to for the past 23 years has been difficult. An old high school friend of mine who had served in Vietnam tried to join the VFW in 1969, but was told that he didn't qualify because it was a guerrilla action, so I just came to the conclusion way back then that you don't make a lot of friends by losing wars and scratched it up as one of those little bumps on life's road. From there it just went down hill, the media just tore us up for the next two decades. The few guys that I've been able to get ahold of have had no contact with any veterans group since they returned from Vietnam. I've reached the conclusion that veterans groups offer the only source for information and help in trying to locate old buddies. The Americal Newsletter that I received after responding to an ad in VIETNAM MAGAZINE gives the Vietnam vets the forum they need to discuss a common experience. I had always felt that joining the local VFW I would be thrown in with a bunch of people from other wars, different branches of service or whatever. So when I saw an association that focused just on the Americal that made the difference. Is there a group that deals just with the 198th LIB? I know there is a rather large contingent of Americal vets in the northwest. Is there a national registry I could obtain? Is there a NW chapter forming? I feel a strong need to contact the guys I served with, because they deserve to be remembered and recognized for their efforts. Maybe America has forgotten us but we should never forget each other. I know I will never forget and am going to make every effort to track down as many guys as I can. If you can direct me to any literature written about our unit in Nam, I would appreciate it. Seems all I've heard about the Americal Division since I came home was the My Lai incident. Everything in the bookstores is written by marines, seals, or commando's. I would like to get my hands on some real simple information. I was particularly touched by a letter in the newsletter by John Wills (May-June issue). He served in my battalion at about the same time as I did. If anyone has back issues, I'd like to see them. I'll be in touch.

Greg Linscott
[redacted]
Seattle, WA 98108

176 AVIATION COMPANY ASSAULT HELICOPTERS

Brig. Gen. Marvin E. Mitchiner Jr., assistant chief of staff for plans and policy, Allied Forces Southern Europe, Italy, will become deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, S.C.

During the Vietnam War, Mitchiner served as a section leader and then fixed-wing aviator with the 182 Aviation Company 17th Aviation Group. Later he served as company commander with Headquarters Company, 16th Aviation Group (Combat) AMERICAL DIVISION, then as operations officer with the 176th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) AMERICAL DIVISION. Recently he served as director of Army Safety and commander U.S. Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, AL.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with "V" Device, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and Master Parachutist Badge.

Ed note: Thanks to Mark Durley for sending this in to the Newsletter. (How come someone hasn't signed the General up in the ADVA?)

WORLD'S LARGEST VIET-NAM

Vietnam Editor;

Just a few lines to let you know how happy I am to be a new member of the ADVA. I received my first newsletter with Gen Schwarzkopf on the cover and it brought back fond memories of my 44 months with the 1/6th, 33 of those months being in Vietnam. I also saw in my first edition of the newsletter, the name of my Company Commander, Jan Milles, as a new member. Ironically we joined the ADVA at the same time. We were both assigned to D Company.

On page 6 of the May-June issue, my request for photos of anyone who served in Vietnam so they could contribute to the largest Vietnam Veterans Album. The initial request was for black and white photos but I have since made a change for photos of any color. Also if any veteran does not have a photo from Vietnam I will accept any photo as long as it has a name, unit, location and date the person served.

I was saddened to learn about the loss of Col. Waldie. I served in his command at Fort Bliss and later in Vietnam. My condolences go out to the family. I have a couple of photos of him which I will put into the album.

In closing, I would appreciate any information you can send me about Jan Milles and those that served in our battalion.

TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR PHOTO
SEND TO:

Eddie (Mop) Andrews Howard W. Walker
[redacted] [redacted]
Aurora, CO 80013 OR Aurora, CO 80011

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND A BRIEF
DESCRIPTION ON THE BACK OF YOUR PHOTO
(PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED)

PHOTO ALBUM

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Vietnam Editor;

Just a note to express my thanks to you for your year as Commander of the ADVA. It was very generous of you to turn over your recognition award to the Guadalcanal memorial fund. The Hyannis reunion was very enjoyable for me. I had never been to that area before so the sight-seeing was a welcome change from the mid-west. It was nice to be able to spend some time with my brother as well as to become better acquainted with other Vietnam vets. I intend to be at the 196th LIB Association reunion here in Chicago next week. Enclosed are a couple of photos of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in downtown Hyannis. Some of the masonry work was done by Michael Quinlan of nearby Marston Mills. He was at my table at the banquet and we had a nice conversation. Hope all is well with you and you're enjoying the summer.

Gary Noller 196th LIB



E/5 LRP 6/11 ARTY COMPANY G RANGERS

TO: The movers-and-shakers in the Americal Division Veterans Association.

FROM: GARY (BUFFALO) GENTRY
Rt 9 Box 248
Lubbock, Texas 79423
Home [redacted]
Work [redacted]

Dear folks;

I served with the 6/11 Artillery from Oct '68-Dec '68 and with E/52 (LRP) and G/75 Rangers from Jan '69-Sep '69.

I just returned from Washington DC where the Company G (Rangers) 75th Infantry Association held it's second Reunion on July 5 thru 7. We had our first Reunion in Sacramento, California in August of 1990.

At the Reunion in D.C. I was told about the Americal Division Association. The majority of us did not know that y'all existed. Now we would like to join your organization.

I was wondering if y'all could write a letter telling about your association. We would like to print it in our next newsletter which will be printed on September 23, 1991. We have printed three newsletters so far. I am sending y'all copies of the last two. Can one of y'all send me some copies of your newsletter?

As of last August we had found only 50 of our exes. As of this week we have found over 400. We suspect that there are over 700 men who served in E/51 - G/75 from Dec '67 - Sep '71. Hopefully y'all can help us find some of our exes.

I am the 'official historian' for our bunch. I do light doses of historical research in my spare time. If y'all should run across any historical type material that pertains to the E/51 - G/75 I would appreciate a copy. so far I have found the names of 32 of our people who died in Vietnam. Hopefully that list is complete.

I am anxiously await your membership application.

Your Ranger in God's Texas panhandle --

BUFFALO

Ed note: Nice to hear from y'all Buffalo. We wish you well with your research and hope that this article turns up some more members for you. The copies of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTERS are on the way.

June 11, 1991

THE HEALING BEGINS!

All the talk about "post traumatic syndrome" from the Vietnam war has impaled veterans of that war flat against the wall, by placing all of us in the same category by a public that has no idea of the true meaning of the term.

In all wars there are casualties other than by shooting or combat related wounds. A mental bullet is just as impartial as a real steel jacket bullet. There is nothing nice in the fact that soldiers must kill or be killed, and to kill another human being there is no "polite" way to do it.

Young men who went to war in Vietnam had social problems facing them their fathers and grandfathers did not. Patriotism and love of country, coupled with a "get even" attitude for Pearl Harbor drove fathers and grandfathers to don uniforms, even in a draft of involuntary service. Our boys in Vietnam had grown up in a society that was protected by a false sense no more wars were in sight after Korea. America was totally unprepared for Vietnam. France tried to protect it's interest in Vietnam and it wound up with 8000 killed and 7000 wounded and all of its surviving defenders at Dien Bien Phu captured by the VC.

