

★ GUADALCANAL

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★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

MARCH - APRIL 1994

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

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



BOUGAINVILLE MARCH 1944

1993 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1994

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Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

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

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As no doubt you noticed, the last issue of the Americal Newsletter had a spread on the A.D.V.A.'s involvement with the dedication of the Women's Memorial. Special thanks to some of the folks that pitched in with donations to help make our hospitality room in Washington DC a great success. To name some; the 196th LIB Association, the Americal Computer Bulletin Board, Bernie Chase, Joe Chin, Ron Ward, Jay Roth, Vern Pike, and Charlie Mankin. Please forgive me if I omitted anyone from this successful group effort. It was great to see many of our lady Americal Veterans in attendance. I hope that their numbers will grow within our organization as the years go on.

Keep up the good work of feeding us information on your old unit's and buddy's addresses. We have been actively helping many old acquaintances get together lately. It takes a lot of work but progress is steadily being made in increasing our membership.

On a personal note, a fellow platoon member from LZ Bayonet, Mike Ackersfeld, whom I had searched for in vain for many years, found me because of an A.D.V.A. member had taken the time to get him an Americal Newsletter. I may never know who that member was, but thanks. It is just another example of a very active membership, and it keeps getting better.

This past January it was my pleasure to attend the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Winterfest put on in part by one of our members, Tony Babler. They put on a great program. I hope that they continue the hard work, which includes a lot of community service in their Southern Wisconsin region. The interesting thing that I noted was how the sister organizations in the area all seemed to band together to help each other; The VFW, the American Legion and other Wisconsin Veteran groups.

It is my hope that we can emulate these efforts in our dealing with associations that were part of our Americal Division. We have asked a number of these units to join us in our National Convention. Many have shown an interest in this idea. I invite the others, that have been contacted, to think about joining us for a combined reunion; with representation and input into the reunion itself. We all know that the larger the turnout the better the resources to put on a successful reunion. Also it takes the guess work out of which reunion a Veteran attends if there is no conflict between two or more reunions. I ask all who are active members of these various organizations to get the word out to their perspective leadership.

The Americal Division Museum move is on track and I am looking forward to visiting it one of these days when the move is complete. In the near future the United States Army is to open a museum in Washington DC. It is my hope that the Americal will be part of this National Museum too.

The June Convention in the Catskills will be a big draw. Mark your calendar NOW! By now every member should have received a brochure and all pertinent information, mailed under separate cover. Send the registration fee to Steve Dennison NOW --- and mail your deposit to the hotel NOW!

Of the Troops and for the Troops,
 John "Dutch" DeGroot
 National Commander

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

April 9, 1994
 Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
 General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

May 21, 1994
 Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
 General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

PICNIC

At 10:00 a.m. Saturday May 21, 1994, at the Americal Museum, Fort Devens, we will have a picnic. Coffee and doughnuts will be served starting at 10:00 a.m.. We will make plans for our trip to the National Reunion June 9, 1994.

This may be your last time to visit the Museum at Devens, as we will be moving to our new location in Worcester soon.

CONVALESCING

101 Quartermaster	101 Quartermaster
Ben Kelly	Randolph J. Gerard
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Simi Valley, CA 93064	Sanbornville, NH 03872
132 Infantry I Co.	221 Field Artillery
Mitchell Przybycien	T. Clifton Griffin
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Cicero, IL 60650	Albany, GA 31707-2078
97 Field Artillery	182 Infantry L Co.
Joe A. Yelle	Stanley Coolen Sr.
[REDACTED]	Bay Pines V.A. Hosp
[REDACTED]	Bay Pines Boulevard
Centrall Falls, RI 02363	Bay Pines, FL 33705

Hey Guys---How about a card?

REINSTATED

Lloyd A. Perry	Charles F. Rhodes
182 Infantry 2 Bn	196 LIB F/17 Cav
Lubbock, TX	Three Rivers, MI
Jimmy E. Vail	William J. Whitney
HHC G-2	196 LIB 3/2/1 Inf +
Lufkin, TX	Chester, VT

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Fred H. Chinni Jr.	William H. Clarke
196 LIB 2/1 Inf	17 Cav F Troop
Harker Heights, TX	Moscow, TX
Richard E. Dunn	William A. Gold
132 Infantry A-T Co	26 Sig
Altoona, PA	Baltimore, MD
Kenneth H. Lewis	Patrick J. O'Malley
11 LIB	132 Infantry
Manassas, VA	Bridgeview, IL
Charles F. Rhodes	Jackie E. Yandell
196 LIB F/17 Cav	335 Trans Co.
Three Rivers, MI	Lubbock, TX

TAPS TAPS TAPS

Ltc. Stanley Stann	Woodrow Thrower
132 Infantry Service Co.	132 Infantry K Co.
Skokie, IL	Cairo, IL
January 21, 1994	January 6, 1994
David Rome	William F. Dorsey
164 Infantry	245 Field Artillery Bn
Hugoton, KS	Live Oaks, FL
October 11, 1993	January 25, 1993
Albert E. Boutwell Sr.	Alfred R. Matthews
101-125 Quartermaster	101 Quartermaster B Co.
Wilmington, MA	Woburn, MA
November 11, 1993	January 26, 1993
Joseph Ferreira	Lyle E. Studebaker
101-125 Quartermaster	132 Inf - 125 QM
Woburn, MA	Ottawa, IL
December 24, 1993	March 26, 1993
Thomas D. Shelton	Charles A. Dirienzo
JAGD Division Hdq.	121 Med. Bn. C Co.
Valdosta, GA	Newbury, MA
May 27, 1993	August 23, 1993
Col. Charles F. Rimbe	Maurice Faul
196 LIB 2/1 Infantry	246 F.A. Bn. A Btry
Martinez, GA	Church Point, LA
November 4, 1992	Date Unknown
George W. Barron	Edward L. Largess
182 Infantry F Co.	221 Field Artillery
Waltham, MA	W. Brookfield, MA
February 19, 1994	January 19, 1994
Robert M. Graham Sr.	Floyd L. Whiteman
182 Infantry I Co.	182 Infantry K Co
Reading, MA	Gresham, OR
October 11, 1993	Date Unknown
Paul T. McSpadden	John T. Rossettos
132 Infantry	245 Field Artillery
Malibu, CA	Holiday, FL
October 26, 1993	December 30, 1993
Granville M. Johns	Alfred A. Garceau
39 Military Police	221 F.A. C Btry.
Chester, VA	South Yarmouth, MA
March 14, 1993	January 9, 1994
John D. Fairchild	Ernest J. Luongo
11 LIB A/4/21 Infantry	101 Quartermaster
Potomac, MD	East Falmouth, MA
January 6, 1994	February 25, 1994
Lawrence J. Morrissey	Chaplain Hollan Hope
182 Infantry I Co.	132 Infantry Hdq.
Cambridge, MA	El Paso, TX
December 1993	December 25, 1993
Leon P. Granacki	Mrs. Peter A. Mastrorio
132 Infantry Div. Hdq.	South-East Chapter
Chicago, IL	Hollywood, FL
June 30, 1993	December 25, 1993
Harold J. Ashe	William T. Smith
132 Infantry	182 Infantry F Co.
Chicago, IL	Sullivan County, TN
February 1994	December 8, 1993

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 DECEASED MEMBERS

Adeline Mastrorio

It is with much sadness that I report that my beloved wife, Adeline, passed away at about 4:30 A.M. on Christmas morning.

I could not bring myself to write any sooner because of my sense of extreme loss. I do wish for our many friends around the country to know of her passing.

Peter A. Mastrorio

HAROLD J. ASHE

Harold J. Ashe, 78, of Chicago, a former publishing executive and decorated World War II veteran, died Monday in Little Company of Mary Hospital. Mr. Ashe was a former vice president of the James Kelly Publishing Company. He also served on the board of directors of the Cystic Fibrosis Association and was secretary of the Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands Memorial Fund. Mr. Ashe is survived by his wife Suzanne, four sons, six daughters and seventeen grandchildren.

CHAPLAIN HOLLAN HOPE

Colonel Hollan Hope passed away on December 25, 1993 in El Paso, Texas. He was sworn into the Chaplain Corps October 13, 1943 and retired December 31, 1974 after serving in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

During a distinguished military career, hope received 15 of his country's and allied nations highest honors for valor and achievement, including the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

He made 350 parachute jumps, including a combat jump in Korea. Despite a fractured vertebra from the jump, he led a force from the 187th Regimental Combat Team to rescue the wounded of the 3rd Battalion. Hope received the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, and -- unprecedented for a chaplain -- the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After his retirement he served the Glen Arbor United Methodist Church in El Paso to which he donated his salary to the church's building fund. Following his retirement from this church in 1982 he served as interim pastor and preacher for many of the area Methodist churches.

He is survived by his wife Burnice, to children and three grandsons.

Burial was in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

LEON P. GRANACKI
132 Infantry Company A

Leon P. Granacki, a well known watercolor artist in the Old Irving Park neighborhood in Chicago, Illinois, died June 30, 1993 at the age of 77.

Leon Granacki started his art career before entering the armed forces, working as a silk screen and window display artist for several companies in the Chicago area. In April 1941, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was later shipped out to New Caledonia where he served as a rifleman and a light mortar crewman. From this assignment he became a cartographer with Americal Division Headquarters Intelligence Section.

Leon's assignment was to use photographs and captured Japanese documents to create maps that the American troops would use to determine their attack positions. His maps of Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands outlined natural terrain information, enemy gun locations and areas of enemy activity. He was cited for meritorious performance by Major General Alexander M. Patch for his original maps of the Mantankou-Kokumbona area, one of the battle sites in the Guadalcanal Campaign that helped reverse Japanese forces and turn the direction of World War II in the South Pacific. He obtained the rank of Master Sergeant and was chief clerk and he handled all administrative work for plans and operations at Americal Division Headquarters.

It was during his service in the South Pacific that Leon picked up a simple watercolor set and began painting. The letters that he sent home to family and friends were often accompanied by a small watercolor. The work he created during his almost four years active duty was displayed at the Art Institute of Chicago upon his return.

One of the interesting assignments Leon had while in the South Pacific was the design and production of the shoulder patch that would be used for the newly formed "Americal" Division -Americans in New Caledonia. He used a blue Norman Shield as the background for the stars of the Southern Cross. (the photograph below shows Leon sewing the patch on Major General McClure) This same patch is worn today by General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Services and also by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of troops during Desert Storm.

Leon Granacki was born on July 10, 1915 in Racine, Wisconsin. His family moved to Chicago in 1929 and he graduated from Lane Technical High School in 1933. He moved to Old Irving Park neighborhood in 1953 with his wife, Myrtle, who preceeded him in death. He is survived by three children, Victoria, James and Paul Granacki.

The inscription on the picture reads; To Sergeant L.P. Granacki "Americal Division" with much appreciation and best wishes of the Commanding General.

R.B. McClure
Maj. Gen. U.S.A.



EDWARD W. LARGEES

Edward W. Largees, 85, of 8 Roy Terrace, West Brookfield, MA died January 12, 1994 at his home after a long illness.

He leaves his wife of 49 years, Hazel (Quilliam) Largees; a brother, Raymond, and nieces and nephews. He was born in Worcester and lived in Worcester before moving to West Brookfield 37 years ago.

