★ GUADALCANAL ★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS ★ LEYTE ★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES ★ VIETNAM

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

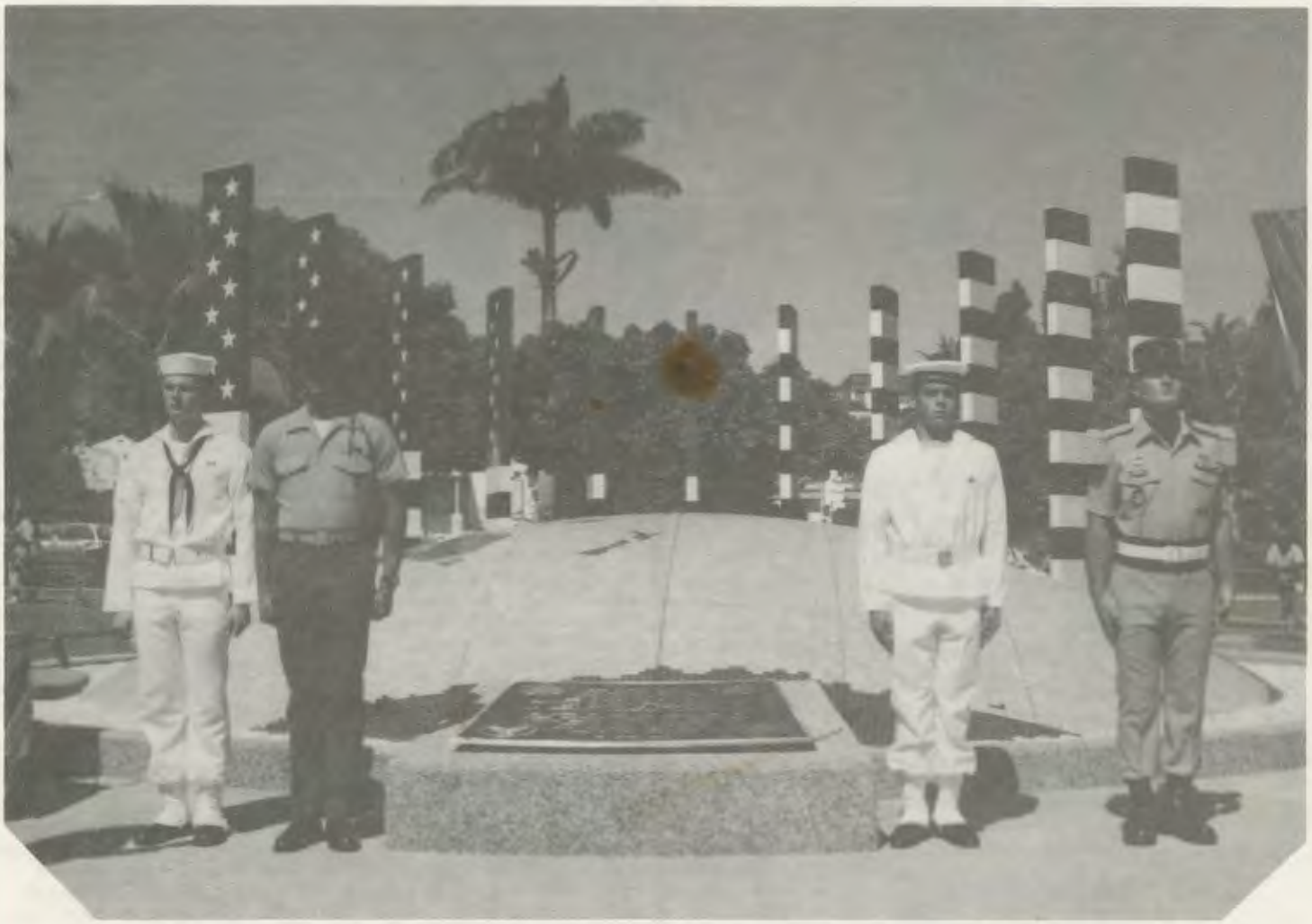
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1992

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE
VIETNAM EDITOR: DAVID L.RECOB

Published Bi-Monthly

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

NOUMEA NEW CALEDONIA



AMERICAN MEMORIAL

DEDICATED AUGUST 13, 1992

1992 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1993

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina
[redacted]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

John H. DeGroot
[redacted]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

William K. Maddox
[redacted]
Portland, TX 78374

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Joseph B. Chin
[redacted]
Lincoln, MA 01773

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase
[redacted]
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

James C. Buckle - Chairman
Roland T. Castronova
Kenneth R. Turner
Leo Ciccolo
Robert N. Thornton
Alfred R. Doig
Bernard J. Carroll
Hugh J. Murnaghan
Joseph A. Anderson
Daniel P. Ramsey Jr.
John V. Nightingale

CHAPTER COMMANDERS

William J. McLaughlin	Cape Cod Chapter
Stephen Dennison	Eastern Regional Chapter
Thomas P. McQuade	South-East Chapter
Everett B. Carlson	South Mid-West Chapter
Rush J. Propper	Great Lakes Chapter
Joe. W. Feeler	Far West Chapter
Ronald L. Ward	Central Mid-West Chapter
Lloyd J. Morrell	North-West Chapter

A by-law change, approved by a National Ballot, now makes Chapter Commanders members of the Executive Council.

****

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle
[redacted]
Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone [redacted]

VIETNAM EDITOR

David L. Recob
[redacted]
Topeka, KS 66611-2132

Telephone [redacted]

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The generosity of the Americal Family is superior to all others. The Scholarship Foundation is receiving gifts and we should be able to announce our first scholarship at the June '93 reunion at Topeka, Kansas. A singular donation was recently received from Linda Larson of San Francisco in the amount of $250 in memory of her Father, Walter Larson, who served with the 221st Field Artillery Battalion during WWII. I recently wrote to Linda and once again I want to thank her very much for her contribution to the Scholarship Foundation!

During Sept. 10-13, 1992 we attended the annual reunion of the Eastern Regional Chapter in Pittsburgh, PA and had a terrific time. Steve Dennison, Chapter Commander, announced that he has accepted National's request that they host the 1994 National Reunion. He presently is looking at two places, either Pittsburgh or the Catskills in New York. Both would be excellent choices.

Although still a little early Lloyd J. Morrell, Chapter Commander of the North West Chapter, has requested permission to host the 1995 National Reunion in Seattle, Washington. I believe that is a beautiful location and consideration is being given.

To my way of thinking, patriotism is the middle name of every veteran who served with the Americal Division and all others who served in whatever service. But our country's patriotism and the POW/MIA treatment, especially since Vietnam, is an oxymoron. What is the correct story? Why will they not tell us? I believe our government has treated the issue as a diplomatic expediency or as the exigency of the moment dictated. We may finally have a breakout of news for the families of the POW/MIA with the new congressional hearings recently held and the visit to Hanoi. It has been a long time. Let us have the facts so that we can put this to rest. The families need to know!

Recently I attended a chapter meeting of The Reserve Officer's Association at Carlisle Barracks. There we were told by participants of Desert Storm that the final medical exams given our military on discharge from active duty were very cursory in nature and the medics did very little for those who complaimed. They did not want to put down all the facts in their medical histories. This will be very harmful to the individual who has something wrong with him medically and later applies for rightful benefits. This is going a bit too far and should be rectified. Why are military medical personnel doing this and whom are they protecting? Not the veteran, certainly!

I learned with both sorrow and happiness that the Rev. Paul A. Chaisson, S.M. was resigning as the Catholic Chaplin of ADVA. Sorry to see him go after serving the needs of our veterans in ADVA for fifteen years but happy at the same time that now he will have the time to pursue all of the things that he has wanted to do but did not have the time to do them in. We thank you again, Father Paul, and may your retirement be joyous with God's blessings!

It just doesn't seem possible that our last reunion was six months ago. It must be a sign of old age that makes time go so fast and here we are approaching the holiday season. Certainly hope that all of you and your family had a very happy Thanksgiving Day and are all looking forward to the Christmas Season full of joy, spirituality and thanksgiving for all of the good things we have. May I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas, a wonderful Chanukah, and the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. God bless you all!

Peter J. Messina
National Commander

****

ATTENTION

If you know of a comrade that has passed away or that is ill, please notify the Adjutant Bernard Chase, immediately. We depend on YOU for this information. His number is [redacted].

1452 NL2155 94

CHAPTERS

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

Regional Commander
Thomas P. McQuade
[redacted]
Nalcrest, FL 33856-6345

****

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

Regional Commander
Everett B. Carlson
[redacted]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Telephone [redacted]

****

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

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

****

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

Regional Commander
Joe D. Feeler
[redacted]
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Telephone [redacted]

****

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

Cape Cod Chapter Commander
William J. McLaughlin
[redacted]
Marston Mills, MA 02648

****

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

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

****

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

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

****

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?
HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER?

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Lloyd J. Morrell
[redacted]
Redmond, OR 97756-9612

****

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA
[redacted]
PEABODY, MA 01960

****

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH WEST CHAPTER

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA, WYOMING

Our weather in the Northwest is now starting to change and to make plans for a meeting now would be futile, as we could not be assured of good road conditions and it would not be much of a meeting if no one came.

I am setting my sights on a meeting within the first fifteen days of May '93 in Seattle. Time, date, and location to come later. This would be a time to have an election of officers and to plan an agenda for the future. It would be premature to mention it at this time, but I have high hopes that there would be news at that time to please all of you.

Wishing you all a very happy and fulfilling holiday season and may all be well with you. I am sure all members in the Northwest would join me in wishing all other members of the ADVA the same good wishes. The best to all of you and your families. A special holiday greeting to the many friends I have made while Commander of the Far West Chapter.

Any questions, please call either of the two men listed below;

Denis R. Bourcier
[redacted]
Kirkland, WA 98033
Telephone [redacted]

You may contact me at;

Lloyd J. Morrell
[redacted]
Redmond, OR 97756
Telephone [redacted]

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Lloyd J. Morrell
Chapter Commander

****

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?
DO IT NOW!

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH WEST CHAPTER

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

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Kirkland, WA 98033
Telephone [redacted]

You may contact me at:

Lloyd J. Morrell
[redacted]
Redmond, OR 97756
Telephone [redacted]

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Lloyd J. Morrell
Chapter Commander

****

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Under the National By-Laws a member of the ADVA cannot hold two elective offices at the same time. Consequently I have resigned as Chapter Commander.

Everett B. Carlson has been elected to be the new Chapter Commander. He served in Company D, 182 Infantry in WW II. Everett is a real hard worker and he will make a good Commander.

I want to thank all the members of the Chapter for the support and assistance that they have given during my two and a half years as your Commander.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members in the Americal family for electing me to be your Junior Vice Commander. I will do my best to uphold the traditions of the GREATEST Division that I have ever served in--the Americal Division.

Sincerely,
Bill Maddox
Junior Vice Commander

****

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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

Any members that missed the October Reunion of the Southeast Chapter, at Naples, Florida, missed a BANG UP TIME.

We had a trolley ride through all the interesting spots in the town and a sight-seeing cruise a-round the inland waters ways. Golf was also on the agenda. Luncheons and breakfasts highlighted by a festive dinner on Saturday evening. Most of all, you missed the comradeship shared by a circle of friends sitting poolside remimicing about the Good Ole Days. Swimming was at its best, both in the pool as well as the Gulf of Mexico.

We had a most productive business meeting. Commander McQuade accepted the nomination of a new Secretary-Treasurer. Elmer E. Matola was duly installed in this office. This office was left vacant by the untimely deaths of David Rossi, John Hughes, and Arthur Wood, all within the last three years.

The annual dues are $5.00 for June 1, 1992 to May 31, 1993. Please make checks payable to S. E. Chapter A.D.V.A. and mail to;

Elmer E. Matola
[redacted]
Hernando, FL 34442

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter for we have a lot to accomplish before the next Chapter meeting in April 1993 at Perry´s on Daytona Beach. You will receive a notice with all the particulars. Regional Commander Tom McQuade would like to invite all members and their guests to this great event. DON´T MISS IT!

We have a representative at the Florida National Cemetery on the Joint Veterans Committee. If you have any questions on internment eligibility call me or visit the Veteran´s Advisor in your area.

Remember! We need the help of all of our members to make S.E. Chapter a Happy and Successful branch of the Great National Office of the ADVA.

Thanks,
Elmer E. Matola
Secretary-Treasurer

****

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

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

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

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

Sincerely,
Steve Dennison
Chapter Commander

****

JOIN A CHAPTER NOW!

CHAPTER NEWS

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

Dear Members:

One year ago I took on the project of trying to reorganize the Far West Chapter of the ADVA. At the present time we have 89 members and I have over 100 unanswered letters from the last mailing which was about two weeks ago. If you haven´t responded to my plea, please do so. We need your support.

I have made as list of all units eligible for membership in the Americal Division Veterans Association from the book ´Under the Southern Cross´ and the honors received. It consists of nine computer pages and ranges in size from Division to Section and Platoon size units. If any of the Chapter Commanders who do not have access to this list, desire one, I will gladly provide them with a copy. There are lots of eligible people out there if we could only have a way to contact them.

We are in the process of getting the 1993 Chapter Reunion together. As soon as we set a date and place I will get it to the Americal Newsletter.

Thanks to you who have answered my applications for membership. The returns are running about 15 %.