In 1958, America was cast into that conflict by sending in troops to be "Advisors" to the South Vietnamese Army. The war slowly built up to the point in 1963 that President Kennedy increased our role there and our politics were all wrong.... People in America were furious we we advocating protection of a corrupt regime in the South, and President Johnson overreacted in 1964 when the fabricated events in the Tonkin Gulf escalated the war full tilt, and University Students reacted in protests, and radical groups were formed to fight the military involvement in the war. In this type of environment, young men were drafted into the military and sent to Vietnam to fight the politicians war in which the military faced a "no win" position. Hatred was the weapons of the university students and new wave generation of children known as "hippies", "pot heads", etc., and were directed against the U.S. forces fighting the war in Vietnam.

Vietnam became a spoiling ground of America's youth, as the carnage of battle induced them to become drug addicted, and substance abusers of anything that would give them a "high" to forget the carnage around them.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

THE HEALING BEGINS (Continues)

Faced with increasing demands of the politicians to have battlefield victories, the generals resorted to giving the politicians "what they wanted" by the infamous body counts and scorched earth policy enacted in 1968 when Tet hit us between the eyes by a determined enemy to flush us out of Vietnam like they did the French in 1954.

Men of conscience who saw what was going on were quickly silenced by being made to bare the blunt of the battle, or shuffled off to jobs of unimportance and humiliation.

Small wonder then, our boys who returned from that war were bitter, disillusioned, and upset that they were prevented from achieving a battlefield victory over the VC, a really beatable enemy!

Celebrities and famous persons like Jane Fonda back at home worked hard to destroy the image we were trying to project, by crossing over to the enemies side and making sympathetic appeals in their favor to embarrass the U.S. government and President Nixon who by now had inherited the war to bring it to a close.

The mental bullets of drugs, alcohol, carnage on the battlefields, started affecting our troops, and they were bringing back to America their guilt and frustrated feelings. On arrival back home, they were met by university students and a public who spat upon them, and renounced them for their roles in the shameless war of Vietnam and the policies of a now corrupt presidential administration who had no conscience and actively pursued destruction of anyone who spoke out against the policies in effect to prosecute the war.

Those of us who were real professionals were able to cope with the problems of a senseless war, and were able to come back home to our loved ones, happy to have been able to survive and put back together our lives, and pick up the pieces of our careers, wasted in Vietnam.

It wasn't as easy for the young warriors who were thrown into that conflict by our government, and forced to fight a war they felt was immoral and criminal in nature. They were left with mental bullets in their heads and in their hearts that even today haunt them and cause suffering of untold 'flash backs' and effects of the drugs they used to help them forget that awful war.

Medics can call it what ever they want. Each of us have to fight and whip the devils that sit on our backs and mock us for our involvement in that war.

The recent war in the Gulf lead by a true Hero of our times, has been more medicine to heal those mental bullets that affect the Vietnam veterans, and we can thank General Norman Schwarzkopf our Desert Storm Commander, and his troops for achieving a swift victory for us, and we can thank General Colin Powell the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs for assisting Schwarzkopf achieve his victory to take those devils off our backs. American troops can fight, can win, and can be victorious. Desert Shield proved that. God Bless America, and God Bless Vietnam Vets!

David L. Recob
David L. Recob
Secretary CMWC ADVA

CORRECTION CORRECTION CORRECTION CORRECTION

1970 FIREBASE MARY ANN 1971

On Page 11 of the July - August issue of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER there was a letter requesting information on the Americal Commander. His son request information on his father regarding an incident that took place on FIREBASE MARY ANN.

THE CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER IS [REDACTED]
or write to:
Timothy B. Baldwin
[REDACTED]
Geneva, IL 60134

TO VIETNAM VETERANS

A TARGET OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS
A CASUALTY OF WAR
THE IRONY OF THE TRAGEDY
MUST HAVE MADE YOU ASK, "WHAT FOR?"
YOU TRIED TO GO ON LIVING
THOUGH REJECTED AND CONFUSED
AND THEN WITHDREW WITHIN YOURSELF
DEJECTED AND ABUSED
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR THANKS
WITHIN YOUR RANKS
FOR THE WOUNDS STILL LEFT
TO HEAL
THOSE DEEPEST WOUNDS
NOT BY VIET CONG
BUT BY YOUR COUNTRYMEN
WHO TREATED YOU WRONG
YOU WERE SO BRAVE
YOU DID NOT CAVE
AGAINST THE
ENEMY
BUT YOUR HEART WAS BROKEN
BY WORDS UNSPOKEN
AND GROSS
INSENSITIVITY
YOUR FLASHBACKS AND YOUR NIGHTMARES
GOD ALONE CAN SHARE WITH YOU
HE ALONE CAN BRING YOU OUT
HE KNOWS WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH
JESUS PRAYED, "FATHER FORGIVE THEM,
FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."
AND NOW TODAY IT'S YOUR TURN
THE SAME IS TRUE FOR YOU
HE CAME TO HEAL YOUR BROKE HEART
AND HELP YOU SMILE AGAI
AND HELP YOU KNOW LIFE'S STILL WO ITHILE
AND TO LOVE AWAY YOUR PAIN
YOU ARE A VICTOR WHEN YOU SURREND: R
YOUR HEART TO HIS LOVING CARE
LEAVE THIS BATTLE NOW FAR BEHIND ! DU
THROUGH HIS STRENGTH, WHO'S ALWAYS
LET GOD HEAL YOUR MEMORIES
SO YOU CAN CARRY ON
WE'RE ENTERING A BRAND NEW DAY
AND GREETING A BRAND NEW DAWN
AT EASE, AT EASE, MEN REST ASSURED
AS I HASTEN NOW TO MENTION
WE ARE A GRATEFUL NATION
AND NOW WE STAND AT ATTENTION!
YOU MUST FORGIVE, SO YOU CAN LIVE
AND GREET EACH DAY ANEW
WE'RE SO SORRY THAT WE HURT YOU
AND FOR WHAT WE PUT YOU THROUGH
YOU DID YOUR BEST, YOU STOOD THE TEST
AND YOU CAN STILL STAND TALL
LIFT UP YOUR HEAD AND LOOK AHEAD
AND ANSWER THIS NEW CALL!

Sent in by Bob KASTINGS 26 INFANTRY

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

23 INFANTRY DIVISION
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATIONS

1 Sep 67 - 31 Oct 68 DAGO 37, 70
1 Nov 68 - 30 Jun 70 DAGO 51, 71

This is an update of the Vietnam War. It now shows that the 23 Infantry Division being awarded two (2) Unit Merit Citations that previously were not known. For further information contact:
John L. Beier
RR 1
Dwight, IL 60420



AMERICAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1991

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

CONCANNON'S VILLAGE

60 LENOX STREET, NORWOOD, MASS.

TICKETS \$20:00 per PERSON

BAKED HALF CHICKEN DINNER

CASH BAR 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

CUT OFF DATE FOR TICKETS DECEMBER 1, 1991

LIVE MUSIC - LOU COLUMBO'S BAND

No tickets will be mailed. The committee will
check you at entrance.

Make checks payable to Americal, and mail to.

