

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1992

Editor-in-Chief; Jim Buckle  
Vietnam Editor; Ron ward

Published Bi-Monthly

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



1934 - 1991

COLONEL KERN W. DUNAGAN

1991      NATIONAL OFFICERS      1992  
 NATIONAL COMMANDER  
 Roland T. Castronova  
 Peabody, MA 01960

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER  
 Peter J. Messina  
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER  
 John H. DeGroot  
 Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER  
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 Lincoln, MA 01773

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#### CHAPTER COMMANDERS

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 Stephen Dennison      Eastern Regional Chapter  
 Edwin A. Heartquist      South-East Chapter  
 William K. Maddox      South Mid-West Chapter  
 Rush J. Propper      Great Lakes Chapter  
 Joe. W. Feeler      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      [REDACTED]  
 VIETNAM EDITOR  
 Ronald L. Ward  
 St. Louis, MO 63123

## IN MEMORIUM

### MAJOR KERN W. DUNAGAN

Rank and organization: Major, U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 46 Infantry, Americal Division. Place and date: Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, 13 May 1969. Entered service at: Los Angeles, CA. Born: 20 February 1934, Superior, AZ. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Major (then Capt.) Dunagan distinguished himself during the period May 13 and 14, 1969 while serving as commanding officer, Company A. On May 13, 1969, Major Dunagan was leading an attack to relieve pressure on the battalion's forward support base when his company came under intense fire from a well entrenched enemy battalion. Despite continuous hostile fire from a numerically superior force, Major Dunagan repeatedly and fearlessly exposed himself in order to locate enemy positions, direct friendly supporting artillery, and position the men of his company. In the early evening, while directing an element of his unit into a perimeter guard, he was seriously wounded during an enemy mortar attack, but refused to leave the battlefield and continued to supervise the evacuation of dead and wounded and to lead his command in a difficult task of disengaging from an aggressive enemy. In spite of painful wounds and extreme fatigue, Maj. Dunagan risked heavy fire on 2 occasions to rescue critically wounded men. He was again seriously wounded. Undaunted, he continued to display outstanding courage, professional competence, leadership and successfully extricated his command from an untenable position on the evening of May 14. Having maneuvered his command into contact with an adjacent friendly unit, he learned that a 6 man party from his company was under fire and had not reached the new perimeter. Maj. Dunagan unhesitatingly went back and searched for his men. Finding one soldier critically wounded, Major Dunagan, ignoring his wounds, lifted the man to his shoulders and carried him to comparative safety of the friendly perimeter. Before permitting himself to be evacuated, he insured all of his wounded received emergency treatment and were removed from the area. Throughout the engagement, Maj. Dunagan's actions gave a great inspirations to his men and were directly responsible for saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. Maj. Dunagan's extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

### COLONEL KERN DUNAGAN

Colonel Dunagan was born on February 20, 1934, in Superior, AZ. He grew up in Bishop and Grass Valley and graduated from Bishop Union High School in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree in military science from San Diego State University and a master's degree from Boston University.

He enlisted in the Army in 1958 and his 28-year military career included two tours in Vietnam.

Colonel Dunagan passed away on December 27, 1991 and a memorial service was held at the San Francisco National Cemetery on the Presido.

He is survived by his wife, Ilene, a son Kern, and three daughters, Jennifer, Stephanie, and Alexandria. He is also survived by a step-daughter, Angelika, and his mother. Also twelve grandchildren and one great-grandson.

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

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

March 14, 1992  
 Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA  
 General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

April 11, 1992  
 Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA  
 General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

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### TAPS

Michael F. Doyle      Donald Munch  
 Co. E 182 Infantry      Co. A+E 1/52 Infantry  
 Haverhill, MA      Schuylkillhaven, PA  
 September 6, 1991      March 15, 1991

Edward Whelan M.D.      Arthur R. Wilkinson  
 182 Med. Det.      182 Infantry  
 Yarmouthport, MA      Chelmsford, MA  
 October 28, 1991      October 22, 1991

Ltc Joseph Wozenski      Robert LaRosee  
 Co. H 182 Infantry      Co. F 182 Infantry  
 Chesire, CT      Marlboro, MA  
 November 9, 1991      November 3, 1991

Frederick J. Bostrom      Edward Monahan  
 101 Medical Regiment      182 Infantry  
 West Roxbury, MA      Dedham, MA  
 December 30, 1991      December 12, 1991

James Lam      Col. Kern W. Dunagan  
 101 Medical Regiment      Co. A 46 Infantry  
 Beverly, MA      Neveda City, CA  
 December 6, 1991      December 27, 1991

\*\*\*\*\*

### GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL FUND

Joseph D'Ambrosio  
 Tom Shelton  
 Harold Wilkinson  
 Fernando Vera

\*\*\*\*\*

### CONVALESCING

101 QUARTERMASTER      101 MEDICAL BN.

PNC Francis Guerriero      PNC Michael Lopardo  
 [REDACTED]      [REDACTED]

Quincy, MA 02171      Worcester, MA 01604

### 23 M.P. VIETNAM

David Recob  
 [REDACTED]  
 Topeka, KS 66611

HOW ABOUT LETTING THEM HEAR FROM YOU?

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Donald L. Gordon Sr.      Otis J. Mailhot  
 Co. B 26th Engrs.      Btry C 221 F.A. Bn.  
 Clinton, Iowa      Sudbury, MA

Doyle Mason  
 HHC 26 Engrs.  
 Kilgore, TX

1452 NL215592

## NEW MEMBERS

Tommy F. Acosta  
 11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
 Ft. Wort, TX  
 #Joseph Micek

Ernest B. Carlson  
 182 Infantry Co D  
 Fredericksburg, TX  
 #William Maddox

Richard H. Chadwick  
 196 LIB B/2/1 Inf  
 Tiffin, OH  
 #Jesse Mendoza

Clyde E. Cogswell  
 198 LIB 9 Support  
 Jessup, MD  
 #Bernie Chase

Terry Dickson  
 11 LIB B/4/21 Inf  
 Decatur, IL  
 #Self

Al E. Glass  
 23 M.P. HHC 11 & 196  
 Pensacola, FL  
 #Ron Davis

John A. Hoff  
 56 Arty D/6/56  
 Edwardsville, IL  
 #John M. Wills

Harry L. Jones  
 26 Eng Co E  
 Weatzville, MO  
 #Edward J. Smith

George W. Lackey Sr.  
 101 Med Co H  
 Petersburg, VA  
 #Edward J. Smith

Americ P. Lanni  
 101 Med Bn Co A

North Andover, MA

#Edward Smith

Doyle Mason  
 26 Eng HHC  
 Kilgore, TX  
 #Reinstated

Denne B. Nichols  
 132 Infantry B Co  
 Abilene, TX  
 #Ltc Pete Messina

Donald J. Prochaska  
 11 LIB D/3/1 Inf  
 Davis City, NE  
 #Self

Frederick P. Siems  
 164 Infantry Co L  
 Sierra Vista, AZ  
 #Joe Feeler

Alfonso X. Soto  
 198 LIB B/1/46 Inf  
 Brownsville, TX  
 #Self

Nicholas Volpe  
 132 Infantry Ser/2

Berwyn, IL  
 #Bernie Chase

#Sponsor

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

DO IT NOW!

## CHAPTERS

ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER  
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER  
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Regional Commander  
Edwin A. Heartquist  
[REDACTED]  
Holiday, FL 34690  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Regional Commander  
Rush G. Propper  
[REDACTED]  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

WILLIAM E. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER  
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER  
IA KS MO NE ND SD

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

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## CHAPTERS

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

NOW FORMING -- CONTACT  
Lloyd J. Morrell  
[REDACTED]  
Redmond, OR 97756-9612

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NOW FORMING -- CONTACT  
ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA  
[REDACTED]  
PEABODY, MA 01960

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## CHAPTER NEWS

ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER  
SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Memorial Plaque was dedicated by this Chapter to all veterans of the Americal Division, at the Bushnell National Cemetery on Veteran's Day. The dedication was held after the cemetery held their regular ceremony and it was very impressive. I enclose a picture of the Plaque.

At our last meeting it was voted to include the name of Arthur R. Wood in the Chapter's name. So hereafter we will be known as the :

ARTHUR R. WOOD  
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER

At the last meeting of this Chapter it was voted to hold our next meeting at Perry's Resort, Daytona Beach on February 7, 8, 9. A regular meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8 at 3 P.M.

For info call Ed Heartquist at [REDACTED].

PLEASE NOT CHANGE IN ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.

Ed note: Sorry but this info didn't arrive in time for the October-November issue of the Newsletter.



PLAQUE IN BUSHNELL NATIONAL CEMETERY

## CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER  
Stephen Dennison  
[REDACTED]  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS  
Peter J. Messina Sec  
[REDACTED]  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

Election of Officers:  
The following officers were nominated and elected. Stephen Dennison, Commander; Peter J. Messina, Secretary & Treasurer; and George Yates, Sergeant-at-Arms. Everitt M. Williams Jr. was appointed Chapter Chaplain by Commander Dennison.

A discussion was held about the new Vietnam Memorial being built in Phoenixville, PA. It honors the Vietnam Vets and also will feature a tribute to other wars and is being built by volunteers and contributions. If you wish to contribute send donation to:

Phoenixville Area Vietnam Memorial  
% Chris Carr  
[REDACTED]

Phoenixville, PA 19460

Our National Adjutant, Bernie Chase, told our group that the Americal colors are in the Hall of Flags, State House, Boston and that the Vietnam colors for the Division are at Fort Devens.

Adjutant Chase also stated that National had donated \$14,000 to the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund, plus thousands more donated by individuals. He also stated that the Americal will have a delegation present at the dedication of the Memorial on Guadalcanal Next August 7, 1992.

Ltc. Elbert Fuller Jr. gave a very emotional overview of the Americal Division in Vietnam. He compared privation that occurred to the American troops under General George Washington in Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War, to our troops in Vietnam. He mentioned the drive, endurance and heroism displayed by the Americal group in combat during difficult times.

Captain Donato M. Dinello, operations officer 325 Engineer Group, then spoke on training and indoctrination of combined arms from the past to Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He stressed the part the Americal played in the past wars, and how this will lead to change and reshaping the army to a smaller unit due to international factors.