I want to say a big "THANK YOU" to those members that responded to the cry for a donation to help buy get-well cards. There may come a time that you might be on the receiving end. Thank you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Herbert L. Holt
Secretary

Joe D. Feeler
Chapter Commander

****

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER

IA, KS, MO, NE, ND, SD

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL

See you in Topeka next June

****

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

40 or under.....$125 Payments -5*
41 to 60.....$100 Payments -4*
61 to 70.....$ 75 Payments -3*
71 or over.....$ 50 Payments -2*

*Note: Payments of $25 in 6 month intervals. Any member who has paid his dues in advance will receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Name_____

Date of Birth_____Age_____

SEND TO
Bernard C. Chase
National Adjutant ADVA
[redacted]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

****

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

December 1992 None

January 1993 None

February 7, 1993
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

****

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Donald Eichelberger
Hq Co. 164 Infantry
Sharpsville, PA

Michele G. Lombardo
Co. H 182 Infantry
Cape Coral, FL

John A. Martin
Btry A 246 F.A. Bn
Erie, PA

Thomas J. Worrell
Hq Btry Div Arty
Shepardstown, WV

John A. Bowley
182 Infantry
Joshua Tree, CA

William F. Kane
182 Infantry
Arlington, MA

****

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Linda Larson
In Memory of Walter J. Larson 221 F.A. Bn.

****

NEW MEMBERS

Donald A. Ballou
121 Med Bn C Co.
Cherry Hill, NJ
Jim Buckle

Fred Berkoben
251 A.A. Group
Wilmerding, PA
Malcolm P. East

David Corey
164 Infantry Hq/A/1
West Branch, MI
Joe Feeler

John B. Gideon
11 LIB 3/1 Inf
Glasgow, MT
Jim Buckle

James W. Grose
196 LIB C/2/1 Inf
Lancaster, CA
Bernie Chase

Paul J. Kief
23 M.P.
Grand Rapids, MI
David L. Recob

Christopher Mattiace
11 LIB C/3/1/Inf
Yonkers, NY
Larry F. Henry

NEW MEMBERS

Harvey G. Bell
196 LIB F/17 Cav
Hayward, CA
Maurice Henson

Stephen J. Caballero
196 LIB HHC/4/31 Inf
Long Beach, CA
Bernie Chase

Lawrence Earle
11 LIB E/1 Cav
Newark, DE
Bernie Chase

Jon L. Graham
1 Armd Cav 1st Sqad
Mankato, MN
Bernie Chase

William F. Kane
182 Infantry
Arlington, MA

Michael Lazorchak
75 Inf (Rangers) B
Indianapolis, IN
Bernie Chase

Cathel P. McNaughton
192 Infantry H Co.
Fortuna, CA
Gino Massagli

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

NEW MEMBERS

John R. McNown Jr.
20 Infantry A/1
Overland Park, KS
Bernie Chase

Harry E. Mohla
182 Infantry E Co.
Wakefield, MA
Jim Buckle

Michael A. Parkhurst
196 LIB Hq/3/82 Art
Addison, MI
Self

Delmer R. Presley
198 LIB A/1/76 Inf
Honaker, VA
R. Castronova

Theodore M. Rahl
198 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Lansing, MI
Aime Thomas

Steven J. Reisdorff
56 Arty B/6/56
Crete, NE
Richard K. Smith

Austin J. Roth
164 Infantry G Co.
Westlake Village, CA
Paul Santogeanis

Richard E. Sandak
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf
Johnstone, PA
Bernie Chase

Harvey W. Sexton Jr.
196 LIB F/17 Cav
Stanton, IA
David Recob

Vincent Tringali
182 Infantry M Co.
Melrose, MA
Joe Chin

Jake I. Tufele
21 Infantry C/3/21
Chicago, IL
Brian Mulcrone

Jackie E. Yandell
335 Trans Co.
Lubbock, TX
Fred Salazar

****

SICK CALL SICK CALL SICK CALL

182 INFANTRY
Col. Lewis W. Doyle
[redacted]
San Antonio, TX 78216

121 MEDICAL BATTALION
Santo Ravagno
[redacted]
Saugus, MA 01906

101 MEDICAL BATTALION
Angelo M. Todisco
[redacted]
Winthrop, MA 02152

101 MEDICAL BATTALION
Martti Takki
[redacted]
South Dennis, MA 02660

121 MEDICAL BATTALION
Robert A. Keenan
[redacted]
Roslindale, MA 02131

182 INFANTRY
Charles Brooks
[redacted]
No. Dighton, MA 02764

****

The following named members will be dropped from membership, January 1, 1993, for non-payment of dues. If you disagree please contact Adjutant Bernie Chase---IMMEDIATELY.

Ernest E Bishop
Gabriel Colangelo
William J. Cotter
Gary M. Crosby
Walter A. Hickey
Robert T. Holien
Raymond C. Keefer
Paul T. Loiselle
Joseph A. Marseglia
Michael G. McPherson
Francis J. Paris
Thomas J. Pippin
David A. Schombs
Kenneth M. Strapson
Frederick B. Thompson
Dennis Botelho
James J. Comeau
Frank J. Cox
Jimmie M. Hallbauer
Alonzo H. Hodgson
Louis Isaksen
Glen R. Kendall
Angelo J. Mantenuto
Bill Marshall
Marcus R. Osborne
Pete E. Pederson
Aloysius J. Sanchez
James LeRoy Sparks
James H. Swearngin
Edward W. Woods

Don Yost

TAPS ' TAPS

William G. Bertelli
221 FA
Bedford, MA
September 14, 1992

Leonard I. Blum
57 Eng
Cambridge, MA
March 19, 1992

Marcus G. Buckley
121 Med Bn
Revere, MA
August 27, 1992

Felix Casserella
F Co. 182 Infantry
East Boston,
March 12, 1992

Fred Fabian
Co. F 182 Infantry
Florida
October 1991

Walter J. Glynn
182 Infantry
West Dennis, MA
October 1992

H. N. "Jack" Hallman
26 Sig
Philadelphia, PA
September 19, 1992

Walter J. Larson
221 FA
San Francisco, CA
April 20, 1992

John A. LeVert
182 Infantry F Co
Waltham, MA
October 26, 1992

Anthony Lupo
Co. F 182 Infantry
Sima, CA
January 18, 1992

George McAneney
182 Infantry
Lowell, MA
June 25, 1992

Vincent Menard
101 Med Bn Reg Band
New Hampshire
February 1992

Coval K. Wild
Associate
Warwick, RI
September 10, 1992

Arthur W. Collins
121 Medical Bn.
Piqua. OH
July 22, 1992

****

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The following dates are the deadlines for the 1993 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

January	- February	January 1, 1993
March	- April	March 1, 1993
May	- June	May 1, 1993

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

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

Vietnam veterans please send your stories to Dave Recob. He types all stories of the Vietnam era and prepares them for printing.

PLEASE--Include your telephone number with all correspondence. Many times a question comes up and it and a phone call can solve the problem quickly.

Thanks,
The Staff

****

HOME COMING NEW CALEDONIA 1992

AFTER FIFTY YEARS -- 'HOME' AGAIN

WOW! What a home coming! As the Americal members stepped off of the airplane at Tontouta Airport they were surrounded by the welcoming committee--there were hugs and kisses and handshakes. A greeting was extended by the Deputy Mayor, members of Friends of America, Emery LaVallee III, Emery LaVallee IV, Henry Daly, our Tour Director Bernadette Hagen, and many, many good friend in New Caledonia.

The group was allowed to by-pass Customs, and boarded busses for the thirty five mile ride to Noumea and the hotel. The hour was late and after checking into the hotel a very tired group was off to bed to prepare for the busy week ahead.

To back track a little, the Americal group of twenty two people left Guadalcanal on Sunday August 9, 1992. It was a beautiful morning to fly and the pilot circled the island allowing one last look, to be stored in the memories of the veterans on board. In a little over two hours the flight arrived in Port Vila, Vanuatu (New Hebrides to you vets that served time there in WW II). The flight arrived here on schedule. Here the group was to have an eight hour lay-over that included a bus tour of the island and dinner at the Country Club. Twenty two people were on this sentimental journey. They were:

PNC Bernard Chase	221 Field Artillery
Robert and Aniceta Galpin	221 Field Artillery
PNC Alfred Doig	247 Field Artillery
Earl and Edith Cook	26 Signal Company
Wilbert and Winona Quast	132 Infantry
Charles and Phyllis Bell	164 Infantry
William Hanusek	121 Medical Bn.
PNC Jim Buckle & Fran Buckle	182 Infantry E Co.
Daniel Ramsey	182 Infantry F Co.
Michael Lombardo	182 Infantry H Co.
Michele Lombardo	182 Infantry H Co.
William Murphy	182 Infantry H Co.
Joseph Yochum	182 Infantry H Co.
Samuel Hosmer	182 Infantry H Co.
William McCormack	182 Infantry Med.
Harry Passehl	Air Corp.
Edward Callahan	USMC Raider Bn.

After dinner at the Country Club the bus tour returned to the airport, cleared Customs, and was anxiously waiting in the 'Ready Room' for the departure time. The airplane arrived but it was followed on the runway by the fire truck. When the plane came to a halt the crew of the fire truck washed down the cement apron surrounding the airplane and then the ground crew proceeded to inspect the airplane. After a wait of several hours the flight was canceled due to mechanical problems --the flight would not be leaving on schedule. The tour group was taken to a hotel. In the morning, after breakfast, once again to journey to the airport. After another wait of several hours it was determined that the flight was 'no-go'. Once again it was back on the bus and to the hotel. After lunch was served the weary travelers were again rounded up and taken to the airport. Several hours later the plane, with many anxious passengers aboard, roared down the runway, lifted into the sky and turned it's nose toward New Caledonia.

The flight arrived at Tontouta Airport, one day late, but was still greeted enthusiastically. This welcoming committee had waited for the arrival of the Americal group until after 1:00AM this morning before being informed of the delay.

(The group was now down to twenty one members because the Air Corp veteran failed to deplane upon arrival at Port Vila and went on to Fiji before rejoining the tour in New Caledonia).

The Hotel Ibis was to be the home and headquarters of the Americal Division veterans during this Jubilee week. The Ibis is an ocean front hotel and the rooms are very pleasant with most having an ocean view. The beach was just across the street and many visitors began taking morning strolls along the beach. Perhaps it should be mentioned that this is a topless beach! The hotel personal were pleasant, helpful, patient and understanding of the visiting Americans.

The first day was highlighted by a tour of the city of Noumea. Noumea can best be described as a modern city with it's traffic and new buildings. The large park, or common, if you recall, still remains in the center of the city. Most of the buildings, or warehouses, that fronted the waterfront in 1942 are gone. There are a few Quonset huts to remind one of the war era and some of the familiar stores are still located on Maison Barrou.

The Nickel smelter and dock is still operating and it is understood that the United States has just signed a ten year agreement to purchase nickel ore.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

1942 HOMECOMING NEW CALEDONIA 1992

The tour of Noumea would convince one that New Caledonia is a very prosperous island. In one bay the sailing craft were packed so tight that it would be possible to walk from one side of the bay to the other without getting your feet wet.

In the afternoon a cocktail party was held at the Veteran's Hall where there was also an exhibit of World War II memorabilia. Paul Paturel was responsible for the fine display. Paul is the founder, curator, and principle contributor to a Museum that he has constructed at Poindimie. He also supplied most of the labor for the construction. At present he is moving the Museum to the La Foe area. Here it will be more assessable to tourists and people interested in the artifacts of World War II. (Above is a picture showing some of the display at the Veteran's Hall).

This evening transportation was provided to the Kuendu Beach Resort where a Dinner-Dance was held honoring the Americans. General Minard, Commanding General of the New Caledonian Armed Forces was the host for the evening and his charming wife was the hostess. The head table guests included PNC Bernard Chase, Admiral Conley USN, Commander Butler USS Racine, and members of local government.

As usual, cocktails preceded a delicious meal and a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

This reception was given by the New Caledonia Legislature and Southern Province.

(The Kuendu Beach Resort is on what had been an island in the harbor. A causeway has been built from the waterfront in Noumea making the resort easily assessable. Mrs. Emery LaVallee gave this member a daytime tour of this beautiful resort).

August 13, 1992---on this day a memorial to all American that served on New Caledonia was dedicated. This memorial is in the shape of a half of a globe and is made of ceramic tile. The back ground is light blue representing the ocean and the land masses are in dark blue. Eleven tall panels surround the globe and each carries part of the American flag. The monument was designed by Francois Raulet, architect.

At the forefront of the memorial, as shown on the cover, is a time capsule covered by a plaque. The inscription on the plaque reads:

IN HONOR OF THE U.S. FORCES WHO BY
THEIR PRESENCE DURING THE PACIFIC WAR
FROM MARCH 1942 TO FEBRUARY 1946
INSURED THE FREEDOM OF
NEW CALEDONIA. HER PEOPLE
ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL

13 AUGUST 1992

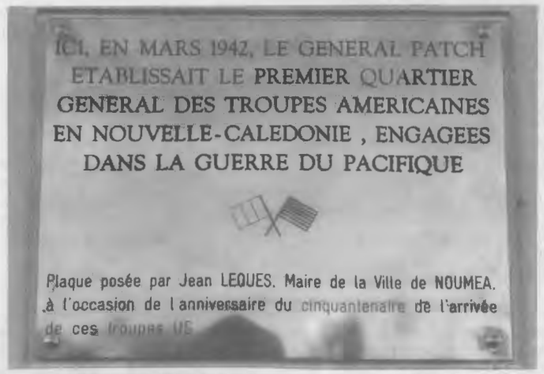
Mayor of Noumea, Jean Leques made the presentation dedication and PNC Bernard C. Chase was among the principal speakers.

