

* GUADALCANAL

* NORTHERN SOLOMONS

* LEYTE

* SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

* VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

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VIETNAM EDITOR: RONALD L. WARD

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NATIONAL COMMANDER 1992 - 1993
PETER J. MESSINA

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 PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER
 IT NEEDS YOU!

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CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER

1992 San Antonio Reunion

Gee guys, those of you who did not attend the reunion in San Antonio sure missed a whale of a good time. It was was hosted by Bill Maddox and the South Mid-West Chapter.

Attending from CMW were Ron Ward, Larry Brandon, Jim Craig, Gary Noller, and Dave Recob.

Ron Ward was elected as Chairman of the newly formed ADVA Scholarship Fund, and assigned the job of locating finances to fund the scholarships we hope to establish in coming years. Any financial contributions are welcomed by Ron and can be sent direct to him at his home: Ron Ward, 9618 Dana Ave., St. Louis, MO 63123.

Dave Recob was named Vietnam Editor for the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER to replace Ron Ward.

At the general meeting on Saturday June 20, Dave Recob addressed the membership on the merits of the two similarities of the veterans of the Americal Division in WW II and Vietnam.

Both were jungle fighters who fought in mud, rice paddies, tall grass, and who endured hot humid weather conditions, fighting Oriental foes in sometimes hand to hand combat, and digging them out of holes and cliffs.

Further, the liveability rate of a veterans organization is about 50 years, as most would be in their 70's or 80's after World War II service. But, with Vietnam veterans being members of the association, we lengthened our association's life another 50 years, making a century or more of living veterans of one of the more famous Army Divisions of WW II and Vietnam.

The membership was most pleased with this report, and the room buzzed with favorable comments the rest of the morning, and into the banquet that night.

On Saturday night, we had 3 speakers for the huge banquet, held to honor the reunion. More than 200 attended.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER NEWS (Continues)

WO-1 Joe Balcazar penciled the path of the Division from the States to Tokyo in WW II. Colonel Jim Franklin, then C.O. C/3/1 Infantry in Vietnam, penciled the Vietnam veterans role of our Division in that conflict. The highlight address came from Mrs. Drehl Patch Chandler, the daughter of Gen. Alexander M. Patch, our first C.O.. She told of his love for the Division and traced his military career before and after the assignment with the Division.

After dinner concluded, and the 1993 newly elected officers, or selected officers had been installed, we spent the evening dancing and talking into the wee hour after midnight.

Bill Maddox of Portland, TX, and Commander SWC, was elected Junior Vice Commander. All others moved up. Joe Chin remains Treasurer and Bernie Chase as Adjutant.

The 1993 Reunion will be in Topeka, KS, June 23-26, 1993.

Rates are expected to be \$300 single and \$400 double for three days and nights, and that includes all amenities. Watch for for specifics at a later date.

The "premium gift" is being kept "secret"!

It won't be divulged! But - Vietnam guys wouldn't be without it, and WW II guys will love the novelty of it. That's all the hint you will get!

We have had our share of ball caps, coffee mugs, and T shirts. We are doing something different this year.

1992 Dues are still unpaid by many CMWC members. Dues are \$5.00 run from from Jan to Dec on a yearly basis. 1993 Dues are almost due. Please make your \$5.00 check payable to David L. Recob and NOT CMWC or ADVA. We have no bank account with that name because it is too expensive to maintain. Your financial help to assist us carry on activities is greatly appreciated.

Thanks much guys! See ya'

Dave Recob

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
 Stephen Dennison

SEC/TREAS
 Peter J. Messina Sec
 Pittsburgh, PA 15227
 Phone [REDACTED]

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
 Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

Your 1992 reunion chairmen, Harold Stein and George Yates, have planned and active and fun filled chapter reunion. Join us by mailing in the enclosed reunion form by August 21, 1992.

Your paid tickets may be picked up at the reunion registration desk in the hospitality room on Thursday, September 10, 1992, between 6:30 P.M. and 8:30 P.M. I must stress the importance of making your reservations as early as possible.

CHAPTER NEWS

We need to know how many will be coming to our dinner business meeting and to the buffet dinner at the Meadows Race Track. We must have at least 50 people signed up to hold our meeting at the Meadows Race Track. If this number is not reached, your money will be refunded Thursday evening, in the hospitality room.

The block of rooms set aside for our chapter reunion will be released to the general public as of August 23, 1992. After that you will be taking a chance of getting a room for they usually sell out early. All hotel reservations will be made directly with the hotel by calling 412-343-4600 or by dialing 800-325-3535 or by sending in the enclosed registration card. Rooms are \$60 plus tax per night, single or double, and this price includes a full course breakfast. Persons wishing to come to the reunion one day early, or stay an extra day, will be charged the \$60 room rate. Van service is available from the airport to the hotel for anyone flying to the reunion. Please arrange this directly with the hotel.

Please give the hotel early notice in case of any cancellations.

Paid reservations for the Meadow Race Track and the banquet dinner must be made only with Harold Stein. To avoid needless confusion, please make your dinner reservations early.

Dinner is not planned for Thursday night, but there are plenty of good restaurants close by.

The pool at the hotel will be closed for repairs but arrangements have been made to use a spa swimming pool close by.

A Van, courtesy of the hotel, will be available to take you to the nearby South Hill Shopping Mall and the Galleria Shopping Mall. If you wish to visit Station Square or downtown Pittsburgh, the Van will be available to take you to the subway station. Seniors ride free on the subway except during the rush hours--4:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M..

There will be munchies and non-alcoholic drinks served each night in the hospitality room. Remember, at our business meeting we always elect officers for the following year. Don't be bashful. If you would like to be an officer, just mention this to me or Pete Messina. The reunion is for all Americal veterans, their spouses, your friends and all others who care to come. If you wish to have a very enjoyable weekend, meet nice people and make new friends, then be sure to come to this year's reunion. Support your chairmen by attending this year's reunion in Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,
 Steve Dennison
 Chapter Commander

SHERATON INN PITTSBURG SOUTH

Thursday September 10, 1992

You will be able to check into your room beginning at 2:00 P.M., as rooms are available. The Chapter Commander will be in the Hospitality Room, beginning at 6:30 P.M., to give out the paid tickets for Friday night's Meadow Race (Horse) Track, and Saturday night's dinner tickets. Discount coupons for the Malls will be available. Soft drinks and munchies will be served.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER NEWS (Continues)

Friday September 11, 1992

This will be a free day to visit the shopping malls or downtown Pittsburgh. We will meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30 P.M., you provide your own transportation, for the trip to Meadows Race Track. Dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M. and the races begin at 7:30 P.M. After the races snacks and soft drinks will be served in the Hospitality Room.

Saturday September 12, 1992

This will be a free day for you to visit the Mall you missed or to take the subway to Station Square and ride the incline to the top of Mt. Washington for a panoramic view of Pittsburgh.

The Silhouette Lounge will open a 6:00 P.M. for complimentary beer, wine, non-alcoholic fruit punch and snacks.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. followed by a business meeting and the election of officers. Following the business meeting the Hospitality Room will be open until ???.

Sunday September 13, 1992

Checkout time is 12 Noon.

A complimentary full course breakfast will be served every morning from 6:30 A.M. until 10:30 A.M. (It is recommended that you leave a tip for the waitress).

Please reserve the following:

Friday September 11, 1992
Buffet Dinner and Admission plus program and gift.

\$20.00 Each () \$_____

Saturday Night Banquet
September 12, 1992 \$20.00 Each () \$_____

Selection for Banquet

Orange Roughy

Sliced Beef Au Jus

ALL MONEY MUST BE IN BY AUGUST 21, 1992

Make checks payable to:
Eastern Regional Chapter ADVA
% Harold Stein
[REDACTED]

Pittsburg, PA 15228

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your Name _____

Your Guest _____

(You may Xerox this form or make a facsimile if you do not want to destroy your Newsletter).

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER
PAY YOUR DUES

DIRECTIONS TO SHERATON INN PITTSBURGH SOUTH

FROM THE NORTH: ALTERNATE A

Follow I-79 South. Exit at Pittsburgh (Exit 14 on I-279). Follow I-279 to Pittsburgh. Exit at Greentree (Exit 4). At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Greentree Road. Go about three miles to a T. Turn left onto Cochran Road. Follow Route 19 signs and turn right onto Washington Road. Stay on Route 19 for 9 traffic lights. Village Square Shopping Mall is on the left. Take the next left. Turn left at the first traffic light.

FROM THE NORTH: ALTERNATE B

Follow I-79 South to Exit 11. Take Route 50 to red light. Turn right 2 miles to Boyce Road. Turn left onto Boyce Road to Route 19. Turn left and follow Route 19 north to Fort Couch Road past South Hills Village Mall. At intersection turn right. The Sheraton Inn Pittsburgh South is at the next traffic light.

FROM THE NORTH: ALTERNATE C

Follow I-79 South. Exit at Canonsburg (Exit 10). Follow sign to Route 19. Turn left onto Route 19 for 9 miles. South Hills Village Mall will be on the right. Take the next right at the traffic light. Turn left at first traffic light.

FROM THE EAST:

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to New Stanton. Take I-70 West to Washington, PA (Exit 7). Take Route 19 North to South Hills Village Mall on the right. Take the next right at the stop light. Turn left at the first traffic light.

FROM PITTSBURGH PARKWAY EAST:

(Monroeville or PA Turnpike—Pittsburgh (Exit 6)
From Pittsburgh Parkway East (376 West - 22 West - 30 West) follow I-376 West to Pittsburgh. Follow signs to Liberty Bridge. Go through the Liberty Tunnel. Follow Route 19 South for 7 miles. When you see Village Square Shopping Mall on the left, take the next left at traffic light. You will see the Sheraton.

FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: If driving from the airport, turn right onto Route 60. Pick up I-79 South and follow above directions "From the North—Alternate A, B or C".

Sheraton South Hills

[REDACTED], Pgh., PA 15241-1090
412/343-4600

Check In Time 3 p.m.

Departure Time 12 noon

LAST NAME

FIRST

PHONE #

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

ARRIVAL DATE

DEPARTURE DATE

FUNCTION DATE:

- Reservations must be received 21 days prior to function date.
- Personal checks will not be accepted at check out.
- Reservations must be accompanied by a one night deposit or a valid credit card # and signature (see attached).
- No shows without cancellation number will be charged.