Captain Dinello was presented the Chapter's Certificate of Achievement by Commander Dennison for his participation in our reunion.

Bernie Chase, National Adjutant, presented Bob Hock a Certificate of Appreciation for his past work in helping to organize and run as a Chapter Commander of the Eastern Regional Chapter.

Pete Messina, in his capacity as Chapter Secretary, presented a joint Certificate of Achievement to Stephen Dennison and his wife, Roberta Dennison, for their contribution in organizing the successful reunion in Valley Forge.

It was agreed that the 1992 chapter reunion will be held in Pittsburgh, PA. The Commander appointed George Yates and Harold Stein to be co-chairmen of the reunion.

Peter J. Messina  
Secretary

## CENTRAL MIDWEST CHAPTER

On January 7, 1992, I will undergo surgery to correct a war wound I received in Vietnam and my ordeal with a "Punji Stake".

Please do not send checks or money for your dues until after February 15, 1992. Also, please make checks payable to David L. Recob and not ADVA. We do not have a bank account due to costs of checks and maintenance by the bank.

I ask that you all be patient with me in the next couple of months. I want you to know that the Chapter is on course and doing okay. The horse is confined to the barn for a temporary repair job to the hoof. It is not life threatening but it is the third operation in as many months.

I send you all my best wishes to each individual family for a safe and happy holiday to each of you. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Dave Recob  
Secretary

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## NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Not much to report yet, as things are progressing slowly. I have written to most of our members in Washington and Oregon and have received a few replies, but not enough yet to consider having a meeting. We have a meeting site available in Vancouver, WA for the Portland and vicinity members and plan on the same for the Seattle area. But it will take considerable more effort and interest on the part of the members and myself to be able to hold a meeting in the Spring. I will try and get some newspaper publicity to reach former Americal members located in this area and who do not belong to the ADVA. I will keep you posted.

Lloyd Morrell

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## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Plans are still being formulated and a mailing will be sent out soon. If you have any ideas, or you are willing to help in the organization of the New England Chapter, please contact your National Commander, Roland T. Castranova.

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## FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

Plans are progressing in organizing the Far West Chapter. A letter has been drawn up and it will be mailed to all ADVA members in the states of California, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico. This letter will be in the mail by late February.

If you are willing to help in getting this Chapter on the move again please contact;

Joe Feeler  
[REDACTED]

Albuquerque, NM 87110

Or call Joe at [REDACTED]

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## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

## VIETNAM EDITORS COMM

The next annual reunion in San Antonio promises to be one of our biggest ever. Bill Maddox has been working his tail off to insure us a pleasant and exciting weekend. I urge all of you to drum up support for our reunion by placing ads in your local newspapers telling those who don't know that we'll be in San Antonio June 18-21. These ads are done as a public service and won't cost you a cent. Just a few minutes of your time.

Target date for the Vietnam Women's Memorial is Veteran's Day 1992. The design has been picked but they're still working on the funding. Donations can be sent to:

Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc

Washington, DC 20009

Upcoming events you may want to attend  
Jan 17-19 New Glarus Winter Fest and 6th Annual Wisconsin Vietnam Vets R & R  
May 15-17 4th Annual Kentucky LZ Bluegrass  
Jun 12-14 Firebase Indy III  
Sep 11-12 Kokomo Vietnam Vets Reunion  
Nov 9-14 10th Anniversary of "The Wall"  
May 24 Rolling Thunder in Washington DC

I've had a few comments about the proposed ADVA scholarship. I think we can begin this program after our next annual reunion. If you are interested in serving on a committee that will be meeting in San Antonio that weekend, let me know. We'll probably need a couple of hours to discuss fund raising strategies and firm up the eligibility requirements. Those of you who can't make it to San Antonio but are interested in adding your own ideas to the scholarship plan, contact me here at my home address.

## WISCONSIN VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Board of Directors and Dedication Committee Coordinators for the Southeast Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. would like to thank you for donating your time and efforts at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial parade, October 19, 1991.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial parade was a proud moment and overwhelming experience for everyone, especially our Vietnam veterans, their families and friends. It was because of you and your interest that our Vietnam Veterans Memorial parade was such a huge success and memorable day for us all.

On behalf of our Vietnam veterans and their families, please accept our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your participation.

Sincerely,

*Beth R. Hines*  
Military Parade Coordinator

*Cynthia Hines*  
Civilian Parade Coordinator



**Vietnam  
Veterans  
Memorial**

This parade and dedication was attended by our National Commander Roland Castranova, our Past National Commander Ron Ward, and member David L. Heindl.

## BRONZE STAR AWARDED

At noon, March 2, the marines stepped off smartly as they do at noon on every first Saturday at the Capitol. But this day was to be different. John W. Gunter would finally receive his lost Bronze Star with "V" device. As a result of wounds received in the engagement, Gunter was hospitalized until released from Womack Army Hospital at Fort Bragg in September of '68. During this time all records pertaining to the award were lost. As a result of the 196th LIB Association, he was able to contact his former platoon leader, Lt. Bob Gibbs and his company commander Captain Paul York. Through a quirk of fate it turned out that Lt. Gibbs had personal photographs of all medal recipients awarded at the field ceremony. The award was presented by LTC Paul York, U.S. Army (Ret) who came from Gettysburg for the ceremony. The citation was read to the assembly by Bob Gibbs, former platoon leader and now resident of Rumson, NJ. In commenting on the events of the day Col. York remarked that the TV reporters had him so rattled that he forgot the most important thing... "that man saved my life."

## THE CITATION

FOR heroism on 9 January 1968 while serving with Company A 3/21 Infantry in the Republic of Vietnam. On that date Company A was on a search and destroy operation in the Que Son Valley when it suddenly came under intense fire from an enemy force of undetermined size, firing from spider holes to the front. Specialist Gunter armed with an M79 grenade launcher, immediately set up a blocking force to allow the other platoons to move to safer fighting positions. Placing himself between the enemy and the retreating soldiers, he began firing a constant volume of grenade rounds on the attacking enemy. This kept the enemy pinned down until the last living men had retreated from the battlefield to a more secure position. He then assisted in evacuating wounded from the battlefield, while continuing to lay down suppressive fire. Specialist Gunter's valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

Thanks to former Americal Donut-Dolly, Larry Hines for this story.

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## C BATTERY 16 ARTILLERY

While thumbing through a book on the war in Vietnam the other day, I saw that the Americal Division publishes a Newsletter and having served in the C/3/16 Artillery in Chu Lai, 1967-1968, I am very much interested.

Would you please add me to your mailing list. I am currently an officer in the Army Reserve but I still hold dear my experiences in Vietnam with soldiers of my unit and the Americal Division. Thank you very much.

Hugh Stephen Fitts

[REDACTED] Ringgold, VA 24586

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

A DAY IN THE LIFE  
(Of PFC Hendrickson)

Hey! Wake up! We move out at 8, and it's 6 o'clock now! I roll over and tell my Platoon Sgt. "OK, OK!" Then I pull my poncho liner over my head and steal a few more minutes sleep. I pull the cork out of my air matress and within seconds I'm lying on the cold, hard ground. I crawl out of my shelter half and find a place to go to the bathroom-animal style. Then I come back and heat up some C-Rats and cocoa for breakfast. I fill my canteens out of the plastic bottles the chopper brought out the night before, change my radio battery, get a commo check, and clean my M-16. Then I start tearing down my tent and rolling up the air matress, poncho liner, and shelter half. My boots and socks are almost dry, but they will be wet again in a few minutes anyway. I draw my C-rations and pack them in my rucksack along with a hundred other things. Next comes filling in our foxhole and burning the trash.

Then I sit down and smoke a cigarette, conserving as much energy as I can, and wait for the signal to move out. When the call comes to saddle up, you somehow struggle to your feet with the heavy pack, and the straps cut into your shoulders that are still sore from the day before. When we move out, I get a final commo check and double check my M-16 to make sure a round is in the chamber and the bolt is free. The last man out rigs a smoke grenade to our trash pit.

That's when it hits you, like it has very morning since you've been in the field. What will happen today? Did Charlie watch you all night? Did he rig a 105 round for you? Or is he waiting in ambush behind that next hedgerow? Or will it be a sniper this time? This fear hits you at the start of every day, but it is soon shaken off as you become absorbed in the day's mission. Ten minutes after you start out, as you suspected, your smoke grenade is tripped. Your FO calls in artillery on your Night Logger, and a detail is sent back to inspect, but, as usual, nothing is found.

You've got rice paddies in front of you now and suddenly you've got all kinds of work to do. A typical transmission goes like this: "9r2, this is 9r7, over." "This is 9r2, go." "Roger, 9r2, My Papa Lima says tell your point element to spread it out and keep them staggered across these paddies. Stay off the dykes and when you get across, set of security for us in that woodline, over." "this is 9r2, Roger that." "Roger, this is 9r7. We'll give you an up when we want you to move out. Negative further, out".

So it goes all morning. You watch every step taken. You also look for dangerous spots and for places to take cover if something happens. Now it's time to break for chow, and you take off your rucksack and break open some more "C's". The afternoon is the same story. When you finally move into your NDP at sundown, you say a little prayer of thanks for getting thru another day safely. But your work isn't done yet. You switch your radio to Admin Frequency and you call in your resupply chopper. You guide him in and help unload. A few lucky grunts get to go back in for R&R, or maybe even home for good! You hand out the supplies and mail, and divide up the beer and pop. Then you fix supper of, you guess it, C-Rations, unless the chopper brought out hot food. Then you borrow a machette to cut poles for your hootch, and blow up your air matress.

When all your chores are done, the most precious time of the day has arrived-the bull session. For maybe two hours you can talk with your buddies while guarding the perimeter. You talk to Dennis,

and there's something special between you, because you've come all the way from Basic together.

Then you move back to your hootch and listen to your portable radio or write a letter by flashlight. Then you curl up next to your M-16 with your radio handset under your ear and you pull your poncho liner over your head to keep the mosquitos away. Then you think the same things you think every night before you go to sleep.

You think about how it's going to be when you step off the plane in Minneapolis and your family is there waiting to meet you. You think about how much you are going to enjoy life when this is all over. You say another prayer that your night's sleep is not interrupted and that you have another dream about home.

And so ends a typical day for the grunt in Vietnam.