ADMIRAL TEAGLE, ADMIRAL CONLEY, MR. HUMPHREYS
PNC CHASE, MAYOR LEQUES

At the conclusion of the dedication three paratroopers descended onto the park. One carried a French flag, one a New Caledonia flag, and one an American flag -- an American flag that had flown over the USS Battleship Arizona.

A ceremony was held this afternoon placing a plaque at the Oun-Toro Gun Site honoring the Australians and New Zealand soldiers that had served on New Caledonia. PNC Bernard Chase, Henri Daley, Admiral Conley, General Minard, New Zealand Admiral Teagle, and Foreign Service Officer of the U.S. Department of State, Liam J. Humphreys were taken by Helicopter from Noumea to the Gun Site. PNC Chase took part in the ceremony.

This evening the Governor hosted a cocktail party and dinner at the Governor's Mansion. PNC Alfred Doig represented the Americal Division and was seated at the head table.



PLAQUE ON THE WALL OF THE OLD HOTEL PACIFIC

1942 HOMECOMING NEW CALEDONIA 1992

On Friday morning the Americal tour was up and about early. A morning ceremony was to be held dedicated a plaque that was placed on a wall at the old Hotel Pacific--General Alexander Patch's headquarters during the time that the Americal was on New Caledonia.

The Hotel Pacific is no longer a hotel. Several businesses now use the property including a rent-all business. Above is a picture of the plaque.

From this dedication the tour went to a place called Admiral Halsey's Hill. Here a plaque was dedicated to Admiral William Halsey.

The tour then continued on to the former Military Cemetery. Here a plaque was dedicated to the men that made the supreme sacrifice. PNC James Buckle was given the honor of laying a wreath at the dedication. It was a special honor for PNC Buckle because it is believed that the first American soldier to be buried here was from his unit--Company E, 182 Infantry. This soldier was Corporal Parker Kimball who was killed March 16, 1942 while on guard duty.

DEDICATION AT FORMER MILITARY CEMETERY
(R to L) Mayor Leques, PNC Buckle, Emery LaVallee III
(Rear) Henri Daly, Admiral Conley, Liam Humphreys

Following these ceremonies the buses transported the group to the Officer's Mess for cocktails and luncheon.

An afternoon tour, provided by Center-Voyage, travelled to Magenta, Dumbea, and Mt. Dore. Dumbea had been the site of the 9th Station Hospital in 1942 and is now more or less occupied by a chicken farm. As the bus climbed over the Plum saddle it overheated. Once again the hospitality of New Caledonia came through---as we waited by the bus we were invited into a nearby bottling plant and were given spring water and orange drink.

After the bus cooled off it continued on to military base at Plum. A tour of the base was given and then a cocktail party was held honoring the Americans.

A stop at St. Louis, on the return trip had to be cancelled because the tour was running late.

Arriving back in Noumea the next stop was a visit to the USS Racine. A cocktail party was held on board for the Americans and members of the New Caledonia welcoming committee.

At noontime on Saturday an opening celebration for the Souvenir Sales at Docker's Restaurant was held and then it was free time until five o'clock.

Saturday evening at five o'clock, all veterans their wives, and all United State Armed Forces personnel, began to gather at Docker's Restaurant. This was to be our "Fare-well" get-to-gether. This social affair was planned and sponsored by the 'Friends of America Association'. Emery C. Lavallee IV is President of this organization. It was an evening of cocktails, good food, dancing, and reminiscing. It was also a time for 'Thank You and a time for saying 'Good-bye' to many friends. Soon they would be leaving to return to their distant homes. Memories of this visit will live with them for the remainder of their days.

Sunday was a day of rest and a chance to reflect on the activities of the past week. Bernie Chase and Al Doig will not forget the kindness that Bob Daly showed them by giving them a personal tour. Jim Buckle will not forget the meeting he had with Emery LaVallee, after writing to him for several years. Nor will he forget the evening spent at the home of Emery and his lovely wife Janine.

The two cousins Lombardo renewed old acquaintances after fifty years and were given a royal welcome. They will long remember the hospitality they were shown by the friends they had made long ago.

Every American that returned for the Jubilee has nothing but praise and thanks for the hospitality and warm reception they were given.

A big "Thank You" should also be given to the Coca Cola Company of New Caledonia. Every returning Americal member was given a carry-on bag filled with an assortment of gifts. Included was an cap and a Tee shirt decorated with appropiate designs note the Jubilee. The Coca Cola Bottling Plant was also decorated with American flags and welcome signs.

A HAPPY WELCOMING COMMITTEE

1942 HOMECOMING NEW CALEDONIA 1992

Certainly a paragraph should be used to better define the words cocktail parties and luncheons. These few words do not do justice to what the guests received. Usually at an open Bar they have one bartender, a limited number of brands, and you have to wait in line for a drink. That is not the way it was done in New Caledonia--the choice of brands was unusual and with ample bartenders the service was excellent and fast! There were always more than ample hors d'oeuvre and the arrangements were so beautiful it seemed a shame to disturb them--but we did. The luncheons were certainly misnamed. The selections of salads and meats was more than one could expect at a dinner. And the dinners! A better description would be banquet.

The crew of the USS Racine caught the fever also. The display of hors d'orvres was unbelievable---Oh those shrimp! It was very difficult for a bunch of ex-G.I's to believe that this was G.I food.

The members of the Americal find it very hard to find the words to thank the people of New Caledonia----the LaVallee's, Henri and Bob Daly, Mayor Leques, and Paul Paturel. Deputy Mayor Yvres Darbon was most helpful--he was always on the sidelines to make sure things went well.

The Americal also wishes to thank Maxwell R. Shekleton of Center Voyages and also his Tour Counselor Bernadette Hagan---she made our day! Bernadette was on call every minute. When she told the group to ask for anything they needed she meant it. Just ask and it was yours.

The Americal thanks David Maguire of Radio Station RRB and also the les NOUVELLES for all the publicity. That was more publicity than Americal received during the war.

Many thanks are extended to Liam Jackson Humphreys, Foreign Service, Department of State, United States Government, for representing the Government at the ceremonies honoring the American veterans and the Armed Forces of the United States.

And last but not least, thanks to the people of New Caledonia. You were wonderful in your reception--one could not have asked for more--from the time of landing until the sad farewells.

The Americal veterans will return home with memories of New Caledonia that will last them the rest of their lives. For fifty years a dream of returning to the land of the Americal's birth was in the head of many veteran. Now it was done--a truly sentimental journey.

The World War II vets of the ADVA have sympathized with our Vietnam brothers because they never received a greeting or a parade upon their return from the wars. Most World War II veterans did not receive a "welcome home" as such. There were parades of units that came home together and there were celebrations in towns and cities across America. Members of the Americal Division were among the first to go overseas and a few members made it all the way to Japan--almost four years later. During that time frame most of the original members had drifted home a few at a time or in many instances to return to their home town alone, to be greeted by family and loved ones. It was certainly a wonderful experience to learn that Americans are still loved somewhere in this world. To the men of the Americal that returned to New Caledonia--this was their homecoming!

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

(L-R) Adm. Teagle, Adm. Conley, Mr. Humphreys, PNC Chase, Mayor Lèques, ? Henri Daly

UNVEILING THE ADM. WILLIAM HALSEY PLAQUE
Admiral Conley Mayor Jean Lèques

CAUGHT IN THE ACT
William Hanusek

****

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS

ARTICLE 1. NAME.

SECTION 1: The trust hereby provided shall be known as the Americal Division Veterans Association [ADVA] Scholarship Foundation, hereafter referred to as the Scholarship Foundation.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE.

SECTION 1: A. The purpose of the Scholarship Foundation is to provide college and vocational scholarships to children and grand children, including those by adoption, of ADVA members and any child of an Americal Division veteran who was killed in action or died while on active duty with the division.

B. A member for the purposes of this Scholarship shall be as defined in the ADVA Constitution & By-Laws.

ARTICLE 3. STATUS.

SECTION 1: A. This Scholarship Foundation shall be a Non-Profit Organization, and shall be a part of the ADVA Corporation, presently organized and existing under the General Laws, Chapter 180, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with the Scholarship Foundation to be operated exclusively for the purpose specified in Article 2.

B. Trustees shall not receive any stated compensation for their services.

C. Nothing herein shall constitute members of the Trustees as partners for any purpose. No Trustee shall be liable for the acts or failure to act on the part of any other Trustee. Nor shall any Trustee be liable for his act or failure to act under this Constitution & By-Laws, excepting only acts or omission arising from willful misfeasance.

D. Nothing herein shall constitute any liability for acts or omissions committed by anyone associated with the Scholarship Foundation.

E. The Scholarship Foundation shall use its funds to accomplish the purpose specified in Article 2. No part of such funds shall inure or be distributed to a Trustee.

ARTICLE 4. TRUSTEES.

SECTION 1: There shall be Six [6] Trustees comprising the Scholarship Foundation Board. Trustee/Officers shall be the ADVA Treasurer and the ADVA National Commander, who shall hold office Ex-Officio. Four [4] other Trustees will be elected by the ADVA membership to serve a four [4] year term, one [1] of them to be elected Chairman of the Scholarship Foundation by the four [4] Trustees. Original term of office for Trustees will be staggered, with one [1] Trustee to be elected annually thereafter.

ARTICLE 5. GOVERNANCE.

SECTION 1: The Trustees shall direct and control the business management and affairs of the Scholarship Foundation. They shall have the authority to approve or deny requests for grants or loans and to recommend the dispensing of funds.

ARTICLE 6. SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

SECTION 1: The funds of the Scholarship Foundation shall be obtained primarily from donations and grants, gifts, devises, or bequests. All funds received must be unconditional.

ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS.

SECTION 1: The Trustees shall meet the first day of the Annual ADVA Reunion in Executive session, or at a date designated by the Chairman, to select recipients for scholarship grants or loans.

ARTICLE 8. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES.

SECTION 1: A. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Trustees and:

[1] Be responsible for publication in the Americal Newsletter, in the November-December bi-monthly issue, an announcement of the Scholarship Foundation Program and information on how to apply.

[2] Be responsible for receiving completed applications and forwarding copies of same to the Trustees for study prior to the scheduled meeting.

[3] Announce the successful applicants' names, scholarship values, and college or institution concerned at the annual ADVA Reunion.

B. The Treasurer shall:

[1] Be responsible for the care, safekeeping and accounting of all funds and property of the Scholarship Foundation which shall come into his possession.

[2] Draw checks in the approved amount(s) and forward to the appropriate office of the college or institution concerned.

C. The elected Trustees shall review each application and prepare recommendations prior to the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE 9. FINANCIAL.

SECTION 1: A. All funds received shall be placed promptly into federally insured account(s) paying the highest available interest.

B. Any real property received not necessary for the operation of the Scholarship Foundation will be converted to cash and handled in the same manner as above.

C. Scholarship Foundation funds shall be audited and reported annually in conjunction with the audit and reporting of the ADVA financial funds.

ARTICLE 10. AWARDS.

SECTION 1: A. The total amount awarded annually for scholarships shall be limited to no more than one-half (1/2) of the yearly income until reaching a balance of One Hundred Thousand

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dollars [$100,000.00] in the Scholarship Foundation fund; thereafter, the total yearly income may be awarded except that one award of at least Five Hundred Dollars [$500.00] is to be given yearly.

B. The Trustees will decide on the number, type, and amount of each scholarship and the receipient(s). Basic consideration shall include potential and demonstrated desire to complete a college education or vocational/technical course, consistent with personal goals, school involvement and community activities.

C. Amounts awarded shall take into consideration the amount available for the number of successful applicant(s), and any other pertinent matters.

D. Checks for each scholarship grant or loan awarded shall be forwarded to the financial aid office at the college or institution for credit to the account of the applicant. The Scholarship Foundation amount may be paid in increments.

ARTICLE 11. APPLICATIONS.

SECTION 1: A. Completed application forms together with all required enclosures must reach the Chairman at an address he designates no later than 1 May of each year.

B. All applications received after the deadline will be returned.

C. The application for scholarship must be completed in its entirety and shall include all required enclosures. Among these must be:

[1] A letter from the ADVA member attesting to the applicants eligibility.

[2] Name of College or Institution with a copy of the letter of admission.

[3] A statement from the applicable current school principal attesting to the applicants character.

[4] Two [2] letters of recommendation from current teachers concerning progress in current classes or subjects.

[5] A 200-300 word essay on subjects pertaining to the Americal Division history or other appropriate subjects designated by the chairman.

SECTION 2: A. The scholarships are awarded for one [1] school year.

B. Applicants must file a new application for each successive year.

C. Scholarships are not available for graduate studies.

D. The method and schedule for processing applications will be determined by the Trustees.

E. All applications will be acknowledged.

F. Successful applicants will be announced during the Annual ADVA Reunion and in the Americal Newsletter.

G. Unsuccessful applicants will have their applications returned.

ARTICLE 12.
SUCCESSOR CORPORATION OR DISSOLUTION.

SECTION 1: Should this Scholarship Foundation for any reason whatsoever surrender its Charter, either voluntarily by action of a majority of the members assembled at the ADVA Annual Reunion, or by action of State Officials or a Court of Law, all of the property of the Scholarship Foundation shall be turned over and delivered to the Successor Corporation, if a successor corporation has been duly formed. Otherwise all property of this Scholarship Foundation shall be turned over and delivered to the ADVA.