Ed served with the 221 Field Artillery and was a charter member of the Americal Division Veterans Association, Worcester Chapter and he was a Curator of the Americal Museum at Fort Devens. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 479 Worcester, MA, a member of the American Legion Post 138 Spencer, MA, a member of the Y.D. Veterans Association and also a member of the D.A.V..

Ed worked for the Worcester Housing Authority for more than 20 years retiring in 1968. He was also employed by a painting contractor for many years.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2 Oak Street, Worcester, MA 01609, The American Heart Association, 20 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701 or the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

NEW MEMBERS

Walter Abbott
164 Infantry Ser/1
Oberlin, LA
#Memb. Committee

Charles T. Bell
164 Infantry Band
Newport Beach, CA
#Memb. Committee

Joseph H. Biesiot
246 F.A. B Btry
Norwalk, CA
#E.R. Horton

Brian A. Brooks
Associate
Cinnaminson, NJ
#Irene E. Brooks

Alan E. Brown
164 Infantry Hq/3
Porterville, CA
#Memb. Committee

William P. Cheetham
26 Eng B Co.
Woodhaven, MI
#Bernie Chase

Ralph F. Covert
164 Infantry E Co.
Calvin, ND
#Memb Committee

Donald D. DeLap
164 Infantry Med De
Cape Coral, FL
#Memb. Committee

Paul E. Dickerson
164 Infantry A Co
North Canton, OH
#R. Castronova

Ernest F. Aufero
164 Infantry D Co.
Vero Beach, FL
#Memb. Committee

George B. Bestpitch
23 M.P.
Hamburg, NY
#Larry Gelnett

Dave Braun
56 Arty 6/56
Brandon, FL
#Bob Kapp

Dempsey G. Brown
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf
Rosemont, MN
#Robert Thornton

Rodney R. Carpenter
247 F.A.
Quaker City, OH
#John R. Geib

William H. Clarke
17 Cav F Troop
Moscow, TX
#Bill Maddox

Robert W. Cragle
11 LIB 6 Sup 23 S+T
Endicott, NY
#Bernie Chase

Orein G. DeLap
164 Infantry Med De
Cape Coral, FL
#R. Castronova

Peter K. Doyle
46 Infantry C/1/46
Randolph, MA
#Frederick Cowburn

Fred S. Elling
164 Infantry Hq/3
Rochester, MN
#Peter Messina

Edward Gaik
164 Infantry K Co
Chicago, IL
#Memb. Committee

Joseph L. Gleason
164 Infantry B Co.
Lincoln, IL
#Memb Committee

Bernard Greenspan
Div Arty Hq/Med Det
Little Neck, NY
#Charles W. Young

Clayton W. Hewes Sr.
164 Infantry G Co
New Castle, DE
#Memb. Committee

Joe B. Holmes Jr.
11 LIB D/4/3 Inf
Pelham, AL
#R. Castronova

Robert Lee Horton
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
Topeka, KS
#David Recob

Arthur B. Huddle
182 Infantry M Co.
Hampton, NH
#Joe Chin

Fred O. Jessee
164 Inf Ser/2
Fremont, CA
#Pete Messina

Edward L. Kalat
221 F.A. C Btry
Williamsburg, MI
#Bernie Chase

Paul F. Kercher
164 Infantry H Co.
Twentynine Palms, CA
#Memb. Committee

Richard Krueger
196 LIB 17 Cav F Tr
Neenah, WI
#R. Castronova

Howard Layter
164 Infantry H Co.
Milford, NJ
#Peter Messina

Otto S. Lindskog
640 Tank Des. B Co.
Stockton, CA
#Memb Committee

Sal Marchisello
182 Infantry H Co.
Sicklerville, NJ
#R. Castronova

Merrill R. Matson
1 Cav B Tr/1/1
Goreville, IL
#R. Castronova

Robert B. Fuller
164 Infantry Hq/1
Middleport, NY
#Peter Messina

Edward C. Gittens
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Brownsville, MN
#R. Castronova

Robert J. Goetttert
23 Adm
Berwyn, IL
#DeGroot-Mulcrone

Arthur W. Hanley
164 Infantry A Co.
Mt. Vernon, WA
#R. Castronova

Lonnie Hinds
196 198 LIB A/B/C/46
Wheaton, MO
#R. Castronova

Walter J. Hooper
198 LIB 1/6 Inf
Harrisburg, PA
#Cordell Johnson

Orville E. Howe
164 Infantry A Co.
Osceola, IA
#Mem Committee

C. Frank James Jr.
7440 Avn Hq HHC
Concord, NC
#William Maddox

James O. Jewell
164 Infantry K Co
Coeur D'Alene, ID
#R. Castronova

Timothy B. Keating
196 LIB HHC/A/46 In
Burke, VA
#R. Castronova

Elroy E. Kessler
164 Infantry A-T
Reedley, CA
#Peter Messina

Nevin D. Kutzier
?
Allentown, PA
#Memb. Committee

Avery J. Leger
164 Infantry B Co
Rayne, LA
#Peter Messina

Verdell A. Long
164 Infantry Hq/F
Dallas, TX
#Bill Maddox

Troy . Martin Jr.
132 Infantry E Co.
Orlando, FL
#Bernie Chase

Donald R. McCabe Sr.
11 LIB A/1/6 Inf
Chester, PA
#Fred Cowburn

NEW MEMBERS

Harold K. McCall
182 Infantry Hq/3
McAlester, OK
#Capt. James Garigan

Kenneth J. Meaney
46 Inf D/1/46 Inf
Watchung, NJ
#Joe Krisanite

Adam J. Miltenberger
164 Infantry A-T Co
Carson City, NV
#R. Castronova

Joseph S. Motil
164 Infantry K Co
Harper Woods, MI
#Peter Messina

James C. Newcomb
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Cambridge, MD
#Bob Kapp

Raphael P. Parry
33 Infantry M+L Co.
Corpus Christi, TX
#Bill Maddox

Wesley F. Peters
26 Eng E Co
Corpus Christi, TX
#Bill Maddox

L. Wade Rodland II
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf
East Freedom, PA
#Dinges-Jones-Bliss

Thomas L. Sandoz
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
San Antonio, TX
#Memb. Committee

Raymond R. Schelble
196 LIB A/E/1/46 In
Salt Lake City, UT
#R. Castronova

S. Jon Schmitz
198 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Hazelhurst, WI
#R. Castronova

Nicholas J. Shealy
132 Infantry K Co.
Starke, FL
#Pete Messina

W. R. Standerford
11 LIB Hdq M.P.
Madison, IN
#Roland Castronova

George Timock
164 Infantry I Co
Cadillac, MI
#Memb. Committee

Eddie D. Walker
11 LIB Hq/B/4/3/Inf
Lone Star, TX
#Carlson-Mulcrone

Malcolm J. McKay
164 Infantry B Co.
East Helena, MT
#R. Castronova

David R. Miller
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
Piney Flats, TN
#Bernie Chase

Gordon H. Morse
57 Eng B Co
Limestone, TN
#Bernie Chase

Joseph W. Murphy
164 Infantry
Hanover, MA
#Memb. Committee

Thomas J. Norrbohm
Associate
South Bloomington,
#Bernie Chase

John M. Paulson
164 Infantry F Co.
Carrington, ND
#Memb. Committee

Carl E. Richardson
11 LIB HHC/4/3 Inf
Harker Heights, TX
#Fred H. Chinni

Charles W. Rose
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Allandale, FL
#John DeGroot

Warren N. Saunders
182 Infantry I Co.
Cedar Grove, NJ
#Ray F. Poynter

Vern H. Schleyer
8 Air Cav F Troop
Naperville, IN
#Memb. Committee

Frank Scurio
198 LIB A+E/1/6th
Chicago, IL
#Bernie Chase

Robert L. Snyder
21 Infantry 4/21
Columbia, PA
#Bernie Chase

Jim Terski
196 LIB
Detroit, MI
#Kenneth H. Lewis

Kenneth E. Trombley
221 F.A. Bn
Waltham, MA
#R. Castronova

James W. Winkler
23 M.P.
Heber, UT
#Larry Gelnett

#SPONSOR

CHAPTERS

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

Regional Commander
Elmer E. Matola
Hernando Beach, FL 34442
Tel. [REDACTED]

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

Regional Commander
Ernest B. Carlson
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Telephone [REDACTED]

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

Regional Commander
Rush G. Propper
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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

Regional Commander
Lewis C. Turner
Oroville, CA 95966-5643
Telephone [REDACTED]

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

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

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

Eastern Regional Commander
Stephen N. Dennison
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Telephone 1-412-885-4951

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

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

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES?

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
Stephen Dennison
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
William A. Gold
Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

I would first like to start by thanking all the chapter members who have paid their chapter dues. I would also like to send a special thank you to all the members who have sent donations along with their chapter dues. I would appreciate it if the remaining members send in their dues as soon as possible.

At the present time we have 323 members. You can see that the ongoing membership drive is working.

Now that the winter season is almost over, spring is just around the corner which means summer is even closer. When you mention summer you should automatically think of the 1994 National Convention at the Pines. This event will take place June 9-12, 1994. It is not too late to make reservations at the Pines and neither is it too early. Any chapter or committee wishing to hold a separate meeting can inform me by a letter so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

By now you have been advised of the most exciting and historical tour ever planned at West Point Military Academy. The personalized, all day, guided tour can only be summed up in one word - FABULOUS! Picture yourself standing at Lookout Point overlooking the beautiful Hudson River. It is a view you cannot describe unless you see it for yourself.

Again, I would like to express that the cost for the Convention is a PACKAGE DEAL and EVERYTHING is included in the the price except for golf.

I also want to stress that anyone flying to the Convention should make arrangements with Kent Travel. Their toll free number is 1-800-537-8218. By doing this the Pines will provide you with transportation to and from the airport.

I encourage and invite every member to come to this year's Convention. Bring your family and friends too. They are also welcome at the convention. Everything has been carefully prepared and planned for your fun and enjoyment. so act now and make your reservations for a great Americal get-together.

Sincerely,
Steve Dennison
Chapter Commander

TWO IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Airline reservations-Kent Travel [REDACTED]

The Pine Resort Hotel - [REDACTED]

REMEMBER!

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND \$10 PER PERSON TO
STEVE DENNISON

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Lloyd J. Morrell
Redmond, OR 97756-9612

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA
PEABODY, MA 01960

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

COMMANDER
Elmer E. Matola
Hernando, FL 34442

SEC/TREAS
George P. Dakin
Deltona, FL 32728

During the short time that I have been affiliated with the S.E. Chapter of the A.D.V.A. I have made many pleasant acquaintances. There is one in particular that we in the S.E. Chapter had grown to love for her many attributes of kindness, gentleness, and concern for others. We remember the many ways she had added to the success of all of our Social functions. That person is Peter Mastrorio's wonderful wife, Adeline. Her untimely passing has shocked and saddened us all. On behalf of the entire S.E. Chapter I must say that she will be missed dearly at all times and especially at our get-togethers.