## U.S. CAPTAIN SACKED OVER ENEMY ATTACK

Chu Lai, Vietnam. The commander of an American infantry company has been summarily dismissed from his command because enemy sappers slipped through his unit's night bivouac during the New Year's cease-fire, killing eight Americans and wounding five others. Spokesmen for the American Division withheld the name of the dismissed captain. They said today the company was part of the division's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Brigade but would make no further identification until the victims' families were notified. The attack was the most costly incident in the 24-hour Allied standdown. A 72-hour Viet Cong cease-fire also was in effect at the time.

"The battalion commander felt the company commander failed to observe, order and supervise the proper night defensive procedures," a spokesman for the American Division said Saturday.

Reliable informants said there were indications the company's foxholes were not well dispersed nor deep enough. Most of the American dead and wounded were hit by grenade fragments in the first moments of the sneak attack by a sapper company. The sappers penetrated two sides of the night bivouac on a knoll in rolling country nine miles west of Tam Ky in northern Quang Tin Province.

In the first announcement of the incident, the Army made no mention of any sapper penetration through the defense perimeter. It said the company had been hit by 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire and grenades and that American casualties were fire dead and five wounded. In response to questions today the Army revised its version of the attack.

Reprinted from the S.J. Mercury, Sat. Jan. 3, 1970  
Submitted by Gene Yeakley D. Btry. 6/11th Arty.  
11th L.I.B.

O, Loving Father, be with us in our tour in Vietnam. Help us to meet and conquer our daily temptations, our frustrations and our fears. We know we now live in a world of danger--a world of rockets and mortars--a world of mines and booby traps. Trials come down upon us swiftly and unexpectedly. Lift us at these times. Pour out upon us. They mercy and Thy loving compassion which Thou hast shown us in the past. Be with our loved ones, we pray, and grant us a safe return. Amen

Copy of a prayer card with the Division Crest. The opposite side has the 23rd psalm sent in by Tom Kreidler, 198 LIB

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

14 CAB/16 CAG AMERICAL DIVISION

I am a Life Member who eagerly reads the excellent Newsletter.

Years ago I donated a number of artifacts to the Americal Museum at Fort Devens. Now I hear that the Fort is scheduled to be closed. If this comes to pass and the Museum is disbanded, I would like the material I donated returned to me. I'm willing to pay the cost of postage and shipping.

Also, I read a brief mention in the "Commander's Message" that the ADVA now has a tax exempt status. This being true, it should be publicized in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER that "Contributions to the ADVA in excess of membership dues are tax-deductible". If I have a good year in my business I look for a worthy organizations that allows me to deduct my contributions and I would be glad to add ADVA to my list.

I was excited to read in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER that Lorn Cramer had joined the ADVA. He was one of my Medics at Chu Lai. (Your letter to Lorn was forwarded. Hope he has contacted you. ED.)

As per usual I would appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers serving "Under the Southern Cross" with me ("Cpt. B") at 14th CAB/16th CAGF, Americal Division, Chu Lai, Vietnam 1969 and 1970.

Louis H. ("Cap B") Blumengarten  
1740 Ocean Avenue (9G)  
Brooklyn, NY 11230

Call [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] after four P.M.

Ed Note: Cpt B--Fort Devens is last on the list to be closed. It is scheduled for 1996. To use an old quote, "It's not over til its over"!

\*\*\*\*\*

58 TRANSPORTATION 335 TRANSPORTATION

I am a new member of the ADVA and I am really impressed with the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. It hits so much closer to home for me because the units are all in the same area I was in in 'Nam.

I was very moved by the John Wills article. (May-June 91-Page 8) Especially the last two paragraphs.

It is so good to know that I am not alone, that there are others like me out there.

Thanks for the fine job you are doing.

Glenn Matthews

Ed Note: Thanks for the kind words. I have a great staff working with me. Your letter to John Wills was forwarded and I hope he has contacted you. Jim

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in the Sept-Oct issur of the newsletter we ran an article about SP4 Roger Whirlow who was KIA at Fire Base Mary Ann in March 1971. His family was searching for survivors of the battle. We had a couple of typing errors on the address so here's the correct one.

Nola & Joe Whirlow  
[REDACTED] phone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Ron,

Please feel free to use anything I send your way. It has been very refreshing for me to vent some frustrations. Thanks for publishing my letter in the latest Newsletter. I got some great responses from the "Brothers". If there is anything I can write that will bring back a little respect for a bunch of brave men, I'll write it. And if I could restore the honor, that we so richly deserve, in the eyes of America, I would write a book. I've got a feeling Norman Schwarzkopf is going to write the "Mother of all books".

Up until the Persian Gulf War, the American public was as apathetic and self-centered as ever. It took the full power of that war to get America to open up its eyes. Only when their undistracted gaze was riveted on a flag-draped coffin, bearing a soldier, did I know that Americans had finally awoken from the darkness of the Cold War. The Cold War that cost so many lives, drained the life out of countries, created double standards, and divided this country and the world.

The Peoples of the world are now making an honest evaluation of themselves, the playing field is beginning to level. Americans have seen the destruction brought on the people of Russia, by the Communists. And now their view is shifting onto the other participant in that Cold War-The government of our country. They are starting to see the ill-conceived bureaucracies, the tainted politicians, and the crushing weight of debt.

As soldiers do on the battle field, Americans are searching their souls. They are going back looking for the truth. And some may trip over the body of a soldier from the Vietnam War. And they will recognize him as the soldier in the flag draped coffin. They will realize how cowardly and dishonorable they behaved, when real Americans took to arms, to preserve what they had taken for granted.

Sincerely,

Greg Linscott

[REDACTED]  
Seattle WA 98103

Dear Brother Ron:

Thanks for printing my letter. It helped me get in touch with more Americal Brothers here in Ga. I need your help. If any Americal member wants to donate past issues of the Americal newsletter, please send them to us. They will be distributed at the Veterans Administration Hospital here in Atlanta. I am sure that there are many members of "The Old Guard" who would love to read them. Even if they served in other outfits. By the way, it was the Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle club that raised the money and bought the TV's now currently used at the VA Hospital in Atlanta.

Also, we spent the day with some homeless veterans in downtown Atlanta. They need some P-38's. If anyone has few, send them along too. There using screwdrivers to open cans. They told me to say hello, that they are hanging in there. Fantastic idea with the scholarship fund. I'll be in touch with that soon. I'll see what I can do after the book comes out. Lastly, we are winning! We are winning the SPIRITUAL WAR in the Veterans community here in the state of Georgia. May God bless all of you. You proved your faith under fire. Americal Vets are out there, and they got Point. Love you all Brothers.

From the Brotherhood in the South  
Al (Big Al) Fuchs 1/14th Arty. 198th 67-68 Chu Lai, [REDACTED] Atlanta  
Georgia 30340-4164

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Continuing from our last issue..M.Henson 26th ENG.

## FIRST PLATOON - ROADSWEET POINTMAN

To me they seemed too calm and carefree. I never figured that maybe I was the one that had a problem, and was just too tense and nervous for my own good, as well as theirs. Before long, the lead elements of the Platoon again came into sight, and though we had a little distance on them, I knew they were moving fast and knew that again we'd have to get moving.

We'd been moving at a steady pace for a few minutes, and soon went around a bend and came upon some spent brass on the road. Recalling the pace at which the Platoon was moving I knew we were about the right distance from them and I didn't seem to worry too much now.

We'd be able to check this section of road out really good for brass. Getting the brass cleared from the road and not yet seeing the Platoon we knew that soon they'd be here, unless we heard an explosion meaning our truck had hit a mine. We would continue on down the road at a slower pace.

Going around another bend, I spotted some more brass on the road, and lots of it! It was going to take us much longer than before to clear this section of road. As we got busy clearing the brass and seeing the soda cans shot full of holes, I knew the PFS' had been target practicing. Again, crossing and re-crossing the road to clear this debris, and looking on down the road I could spot more shiny objects on the road. We kept moving and clearing brass and when we finished we continued on to the shiny objects which to no one's surprise was still more brass.

We got busy trying to clear this section of road, when I looked in the direction of the Triple Culverts, and spotted three bicycle riders coming our way, "PFS' on vacation," I thought. Somehow, I had the feeling I had better keep an eye on them. Helping to clear the brass as well as I could and still be able to watch the bike riders getting closer to us, as we continued to cross and re-cross the road clearing brass and other debris. Noticing the bike riders were wearing "camo" fatigues and were carrying weapons with the barrels pointing towards the ground. I somehow seemed to know that they were not too friendly!

I knew they were Scouts or Hoi Chans, former NVA and Viet Cong now fighting for the South. One thought, in my mind told me, "Not to trust them!" When they got closer, they started to raise hell and yell at us in Vietnamese.

Looking at them I shouted, "Di Di Mau!" which they didn't seem to take none to kindly to. As they slowly rode past, they kept yelling and raising hell and I heard someone say, "Let it go Hentz!" I replied, "I will if they keep going!" As the two men worked my way and the Scouts passed them, I heard one of the men say, "Let it go!" "I'm trying too!" was my answer.

Let's continue on down the road and get a little distance between us and them, I said. With that, I slowly started turning away from them to continue on down the road. All the while, I kept thinking, "Don't be dumb!" I then glanced back at the Scouts and noticed them doing a One-Two, on us. "You Two!" Get up here now!" I shouted.

The two men looked at me as if I'd finally gone crazy. "Get above me and off the road!" They both were about to say something but I had raised my rifle and stood with it pointing to the sky.

As the two slowly came toward me and were about to say something, I cut it short again and said, "get above me and off the road now!" Then

clicked my rifle from SAFE to Semi-AUTO. The Scouts were still yelling at us and acted out their One-Two routine, just waiting!

Slowly, I kept turning to keep an eye on them and then clicked my rifle to AUTO, and seemed to be within one second of putting my point across with lead. I already had my move worked out in my head and just needed to wait the one second. As I needed the last Scout to be in position.

Suddenly, I spotted Sergeant Wettig and the Platoon coming in sight. "Too late now to do anything!", I thought. But I still stood my ground and kept watching the Scouts. When they spotted the Platoon the Scouts slowly turned to ride off in the direction of the Platoon, but seemed to still want the last words and said a few more things.

When the Platoon got to where I stood and seeing the anger I showed, I heard Sergeant Wettig ask "Henson, what's wrong?" Instead of answering I quickly stepped to the side still watching the Scouts as they slowly disappeared.