Bernard Chase

[REDACTED]

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Don't forget to bring a cash gift so we can make
Christmas a little better for our Veterans in the Veteran's Hospitals.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

☆ GUADALCANAL ☆
SOLOMON ISLANDS
WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL

Arnold Meltzer
Edward Smith
Capt. William J. Blanchard
Bruce W. Buehrig
Robert Zorn
Walter S. Dunn
William Bertelli
Michael Marcus
Akio Tani
Louise McGoldrick
Alfred D. Zaire
Albert C Mathias (U.S. Air Corp)

IN MEMORY OF

Departed members of H Company 182 Infantry
Thomas C. Flaherty

CONVALESCING

Francis L. Guerriero Francis J. Buckley
Quincy, MA 02171 Hingham, MA 02043

Lincoln E. Currier
Bedford, MA 01730

If you know of a member that is under the weather
please notify the National Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 1 BATTALION 182 INFANTRY

During world War II I served in the above unit on
Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte, Samar, Cebu and Japan.

So far, 48 years later I have had no contact with
the men I served with. I would appreciate hearing
from any of my old buddies--
Henry E. Rohwer
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

9 STATION HOSPITAL

My sister and I enjoyed the Convention in Hyannis
very much.

It is only those people who have charge of such
things that can appreciate the work it takes to
make a Convention a success and I certainly feel
that the 50th was just that.

Enclosed is a picture of our Hospital in the
Dumbea Valley on New Caledonia. We took care of
sick Japanese soldiers here as well as Americans.

Dorise Lucas

MEDICS 182 INFANTRY REGIMENT MEDICS

DID YOU KNOW--The Medics in Europe were issued a
"Medics Geneva Convention Red Cross Card"?

I was a Medic with B Company 182 Infantry but I
was never issued such a card because the Japs did
not sign the Geneva Convention agreement.

I was issued a Red Cross arm band and a rifle. I
was told by the Regimental Surgeon that if he
caught me wearing the arm band he would take my
rifle away from me and shoot me with it.

Looking forward to the Eastern Region at Valley
Forge, PA in September.

Was nice seeing you all at Cape Cod.

William "Doc" McCormick

B BATTERY 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

The May-June Newsletter contains a cover picture of
General Schwarzkopf and an accompanying story of
his tour of duty with the Americal.

Up to now, unlike General Powell, I have never seen
the "Southern Cross" worn by Stormin' Norman.
Well, here it is finally. The enclosed picture is
from the Philadelphia Inquirer (you guys keep
printing it the Enquirer) of July 5, 1991. It
shows the General wearing the Americal Division
patch.

A word about the Cape Cod reunion. It was the
the first time that my wife and I had attended and
we both thought that it was a wonderful
experience. Imagine, seeing guys I had not seen
for almost 47 years! And even more remarkable,
everybody saying to each other "You haven't
changed a bit"!

The accommodations and program of events were
first class and kept everybody happily and busily
occupied. I kept telling my friends--"there I was
on Cape Cod for 4 days and not once did I see the
ocean".

Really, a fantastic time. We fully expect to be
in San Antonio for the 1992 reunion.
Sincerely,
Jack Warkow

Ed note: Thanks for the picture and story. The
picture would not reproduce well but maybe you
could get a glossy from the "Inquirer". I am
responsible for spelling Inquirer wrong but all I
ever see is Enquirer on the check-out stands.

I will pass your praise for the convention along
to Bernie Chase--he was the man responsible. Jim

NEW CALEDONIA MUSEUM

Enclosed is a contribution for the museum in New
Caledonia.

Sorry I did not make the reunion but I goofed.
I'll make one yet.

James H. Doherty

182 INFANTRY ANGEL GARCIA 182 INFANTRY

San Diego Union August 29, 1991

Eligio Angel Garcia, 66, a decorated World
War II veteran who was a leader in Hispanic
and service organizations, died of cancer
Sunday in the Veterans Administration Medical
Center.

Mr. Garcia was born in Pacific Beach, but
spent most of his life in National City. He
joined the U.S. Army shortly before
graduating from Sweetwater High School, but
passed an examination and received his
graduation certificate.

During the war he served as a Sergeant in A
Company, 182 Infantry Regiment, Americal
Division. He saw action in the South Pacific
and received the Purple Heart after he was
wounded. He also was awarded the Combat
Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star.

He was a life member and past commander of
the Don Diego VFW Post 7420 and was past
commander of Club America, an organization
of veterans of foreign wars, all of whom are
of Mexican ancestry.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge 283, a
member of the American Legion Post 255, a mem-
ber and past chaplain of the Fraternal Order
of Eagles, Aerie 2712, all of National City.

Mr. Garcia was also a life member of the
Americal Division Veterans Association. Last
May he attended the reunion of this, his old
World War II unit, in Hyannis, MA.

Survivors include a son Gilberto of National
City, and a daughter, Gloria Zaragosa of San
Diego, and four grandchildren.

SERVICE BATTERY 221 F.A. THOMAS C. FLAHERTY

Enclosed is a donation for the Guadalcanal
Memorial Fund in honor of, and in memory of,
my husband Thomas C. Flaherty.

How I wish that he could have been spared for
a few more months to learn of their Memorial
that is being planned for at this time. Also
I wish that he could have been with us to
join in the Fifty Year festivities that
occurred this year. He had looked forward to
the Reunion and had talked about attending
it. He was so proud of the Americal division
and considered it to be a special privilege
to have been one of its members.

Sincerely,
Bernice Flaherty

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

HAVE YOU CONTACTED THAT BUDDY YET?
DO IT NOW!
TOMMORROW MAY BE TO LATE

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DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

182 INFANTRY REGIMENT 182 INFANTRY REGIMENT

WILLIAM NUSSBAUM

Information is wanted on the above named man. He
was killed on Hill 260 on Bougainville. If you can
help please write to;

Theodore M. Blatter
Brooklyn, NY 11234

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

C BATTERY 221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

50th Anniversary Reunion
Hyannis, MA June 1991

Standing left to right - John Ford, Jack Laffey, John Nightingale, Joe Nolan, W. Dunn, Bob Thornton, Jed Manning.

Seated - Gordon Fletcher, Jimmy Burns, Joe D'Ambrosio, Harold Wilkinson, Otis Mailot, Lenny Oliver, Jack Smith. (Not in Photo-Barney Chase)

182 INFANTRY 182 INFANTRY 182 INFANTRY

The enclosed clipping will tell its own story. I found it in the paper this morning. But there is a connection with me. (The clipping is the obituary for Angel Garcia and is printed in the opposite column on this page).

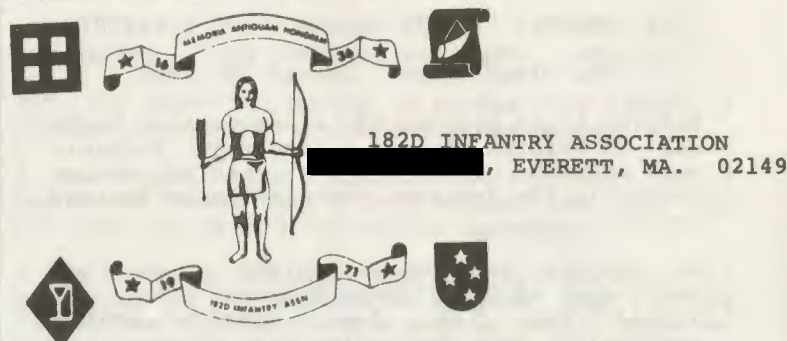
At Hyannis someone in the Hospitality Room commented on my San Diego T-Shirt and the distance I had come to attend the reunion. A big husky fellow spoke up and said that he had come from National City, about 20 miles south of my home. He said his name was 'Angel', and he, too, was a retired postal worker and during our conversation I learned that he was also a 182 Infantry veteran. I spoke to some postal service people, upon my return home, but couldn't find any one who knew him, since he was a clerk, not a carrier.