I am sure that there are quite a few Comrades out there that are deserving of credit and as yet have not received their just reward for service related valor. With the help of a great guy named Royce Carter one of our members did. Royce is only one of the many unsung, hard working Veteran's Affairs Officers that goes to bat to assist us Veterans. Our Comrade Aime Thomas received his Purple Heart 20 years after he was wounded in action in Vietnam. Aime, "Tom" as he is known to us in the S.E. Chapter is one of those who has finally received his just recognition. We are all proud of you. Congratulations Tom!!!

Don't forget our "SPRING" Convention-----

PERRY OCEANEDGE DAYTONA, FLORIDA
APRIL 16 - 17, 1994

Inside of Florida call [REDACTED]. Outside of Florida call call [REDACTED].

"INVITE A VET" and join us.

Yours in comradeship,
Elmer E. Matola
Commander

57 ENGINEERS COMPANY A

In April of 1945 I was with Company A, 57th Engineers on Cebu in the Philippines. We were trying to locate the 13,000 Japanese troops that were supposed to be on the island. They had been entrenched on Babag Ridge in tunnels they had dug and made into fortifications. On April 18, units from the 132 and 164 Infantry completely over ran the Ridge and they found that the Japs had abandoned Hill 5 and headed north--and they were well armed.

After chasing them for a while, it was decided to make a landing further north of Cebu City, south of Danao, and try and trap the enemy forces being chased by other elements of the Division. On April 20, at 0700 hours a Company of the 132 Infantry, part of the 245 Field Artillery, and the second platoon of Company A, 57th Engineer Bn made the landing and dug in on the beach for the night. The 132 unit was on the right and the 245 detail was on the left flank. We dug two man foxholes and settled into them for the night.

At around 2:00 A.M. there was a series of explosions over by our trucks and bulldozers. We quickly stood up in the foxholes to see what was going on and there was a flash from another explosion, and we saw this silhouetted Jap running toward our hole and we shot him but his momentum landed him in our hole. Needless to say we scrambled to get him out and he was still there in the morning. It seems that the 245th had decided to move further down the beach for some reason and had left our flank exposed. The Japs had sneaked in and they blew up a truck, a jeep and blew a track off of our bulldozer. We killed four Japs but we had to replace our equipment. From then on we did not bed down at night until we had trip wires connected to coconut shells that we filled with explosives, surrounding our perimeter.

Our roll was to clear the way for the Infantry so we filled holes, removed road blocks, cleared mine fields, replaced bridges, and anything else that needed to be done.

Along the way we passed a church and there was a water faucet outside so we stopped for a drink. A shot rang out and the man beside me fell to the ground--dead. We all hit the ground and the 132 sent men into the church. They killed the Japanese sniper, who was in the church tower.

By now we could see that the Japs were running out of explosives because they were taking the bridges apart and throwing the lumber on the bank--all we had to do was put it back. They also run out of mines and they were putting artillery shells in holes and placing wood on top of them. The Engineers cleared the roads, replaced the bridges and kept the tanks and troops moving.

We soon learned that the Japs would move up the road at night so we dug out hole on both sides of the road and would catch them in a crossfire. By this time the Japanese were in a sad physical condition and many that we captured were covered with sores.

One day the Lieutenant and I went up to look for a bridge that was reported out. When we came to a damaged bridge there were men from the 132 Infantry sitting around. This creek could be forded so we went further up the road looking for the bridge that had been reported out. We drove

north on the road for about five miles. We didn't find another bridge but we did find a giant road block which we looked over and then headed back. About halfway back we encountered a scouting party from the 132 and they wanted to know what we were doing up here as we were in enemy territory. We said sorry and put the jeep into high gear and headed for secure territory.

There were about 9000 Japs and 2000 Americans killed in the 97 days of the Cebu Campaign. In the end about 5000 Japanese soldiers surrendered.

The 57th Engineer Bn. played an important role in winning the campaign by clearing roads and mine fields and building bridges so the tanks and troops could find and destroy the enemy. Everyone was most happy when the Engineers restarted the Coca Cola plant in Cebu City.

Like everyone else the Engineers were there when they were needed. We all worked together very well and we got the job done.

There are lots of tales to be told. Some humorous and some best left untold. Hope you enjoyed this one.

Darrell Wardien



Scabbard and Blade

The National Society

Stillwater, OK--The National Society of Scabbard and Blade wants to hear from alumni of the organization.

The military honor society was founded in 1904 and boasts over 140,000 living alumni. The primary purpose of the Society has been to raise the standard of military education in American colleges and universities and to encourage and foster the essential qualities of good and efficient officers, among other things.

To receive information about the Society write to:
Col. Douglas Dellar

Stillwater, OK 74075

182 INFANTRY COMPANY G

Just received my first copy of the Americal Newsletter and I'm very impressed. I have just recently joined the A.D.V.A. and it makes me proud to again be part of the Americal.

I served in G Company, 182 Infantry from March of 1945 until October of 1945. I was wounded on Hill 21, Cebu, on April 15, 1945. A long time ago but it seems like yesterday. I would like to hear from Sgt. Kelly--this is not his real name--he had a Polish name and was called Kelly. I would also like to contact Sgt. Freney.

Sgt. 'Kelly' was also wounded on Hill 21 on April 15, 1945.

Please write to:
Gordon Vander Molen

Eastpointe, MI 48021-1232

247 FIELD ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

I joined the Americal Division as a replacement on Fiji Island and I was assigned to Headquarters Battery 247th Field Artillery as a member of the wire section.

I did not know about the Americal Division Association until about a year and a half ago. I was talking to my insurance agent and he told me that one of his partners was with the 132 Infantry. His name is Edward Ozzie. He sent me an application and I joined right away. My only regret is that I did not know about the organization years ago. I look forward to getting the Americal Newsletter and read it from front to back.

I also got the book "Under the Southern Cross" and I am enjoying reading it. I think it is well written.

I am enclosing two photos and negatives that I had my son make from photos that were taken on Bougainville. On the back of the photo of the wire section are the names of the men that I served with. Some of the names appeared in the letter that Bill Mahoney in the Jan-Feb issue of the Newsletter.

Keep up the good work,
Dot and John R. Geib



FRONT ROW: Merrit, Powell, Witkopp, Blaney, Cox, Pollak. MIDDLE ROW: Snyder, England, Hotie, Lt. Payne, Townsend (Deceased), Harrison, Johnson, Geib. BACK ROW: Cavitt, Whitry, Truffa, Carpenter, Formby, Dundas. (If anyone would like a copy of this picture it can be supplied at cost.)

C BATTERY 247 FIELD ARTILLERY BN.

If any of our members know the whereabouts of LUTHER MUNS, who served with Battery C, 247 F.A. Bn. please contact:

Elbert R. Horton

Timberlake, NC 27583-9574

If you know of a member that is sick or ill or has passed away, please notify Bernie Chase - IMMEDIATELY!

I COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

I served in I Company of the 182 Infantry Regiment as a private and earned the rank of Sergeant before returning home in 1945, with the Division.

I believe that I can say that I took out the last patrol, that was directed to go out, in August of 1945 just after the first bomb was dropped. I remember the warning that I received from the Executive Officer of I Company. "The war is about over--now Poynter don't take any chances".

The Japs were harassing the Engineers who were building a road north of our area. They requested help because they were receiving sniper fire on their road building unit and I Company was detailed to take a patrol out and stop the harassing fire.

Shortly after leaving our area, we (my squad) encountered a small patrol of Japs. When we opened fire on them they opted to run instead of fighting. We gave up the pursuit and returned to our base.

Upon our return we were alerted to prepare for the invasion of the Japanese mainland. Before our unit left Cebu the entire Japanese Army on Cebu had surrendered to the American forces near Sacsac.

After receiving order on how to land in Japan and how to attack if necessary, we arrived off-shore. Fortunately, upon our arrival there we tied up to the docks and walked ashore without incident.

I remember the feeling of seeing a Japanese guide come aboard and stand on the deck guiding us through the mine fields in Yokohama Harbor. It was strange to see a Jap that we were not allowed to shoot at.

Ray E. Poynter (1/Sgt Ret)

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

By now you should have received your brochure from the PINES RESORT HOTEL. This is the site of the 1994 NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The National Convention will be held on June 9-12, 1994. If you have not received your brochure contact Steve Dennison at [redacted].

If you have received your brochure send your Registration Fee to Steve Dennison NOW. This fee is \$10.00 PER PERSON.

Send your Reservation deposit of \$25.00 per room to the Pine Resort Hotel NOW!

If you plan on flying contact Kent travel at their Toll-Free number [redacted]. If you book through them they provide FREE transportation to and the airport.

You can make your Hotel reservations by telephone and credit card. The toll-free number of rht Pines Hotel is [redacted].

DO IT NOW!

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
DO IT NOW!

39 AMERICAL MILITARY POLICE

I am enclosing a newspaper article that may be of some interest. It is typical of many Veterans from World War II to the present time.

To the Editor: St. Petersburg Times

It is appropriate the newspaper serving St. Petersburg area---the largest veteran population in the country---would take the nation's lead in exposing the inexcusable and often illegal policy of the Veterans Administration in its processing of Veterans' disability claims.

At issue is the cavalier manner in which disability claims are disallowed for lack of military medical records lost in the National Records Center (NRC) fire in 1973. Most veterans have developed other evidence sufficient to hold sway in any impartial court in the land. Few veterans indeed would raise a voice if they lost their discharge papers or otherwise were at fault in this debacle. Members of the armed forces were forbidden -- under penalty of fine or imprisonment -- to much as open the seal of a medical jacket, thus there existed for them no opportunity to avert or mitigate the ultimate consequences of the fire.

THE NRC fire, which years ago raged out of control through the records of millions of Army and Air force veterans, was not the usual "act of God" fire but rather, it was, in every sense of the word, a clear case of gross negligence on the part of every individual working there. Culpability begins with the lowest grade file clerk through the top management at the center and rest at the highest level of the Defense Department, the VA and the GSA. It is totally incomprehensible that records of such national importance would be stored in a facility having no sprinkler system, smoke alarms, fire walls or doors.

For years rumors have persisted that the fire was the work of an arsonist; some rumors suggest the fire was started by a disgruntled file clerk. Evidence proving arson will probably never be found, but there can be no doubt the staggering and sheer negligence of those in positions of highest authority cause more damage than could have an entire battalion of arsonists.

The fire and the resulting damage appear to be one of our nation's best kept secrets. One first learns of the fire upon filing a claim, and usually one learns the extent of the damage months later when the claim is denied. The fire lasted three days but the damage to the lives of affected veterans will last well into the next century unless prompt action is taken to remove the unnecessary burden placed on the backs of our country's veterans.

Their anger and their demand for an open congressional investigation of the Veterans Administration's practices are more than justified and should not go unheard.

C. Don Starnes

The V.A. in Florida makes a "Big Deal" of treating Veterans, especially those from "Out of State". You must have at least 50% disability or a documented statement of a wound, disease, etc. incurred in the Service. You can see from the article on the "V.A. Fire", where most of those documents disappeared, including mine. God help the disabled Veteran who has no-one to look after him if he is suddenly taken ill, living alone or

destitute. There have been some horrendous stories on such Veterans. One in particular was taken to Bay Pines V.A. Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL, semi-conscious, given a quick examination and a handful of aspirin, then turned out. The next day he was found dead of a treatable ailment. This is only one of the many cases that crop up.