Slowly beginning to hear all the questions and answers going on around me, I slowly clicked my rifle back to SAFE and started lowering it. I had made a stand to protect the two men with me and called the Scouts bluff.

I assume they hadn't expected a lone G.I. to stand up to them, as I knew the two men weren't really aware of the danger we had been in. With help, I got a cigarette, lit, then turned to Sergeant Wettig and said, "Those three Scouts were NVA or Viet Cong!"

Everyone looked at me as if I'd finally gone "Nuts in the Country!" or had been on too many missions, and was spooked bad cause I was short.

Trying to explain better, I could only say, "The Danger Signs!" slowly calming down I said, "Their expressions and the way they carried their weapons!" I knew they were up to no good and were looking for trouble. Continuing, I stated how they keep cussing at us, and tried to provoke an incident.

I tried not to let them get to me and thought it was best just to let them pass. But when we started to walk away I had an eerie feeling come over me, and looking back quickly I saw the most telling of the danger signs. First, one Scout would look back, then two Scouts would look back repeatedly. They were waiting for us to turn our backs and I knew then we would have been shot.

Then looking at the two men I said, "You both may have missed the danger signs, I don't know!" "I didn't have time to explain. That's why I put myself between you two and the Scouts!"

I'm glad you both listened to what I said, though. Then looking at Sergeant Wettig, I said, "It's my fault we got too far ahead of the Platoon!" We encountered so much debris and knowing how fast the Platoon was moving, I wanted to clear as much off the road as we could.

I was reminded that we were to stay in advance of the Platoon at all times, to do as we had been doing, and also, told that's the reason that the three of us were put out together.

Feeling better, but not totally convinced, I had done right. I then asked, "How much longer of a break we had coming?" Our Platoon Sergeant Wettig looked at my and asked "Why?"

"If you stay here for awhile, I'll go back down the road and take care of a problem!" When I get back I'll have three brand new M16s!

Needless to say, I was told I couldn't go and was told to get ready to continue on to the Triple Culverts as the Pointman. As we got ready to move out I hoped the rest of the sweep would be uneventful and knew then at the "Culverts" I could finally begin to unwind, from what had nearly happened.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

The following story is one which I just recently learned the truth about, although it has to do with my Vietnam tour in 1969. I had never really known the facts or what exactly happened. However, through an ex-member of my unit, D Co. 4/3 11th L.I.B., whom I have just recently begun corresponding with, I have finally learned what happened that early morning in October, 1969. Let me explain, I had been wounded in September and was recovering at the 6th Convalescent Center in Cam Rahn Bay, my company had replacements arriving nearly every day in September and October to fill in for casualties sustained in late August along with the normal flow of guys DEROsing back to the world. One particular new guy was John T. Baker, 545-74-7363, from California, a man I never knew. John had more or less wound up taking my spot, that is, at NDP's he was in my position with three of my good friends. As dawn approached on October 13, 1969, and guard duty was nearing an end, John and two others were sleeping comfortably in their tent-John being where I normally would have been. The fourth member of that position presumably fell asleep in his foxhole while at least three NVA hid in a hedgerow not far away. The enemy crept closer and launched an RPG round, into the sleeping position. John took the brunt of the impact, the other two were only slightly wounded. John lived for only a few moments before he died of massive head injuries. As for the man in the foxhole, he too was wounded slightly but was MEDIVAC'd out and never heard from again. When I returned to Delta in November that incident and several others were old news so I didn't ask any questions and we got on with trying to survive our tours. Now after 22 years I finally know what happened and I find myself asking the following questions. If I had still been in the field would it have been me in that tent that morning? Or would it have been me in the foxhole and seen the attack coming? If I positioned elsewhere in our perimeter maybe things would have turned out differently or perhaps they would have been the same with just a different tag on a body bag. Regardless, I feel John died in my place-something that someday I would like to tell his family. They certainly can't know the circumstances and I feel that I owe it to John's family to let them know what really happened.

If anyone can help me find his hometown in California or tell me how to please let me know. Perhaps our comrades in California know of an agency I may contact. Anyone with any leads may reach me at the address below. Thank you.

Linn Hoopes [REDACTED] Dike IA 50624

## HELP FOR VETS

Dear Editor: I am a Vietnam (heavy) combat veteran and I am writing to thank you for covering the story of the Vietnam vet who went over the edge in California, MO. No one will ever know the true reason for his actions or what connections it had with Vietnam for the tragedy to happen. Part of the problem came from coming home from the war that nobody wanted nor did they want to listen, and we were told to forget it. It started there. Now let's NOT take the usual route and blame the Veterans Administration nor the Vet Center. The point is: Can it happen here in Atlanta? Yes, it can. But in the state of Georgia there is a group of Vietnam veterans called "Point Man." We are a vet-for-vet- outreach. We do not counsel. We are all volunteers. We do not interact with any state of city authority. We are dedicated to helping our Vietnam veteran brothers come home.

We are probably the FIRST contact a vet having trouble will have. And if any vet out there hasn't made peace with his past, we urge you to call us. Don't think that after 23 years it won't come back on you. It will. Call us today at [REDACTED] for more information. Alan L. Fuchs  
Assistant Outpost Leader, Point Man International  
Editors Note: This appeared in Al's local newspaper.

Here are two pictures of the "Donut-Dollies" for the newsletter. We don't talk much or enough about them. Especially the warmth of home and morale they gave us. Does anyone recognize them? Let's hear from some more "Donut-Dollies". Bet they have some really interesting stories to tell. Anyone who knows these two gals, have them write to the newsletter and tell us about themselves. Photo captions are from our year book that was put together for 6/11 Arty 1970. Think it was the only year they had one made up.

Gene Yeakley  
D Btry 6/11 Artillery



To New Members:  
Terry C. McGuire, Jackie Catron of C Co. 3/1st

I consider myself a very fortunate man, I returned from country in July, 1968. Found a job a week later, joined the Police Department in New York in March, 1970, and just recently retired after 20 years.

This holiday season was a time of reflection, I moved from New York to Pennsylvania, found a new job, new surroundings as well as friends. It was 24 yrs. ago this date when members of the 11th L.I.B. were enroute by ship to country. I am an original member of Co. C 3rd BN 1st Inf. Joining the company as a PFC, the only IIB at the time in the summer of 1966. Through squad Att's-Platoon-Company-Battalion exercises on the Big Island, the assault on Molakai by Landing Craft. The chance to actually getting on the troop ships 17 months later to participate in the conflict. I can relive it all including most people. I have used the VVA locator, for the past 5 years as well as the Americal Newsletter. The names of people who served in the company never appeared, or was there any notation of members who served in country 1967-1968 till now.

I would like to say hello to new members, Terry L. McGuire and Jackie Catron. Both who served in Hawaii and shipped over. Just maybe more will follow. I hope all can enjoy the holiday season and wish all the very best. A special hello to all who served in Co C 3/1st Inf. 11th L.I.B. from 1966 till the conflict ended. With much thought and caring, Peter G. Molyneaux

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

I was talking to a friend of mine, a WW2 vet, who was with the 6th Infantry Division. He produced a history of that division for me after I mentioned that I was with the 3/1 Infantry in Nam. I am most impressed with this history especially since I've the Americal's WW2 history in the book "Under the Southern Cross". Both units have a proud tradition. What I found out was not only was the 1st Infantry part of the 6th Division, but so was the 20th Infantry Regiment. Also that the 6th Division's 3rd regiment was the 63rd Infantry who's parent unit was the 3rd Infantry. Please give the brothers of the 1/20th a little bit of this history of their regiment/battalion. There were two Medal of Honor recipients in the 6th Division. Both were from the 20th Infantry.

Tom Holewa  
A Company 3/1 Infantry



1st Infantry Regiment



20th Infantry Regiment

Btry. C 6 Bn. 11th Arty.

Please find enclosed my application for membership in the Americal Division Veterans Association. The enclosed Postal Money Order is to cover the cost of membership and a donation for the Association to use as needed. I only wish that it could be more at this time.

Please provide me with additional information regarding the Association; membership (like what is the Life Membership mentioned in the newsletter); and if it is possible to search the Association's roster for comrades who also served with the Americal, or can you pass on any information on how to find old friends; and any thing else you can.

As soon as I receive notice of membership I'll be contacting the Regional Commander of my geographic area.

Sincerely,

Sheridan Eric Lightner  
[REDACTED]  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
[REDACTED]

Okay guys from C- Btry. get in touch with by phone or letter with Sheridan.

Co. C 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde.

Thank you for remembering me by sending me the September/October Newsletter and enclosed is my check for \$16.00 dues. I was taken by the mentions of Colonel Waldie's passing, I was with Co. C, 1/52 Inf. at Ft. Hood when the 198th Bde. was formed and it was announced in the base papers that Colonel Waldie was to be the Commander. About the same time, a picture of Colonel Waldie appeared in my home town newspaper, Omaha World

Herald, stating his assignment and I sent him the clipping. Well a letter came back to me and the C.O. and 1st Sergeant wanted badly to know why Col. Waldie would write to a person like me, and I milked the situation as long as possible, pretending that I had some sort of inside track. I saw Colonel Waldie in the field several times in Vietnam at a time when I thought we would both go without boots on. Now I wonder if he went back Omaha-I couldn't. If you have anything on Col. Waldie's post Vietnam years, I would appreciate a copy.

I started a project awhile back wherein I was attempting to locate where I was in Nam. As a grunt, I recall events from the LZ's we worked off and now I have searched throughout the various government repositories for such a map with American LZ's and Firebases to no avail. I put an in Vietnam Magazine and have gotten maps and photos of LZ's all over the country. I am putting a publication together and will forward you a copy, only thing is it's taking a lot longer than I would have thought, but it is a lot of fun corresponding and writing with guys. I will put together a list of the Americal guys and get it to you, one guy was with me for two years and last saw or spoke in 1968.

A guy locally just went back to Nam and went to the Chu Lai area, and he says only parts of the Chu Lai runway are left. The people don't all wear black and the hootches are concrete. He relates that the people are very pro-American, but government officials suck. He got busted for burying an Americal patch near the My Lai museum.

I hope that the Far-West Chapter gets a real good organizer, and things get hopping out here.