Credit Cards Accepted

MasterCard VISA Am. Ex. Diners Carte Blanche Enroute Discover

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Expiration Date _____

	King	Queen	2 Dbl. Beds	Roll Aways
Single	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Double	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 additional
Triple	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 additional
Quad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 additional
1st choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2nd choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Limited room types - please indicate 1st and 2nd choice

FAMILY PLAN

Children (17 and under) in same room with parents FREE

ANY QUESTIONS: Call Steve Dennison

OR

Pete Messina

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

THANK YOU AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

We want to thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness and for the many cards and letters received during the time Guerry was ill.

Also the many enrollments, the beautiful spray of flowers - a blue carnation background and four white carnations - shaped in the form of the Americal insignia, and sent to the Funeral Home, were deeply appreciated.

Again, thank you very much for everything.

Jo Guerriero and family

(The date of Guerry's death was incorrect in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter. The correct date is April 30, 1992).

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

182 INFANTRY

I am sorry to inform you that David Rossi passed away on May 19, 1992. He had developed lung cancer in June 1991 and returned from Florida to his home in Pennsylvania for treatment. After receiving Chemo all summer and radiation during the fall and winter we were able to return to Florida in January of 1992.

We returned to Pennsylvania on April 26, 1992 after Dave appeared to have had a minor stroke. A specialist determined that Dave had a brain tumor and began treatment that seemed to produce a miraculous recovery. The day after his last treatment he developed a fever and had difficulty breathing. He had a collapsed lung and pneumonia, and was diagnosed as having "Legionnaires Disease". He was put on medication but it was too late. David's heart gave out.

I am grateful that David expired without the cancer taking over. He did not suffer one bit with it. The pain of losing him is diminished knowing that he did not suffer.

David enjoyed the Americal Association very much.

Sincerely,
E.J. Rossi

Ed: Dave was a loyal worker for the Americal and he was secretary of the Southeast Chapter.

C AND SERVICE BATTERY 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

I wish to thank all the great people of the ADVA and my Battery mates of the 221 Field Artillery Battalion, for all the cheering-up cards, visits and telephone calls during my confinement in the hospital and since my returning home.

I wish that I could thank everyone in person but I would never catch up. Once again, thanks to all and God bless.

Sincerely,
Bob Thornton

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

BATTERY B 223 FIELD ARTILLERY

My husband, Leo Stern, due to illness is now a resident of the New Mexico Veterans Center, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901.

He looks forward to all the news in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. Would you please have future issues sent to him at the above address. He says that this is the only way he can keep track of his buddies.

It would be nice to receive a card from other vets occasionally. God knows that he could use some cheering up.

Yours truly,
Mildred Stern

ED: The Newsletters are on the way. Hey Guys-- how about those cards?



182 INFANTRY

Frank G. Brown died in his sleep, at his home, after a long illness, on May 24, 1992. He was 82 in April and had lived in Brookline for forty years.

Frank served with the 182 Infantry, Americal Division, on Guadalcanal. He was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received and also a Silver Star for bravery in action.

Following the war he was advertising production manager for Filene's until his retirement.

He was active in the Americal Museum at Fort Devens and was one of men that worked to establish the Museum. He was a Curator for many years and served on a monthly schedule.

Following a Mass at St. Aidan's Church in Brookline, he was laid to rest in Knollwood Memorial Park in Sharon, MA.

He leaves his beloved wife Christine Lee (Callahan) Brown.

CHECK TO THE RIGHT OF YOU NAME
ON THE ADDRESS LABEL
FOR YOU DUES DUE DATE

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Arthur Pope formerly of Company C, 182nd Infantry, and his wife Bertha, have taken over the task of decorating the three highway markers in western Massachusetts. Bertha made the American flags out of artificial flowers and they were placed on each marker. We, at Americal Headquarters want to thank Arthur and Bertha for the great job they did.

These signs dedicating the AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY are located at three rest stops on Interstate I-91. This highway crosses western Massachusetts and extends from Connecticut to Vermont. The signs were placed in rest areas, instead of along the highway, due to federal guidelines.

These markers were authorized by the General Court of Massachusetts about twenty years ago. Joseph Lapinski, of Millers Falls, a State Engineer was instrumental in arranging for the signs and also their installation.

Ed Largess, 221 Field Artillery, of West Brookfield, MA placed a wreath on these markers for many years. Due to failing health he was forced to give up this practice several years ago.

Thanks again Arthur and Bertha for taking over this important task.



GOVERNMENT ISSUE

Sitting on my G.I. bed,
My G.I. hat upon my head,
My G.I. pants, my G.I. shoes,
I wish they'd give us G.I. Booze.
G.I. razors and G.I. coombs,
G.I. wish that I was home.

They issue everything you need,
Paper to write on,
Books to read,
Your belt, your socks, your G.I. tie,
It's all free with nothing to buy,
They issue food that makes us grow,
G.I. want a long furlough.

You eat your food from G.I. plates,
Get all you want at G.I. rates
It's G.I. this and G.I. that,
It's G.I. work that breaks your back.
Everything here is Government Issue
G.I. wish that I could kiss you.
(From Ken Turner's files)

S.S. URUGUAY 72 FIELD ARTILLERY

Built in 1929 at Newport News, Virginia, as the SS California, this ship spent the greater part of her pre-war/post-war commercial life in the Latin American - East Coast USA passenger trade. She took the name Uruguay in 1938 and went to work as a trooper in 1942, under the direction of the War Shipping Administration...following sailing schedules as set up by the U.S. War Department. Her operator, both in war and peace, was the Moore-McCormack Lines.

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

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

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

(In a previous story telling of the troopers in Task Force 6814 I received a letter from Steve Nichols asking why the Uruguay had not been listed as being in that convoy. According to the ports-of-call that Steve mentioned in his letter the Uruguay was not in Task Force 6814. I know from his letter that the 72 Field Artillery was aboard the Uruguay but have been waiting for a more detailed report from Steve). Editor



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

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On August 7, 1942 the United States Marines landed on Guadalcanal and from that day on the "Rising Sun" began to set. The steamroller that had crushed thousands of people and countries had been brought to a halt. Thousands of square miles of ocean that were controlled by this Japanese behemoth now became a liability as ship after ship disappeared beneath the waves.

The Americal was ready and waiting on New Caledonia, and as soon as the United States Navy could assure reasonable safe passage, The Americal took its position in the line of battle--the 164th Infantry on October 13, 1942, the 182nd Infantry on November 11, 1942, and the 132nd Infantry on December 8, 1942--you know the story from there.

This August 7, 1992, a Memorial will be dedicated to all the Americans that served on Guadalcanal. As of now there will be three of your Past National Commanders, Al Doig, Jim Buckle, and Bernie Chase, present for the ceremony. There are also several other ADVA members that will be present but their names have not yet been received from the travel agent. They will be noted in the next issue.

On August 13, 1992 the delegation will be present on New Caledonia to attend the dedication of a Memorial honoring the Americans that served there during World War II.

The Americal vets that are returning to the Pacific will feel honored to once again walk the hallowed ground of these far away islands and it will be a welcome thought to know that we are still remembered after fifty years.

THE SAGA OF THE 247th FIELD ARTILLERY

After arriving in New Caledonia the 180th Field Artillery Regiment (less 2nd Battalion) and the 123 Field Artillery Regiment were redesignated the 200th Field Artillery Regiment. This Regiment had a weird assortment of British and American guns and because of this mix the 200 F.A. had a Provisional 3rd Battalion. This Provisional 3rd became the 247th Field Artillery and was equipped with 105 Howitzers.

On December 8, 1942 the 132 Infantry Regiment (less 1st Battalion) landed on Guadalcanal supported by the 247th Field Artillery Battalion (less A Btry).

Positions remained unchanged until January 20, 1942 when the 247th moved forward and joined the 245th and the 246 Field Artillery east of the Matanikou. After the capture of Kokumbona the 247th jumped to new emplacements 2000 yards east of the small village.

On January 30th the 246th F.A. sped through the 245th position to move 1500 yards northwest of Kokumbona. The 247th, not one to be left behind, countered with the first of a series of moves destined to carry it up the coast.

By February 12, 1943 however, the 245th Field Artillery had re-entered the picture from positions on the east bank of the Bonegi River, supporting activities to the northwest. Four days later the advance had gained sufficient ground to

allow the 247th to displace the gun positions two thousand yards northwest of the Umagan River. From these positions, at 0745 on February 9, 1943, he 247th Field Artillery fired the last rounds of the campaign as it registered on check points in front of the 161st Infantry.

Upon leaving Guadalcanal for Fiji the Americal received a commendation from Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Commanding General of the XIV Corp, for their actions between October 13, 1942 and January 4, 1943 and it said in part: "The success of these operations was achieved due to the aggressive leadership, thorough training, courage and high morale displayed by the officers and enlisted men of the Division.

Completing the relief of the 37th Division on Fiji the 247th was assigned the mission of artillery support for the 132 Infantry Regiment which was to protect the western sector, guarding the coastline from Yako, southeast of Nandi, to Korovunitoto, near Nathilau Point.

On December 22, 1943, detachments from the 247th sailed with the second echelon of the Americal for Bougainville. On January 6, 1944 the Battalion, less detachments, sailed with the last group from Viti Levu for Bougainville.

The year ahead, 1944, was to offer combat and more combat for the Americal under some of the most difficult conditions yet encountered in the Pacific. The rugged days of Guadalcanal were gone. The United States drives in the Pacific were gaining momentum on an ever widening scale. The Americal was stepping back into the fight.

On 14 Jan 44 the 247th moved into positions occupied by the 12th Marines and supplied support missions for the 132 Infantry, firing from emplacements 1500 yards northeast of the Torokina Fighter Strip.

Food, water, ammunition were running low and the men were exhausted from the oppressive heat of the island. Finally, carrying parties reached the 3rd Battalion of the 132nd Infantry on the afternoon of April 17th. And so, with supplies replenished, plans for new assaults on the following morning were made.

All night harassing fire on the firmly entrenched Japanese by the 247th F.A. was greatly increased when the heavy mortars of the 132 Infantry joined to give complete support to the 3rd Battalions attack on the pillboxes which they were bent on taking as soon as possible.