On the other hand there are forces "a foot" that are trying to oust Veterans to make room for non-veterans, to relieve socialized medicine, welfare and illegal immigrants.

When Carter was President, he ordered a section of the Bay Pine V.A. Hospital vacated so the beds could accommodate the Cubans ousted by Castro from jails, insane institutions, -- many with AIDS etc.

As the man said when the boys came home "Nothing is too good for the Veteran". So, they gave him nothing.

As the years dwindle down to a precious few, the ranks are getting thinner, as noted by the rapid growth in the National Cemeteries. At least the G.I. can have a private piece of Real Estate.

Sincerely,
Arthur Guarente

182 INFANTRY COMPANY G

Just received my first copy of the Americal Newsletter and I'm very impressed. I have just recently joined the A.D.V.A. and it makes me proud to again be part of the Americal.

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Please write to:
Gordon Vander Molen

Eastpointe, MI 48021-1232

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

COMPANY F 164 INFANTRY

Company F 164 Infantry World II - Korea

July 16 -17, 1994
Carrington, North Dakota

WRITE FOR INFORMATION TO:

John M. Paulson

Carrington, ND

Telephone [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU PAID YOR CHAPTER DUES? Your Chapter depends on annual dues. This is their major source of income and is needed to pay operating expenses.

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

Over the past several months I have received letters seeking information concerning the specifications of the colors of the Division and formations within the Division. I think that it would be timely to present the "rules" governing colors and flags in the United States Army.

The original colors of the Americal Division were: three (3) feet on the hoist and five (5) feet on the fly; the base color was white; centered on the color was the shield (shoulder patch of the Division being sixteen (16) inches high and twelve (12) inches wide; the word "AMERICAL", in sans-serif letters typeface, in blue (as with the Division shoulder patch), arched over the shield and "DIVISION" under the shield in a reverse arch, color blue, typeface the same. The borders being gold fringe on all but the hoist.

The above colors remained the same until the first weeks in Vietnam.

The current Division colors are: three (3) feet on the hoist and four (4) feet on the fly; the colors are divided in half horizontally with the upper half of Red and the lower half of Blue; the Division shoulder patch is displayed in the center of the colors and is 15 inches high by 12 inches wide. There are no letters or numbers on the Divisional colors. Gold fringe as with the original colors.

"Battle Streamers" can only be used with the Divisional colors in custody of the U.S. Army.

The colors of the Brigade prior World War II were not specifically defined. Now, the Brigade colors follow much the same rules as those for Divisions EXCEPT the colors are divided vertically with color nearest the hoist being Red and the color Blue is used on the fly. The symbol in the middle of the flag is the patch of the Brigade being a maximum of fifteen (15) inches high with the width being determined by the design of the patch. Again, no writing and no numbers.

The current design of Company and Battalion Guidons is: twenty (20) inches on the hoist and 27 3/4 on the fly; the depth of the swallow tail is ten (10) inches. The color is the branch of service. The symbol of the branch of service is either one of the two colors of the branch or white.

W. Mark Durley Jr.
Americal Historian

AMERICAL DIVISION PANAMA CANAL ZONE

A note in the Jan-Feb issue of the Americal Newsletter stated that there had been no articles submitted by Americal members that has served in the Division, when it was activated during the Korean War and was based in the Canal Zone.

During 1955 and 1956 I served in the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) Headquarters and Headquarters Company 7440 A.U. at Fort Amador, Canal Zone. I might mention that we were constantly being rotated between the 23 Infantry Division and the United States Army Caribbean (USARCARIB). Nothing changed, same job, same people, same post, only we changed shoulder patches from one unit to the other. There were many Army installations in the Canal Zone at that time and if I recall correctly the 23 Infantry Division (Americal) was located at Fort Amador and Fort Kobbe and perhaps other forts

in the zone.

One of the most unusual and interesting things I can recall was that our Company Commander and our Executive Officer had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Commander was Major Ernest Childers (CMH World War II) and the Executive Officer was 1st Lt. Stanley Adams (CMH Korea).

The Canal Zone was the place to be in those days. I had many "old soldiers", I was 20 years old at the time, tell me how lucky I was to be there. Many of them had spent years trying to get duty in Panama.

I continue to keep in touch with two of the very good friends I made during that period in my life and with visit with each other and reminisce about our days in the Canal Zone. One reason I feel that you do not hear much about this period is that the vast majority of people serving at that time just wanted to get out as soon as possible and once out never thought about the Army again.

While I did not make a career out of the Army it always held a special place in my heart and I am privileged to have the opportunity to serve.

My younger son, after college, went into the Army and continues to serve in the Reserves after his time on active duty. He is 'Airborne' and likes to kid his Dad about being a "straight leg soldier".

I enjoy the Americal Newsletters very much and hopefully this will be of some interest to your readers.

Sincerely,
C. Frank James Jr.

Ed Note: Thank you for writing. This helps to fill insome of the blank spots in our history.

A COMPANY 164 INFANTRY

Al Morrone sent in the picture below that was taken on Leyte, Philippine Islands. The soldier standing in the rear (center) is Walter Koch, formerly of Warren, Ohio. The other two men he does not remember. If you know these men, or their present address would you kindly contact:

Albert Morrone
[REDACTED]
New Haven, CT 06513



REUNIONS REUNIONS

182 INFANTRY H COMPANY

Company H, 182 Infantry is planning a sit-down family style dinner on SATURDAY MAY 28, 1994 at the Silver Fox Restaurant, Everett, MA at 4:00 P.M.

Please contact:

John Groppi Fred Zaino
Dorchester, MA 02125 Everett, MA 02149
\$20.00 PER PERSON RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Wives and friends invited

26 SIGNAL COMPANY

JUNE 6, 1994

John Carver Inn
Plymouth, MA 02360

We plan to meet informally that after noon and perhaps have a planned dinner that evening. There are a few rooms available for \$70.00 per night. The Inn is conveniently located within walking distance of interesting and historic places.

We need to know how many to expect to make preliminary plans. If you plan to attend and need a room contact Doug Leamon as soon as possible!

If you plan to be present on Monday afternoon, June 6, 1994 but do not need rooms please contact Earl Cook or Doug Leamon not later than May 10, 1994. Families ar welcome, of course!

CONTACT

Earl P. Cook Douglas Leamon
Atlanta, GA 30309-2627 Plymouth, MA 02360-1750

43 WINGED VICTORY DIVISION

September 9, 10, 11, 1994
Lewiston, ME

CONTACT:

Howard F. Brown
East Greenwich, RI 02818

COMPANY F 182 INFANTRY

Sunday Afternoon May 22, 1994
Cottage Crest Restaurant
Waltham, MA

CALL

Bill Vinci
Joe Papa
Jack McIsaac
Paul Miele

ADD THESE NAMES TO THE LIST

In the last issue of the Newsletter I mentioned several men that have kept their old 'outfits' or units together. The hazard that is always present when one begins naming names is that surer than heck you will forget someone---and that I did. I should also have mentioned Paul Santogeanis who helps keep the old 101 and 125 QM together. I also neglected to mention a former Editor of the Americal Newsletter, Bill McLaughlin. He now writes the "Cannoneer's Posts". This publication keeps all the former artillerymen posted.

I am sure there are other that I have not heard about and would appreciate help from readers in keeping em up to date.

Jim

F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

First of all, many thanks for all the time and effort you are putting in as Editor-in-Chief of our Americal Newsletter. We who are far away from the Boston area sure appreciate the news of the old gang and what's going on.

I swear that the Cape is going to sink with all the ex-G.I.'s retiring down there - guess I've got you all beat though - I was raised on the Cape, in Chatham. I graduated from school there in 1936. My grandmother and grandfather are buried in Orleans and I still have a cousin in Brewster and one in E. Falmouth. I left the Cape and moved to Waltham and joined F Company, 182 Infantry in 1940. Then the boat ride---you know the rest.

I've been here in Kentucky since 1956, great city. We golf the year round except the snow we had two weeks ago, 16" and 25 below zero, screwed it up. But I did play Sunday when the temperature got up to 51 %. Have not yet been able to attend an Americal reunion. Hopefully one of these years -- Hell, I'm only 78!

Have a great 1994,
Al Hartwell

P.S. Always trying to find someone from the Americal but they are few and far between here in Kentucky.

Ed Note: When we were at Camp Edwards in 1941, all us young guys, we brought the age level down on the Cape. Well, you would find it difficult to believe the building that has been going on and this has brought about the "graying" of the Cape. One recent survey states that 70% of the people on the lower Cape are over sixty five (65). Thanks for writing. Try to make this Reunion in June. It will be a GREAT one.

121 MEDICAL BN. COMPANY A

Charles H. Willard, who served in Company A, 121 Medical Battalion would like to hear from some of his old friends.

Charles H. Willard
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET!

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE 1994 - 1995
For your information

OFFICE	SERVICE UNIT	OFFICES HELD
Commander: William K. Maddox	182 Infantry	Sr. & Jr. Vice Com Chapter Commander
Sr. Vice Commander: Srephen N. Dennison	196 LIB	Jr. Vice Com-Chap Com
Jr. Vice Commander: David L. Recob	39 M.P.	Exec. Counc-Chap Com Vietnam News Editor
Finance Officer: Joseph Chin	182 Infantry	Nat. Finance Officer
Executive Council:		
Garry L. Noller	196 LIB	Executive Council
Edward J. den Braven	196 LIB	Executive Council
Edward W. Marsh	11 LIB	
Ronald R. Ellis	198 LIB	Executive Council
Verner N. Pike	23 M.P	
Roland T. Castronova	11 LIB	PNC-Exec Council
James C. Buckle	182 Infantry	PNC-Exec-Coun-Editor
Alfred R. Doig	247 F.A.	PNC-Exec Coun
Joseph W. Anderson	125 Q.M	Executive Council
James J. Flynn	125 Q.M.	Exec Coun-Jr. Vice Com
Peter J. Messina	221 F.A.	PNC-Chap Comm
John DeGroot	39 M.P.	Past Nat. Commander
Robert N. Thornton	221 F.A.	PNC-Exc Coun-Fin Off
Leo Ciccola	182 Infantry	Exec. Council
Daniel P. Ramsey Jr.	182 Infantry	Exec. Council
Joe D. Feeler	164 Infantry	Chap. Commander

BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 14, 1994

NATIONAL CONVENTION

JUNE 9 - 12, 1994

PINES RESORT HOTEL

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NEW YORK 12779

MAIL YOUR \$25.00 FOR YOUR RESERVATION TO THE HOTEL

NOW!!!

(Reservation blank in brochure mailed under separate cover)

HOTEL QUESTIONS CALL [REDACTED] TOLL FREE

You may make your reservations by calling this number and paying by credit card

MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FEE TO STEVE DENNISON

NOW!!!