Very truly yours,

Mike Brennan

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

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TEAM 162 TEAM 162 TEAM 162 TEAM 162

Many of our members at one time or another, served in the AMERICAL, in peacetime or combat, who also served with Team 172 in Vietnam.

We are trying to find some of these lost troopers so that we can put our 1992 reunion together.

REUNION - TEAM 162 SOCIETY OF VIETNAM AIRBORNE

June 24-27, 1992 Clarksville, TN / Ft Campbell KY  
CONTACT

CSM James Collier [REDACTED] Mike George  
Goodletsville, TN 37072 Jacksonville, FL 32225  
Call [REDACTED] Call [REDACTED]

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IF YOU SEND AN ARTICLE INTO THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER PLEASE GIVE US PERMISSION TO ALLOW YOUR STORY TO BE USED IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS. WE WILL CONSIDER PERMISSION GRANTED UNLESS YOU EXPLICITLY ASK THAT IT NOT BE USED. ALSO, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER IN ALL LETTERS SO THAT IF WE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR STORY, WE CAN CALL YOU.

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AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL REUNION JUNE 18 - 21, 1992 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAL 1942 - 1992

SINGLE OCCUPANCY PACKAGE \$337.24  
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY PACKAGE \$227.14 (PER PERSON)

This includes three nights lodging at Hotel, three breakfasts, three dinners, wine and cheese party, and two drinks. This also includes all taxes and gratuities.

For further information contact William K. Maddox, 1007 Espana, Portland, TX 78374. Tel. [REDACTED]. Or Malcolm East, [REDACTED], Lumberton, TX 77656. Tel [REDACTED].

Mail Hotel Reservations directly to Holiday Inn Riverwalk North, [REDACTED], San Antonio, TX 78205. A 72 hour notice of cancellation required for refund of deposit.

A DEPOSIT OF \$73.45 PER ROOM IS REQUIRED IN ADVANCE  
CUT OFF DATE MAY 18, 1992

For those that live in the area and wish to attend meals in the evening, the price for THURSDAY is \$15.00 per person Thurs No(\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_  
for FRIDAY is \$17.75 per person Fri No(\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_  
for Saturday is \$20.50 per person Sat No(\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Wine & Cheese Party \$5.75 per person Fri No(\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to AMERICAL REUNION 1992 and mail to; William K. Maddox, [REDACTED], Portland, TX 78374

We have a contract with American Airlines. They will give us 45% discount on Day Coach and 5% on published fares.

When making reservations tell them your are going to the Americal Division National reunion in San Antonio, TX. Call [REDACTED] and ask for STAR #5056270.

HOLIDAY INN RIVERWALK NORTH  
[REDACTED]  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ No. Child \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Americal Division  
Please return a copy of this card with your advance deposit of \$73.45, or credit card guarantee, per room reserved, by May 8, 1992. A 72 hour notice of cancellation is required for refund of individual deposits. Package includes 3 nights accommodations, 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts, 2 drinks, wine and cheese reception. All taxes, gratuities, & service charge. Single Package \$337.24 Double Occupancy \$227.14 per

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION 1942-1992

NATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 18-21, 1992 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

San Antonio and the surrounding area is noted for it's Reunion facilities. Your 1992 Reunion Committee has planned an active and fun filled National Reunion. Join us by mailing in the Reunion Registration Form shown below. All of your paid tickets will be picked up at the Registration Desk at the Hotel.

The Hotel is located at [REDACTED] and is about seven miles from the San Antonio International Airport.

There are numerous shopping centers within driving distance of the Hotel and there is the Rivercenter Mall which you can get to by taking the River Barge or the Trolley. The Trolley costs a dime to ride and it picks you up in front of the Hotel and brings you back. The Hotel is only five blocks from downtown and there are shops all along the way.

The Reunion is for ALL Americal Veterans, your spouse, your friends, and all others who care to come. Help celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Americal Division.

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AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION - 92 REUNION RESERVATION  
W.W.II \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME:(Print) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ VIETNAM \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST:(Print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

REGISTRATION FEE @ \$10.00 each person (No.\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Bus trip through Fort Sam Houston, (No.\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_ to McNay Art Museum, through Brackenridge Park and to the Institute of Texan Cultures. @ \$14.25 each person - FRIDAY - 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Bus Trip to the Alamo for a tour of the (No.\_\_\_\_) \$\_\_\_\_\_ Shrine, on through the King William Historic District, on to a tour of Mission San Jose and on to the Lone Star brewery for a beer or root beer served in the Buckhorn Saloon with a tour of the Hall of Horns.

@\$15.50 each person - Saturday - 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Make all checks payable to AMERICAL REUNION 1992  
Mail to William Maddox - [REDACTED] - Portland, TX 78374

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

11 LIB DUC PHO LZ LIZ 67-68

## 'OLD MAN IS A SMOKE BRINGER'

Duc Pho - When the "Old Man brings smoke," it's a sure bet that someone is in trouble.

The 'Old Man' in this case is Ltc James A. Franklin, commander of the 11 LIB, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and the person in trouble was a Viet Cong tax collector.

Franklin, of Plainville, GA was flying over the "Gaza Strip" area north of Duc Pho to mark a landing zone for a combat assault. As he prepared to 'pop smoke' he saw a man on the ground trying to hide.

The colonel's chopper was flying at 600 feet when he threw the smoke grenade at the enemy tax collector and hit him in the shin.

(Copied from June '68 issue of the Southern Cross).



COL Franklin and SGM Evans awaiting the arrival of General Westmoreland at LZ Liz

I truly look forward to receiving the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER every other month. The first section I check out is the New Member Section. The November-December issue has listed COL. James A. Franklin from Georgia. He is the first one that I have come across that I served with in Nam. He was my CO in Hawaii and Nam at LZ Liz. I called information in Georgia, but was unable to get a listing for him.

So, COL. Franklin, if you read this, give me a call or drop me a line. Look forward to hearing from you and others. COL. Franklin was known for his accuracy at throwing grenades at enemy tax collectors. He was in his C&C at 600 feet and picked off an evading VC with a smoke grenade. I would also like to get in touch with the following:

Howard Schofield, Baltimore MD

Doug Inman, Atlanta GA

Joe Masonis, Dubois PA

Wayne Marek, unknown. Keep up the good work with the NEWSLETTER.

DUC PHO - LZ Liz 67-68

Robert E. Gene Wilson

Charlotte NC 28212-6368

Picture above courtesy of Robert Wilson  
3/1/11 LIB



PLEASE HELP ROD KANE AND THE NEW LUNG !

In December of 1991, after one year on a waiting list, Rod Kane has gotten his lung transplant.

As a former combat medic in the central highlands of Vietnam, Rod was diagnosed, at the age of 31, as having Alpha-1 Anti-Trypsin Deficiency, which is a hereditary form of emphysema.

His successful lung transplant was performed at Fairfax Hospital, in Falls Church, VA, but costs for anti-rejection medication will cost Rod in excess of \$10,000 per year.

This is where we need your help. We have set up a tax deductible fund for donations to help offset some of the cost of these medications. Should you wish to help, please contact:

National Heart Assist and Transplant Fund

Haverford, PA 19041

If you have any questions, please call Lene' Warden at [REDACTED]

YOUR GIFTS, AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS, ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED !

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GEORGE JAKOBOWSKI KENOSHA, WI  
18th ARTILLERY

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



VIETNAM  
HELICOPTER  
PILOTS  
ASSOCIATION

My name is John Becker and I am the Association Liaison person for the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. As such, I am very interested in adding your association to our mailing list in exchange for our Newsletter. In this way we can maintain a closer contact with each and every association of Vietnam Veterans.

Any of your members that are qualified to join the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association may obtain information on our organization by writing:

John Becker  
VHPA - Assoc. Liaison  
[REDACTED]

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Days [REDACTED] Nights [REDACTED]

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MARS STATION 523 SIGNAL

Steve is still trying to locate some of the former members of his unit in Vietnam. The picture below is some of the old gang. The two men in the front, holding the beer cans, are twins--Mitch and Mike Moses. Direct center is Steve Monroe. Across the back, left to right are: Jim White, Charlie Locett, Pete Lutz, John Mughue, Jerry Bodine, and Ron Thering. If these men see this picture, or anyone knows them, please contact:

Steve Monroe  
[REDACTED]

Cameron, WV 26033

CALL [REDACTED]



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COMPANY B 20 INFANTRY 11 LIB

I am interested in contacting any AMERICAL brothers that served with B/1/20 Inf 11 LIB during 1970. I would especially like to hear from Mark Hughes.

Please contact:

Dale Belke  
[REDACTED]  
Janesville, WI 53547

HH 3rd BATTALION 1st INFANTRY 11 lib

The letter by G. Limscott (Sept-Oct Page 9) inspired me to write. I started several letters, but never finished them.

I served with S-2, HH, 3rd Bn, 1st Inf., 11th LIB in Hawaii, Sept '67 - Dec '68. We went over on the USS Weigel, arriving in Qui Nhon on or about 12/22/67.

I guess what really made me write this time is the loss of a childhood friend (46 years old and died from a heart attack) who served 3 tours in Nam as a Navy Seal. Only after his death did I learn he was also active in the POW/MIA issue. At his grave side funeral, I wore my colors in his honor. We (V.N. Vets) do need to contact and stay in touch as much as possible, for life is too short.

I have only been able to open up and talk for the past 2-3 years. I have a brother (1 yr older) who served at Long Binh from Oct '69 - Mar '71 and to this day we have never sat down and talked of our experiences.

Up until two years ago, my conversations about the Viet Nam conflict were limited to fellow Vets, then I was invited to share my experiences and thoughts with the students at my daughter's Jr. High School. The first period class was really tough, but it became easier as the day progressed. This past year, my wife and son accompanied me and video taped the day. As a result, my son mentioned my talks to a history teacher at his high school, before I knew it, I was spending the day there as well. This has been very rewarding and meaningful to me as an individual, a father, and especially a Veteran.

I have also become very active in the Metrolina Vietnam Veterans Association. My energies have been directed toward the POW/MIA issue. For the 10th anniversary of "The Wall", we are planning to take a number of disabled Vets, who have never been, to the ceremonies in Washington, DC.

For those of us who were in-country during Tet '68, there is to be a reunion in Richmond, VA, January 31 - February 2, 1992. Write William Kirkland, P.O. Box 31885, Richmond, VA 23294 for information.