On April 26th, one battery from the 247th and one battery from the 221 F.A. displaced into positions on the west bank of the Torokina River, near its mouth. Upon completion of its registrations, the two batteries were ready to offer artillery support as far east and southeast as the mouth of the Reini River. The subsequent movement of a single battery from the 245th F.A. to the Marines now brought artillery support power up to the equivalent of one battalion to cover the Reini mouth.

On 25 May 44 the 21st Reconnaissance Troop made a landing at the mouth of the Tekessi River to scout the area. Battery C, 247th Field Artillery landed with them to give direct fire support.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

SAGA OF THE 247TH FIELD ARTILLERY (Continues)

On 30 May 44 Battery A, 247 Field Artillery moved by LCT, to the vicinity of the mouth of the Tekessi River to support long-range combat patrol activities of the 3d Battalion, Fiji Infantry Regiment. After the Fijians had moved beyond the range of the 105's, the battery displaced further to the southeast. On 6 June 44 the battery jumped to a point near the village of Marawaka at the northern limits of Gazelle Harbor. On the same afternoon, however, the Fijians and the 247th's battery were hastily evacuated when a strong and powerful Japanese force, stirred up by the Fijians, launched a heavy attack.

Meanwhile, Battery B, 247 F.A. was lending direct fire support to the 164 Infantry as this unit cleaned out the headwaters of the Reini River.

On 8 Jan 45 the first units of the Americal began to move from the island of Bougainville. The next stop was Leyte. The 247th Field Artillery supported the Infantry of the Americal on this island and then it was on to Cebu.

On 26 March 45 the 247th FA Bn, in support of the 132nd Infantry, landed on the beaches of Cebu along a sector centered five miles southwest of Cebu City --the invasion and liberation of Cebu had begun. The 132 Infantry, with the support of the 247 FA, amply covered the eastern side of the island and by 30 June 45 the fighting was over.

On 10 Sept 45 the control of the occupation of Yokohama sector of Japan was passed to General Slocum and the division artillery. The 247th Field Artillery was assigned the area of the southern part of the Yokosuka peninsula. The unit remained here until relieved on 3 Nov 45. Now it was homeward bound.

The 247th Field Artillery Battalion arrived with the fourth echelon and by December 9, 1942 was inactivated.

On 14 February 1952 the 247th was relieved from its assignment to the Americal Division and on 18 February 1952 was allotted to the Regular Army and redesignated the 247th Field Artillery Battalion (Guided Missile, Corporal). It was activated on 15 March 1952 at Fort Bliss, TX.

Conclusion-- "In a few months many of us would return to civilian life, but our story will never end. The 247th will not only continue to perform as in the past but will move unerringly forward. Though missiles and methods may change, our motto, 'Do It Now' will be just as appropriate. We had entered a new era in military history and could very well be proud of the small contribution we had forged in that era. We will leave with many memories, the richness of gaining new friends, new experiences and with the knowledge that each man has served his country well".

(Story sent in by David E. Lane)

WE NEED YOUR STORY

Any story you have about your war experiences is welcome. It may have to be edited to meet space requirements but the meaning will not be changed. Send it to the Editor and please include your telephone number.

COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER ARE ALSO WELCOME.

COVER STORY

The picture on the cover of this issue is that of your new National Commander Peter J. Messina. Pete was a member of the 221 Field Artillery. He was also instrumental in making the Eastern Chapter the thriving organization it is today.

As you know the new officers for the 1992-1993 year have now taken over their respective jobs and a new year is now under way. A list of those elected officers is on page one of this issue.

The returns on this year's balloting were very good--the largest number yet were returned and counted. We are sorry to say that only one of three Vietnam vets running for the Executive Council was elected. We believe the reason for this was that the Vietnam vets did not "get out the vote". We certainly hope these men that did not make it after only one try will not become discouraged. There are many of our Vietnam members now playing active roles in our organization and there is room for many more.

Be like the Boston Red Sox--"Wait 'til next year"!

Nominating Committee

COMPANY E AND MED DET 182 INFANTRY Are

On May 20, 1992 Company E and the Medical Detachment of the 182 Infantry held their annual reunion at the Kernwood in Lynnfield, MA.

A social hour was held before the luncheon and this was followed by an hour of "remember when".

Fifty men were present for the occasion and this included men from F Company, H Company, L Company, 182 Infantry and also the National Adjutant of the A.D.V.A., Bernard Chase.

221 FIELD ARTILLERY



October 5, 1945 Kamakura, Japan

Leo Orfe William Rota ???

The above picture was sent in by Leo Orfe to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. Would anyone happen to know the soldier on the right?

We haven't changed much have we?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VIETNAM EDITORS COMMO

The 1992 reunion in San Antonio was a great success thanks to the efforts of that great southern gentleman, Bill Maddox. Planning a reunion can cause a lot of stress on a man but Bill was able to handle all the pressure without breaking a sweat. I suppose that he took a well deserved rest following that weekend. The troops ran him pretty hard.

Thanks to all the men who sat in on our meeting to organize the ADVA Scholarship & Fund. Attending were Brian Mulcrone, Larry Brandon, Malcolm East, Dave Recob, Joe Chin, Rolly Castranova, B. Warren Goodson, Pete Messina, Ron Ward, Dutch DeGroot, and Maurice (tunnel rat) Henson. Our scholarship plan is now underway and we are in the process of raising the necessary funds.

We are currently soliciting donations from the membership for our scholarship fund. Send your tax deductible checks to our finance officer, Joe Chin, and make them payable to ADVA SCHOLARSHIP FUND. If all goes well, we'll be giving out a \$1000.00 scholarship in the following year.

I've lost track of just how many years I've held the position of Vietnam Editor. It's been a lot of work but it certainly has had its rewards. I've been able to correspond with a lot of very brave men. The kind of men with the courage it takes to walk point through a mine field or crawl down a dark VC tunnel with only a flashlight and a 45 Colt pistol. Or the kind of man who braves enemy machine guns to bring in a wounded buddy. We have a bounty of heroes in this association, both from Vietnam and WW2 fighting in the Pacific. It's been an honor to act as your Vietnam editor. Now it's time to turn over the reins to our new editor, Dave Recob. This will be my last issue. From now on, send your Vietnam related correspondence to Dave at the following address: DAVID L RECOB

VIETNAM EDITOR, ADVA
1241 S.W. 31st STREET
TOPEKA, KS 66611

Dave did a tremendous one man effort getting the mid west chapter organized and is currently planning the 1993 reunion to be held in Topeka. He's had experience in reunion planning and I'm sure we can count on him for a grand time. Next issue he'll be introducing himself to the membership in an article that I suspect will be a tad larger than this one. He's no stranger to a type writer. The newsletter has already been using his talents for in this area. In closing, I wish to thank Dave for taking the job and I wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely,
Ron Ward

VIETNAM VETS NEEDED FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Center for Social Studies Education is seeking veterans to participate in its teacher/veterans partnership program.

The program is designed to promote more and better teaching of the Vietnam War. It is especially interested in volunteers to fill its nationwide veterans speakers bureaus. For more information about the program contact:

JERRY STARR
CENTER FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Pittsburgh PA 15234

FAX [REDACTED]

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

BROTHERHOOD RALLY OF ALL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS COLORADO

VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

BRAVO Colorado is putting together, what we hope to be the world's largest Vietnam Veterans photo collection, and we need your help! We are asking anyone who has a black and white or color photo of themselves or photos of groups of Vietnam Veterans, and would like to have it entered, may do so by sending it to the address below.

HOWARD W. WALKER

Aurora CO 80011

On the back of each photo, please print the name(s) of individual(s), the year the photo was taken and the name of the unit. We will then index all photos and insert them into an album. The album will then be displayed throughout the country at Veterans gatherings. When the album is complete, it will be turned over to a Vietnam Veterans museum.

We regret that any photos that are submitted will not be returned. In addition, all photos will be entered as a tribute to our participation in the Vietnam War.

BRAVO Colorado thanks each of you in advance for your assistance.

I remain,

HOWARD W. WALKER

MSG/USA/RET

VP BRAVO Colorado

Vietnam 4 Oct 67 - 10 July 70

Co. A 1/52 Inf. 198th Bde.

I'm writing to ask about membership in your organization. In general, I'm not a joiner; but more than 20 years after the fact, I find I'm increasingly proud of my service in Vietnam.

I served as an infantry platoon leader (Second Lieutenant) with Co. A, 1/52 Inf., 198th LIB in 1968-69. My tour was cut short by a burst from a Soviet light machine-gun on March 6, 1969.

I feel the Americal Division received mostly negative press during and after the war. Because my personal experience makes me aware of the exceptional service, sacrifice and honor which characterized the men I served with, I would consider it a privilege to be part of your organization.

Only those who served can raise the banner of the Americal Division to the height of dignity, honor, and trust which was earned for it with our devotion, our blood.

Sincerely,
William A. Cox Jr.

[REDACTED]

Archer, Florida 32618

Co. C 4/3 Inf. 11th Bde.

Former members who were at Duc Pho 1969-1970 and are interested in attending a reunion please contact Gary W. Rapley.

GARY W. RAPLEY

[REDACTED]

Vale, MT 81809

[REDACTED]

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER



VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Co. D 2/1 Inf. 196 Bde.

Please find enclosed my dues and application for membership in ADVA. It took many years and the Persian Gulf War for people to begin asking me questions about Vietnam, up until then no one asked so I didn't say anything about it. It sure feels good to talk about it now.

While in Nam I carried a small camera and took as many pictures as those at home would send me film. There wasn't any "Fotomats" out in the booneys. A year ago I had some of the pictures framed and hung them in my office. A salesman came in one day and asked about them. As it turned out he was a photographer for the Americal Division Magazine in Nam about the time I left. He sent me some copy's he had. I wrote to the address inside hoping that it would still be in print. However it came back from the Post Office, much to my disappointment.

I thank Roland Castranova for sending me the Jan.-Feb. 92 Newsletter. I have read it entirely with great awe and enjoyment.

Several letters really hit home, Mike Brennan of Costa Mesa, CA, wrote saying he was trying to find maps ect. I would love to have that information myself, the best of luck.

There are several men that I would like to locate. I actually arrived in the field on Nov. 20, 68 and left by Medivac Feb. 11, 69. I spent 3 and 1/2 months at Camps Oji and Zama in Tokyo, Japan, and then was sent home. I was a RTO with D 2/1 196 Bde under 2nd Lt. Michael E. Holroyd. Also especially looking for our Medic Pete Martinez, whom I owe a picture, Sgt. Basile and his RTO Curt who helped me more than he knows, and of course any one else, I just can't recall all the names.