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$10.00 PER PERSON - MAIL BY MAY 1, 1994

TO

STEVE DENNISON

[REDACTED]
PITTSBURG, PA 15227

ANY QUESTIONS -- CALL STEVE [REDACTED]

REMEMBER! THE PRICE ON THIS PACKAGE DEAL IS ALL INCLUSIVE
 Gratuities and taxes included
 Boat ride and tours included
 Entertainment and dancing included
 No extras except the golf tournament

COVER STORY

The picture on the cover of this issue was taken during the final stage of the battle for Hill 260 on the island of Bougainville. This issue is dedicated to the memory of those gallant men that perished during the early days of March 1942. Not only on Hill 260 but in the ranks of the 132 Infantry and the 164 Infantry as they battled to hold the line against the final and last assault on the Americal lines by an organized and determined Japanese force. For the Japanese it was -- do or die!

It hardly seems possible that it was fifty years ago that all this happened. The Japanese had struck the outpost on Hill 260 during the night of March 9th and had taken charge of the south knoll. My Company was ordered to attack and relieve the outpost. One platoon started around the Hill on the right but ran into intense fire--the first scout was killed, the second scout was wounded as was the Lieutenant in charge of the platoon. The attack was then directed up the south slope--immediately we began taking casualties--the Company Commander being among the first. Slowly progress was made toward THAT TREE but casualties mounted. A perimeter had been established as night fell--firing continued. As dawn approached the Japanese now attacked a weakened Company and slowly pushed this Company off of the south slope. My company had lost one officer killed and three wounded. Three of the four platoon sergeants had been wounded along with most of the squad sergeants. The leadership and the Company was gone.

The Battalion Commander had taken over when the Company Commander had been wounded. He pleaded on the telephone for Headquarters to release the reserve Company. He knew my Company had gained ground but he also knew they had suffered devastating casualties and did not have the manpower to withstand an attack and attack the Japanese did. Because of the weakened condition the Company slowly withdrew. The reserves were finally released but it was too late. My Company had had ten men killed and over one hundred wounded.

The battle went on for more than a week. Troops from the first Battalion were brought in as were troops from the 132 Infantry.

On about 21 March a composite Company from the 2nd Battalion, 182 INFANTRY was due to attack up the north slope toward THE TREE. At dawn the Artillery O.P. reported seeing several Japs walk off of the Hill. The attack began and we walked across the Hill facing no opposition---THE BATTLE WAS OVER!

(I did not intend to slight any other unit that was involved in this action. There were others. the 246th Artillery lost several men when the O.P. on top of THAT TREE was knocked out. The 57th Engineers lost men as I am sure other supporting units did. But that is another story.)

WE WANT YOUR STORIES! AND PICTURES!

Many times we hear that there too many stories about this or that unit and none about some other units. we do NOT maske up these stories -- we depend on YOU to send them in. Please mark any material you wished returned and PLEASE put your name an all pictures. Also--include your telephone number

M COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

I would like to contact any former members of M Company, 182 Infantry, (ex-ATF 6814 "A" from Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides) under Captain Robert Williams who occupied, Vanikoro, Santa Cruz Islands in June and July 1942. One of the four enlisted men was Samuel Jones and this information is needed for a book I am writing called, "Hell's Islands, Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanambago, Malaita and Florida", and covers uncommon operations like this jaunt to Vanikoro. Any one having information pertaining to this operation please contact:

Stanley C. Jersey

[REDACTED]
Carlsbad, CA 92018-0713

Telephone [REDACTED] - Fax [REDACTED]

NOW HEAR THIS

I caught the story on T.V. about a week or ten days ago. As I am a bit of a movie nut, I was watching this movie on TNT and on the breaks they were reading stories (war stories) and giving names of the soldier that the incident happened to. The story follows:

A Medic tending the wounded on Cebu was being followed by a native saying, "you come, you help". The Medic ignored him until he had finished tending the wounded, then asked what he wanted. The native made it understood that his wife was having a baby. The Medic told his superior that he did not how to deliver a baby but he was told to go and help if he could. He went and helped deliver the baby. the man and his wife were so thankful that they named the baby Merry Cal for the Division. I thought if you put this note in the Newsletter maybe the former Medic, or some other former Americal soldier, might see it and know more about it.

James C. Davis
 A/46 Infantry
 Edwards, MS

Ed Note: Thanks for writing. Our Adjutant, Bernie Chase, caught that movie also. We put our heads together and figured out that the Medic was Bill McCormack from Virginia. Hew was a Medic in the 1st Bn. 182 Infantry. I will contact him and get the full story for a later Newsletter. Thanks for writing.

THE AMERICAN FOREIGN CONFLICT ELECTRONIC LIBRARY & VETERANS / ACTIVE DUTY-LOCATOR

The American War library is on line 24 hours a day and provides free access to veterans. Our mission is two-fold: One, we collect every scrap of information available about America's military involvements and place the names of every American who has served his country on line for veterans tp access and restor old friendships.

CONTACT

American Foreign Conflicts Electronic Library

[REDACTED]
Lomita, CA 90717-2513

Tel [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK

PRESIDENT CLINTON RESCINDS TRADE BAN
ON VIETNAM

On February 3, 1994, President Clinton lifted the trade embargo ban on Vietnam and is allowing free enterprises to take up residence in and do business with our former enemy, who still has not fully accounted for the missing POW/MIA's of the Vietnam war.

According to the media and members of congress, some of whom are highly decorated Vietnam veterans and former POW's, it is to the best interests of the United States to lift this trade embargo and pursue more friendly relations in order to achieve a more satisfying answer to the fates of our POW/MIA's.

According to congressional members of the POW/MIA committee, "America is fresh out of ideas to stimulate Vietnam" to release accurate information and work harder to identify our missing prisoners who are considered by congress, "no longer alive" after all these years!

As a Vietnam veteran, and just one person with one opinion, speaking for no one but myself, I personally think it is "wrong" to lift this ban, and undertake trade relations with Vietnam. I know that it is difficult to put Vietnam behind us, and to move ahead after all these years.

We allowed ourselves to make peace with Germany, and with Japan after World War II and we did it much faster than we have with the Vietnamese. There are still thousands of missing POW/MIA's from World War II and from Korea who have been allowed to be "forgotten" as we heal old wounds, and resume relations with former enemies to stimulate trade and economy.

If this action by President Clinton angers you as veterans, then it is up to every one of us, veterans, wives and widows of veterans, sons and daughters of veterans, to write to President Clinton and tell him your feelings on the matter and ask that he immediately rescind this order and make settlement of POW/MIA's a "precondition" to the resumption of normal trade relations.

Further, veterans and their families, if they feel it important enough, should write their individual congressman and state senators in Washington and register their complaint in no uncertain fashion.

To those of us who bore the blunt of the battle, and to those of our brothers and sisters remained as prisoners of war or missing in action after we left the battles, our government owes it to us to never give up on the matter and to keep pushing President Clinton and congress to resolve the matter before "doing business as usual" with Vietnam.

As citizens, we have very little left to say, and what we do say must be measured with the strongest manner possible to our government to make them understand that our POW/MIA's is important to us to know "what happened to them, when, why, and how!"

There is another side of America that is tired of hearing about missing POW/MIA's and are glad that President Clinton has taken the step he has taken. Our former Commander of all US forces in Vietnam, General William C. Westmoreland is for the lifting of the trade ban and for resumption of normal relations with this former enemy. I find it very difficult to understand how this military leader who lead all US troops in Vietnam in that war, come to the conclusion he did. Senator John Kearney of Nebraska, a Medal of Honor winner, who lost a leg, also feels its right to resume relations. Senator John McCain adds his belief the time has come to put Vietnam behind us. He was a POW for many years and suffered untold inhumanities from the Vietnamese. Bill Clinton and his henchmen and administrative munchkins are going to do everything in their power to change the pace and image of this country, and will surrender value after value to have their way, to be able to say: "See -we changed it for you!"

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
DO IT NOW!

LOOK AT THE GROWTH
IN NEW MEMBERS!

Congratulations is in order to our Commander and the Membership Committee that has been hard at work, scratching out name after name of former Americal vets to sign up and become members of this great Americal Division Veterans Association.

Our National Adjutant Bernie Chase informed me that 1993 was the biggest year in membership growth in several years as we passed the 300 new member mark before the end of the year.

Thanks to the dream and hard work of Past National Commander Rollie Castronova who came up with this idea of a blitzkrieg membership drive, the association is growing at the rate of about one new member a day!

It proves what our Commander Dutch DeGroot likes to say: "Teamwork pays!"...

The "team effort" this year has not been on membership alone, but has been extended into everything that this association does and is doing for the information and enjoyment of the membership. By drawing all of our resources together and redistributing the effort equally among the officers and staff, we can't help but succeed in our drive to raise our numbers and effectively compete with other veterans organizations.

We have people selected to do specific things. Some follow the POW/MIA issue, while others write articles on veterans activities across the states, while yet others work on membership, getting suspended members to reactivate themselves, and encourage anyone to "think up" new ways to stimulate growth and expansion. The jobs are endless, and our cadre of national officers are always on the lookout for some exceptional guy or gal who will take on an issue and work it for all it is worth.

One of the biggest jobs this outfit has to contend with is to get the "word" out to the troops as efficiently and as inexpensively as possible! We want everyone to know what is going on within the association at anytime and run the ship as an "open book" for all to participate in.

What helps the Newsletter staff is those members who take the time to write articles on incidents they were involved in during the Vietnam war that have an impact on our readers. We want each veteran to feel he can "share" with another, those things that were important to him or her during their involvement with the unit during World War II, the Korean crisis, and Vietnam. Its all part of the "team work" effort Commander DeGroot is talking about.

Editor-In-Chief and Past National Commander Jim Buckle has reported that to the best of his knowledge there has never been any articles submitted by Americal veterans who secured the Panama Canal during the Korean war. It would be great if some of our members, using the "team work" method could find and locate such personnel and then get them to join the association and send in stories on their activities during their tour of duty in Panama. It would reunite us with our past, and give us a foundation to continue our growth pattern by filling our ranks with eligible veterans entitled to membership in our association.

Recently, several members have sent us copies of orders from their days in Vietnam, and the names on those orders are being checked out, so we can invite those veterans to become active members. Please - guys, dig deeper and deeper into those old duffle-bags, personal 201 files, and what have you and send us the copies or photo-copies of the orders and rosters you have in your possession, so we can "check 'em out" and "get 'em signed up!"

In closing, and on behalf of the association, this Newsletter would like to officially compliment our Commander Dutch DeGroot for "putting us to work, and giving us proper instructions!". We extend this compliment further to Past National Commander Rollie Castronova, and those who unnamed, continue to contribute to our growth.

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK

HISTORICAL FACTS
THE AMERICAL DIVISION IN VIETNAM

PART II - CONTINUED FROM NOV-DEC ISSUE

the source reference material is the book "Under The Southern Cross", the Americal Division, issued by MGen. A.E. Milloy, Division Commander and the Public Information Office at Chu Lai in 1970. Part III yet to be issued will conclude the series.

1969

Operation Russell Beach was initiated on January 31, 1969, on the Batangan Peninsula, eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. The operation was a massive pacification effort designed to move all civilians from the peninsula and isolate VC units and members of the VC infrastructure. Members of the 4th Bn, 3rd Inf [Old Guard] of the 11th LIB and 5th Bn, 46th Inf, 198th LIB designated Task Force Cooksey [named after the Assistant Division Commander, BGen. Howard W. Cooksey] set up a cordon which isolated the peninsula from the mainland. The combat phase of Russell Beach officially ended February 9 accounting for more than 210 VC killed, 15.5 tons of salt, 2 tons of corn, 13 tons of rice, 59 individual weapons and six crew served weapons.