ARTICLE 13. AMENDMENT.

SECTION 1: The Constitution & By-Laws of the Scholarship Foundation may be amended, or a new Constitution may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any Annual Reunion, or regularly called meeting of the ADVA, provided that prior notice of at least one [1] month has been published in the Americal Newsletter.

ATTEST;

Ratified by the membership on _____at_____.

_____ _____
National Commander Treasurer

The above Constitution & By-Laws have been printed in this issue of the ADVA Newsletter for the information and comments of its membership. Members are encouraged to read and consider the information, and submit replies to the Chairman Ron Ward, 9619 Dana St, St. Louis, MO. 63123.

08-05-92

Americal Newsletter
Attn: Vietnam Editor
Dear David:

I served with Co C, 26th Engineer Bn, 1968-1970 at Duc Pho. I was a demolitions specialist then, and now have a reserve commission in the Medical Service Corps. I am interested in finding a couple of buddies from 'Nam. The first is James Mizell from Huntington Beach and the other is Jim Barrett. If anyone knows the address of either of them, please drop me a postcard. I'd like to know if anyone in Company C, 26th CBT Engr Bn is a member of ADVA.

Dennis Allen
Maj, MS [USAR]
[redacted]
Charlotte, NC 28211

Ed Note: He is right for ADVA membership. Any of you 26th Engr fellows know him?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

39 MILITARY POLICE PLATOON

Please find enclosed a couple of momentos of the "Old Days". If the Newsletter needs some 'fillers' maybe these will help. They have been around for some years but maybe some of the Troops have not seen them. I like the new format break-down of original Americal and Vietnam news.

Being retired and having time on my hands, I manage to do some reading on various subjects including history of WW II in the Pacific and our small part played therein. I know it was a War dominated by the Navy and the Marines, which were part of Naval operation. There is no doubt that all the honor and glory rendered to them was more than deserved. While these services had full-time Public Relations, recording and playing up every action, the Army personnel were under strict orders not to divulge what unit they were in, where they were, or any incidents relating there to other than our A.P.O. number. All mail was strictly censored and any indiscretions were cut out. Army mail sent home looked like a swiss cheese.

I know that you and the other G.I.'s know of these conditions. The reason I mention these facts is that through the years, Historians seem to gloss over the action seen and taken by the Army and, in particular, the Americal Division from New Caledonia to Japan. There are a good number of White Crosses dotted along the way, plus patients in the V.A. Hospitals to know they were there.

Among other incidents, there was an article in a local newspaper with nary a mention of the Americal Division or parts there of 164-182nd, etc. I believe in giving credit where credit is due, but but couldn't the Power that be let a little trickle down to us poor peons that were there also?

I wonder how many of the public know that a good part of the Army that fought in World War II were formed from National Guard units. (over eighteen Infantry Divisions) The 26th National Guard Division was formed in Camp Edwards, Cape Cod, where thousands of G.I.'s were trained and shipped overseas, including one third to the Americal Division. I look with pride at Camp Edwards, which is now such a hindrance to the local people that have moved into the general area since 1940. Of course, many of these residents are too young to appreciate the fact that many of the young men who trained at Camp Edwards went on to give their lives, all over the world and especially to carry on the war in the Pacific.

Well Jim, us "old farts" are gradually responding to the timeless Bugler, playing "Taps" all too often these days, calling the "boys" to their final rest.

At least they can get a piece of Real Estate at Camp Edwards near the old Quadrangle where they sweated as they tramped and marched on the dry, dusty, parade grounds during training in 1941.

Arthur G. Guarente

Ed Note: I know what you mean about lack of publicity. Several of the Veteran's magazines carried stories on the 50th anniversary of the war and they neglected to mention the Americal. I wrote to two of them and received a polite "Thank you" but they never put a correction in future issues. I ask everyone to write to the Editor of the magazine when they see the Americal has been ignored.

Following is a poem that Arthur enclosed. It is appropiate that it be put in this issue. It was written by George McAneney. George passed away this past June.

To the Men who were there!

GUADALCANAL

When we were trained at Edwards
It was like an Army play
The Rifle Range and K.P., the hikes
both night and day
Officers and Non-Coms, they sure did give us Hell
But even they didn't know just then,
Of a place called Guadalcanal
A place we never heard of
And wouldn't give a dime
But it took much more than that
It took your pals and mine
Not just Japs, but Jungle Rot-Malaria and Heat
Well from what we learned at Edwards,
We knew, we couldn't be beat
Oh, No! we were not alone
Thank God! for the other teams
The Air Corp - The Medics - The Navy and Marines
When it was all over
And the enemy paid his due
It was an answer from Pearl harbor
And it came from me and you
A special word for the Medics
No matter what the test
When they heard that cry for Help
They answered each request
I salute these men and thank them too
They were solid as a rock
But I cannot help but think
God gave us Father Brock
You know the jungle wasn't all that bad
With all it's twists and bends
Cause we were there together
And forever friends.

George McAneny
C Co. 182 Infantry

George was also founder of the 1st Battalion Buddies Association.

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221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

I am sure all you old artillerymen who have been receiving Bill McLaughlins "Cannoneers Post" are very disappointed that the September-October issue may be the last one. I can picture Bill, being an old cavalryman, taking his typewriter out to the back forty and putting a bullet in it's head to put it out of it's misery.

He has put many hours and a lot of his own money into providing a newsletter for all the old Redlegs. While it is a labor of love on his part, we all got enjoyment out of it and it has done even more than the ADVA Newsletter to hold us old artillerymen together.

I have sent Bill a small check to start off a "typewriter fund" for him. If you Redlegs agree it it a worthy cause, why not send him whatever you can spare so he can purchase a new typewriter and he won't have to put a bullet in the head of Cannoneers Post as well.

Lloyd Morrell

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

GLARING OMISSION

I must take strong exception to the glaring omission in the article about Guadalcanal by Eric Phillips Beaudan in the August issue. There is not one mention concerning participation of elements of the U.S. Army and Air Corps in the final defeat of the Japanese forces in the Solomon Island Campaign. Without taking any glory away from the magnificent efforts of the U.S. Marine Corp and the U.S. Navy, I call attention to the presence and effort of the U.S. Army XIV Corps.

As a proud member of the 132nd Infantry, Americal Division, all I've heard for some fifty years is that the U.S.M.C. won the battle of Guadalcanal. In memory of all good men in Army fatigues who were left behind, it's about time this misinformation is corrected.

B.Gen Toby Weinshenker
ILARNG-Ret.

Ed Note: The article by Beaudan was printed in the "Retired Officers Magazine". Thank you General and I hope that any member sighting the neglect to mention the Americal will write to the Editor of the guilty magazine. (The above article was sent in Jim Parnell, 26 Signal via Earl Cook).

How about one of you guys out there in Chicago signing General Weinshenker in the ADVA

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QUINCY TO GET NAVY WARSHIPS

QUINCY, MA--Nine months after losing its bid got the aircraft carrier USS Lexington, Quincy has landed a Navy cruiser built in the city at the end of World War II.

The USS Salem is expected to return to its birthplace at the Fore River Ship Yard in January of 1993. The ship will be the primary attraction at the fledgling U.S. Naval Shipbuilding Museum, scheduled to open in May, 1993.

The USS Salem was built in 1945, and it was one of the heavy big-gun cruisers. The 26,000 ton ship was the Navy's flagship for the sixth fleet in the Mediterranean from 1949 to 1960.

The Navy also plans to give the USS Sailfish, one of the last surviving Diesel-powered submarines, to the museum. Fore River shipbuilders did extensive work on the vessel, which was built in Rhode Island during World War II.

More than 350 ships of all classes and types were built at the shipyard during World I and World War II. (This included two carriers that were named Lexington and two carriers named Wasp) It reached a peak in 1943 when it employed 32,000 - including 1,200 women.

"We are looking to create a museum that pays tribute to the city's shipbuilders, both men and women", Mayor James Sheets said in an interview. "And we're looking to create a place where people can go to celebrate 200 years of shipbuilding in Quincy".

(Too bad someone didn't think to save the Enterprise and the Saratoga. They were the only original carriers that survived the war).

The above story appeared in The Patriot Ledger and was sent in by Bill McLaughlin.

COMPANY B 182 INFANTRY COMPANY B 182 INFANTRY

Enclosed is a photograph taken on Bougainville which has been treasured for many years by my husband Charles.

He is terminally ill at present with cancer but has requested that I send this photograph (picture above--caption below) for publication in the Amer ical Newsletter.

We both enjoy the Newsletter immensely and Charles will carefully check to locate any of his buddies that may be listed.

Many thanks, again for the many hours spent in reading such an interesting Newsletter.

Irene Brooks

BOUGAINVILLE 1944

P.F.C. Charles Brooks from North Dighton, MA, was photographed on Bougainville with these Army men and War Correspondents.

First row left to right; Lt. Col. William Galvin, Hartford, CT, Pfc. Charles Brooks, Front center, sitting on ground; Keith Wheeler, Chicago Daily News,; First Lt. Robert McBane, Army Press Censor; Robert Greenhalgh, Yank Illustrator.

Second row; left to right; Leonard E. Welch, Cowles Publication; Harold E. Smith, Chicago Tribune; Capt. Reginald S. Jackson, Army Public relations Officer; Hal O'Flaherty, Chicago Daily News; Tech. Sgt. Robert B. Jackson, New York City, Army Combat Correspondent; William J. Dunn, Columbia Broadcasting System; Howard Handleman, International News Service.

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AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

I am sending this check for the Scholarship Fund in memory of my wife, Betty McCormick, who passed away July 2, 1992. My wife loved the ADVA.

If you plan to have Pledge Cards I'd be glad to pledge $25 a year 'til I go to that Big PX in the sky.

Thank you
William "Doc" McCormick

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

247 FIELD ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Jim: Happy to hear that my last letter did not put you to sleep. Like all testy letters a little delayed action would have been in order. My problem was I had been expecting our 50th Anniversary editon to be the greatest. But the Sept/Oct edition woke me up.

My activity in the ADVA lacks a little. I was not with the original founders although Al Doig and Walter Pierce did a good jopb representing my thinking.

My son David served two years in Vietnam with the Field Artillery in combat in Vietnam.(Not with the Americal) He received a Presidential Citation from the President for bravery in action. That's about my interest in Vietnam.

Ed Note: George Lloyd is an architect up there in the Northest corner of the U.S. called Maine. He is also an artist of note and did the original artwork for the history of the Americal. 'Under the Southern Cross Below is a sketch that he sent to the Newsleter showing how he spends his spare time.

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

In 1992 I had four Americal Division flags made for me. I found that Mr. David Grieger (an Americal member) would make me four flags for $100 each. I had the largest Divisional Patch, that Dave could make, placed on a whit 3 x 5 flag. The flag's cost me a lot because the pattern had not been made before. He now sells them for $89.95. Someone wrote a letter that was published in the Americal Newsletter, last year, asking where he could find an Americal flag.

I want to donate one of my original flags to your organization. I would like your color guard to fly this flag at your meetings and reunions.

I would want them to display this flag with pride as I did this year when I flew mine on my motorcycle in Rolling Thunder V.

Dave Grieger is a former Helicopter pilot, 176 Avn and a Life Member of the ADVA. He runs a mail order business selling Vietnam memobilia. Write for his brochure and information on the flag at:

David L. Grieger
[redacted]
Columbus, GA 31907-0802

Thanks,
David F. Myers

Ed Note: Dave, you live in the Eastern Region Chapter area. Why not ask Steve Dennison if he would like the flag for his Chapter? I know the several Chapters have been looking for a flag. His address is: [redacted]. Pittsburg, PA 15227 or call him at [redacted]

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121 MEDICAL BATTALION

Thank you for your prompt reply and the application to join the ADVA.

As for PRODIGY information service, I am enclosing some of their recent bulletins and particular the piece showing "Bulletin Boards". When I saw that they had a Veterans board, I sent a message on it requesting to talk to anyone who served in the Americal during World War II. Received reply's from Jay Roth of California and Bill Cooper from Georgia. Jay Roth then got the info on your organization and passed it along to everyone. (we have signed up three member through PRODIGY so far)
If you have the opportunity, take a look at thee service and especially the Veterans board. In the future we could post the news of the Americal Association on this bulletin board if you wish.

I would like to hear from anyone that served in the 121 Medical Battalion.

David A. Ballou
[redacted]
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

HEY ALL YOU COMPUTER HACKS, ARE YOU PLUGGED INTO PRODIGY?

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WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER WHY NOT PLACE IT IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR A LOCAL VETERANS HOSPITAL

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

REUNION REUNION REUNION

Sunbelt Chapter - 43rd Infantry Division
Veterans Association

January 28 thru January 31, 1993

Ramada Orlando Central
[redacted]
Orlando, FL 32808

For Additional Information please contact:
Williwm E. Head
[redacted]
Crystal River, FL 34429
Call [redacted]

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AMERICAL'S COMBAT RECORD TOPS ALL OTHERS
Excerpt from Time Magazine July 30, 1945

In a recent article in the Army daily newspaper "The Pacification" the 32nd Infantry Division was quoted as claiming the highest total combat time amassed "by any U.S. Division in any war."