After reading the clipping, I tried to locate his son or his daughter in the phone book, but without success. I called the funeral home and got the son's number. The mourners were gathered at his house. I identified myself and offered my condolences. Then I told Gilberto about meeting his dad at the reunion. He said that in May his father did not know that he had cancer. He also told me that his father belonged to quite a few military organizations. I asked his permission to notify the ADVA and he said Okay and thanked me.

I do not know if Angel belonged to the 182 Infantry Association so would you please pass the information along to Joe Chin.

It is hard to lose another of our original group but the years creep up, and creep up, and then they catch a person often unawares. Thank you for taking this sad duty from me, I remain,

Yours in sorrow,
Sam Goldstein



Greetings from the 182d Infantry Association. Our writers have been on summer sabbatical over the past few editions of the Americal Newsletter. We are back and ready to editorialize again. Thanks for your patience.

First off, we salute those members of our Association who now hold positions with the ADVA. Their Executive Council (in part) has PNC Jim Buckle as Chairman and PNC Bob Thornton as members. William K. Maddox, Commander of the South Mid-West Chapter is a member, Edwin A. Heartquist, Commander of the South East Chapter is a member, and Joseph Chin, the National Finance Officer is also a member of the 182 Association.

Our congratulations to Jim Buckle on his outstanding performance as Editor-in-Chief of the ADVA Newsletter. Jim has been a great help to our Association in matters associated with the ADVA.

We regret to announce the "promotion to glory" of our Past Commander, Louis E. Falabella on July 20 1991. Lou was our Commander from October 1, 1973 until September 30, 1975. May he rest in peace!

Best wishes to Past Commander Herbert E. Watson, our Chaplain, on his recent retirement from regular employment. Have a long and happy retirement, Herb!

Attention all former members of the 182 Infantry. Over 300 of you are members of the ADVA-as well you should be-but only 30 of you folks hold membership in the 182d Infantry Association. If not yet a member with us, drop a note or a post card to Commander, 182 Infantry Association, P.O. Box 278, Everett, MA 02149. By return mail I will see that you get information on our Association plus how you can join our Association and your former compatriots. I'll be watching the mail for your request.

Charles L. Doyle Commander
Revere, MA 02151

UNITED STATES ARMY CORP

I have recently been made aware of your project to construct a Guadalcanal Memorial.

Although I am not a member of your organization, I was there with the Air Corp and would like to contribute to the cause.

Albert C. Mathias

Thank you very much Al. I believe you are eligible to join our organization if you so desire. Would like to know the dates of your service on Guadalcanal and your unit.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

AMERICAL (23) DIVISION

Historical Section

The History Section of ADVA wants YOU!

Military histories are written about units. From time to time, the exploits of individuals are included to give depth to the narrative. BUT units are composed of many individuals with many different experiences. Each person has his own story and we want it.

My first day in combat was awesomely awful. What was your experience?

Did you have happen an event so unbelievable that, even today, you find it difficult to believe?

In the heat of operations, did something happen which was out-of-place, or funny, that you remember it to this day?

Etc., etc., etc..

You would be surprised how easily events and conversations are recalled. Take a sheet of paper and ---

Write (or print): Your name, date of birth; unit in Americal to which you were assigned; term of service with that unit; highest rank in Americal; branch of service; awards and citations; campaigns.

THEN

Tell us your story. Write it, type it, record it. We will keep a file set up in alphabetical order by period of service (ie. WW II, Canal Zone or, Vietnam).

FINALLY: Mail it to: W. Mark Durley
ADVA History Section
Santa Maria, CA 93454

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I respectfully request your assistance in trying to research a former World War II member of the Americal Division.

The individual that I am seeking information is, Pvt. MILFORD G. DALY. Infantry--wounded 28 Feb 45 in the battle for Leyte.

The information I am seeking is verification that Pvt. DALY was a member of Division and what Company and Regiment. Also the dates assigned to them. Please send info to:

Herman Wiesensee
Struthers, OH 44471-1902

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTER GIVE IT TO A V. A. HOSPITAL

WHEN YOU SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER. MANY TIMES A QUESTION WILL COME UP AND A QUICK PHONE CALL WILL SOLVE A PROBLEM. THANKS YOUR EDITORS

221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

As many of you know I am now a new Oregonian, having recently moved here from California. While getting acquainted with the new area, I was driving in the Deschutes National Park, near the LaPine and Sun River Resort, and imagine my surprise when I came across the General Patch bridge. I talked to the representative of the USDA Forest Service to get background information and they think General "Sandy" Patch commanded a Base near by and that he and General Patton trained here together. I am now following up with a local historical society to see what they have on it. By the next issue I may have more of a story to write about our General that formed the Americal and commanded us through Guadalcanal. Doubt if any of us knew there was a bridge named after him.

Lloyd Morrell



COMPANY G 101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

I thought that the enclosed article relevant to the Americal Division Veterans Association's 50th Anniversary Celebration of June 6 to 9, 1991, in Hyannis, MA, would be of some interest to you. A contact with Mr. Michael Freeman resulted in the condensed expression of "PRIDE" that Reggie Marchand and I have for the AMERICAL. --- A 'pride' developed over the War Years, and nurtured to this very day. It is a "lasting pride".

I have also enclosed a photo to prove that the "Americal Logo" is worn 'high, wide and clear' for everyone to recognize.

Rheo L. Carpenter



THE STORY OF THE 26th SIGNAL COMPANY

GET THE MESSAGE THROUGH

BY
Harry T. Miller

A compendium reminiscent of activities by and within the 26th Signal Company in the South Pacific, Under the Southern Cross and during World War II. Written by its former Commanding Officer from 12 January 1942 until 15 April 1944.

ENCOMIUMS

The personal pride, devotion and dedication; untiring commitment, and professionalism of all the Officers and Enlisted men of the 26th Signal Company throughout World War II was outstanding, assuring, inspiring, and made possible the total and timely achievement of the company's mission.

The wholehearted support and cooperation of all the service units of Task Force 6814; The Americal Division XIV Corps; the Navy; Marines and Air Units, complemented, enhanced and enabled successful operations, despite overwhelming odds and trying times.

It all began on 29 January 1942, when the 26th Signal Company, consisting of 7 Officers and 207 enlisted personnel, entrained at Camp Edwards in Massachusetts at 1145 hours, enroute to Port of Embarkation, Brooklyn, New York. At the port, additional 25 enlisted replacements joined the company and all were checked on board the United States Army Transport BARRY at 2400 hours.

The Barry had been a luxury liner, formerly of the Cuba Mail Line, making the New York to Cuba run. It was a 28,000 ton ship with a top speed of 28 knots per hour, built to accommodate 800 passengers, for a maximum of 13 days.

Aboard now, were 4000 troops and crew members. The troops included the 26th Signal Company; 43rd Engineers; 68th Fighter Squadron, 108th Quartermaster Battalion; 4th General Hospital; 52nd Evacuation Hospital and the 109th Station Hospital, together with 300 nurses.