Thank you very much and I look forward to the next Newsletter and maybe a word from some friends. For future issues I have some interesting stories, including how a reservist from a medical unit became an infantryman.

Charles S. Wilke
[REDACTED]
Cleves, Ohio 45002

Hello Ron,

Just love receiving Americal Newsletter and reading it and hearing from all the units that served.

But I am hurt to see that no one is interested in (the eyes and ears of the Americal Division) Better known as the L.R.R.P. or Long Range Patrol E Co. 51st Inf, later to be known as G Co. 75th Rangers.

I see in the May-June about our reunion in July 1992 and it was the first time I have seen anything about L.R.R.P. or Rangers in our newsletter. Also hoping you will print this letter in your next newsletter and hoping to see more numbers helping us to find other L.R.R.P. and Rangers. So if anyone knows of any members in the A.D.V.A. that was a L.R.R.P. and Ranger, please give them this address: Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association, 4233 Spring St. Ste. 134, La Mesa California 92041. We would love to make contact with other members.

Thank you.
James L. Connolly (L.R.R.P.) Americal

[REDACTED]

Woonsocket RI 02895

Dear Ron,

Please help to settle a question regarding the Vietnam war that has been bugging me since 1967. I have been wondering about this because I don't think that in the number of books I have read, the issue has been mentioned. The subject is personal handguns that the troops, mainly infantry, imported to South Vietnam.

What I recount here may only be heresay; if it isn't, would Newsletter readers respond concerning their respective experiences? Not too long after I arrived in country (April 1967) and got to my unit--the 196th, I was told that because of the unreliability of the M-16 rifle in the field many of the line troops did the following. They wrote home to parents or friends and asked them to purchase handguns and ammunition and send the items to the individual via their "care" packages, as we called them. The idea behind this acquisition of unauthorized firepower was, as I was told, to have something available in case the issued M-16 mal-functioned. (M-16 problems were common events and that is verified in the historical record.) But, if the handgun deal happened, what occurred at DERO, sale or gift of the weapon to buddies or disposal? As I recall my duffel was searched thoroughly before I left from Cam Ranh Bay. I know that in late 1967 and possibly early next year unissued side arms did crop up occasionally in fatal non-combat incidents.

If anyone knows anything, either anecdotal or definitive about this, please send a note to the Editor.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Berg

Brookings SD 57006

Americal Division
Veterans Association[REDACTED]
Massachusetts 02104Mr. Bruce W. Semendoff
SGT US Army Retired[REDACTED]
Brooklyn NY 11204

Ron,

I have been a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association for over eight years now. I look forward to each copy of the newsletter.

I am writing to you because I would like for you to help me locate an old Viet-Nam buddy that I served with when I was with the Americal Division.

His name is Earl Snyder and I remember that he was from Boston, Massachusetts.

I arrived in Viet-Nam, March 1969. I was assigned to the 198th L.I.B. H Troop 17th Cav. at LZ Bayonet.

Earl arrived later on in the year. A Shake n Bake, new in from the world. We became good friends. We survived quite a few fine fights together. How, I will never know.

In March, 1970, my tour was up, but I put in for another six months extension. I went home on leave and when I had returned to the troop, Earl had rotated back to the world. I lost all contact with him.

In 1972, while I was on my third tour in Country with the 1st Cav, I received a letter stating that Earl had sent a letter to my parents. I was unable to get that letter or his address.

Please print this letter in the next issue of the Newsletter. It's been over 20 years since I had last seen or heard from Earl.

My phone number is [REDACTED]. If anyone knows how to reach Earl, please call me.

Yours truly,
Bruce W. Semendoff

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

A third of the nation's homeless are veterans. In Boston, many are being helped at a shelter run by Vietnam vets who declare:

"YOUR BROTHERS ARE HERE"

Helping the homeless is regarded by most people as a job for someone else. Not so for an enterprising group of Vietnam veterans in Boston. With a third of the nation's estimated 500,000 homeless believed to be veterans, these Boston vets feel they themselves owe a duty to their former comrades. So, during Christmas of 1989, they took possession of an abandoned 10-story office building and went to work on it. Today, it's regarded as the safest shelter in Boston, has a daily average population of up to 150 and is credited with turning many lives around.

Many of the more than 1000 who have passed through The New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans have restored their lives with the help of stress therapy, treatment programs, housing referrals and job counseling. Some 800 have found full-time jobs and permanent housing. Small wonder that the program--run by veterans and based on military-style discipline--has been commended by local officials and awarded "Point of Light" No.142 by President Bush.

The founder of the New England Shelter is 39-year-old Ken Smith, a paramedic and father of two who served in the infantry in Vietnam. He says that he got the idea on a nighttime visit with a friend to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 1987. He was astonished to find about 50 homeless veterans living in makeshift shelters nearby.

"They showed us their huts," he recalls "I was stunned. My friend and I vowed: 'We're going to do something about this.'

With the help of Howard A. Levine, an attorney and Army veteran, Smith and his friends formed a non-profit corporation called The Vietnam Veterans Workshop in Boston. They received some financial aid from a benefit theater performance organized by the playwright David Mamet. Finally, they applied successfully for the use of an empty Veterans Administration building in the heart of downtown Boston under the federal Stuart B. McKinney Act for the homeless.

On December 21, 1989, the shelter opened its doors, starting as a daytime operation and furnished with 25 folding chairs and a T.V. In its very first hour, Bert Lewis, 39, a former National Guardsman, stumbled in drunk, looking for help. "The staff here backed me all the way," Lewis recalls. "It was important to know that somebody cared. For the first time, I cried like a baby. Having somebody to talk to and feeling wanted is what made the difference for me."

"Homeless people lack any form of structure in their lives," observes Ken Smith. "We deal with veterans' issues like combat-related stress. And we give them positive reinforcement: 'Nobody is going to attack you. Your brothers are here.' Once they feel that camaraderie, it brings back self-respect."

A month after its opening, as the daily population of the shelter grew rapidly, the Massachusetts State government offered funding for 100 beds through its Emergency Shelter program. Veterans organizations, churches, schools and private donors contributed food, furniture, toiletries, used clothes and office equipment. Today, a computer system maintains records of clients and helps to coordinate medical and social services with local agencies, as well as lists of job and housing opportunities. The 24-hour staff has expanded to 50 full-time employees, most of whom were formerly homeless.

Warren Quinlan, 44, the shelter's counselor, did two tours in Vietnam and later became one of the homeless. "A job is the most important thing for a Vet who's homeless," Quinlan says. "We have lots of experienced guys with skills. Some are college graduates. We give them computerized aptitude tests to find openings. Our men will work hard for small pay--they see a job at a fast-food place or mopping floors as a stepping stone. They just want a chance."

The shelter houses veterans of World War II and the Korean war, as well as Vietnam, and some from the Persian Gulf. Its records show that about 15% of the homeless suffer chronic mental illness. To qualify for a long-term bed in the shelter, each resident is expected to enter a treatment program, find a job or go to school. In addition, four hours of weekly volunteer community service are required. Ken Smith is proud of what the shelter has accomplished so far but thinks it could do even more.

For example, it operates a lunchtime soup kitchen that's open to nonresidents but often can't accommodate all the hungry people who show up. "Good nutrition is an important step for the homeless," Smith says, "but we never have enough donated food in our soup kitchen. But what hurts most is that we run out of beds, with people lined up outside. With more funding or donations, we could easily provide beds for another 100 homeless people every night."

If you would like to help or want more information, write to The New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Dept. P.17 Court St., Boston, Mass. 02108. Or phone [REDACTED].

Dear Ron,

Hi! I got the newsletter you sent me and the membership paper which I just sent in to join. Thank you very much. I tried to join a few years ago but my paperwork was returned to me, why? I don't know.

The reason why I am writing to you is because I am trying to contact anyone that was in my unit in Vietnam. You see, I was in two units. The first one was 570th T.C. Det in Chu Lai 1970 and F Troop, 8th Cavalry, 23rd Inf Div., also in Chu Lai. The 570th T.C. Det was deactivated and everyone was transferred to F Troop, 8th Cav. My tour was from 6 Jan 70 to 5 Jan 71 which I was given a drop and sent home on 29 Nov 70, in December 1970, my unit was moved from Chu Lai to Da Nang and six months later, I met one guy that told me our unit was half wiped out by mortars. That was the last person that I had contact with since 1971. I retired in November 1990 after twenty years of active service with the rank of First Sergeant (E-8). I moved to Georgia in August 1991 where I now own my printing shop. If anyone wants to write to me or call me to let me know about what happened to my unit, please write to:

Warner Printing
Attn: Gary W. Warner (1SG Ret)
[REDACTED]
Doraville GA 30340
(work)
(home)

I am moving to my house I bought the first part of June. My work address shown above will be the same.

If anyone could put this in the newspaper, it might help me answer some questions that has been on my mind since 1971. Thank you for your help. Again, thank you for sending me the newsletter.

Sincerely,
Gary W. Warner

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Ron,

I don't know if you remember me, I wrote back in November and December. You placed an article in your newsletter searching for someone who might have served with my cousin, Ssgt. Russell S. Pedersen. I've placed many articles in different papers since October of 1991, to date no luck but I'm still hopeful to eventually find that Vet who will remember him. Everyone was friends with someone. Recently I was given a photo of him in his fatigues, looks like at some firebase up north. After 24 years this one photo surfaced, it was developed in Hawaii. I've probably read every book and seen every movie on Vietnam. More importantly, I have met many Vietnam Vets in the past months. Guys from the Big Red One, 1st Cavalry, 1st Marine 2nd Division. All speak highly of the Americal Division saying how much they did and what an important job they did. It makes me feel proud. I've seen a lot of slides and heard endless accounts of different operations. I know about C4, popping smoke setting trip wires, red ants, monsoon, night vision, beetle nuts, C-rats, claymores, rubber trees, insect repellent, orphanges, iodine drops, incoming, Std missions, R&R. We have shared laughs and tears. I've been given pins, a shorttimers stick, photos, a VC sword, awards, medals, patches, and POW bracelets. A strange assortment of sentimental and priceless items. I have also recently tried to bring about some type of changes on the conditions at the V.A. Hospital on Long Island. I was shocked and appalled at the way people are treated at these places. America's finest disregarded like trash. I'm finding it's hard to buck the system. I guess all we can do is try. Many of the Vietnam Vets I've spoken to are out 100% disabled, due to P.T.S., many are recovering alcoholics, high percentage are divorced, unemployed. Some live and die Vietnam 365 days a year. Although I was not in Vietnam, I feel in some ways I have walked in their shoes. I work on a cancer unit and there are always those you won't forget, better yet, the new ones you don't want to know. Young, so young. I try not to take too much to heart or you burn out. Funny how you can feel so much or feel so little. I have decided to go to the Wall on that special weekend in October. I feel it may increase my chances to find someone who knew him. I want to thank you again for the article. They have nick named me the youngest Donought Dolly at Post #6249. So just to bust chops they are all getting cans of lima beans for Memorial Day. Take care and thanks again.