In closing let me add a few names of some G.I.'s I have served with and if they are members maybe they'll see this and contact me:

Howard Schofield - Baltimore, MD

Joe Masonis - Dubois, PA

Steve Szalay - ???, PA

John Fitzgerald - Boston, MA

Keep up the good work with the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER for you are doing a super job.

Robert E. Wilson  
[REDACTED]  
Charlotte, NC 28212-6768

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

6TH SUPPORT BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY  
BRIGADE (LIGHT)

In the early summer of 1966, I had a soft, fun job as the Foreign Liaison Officer at Fort Lee, VA. when I received an alert for assignment to Alaska. That was a real surprise since the war was heating up in Vietnam and it seemed that everyone who got orders was told "Vietnam". My wife and I had made grand plans to buy a new Olds Cruiser and drive to Alaska.

In about a month the assignments officer called again. It was almost as much a surprise as the first call. Something like "The bad news is you're not going to Alaska; The good news is that you're going to Hawaii; The bad news is that you're not going to stay there long" We had about three weeks to pack and be in Schofield Barracks where I was the 5th or 6th officer assigned to the 6th Support Battalion, of the just activated 11 Infantry Brigade. The entire Brigade was still under 200 men. My assignment, in July 1967, was as the Assistant Brigade Supply Officer.

We had arrived late at night in Honolulu, exhausted because of the hassles of traveling from Virginia, by way of Anne's parent's home in New Jersey, during an airline strike and with screwed up port call orders and two very small girls. Some on-the-stick sponsor, whose name is now forgotten had stocked our refrigerator, made the beds, and left me a note that I was to report to work the FIRST thing in the morning. I didn't get a day off for almost 2 months. I discovered that forming up a unit from scratch is really a challenge! The rounding out and provisioning of the 11th Brigade was very hard work but there is nothing of interest to report on that part of the assignment here.

After the units were filled up reasonably well with men and material; the unit training began. Some very intense portions could not be done on Oahu but were possible on the big island, Hawaii. I was selected to command the forward portion of the Support Battalion which would be sent to Hawaii for about three months to support the training.

The men and equipment were transported by air to Hilo and convoyed up a twisting 2 lane road to the Pohakaloa training area located about 6000 feet up on Mauna Kea, an extinct volcano. Tanks and other large items were transported by sea-going barges, unloaded at Kawaihae, convoyed across the fields of the Parker Ranch, which looked like west Texas at a 45 degree angle, and up the mountain to Pohakaloa. The tanks had to be refueled to make the climb - they used about 700 gals in that trip.

A few months prior to our departure for RVN, DA decided to reorganize the 11th. It made the usual Army sense, we had completed the training cycles, with no time to do them over, and were fully outfitted so why send us into combat that

well prepared. What they wanted now was "light" infantry. The major changes were in reduced equipment and increased infantrymen. We gained a fourth Infantry Battalion - the 4/21st was added to the 3/1, 4/3, and 1/20 - and the Cav Troop lost their tanks and were issued APCs. All units went to new TO&E's which followed the same theme.

The Support Battalion had been organized as:

HHD	Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
Co A	Administrative Company
Co B	Medical Company
Co C	Supply & Transportation
Co D	Maintenance

After the reorganization it was:

Co A	Administrative Company
Co B	Supply and Maintenance (combining the former HHD, C and D companies)
Co C	Medical Company

Simultaneously with the reorganization, I was given command of the new Company B. Shaking that down into a manageable unit in a few short months was a significant task - but we did it because of the outstanding team of NCOs, officers and men in the company. I shipped over a company of about 250 men and 7 officers (6 were 2d LTs) and 5 warrant officers. One warrant and two sergeants had been in combat before (CWO Dan McElligott had a previous tour on the MACV staff which he claimed was the first time a warrant officer was permanently assigned to Vietnam; 1SGT Elmer Wormel had two combat jumps in Korea; and SSG Cook had been a Ranger advisor in RVN) and I was the only officer with combat arms training.

## Side Note:

I liked SSG Cook and needed his skills but since he had only been back from Vietnam a few months he could not be ordered to go with us. Commanders were told that, once we in Vietnam, we would be able to promote to fill vacancies and not be required to wait on allocations from Washington. SSG Cook was in an SFC's job and I promised him that if he would volunteer to go with us, I would promote him as soon as possible. He did and I kept my word.

The 11th departed Hawaii in December 1967, with the 4/21st Battalion left behind to complete training. We had two 707's and one C-130 for the advance party. Everyone and everything else went by ship. The advance party consisted of one infantry company, to provide us local area defense, and the other necessary people to set up our support with the military infrastructure in RVN. We had a forklift, trucks and jeeps on the C-130 - I can't remember how many but I had fought hard to keep my forklift and trucks on the list. The infantry company, which was given the

Continues on Page 16

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

## 6th SUPPORT BATTALION (Story continues)

honor because it had been selected as the best in the Brigade, was commanded by CPT Ernie Medina, who would later achieve infamy because of the events at My Lai.

The advance party arrived in the temporary base camp, Carantan, about Dec 4. It was between the famous Highway 1 and the ocean, near a town called Duc Pho. There had been a small airstrip put down some time in the past but because of settling and pot holes it was good only for helicopters and my rapidly growing supply dump (We had submitted requisitions while still in Hawaii for about 100 tons of basic, commonly used items).

One of the weird things we had to deal with was that there was no place to buy anything. If we got anything it was either issued by the Army or sent by mail from someone back home. The Army provided cigars, cigarettes, candy, writing paper, etc, free. A couple of things not provided were soft drinks and booze. The Brigade decreed that there would be only one hard liquor sales operation and that they would control it but if lower level commanders wanted to make beer and soft drinks available to the troops they would have to figure it out themselves. Fine with us. There are also no people allocated by the Army planners to run the operations for these which we built out of necessity.

All beer and softdrinks were sold for cash only, and only in pallet load lots, at the depots. You paid cash and you hauled it away. You could buy what they had but if something was not selling well they forced you to buy it. One example was that someone, either dumb or rich from bribes, had stocked up on Crown beer - Korean I think - and it was hated by all because it tasted like (Beep). The rule they put in place to get rid of it was that for every 10 cases of beer bought - one had to be Crown. We always wanted to meet the jerk who had bought the Crown in the first place.

To set up our business, I met with my Officers and NCO'S who were on the advance party and laid out the plan that the 1SG and I had devised. I ask them for a loan of cash to start our operation. The 1SG would keep the books and I would guarantee the safety of the money. We came up with enough cash to buy a flat bed truck load before the main body arrived. We also set the selling price high enough to get our funds out in a couple of months - 25 cents for beer or softdrink. Later I formed a council of men to advise on this enterprise and they decided to keep the price at a profit making level. You have no idea how much 250 guys can drink in softdrinks (and beer)!. Within a two months we had bought a movie projector (we could get movies every day but didn't get a projector but once a week). We sent \$2000 with the company clerk, Raul Melendez, on his R & R to Australia to buy a projector. Next we bought a popcorn machine and served free popcorn every

evening things were quiet. I tried to buy a pool table but we never were able to work out how to ship it in. With the amount of money made in the 9-10 months before someone at division took over the funds, the company had also bought fine stereos for both the NCO and EM clubs and every tape/record that was hot. With all of that money available it was obvious that some one should take control and audit these things!

The main body closed in on Dec 24. My ration unit, under the SSG Cook discussed earlier, had done it's work well because we all had a full turkey dinner on Christmas.

Within a month, we moved about 2 miles into the permanent base camp called LZ Bronco on the edge of Duc Pho, located on Highway 1 between Quang Ngai and Qui Nhon. In February, I think it was, we officially became part of the Americal Division.

Just after we moved into LZ Bronco, the world exploded in the form of the Tet Offensive of 1968. For me it happened in the middle of my promotion party (to Major). Over 100 mortar rounds landed in my company area alone that first night. Since we had arrived during one of the, so-called, cease fires over the Christmas period, we had been exposed to only harassing fire and an occasional mortar. That ended! My convoys to and from Qui Nhon were shot up and I lost some trucks and the windshield out of my jeep. I never had the official figures but Tet '68 hurt the 11th Brigade. We were in country about a month and we were almost all green. Tet cured that.

## Side Notes:

In the light infantry concept, the Army decreed, the support unit didn't need an organic transportation unit - so I lost my truck platoon in the re-organization. As soon as we saw the set up in RVN, I gathered up all remaining trucks, stretched the truth to order some extras, and recreated my truck platoon. Even with that we were always some 100 tons behind in movement capability. So much for the Army planners!

I also bent some supply rules to obtain extra machine guns. I had to defend a perimeter sector of over 2 miles and with the few machine guns authorized, we could not achieve overlapping fire. By the time we moved into LZ Bronco, I was ready. My sector was the only one never penetrated while I was in command.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!  
The above story was sent in by Larry Henry

\*\*\*\*\*

THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD  
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM  
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM  
Tvor Matanle

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

**GOLD KEY INN**  
7100 S. Orange Blossom Trail  
Orlando, Florida 32809



AMERICAL DIVISION  
FIELD ARTILLERY REUNION  
WWII - KOREAN - VIETNAM



WILL BE HELD MARCH 29th - APRIL 4th, 1992 AT THE

**GOLD KEY INN**

ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32809

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: [REDACTED]

The Director of Sales has blocked 50 rooms for the up coming reunion. The guaranteed rates are:

Single \$48 Double \$48 Triple \$48 Quad \$48  
All rates are subject to 10% tax. Check in time is 3 p.m. Check out time is Noon.

These rates apply to three days before the reunion and three days after. Make your reservations early. Cut off date is March 1, 1992.

Cancellation of individual rooms is due by noon of the day prior to scheduled arrival.

Buffet Dinner will be held at The Gold Key INN  
April 4, 1992 at 6:00 P.M.

If more info is needed contact:

E. R. Horton

Timberlake, NC 27583-9574



Date & time of arrival: [REDACTED] Day: [REDACTED] Date [REDACTED] Time: [REDACTED]

Number in Party: [REDACTED] Number of nights staying [REDACTED]

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED]

Phone Number ( ) [REDACTED]

Americal Division Field Artillery Reunion

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C BATTERY 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

I wish to thank all my many friend in the Americal Family who cheered me up with their cards and letters during my recovery from a crushed arm and open heart surgery. I am now coming along well.