But they figured up the total without looking at the Americal's record. The 32nd "Red Arrow Division" sweated through 607 days and 14,494 hours of Pacific combat from Buna to Aparri up to July 27th according to their figures. But it isn't a record.

As impressive and as brilliant a job as the 32nd has done, its combat record is below the 635 days and 15230 hours that the Americal has put in from the battle of Guadalcanal through the present day of the Cebu campaign.

The Americal spent 3 months and 28 days on Guadalcanal from October 13, 1942 to February 9, 1943, 11 months from December 25, 1943 to November 25, 1944 in large scale drives or unit patrolling actions on Bougainville, and has been in combat in the Philippines, with the exception of the 13 day period in March since January 28, 1945.

Sent by Joe Feeler - Commander Far West Chapter

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COMPANY H 182 INFANTRY

I want to congratulate you and others for putting together a fine trip worthy of rembrances for many years to come.

I think having five of us from H Company is something of a record and I understand that the paper in Concord (Concord, MA the hometown of H Company) will have a small blurb about us.

I had a great reunion with my friends of 50 years ago in New Caledonia. they went all out to welcome us back. I'm looking forward to the next issue of the Newsletter to read about our "Return to New Caledonia".

Mike Lombardo
Michele Lombardo

Ed Note: H Company certainly did set a record with five members and you certainly made a great addition to the group.

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

WAR COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS PLANNED AT CAMP EDWARDS

They'll be blowing "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and other favorites from a half-century ago when the Camp Edwards' commemorative committee recreates a USO show as one observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

Camp Edwards, a vivid memory for many World War II soldiers, has been selected by the Department of Defense as an official commemorative community for the 50th anniversary of the war.

The World War II-era musical entertainment will be among many activities held between now and 1995 at the Camp Edwards Army National Guard and reserve training site on the Upper Cape.

"This anniversary will be the last major commemoration in which many of the 9 million living World War II veterans will be able to participate," said Col. Thomas Cox, Camp Edward's commander.

Now an Army National Guard site, Camp Edwards was a mobilization base for the Army during World War II.

With row upon row of hastily built barracks, it was the last U.S. stop for thousands of soldiers on their way to war. It was a hospital for many who returned wounded, and it even housed German and Italian prisoners of war who built roads on the 19,000 acre site.

Some of the events planned at Camp Edwards are tours and reunions for veterans' groups the establishment of a scholarship fund and restoration of one of the remaining World War II barracks. All events will be open to the public.

(Hope they don't forget to invite all the former Yankee Division men that trained there!"

Below is a picture sent in by Dennis P. Botelho, Company C. 182 Infantry. It was taken at Camp Edwards--hope it doesn't make anyone homesick.

DENNIS BOTELHO AT EXTREME RIGHT (Squatting)
Do you know any of the other men?

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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.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

121 MEDICAL BATTALION

It is with great sadness I write this letter to inform you that my father, Master Sgt. Arthur W. Collins passed away on July 22, 1992. His death was the result of congestive heart failure.

My father was a Medic with the Americal Division during World War II. He so enjoyed his Americal Newsletter and actually met with a few fellow service people he knew while serving because of your Newsletter.

He was proud of his country and even prouder to serve it.

Sincerely,
Shirley Collins Pohlman

****

ATTENTION

I have a complete troop list of units that have served in the Americal either in Task Force 6814, World War II, Canal Zone, Task Force Oregon, or Vietnam. They range from division size down to section and platoon size.

I would like to hear from some of 58th Interceptor pilots who were attached and flew cover for us in World War II in the Pacific. Also 67th Pursuit Squadron and in Vietnam how about members of the 14th Aviation Bn. 16th Aviation Group, 21st - 71st 132nd - 174th - 176 - and the 178th Aviation Companies. That only names a few off of a nine page computer list of units eligible. We also have many Cavalry, Armored, Chemical Det., Combat Engineers, Field Artillery,as well as many Airborne Units. To name a few: 1st Brigade 101st Airborne, 1st and 2nd Bn. 327th Infantry (Airborne) 2nd Bn. 502 Infantry (Airborne). We also have e many in Medical, Postal, Public Information, Military Police, Ordnance, Transportation, Quartermaster, and many Marine units who are eligible for membership.

There is no end to people who are eligible if we can only contact them.

LET'S GO GET THEM!

Joe D. Feeler

****

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Just this Friday I received the Constitution and By-Laws of the Americal Division Veterans Association Scholarship Foundation. I think that someone did a lot of work putting it together and it appears to be most appropriate.

The raising of funds for this scholarship Foundation should be publicized in every issue of the Americal Newsletter.

Enclosed is a check for $100. May this be one of the first to initiate our bank account.

With many thanks, I remain,

Sincerely,
Robert C. Muehrcke, M.D., F.A.C.P

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182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 278
Everett, MA 02149-0278
Address Correction Requested

182 INFANTRY REDESIGNATED

Camp Edwards September 12, 1992

On Saturday the 101st Infantry Bn. (Mech) colors were formally retired and the 192nd Infantry and the 101 Infantry (Mech) were combined and redesignated to form the 182nd Infantry Battalion (Mech). Major MacDonald, Commander of the 101st Infantry (mech) assumed command of the 182nd Infantry (Mech). In attendance representing the 182 Infantry Association were PC Ron Gibbons and PC Don Horsman. Also in attendance were members of the 101st Infantry Association, the YD Association, and the 26th Infantry Association.

Following the ceremonies a collation was held at the Recreation Center.

On Sunday September 13, 1992 a parade and ceremony was held in Malden, MA to celebrate the reopening of the Malden Armory by Company B, 19\82 Infantry (Mech). In attendance and participating in the ceremony was Mayor Lucey of Malden. Major MacDonald, Bn. Commander, Major Rose, Battalion Executive Officer, and Captain Schwartz, Commander of Company B and unit members.

Representing the 182 Association were Vice Commander James Lane, Adjutant Robert Cox, and PC Ron Gibbons.

Following the ceremony a collation and open house was held for the public.

A meeting was held between the Battalion Commander and members of the 128 Association to discuss cooperation between the two organizations. The meeting was fruitful for both parties.

The line-up for the newly organized Battalion will be as follows:

UNIT	LOCATION
Battalion Headquarters	Melrose, MA
Company B (From Co A/B 182)	Melrose, MA
HHC (From HHC 101/182)	Dorchester, MA
Company A (From Co. A 101)	Stoughton, MA
Company C (From Co. C 101)	Braintree, MA
Company D (From Co. D 101)	Dorchester, MA
Det 1 Co. B (From Co. B 182)	Chelsea, MA
Det 1 Co. D (From Co. B 101)	Fall River, MA
Company E (Co. E 101)	Weymouth, MA

Note: The 182nd Infantry Company C and D, in Cambridge, are being reassigned to the 181 Infantry in Worcester, MA. This is not the end. If the projected 1993 DOD cutbacks becomes factual it will mean that only combat infantry battalion in Massachusetts will be the 182 Infantry Mechanized Battalion. That is unless the politicians get involved.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

132 INFANTRY

I want to thank you for cintinuing to send the Americal Newsletter after my husbands death last year. I do read them but don't know anyone and I thought it would be nice if the Newsletter could be sent to the V.A. Hospital in Tomah, WI 54660.

Richard was an outpatient there for many years and appreciated all they did for him. I am sure he would be pleased.

I am enclosing a check to cover the cost of the Newsletter and the mailing. When this is used up please advise and I willsend another check. Thank you again for everything.

Sincerely,
Anita Hintz

****

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

ASSOCIATION PATCH (small)	$1.00
ASSOCIATION PATCH (large)	3.00
AMERICAL PATCH (dress blue)	1.00
AMERICAL PATCH (field uniform)	1.50
AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	1.50
AMERICAN FLAG PATCH	1.00
AMERICAL CAR PLATE	6.00
AMERICAL PIN SHIELD (large)	2.50
AMERICAL PIN SHIELD (small)	2.50
AMERICAL DIVISION CREST	3.00
AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	1.50
DECAL CAR WINDOW	1.00
LAPEL PIN (ASSOCIATION)	2.50
TIE BAR W/SHIELD	5.00
MINATURE COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE (lapel)	2.50
MINATURE COMBAT MEDIC BADGE (lapel)	2.50
182 INFANTRY LAPEL PIN (MINATURE)	2.50
UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS (Post Paid) (Americal History) (Soft Cover)	12.00
OVERSEAS HAT W/PLASTIC COVER (Size 6 1/4 - 6 1/2 Only)	22.00
CAP, BASEBALL TYPE W/PATCH	6.00
CAP, BASEBALL TYPE (Inf Blue (Insig)	6.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS S-M-L (White)	10.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS XL-XXL (White) (Specify WW II or Viet on above)	12.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS (Viet-black) M-L	10.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS (Viet-Black) EX-XXL	12.00

Send order to: Kenneth Turner
[redacted]
Wakefield, MA 01880
Or call [redacted]

NOTE: Mailing charge will be added to above prices.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Headquarters United States Air Force Academy
Department of Political Science
USAFA CO 80840

I am a professor of Political Science at the US Air Force Academy and I am working on a project (initially commissioned by Third Army/CENTCOM) dealing with refugees in combat. I began this project several years ago and still would like to poll veterans' organizations like your to find out more information.

My topic involves researching cases in World War II and the Korean War in which civilian refugees made contact with US troops. (I am not interested in refugees behind US lines--after they have crossed the FLOT.) I want to find out what impact the refugees made on American soldiers--from the soldier carrying a rifle or in a tank on up to the various commanders of the units. Essentially I am asking if the presence of the refugee in the combat zone (or on the way to the combat zone) forced some sort of change in the plans or operations on the part of US units. For instance did the refugees slow the progress of the US troops to the battle? Did they prevent maneuver that was intended? Was some sort of compensation made when the presence of refugees was discovered? What was this? What was the overall results.

Thus what I would respectfully request of you is to poll your members to see if they have any recollections of such cases that I have described. Perhaps a way to do this would be to put an announcement in you Newsletter. People who wish to respond can correspond directly with me (at the address above or at Tel [redacted]).

I should emphasize that I am not looking for any major, "earth shattering" events that your men may recall; rather I am interested in normal combat type situations in which refugees were present. Nor am I looking for any formal, literary masterpieces. I just want some basic information; phone calls or hand written letters would be more than sufficient.

My goal in this is to compile case histories in which refugees were encountered in combat so that soldiers of the future will have something to read about what Americans have done in the past in similar situations. I think that this is a very useful project to the US Army and will be useful in the future to insure that American soldiers will be able to learn from the past and "fight smarter" in the future. I am anxious to poll associations such as yours before your generation passes from the scene. The Civil Affairs units and many commanders support the project and I hope you will to.

Thank You,
Douglas L. Ervin
Lt Col USAF

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MILITARY PENSIONS

If you receive a military pension, and live in a state that does not tax State and local employee pensions, you may see more in your retirement check.

The Supreme Court ruled on April 22, 1992, that a State that doesn't tax state and local retirement pensions, CANNOT tax military retirement pensions. (At least two States--Virginia and Kansas-will be effected by this ruling. As of 1991, 33 states and the District of Columbia taxed military pensions).

Justice Byron White wrote for the unanimous court: "The amount of retired pay a service member received is computed not on the basis of the continuing duties actually performed, but on the basis of the years served on active duty and the rank obtained prior to retirement."

Still to be decided is the amount of refunds due retirees taxed under flawed laws. Law suits seeking refunds have already been filed in Virginia and Kansas.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

If you were awarded the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge, you belong in our elite association. We are new, we are different, but we are still that proud and "very special' group of veterans.

For information, brochure and application, please send legal size, self addressed envelope to:

Leo E. Kibble
[redacted]
Smethport, PA 16749

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Co. B 132 INFANTRY Co. B

I am a member of the ADVA and I am seeking the location of an old Army buddy. His name is Kenneth Martin formerly of Company B, 132 Infantry, Illinois National Guard. His home had been in Chicago until sometime around 1975. After that date I lost track of him.

We signed up in the 131 Infantry in 1939 and were federalized in 1940 and shipped to Camp Forrest, TN. After the outbreak of World War II we were both transferred, with a number of other men, to the 132 Infantry to build it up to war time strength. We went to the South Pacific and saw action on Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

After our stint on Guadalcanal some of our outfit was ferried over to Gavutu and Tonembogo to man outposts.

I look forward to reading the Newsletter but seldom see anything about the 132 Infantry and their part on Guadalcanal and Bougainville. After all, we were part of the pioneers of the Americal Division.

Oh yes! Before I forget, I see Wright Road mentioned in connection with the proposed memorial on the 'Canal. Could that possibly be Col. Wright? While manning our defense positions on Gavutu we held a box seat for the nightly Japanese observation over Guadalcanal. (Which reminds me--nobody ever mentions Washing Machine of Maytag Charlie who made those flights) From our position we could see that our ACK ACK were shooting too low and always behind the plane. However, one night they did nail one. It must have been a new man. The searchlights always picked him up though.

I was sleeping one night on Gavutu while the Navy was unloading munitions on Florida Island about 1000 yards away. They had the ship and shore landing site lit up like a Christmas tree and sure enough the enemy saw it and bombed the landing site. The fireworks went on for hours. But then again, everyone can make a mistake.

The are going to mention Mt Austen on that memorial aren't they? That happened to be our objective and we took it.

Don't let anyone bad mouth the National Guard.

Keep up the good work and stay healthy.