Maria T McCormick

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

I need the help of all our brothers and sisters on this one. I am trying to locate anyone who served with either of the two fallen brothers listed below from the 11th Brigade.

Heaton, Tommy Calvin E4 11B20 Taccoa, GA 17 Apr 69 Believed to be 1/20th, but not sure.

Spencer, Kenneth "Darrell" E5 11B40 Foster Falls, VA 21 May 69 possibly in Heli crash Quang Nai Prov. I have family members who seek any and all information anyone has on these men. Anyone with information may call collect if necessary [REDACTED], week nights are best for contact.

Thanks for the help.
Dwight L. Fanshaw 6th Support BN
11th Infantry Bde
Americal Div 68-69

Concord NC 28025

Dear Ron,

Well, this is Peter Rico again, and I would like you to put this in the Americal Newsletter because I am looking for this person I saved in Vietnam. I don't know who he was, but all I know is that he was the Radio man for Company Commander, John A. Gonzalez. I would like to find out where he lives and his name, August 9, 1968.

Thank you, Peter Rico.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5400

9 August 1968

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

RICO, PETER US 54814438 (SSAN 305-46-1479,
SPECIALIST FOUR E4, Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d
Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade APO 96217
Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date Action: 8 April 1968
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist four Rico distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 8 April 1968, while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, Specialist Rico's unit came under heavy fire from an insurgent force of undetermined size. The initial barrage seriously wounded one of the friendly soldiers in the hip. When the Medevac Helicopter arrived, the injured man was unable to move because of the seriousness of his wound. Though the enemy fire was still heavy, Specialist Rico, with a total lack of regard for his own safety, volunteered to carry the man to the helicopter. He and three other men carried their wounded comrade thirty meters through intense hostile fire. They carried the man carefully and slowly to avoid further injury. Only after the wounded man was safely aboard the helicopter did Specialist Rico seek cover for himself. Specialist Four Rico's unselfish concern for a fellow soldier, personal bravery, and avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

For the Commander:

Nels A. Parson, Jr.
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:
John K. Sammet
1Lt, AGC
Asst AG

New member, Bob Brennan is looking for men he served with in H Troop 17th Cav 198th LIB from May 1969 to May 1970. Contact him at:

Bob Brennan

South Portland, Maine 04106

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER

PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER
GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VIETNAM'S OTHER LESSON

By: James R. Rhodes

A peculiar stillness hung over the lowlands southwest of the provincial capital of Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. The 1st platoon of Delta company had just escaped another brush with death and one would have expected the normal post-combat exhilaration as they moved across the rice paddy enroute to their night defensive position. But as my own platoon caught up with them on that beautiful October day in 1970, I learned the reason for their unusual behavior. There, rising from the murky water propped up against a dike, was the upper body of a man. Its left arm, now missing a rifle, was still pointing toward the grove from which the two platoons had just emerged. As my platoon approached, we could see the man's face, now frozen forever in determination. Stillness fell over us, too, as we paid homage, in the only way we could, to the extraordinary courage of a fallen enemy. For what was clear to us all, was that this solitaryman had given his life so that his comrades could escape across the open field. The enemy soldier that day was not one of the North Vietnamese regulars we had been encountering for the past four months. He was obviously a peasant, sturdy and well fed, most likely in his mid-fifties. No doubt he knew those parts well and was well-practiced in the art of survival. On that day, however, he had chosen to make a personal statement against the most powerful army in the world. One would not expect to find his heroic defense recorded in the after-action report of our battalion. To the contrary, I'm sure. But that consecrated ground, now patrolled by his spirit, is once again secure from foreign encroachment. Why, out of all the memories of that tragic war, is it this scene that comes back to me now as I marvel with other Americans at the stunning victory in the Persian Gulf? Like the Gulf generals, I, too, have spent twenty years reflecting on the lessons of Vietnam. I, too, wanted to believe that somehow things could have been different. My own experience in Vietnam had led me to accept, with minor qualifications, the American military's preferred interpretation of the outcome: a tactical victory and a strategic defeat. Why then, when my fervent hopes appear to have been fulfilled, do I return to this image from long ago?

Like other Americans, I was greatly encouraged and impressed by the management of the Gulf War. As the situation played out, I visualized the generals in Saudi Arabia and the Pentagon mentally going through the Vietnam checklist: "Let's see, we've got the president's assurance that there will be no micro-management of the war, we've activated the reserves to let the public know that this is for real, we've maneuvered the Congress into taking a stand, and we've got the media on a short leash. Now let's go through the principles of war one more time to make sure that there are no remaining defects in the plan for future War College students to have a field day with."

In my mind, too, I can see those military students revisiting the Gulf war. And I can see them concluding that everything went right because we followed the checklist. That's the part that bothers me. The visage in the rice paddy is raising a troubling question in my mind: what if we had followed the checklist in Vietnam, would we have won the war? I really don't know the answer. I do know, however, that those generals and senior sergeants who led us in Vietnam were also battle tested and steeped in the principles of war. They had well-trained, professional troops and equipment that was light years ahead of the enemy's. They had a Congressional mandate (votes of 82-2 in the

Senate and 416-0 in the House) that gave them authority to "take all necessary measures" in the struggle against a totalitarian aggressor. They were facing an economically backward opponent that had already been through over two decades of exhausting war. Even with one hand tied behind our back, there was no possible way we could have lost the war. Why did we?

Somehow, that courageous peasant must hold the key. What was in his mind that day as he stood fast against a rifle platoon? Didn't he realize the United States was there to liberate him from centuries of oppression? Couldn't he understand how much better his life would be under American protection and tutelage?

In Vietnam, as in the Gulf, U.S. forces controlled the air, the sea, and the strategically important land. The one thing we could not control was the people's minds. In the long run, we learned, that was all that mattered.

Reprinted from The Korea Herald, August 1, 1991. James R. Rhodes is a professor of economics, Graduate School of Policy Science, Saitama University, Japan. He served as an infantry platoon leader and company commander in Vietnam in 1970-1971.

I just received my issue of our Newsletter and as usual, it gets me all pumped up. It doesn't matter how involved we get in our personal lives, our jobs, etc., our brothers and sisters that we served with are always in our hearts and minds. It doesn't matter whether we served in the South Pacific or Vietnam. I really noticed it when Duster Heath and I went to Las Vegas for the organization meeting for the Far West Chapter. Duster and I would like to thank Joe Feeler, all of the old guard members and their lovely wives for the great hospitality we received. We really felt right at home. Even though our wars were over 20 years apart, all of us felt the same joys and heartaches for our comrades in arms. I'm really looking forward to our Far West Chapter Reunion next year. I served with Co.D 1/52 198th from September 1970-September 1971. During the Lamson 719 operation in February 1971, the 198th along with other Americal units were involved in a P.O.W. raid. Due to circumstances that I don't know, the mission failed. The 198th was part of the blocking force around the hill where the camp was at. When the Rangers repelled in they found fires burning and food on the table but no sign of the 4-5 Americans. To this day I think about those poor guys in that camp. I try to imagine their joy when they heard the sound of all those slicks coming in and their desperation when they were led away from us. But you know, I can never even come close to feeling how they felt, never in a million years. Since that day, I've been a P.O.W. advocate. Even thru all these years when we were considered kooks for even suggesting that our "Great Government" would leave our comrades from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and most recently, the Persian Gulf War, behind. I'm looking for information about that mission. I know for a fact we were in Laos because when we were CA'ed off of Khe Sahn we flew west for a long time. I've looked in old newspapers, books, etc., and found no info. I would also like information about the hill we hit on the way back from the P.O.W. raid. I'm looking forward to hearing from anyone with this info.

Always a brother,
BOBBY RODRIGUEZ (Shorty)

Whittier CA 90605

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

MAKING PEACE WITH THE WAR
Last months feature story - Conclusion

This is a story of John Wills, 198 LIB, and was written by Vernon Loeb of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

PART OF THE REASON was that he was feeling sorry for his friend Navone. The day before, during the same operation, one of Navone's best friends went out on patrol and was killed in an ambush not far from the base camp. Everybody in camp could hear the shooting and the screaming.

The body of Navone's friend was chopped out of camp shortly after Pacheco blindly shot the enemy soldier with the machine gun. Navone had gathered up his friend's personal effects and put them on the chopper as well. "You get young boys, they haven't learned anything about life yet, and then there we see life and death right in front of us", Pacheco said. "It's a very traumatic thing to be talking to somebody in the morning and then in the afternoon you're loading them into a body bag.

Despite the pain he was feeling, Navone kept his dead friend's poncho liner and gave it to Pacheco because he did not have one. It was one of those acts of kindness in war that Pacheco will never forget. "Vic was a helluva guy" Pacheco said.

Not long after that, in December, Pacheco came down with Malaria. He was so weak that he couldn't even climb into a foxhole one night when their base camp got hit by mortar shells. He just lay there, thinking about his wife, and his insurance, and his kid he hadn't even seen yet, born on Thanksgiving day.

They sent him to the rear. He caught the Bob Hope Christmas show at Chu Lai, Americal Division headquarters. He got a front row seat because he was sick. I remember everybody singing 'Silent Night' after the performance - tears just streaming down the eyes of all the performers. "It was my Woodstock".

In early 1969, after he came back from the hospital, Navone sat down with him and made a proposition. It was almost as though he knew something was going to happen. If either one of them got killed, Navone told Pacheco, the other would take him home. "All I know is that what he wanted if he died - is that I would bury him", Pacheco recalled.