Twenty-three sampans were destroyed as they tried to evade through Navy Swift Boats off the Batangan Peninsula. By late Feb the pacification end of Russell Beach showed nearly 12,000 civilians had been moved to the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center [CHIC] near Quang Ngai City.

A lull in fighting was observed during the Vietnamese Lunar New Year [Tet] but heavy contact broke out in February when the VC/NVA elements launched a series of well coordinated mortar and rocket attacks on all US fire support bases and installations throughout the Americal Division. In March, a series of operations started, with each brigade area given a separate name for its operational zone.

On March 18 Operation Frederick Hill was initiated in the northern sector of the division by the 1st squadron, 1st Cavalry, and 196th LIB with the 5th ARVN Regiment. In the center of the division, Operation Geneva Park was embarked upon by the "Brave and the Bold" of the 198th LIB and the 6th ARVN Regiment. Rounding out action in the southern regions of the Americal was Operation Iron Mountain started by the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th LIB and the 4th ARVN Regiment.

In the month of May, BGen. Edwin L. Powell, became Assistant Division Commander; a 1st/6th Inf visit to Ky Sanh village marked the units 10,000th MEDCAP; and machinegunner SP4 Stanley Goff, received the Distinguished Service Cross after single-handedly routing 100 heavily-armed NVA regulars in a trench line.

In the middle of May in the triple canopy jungles west of Tam Ky, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, under the operational control of the Americal Division, joined the 196th Brigade to alleviate Communist pressures in the area.

The operation, named Lamar Plain, started on May 15 as the 1st Bn, 46th Inf, was placed under the operational control of the 101st Airborne Division. By the second week in June, the operation had accounted for more than 130 enemy dead and Landing Zone Professional west of Tam Ky was released from enemy pressures. Three months later, by September 1969, the Communists backed off from the area, and Operation Lamar Plain was concluded.

On June 1, 1969, MGen. Lloyd B. Ramsey, former Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Logistical Command, assumed command of the Americal Division, replacing MGen. Charles M. Gettys.

Communist sappers continued to harass Americal firebases during June, and infantrymen repelled a heavy attack on Landing Zone East, 11 miles west of Tam Ky in early June, killing 55 NVA and 7 VC.

During 4 days of fierce fighting throughout the division starting June 8, Americal forces killed 249 NVA and 87 VC while capturing 89 assorted enemy weapons.

By the second week in June, U.S. forces had accounted for more than 130 NVA and 40 VC killed in the Lamar Plain area alone.

On July 21st, the Americal Division concluded Operation Russell Beach on the Batangan Peninsula, 20 miles south of Chu Lai. The massive pacification effort was concluded with the resettlement of more than 12,000 refugees on the Peninsula after it had been cleared of enemy bunkers and sanctuaries. But the overall pacification effort in the area continued as an intensive drive to upgrade small hamlets and villages north of Quang Ngai City.

With the summer months came intensified "Vietnamization" of the war effort and proliferation of joint Americal and South Vietnamese Army operations. US-ARVN tactical operations were increased and the three regiments of the 2nd ARVN Division worked as direct counterparts with the Americal Divisions three brigades.

As the pacification effort increased in the 11th and 198th Brigade areas, intensive Communist pressures were beginning to be felt in the Que Son and Hiep Duc valleys 30 miles south of Da Nang.

EXTRACTED FROM THE STARS & STRIPES NEWSPAPER
'GT'S BATTLING FOR HILL 102'

"[CHU LAI]-The Hiep Duc Refugee Center and two Americal Firebases Landing Zone Center and Landing Zone West, were believed to be prime targets for the 2nd NVA Division. In early August elements of the 4th Bn, 31st Inf, beat off a ground attack at Landing Zone West killing 59 enemy soldiers.

On August 18th, Infantrymen of the 196th Brigade began a battle which killed more than 312 NVA soldiers in 72 hours of fighting in the blistering heat on the Que Son Valley floor. Three days later 103 more enemy were killed by artillery and air strikes as the battle of Hiep Duc and Que Son Valleys erupted. Their enemy was the well-entrenched 2nd NVA Division.

Despite enemy heavy automatic weapons fire, Americal Division helicopters continued to fly along the valley air-space bringing supplies and reinforcements to the men of the 196th Brigade. On the morning of August 19, a helicopter was shot down over Hill 102 inside the NVA-occupied territory. Aboard were eight men. The push to recover the bodies of the victims of the helicopter tragedy sparked one of the bitterest engagements of the turgid confrontation. For almost a week, the men of the 3rd Bn, 21st Inf strove against unrelenting NVA fire to reach the crash site on Hill 102. "It was out there", remarked PFC Barry Daniels, a rifleman with Company C, 3d/21st. "The NVA were all over the place with weapons and packs. We couldn't move 100 meters without being attacked". On Sunday, August 24, men of Co B, 3rd/21st fought their way back into the tangled crash site. Hill 102 was won." This ended the stars & stripes story line on Hill 102.

Thousands of artillery rounds pounded the NVA bunker complexes during those last days of August 1969. Scores of tactical airstrikes echoed through the Hiep Duc and Que Son Valleys. Countless times, 196th Brigade infantrymen pushed forward against pockets of fierce enemy resistance. The Marine advance from the east placed an increased strain on the NVA forces. Slowly, the enemy began to withdraw to the north toward rugged Nui Chom ridgeline. The American units pursued determinedly. By August 29, the major sources of enemy resistance in the Hiep Duc vicinity had been irreparably crushed.

Hiep Duc had been spared! No casualties or significant damage had been reported from the refugee center. The 196th Infantry Brigade and support units had preserved Hiep Duc and cost the enemy over 1,000 dead.

In September salt became the topic of discussion to the south of Chu Lai as elements of the 198th Brigade's 5th Bn, 46th Inf uncovered more than 282 tons. It was extracted from its communist storehouses and distributed throughout the area by the Government of South Vietnam.

Later that month, BGen. Wallace L. Clement, Assistant Division Commander [maneuver], left the Americal for an assignment with Military Assistance Command Vietnam

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

headquarters. Colonel John W. Donaldson, Division Chief of Staff, became the new Assistant Division Commander, and was promoted to BGen. on October 1.

Rice denial operations achieved tremendous success. On November 19, the 3rd Bn, 21st Inf, captured 20,000 lbs. of rice. Numerous other large caches of enemy salt and rice were found. On November 21, Colonel Joseph C. Clemmons assumed command of the 198th Infantry Brigade. Colonel Thomas H. Tackaberry became the Division Chief of Staff, a position formerly held by Colonel Clemmons.

A new pacification program was initiated. Two battalions, 5th Bn 46th Inf and 1st Bn 52nd Inf of the 198th Brigade were partially committed. In the infantry Company Intensified Pacification Program [ICIPP], platoon and squad size US elements live, work with, and train Vietnamese Regular Forces and Popular Forces in their hamlets. This program is designed to help organize, build, and provide continual security in hamlets and villages against local VC forces, guerrilla units and VC/NVA main forces.

Education plays an important role in the overall pacification effort. New schools were constructed throughout the division area of operation.

A new strain of rice was introduced into southern I Corps.

1970

On Jan 4 Americal troops of Co B, 4th Bn, 3rd Inf fought off an enemy mortar and sapper attack against their night defensive position. The infantrymen withstood the intense mortar barrage and ground attack and killed 29 of the insurgents. A Troop, 1/1 Cavalry combined with the 15th Regular Force Group to defeat an estimated two companies of VC. A Troop working in an area 3 miles west of Tam Ky, killed 43 of the enemy in the engagement.

Contact was maintained through the next day as elements of F Troop, 17th Cavalry and D Co, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf operating northwest of Tam Ky accounted for 39 NVA kills and confiscated a large weapons cache.

A search of the area produced 4 rocket propelled grenades, with launchers, 2 machineguns, one mortar, and 16 AK-47 rifles in addition to the enemy deaths.

Fierce action was reported in the 196th area of operation once again on January 13-14. A task force, consisting of 1/1 Cavalry, 1st Bn, 46th Inf and 2nd Bn, 1st Inf, overran the enemy positions resulting in 40 enemy killed and a large quantity of munitions confiscated.

196th Brigade soldiers found themselves in the thick of it the next day as they recorded a total of 62 NVA soldiers killed in action in the "Pineapple Forest" area near Tam Ky.

The first 3 days of February saw elements of the 1st Bn, 46th Inf, in constant contact with the enemy forces south of Tam Ky. During the action the "Professionals" were credited with more than 40 enemy kills. The remaining days of February produced a steady decrease in enemy activity.

The first two weeks of March saw light to moderate action, with the Americal Cavalrymen playing an important role in several skirmishes with the enemy.

On March 18, MGen. Lloyd Ramsey, commanding general of the Americal Division was hoisted from the thick jungle where he had been stranded overnight following the crash of his command and control helicopter in which two men were killed and six injured.

Army and Air Force rescue units flew to the area and an infantry element of the 1st Bn, 6th Inf was air-lifted to within two miles of the crash site.

Radio contact was lost at 4 a.m. when Major Tommy P. James arrived in the area in a helicopter. Major James, the commander of the 71st Aviation Co., had searched Tuesday until nightfall, "walking" his ship up the side of the mountain where the wreckage was thought to be. He returned Wednesday morning. "We were within 50 to 75 feet of their position before we could see them. The chopper was upside down with the tail boom snapped off" said James. Major James lowered battalion surgeon Captain Luis A. Oliver into the thick jungle. "The brush was so thick" said James, "That I had to talk Oliver over to the crash

site even though he had seen the wreckage from the air and had landed only 20 feet away".

On March 22, suffering a broken right arm, and bruises, MGen. Ramsey, passed command of the Americal Division to MGen. A.E. Milloy, and returned to the United States to become Provost Marshal General of the Military Police Corps.

MGen. Milloy, a distinguished combat veteran of three wars and a master parachutist, assumed command of the Americal Division, after serving as commanding general of the 1st Inf Div, for 7 months in III Corps.

BGen. Roy L. Atteberry became the Assistant Division Commander [Support] on the last day of March.

Incoming small arms fire, rocket propelled grenades, 60 mm mortar fire and satchel charges erupted in the early morning hours of April 1 as an undetermined number of VC were repulsed following a futile attempt to penetrate Landing Zone Bayonet, headquarters of the 198th Infantry Brigade. Artillery, mortar and gunships teamed up to saturate the outer perimeter of Bayonet with deadly fire. In similar action, two platoons of Company B, 5th Bn, 46th Inf fought off a fierce ground attack on Landing Zone Fat City, 5 miles northwest of Chu Lai the same morning.

On April 16, infantrymen of Company C, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf, gunships and ground troops of F Troop, 8th Cavalry, teamed up to bring down 8 VC in an operation 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The "Blue Ghost" infantry platoon was inserted into the area as Company C, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf swept in from the other side. The "Blue Ghost" platoon made instant contact, killing 2 VC with small arms fire.