I had a grand time with my old gunnery sergeant Barney Chase and the rest of the gang at the Chapter Reunion at Valley Forge.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I do wish you all a Happy New Year.

Leo Orfe

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ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

The closing date for articles to be placed in the Newsletter are as follows:

Jan 1 for Jan-Feb March 1 for Mar-Apr  
May 1 for May-June July 1 for July-Aug  
Sep 1 for Sep-Oct Nov 1 for Nov-Dec

**GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL  
BATTERY A 245 FIELD ARTILLERY**

Please accept my contribution to the Guadalcanal Memorial Foundation in the name of Forrest A. Mengel who passed away on April 21, 1991.

My husband and I took a trip to Guadalcanal in July of 1970 and were sad not to see something for the American soldier there when there was such a beautiful memorial to the Japanese.

My husband was in Battery A, 245 Field Artillery and proud of it.

Mrs. Forrest Mengel

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**WORLD WAR II SHELLS BEING REMOVED FROM ISLAND**

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP) -- U.S. Bomb-disposal experts today began removing 115 mustard gas shells left over from World War II.

The Solomon Islands had demanded the shell be shipped out.

The shells, left in the Solomon Islands by U.S. troops during World War II, will be shipped to America's controversial chemical weapons destruction plant at Johnston Atoll, about 500 miles southwest of Hawaii.

The shells were discovered in 1987, and some were exploded by a munitions disposal team unaware that they contained gas.

It will take ten days to do the delicate job of moving the already rusting shells from Russell Island in the central province of the Solomon Island to Johnston Atoll.

Police on the island said several people had been moved from their villages near the dump site for fear of any possible accident.

The Solomon Islands, a former British protectorate off the east coast of New Guinea, form an archipelago in the southwest Pacific about 1200 miles northwest of Australia.

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If your name is listed below this will be the last AMERICAL NEWSLETTER receive unless you bring your dues up to date.

Brian Brooks	Arthur L. Brown
Robert W. Chesnut	Leonard K. Clay
Gregory Cook	Bernard G. Earl
Herbert O. Einig	Max J. Emberton
James M. Glecker	James J. Hendricks Jr.
Gary A. Knudson	Gerald E. Komnik
Rob Kresge	Martin M. Maloney
C. Tony May	Anthony P. Muscarello
Bruce D. Neilson	Joseph C. Schwartz
Clifford J. Sevier	Leo A. Stern
	William E. Sweeney

\*\*\*\*\*

**ARE YOUR DUES PAID?**



**SECOND ANNUAL REUNION**

**101ST MEDICAL REGIMENT**

**121ST MEDICAL BATTALION**



Back Row (lr) Anita Lopardo, Nora Serino, Ruth O'Brien, Laura Picardi, Irene Lawrence, Virginia Rogers, Connie Fortunato, Helen Dunphy, Louise Ravagno, Orize Carpenter, Mary Ellen Frickie. Front Row (lr) Margaret Fidler, Pat Coronella, Vi Deyeso, Josephine Guerriero, Virginia Hicks, Irene Egirous, Virginia Keenan.

The Second Annual Reunion held at the Sheraton Tara Wayfay Inn, Bedford, NH on October 20-23, 1991 is now just a memory. The weather was perfect as well as the fall foliage, plus we almost doubled the attendance of last year.

One of the major changes we tried this year was to start the Reunion on Sunday, as we are all RETIREES - this worked out just great.

Everyone was checked in by 3:00 PM on that Sunday which was followed by the Complimentary Wine & Cheese party in the Hospitality Room, allowing everyone to relax and meet each other and renewing old acquaintances of years past. After the evening dinner we all met back in the Hospitality Room to relax and talk over old times.

Monday morning a picture taking session was held and with the flashing of cameras and "hold for just one more shot" you can see by the above two pictures the Reunion will retain many good memories.

In the afternoon Bill Dunphy presented a slide show of his trip to the South Pacific Fiji, New Caledonia, Australia and Hawaii, where he and Helen were joined up with Sam & Louise Ravago. The rest of the time was free to take in the foliage or shop.

Tuesday a Golf Putting tournament was held and Clif Rogers unseated Everett Roper our last year champ. While this was in progress Nora and Ralph Serino assisted by Bill Coronella directed the Beano game. Henry Doherty, after lunch, presented a movie of his trip back to Guadalcanal which brought back many memories of fifty years ago. THANKS HENRY.

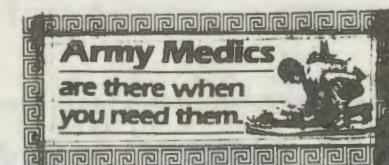
Back Row (lr) Bill Dunphy, Herb O'Brien, Fred Basile, Al Cotta, Jerry Montone, Frank MacDonald, Clif Rogers, Mike Lopardo, Bob Keenan, Henry Doherty. Middle Row (lr) Paul Fortunato, Ralph Serino, Bill Coronella, Reo Carpenter, Jerry Guerriero, Sam Ravagno. Front Row (lr) Bernard Frickie, Tony Deyeso, Everett Roper, Mike Egirous, Missing from picture: John Carey, Bernie O'Donnell, Ed Haddad, Bill Marshall, John O'Neil, Al Riley and Sumner Myerson.

The farewell dinner was held in the Terrace Room followed by a few presentations (bottles of cheer). TO: Jerry Montone who travelled the furthest (FLA), Ralph & Nora for hosting the Beano game, Clif Rogers the new reigning golf champ for 1991-1992, then to the best dressed man at the Reunion - Mike Egirous. Clif Rogers an accomplished pianist came forward and directed a sing along which put the frosting on the cake. THANKS CLIF.

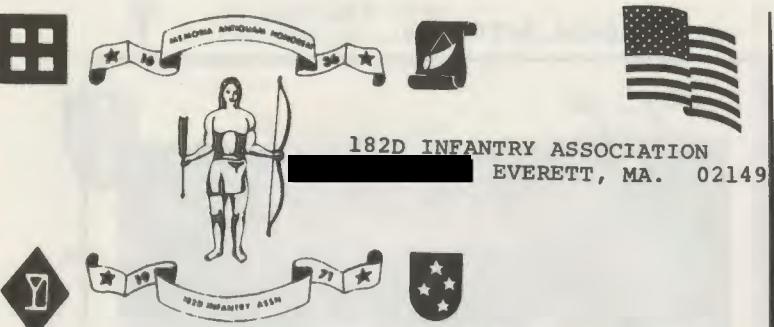
A memoir table displaying albums, pictures, and other items was well received. Irene Lawrence had 1928 & 29 group pictures with our own Henry Doherty in full dress uniform, he hasn't changed at all! John O'Neil's 28 page typed diary also had many flashbacks to the old days. THANKS IRENE and JOHN.

All the letters received from those who could not attend were displayed and everyone signed get well cards to the members who could not attend because of sickness. One member, I am sad to report, was Jim Lam who passed away December 6, 1991.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Mark your calendar for October 18, 19, 20, 1992 for the Third Annual Reunion Details later. See you next year folks.



## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD



Our annual Christmas Party and installations of officers (for 1992) was held at our meeting hall on December 14, 1991. A fine turn-out and good weather helped make for an enjoyable evening. Officers installed were; Charles L. Doyle, Commander, James E. Lane, Vice Commander, Warren J. Zannino, 1st Vice Commander, Donald Estabrooks, Finance Officer, Robert Cox. Adjutant. John D. Malenchini, our newest trustee could not attend due to illness. He had previously been sworn in.

Dave Barisano won our membership honors for by recruiting thirty (30) members. Charlie Doyle came in a distant second with eight (8) new members. Congratulations Dave!

Attention--all former or present members of the 182 Infantry, plus any present or former serviceman, or a citizen without military service, is eligible to join our organization. If you would like literature on our organization drop a note to Commander Charles Doyle, P.O. Box 278, Everett, MA 02149

We are holding a Valentine Dinner Dance, plus our annual raffle, at Post 61, Revere American Legion building on February 15, 1992. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Mail requests for reservations, with full payment, to our Post Office Box listed above. You may also call me at 289-3875 and your tickets will be held at the door for you.

To all our friends and compatriots in the ADVA we wish our best to you for a safe, happy, and productive 1992.

Charles L. Doyle  
Commander

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## CORRECTION CORRECTION CORRECTION

In the Nov-Dec issue of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER on Page 18, there was a request by Joe Kralich for info that anyone had on air evacuation during World War II.

Joe is a Vietnam Americal Vet and he is writing a book on the Combat Medics.

His telephone number was given incorrectly. THE CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER IS [REDACTED].

Joe is currently planning to get local vets to attend a service on Memorial Day at Angle Fire.

MORE LATER

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## HERBERT L. HOLT COMPANY D 182 INFANTRY

I am trying to find some of my buddies that were in Company D, 182 Infantry while we were on the island of Cebu and went on to Japan.

Write to: Herbert L. Holt

Selma, CA 93662

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## ATTENTION ALL FORMER SNIPERS !

I am an author compiling stories of sniper teams. I am especially interested in the training, tactics, and anecdotes of developing snipers and their teams. Please write to the address below:

Keith Everett

Green Valley, AZ 85614

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## CO. H 182 INFANTRY HOW ABOUT A REUNION?

If you are a former member of Company D, 182 Infantry, would you please drop a note to one of the two members listed below. Please pass the word around because we are planning a Reunion.

John Groppi

Dorchester, MA 02125

Fred Zaino

Everett, MA 02149

\*\*\*\*\*

## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

## GEORGE L. YOUNG

I have received a photograph from D.J. Sobey, of Decator, GA which brings up many questions. It is an International News Photo showing a PFC George R. Young of Salt Lake City giving a baby a bottle of milk.

The baby's name is Mary Cal Williams. The father is William L. Williams formerly of Alton, Illinois. Apparently Williams "took to the bush" after the fall of the Philippines and surfaced soon after the AMERICAL landed there.

If you have any information please contact:

W. Mark Durley Jr.

Santa Maria, CA 93454

Ed Note: Mark is the Americal Historian and has been doing a great job on putting together historical data on the Americal and this includes the Vietnam era.

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

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## COMPANY L 182 INFANTRY

Enclosed is a Money Order for the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund.