Eugene Koeppe

Ed Note: Sorry we don't have more stories about the 132 Infantry but we are only able to print what is sent into us.

Wright Road is named after Col. Wright and it is mentioned in the Americal history, "Under the Southern Cross". The story on Mt Austen is also covered in the book and it is mentioned on the Memorial. Hope you are able to locate Kenneth.

****

221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Re: Sep-Oct Newsletter, page 12, George Lloyd

George, for a number of years I have seen cartoons and articles by yourself that were on a positive note about the Americal. Your contributions to Bill McLaughlins "Cannoneers Post" are exceptional and very mush appreciated. You are one of the "Old Guard" who contributed much to the organization, both the Americal Newsletter and the Cannoneers Post. But what is this with this Vietnam News Network bashing?

After all George, you and I are not going to live forever. The item on page 3 (Sep-Oct) from Anti-Tank, 182nd is a good reminder that "they have no future" We are not important as individuals. But the history and future of the ADVA is at stake and it is important that the name Americal Division is perpetuated for as many years as possible. Both WW II and Vietnam veterans have earned the right. As a member of the old guard I am real proud of our early heritage, but the Vietnam veteran has just as much to be proud of and with all the negative implications they have had to live with it is a wonder that they even care.

I for one am glad they are with us and when the last of us from WW II are no longer alive I will rest easy knowing the name Americal Division is being kept alive by the veterans of the Americal who followed us.

Sincerely,
Lloyd J. Morrell
Commander, Northwest Chapter

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DAVE RECOB, ARTIST AND CREATOR DESIGN

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Award Of The Silver Star

SP5 Floyd G. Talley, HHQ Co, 1/46th Inf was awarded the Silver Star posthumously by the Americal Division on Dec 6, 1969. The Citation reads:

"For gallantry in action against an armed and hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. SP5 Talley distinguished himself by intrepid actions on Dec 6, 1969, while serving as a Medic with D-1-46th Inf. The unit was conducting a reconnaissance in force action in Hau Duc province when the point element came under intense enemy machine gun fire and suffered several casualties. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Specialist Talley, taking immediate action, rushed through the hostile barrage to the position of a wounded comrade. Despite the enemy fusillade directed at him, he administered first aid to his fellow soldier, and carried him back to safety. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Talley again braved the hostile fire as he moved towards his other wounded comrades. At this time, Specialist Talley came under additional fire and was critically wounded by the intense enemy barrage. His timely and courageous actions were responsible for saving the life of a comrade and served as an inspiration to his entire company. Specialist Five Talley's personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflected great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army". [GO #4, Jan 1, 1970, Hq Americal Division, APO SF 96374].

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Operation Triumph

Deserves your attention guy's. Write Mr. Dudley Farquhar, 53 Birch Meadow Road, Merrimac, MA 01860, to see what you can do to help getting a full accounting for all POW's and MIA's from all wars, not just the 'Nam.

When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost.

OPERATION: TRIUMPH 53 BIRCH MEADOW RD. MERRIMAC, MA 01860

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Note To Jim O'Brien, 23rd MP Co

Dear Jim:

I read in the Army Times where you have been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. You sure come a long way from Chu Lai in 1971. I was proud of you then, and I'm proud of you now. I want you to know how happy you made me when you came to Topeka to visit me not once, but twice - when on military business in Kansas. You have a wonderful family I never met, but from your record since Vietnam, I'd say you really got over the effects of Vietnam that touched your generation deeply. Keep it up, You can become a General if you work at it. I salute you sir! "Top"

Vietnam Editor Comments

Imagine my surprise this past month when I opened a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Wichita, Kansas, under date of August 26th!

Many of You guys are aware of my battle with the Department of Veterans Affairs concerning my VA claim for wartime injuries in Korea and Vietnam.

The moment of truth was in my hands!

I anxiously opened the letter, fearful of the standard put down all VA letters usually contain. My rate of replies were of the negative variety concerning anything I asked of them. Now, the big answer I was looking for - was in my hands! To my surprise before my very eyes was the statement "your claim has been **approved!**" I was evaluated for an assortment of many injuries at 160% total with several service connected but not percentage value injuries. Of course one can only be 100% at the most, regardless of how many percentage points are awarded. I was even informed that my exposure to Agent Orange was not disapproved, and was being held in abeyance until proper rules and regulations can be adopted by the government to proceed with a settlement. I was in effect told, I am approved for payment, but - the amount and percentage must wait for awhile until the rules can specify fair and just compensation.

The system worked! I had to fight tooth to toenail with those bureaucrats, but it worked! And, the whole point of this article is to tell you holdouts that no matter how slight your wounds or injuries were, you owe it to yourself to file a claim and get medical care and compensation for the injuries you suffered. Uncle Sam will not just automatically open the doors for you, because you are a veteran! You got to work to prove you were indeed injured on the job in the service.

I now have the Purple Priority Card in my possession and a **100% disability VA pension** that is TAX FREE for the rest of my life with FREE HEALTH CARE. My Income Tax paying days are OVER! What more of an incentive can anyone ask for? Just take a couple of hours to go to the American Legion or VFW Service Officer who assists veterans in making their claims to the government. You have absolutely nothing to loose, and everything to gain. In addition, I've been given a chance to purchase additional life insurance, to go to college or vocational school at government expense, and to make my life really worthwhile. You guys who have not yet filed those claims are only hurting yourself and your families, especially if you have children under the age of 26 years of age. These kids can be covered by the government for school tuition and books, plus pocket money. **Me? I'm taking advantage of every thing I am eligible for. Call it greedy, or what you want.** I earned it with the loss of parts of my body and my blood. If you want to give away your chances of the same, you can be patriotic as you want. Patriots cannot eat pride! Patriotism don't pay your bills or the rent!

Its up to you guys. File that VA claim now!

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Our Canadian Brothers Communicate

Gary Befus 25 Sept 1992
[redacted]
Dundas, Ontario, Canada, L9H6M1
[Photo-Lab, HHC 198th AMCAL at [redacted]
[Chu-Lai '67-'68] Tel: [redacted] [Wk days].

Hi Brother Dave:

Congratulations on your new position as Vietnam Editor of the Americal Newsletter. Ron Ward's talents and dedication will be missed and no one better than you know how large a pair of boots you're jumping into - let me take this opportunity to "wish you well!"

My past experience with volunteer organization newsletters remind me that an editors dream is to receive input and contributions from his readers, so let's consider this my token of support and encouragement.

Of the estimated 35,000 plus Canadians who went to Vietnam as members of the U.S. armed forces, only a few of us had the privilege of serving with the Americal Division. I was with HHC, 198th LIB, 1967-1968, while another veteran in this area of Canada was with 4/31st Inf, 196th LIB, 1970-1971. I have heard of other Americal vets up here, but as yet, have not had the opportunity or pleasure of a hug and handshake.

As advertised in the May-June 1992 Americal Newsletter, our group "Canadian Vietnam Veterans, Hamilton [CVVH], did host Eastern Canada's first ever showing of the "Moving Wall."

On opening day, Saturday, August 8, 1992, we paid tribute to the known 86 Canadians on the wall, and by closing day, nine days later, discovered 10 additional names on the wall who were Canadian for a total of 96 names.

As a direct result of the Americal Newsletter article previously mentioned, two American Americal vets honored us with their presence. Captain Spence Wolfe, Arty, formally 4/31st Inf, 196th LIB, 1969-1970, who now resides in Flint, MI., who is living testimony that there were and still are Officers out there that will always be welcome in EM and NCO Clubs. Our other visitor was retired Sgt James "Jim" Connolly, formally of G-75 Rangers, LRRP, 1965-1966, who now lives in Woonsocket, RI. Jim is a travelling Americal Museum with his 26 foot motorhome filled with pins, patches, and photographs from Americal reunions all over the continent. "And - he still remembers how to make pretty good/lousy S.O.S.!"

Jim had also served with the 25th Inf, much to the delight of a few "electric strawberries" up here!

Spence and I were entertaining the idea of Journeying to the big reunion in Kokomo, and had the trip logistics planned, when I received a telephone call and invitation to be a guest speaker at an annual VFW POW/MIA forum in Toledo, OH, the same week-end as Kokomo.

Of the 96 Canadian names on "the wall", six are still carried as MIA, including one whose family lives in Toledo. As a result, we decided to visit Toledo. The six MIA's give Canadian 'Nam vets great cause for concern over the POW/MIA issue.

Here in Canada, we do not have any "political clout" in the matter, as Canadian politicians have no need for interest. Canada was not militarily involved. [Right!!!] ? So - letters from Canadian Vietnam veterans written to American politicians do not bare the threat of votes, so we're out of luck in that regard. All we Canadian veterans can do is try to support our American brothers and sisters with verbal and written encouragement to carry the fight for answers and an accounting. Any pleas to the Canadian government are met with replies such as: "You should not have been there in the first place!" or - "It's not **OUR** problem!"

The addressable difficulties for Canadian Vietnam veterans include spreading the word that we do have groups on our side of the border, and then helping our brothers and sisters who do emerge from the closet. There is no Veterans Affairs supported facilities up here in Canada, not even an Outreach Center. The Canadian medical community is not tuned into P.T.S.D. or Agent Orange diagnosis and treatment. Hamilton, Ontario, is only a 1 and 1/2 hour drive from the VA Hospital and Outreach Center in Buffalo, N.Y., but - Edmonton, Alberta is at least 20 hours from a proper facility. Consequently, many veterans go untreated for these conditions because of these reasons.

This brings about some different priorities for Canadian Vietnam veterans. Over the past few years, I've given much consideration to workable avenues of support that is needed, and the invitation to speak in Toledo, prompted me to translate some of these ideas into words. The positive responses I received in Toledo, plus encouragement from brothers and sisters up here, convinces me that I am not alone in my personal list of priorities to be addressed as stated herein.

Many Thanks, Dave.

Sincerely,

Gary Befus
Photo-Lab
HHC 198th LIB

Ed note: The issues that face our Canadian brothers and sisters on their side of the border, is also our issues on this side of the border. In combat, we don't care what the other guy looks like, or what color he is. We depend on each other as a cohesive unit bound by trust and fidelity one to the other. I'd like to hear from our Mexican brother veterans South of our borders, so we can put all these concerns into one general pot, and see what we can do to help any Americal Division veteran, no matter where he or she may be.

****

Allen Corneliusen PO Box 488 Ronan, MT 59864

Dear David:
I have been a member of ADVA for 2 years now, and I look forward to receiving the newsletter. I do not remember anything or anyone that I served with, but I have found 4 other members of the platoon I was in at the time, so I keep searching for new names. I would like to find as many members of Delta Company, 1/20th Inf, 11th LIB who served in 1968 in 'Nam or who remember me.

Anyone interested in a 25 year reunion in the "Big Sky Country" of western Montana, call me or write me. When I finish reading my newsletters, they go to the Veterans Hospital in Missoula.

Allen Corneliusen. Tel: [redacted].

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Connie Bramley
[redacted]
Plainesville, OH 44077

To All Vietnam Vets:

How does one go about letting the country's best know that they are proud of them? That they think these men and women did a terrific job out of wretched situation that never should have taken place to begin with? How does one apologize for taking so long to give you wonderful, brave veterans the praise, gratitude, honor, and respect, you so rightfully deserve?

I cannot begin to express my gratitude, admiration, and respect for you. MY biggest regret is that it has taken me so long to express what I have always felt, but could never get the message across. I think that Vietnam vets are the absolute best. For not only did you have to fight a cunning, invisible enemy, you had to fight your own countrymen, and still do. Our government has given you the run around ever since your return home. Instead they should have treated you like the heroes you are, and helped you.

I have read some stories by Vietnam vets. I cannot begin to imagine how horrible it must have been. But at least I know what some of you went through. It gives me a whole new meaning to the expression "war is hell!" Now wonder a lot of you won't talk about it!

I am so sorry for what you had to go through and are still going through. I wish that the rest of the country would take a second look at what they did to you, and try to set things straight by you. As for myself, I would like to say "WELCOME HOME!" and a job well done. You have my admiration and my respect, and helped give me a new insight to our government. For that, I am eternally grateful. You have taught me a lot about myself, my country, and the government. You have taught me quite a few lessons I will never forget: Such as not to think of myself, not to take things at face value, to double check stories that the government and media feeds me, and to stand up and voice my opinion when I think that something is wrong! Thank-you for all of that.

So, please hold your heads up high, and always remember that there are quite a lot of Americans like myself who think you are the "salt" of the earth, the best, the elite, and I hope that in some small way, this letter will erase some of the wrongs done to you by us, the younger generation, who were brain washed by the government, and the news media, who showed us and told us only what they wanted us to know, to see, and believe. I hope I can call you my friends, and tell you that I am sorry for the past, and ask you to forgive us. We know better now, and we are trying to set things right. Just give us a chance. God bless ALL of our Vietnam Veterans.

Sincerely,

Connie Bramley
Plainville, Ohio

Ed note: Drop her a line if you appreciate what she said guy's. She sounded real sincere about this. She told me she thought we were a "decent organization, willing to listen!"

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY?

Profile Of The Military

As of September 1992 the U.S. Army has 103,701 Officers and 602,510 Enlisted Men. A total of 706,211. Navy 565,446, Marines 193,687, Air Force 506,026. Combined totals: 1,971.370 under arms.

427,618 military people serve at 100 or more overseas military bases all around the world. In the U.S. 1,462,633 serve in the 50 States. The State of California houses the largest contingent of military personnel with 210,565 serving on active duty. Iowa is smallest with just 431 on the job.