Navone got assigned to the rear at Landing Zone Bronco in March. He was "short", meaning he had just a few weeks left in country. Guys who were short usually got assigned to the rear. Miles was in the same position, waiting out the short time he had left doing odd jobs at Bronco.

Then one day Miles received letters from his mother and Don McLean's wife. McLean, the young man from East Detroit he'd met on the bus to the induction center, was dead, killed fighting with the 11th Air Cavalry on March 6.

Miles went out and got smashed that night. The next day he signed up for an extra four months as a helicopter door gunner with the 174th Assault Helicopter Company - a decision he now regrets. He corresponded regularly with McLean's wife Linda, after McLean's death. A romance developed and, for six months after Miles went home, they saw a lot of each other.

But the war had changed him, and the relationship fell apart. "I just wasn't myself", Miles said. "I just had a hard outlook on things that I didn't have before. That was the upset of my life - the kind of heartache you never get over".

A few days after Miles learned of McLean's death, Vic Navone got killed pulling bunker duty one night at Bronco. Pacheco left Vietnam almost immediately afterward. He was a sergeant by then, with a Bronze Star and his best friend in a box. He had emergency orders to take Navone home.

He remembers feeling terribly sad upon leaving. "I got there in that chopper and I felt like I was abandoning them", Pacheco said of Miles and his other friends. "As much as I hated this place, I didn't want to leave them".

When we got back to the States, they gave him his ritual Steak dinner. Everybody got a steak dinner when they came back from Vietnam. "Heres my best buddie in a warehouse, and I'm sitting alone in a mess hall, eating a steak on a paper plate", Pacheco said.

"That steak didn't have any flavor. And I'm thinking, This is it!"

MILES HANDS A PICTURE to Ngaw Pho, an 82 year old villager with a long Ho Chi Minh beard. Pho is standing in front of a little temple on Highway 1, just up from the bridge. Yes, he remembers the soldiers who guarded the bridge and camped there during the war.

"The potheads used to have their bunker right over there", Pacheco says, pointing across the highway, a look of wonder on his face. "And the boozers over there. We used to go out and patrol the area, then come back at night and get drunk. Son of a gun, this is incredible".

"It sure looks different", Miles says. "But I'm glad to be back here. Everybody seems to be well off, pretty happy, I'm so glad we found it. Boy, it all comes back".

Landing Zone Bronco isn't far away. Now it is nothing more than a large hill on the east side of Highway 1 surrounded by rice paddies. That's all. There is virtually nothing left of the little world the Americans built there during the war. Bronco was headquarters for the 11th Infantry Brigade, a unit with about 500 men. There was a landing strip for supply planes. There was a helicopter assault squadron based there with a dozen choppers and an additional eight or ten helicopter gunships. There was a field hospital and a fuel dump. There were bunkers and barracks all around the base of the hill. There was a bar. Then even had their own VC infiltrator, who once directed in rocket fire using a hand mirror in the sun.

Pacheco and Miles walk up the hill to a paved road left by the Americans. During the war there was a searchlight and artillery on top of the hill. Pacheco is carrying a bouquet of red irises for Vic Navone. They stop at a point halfway up the hill and look down at the side of the hill where their company made its camp. Miles has a picture of it during the war. The only thing left is the faint outline of the old asphalt helipad. It is still discernible because the peasants can't grow rice on it.

Thacker and Niederberger follow them up the hill. There is camaraderie among the four of them now. The war Paschero and Miles fought belongs to Thacker and Niederberger. Niederberger's pain from the battle on the plain north of the Chu Viet is shared by all. Thacker has made the others understand just how crazy Saigon really was.

"I don't feel guilty anymore", Thacker says, referring to his status as a noncombatant. "I feel like a bona fide member of the Americans who were here. It was like a relief - it floated up into the air".

"Unlike the first impression, Niederberger says, "It's nice to have a second impression. There is a healing - and that's what makes it so special".

Pacheco leaves the irises at a point on the hill overlooking the spot where Vic Navone died. He scatters the soil from Navone's back yard in Los Altos around the flowers, like a priest blessing the ground. He fills the little canister with earth to take back to Mrs. Navone.

Then the four of them walk back down the hill to the paddies where the camp used to be, all those years ago. Pacheco walks alone and sits beneath a young willow tree growing right on the spot where Navone died. "When I was here, I always thought this would be a beautiful country - parrots flying in flocks, monkeys in the trees, papaya, mangoes, 'it's paradise, it's paradise' I said to myself. 'One day I just want to come back and see if these people are as meek as they seem! And, I've come back - and they are'.

"I'll tell you what's really hard is to be a soldier and bury your friend and fold the flag and have a dry eye. You're not supposed to cry, and you don't. Maybe you do it 20 years later!"

David Recob typed the story for the Americal Newsletter and he adds this note:

This story tore at my heart deeply, very emotional. I'd write a disclaimer on opinions due to the writers comments, sometimes negative remarks about leadership in the ranks, if I were Editor. I hate negative writers who write for sensational purposes. Dave

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

\$96-

NOVEMBER 11, 1992 VETERANS DAY

THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE AMERICAL VETERANS WILL BE

HOTEL WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON DC 20044

TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

WRITE OR CALL - MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS

ANY QUESTIONS WRITE TO RON WARD

ST. LOUIS, MO 63123

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

William Tsouvas wishes to locate men who served with his son, Robert W. Tsouvas, a member of 3rd Platoon, C Co., 1/20th Inf. 11th L.I.B., SP4 Tsouvas who was killed by his girlfriend, September 4, 1988 was one of the men charged in the My Lai incident. I am trying to locate the addresses of the men who served with Robert in Vietnam. These men received the Purple Heart Awards, along with my son, on May 23, 1968.

These men include:
Sp4 Gregory T. Olsen RA 18960321
Sp4 Mark S. Pate US 54814462
PFC Peter R. Delpome US 52688875
PFC Rickey G. Neria US 55987348
PFC Daniel Simone US 52688790
PFC Esequiel Torres RA 25869032

I would welcome any suggestions finding these men. Sincerely,
Mr. William Tsouvas
1808 Valla Drive
San Jose California 95124
Former Vet WWII and Korean War, U.S. Navy

ATTENTION VIETNAM VETERANS

Do you have a friend you served with in Vietnam that passed away over there that you would like to locate the family and express your condolences or want to find a friend that was wounded and have lost touch with, or you might have derossed, and wondered what has become of those you left behind.

I work with a genealogical society that has a computer that lists millions of names and dates covering the United States. They also have listings of who have died between the years of 1962-1989 who had served in Korea and Vietnam.

I can find most of these persons for you. All I need is certain information. The more the better, of course. Any or all of the following: Name, rank, unit, hometown, and anything else you think might help.

As I said before, I work for a genealogical society, so in order to purchase new data we must charge a small fee. A \$10. fee covers paper, postage and computer time.

I also served with the AMERICAL DIVISION, CO.B, 3/1, 11th BDE. I was stationed on LZ LIZ. SEND REQUEST WITH PAYMENT TO:

John B. Gideon

[REDACTED]
Glasgow MT 59230

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Dear Ron,

I just paid my dues for the Americal Association for the year and I do enjoy the Americal Newsletter when I get it.

I'm just about a few weeks in starting a 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry Association which was part of the Americal Division.

I will be the Liaison for this association. Please pass the word that I'm still looking for any Nam Veteran that served in the 1/1 Cav in A-B-C-E or headquarter troops and would be interested in the group.

I do not at this time know when we will have a gathering, but possibility of maybe at the Americal's 1993 National Reunion in Topeka, Kansas and have a hospitality room. The Association will be small time for a while but I do have a lot of names and a lot of addresses. I will be sending out a 1st newsletter soon.

Anyone wanting information of the 1/1 Cav Association can write: Terry Babler, c/o 1/1 Cav, W5889 Durst Road, New Glarus, WI 53574

Also, I am attaching a flyer about a Veterans Festival that will be in Monroe, WI this June 26-27-28. If you can get it into the Americal newsletter I would really appreciate it.

Keep up the good work Ron, you're doing a hell of a job!

Terry Babler, Doc, 1/1 Cav, A Troop
2nd Platoon, Americal Division

Members

Those who served with 3/1 11th Light Infantry Brigade HHC, A, B, C, D, Companies or Recon, from Dec 1967 until Dec 1968, let's go for a reunion. Do you remember FSB Bronco, Carentan, LZ Liz, LZ Dragon and the big city of Duc Pho? Wouldn't it be good to get together after all these years? If you are interested, drop me a note with your name, unit, current address/phone. I will keep those who respond informed through articles in the ADVA Newsletter unless there is not a large enough response. Think about it! Let's keep the POW/MIA's in our thoughts and prayers daily.

R.E. "Gene" Wilson

[REDACTED]
Charlotte, NC 28212-6368

Editors note: I agree guys. These company or battalion reunions are great fun. A word of advice though. Why not try to arrange your reunions in conjunction with the annual ADVA reunion? That way you can enjoy the comradeship of all the other outfits plus enjoy a considerable savings on your hotel rates. We can set up a separate meeting room for any component who desires one. This could be done at no cost to you. When dealing with a hotel, it's strength in numbers. The more rooms we book, the more favorable package we receive. Remember, some men can only attend one function a year due to financial or family constraints. It would behoove you to consider attending the Division's affair and organize your own mini-reunion right alongside the rest of the battalions.

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

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

1993 - A MILE HIGH REUNION!

Denver Colorado has been chosen as the site for the 1993 reunion of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association. Many more details will be published in the next newsletter (November 1992), but for those who want to write for brochures or other information now, the following details are available.

The reunion date will be July 15-16-17, 1993. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Denver I-70 East, 15500 East 40th Ave, Denver, CO 80239. [REDACTED]

FAX [REDACTED]

The Association has blocked 100 rooms for Thurs, Fri, Sat nights. Cut-off date for reserving blocked rooms is July 1, 1993.

Room rate is \$49.00 per night + 12% tax, for single-double-triple.

Start planning your vacations now, the area around Denver is one of the most spectacular family fun spots in the country.