At 0600 hours on 23 January 1942 the SS Barry left port, and joined in convoy with six other transports: The Argentina (flagship), Cristobal, Santa Elena, Santa Rosa, McAndrews, and Ericsson, together with appropriate escort of destroyers and cruisers. Blimps and aircraft joined in, to provide additional security. This, then was the creation of Task Force 6814, born in confusion, nurtured in hope, dedicated to success and died in glory.

Classes were held daily for all troops aboard ship in the following subjects; Semaphore, Signal Lights and Code Practice. Members of the Radio Section assisted in the operation of all signal systems aboard ship and won considerable praise for efficiency, enthusiasm and dedication from the ship's members.

After a brief stop in Bora Bora for refueling, the Barry steamed back out to sea to rejoin the convoy.

On the morning of 26 February 1942, the convoy sailed into the picturesque Melbourne Harbor. Trains arrived at the docks and the 26th Signal

Company had the good fortune to be transported to a bivouac area in the Royal Park, a zoological and botanical garden just outside Melbourne proper.

Reembarking took place on 6 March 42, with Signal Company boarding the Army Transport Ericsson, which soon after sailing, developed engine trouble and was forced to drop from convoy and return to Melbourne. Repairs were completed and sailing was resumed on 10 March. Five days later, Noumea, the capital city of New Caledonia was safely reached.

Troops were immediately off-loaded and brought by small boats, and flat barges to Grand Quai Docks, assembled and marched to a staging area on Rue de L'anse Vata, on a hill overlooking Noumea Harbor.

Task force headquarters were established in the Hotel du Grande Pacific with the 26th Signal Company establishing a telephone central in a room at the rear of the hotel.

Subsequently a Division Headquarters was contemplated in the vicinity of La Foa, and work was immediately begun installing telephone circuits from La Foa and working toward Tontouta, a distance of 50 miles. An open wire circuit of the French Telephone Company between Noumea and Païta, distance 18 miles, was taken over and work was begun extending this circuit to Tontouta where it was to connect into a switchboard at the airport.

On 11 April the company moved from the staging area to bivouac at La foa, with Division Headquarters being set up in the Hotel Banu. In the meantime, circuits between Noumea-Tontouta-La Foa were completed. A good talking channel was obtained between Noumea-Tontouta, but the talking range of wire, type W-110B, was exceeded and it was decided to make this a telegraph printer channel exclusively.

With subsequent relocation of Division Headquarters to Païta all wire construction between TonTouta-La Foa was suspended, and on 1 May the Signal Company moved to a bivouac in the vicinity of the Païta Railroad Station.

General Order #10, Headquarters United Forces in New Caledonia was published on 27 May 1942, designating the Division be called the Americal Division. A name proposed by PFC David Fonseca of the 26th Signal Company.

The circuit between Tontouta-La Foa was turned over to CT 164 and CT 182 for their use. At this time CT 164 was at St. Vincent in defense of Tontouta Airport and CT 182 was at Bouloupari with CT 132 in the vicinity of Bourail.

A Division Rear Echelon was maintained at Noumea where the majority of the Division Staff remained. The Island Defense plans were now complete and Combat Teams were to remain as now located. This brought about the establishment of a wire communications net as noted on circuit diagram #2.

Projected wire installations involved pole line construction, using two pairs of W50 wire, each pair representing one conductor of the circuit, running from Noumea via Païta, thence to St. Vincent and on to Bouloupari, to La Foa, terminating at a point 10 miles north of Bourail, a total distance of 125 miles.

THE STORY OF THE 26th SIGNAL COMPANY

Additionally, submarine cable was laid between Noumea, 2 miles across the harbor, to Ile Nou, and a 5 pair rubber covered cable was laid from Grand Quai Docks to the U.S.S. Curtis and ultimately to other naval vessels at anchor in Noumea Harbor.

Consistent with the movement of Division Headquarters the 26th Signal Company closed bivouac at Païta and returned to Noumea on 20 June.

On 19 July 1942, 2 Officers and 45 Enlisted men with 600 pigeons arrived for the States and were attached for administration, quarters and rations.

Colonel F. L. Ankenbrandt, Signal Officer on General Harmon's Staff, arrived 28 July 1942 and ordered that a telegraph printer circuit be established between Noumea and the airport at Plaines des Gaiacs, via Tontouta, a distance of approximately 200 miles. This was to be completed and in operation not later than 1 August 1942, since the offensive beginning in the Solomons in August was to be controlled from General Harmon's Headquarters, and planes were to be based and operated out of Plaines des Gaiacs as well as Tontouta.

Because of the limited time available, it was necessary to bargain with the French Telephone Company officials for one of their existing open wire circuits. Monsier Herve, who, as Commissioner of Postes-et-Telegraphs, was reluctant to relinquish this circuit, finally relented and was persuaded to grant us its use.

The French telephone system was wholly unsatisfactory and not desirable for Army Communications. Part of the circuit in question was found to be galvanized iron wire and pretty badly rusted, and part was copper. It was obvious that the French had given us their poorest circuit, however, and at any rate we had an installed wire which would have to be serviced from one end to the other to get it into shape for use for a telegraph printer.

The circuit was on Standard French porcelain insulators, nearly all of which were either completely broken (wire resting on iron pins which held the insulators and so that the circuit was nearly 100% grounded out), or where the insulator was not entirely broken off, it was found to be badly cracked. Under the skirt of nearly every insulator mud wasps had built nests. Due to the high mineral content of the earth in New Caledonia and because of the cracked insulators, additional ground had been added to the circuit. Also, where the galvanized wire had been used, heavy oxidation followed, with rust running down the skirt of the insulator to the metal supporting pin. In wet weather these conditions grounded out the circuit completely.

New insulators were installed to provide for those missing or cracked. Some poles, and in some cases, wire had to be replaced. Despite overwhelming odds and the constant torment of swarms of mosquitoes, work proceeded satisfactorily and was completed in the allotted time, providing the telegraph printer service required.

Colonel Ankenbrandt was both pleased and elated at the results obtained and personally commended the entire Company.

A substantial net-work of telegraph printer was now in operation. In addition an elaborate radio

net-work was in operation, including overseas channels to New Zealand, Australia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Fiji, and Hawaii.

With the movement of the Division Command Post back to La Foa, the 26 Signal Company, on 9 September, closed its bivouac in Noumea and relocated in La Foa. However, with prospects looming of a move to Guadalcanal, Division Headquarters closed at La Foa and returned to Noumea.

The 26th Signal Company followed on 2 November 42, establishing a bivouac in the vicinity of Dumbea.

The Company plus a Detachment of the 175th Signal Repair Company, and a Pigeon Detachment together with a Detachment of the 831 Signal Service Company (photographic) was embarked aboard the U.S.N.T. President Adams, Grand Quai Docks, Noumea, at 1500 on 22 November 1942. The ship did not sail until 0530 on 3 December 1942 and arrived at Guadalcanal 8 December 1942. For the first few days a temporary bivouac was established at "block Four Beach" but was moved on the Lunga River.

Christmas was an uneventful day. Work went on as usual with every man in the same fine spirit. A good Christmas dinner was provided, with turkey and all the fixings.

On 1 January 1943, the 26th Signal Company with a detachment of a Signal Pigeon Company; detachment of the 162nd Signal Photo Company, and a detachment of the 175th Signal Repair Company, a total of 12 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 307 Enlisted Men, were still on Guadalcanal, occupying a bivouac on the Lunga River on Lunga Point, near Kukum Beach.