Minorities in the military reveals that the Army has 11,528 Officers and 191,358 EM who are Black; 2,078/27,061 Hispanics; 1744/10,355 Asian; 380/3,370 American Indian/Alaskan natives; with 1570/15,565 other mixed minorities on active duty. Blacks have the largest representation in the Army.

Of the Army breakdowns there are 12,459 Woman Officers, and 67,229 Enlisted Women. Other services with female service members are: 7996/48172 Navy; 684/8278 Marines; and 13323/58540 Air Force. There are 20 Women who have General Officer or Naval flag rank on active duty. In the Army it takes an average of 20.8 years to become an E9; 17.8 an E8; 12.3 an E7; 7.8 an E6; 4.6 an E5; 1.9 an E4. E3 and E2 under a year. To Officer 07 rank it averages 26.9 years. 06 at 19.8; 05 at 16.1; 04 at 10.3; at 03 3.2; 02 at 1.7; W4 at 13.6; W3 at 7.11; W2 at 2.4 and W1 3.2 years. Other services vary or approximate time in grade before promotion to the next higher grade.

Its been a while since we all knew these facts, and so it don't hurt to bone up on them from time to time.

We appreciate our active duty personnel, and salute them for their dedication to a most honorable profession, that of "Professional Soldier!"

****

Great Southwest Vietnam Veterans TET PARTY

08-24-92

Dear Friends:

Our TET PARTY & ANNUAL REUNION is shaping up real well. The Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, TX will be the host hotel. January 29, 1993, a Friday, we will start with a WELCOME PARTY at the bar, about noon time. Saturday, January 30, 1993, our Scholarship luncheon. $20.00 in advance, and $25.00 at the door. Saturday night, our famous TET PARTY & REUNION will start at 8:00 p.m. Live Music, party favors, prizes, and a big raffle will be going on. Free admission to the TET PARTY. Call Kenny Guyer to make reservations at 214-641-4406.

We are filling up quickly - hope you can make it. It sure will be a good one!

Lots of prizes and lots of veterans from all parts of the country. Starting in December 1992 you can make room reservations at the Hotel direct. Tel: 1-817-261-8200. Code TET PARTY 93. The Hotel will be under new management by October 1992, so just ask for the Hotel next to Arlington Stadium, formally named Sheraton.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Kokomo, Indiana Reunion A Huge Success

A report from Ron Davis, Fountain City, IN., with a photograph to show the turnout of Americal Division members at the Kokomo reunion, shows a good turnout to the event, and 36 new first time attendees added to those who attend regularly.

Davis reported that 100 or more Americal vets were in attendance, and several who did not stop to sign in the log book.

If you look close enough at that VC flag, you will see an easily recognizable face, that of one Ron Ward, PNC, hiding behind a pair of sun glasses.

Here are the names who signed in at Kokomo for the first time:

Division Troops
3/116 Arty-Thomas Severe, Brownsville, In.
1/82ndArty-Mike Day, Fort Wayne, In.
26thEngrs- Vern Reed, Chandler, In.
26thEngrs- Emmitt Damron, Harold, Ky.
26thEngrs- Wesley J. Mudgett, Oregon, Oh.
3/16 Arty- Mike Burleson, Coloma, Mi.
HHC Div - John Welsh, Kokomo, In.

11th LIB
4/21st - Karl Hardman, Gary, In.
4/3rd - Mark Bruemmer, New Lennox, Il.
????? - Bruce Hoop, Indianapolis, In.
6/11 Arty- Jerry Andrews, Monticello, In.
4/3rd - Tim Lurch Jesse, Munster, In.
4/11th - Bill Demott, Bitely, Mi.
1/20th - Kay Perry, Bluffton, In.

196th LIB
3/21st - Steve Byard, Greenfield, In.
4/1st - Dennis Hudson, Tell City, In.
4/31st - Vance A. Vanwieren, Ganges, Mi.
F/8th - Phil King, Waterloo, Ia.
2/1st - Mike Boles, Ft. Wayne, In.
2/1st - Bill Lambert, Portage, Mi.
F/8th - Dale Baker, Culver, In.
????? - Dale Kocan, Baltimore, Md.
????? - Greg Homes, Altana, Il.
1/1st - Gary Gill, Grant, In.
1/1st - Pat Tanlersley, Alexandria, In.
3/21st - Karl Hardman, Gary, In.
????? - Michael A. Parkhurst, Cementcix, Mi.
F/8th - Bob Drury, Dubuque, Ia.
3/21st - Max Cox, Winchester, In.

198th LIB
1/52nd - Gary Carey, Williamson, Ga.
1/6th - Marvin Osborne, Helena, Ga.
1/52nd - William D. Highland, Matoon, Il.
5/46th - Don Mulkins, Springfield, Il.
1/52nd - Larry E. Cooper, Crawfordsville, In.
5/46th - Ernie Hopkins, Clinton, Oh.
9/Sup - Wilbur Yoder, Middlebury, In.

Davis is the Membership Chairman for the 196th LIB, and says that he has about 395 vets signed from his unit, B/3/21st from 1965-1972. Anyone who is not signed in can send their names to him at R.L. Davis, [redacted], Fountain City, IN., 41341.

He is also seeking the name and address of ANY Americal Division veteran who served in Vietnam from 1965-1972 for reference information. If anyone wants him to have their names and address, Just send it to him at the above address.

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Navy Chiefs Club Donates $110 To The Guadalcanal Fund

John "Doc" Hofer, LCDR, USNR., a former EM in B-5/46 Inf in Vietnam is shown receiving a nice donation from the Chiefs Club of the Navy Mobile Construction Battalion #20, of Columbus, OH, for the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund that was contributed prior to the August 1992 dedication by our beloved member Dr. Bob Muehrcke when the division vets of WW II made the trip for the ceremonies.

The Chiefs Club is made up of E-7's, E-8's, and E-9's of that unit. 3 of the Chiefs are Vietnam vets. Two was at Khe Sanh and the other at Phu Bai.

The Seebee Motto is: "WE BUILD WE FIGHT". "Doc" wears his Combat Medic Badge on his naval uniform and say's he has had some real interesting conversations over it. He said that top brass down to seamen wonder if it is proper item to be worn. "Doc" lets them know in no uncertain terms that it was earned "on the ground treating grunts, not in the air or off shore!"

Our thanks to those wonderful Navy Chiefs who took time to dig into their pockets and donate to the Guadalcanal fund, and to "Doc" Hofer, who went to School after Vietnam, and made himself into a Dentist, thus his current rank of LCDR in the Navy Reserve.

Photo: "Doc" receiving a Check for $110.00 from Chief Muller, wearing the helmet.

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HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO THAT BUDDY LATELY?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

BATTLE IN A BOX

by J. "Duster" HEATH

Second platoon, Alpha Company had been "snoop'n & poop'n " (searching - and - destroying) in fish-foul smelling villages near the foothills of the Tra Bong river, south of Chu Lai, Vietnam, 1968. The mission was in its fourth damp, frustrating day. They hadn't made enemy contact, but there were subtle clues of enemy presence among the "little people" of the Republic of Vietnam.

Absence of military age males was the first clue. When asked "Where's papa-san, where's boy-san?" most villagers replied: "he go kill V.C... (VietCong) .....V.C. numbah fack'in ten (bad)!" What it usually meant in truth: "they're hiding until you leave or are set'n' up an ambush to kill Americans." Other hints of enemy presence included unusually large food supplies, medical supplies, signaling devices.

After radioing "no enemy contact" to the rear-echelon "mapreaders", a sigh of exhausted relief was audible as the order to terminate the mission was received. The tired troops were to head back to their company base camp overlooking the South China Sea.

Items to check before moving out had become similar in depth and importance to that of flying a small airplane. After checking weapons for safety, doctoring sores from bites and cuts, making map checks, "commo" (radio) checks, ammo checks, numerous other personal checks, then picking up or destroying trash to prevent use by an ingenious enemy, the platoon "saddled up" their backpacks and gear, then headed for base camp.

"Pointer," their most experienced pointman, had the dubious honor to lead the way through a pass that eventually opened into flat rice paddies between hills on three sides. They halted at the base of hills facing a box canyon that opened to the East, a yawning mouth with "abandoned" thatched hootches for teeth.

"Wha'd'ya think Sarge'?" Platoon Leader Lieutenant Dan Donaldson squinted inquisitively, beckoning at the choices between the open, long end of the valley or the short-cut over the peaks facing them on the other side. Sergeant James responsé: "Up and over keeps us out of the 'pisswater paddies." Sarge then spat tobacco authoritatively as if to add an exclamation point. It was the "exclamation point" of a man who'd felt *naked* too many times due to relative lack of cover from enemy fire. The low paddy dikes offered scant cover, especially if the enemy fired down from the hills.

To minimize time crossing the paddies, they chose the nearest narrow point to cross. Per procedure, about half the platoon hurried out onto the paddy dikes. Each man tensed, eyes and minds strained to anticipate possible enemy attack. They hoped to avoid the fire-forced indignity of seeking refuge by diving into the stagnant, putrid pools of luke-warm water-buffalo and human waste called "paddy *water*."

Squads remaining took cover along higher ground to offer suppressive support fire in case their comrades drew enemy wrath while crossing paddies. Some American soldiers played mind games with silent survival self-talk: "If I were N.V.A. (North Vietnamese Regular soldier) I'd set up an ambush there in that rocky clump of bushes on the hillside. I've got to maintain the most narrow profile toward the most likely direction of enemy fire." Then the American soldier, in an attempt to convince any enemy soldiers they had been spotted, would stare at the clump and literally point or quickly swing his weapon toward the area to panic the enemy into revealing his position.

An extension of this idea was "recon-by-fire," a potentially deadly form of "trolling" by firing into an area to see if a hidden enemy would return fire. The objective was to prematurely trigger and disrupt any ambushes. Sometimes it worked.

Exhaling pent-up tension, the young weather-battered men cleared the paddies and climbed the hill into a position near the top. After setting up the "pig" M-60 thirty-caliber machine gun, they radioed other squads the "all clear" to proceed crossing.

As the last man of the second group neared midway, automatic weapons opened fire from hootches in an *abandoned* village to their left flank. Enemy gunners tried to "walk" the rounds into the diving, dodging Americans. Bullets tattooed the paddy, spewing jets of water like nozzles from a lawn sprinkling system gone mad. Squads on the hill returned fire, watching grey/white smoke of every fifth-round trace its path with a streak before slamming into the village.

The hillside troops had a ringside view of the performance of one over-weigh, out-of-shape "newby" (new in-country) they had secretly nicknamed "baby-bubba."
Some peeked between firing their weapons as 'Baby-B' *navigated* the paddies. Standing still, 'Baby looked like bags of Jello held together by rubberbands. After bullets splashed nearby, 'Baby ran like a crazed water-buffalo to gain the added cover of larger dikes. The ones beneath him had been too shallow to provide cover from the hot metal slugs attempting to bite his large frame. His rolls of fat jerked and slammed together contradicting the direction he was running.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

One weak point in a dike betrayed 'baby as it collapsed under his massive assault, then dumped him sprawling into the ugly water. The accidental fall may have saved his life as slugs splattered mud close to his newly protected position. A few cynical American combat vets on the hill openly laughed at the "combat comedy" below.

The laughers soon had a change of humor as additional enemy "little mean muthers" opened automatic weapon fire from the hill to Americans left rear. Almost immediately, more bad guys opened fire from two additional positions, completing the box-shaped ambush. The hill squads accelerated their rates of fire and men trapped in the paddies followed suit.

Gunfire, punctuated by the thump-crash sound of M-79 grenade launchers, echoed off the hills in a staccato crescendo, giving the six-way shoot-out the audio effect of a battalion level battle. "How many men we fightin' ?" one private wanted to know. "Sounds like a thousand!" came an unidentified answer. Bullets hissed and snapped, ripping air, seeking flesh.

In what had become his typical behavior during many fire-fights, Lieutenant Donaldson, convinced of his apparent invincibility, strolled upright without concern of being hit, assessing the situation. Americans held the high <u>and</u> low ground. Enemy troops had the advantage of aiming from four directions, the disadvantage of possible exposure to air strikes.

Donaldson calmly placed the radio handset to his ear and called an artillery mission, since his 'arty forward observer was pinned down in the paddies. The indifferent voice at the other end of the radio informed him artillery was not available in the sector. There were air missions in progress, potentially within the line of fire. *Voice* said: "will advise when mission available - [out]." The agitated Lt. thought O.K. we'll pry looose those commie bastards with gunships, then changed to tactical air frequencies. All 'chopper (helicopter) gunships and fixed-wing fighter-bombers were tied up in other missions but, another *voice* assured, they would be dispatched "as soon as possible."

Lack of immediate artillery or air support weighed heavily on the officer, who felt rapid response by air would expose the enemy to heavy casualties. He calmly handed the receiver back to his radioman. To summarize his agony that the most powerful nation could not coordinate missions, he sneered "frig-it" as only a frustrated combat veteran could, then continued to direct the fight.

A few minutes last forever during the bullet storms of firefights. After what seemed a long time, the enemy broke contact. Perhaps the soldiers wisely wanted to *di, di* (haul ass) before air support or artillery arrived.