On November 11, 1991 I was present for the unveiling and dedication of a war memorial here in my hometown of Oxnard. I was wandering around the crowd in my V.F.W. uniform, with the Americal patch on my left shoulder, when a Vietnam vet tapped me on the shoulder and asked me where I got the patch. I told him that I was there at its birth, taking credit for you Guadalcanal vets. Anyway, he told me that the Americal was also his outfit in Vietnam. I said to him, "You're drafted", and he gladly gave me his outfit and address. He would like a membership application.

His name is Joe Ortiz and he served with the 196 LIB 1967-1968.

Also enclosed is a clipping that was printed in the local paper back in 1944. It reads;

## VERA AWARDED COMBAT BADGE

For exemplary conduct in combat in action against the Japs at Bougainville, Pvt. Fernando Vera of Oxford has been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, according to a report from headquarters, Americal Division on Bougainville.

Overseas for six months, Vera also saw action on Guadalcanal. He is a former Oxnard high school student.

Ed. Note: A copy of this AMERICAL NEWSLETTER will be sent to Joe. The application is on the back.

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## 221 FIELD ARTILLERY 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

For all the old timers, (continued from Sep-Oct Newsletter), Sunriver, Oregon is a very popular and expensive summer and winter resort area, just south of Bend, Oregon. It is on the former site of Camp Abbott, established May 1943 as an Engineer Replacement Center for the U. S. Army when World War II was almost a year old. In September and October of 1943 a 10,000 square mile area covering three central Oregon counties were used for what was called the "Oregon Maneuver". The Oregon Maneuver involved over 100,000 soldiers, commanded by Major General Alexander Patch. The principal forces were grouped into the 91st and 104th Infantry Divisions, part of the Fourth corps. This was after General Patch commanded us on Guadalcanal and before we went to the European Theater. The Engineers built the bridge, now known as the General Patch Bridge, for use during the maneuvers. So now we know where he went after he left us.

Ed Note: General Alexander Patch commanded the Seventh Army that invaded southern France. His son was KIA while serving in his command.

Lloyd Morrell

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THE PEOPLE OF NEW CALEDONIA ARE EXPECTING YOU FOR THE DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION ON AUGUST 16, 1992. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, AND HAVE NOT YET SIGNED UP, CONTACT JIM BUCKLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## 26 SIGNAL COMPANY 26 SIGNAL COMPANY

I enjoyed my first Reunion, at Cape Cod this past summer. I was disappointed that I did not see more members of the 26 Signal Company present. I would like to hear from former members.

Enclosed is a picture of the 26 Signal Company members that were present in June.

Anthony Albini

Plantville, CT 06479



BUSHNELL NATIONAL CEMETERY NOVEMBER 11, 1991

Below is a photograph of the members of the Arthur R. Wood-Southeast Chapter and the Memorial Stone that was dedicated on November 11, 1991.

We are hoping for a large turnout on February 10, 1992 for our next Southeast Chapter meeting. It will be held at Perry's Resort, Daytona, Florida.

Picture courtesy of PNC Tom McQuade.



DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH MEMBERS LIVING IN ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, HAWAII, NEVADA, UTAH, AND NEW MEXICO WILL BE RECEIVING A LETTER FROM JOE FEELER. JOE IS RE-ORGANIZING THE FARWEST CHAPTER AND WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION.

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## COMPANY G 182 INFANTRY

I was reading in the latest Newsletter about the Guadalcanal Memorial and it was mentioned that a number of obelisks will be etched on the Memorial.

I wonder if it is known, by the powers that be, that the first contact the 182 Infantry had with the enemy was made by G Company. This contact was made at the water hole were about 30 of us went to get water. We had been informed by the Marines that it was a safe area.

There we were with about 60 or 70 canteens, gathered from other men, going to get water. I was the first down the trail, a steep one at that, you slid most of the way down. Eddie DeMambro was with me. Also two other guys whose names I cannot remember. As we started to fill our canteens all hell broke out and we were trapped and cut off from our lines. A lot of guys were wounded and several killed. It was just before dark and all I could think of that we had been told that the Japs liked to fight at night. I was scared as hell. Eddie and I started back up the hill but we were stopped by enemy fire. There was no one in charge. I was only a PFC at the time. I sent two men out to the left and two men out to the right to find a way out. I never saw them again.

Eddie and I believed we had accounted for at least six Japs. When our first platoon came to rescue us they suffered casualties and were driven off. But with the firepower supplied by our BAR's and the fire from the first platoon on the hill, the remaining Japs pulled back and we finally got out.

Three years later, on my way back to the States, I stopped at Guadalcanal and walked the ridge and by God there were the six Jap graves right where Eddie and I dropped them!

That is the story of the first skirmish that G Company, 182 Infantry had in World War II. If you need more info anyone in G company can fill you in about it. I feel this is just a little part of history--and so goes G Co--it should be noted.

Pat Farino

Punta Gorda, FL 33982

\*\*\*\*\*

DO YOU BUY--MADE IN U.S.A.

Do you know that you probably pay more tax than many Japanese companies that do business in America?

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. operations of Japanese firms had a total sales of \$185 Billion. Yet nearly 3 out of 5 of these firms paid NO Federal income tax last year. And the average tax of those companies that did pay was just 1/2 % of their U.S. sales. (The average American pays about 28%)

How do they do it--the headquarter offices of foreign firms regularly overcharge their American subsidiaries so their U.S. operations show a very low profit.

American companies have been forced out of the television and consumer electronic industries and now our steel, shipbuilding, aerospace, auto apparel, biotechnology, and computer industries are under attack and are losing ground daily.

We won the war ---BUT



Above is a picture of Maj. Gen. Robert B. McClure having the Americal patch applied to his sleeve.

Sgt. Leon P. Granacki, of Chicago, is the person sewing the patch on the Generals shoulder and he is also the designer of the shoulder patch.

(origin of picture unknown but it was sent in by Joe Micek).

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## 182 INFANTRY

I am enclosing a check which would have been the amount of Gerald's dues. I would like you to use it to help defray the cost of the Newsletter that is sent to me. I sincerely appreciate it.

I trust that you received the picture of Gerry's monument. We were very pleased with the result.

Mrs. Gerald Sellers



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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Even if the rest of the world continues to ignore our cause, we will fight on. For we are fighting not only for ourselves, but for mankind. We are fighting for freedom and human dignity and the right to worship the God of our choice".

George Washington--Valley Forge Sept. 1790

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I WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF YOU WOULD SEND YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH ANY ARTICLE THAT IS SENT IN FOR THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. MANY TIMES A QUESTION ARISES AND A CALL WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

EDITOR

## NEW CALEDONIA

COMMEMORATION OF JAPANESE SURRENDER  
Sunday September 1, 1991

On Sunday September 1, 1991, at Place Bir Hakeim, in front of the Veterans Monument in Noumea, a service was held commemorating the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945. The ceremony was organized by 1 AACOM and the Association of Friends of America participated.

Paul Demene was the speaker of the day and his speech follows:

"Each May 8th, we commemorate here, the unconditional surrender of the vanquished German Army, which marked the end of the war in Europe on May 8, 1945.

But the war was still going on in the Pacific and it was not until September 2, four months later, that the solemn act of the Japanese surrender would be signed, aboard the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay, in front of General Douglas MacArthur and in the presence of General LeClerc representing France.

We commemorate this historical date, September 2, every year, because it marks the real end of World War II. We are here to bring testimony to the sacrifices that happened in front of the advancing Japanese forces. We are here to pay homage to those who fell beside us, and to manifest our solidarity with the Allied Forces that contributed so much to victory in the Pacific.

We salute the "Stars and Stripes", the Spangled banner, and we will always keep, in the bottom of our heart, a large loving place for all those G.I.'s that fought and gave their lives for the safety and Freedom in our World".

Flowers wreaths were laid in homage to those French and Americans who gave their lives in the fight against the Asiatic version of Fascism.

Ed Note: It is great to know that we have some true friends in the world and that they still remember us (Thanks to Mrs. John Franklin for the translation).



SEPTEMBER 2, 1991 NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
DO IT NOW!

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## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

## NEW ENGLAND AND ESPECIALLY MASSACHUSETTS MEMBERS

One of our members, Dick Del Rossi, the North Shore Coordinator for the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans is trying to gather much needed items for the Shelter. Listed below are things that are urgently needed:

1. Winter clothing-any size
2. Canned food
3. Soap, shampoo, and toiletry
4. Donations also welcome

Clothing, shampoo, and etc., may be dropped off at:

New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans  
17 Court St.  
Boston, MA 02108

Your checks should be made out to New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, and mailed to the above address.

If you require any further information or if you have any questions, write or call:

Dick Del Rossi  
[REDACTED]  
Reading, MA 01867

Or call [REDACTED]

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DIVISION ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS

In the battle for Bougainville I had the honor of being the buddy of Brig. Gen. William C. Dunckel whom headed up Division Artillery. I was the sergeant in charge of the Fire Direction Center.

The General gave me a special order whenever our command post got shelled. My first duty was to find his Aide, a young Lieutenant, son of a best friend, and get him into a foxhole.

The General, himself, had no fear and spent all of his time on top of the ground during Condition Red. I was also his chauffeur. A normal drive in his Jeep was heading to the front to give him personal view of the Japs pushing on our lines. Many a time I remember him walking around in the mist of Jap mortar barrage while I was trying to become part of a banyan tree.

To make a long story short--he commanded the best Division Artillery in the U.S. Army.

In his spare time at night he wrote personal letters to every family at home on daily casualties. Many a night he wept.

His last words to me when he left us on Bougainville were "Sergeant, you have the worst looking soldiers in your section but the best Goddam artillery fire direction in the Army".

Upon his arrival in Australia, after leaving us in Bougainville, he mailed me a hunting knife which I still have and treasure.

George Lloyd

Ed Note: George, I'm sorry that I cannot use those sketches. They reproduce poorly. An original might work.

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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

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Telephone:

Address — Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Americal Unit: Rgt..

Bn.

Co/Bty.

Other

Dates of Service — From:

To:

Serial No.:

Date of Birth:

Blood Type:

Religion:

V. A. Claim No.:

V. A. Office — City:

State:

Occupation:

Wife's First Name:

Date:

Signature:

Sponsored by:

(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$16.00

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

1. DD 214 Form.

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

(All copies of records will be returned)