At this time the 26th Signal Company was operating the MACON switchboard at Division Command Post at the edge of Henderson Field. In addition the DEDHAM switchboard was set up and operated in the 26th Signal Company area. This board also served many other units operating in the Lunga area. A switching central was operated just west of Lunga Lagoon, first called TEXAS SWITCH, later known only as SWITCH, using a 100 line Japanese switchboard captured by the First Marine Division. A second switching central called TURKEY was operated just west of the Ilu River.

Radio stations were set up at Division Headquarters. Shortly afterwards this Headquarters became a temporary Headquarters of the XIV Corps and the Americal Division Command Post was reopened a short distance north of and across the Lunga River from Corps Command Post. The normal Division nets were operated. In addition, an SCR 197 was set up and operated a circuit to COMGENSOPAC, Noumea, New Caledonia. An Air Warning Net was operated, using two SCR 270 radio sets located in the vicinity of Henderson Field, and one SCR 270 was located at Koli Point. Telegraph printers were being operated in one net at Corps Headquarters, Navy Headquarters and at Marine Wing Headquarters, all personnel, equipment and maintenance being provided by the 26th Signal Company.

Telegraph (TG-5) communications was maintained at Combat Team Headquarters, Corps Headquarters and attached units as required. At Corps Headquarters Telegraph sets were at radio stations and when wire was still "in" TG was used. When wire was knocked out operators turned on

THE STORY OF THE 26th SIGNAL COMPANY

their radios although Net Control Stations maintained a constant watch so that under emergency conditions any unit could clear traffic through our Net Control Stations.

At this time work was begun on establishment of communications at proposed Command Post for XIV Corps. This function was in addition to ordinary installations, operations and maintenance for the Americal Division. During the period of 1 January 1943 to 17 January 1943 we experienced 10 night air raids. Many bombs were dropped but the company suffered no losses.

Work was stepped up in the training and use of pigeons. Considerable "overwater" training was given the birds and an additional pigeon loft was established on Tulagi Island approximately 20 miles north of Guadalcanal. Pigeons were flown from Guadalcanal to Tulagi and Tulagi to Guadalcanal with a fair degree of success. Pigeons were also released from ships at sea and considerable progress was made in bird training along these lines. Birds on hand were a little old and did not settle as well as was desirable.

The 2nd Battalion, 132 Infantry was given a mission of making a landing at Cape Esperance in the rear of the Japanese positions and subsequently to attack the Japanese in their rear. On 31 January 1943 this battalion embarked on its mission. Attached to them was a detachment of the 26th Signal Company, viz: Sergeant Joseph F. Crippa, T/4 William A. Gold, T/5 Harvey J. Gorski and T/5 Willard P. Pease, whose job it was to provide radio communications for this battalion back to Division Headquarters.

At 1625 hours on 9 February 1943, word was received that all Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal had ceased and that the 2nd Battalion of the 132nd Infantry met and had joined the 161st Infantry (25th Infantry Division) who were attacking westward toward Cape Esperance.

T/4 Daniel Lapham, T/5 John M. Crawford and Pfc. Frank J. Curtis, who were assisting the Australians in operation of Inter-Island Air Warning and Coast Watching Net, were returned to the organization on 19 February 1943. On this same day the 803rd and 807th Fixed Radio Stations Detachment with two Officers and 19 Enlisted men arrived and were attached to the 26th Signal for quarters and rations.

Preparations for movement of one-half of the Company to the Fiji Islands was begun on 27 February, 1943. Some equipment was packed, crated and moved to Kukum Beach. At 0900 on 1 March 1943, the 1st Echelon with four Officers embarked aboard the United States Navy Transport American Legion which ship sailed at 1530. This echelon arrived at Lautoka, on the island of Vita Levu (in the Fiji Group) at 0800 on 6 March 1943 and were transported in vehicles of the 37th Signal Company to a bivouac of that Company. From that date until 27 March 1943, a half day training schedule was put into effect. Basic subjects were reviewed including Articles of War, personal hygiene, sanitation, courtesies and customs etc. The second half of the day was devoted to rest, recreation and liberty.

The second Echelon remained on Guadalcanal and operated the existing Signal Systems. On 24 Mar 1943, the second Echelon embarked aboard the United States Navy Transport John Penn for the

Fiji Islands.

Since it was decided to establish Division Headquarters at Venyasi, just south of Nandi, the 26th Signal Company bivouac area was selected in the vicinity of the proposed Command Post and the first echelon established camp to be prepared for the remainder of the Company when it arrived.

The second echelon arrived at Lautoka, Vita Levu (Fiji Islands) at 0800 29 March 1943 and debarked at 1000 hours, and were transported by truck to bivouac area. Work was begun immediately in establishing the interior communication system.

The Message Center was to perform normal operations at Division Headquarters, regular schedule and special messenger services, plus additional two couriers for use at the Air Field at Nandi.

Normal Division Radio Nets were established. An SCR 299 was set up in Signal Company bivouac area, remotely controlled from Division Command Post operating in the II Island Command Net.

The usual Command Post Telephone and Telegraph installations were installed with trunks to attached and adjacent units, plus numerous service units. A switching central was operated at Black Rock but was subsequently eliminated and a new one was located at Namaka. Personnel from this section also operated the Commercial Exchange at Lautoka.

Two open wire circuits were installed by the wire Construction Platoon to Momi Bay, approximately 15 miles long.

A new training schedule was set up so as to provide a complete refresher course for the entire command. Since operations of the interior communications was mandatory, the Company was divided into two sections. The first section attended classes for one week, while the second section performed all the communication functions and Company details. For the second week the process was reversed.

A vigorous Division Training Schedule became effective 1 September 1943 including a Command Post Exercise on the Yoko Range 17th to 19th October.

Throughout November and December preparations were made for moving from the island. Boxes and crates were made and equipment not in use was crated and readied for shipment.

Four Officers with 80 Enlisted men embarked aboard the Transport S.S. Libra on 19 December 1943 at Vunda Point, destination Bougainville.

All signal and communications terminated at 2400 on 31 December 1943. Wire trunks were taken over by the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Five Officers and 125 Enlisted men moved by truck to Vunda Point at 0700 hours on 3 January 1944, loaded and embarked aboard the Transport President Jackson. Ship sailed at 1500 on 5 January 1944, joined in convoy heading for Bougainville.

The first elements of the Americal Division arrived 25 December 1943, consisting of one combat team (164th Infantry and 245th Field Artillery)

THE STORY OF THE 26th SIGNAL COMPANY

and relief of the 3rd Marine Division began. The second combat team (182 Infantry and the 246th Field Artillery) landed at Empress Augusta Bay on 28 December 1943 and the third combat team (132nd Infantry and the 247th Field Artillery) landed on January 1, 1944. Finally, on 12 January 1944, all the remaining units of the Division (221st Field Artillery, 57th Engineers, 26th Signal Company, 125th Quartermaster Company, Division Band, 721th Ordnance, and Special Troops) arrived.

During the months of December 1943, January, February and until 7 March 1944, the enemy was disposed northeast along the Laruma River; east, occupying Hills 1000, 1111; south occupying Hills 600, 250; southwest along the Torokina River occupying Hill 260, then south along the Torokina River to the coast, completely encircling the Empress Augusta Bay area occupied by XIV Corps.