Ninety NVA/VC were killed Friday, May 1 by the 2nd ARVN Division supported by an aero-scout company of the Americal's 123rd Aviation Bn. After fierce fighting for two days, the ARVN unit reclaimed the resettlement village of Hiep Duc from the NVA, killing 44 of the enemy. According to an ARVN report, approximately 15% of the village had been destroyed by fire and several civilians had been killed by the enemy. At mid-afternoon, the same day, the 1st Company, 1st Bn, 5th ARVN Regiment, waged a fierce battle with an unknown number of NVA. The fight resulted in 18 NVA killed. A search of the area exposed six enemy weapons.

The soaring temperatures of southern I Corps in June did not stop soldiers of the Americal's three Brigades as they accounted for 184 enemy killed. The heaviest action of the month remained in the area 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Federick Hill. Soldiers of the 196th Brigade operating in the area were credited with 60 enemy soldiers killed.

On June 5, Colonel John Insani became the Americal Division Chief of Staff, replacing Colonel Albert G. Hume.

During the latter part of June, a company of 11th Brigade soldiers uncovered one of the largest enemy rice caches ever found in I Corps Tactical Zone. The men of Co C, 1st Bn, 20th Inf, conducted an intensive, nine day search operation that produced 97,000 pounds of enemy rice along the coastline, ten miles north of Duc Pho.

BGen. Theodore Mataxis became the Assistant Division Commander [Maneuver] on June 29, following BGen. Edwin L. Powell. During the month of July units of the Americal Division teamed with units of the 2nd ARVN Division, air assaulted the Kham Duc area near the Laotian border. The joint operation is establishing a fire base and reopening an airstrip at Kham Duc.

"Born in Battle", the Americal continues to battle the enemies of freedom "Under the Southern Cross".

TO BE CONTINUED...

Request for Information: The Vietnam Editor requests help from Americal veterans with documented history facts from July 1970 through casing of colors in Da Nang in 1972 when the division was brought home for deactivation. Credit will be given to source providing the information. Thanks.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WILKES-BARRE, PA 18702-8033

This organization can assist Americal veterans from Vietnam who are seeking buddies they served with while in 'Nam. They have a computer network and can come up with names and addresses as well as units served in. Write them direct to find that missing and long lost buddy. When you find him or them, send their names to our National Commander, "Dutch" DeGroot, our National Adjutant Bernie Chase, or the Editor of the ADVA Newsletter Jim Buckle. They will receive a complimentary copy of the ADVA newsletter and a brochure with a membership application so

they can sign up as members. "Its worth the try!" Write them today. There may be a small fee asked, but it is worth it, if you want a name or names bad enough.

ITEMS FOR SALE

The Veterans PX, [redacted], San Antonio, TX., 78280, operated by Rich "Doc" Mosher a former medic in the Americal's 196th LIB, has some Baseball Hats for Sale. Costs is \$12.50 each plus postage. The Hat is black and has an Americal Patch in the center. Above is the words AMERICAL DIVISION and beneath it the word VETERAN. You can call him at 1-800-428-2231 and ask for "Doc".

VIETNAM VET RETURNS RELIC OF WAR TO RELATIVES

John M. Wills, [redacted], Lake St. Louis, MO 63367, Tel: [redacted], an ADVA and Central Mid-West Chapter Member has made several trips to Vietnam over the years since the war ended. His last trip in December 1993, resulted in the return of a book of poems to the family of a dead VC soldier. Below is an exact translation of the article as appearing in the newspaper Tuoi Tre on 9 Dec '93 in Ho Chi Minh City. No attempt is made to correct grammar of the article:

'A AMERICAN VETERAN HANDED BACK A RELIC OF A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER OF VIETNAM'

"Mr. John Wills, an American tourist called at Tuoi Tre Sang [newspaper] head office a few days after his arrival in the city [Ho Chi Minh City] on 7 Dec 93 in order to deliver to Tuoi Tre copies of poems that belong to the late revolutionary soldier named Tien Van Cang, sacrificed in 1968. Mr. John Wills said he picked up this booklet in 1968 in the Operation area Tien Phuoc, Hiep Duc, Tam Ky, Quang Nam where he served with the 1/52 Bn, 198th Infantry Americal Division. He believed at first it was a trophy, but later his friend read the book and told him that it was a collection of poems from a soldier's sentiments towards his mother. Mr. John was very moved at this, so on his visit to VN he decided to bring the book to Tuoi Tre. May the wish of the defunct come true. [letters and poems to be delivered]. The poems were written on checked paper with rather beautiful handwriting. In addition to the poems [possibly composed by friend Cang] there are one more poem and song aiming at final victory and accomplishment of duties assigned by the party and people. A few of memoir is found on last pages dated 6/2/67 from a friend Ngo Van Bien [Cang comrade] with address: Hamlet 2, Binh Duong, Trang Binh Province of Quang Nam. We would like the relatives of the two friends would be informed for getting back the relic from the kind heart of the American veteran. We also convey sincere thanks to Mr. John Wills for his Nobel act. [Tran Nhat Vy]...."

17 Dec 1993

Dear Dave:

Our membership is growing and I am finding new projects all the time. All in all, it has been a very successful few months for our organization due to no small amount of team work. Here is the address of a very enthused Command Sergeant Major Lawrence Cross, who called me on the telephone and asked for assistance in securing information on the 1st Bn, 14th Field Artillery concerning the units actions while in Vietnam.

CSM Lawrence Cross
HNB, 1st Bn, 14th Field Arty Regt.
2nd Armored Division
Fort Hood, TX 76544
Tel: [redacted] [Bus]

[redacted] [Qtrs]

I am sure that somewhere in our Americal alumni there is information that the good CSM could use. Please send it direct to him. He says anything will be appreciated.

John H. "Dutch" DeGroot
National Commander

TYPHOON 'HESTER' REMEMBERED

In late September 1971, roaring in from the South China Sea, smack dab in the middle of the division moving to Da Nang for "stand down" and return to the United States for deactivation, came typhoon Hester with winds so fierce, and a driving rain and turbulent air twisting every object in its path as it travelled westward across Chu Lai, Headquarters for the Americal Division, 'Hester' did in two hours what the NVA/VC tried to do to the base in the 4 years the division was based at Chu Lai. Huge sucking winds 'popped' roofs from buildings, and tumbled walls like matchsticks, hurling equipment in all directions, and causing untold damage in its path.

The base was torn and ripped so badly that it became useless and unfit for human habitation. The division was in the process of turning the base over to the South Vietnamese Army, in preparation to abandon the base to them.

As the 'eye' of the storm passed over the base, dazed and confused troops emerged from sandbagged bunkers to look at the destruction 'Hester' left in its path. Roads were blocked by broken telephone poles, trees pulled out by their roots, damaged roofs, walls from buildings, equipment and items that had been picked up like toys and flung about as if attacked by the movie creation called "GODZILLA" who came ashore and destroyed Japanese villages and cities in a fenized wrath and path of destruction.

Troops returned to their bunkers as the rest of the storm continued to have its way with buildings, structures, and equipment.

Chu Lai was paralyzed, and if the NVA/VC launched an attack at that time, they could have finished the job started by typhoon 'Hester'. The only trouble to that idea was the NVA/VC were victims as well as the occupants at Chu Lai.

Medical facilities treated the injured as best they could with what supplies were left unscathed by the typhoon.

There was reported only one death caused by flying sheets of tin from roofs that sliced the air like axes.

If anyone has personal reflections to write about what this typhoon did to them or their unit, write it down, and send it to the Vietnam editor. Typhoon 'Hester' sealed the fate of Chu Lai. Nature did what the NVA/VC could never do!

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK

MOVING VIETNAM WALL

Dan Herald, [REDACTED], St. Johns, MI., 48879, Tel: [REDACTED] [AC not given], has reported to Ron Ward that the Vietnam Moving Memorial Wall will visit Stanton, MI., in September 1994. If anyone has some ideas on how the wall can be promoted, Dan would appreciate it very much if they would call him after 6 p.m. Eastern Time, or write him at the above address. Dan is interested in signing up new members at that time and how to encourage attendance of Vietnam veterans to come and participate.

Reported by: Ron Ward, Past National Commander.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

PNC Rollie Castronova has sent some names and city of residence in Kansas of eligible Vietnam vets to be offered the opportunity to join A.D.V.A. Do you know any of these guys?

Rex M. Anderson, Rolla, KS.
Keith W. Buselmeyer, Hudson, KS.
Laurel G. Zimmerman, Alta Vista, KS.
Bradley J. Davis, Salina, KS.

While I try to track them down, if you guys know their street address and perhaps telephone number, please send it to:

Roland Castronova, PNC
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960-1317

ANYONE KNOW THIS VET

Robert L. Horton, 11th Inf Bde, Duc Pho 1968-1969.

He now resides at [REDACTED], Apt-A-11, Topeka, KS., 66614, Tel: [REDACTED].

Bob is in the process of "joining up" and bringing in a few with him.

Recruitment works guys: I spotted him in a gas station wearing a baseball cap with the 11th Bde shoulder patch. He was happy to meet a brother Americalier.

If you know him, drop him a line or call him. He was sure anxious to get involved with Americal vets.

IT REALLY HURTS

On Tuesday, Jan 18 about 6:30 p.m., my telephone rang, and it was a vet from somewhere who said he was seeking the names of two friends who were with him in a battle in Vietnam on his second tour. He asked if we could help him locate the missing friends, although he could not recall their names, he did not reveal the unit involved.

I told him if he could give me their names, and unit, I'd publish his name in the newsletter and try help him find the friends. He said "that's the trouble, I don't know their names!" I said give me your name and I'll print it in the newsletter asking if anyone remembers those who served with you. He got upset. He became abusive and just hung up. His last remarks were: "that's why I sent no money in!".... I never asked him for any money! Its hard to answer a cradled telephone. The newsletter staff wants to help. But we need names and a unit. When calling in, seeking information, please guys, try to understand we

can't pull names out of a hat, or what unit fought what battle or where it was fought.

I'm sorry I could not help this guy, but his anger and his frustration was too much for him or me to handle. It really hurts to see a vet walk around with that kind of hurt in his heart. Some scars really go deep. Whoever you are fella, call back. We want to help!

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hill 411 Association, 3rd Bn, 1st Inf, 11th LIB, Americal Division. July 21-24, 1994. For information contact Mike Dankert, [REDACTED], Lansing, MI 48911-5054.

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, the "Blackhorse Regiment" will host it's ninth reunion, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 6-10, 1994, at the Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel. Contact Dave Tessier, [REDACTED], Colorado Springs, CO., 80917.
Tel: [REDACTED].

Alpha Company, 1st Bn, 46th Inf, 198th/196th LIB, Americal Division. Anyone who has served with or was attached to "ALPHA" Company in Vietnam, our sixth reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn-Beachside, Key West, FL on July 21-23, 1995. We currently have 220 vets [1967-1971] on our roster. For additional information contact: Fred Cowburn, [REDACTED], Camillus, NY. 13031.
Tel: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Swani All-Veterans Festival July 30-31, Monroe, WI. Camping overnight on the fairgrounds \$5.00 fee. For further information contact SWANI Festival, Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 3, Southern WI, [REDACTED] New Glarus, WI 53574-0014. No telephone number provided.

Jan 4, 1993

I am writing a book on Hispanics in the Vietnam War and I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating veterans from Cuban, Puerto Rican and other Latino backgrounds [except Mexican-Americans] who would be interested in having their war experiences presented in my book. The book will be published by the University of Houston in 1996.