For some unexplainable reason, both sides ceased firing at exactly the *same time.* Like a bedsheet moms at home might flip outward in midair and let float to the bed, a hushed calm settled over the valley. It was as though God had called "time out." Men in the paddies, exceptionally cautious after seeing and hearing rounds splash and splatter mud within fractions of inches, slowly gathered themselves and joined their brothers on the hill. Command decided it was too risky, absent gunship support, to look for enemy bodies.

EPILOG: BATTLE IN A BOX

That long day, Americans in the fight, and possibly the Vietnamese, were all "invincible." By some miracle, not one American had been hit. No wounded, no killed-in-action. After the platoon had marched for about twenty minutes in the direction of basecamp, the gunships they had requested raced overhead toward an enemy that had long-since vanished. "The cavalry's here, but the *Indians* ain't!" Sarge growled sarcastically.

Still energized from the adrenaline of battle, a few gung-ho troopers felt they should have claimed victory by searching to confirm an enemy body count. Most agreed, however, remaining uninjured after being targets in a four-way ambush was *victory* enough. Some felt it was Gods way of granting them the day off. **All** agreed the noisy episode would probably remain their *favorite* firefight, if there was such a thing. They named it the "shootout at box canyon."

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ANTI-TANK PLATOON D/2/1 Inf 196 LIB
FAY NINH VIETNAM 1966

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

General Saint Retires

General Crosbie Saint, former commander of the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, has retired after 33 years of service.

During his retirement ceremony Aug 25, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and praised by Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Gordon Sullivan for the speedy deployment of thousands of soldiers and their equipment from Germany to Saudi Arabia and Turkey to participate in operations Desert Shield-Desert Storm and Provide Comfort.

Saint, 56, recently left Heidelberg, Germany where he had commanded the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army since June 1988.

During the Vietnam war, Gen. Saint was assistant operations officer, Americal division; commander, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 23rd Inf Division [Americal] and assistant chief of staff, operations, 23rd Infantry Division [Americal].

His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal [First Oak Leaf Cluster], Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Bronze Star Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

The Americal Division Veterans Association welcomes him Home and hopes he becomes one of us. If he is not a member, somebody please make him one. We need him, and any other eligible Americal vet to keep this association alive and doing its good works. Welcome Home General. Hope to see you in Topeka at the 1993 Reunion.

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Advance Planning For 1993 Reunion Air Travel

Continental Air Lines is going to give ADVA a discount rate for group travel to Kansas City from routes serviced by that Carrier. Flights will be organized to arrive at approximate times at KCI similar to San Antonio reunion. Charter Busses will whisk travelers the 62 miles to Topeka and the Hotel in less than 1 hour and much less time than waiting for flights on propeller aircraft carriers with frequent delays and cancelled flights being avoided. When you see the flyer printed in the Jan-Feb 1993 issue of the Newsletter, please do not drag your feet in making reservations early. Last minute decisions or delays on your part might incur a long wait or missed opportunity to come on chartered busses to the Hotel where we'll do the driving, and you can look out the window! Plan also to spend Friday of that week on a tour of historic Fort Leavenworth, the US Army Disciplinary Barracks, the Federal Penitentiary, and troop areas of interest. We will motor to the Fort and have Lunch at the Crossroads-Frontier Club on the Fort, then divide up and tour the post. On Thursday we will have the USO Show. On Friday night after we have Dinner we will entertained by the Indian Dancers, and on Saturday night the Big Band Sounds and Dancing after Dinner. We plan to give you a great Reunion, and we hope you will enjoy your trip to Kansas. For those who wish to rent automobiles, Topeka has plenty of those facilities available, as does the Airport in Kansas City. Plan now -avoid the hassle later!

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HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

10-01-92
[redacted]
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Hello, My name is John Cherney. I served with the Americal Division in 1970 in Vietnam with 4/21st Inf, 11th LIB at Duc Pho in "Charlie Company!" The reason I am writing to you is because I am looking for a friend of mine who served with me in Vietnam. His name is Dennis N. Plotkin, 047-44-9349, Co B, 4/31st Inf in 1971. Dennis told me he would write one letter a month every month to let me know he was okay. I received two letters from him, then nothing after that. I don't know what happened to him and I have been looking for him the last 21 years. I wrote the Department of the Army and the Department of Veterans Affairs, but they won't tell me anything. I even tried calling all the Plotkin's in his home state of Connecticut, but had no luck. Dennis was originally in the National Guard and was activated in the Regular Army. I met him at Fort Hood, Texas. From there He went to Vietnam. Can anyone help me find him? Are you reading this Dennis?

Thank You.

John Cherney

****

BLOOD BALLET

TIPTOE ON TIME, FLASH/CRASH,
STOP - N - DROP ON A DIME
THE NEAR-MISS IMMORTAL,
TAKES TIME TO PRAY,
JUST ANOTHER DAY,
IN THE BLOOD BALLET

MINI-´ZIPS, G-SHIPS, "FAST MOVERS"
´PALM/SPLASH, AS WE DID THE FIFTY YARD
DASH. HOT MEALS WITH C-4, FRAGS´ STEEL
SHARDS AND HIGH-MUZZLE SPIKES WOULD
RAISE THE SCORE

WE DANCED THE WIND, WEPT WHERE
WEEPING WAS NO DISGRACE, AND LAUGHED
OUT LOUD, IN THE DEVIL´S FACE

THE FIRST DOWN, TURN-AROUND JUMP-SHOT,
HIGH-INSIDE, BRUSH-BACK, KNOCK DOWN,
ADRENELIN RUSH-CRAZED GAME WE´D PLAY,
A HARD-CORE, GIMME´ SOME MORE,
BLOOD BALLET.

DUSTER

****

A white-collar worker in Japan has been classified officially as dying of overwork (Karoshi). He spent 115 days of the year on the road, in addition to long work hours before trips. His company, Mitsui, has paid his family $240,000 and they may get more from the government. While 30 deaths each year are officially certified by the government as the result of overwork, the Japanese National Defense Council for Victims of Karoshi claims as many as 10,000 work themselves to death annually. This is beyond the call of duty even for the widely acknowledged Japanese work ethic.

The Office, August 1992

Contributed by Brian J. Mulcrone
23rd MP's

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VA AT THE CROSSROADS

By Ken Scharnberg

THE BUILDING seems tired and weathered, perhaps like the veterans it once served. The windows are dark and some are broken, and stare sightlessly across a landscape of wind-whipped paper and leaves. The interior is littered with broken bottles and the detritus of human suffering.

Faded letters above the front desk read: THROUGH THESE DOORS PASS THE FINEST VETERANS IN THE WORLD.

Is this a gloomy reminder of what once was? Not yet, but it could be. VA today is fast reaching a crossroads in its history, and soon must decide what course it will follow.

Since the late 70s, VA's budget has been squeezed and squeezed by Congress, requiring VA to reduce and reduce the number of veterans eligible for medical treatment (See "VA's Narrowing Door," February 1992).

More recently, VA's budget has been held at a sustaining level, barely enough to do the day-to-day job. In fact, for fiscal year 1992, VA suffered a $900 million shortfall: Its budget was almost $1 billion less than it needed to care for its patients.

Few in Congress expect VA's budget to grow much more than inflation, if that, in the foreseeable future, according to Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"VA has been subjected to a systematic erosion by the very government that created it," says Chet Stellar, Chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R).

According to Stellar, it is relatively easy to see what the VA future holds, if nothing changes:

- VA's medical-care funding, when compared to overall health costs, will continue to shrink.
- To make ends meet, VA will be forced to close additional hospital wings—most of them surgical wings. The VA inspector general's office has listed 33 hospitals where at least the surgical wings may be closed. More will probably follow.
- As the federal budget tightens, we can expect Congress to again narrow eligibility standards. They will drive more veterans out of the system by limiting even further the amount of money they can earn and still be eligible for VA health care. The lower rated service-connected veterans—the 0 to 30 percent disabled—could be dropped from mandatory care.
- VA medical care will deteriorate. As more and more veterans are denied care, doctors will perform fewer surgeries and specialized medical procedure, and their skills will suffer.
- VA will continue to shut the door on more than 480,000 veterans suffering from the full ravages of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). VA has neither the staff nor the facilities to treat even a small portion of them.
- Due to continued shortages of VA staff, veterans filing claims and appeals can expect even longer waits. Currently, some veterans report waiting as long as three years in getting their claims through the system.

VA health care—One road leads to destruction; the other one, to survival.

"No aspect of veterans benefits has escaped untouched," says VA&R Chairman Stellar. "Surgery, outpatient and inpatient care, nursing care, rehabilitation; even the GI home loan program and veterans' burial benefits have felt the bite of Congress' budgetary ax."

Although the federal debt is at an all-time high, the public is demanding relief from Congress from soaring health-care costs. Dozens of health-care proposals are wending their way through committees on Capitol Hill.

Some go so far as to do away with VA medical care, such as H.R. 1300. While the chances of this bill passing are remote, it indicates a sentiment among some lawmakers that VA health care is unnecessary.

This attitude has led to today's inadequate budgets for VA. "If VA continues down this path," says American Legion National Commander Roger A. Munson, "it is doomed. VA is an easy target. Anyone who thinks Congress can't or won't touch VA had better take a hard look at recent history.

"No one dreamed that Congress would dare attack Social Security, yet today proposals are being seriously discussed to tax Social Security income for recipients who earn above a specific level. To put it bluntly, there are no sacred cows and VA is at risk."

At its Spring Meeting last May, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion drafted a comprehensive plan to reform VA health care. Among other things, the Legion wants nonservice-connected veterans to have access to VA via third party payments, including private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or other federal programs.

There are other paths that offer VA an opportunity to survive and open its doors to more veterans. Future prospects for a vital and healthy VA depend on a major influx of new cash.

Some of the ideas suggested by the Legion and others include:

- Allowing VA to make home loans to veterans. The income generated from the loans could help support other VA programs for veterans, such as medical care.
- Permitting veterans to simply pay VA for their treatments, but at rates far below private health-care fees.
- Rewriting the law to allow Medicare—the government's contributory health-care program—to reimburse VA for treatment and care of Medicare-eligible military retirees and nonservice-connected veterans.

The idea to reimburse VA with Medicare funds originated with the Rural Health Care Initiative (RHCI), which VA and the Department of Housing and Human Services (HHS) tried to push through Congress this year.

Although The American Legion was instrumental in defeating RHCI because it would have allowed nonveterans to be treated in VA hospitals, the proposal to use Medicare funds to reimburse VA is a sound one, according to Stellar.

"But RHCI's plan to allow civilians to be treated at VA medical facilities is intolerable while veterans continue to be turned away at VA hospitals.

"However, why not treat Medicare-eligible veterans at VA hospitals and allow Medicare to defray the cost of their treatment?" Stellar asks, referring to H.R.5263 currently in Congress. H.R.5263 calls for Medicare to pay VA directly for treatment of nonservice-connected disabled veterans and military retirees at three or four test sites.

"H.R.5263 would not only allow more veterans to use VA medical facilities, but also would save taxpayers money. VA can provide health care to Medicare at less cost than private doctors and hospitals," says Legion National Commander Munson.

However, there is strong opposition from HHS, which administers Medicare.

The problem, says a HHS spokesmen, is that Medicare is unwilling to pay for a veteran's care—someone they see as already eligible for care at VA expense. Currently, as many as 12 million nonservice-connected veterans—more than half the veterans treated by VA—may be Medicare-eligible.

Also opposing H.R.5263 is VA Secretary Edward Derwinski, who complained about H.R.5263 in a letter to Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, which drafted the bill.

Derwinski told Montgomery that VA was already serving virtually all eligible veterans, and H.R.5263 would place an unfair burden on the system.

Many veterans, however, would argue that VA is definitely not serving "virtually all eligible veterans."

"Mr. Derwinski appears to believe that eligible-by-law veterans and veterans who need VA care are one in the same," says Munson. "We know this is not the case."

But the blame is not wholly VA's, according to Stellar. As a cabinet level entity, VA has heavy-duty political ties. If the administration sets forth a budget, "it would be political suicide to dispute it," said a high level VA source. "If VA's top echelon makes too many waves, they are replaced with someone more politically malleable."

Chairman Stellar notes a growing attitude of lawmakers and others who see VA as a veterans' welfare program. "This attitude is responsible for VA being a target for budget cuts."

"I am sick and tired of lawmakers and others who try to equate veterans' benefits with handouts," says National Commander Munson. "They are earned benefits paid for in blood, and the scars are there to prove it."

Which course VA will follow depends on VA's leadership and the veterans' community itself. As long as veterans say nothing to their elected representatives, the VA budget will never be enough to care for all the poor and sick veterans who need it.

"Whether it's open heart surgery, burial or education benefits, or the need to buy a new house, VA eventually touches the lives of all Legionnaires," says National Commander Munson. "The day will come when you and I will need some help from VA. When that time comes, I hope and pray VA will be there for both of us." □

Reprinted from the October 1992 edition of the American Legion Magazine with the belief they want all Legion members or non-members to know this important message on V.A. benefits.

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1992

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[redacted]
Long Beach, CA 90803-3801

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: Telephone:

Address — Street: City: State: Zip:

Americal Unit: Rgt. Bn. Co/Bty. Other

Dates of Service — From: To: Serial No.:

Date of Birth: Blood Type: Religion:

V. A. Claim No.: V. A. Office — City: State:

Occupation: Wife's First Name:

Date: Signature:

Sponsored by: (NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) $16.00

PLEASE: Attach a copy of the following information to your application.
1. DD 214 Form.
2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.
(All copies of records will be returned)