The terrain of the area was extremely rugged, precipitous hills ranging in height from a few hundred feet to some two thousand feet, all densely wooded. Valleys were for most part swampy, (chest deep) and covered with dense jungles. Fighting during this period consisted mostly sniping, ambush, and patrol action, with destruction of a few Japanese pill boxes near the mouth of the Torokina River.

The XIV Corps was disposed with the 37th Infantry Division in defense of the western sector of the perimeter, along the east bank of the Laruma River, running northeast to the Piva Road. The 3rd Marine Division was in defense of the eastern sector of the perimeter.

Relief of the 3rd Marine Division was completed on 15 January 1944, with the Americal Division disposed so that the 164th Combat was on the left (north) sector, 182nd Combat Team was in the center (east) sector, the 132nd Combat Team was on the right (south) sector, and with the 2nd Battalion 164th Infantry (Attic-White) in Division reserve, in the vicinity of the 132nd Infantry. All service units were in close proximity of one another, along Piva Road. Headquarters Americal Division was located near the junction of Piva and Corps Road. Main roads within the Americal Division sector were Piva, Division, Americal, Matheson, and Grier. All good sandy roads, dusty however when dry.

The mission of the XIV Corps was to defend the perimeter within which the Torokina (fighter); Yoke (bomber) and Piva (bomber) strips were located along with a good road net, and Advance Naval Base, etc.

Late in February it became apparent that the Japanese would attack the perimeter. All units of the Division made extensive defensive preparations. Patrol activity was increased, front line units dug in, cleared lanes of fire in front of positions, and secondary lines of defense were established and prepared. All units routed some of their circuits over alternate routes.

As anticipated, the Japanese launched their attack at 0615 hours, 8 March 1944 after their artillery had laid down a barrage within the perimeter. Amount of damage was insignificant, the greatest being temporary partial disruption of wire communications.

Shells landing at or near cables usually damaged all the wires in the cable. Shelling periods were

of short duration and damage to wires were quickly repaired.

Early in April, the 26 Signal Company began construction of a aerial cable, beginning at junction of Piva and Division Roads, running three miles in swampy, sandy soil. It was necessary to sink 55 gallon steel drums to prevent poles from pulling over and to hold back sand so that poles could set. Construction type vehicles were obtained on a loan basis from the 271st Signal Construction Company.

Attacks by the 164th, 182nd, and 132nd Combat Teams resulted in the capture of Hills 250, 260, 600, and 1111. Subsequent attacks by the 132nd Infantry with elements of the Fijian Infantry Regiment attached, drove the Japanese from Hills 65, 165, and the hill mass 500 and 501. The 1st Battalion of the 24th Infantry crossed the Mavavia River and moved eastward to the west bank of the Saua River.

On 14 November 1944 the Americal Division was detached from the XIV Corps and attached to USAFNORSO. Elements of the II Australian Division began relieving elements of the Americal Division. Amphibious training for the Americal Division was resumed on 4 December 1944.

On 8 January 1945, 5 Officers and 68 enlisted men of the 26th Signal Company boarded the S.S. Palau Laut, destination Leyte, Philippine Islands, arriving on 21 January. Debarkation was begun and Headquarters Americal Division moved to Capocan on the north side of the island. The Division then became part of X Corps.

The remainder of the Company arrived on Leyte 28 January 1945. Soon thereafter work began policing some wire circuit to Valencia since Americal Division Headquarters was to operate a Forward Command Post there. This circuit consisted of two field wireline circuit pairs operated in parallel as a single telephone circuit. This wire was installed hastily by the 98th Signal Company (Heavy Construction), who had also projected open wire circuits running over the same route and to terminate at Ormac. This circuit was 27 miles long and was routed along the only road connecting Ormac-Valencia with Capocan. Many small groups of Japanese infested the hills on both sides of this road and there is considerable evidence of their having cut the wire numerous times. Road ran over high and rugged mountains, across rivers and many long open rice fields.

Much rain fell and a good portion of this circuit, being on the ground, was rendered inefficient. Raising it into the air and hanging it on trees, and lance poles where possible, improved the its efficiency somewhat and later, when repeaters, type EE-89 were installed, considerable improvement was noted. Circuit was however, a source of considerable trouble and numerous personnel and much time was required to keep it in operation.

On 28 February 1945, a construction team laying wire between Limon-Lanoy, received sniper fire from three Japanese. T/5 Billy Bowen opened fire, using a Thompson Sub Machine gun, Cal.45 and dispersed the Japs, killing one and wounding another.

PFC McEvers and PFC Orinko, Motor Messengers, picked up one live, but emanciated, Japanese in the

THE STORY OF THE 26th SIGNAL COMPANY

vicinity of Lanoy. Prisoner was brought to Valencia and turned over to the MPs.

The mission of the Division was to "mop-up" the scattered pockets of Japanese resistance on Leyte. The 164th Infantry and the 182nd Infantry (less 1st Bn.) operated in the Valencia-Ormac-Polompon-Villaba area. The 1st Battalion 182nd Infantry was moved to Catbalogan on Samar, and subsequently, under command of Brigadier General Lecount Slocum, attacked and took by amphibious assault, Capul and Biri Islands, destroyed all Japanese installations and drove the Japanese from northwestern Samar. On 7 March 1945, the 1st Battalion 182nd Infantry was returned to Capocan on Leyte and reorganized for the forthcoming V-2 Operation.

The 1st Battalion 132nd Infantry was assigned the mission of attacking by amphibious assault Burias and Ticoa Islands, destroying Japanese installations and forces on the Islands. The Battalion subsequently returned to Leyte and proceeded with reorganization and reequipping, preparatory to participation in the V-2 Operation.

The 26th Signal Company provided officers and enlisted personnel to provide communications within these units and to assist in the successful completion of all these operations.

Early in March 1945, the Eighth Army assigned the Americal (less 164th Infantry), the mission of attacking and destroying by amphibious landings, the Japanese installations and forces on Cebu-Mactan-Bohol-and Negros (Oriental).

The 26th Signal Company moved to Cebu in one echelon and landed with the Americal Division during 26 March 1945, at Talisay. Work began immediately on the installation of the interior communications system. With the advancement of the Division, communications were continuous and progressive and the system was subsequently expanded so that radio circuits were established with units on Mactan, Bohol, Negros, and two networks to Headquarters Eighth Army on Leyte, and so that all units located in or around Cebu City were included.

On 4 May 1945, the Chief of Staff directed construction of two field wire circuits to Catmon, probable location of Headquarters Americal Division. Work was completed on 16 May 1945. However, it was decided to locate in the vicinity of Liloan instead, and on 4 June 1945 personnel of the 26th Signal Company began construction of communication installations in the selected area.

The Division assembled in the Liloan area during the last two weeks in June and was relieved of all tactical responsibility. A sixteen weeks training program beginning 1 July 1945 followed.

On 15 August 1945 at 2110 hours, all operations against the Japanese on Cebu were ordered halted. At Ilioan, in northern Cebu on 28 August 1945 all Japanese on Cebu surrendered to the Americal Division and the war was over.

The Division was loaded onto transports on 31 August and sailed for the occupation of Japan on 1 September. The first units began arriving in Yokohama on 8 September and by 1200 hours on 10 September, all units had moved from docks to their

assigned areas.