OHIO CHAPTER

The Ohio Chapter of The 196th Light Infantry Brigade is having their 1992 reunion on August 15th and 16th. For more information contact:

Dale Flickinger

Jeromesville, OH 44840

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE ASSOCIATION



For Membership contact
Ronald L. Davis
Fountain City, In.
47341

THE MONGOOSE, THE FOUR FOOTED "CHARGER"

By: L.L. Cole A-3-21 Nam 66-67

The monkey arrived in the Company area first. Someone in the Company had purchased it at the Vietnamese market. Small in size, was quick to learn and soon could open the screen doors to the huts. The favorite target in his nuisance raids was the zippered shaving kits with their tubes of tooth paste and shaving cream. After eating his fill of the tooth paste, would squeeze the tubes of tooth paste and shaving cream all over everything, making a thorough mess of things. Several attempts to lace a tube of toothpaste with rat poison failed, these he left alone.

These nuisance raids soon stopped, at least for the Senior NCO hut, in late September, 1966. That was the night the mongoose, an animal similar but larger than a weasel, brown in color with a long furry tail, inspected every corner of the hut, then curled up on my bunk to sleep. From then on, that's where it slept, inspite of attempts to make it stay in a bed made of a C ration carton.

Whenever the mosquito net was being lowered, it would make sure it was under the net. Then would start curled up at the foot of the bunk, before morning, it was curled up by my shoulder. Often in the night, I would wake up feeling like I was being smothered, to find its tail over my mouth and nose. As a bed partner, it purred like a house cat but had the nervous habit of clicking its teeth as it slept.

When it played, many of its actions was like a kitten. Chasing things on strings, but untying boot laces was its favorite pastime. With its

large sharp front teeth and strong jaws whenever it bit into anything, it would not let go. More than a few bath towels was ripped to shreds trying to shake it loose.

Obviously, someone's pet when it came to the hut, it liked to prowl the Company area in search of insects and snakes. Its favorite hunting area was the shower with its array of insects. These hunting forays were usually in the early morning or late evenings. During the heat of the day, was spent inside the hut (if anyone was there to let it in) or under it where it was shaded and with a clear view of the Company area.

Whenever anyone was in the hut it would make a pest of itself wanting in or let outside. A little particular, there was only two of us that it would let pick it up and pet it like a cat.

It's main pastime was to lay in hiding behind the tent supports for it's favorite target, the monkey, to vent it's fury. No matter where the monkey was at on the ground. A brown streak would make a beeline for the monkey and send it squealing, scrambling up the nearest tent.

The last time I saw the animal was the morning of 5 November 1966, when we departed for the "Battle of Attleboro". When I returned from the hospital in December, the Mess Sergeant told me that the mongoose had disappeared shortly after we departed on the 5th of November and had not been seen since. Evidently to find other human company in another area.

I had suspected that someone in Co C had brought the animal to Vietnam. Twenty four years later, it was confirmed by a former member of Co C, that a mongoose was in their area, but did not think it belonged to anyone, that it was tame and played with the men.

While it stayed in the hut, it was a source of entertainment, many hours was passed playing with or watching this remarkable animal. Just one of the many pets in Vietnam, but one of the most unusual.

COMPANY D 5/46 INFANTRY 198 LIB



I thought you might enjoy a picture of my 1990 GMC pickup with the Americal and 198th logo on the tailgate. It strikes up a lot of conversation.

Jim McClanahan

[REDACTED]
Warren, MI 48073

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Recently VVA Chapter 228 held its annual installation dinner here in South Jersey. We were honored and absolutely delighted to have two special guests join us. They traveled quite a distance. John "Dutch" De Groot came all the way from Chicago and Joe "OB" O'Brien came from Flushing, NY. Dutch was in NJ on business and had been in contact with "OB" and myself. While here in South Jersey we enjoyed the sights, sounds, and gastronomical delights of Atlantic City. Also present at the dinner was a 4th ADVA member and recently elected president of VVA 228, Jeffrey Dietelbaum.

I am looking forward to the ADVA reunion in San Antonio. I did my AIT there in early '67 while TDY from Ft. Hood. In fact, I spent a year at Ft. Hood prior to shipping out overseas to the 196th LIB. Most of my AIT comrades went to the 198th LIB. Am looking forward to traveling to Ft. Hood to see if things have changed and also to travel about San Antonio and Ft. Sam Houston to bring back some sweet memories.

Look forward to seeing you again along with all my other friends and comrades. I was honored and appreciate being asked to run for the Executive Council.

Sincerely,
Ed "Dutch/Doc" den Braven 196th LIB

P.S. The enclosed photo includes from L to R, Joe O'Brien, Ed den Braven, Jeff Deitelbaum and John De Groot. All proud members of ADVA.



ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

PNC Roland Castranova is a present recovering from surgery. How about dropping him a card or giving him a call?

PNC Roland T. Castranova

[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960

Telephone [REDACTED]

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

NOTES FROM A DAY-DATE CALENDAR
174TH AHC June 70-June 71 RVN
is infested by crabs. Swell.

6-1 Arrive Bien Hoa-Replacement Center-The Shitter
6-3 Chu Lai-Replacement Center-Introduction to
Sappers and sand fleas. (Americal Div)
6-7 DUC Pho-174th AHC-Introduction to helicopters
with teeth and the term F.N.G. I am one and
seems I'll remain one for a long, long time.
Area of Operation Orientation ride (along)
6-9 I do believe I've forgotten everything I've
ever known. I'm grateful that Mr. Uhlich
is very patient.

6-11 First actual mission. We, I mean he, picks
up little, teeny people and drops them off
in the middle of NOWHERE. Mountains, jungle.
They have guns but I doubt that is of any
consolation at all. Mr. Strumke is not quite
as patient. he expected me to be able to
tune in a radio. I still can't find the ash
tray.

6-14 Sunday. Don't they wind things down on certain
days of the week? They seem to fly all day,
drink a lot most of the night and occasionally
play cards. They talk a lot about missing
the companionship of women but I don't think
they're really sincere. Mr. James Call is
really an "Old Guy" 2nd tour, he's nuts.

7-1 Mr. Ward is shot in the leg while flying with
Jack Dotterer and goes home. Although he'd
been here for several weeks longer, he was
a nice guy and helpful to me.

7-6 A classmate of mine, Leonton Mizer was killed
today along with SP/4 Harrison Bell and Vandiver.
Lt Joseph Brandt survived crash south of Hill
411 SHARKS.

7-8 Classmate Dunnavent is killed flying Musket
Guns (176th AHC) at Tin Phouc. I don't think
I could fly guns.

8-4 We move into Kham Duc. Major operation with
what seems all the helicopter companies in
the Americal Division. I fly with Maj Fred
Blackburn who is the AMC. When you fly with
the C/O you are the PETER-PILOT. I'm
awed by his skill and knowledge. A Chinook,
referred to as a Shit-Hook is shot up by .51
cal at Kham Duc and we here of another being
shot down with 50+ U.S. troops. No survivors.

8-8 While flying with Dolphin 16, Cpt Harold Alvord,
we're shot down in flames over the Battambang
Peninsula. We were acting as the AMC in the
C/O aircraft (#200) We're picked up immediately
as we're involved on a Combat Assault. The
ship burns to the ground but 10 crew members
walk (run) away. They say that's a good landing
but I think we may have trouble convincing
Maj. Blackburn that his "Brand New" aircraft
is ashes. The C/E is not terribly thrilled
with the loss either. Bill Wilder will in
all probability end up crewing a "Dog" as
a replacement.

9-8 Shark C/E Carlson is hit by .51 cal fire at
Ngia Hahn. We hear that in all likelihood
he will lose his leg.

9-28 176th Warrant Officer's Ted Sizemore and Petty,
to include entire crew are shot down at the
mouth of "Happy Valley" (N/W of DFC Meadows).
All are killed as upon exploding, the aircraft
fell through the jungle canopy inverted.
I was on that C.A. I've never witnessed anything
like it.

10-11 Pete goodnight who recently returned from
home (Pacoima) after burying his youngest
brother was killed today while pulling a Dust-
Off on a Grunt who jumped from an auto-rotating
slick. A tragic accident while moving a wounded
Continues Next Page

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

NOTES FROM A DAY-DATE CALENDAR

174 AHC June 70-June 71 RVN (Continues)

troop, caused recovered M-60, leaning against the back of seat, to fire.

10-21 Slick Gunner Woodard is shot in leg west of San Juan.

11-3 Lost fuel pressure flying with Doug Doers near LZ Snoopy. Got back O.K.

11-7 SHARK'S Jim Kinne & classmate Mark Stefan get shot up at Ngia Hahn (foot and leg respectively). Stefan goes home.

11-7 SHARK Jeff Zavales inquires if I would like to come over to the SHARKS.

11-9 Fly first mission/day in GUNS with W.O. Jeff Zavalez, C/E John Sparks and SHARK PLT SGT Alan D. Parker. DUECE & 1/2 hits landmine on 411 access road. Blows truck in half, killing 10 G.I.'s. We land and use A/C fire extinguishers to put out the burning clothing. I'll never forget that smell. W.O. "Hap" Holden pulls Dust-Off.

11-22 While "snoopin and poopin" along the Horseshoe, we get shit shot out of us. Jim Kinne's left leg is obviously shattered below the knee. My right tail rotor control pedal is shot off with the bullet lodging in my left instep. Most instruments are gone to include my helmet cord. Sgt. Parker advises Sugar Bear of my destination via his radio control panel.

A nice thing to have under the circumstances.

11-28 Chuck Creamer, Lt. Dave Juarequi and crew are missing on a night flare ship mission Shark Scramble near the foothills. Weather/fog hides a aircraft for days.

12-2 Aircraft found. All perish in flames (Powell & Field)

12-29 The Reverend Bob Black, Primo 2 goes down on the Horse-Shoe (river). Art Magee locates the aircraft heading down stream but Black is not in it.

12-31 Black's body is found. Happy New Year.

1-5 Flew 2 hours "ash & trash" with Bob Gentry.

1-28 The entire company packs up and leave Duc Pho for unknown destination (up north). Lots of rumors.

1-28 Buddy Howard "DOLPHIN 29" has engine failure in #516 on departure from Duc Pho with Cpt. Garner. All O.K. A/C is D.X.

1-29 Leave Da Nang (after night of drinking in O Club, Gun-Fighter Village). Re-fuel HUE-Phu Bai arrive New Home Quang Tri. SWELL.

1-31 Fly C A cover all day out of the Khe Sahn. What a desolate place. Days to follow, more of the same to include areas with names I recall from the news. Dust Off covers and convoy escort.

2-8 C A's into Laos begin as we "cross over the fence". The weather foggy, the air filled with helicopters, the radio's are unbelievable and the terrain is downright shitty. We are weathered in on a hill top, low on fuel, in Laos and we hear "bird calls" that don't sound like birds. Upon our return to Khe Sahn we learn of Bob Gentry being killed on one of the first insertions while flying with Doug Erb. Our slicks take lots of fire.

2-9 Take hits along Q L 9. Fly 4 1/2 hours of CA's. Our "C" models are dogs at this altitude.

2-10 Learn of earthquake in Sylmar/San Fernando Valley. Attempt to call Mom but lines are down. 3 more aircraft go down. Fly 6 hours in and out of Laos. See a lot of fire.

2-11 Rock Pile and LZ SCOTCH 3 slicks shot up, Greg Manuel gets shot in right leg and rocket warhead explodes outside his door to include a bunch of hits. Greg goes home, had only 3 days left in-country. A/C 170 lost to damage

Blue Ghosts lose 2 LOH's (58's) & 1 slick. F-4 shot down by radar 37mm. I shot over 200 rockets this day "Bouque Fire"

2-12 Fly Dust Off cover out of the Khe Sahn, over the fence to return and "escort" cover Gen Abrams in and out of the Khe Sahn. "R.F."

2-18 Quang Tri ammo dump gets blown by sappers or rockets. Explosions from 0430 to 7:00.

2-19 CPT Mike "TRACT" Ackerman and Dennis McCabe go home.

2-20 Mike Phillips takes mortar in LZ west of Scotch. Over 100 holes in A/C. No one hit or hurt.

Flew 6 hours of Dust Off cover over the fence. It seems they're gettin their collective Ass kicked with the number of bodies and wounded comin out. Received word from Howard Mojesski that classmate Rauen killed in crash at the Khe Sahn.

2-21 On Dust Off cover, wing ship to Bruce Marshall, they get shit shot out of them and we take major hits (565-285). Bruce (SHARK 15) is hit twice with .51 cal in left leg. Co-pilot Jim Souders gets chunk of chair runner through his right thigh/ass and they go down. We expend/secure as "MO" Dust Off 13 homes in on us and pulls them out.

2-21 (con'd) Wilder & I unable to reach them through the brush. Good thing, they'd probably shot us. We took six .51 cal hits to include one on leading edge of blade.

2-22 Spent a night in the bunker as Quang Tri (our end anyway) took incoming most of the night. I don't think they dig us being here. Visited/sa Bruce (SHARK 15) He's ----ed up.

2-23 More of the same. Dust Off cover and re-supply cover now. Every time they land for Pick-up or drop off, they have to dodge mortars.

2-24 Dust Off cover "over the fence". Saw 2 ARVN's fall from helicopter skids, trying to escape on over crowded ships. Got head shot same coordinates as Bruce Hackett (SHARK 9) did a great job, got me to a cave that shaved the side of my head, patched and medivac to Quang Tri. I get a bed next to Bruce. The Doc gets me a Mars. Call home.

2-25 Doug Erb & Birch crash in L.Z. near Scotch. Both burned real bad. Erb's 1st A/C mission.

2-26 Hospital took a lot of in-coming last night. The ugliest woman I've ever seen (complete with steel pot/flack jacket) ordered me to a sub-ground level bunker due to being ambulatory (I could walk) I stood in ankle deep water and let large mosquitos eat on me for about 10 seconds in the dark before returning to my bed. Good thing as someone had thrown a mattress over Bruce and left him with one of his incredibly swollen toes bent back.

He was happy to see me but the Full Colonel Nurse was not. I explained with all due respect. She understood, thankfully.

2-27 Bruce trans to hospital ship off coast for prep for flight home (off Hue)

2-28 Released from hospital. Grounded for 5 more days due to head wound.

3-1 Receive word that classmate Catzoella missing in Laos. POL & RE ARM at Vandergrif blown up.

3-2 Sugar Bear (SHARK 1) goes on R&R. John Bishop with Lt. Farner C/E Rhodes shot down in NVA smoked LZ. Crew missing to captured.

3-3 71st AHC gets 11 of 11 ships shot up 50 cliques into Laos. Our ships on it too no (evening) Shark gunner "Jansen" shot in back but O.K. Dolphin C/E Davidson shot in forehead. Shark 170 & 092 down in Laos. Lt Edgecomb shot on left shoulder.

3-4 Lt Farner E & E's with some ARVN's and escapes

Continues Next Page

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

NOTES FROM A DAY-DATE CALENDAR

174 AHC June 70-June 71 RVN (Conclusion)

to a firebase. He last obs Bishop going back to the aircraft for his pistol. Gunner Padilla possibly killed. Shark C/E John Moore (140) shot on heel of foot with .51 cal O.K. but sent home.

3-5 169 & 094 (Shark aircraft) shot down in Laos (CPT Smith) along with one Firebird (71st AHC) one slick and Witchdoctor 5 ("Butch Newby") Elliott & crew

3-6 Cpt John Bishop & C/E Rhodes walk into ARVN firebase after 3 days/nights of E&E in Laos. They last obs gunner Padilla slumped over his M-60, apparently KIA Lt Waugh is grazed by .51 cal that lodges in Maj Dale Spratt's chicken plate while attempting to recover "Butch Newby" and crew (Witchdoctor)

3-7 Ralph E. Elliott III & crew get out Laos. We have a company beer-bust in the main tent on/off Quang Tri active Butch could hear the NVA tearing down the aircraft the night they went down as they lay concealed they estimate about 100 yards from the downed aircraft. They say the Air Force picked them up in a Jolly Green but every slick pilot on the operation is taking credit for the extraction. Drank a lot, took pics.

3-9 More of the same, etc. etc.

3-13 Get word that classmate Mark Mercer got shot in the neck down out of Chu Lai. His "P.P." John Sharp got hit in the legs.

3-14 "Cowboy" Martin gets shot down in Laos. Wally Stoneburg gets shrapnel in his left arm, goes to sanctuary ship.

3-17 Cpt Don "Buttermilk" Peterson & FNG shot down in Laos, he gets cut on right cheek.

3-22 Reg Cleave, Travis (WO) & crew (Minuteman 21) go down in flames in Laos after being hit with 37mm. Listed as MIA. History.

3-26 Shut down at Logger Pad/Khe Sahn and dodge 40 plus rounds NVA ARTY (Whose counting). 1 1/2 hours under an APC (they leak hydraulic shit too) Night scramble to the Rock Pile. 4 kills take shits. Get scrambled again, they'd like us engage NVA tanks in Laos. Right. We don't have armor pearcing warheads so we respectfully pass. Advise arch-light or air strike.

4-2 C.A.'s Kill west of Scotch while flying with FNG's Shark 6

4-4 Me, P.J. & Bennie pick up stand down orders at 223 AVN BN Dong Ha (101st) We're to leave the 6th for Duc Pho. "PARTY"

4-7 They lied. We arrive Chu Lai and advised it's our new home. Swell. Our Co. area sucks.

We hitch-hike to the flight line. The only salvation from this big sand pile are 24 hour standby missions out of Duc Pho which I volunteer for when ever they're available. Same A.O.

but a shack in Chu Lai can't compare to what we had in Duc Pho (away from the flag)

Fred Thompson "Shark 7"
174th Assault Helicopter Co.

I WAS THERE
NORTHERN 1 CORPS, CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
HIGHWAY 1 BETWEEN LZ ROSS & TRIPLE CULVERTS
February '69

The first time I saw Clyde (Clyde William Clinger) was at the EM Club at Chu Lai. He was with Chuckie Myers, both from Pennsylvania. Clyde was an 18 yr. replacement on his way to join A Co. 26th Engr. Bn. 196th Inf, Brigade Americal Div, which was then called LZ Baldy. He was called

Clyde at his own insistence.

Once when we were on mine sweep between LZ Baldy and LZ Ross, Clyde found a small dog, I in fun named it Barney, Barney and Clyde, we both laughed. We lagged behind the rest of the sweep team so we could get a cold beer from the soda girls, the girls who peddled pop and beer off their bikes. We weren't the only GI's who wanted a beer that day, because there were some grunts there who had been out security guards that were poppin tops. It was hotter than hell, the beer was cold so we drank it fast, we didn't get this too often.

It was late afternoon when we figured we'd better start back to our platoon. Barney was too young to walk, so I put him in my fatigue pocket. We rounded a small curve on the dirt road, I turned to say something to Clyde, when just a few inches from my feet, dirt and rocks exploded and an instant later we heard the characteristic Klak-klak-klak of an AK 47.

Immediately I hit the dirt, Clyde's dog in my pocket let out a large whelp, I thought I'd squashed him but that was farthest from my thoughts. Clyde and I had hit the road but the other guys had jumped behind a tree and started firing over our heads. It's a good thing we didn't panic and stand up, our backs would have been stitched by M-16 auto fire.

There was a lull in the fighting, and we all started talking loud to one another. I remember we said "they'll surround us, we've got no radio, let's get the hell out of here." We ran all the way back to LZ Ross, I noticed my left elbow was bleeding, the scar was there for years but gone now. We were glad to be alive.

A few weeks later we got our beer ration from Baldy and one night drank our fill. Clyde, as everyone had seen by then became loud-mouthed and abusive and decided to play a trick on the platoon medic. The medic had washed his clothes at the water point and made a clothes line from a time fuse, used to detonate demo. Clyde impulsively touched his Camel cigarette to the time fuse on the clothes line burning the line thru the medic's clothes.

Of course the medic was pissed, he screamed and yelled, "Clyde, I hope you die tomorrow." Everyone was silent as we looked at them. The silence was foreboding.

Clyde had taken on the duty of driving the pressure truck, a dangerous job, not too many volunteered for. One driver was killed on the previous run, one was seriously wounded, I had hit two mines myself while on this mission and didn't drive anymore.

Next day on mine sweep about 2:30 in the afternoon, I was at half-way point after Clyde's pressure truck had passed, when we were stunned by the news. No one said anything for we were thinking about what had happened the night before. Clyde had hit a mine coming back to LZ Ross from Triple Culverts. Chuckie Myers was with him. Clyde was killed, blown into a sandy plain. The medic (from the night before) was the first one that got to him----- Chuckie Myers was seriously wounded and flown to Japan.

by Warren D. Lucas Spec/4
A. Company 26th Engr Br-Americal Div.
196th Inf Bgde.

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