The 26th Signal Company was located in close proximity of the Division Command Post at Fuchinobe, northwest of the dock area. Under the "point system", high point officers and enlisted men were transferred to the 43rd Division which departed Japan on 28 September 1945, destination the United States.

Later, in November, the Americal Division was relieved of its occupational status and returned to the United States. The 26th Signal Company was ultimately de-activated in Fort Lewis, Washington.

The following named men were awarded commendations by USAFISPA, APO 502, for meritorious service during the operations on Guadalcanal:

M/Sgt. Walter Robinson
T/Sgt. Louis Fabbo
S/Sgt. Joseph Crippa
T/3 William Gold
T/3 Jack Levy
T/3 Frank Lawrence
Sgt. Francis X. Bride
T/5 William Leahy
Pfc. Leonard Corvelli

PURPLE HEARTS

T/5 V.W. Castracane
T/Sgt. J.L. Allen
T/5 C.O. Bellamore
T/5 Liszka
T/5 J.A. Merithew
Pfc. R.D. Texter
Pfc. L.E. Frates
Pvt. D.V. Andrew
S/Sgt. S. Cohen
Pfc. F.W. Murphy

BRONZE STAR MEDALS

Lt. Col. L.S. Wells	Maj. H.T. Miller
Capt. E.P. Cook Jr.	1st Lt. C.R. McNeill
S/Sgt. S. Cohen	S/Sgt. H.A. McKenny
Sgt. F.J. Lyman	Sgt. T.E. Lyons
Sgt. H.R. Steidinger	Sgt. H.M. Delong
T/5 W.J. Walsh	T/5 R.A. Loveridge
T/5 A.J. Gouin	T/5 A.D. Reid
T/5 W.P. Leahy	T/5 J.J. Small
Pfc. J.W. Bailey	Pfc. B.B. Bowen
T/5 T.C. Ashbrook	T/3 E.J. Carney
T/4 E.W. Quinn	T/5 F.W. Baus
Pfc. W.J. Kelly	Pvt. H.L. Davis
Pvt. L. Bollinger	Sgt. J. Valente
T/4 W.V. Sanders	Pfc. R.R. Bingaman
Pfc. J.A. McGovern	S/Sgt. J. Finocchio
T/4 J.D. Hennis	T/4 W.J. Seretta
Pfc. J.A. Hanley	Pfc. H.G. Munro

Pvt. W.C. Parton

COMMENDATIONS

Northern Samar Operations
S/Sgt. Forrest W. Ecks T/4 Harvey J. Koski

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

With the 108 Regimental Combat Team -- Mindanao
Cpl. W.H. Webb
Pvt. G.H. Nelson
Pvt. L. McMahan
Pvt. H.R. Kaiser

THE STORY OF THE 26th SIGNAL COMPANY (CONCLUSION)

The ordinary mission of a signal company in to provide wire, radio, and messenger services within a division sector, usually restricted to a few miles to, and laterally between its combat teams, to its rear echelon and service and other auxiliary units.

It's table of organization and equipment further limit personnel and range of its equipment to efficient operation within this same limited division area.

As can be seen from all the campaigns reported in this compendium and participated in by the 26th Signal Company, the demand for services were far and beyond its capabilities, more often of a Corps or Army sized signal units.

At no time throughout the South Pacific operations, did the personnel of the 26th Signal Company fail to provide all the communication demands placed upon it.

This is attested to by commendations noted above and particularly those reported in Figure 4 above.

Thanks to Sergeant William Kitchen who provided all the sketches included in this report.

Ed note: Many thanks to David Recob for helping to prepare this story. I am sorry that it was not possible to reproduce the sketches that were part of this story. I enjoyed reading the story and I hope you will to. Jim

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

132 INFANTRY 164 INFANTRY 182 INFANTRY

I am trying to locate information on my father who served with the Americal Division during its tour on Guadalcanal in World War II.

My father passed away on 12 March 1966 when I was twelve years old do my information on him is sketchy. The following is what I know:

1. He claimed to have been with the first Infantry elements of the Americal into Guadalcanal.
2. MOS - Infantryman (745)
3. Rank - I remember him saying that he was a platoon sergeant, but of course that may have been later in the war.
4. Home of record - Little Rock, Arkansas
5. Place of birth - Jonesboro, LA
6. Date of birth - 21 June 1923
7. Entered the Army from state of Washington I Believe, in June 1941. He was in Washington working in the CCC.

I hope this info helps. If anyone remembers him, my brother and I would really like to hear from them. Thanks very much for your help.

Alan T. Jones
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, WI 53210

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

RETURN TO THE PACIFIC

50th ANNIVERSARY

The dates are set! After many telephone calls, messages flying back and forth across the Pacific, we have finally put together a package that we hope will please everyone.

After very serious thoughts and a thorough study as to what Tour Agency would act in our best interest, we have chosen VALOR TOURS of California to lead us on our sentimental journey.

We are now in complete agreement with the Committee on New Caledonia and August 15, 1992 has been set as the date to honor the Americal Division. This date was agreed upon because of the assurance of good weather (if you were there in March of '42 you know) and it will make possible for us to also attend the dedication of the Solomon Island Memorial that will take place on August 7, 1992.

Below is the tentative schedule. Anyone that is interested, and has not already contacted me, do so immediately. A brochure is being made up by VALOR TOURS and will be mailed out shortly to all members that have expressed an interest.

Mon Aug 03	Depart West Coast 1992
Tue Aug 04	Cross I.D.L.
Wed Aug 05	Arrive Fiji - to Guadalcanal
Thu Aug 06	Cruise to Tulagi
Fri Aug 07	Dedication of Memorial
Sat Aug 08	Tour of Eastern Battlefields
Sun Aug 09	Tour of Western Battlefields
Mon Aug 10	Personal exploration
Tue Aug 11	" "
Wed Aug 12	Flight to Fiji to Noumea
Thu Aug 13	Noumea
Fri Aug 14	Noumea
Sat Aug 15	Ceremonies Noumea
Sun Aug 16	Fly to Efate
Mon Aug 17	Optional to Espirito Santo
Tue Aug 18	" " "
Wed Aug 19	Free
Thu Aug 20	Efate to Fiji to United States

The flight from Fiji to Guadalcanal to Fiji is a Charter flight.

We are working to cut the number of days in Efate and perhaps use the time in Fiji or New Caledonia. Schedules have to be arranged according to the commercial air flights.

If you are planning on going to Guadalcanal it is imperative that you get your request in as soon as possible because the number of hotel rooms on Guadalcanal is limited.

Optional side trips are possible and when you receive you brochure from Valor Tours you may contact them directly with your personal desires. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE BASIC TOUR CAN BE CHANGED.

THE ESTIMATED PRICE OF THE 15 DAY TOUR WILL BE \$3950 FROM THE WEST COAST. THE EXACT PRICE WILL BE QUOTED IN THE BROCHURE.

Our friends on New Caledonia have assured us of a warm welcome. They are dedicating a monument to the Americans on August 15, 1992.

PLEASE CONTACT ME SOON!

Jim Buckle



JAMES C. BUCKLE
4 WILSON AVENUE
WAKEFIELD, MA
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[REDACTED]
La Grange, IL 60525

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

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Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Religion:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$16.00	

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

1. DD 214 Form.
2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.
(All copies of records will be returned)