The reason I'm not seeking Chicano vets is because the manuscript already contains 12 narratives from Mexican-American vets, including a Medal of Honor recipient and a former POW. I need representatives from the above listed people.

For further information write: Gil Dominguez, [REDACTED], San Antonio, TX 78201. No telephone number provided.

Gil Dominguez
San Antonio, TX

'IN TOUCH'

C/O FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL
2030 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 412
ARLINGTON, VA 22201
TEL: [REDACTED]

The kind people at the above organization and address have updated the previous list of deceased members of the Americal Division in Vietnam. If you have knowledge of any of the below details on deaths of individuals named, and want to contact relatives of those deceased personnel, please contact the above organization who will put you "In Touch" with the family or relative concerned:

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK

NAME/RANK/DATE KIA/UNIT:

ABRAHAM, James Joseph, SP4, 10-12-68, 198th Bde, 1/6 Inf.
ALLEN, Wayne C. SFC, 1-10-70, 71st Avn, 14th Bn, 16 Avn Gp.
BAKER, Edward G, SGT, 8-6-68, 11th Bde, C Co, 1/20 Inf.
BIDDULPH, Thomas A, 1LT, 10-27-68, 198th Bde.
BOISE, Richard H, PFC, 11th Bde, E 1/5th.
BREEN, Gerald J, SP4, 3-5-67, 21st Inf, 196th Bde.
BROWNING, Cleveland, CPL, 5-23-69, 198th Bde.
BURKETT, Curtis, SP4, 2-19-71, Unit unknown.
COX, George J, SSG, 3-14-68, 11th Bde.
CRISTESON, Wayne L, PFC, 8-12-68, 6/45th Inf, Tunnel Rat.
CUPP, Robert W, CPL, 6-6-68, D, 2/1st Inf, 196th Bde.
DALEY, Gerald, PFC, 6-30-69, D, 2/196th Inf.
DAVIS, Frank Jr, SP4, 10-19-69, 198th Bde.
DESORMEAUX, Harry H, SGT, 5-17-68, 11th Bde.
ELLIOTT, Richard, SP5, 4-2-70, Unit unknown.
GLEN, Michael R, SP4, 2-11-70, A Co, 5/46th Inf, 198th Bde.
GURVITZ, Jeffery, 1LT, 2-29-68, B, 2/1st Inf, 196th Bde.
HAILE, Donald J, SSG, 2-9-68, 196th Bde.
HANSON, Johnnie, PFC, 3-19-69, A, 2/1st Inf, 196th Bde.
HARRIS, Edward L, WO, 3-1-69, 14th Avn, 174th AHC.
HAYNES, Robert M. Jr, SP4, 10-5-69, B, 5/46th Inf, 198th.
HEITMANN, Kenneth Harry, SGT, 3-25-70, C, 3/21st 196th Bde.
HICKMAN, Thomas Steven, CPL, 8-26-70, 196th Bde.
HIERIMEIER, Donald A, PFC, 198th Bde.
HOLDEN, David, PFC, 2-28-67, A, 4/31st Inf, 196th Bde.
JARRELL, Sidney Wade, SP4, 5-13-70, Unit unknown.
JOHNSTON, Billy Neal Jr, SSG, 8-16-70, 198th Bde.
KELLEY, Joseph, SSG, 7-1-69, 11th Bde.
LeBLANC, Francis Joseph, SP4, 8-26-68, 11th Bde.
McMAHON, Charles D, SSG, 5-12-70, B, 4/3rd Inf, 11th Bde.
MAISANO, Joseph A, PFC, 9-23-68, D, 1/52 Inf, 198th Bde.
MANGINO, Thomas Angelo, SP4, 4-21-67, D, 4/31st Inf, 196th.
MARTIN, Dennis Phillip, PFC, 7-22-70, 198th Bde.
MURPHY, Larron, CPT, 4-23-70, F Trp, 8th Cav.
MUSCO, Vincent James, SGT, 8-18-69, 11th Bde.
NELSON, Roy L, 1LT, 4-31-71, A, 1/52nd Inf, 198th Bde.
NEWBERRY, Larry G, CPL, 9-30-68, 11th Bde.
OSENBAUGH, James Dale, PFC, 1-4-68, 176th, D Co.
PEDERSEN, Russell A, SGT, 9-11-68, B, 3/1st Inf, 11th Bde.
PRIEST, Donald W, Jr., SP4, 5-14-69, 198th Bde.
RICHARD, Duane, SP5, 2-10-70, 335th Trans Co, 16 Avn Gp.
RICHARD, Norman L, SSG, 8-23-69, A Btry, 2/40 Arty, 198th.
RANKIN, John Robert, SP4, 11-15-69, Unit unk, Quang-Tin.
RAY, John Edward, SFC, 5-13-69, C, 1/4th Inf, 198th Bde.
ROGERS, James S, CPL, 9-15-69, 11th Bde.
ROBERTSON, Marshall E, SFC, 8-26-69, C, 4/31st Inf.
SHAW, John James, PFC, 1-29-67, C, 3/1st Inf, 196th Bde.
SPENCER, Kenneth D, SGT, 5-21-69, 11th Bde.
SPRINKLE, Steven K, SP4, 5-31-69, 11th Bde.
STRICKLAND, Douglas L, SP4, 6-11-69, 82d Arty, 196th Bde.
TALLEY, Floyd G, SP5, 12-8-69, 1/46th Inf, 198th Bde.
TAYLOR, Randy L., SP4, 8-17-67, Hq, 2/1 Inf, 196th Bde.
TURNER, James H, SP4, 10-9-69, 12th Avn, 118th Avn Co.
TWO CROW, Blair, PFC, 12-4-68, 11th Bde.
WATKINS, Harry Lee Jr, SGT, 1-9-68, D, 2/1st Inf 196th Bde.
WIDNER, Danny, SGT, 5-12-68, E, 2/1st Inf, 196th Bde.
WORMDAHL, Richard Gene, SP4, 12-21-66, C, 2/1st Inf, 196th.
Unit designation may be incorrect or incomplete.

FOR EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE BUFFS

Taken from Smithsonian Magazine, Feb '94 Issue

Resting in the great battlefields of France from World War I are 12 million unexploded shells in the 126 roped-off acres of Verdun called: "The Red Line" where no one is allowed to ever enter. It is the resting place of thousands of unburied bodies in the trenches and of ordnance of all kinds laying on the ground, in the ground, or in forgotten bunkers of the French and German armies who participated in that great war.

Since 1946 when the French government's "DeMinage Dept" [De-Miners] was organized, 630 De-Miners have died in the line of duty collecting more than 18 million artillery

shells, 10 million hand grenades, 600,000 aerial bombs, and 600,000 under water mines. The department states it is but the "tip of the ice berg!" Here are some facts E.O.D. veterans may want to ponder:

123 De-Miners in 18 districts are responsible to clear these old battlefields of rusting, rotting ordnance left by troops when the battles were over. In April 1917 the French fired more than 11 million artillery shells against German positions well fortified at Verdun. The Germans on May 27, 1917 retaliated with 700,000 shells that killed thousands of Frenchmen in the French Sixth Army like flood waters hitting picket fences. The area was so infested with dead bodies and live rounds that 123 million acres was closed-off at the end of the battle, and today, 78 years later still awaits cleaning and burial of exposed remains of the dead soldiers of both sides.

More than 900 tons of bombs a year are found, and at least 30 tons are toxic liquid gas/mustard gas type shells.

These facts don't count for the munitions expended, stored, or forgotten during World War II. Normandy beach still has tons of buried bombs, shells, and other explosive ordnance items. In 1991, 36 French farmers died when their machinery hit unexploded shells of some type. Another 51 people were injured walking over buried ordnance beneath the ground surface, working its way to the top of the earth. Ever shifting earth, like pine needles in a persons skin, pushes the buried shell from its hole to the surface of the earth. It takes years to accomplish, but - shells do work their way to the top of the earth.

If one would sit and think of all the great battlefields since the invention of explosive ordnance devices, one would shudder to believe the unaccounted millions of tons of explosive devices buried in Mother earth by soldiers in the heat of battle. All around the world, in the forgotten little or large battlefields is buried death waiting for its victim to accidentally trod over an unexploded device.

In 1991-1992 while France was building its TGV Bullet Railroad connecting Paris-London through the English Channel tunnel, French De-Miners collected 5 tons of

unexploded bombs daily as a normal job. Just think, 5 tons every work day for two years! miraculously no one was injured! But - machinery loss was expensive. Lost was 4 front-end loaders and big earth movers galore. Yet, "they kept on digging!"

If there is a moral to this report, it probably would be: The Soldiers Moved On. The War Moved On. But - The Bombs Stayed!....

Sometimes, we wonder what the guys in the Ordnance Corps do, other than issue ammo to the troops, and live the good life as ground troops see it. The above report ought to make the point for these heroic guys who daily take their own lives in their hands when they start to clear a battle site of unexploded ordnance, or a hasty minefield laid by troops to protect their defensive position as the battles move on.

Sometimes, we forget what we cannot see, or misunderstand what others do. But - without the teamwork involved of the whole division, we could well become the victims of our own unexploded ordnance devices that litter any battlefield. This is why the military hopefully maps an area so infested.

01-29-94

WINTERFEST 1994

Dear Dave:

Here are a couple of photos from the Winterfest held in New Glarus, Wisconsin this past January. The photo with me includes Buckey Badger the Wisconsin State Mascot and is special, as I have my Chicago Bears hat on, something that is close to sacrilegious in these parts. The other fellow with me in the photo is Terry Babler who is a catalyst in these parts for Vietnam vets. He is head of the 1/1st Cav organization and a good A.D.V.A. member. He also helps to set up this Veterans Winterfest each year up here.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dutch DeGroot
National Commander

REMEMBER THIS?

Dear Civilians, Friends, and Parents,

In the very near future the undersigned will once more be in your midst, dehydrated and demoralized, to take his place again as a human being with the well known forms of freedom and justice for all; engage in life, liberty, and somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness. In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into organized society, you might make certain steps to make for allowances for the crude environment which has been his miserable lot for the past twelve months. In other words he might be a little Asiatic from Vietnameseitis and Overseasitis, and should be handled with care. Do not be alarmed if he is infected with all forms of rare tropical diseases. A little time in the "Land of the Big PX" will cure this malady.

Therefore, show no alarm if he insists on carrying a weapon to the dinner table, looks around for his steel pot when offered a chair, or wakes you up in the middle of the night for guard duty. Keep cool when he pours gravy on his dessert at dinner or mixes peaches with his Seagrams VO. Pretend not to notice if he eats with his fingers instead of silverware and prefers C-rations to steak. Take it with a smile when he insists on digging up the garden to fill sandbags for the bunker he is building. Be tolerant when he takes his blanket and sheet off the bed and puts them on the floor to sleep on.

Abstain from saying anything about powdered eggs, dehydrated potatoes, fried rice, fresh milk, or ice cream. Do not be alarmed if he should jump up from the dinner table and rush to the garbage can to wash his dish with a toilet brush. After all, this has been his standard. Also, if it should start raining, pay no attention to him if he pulls off his clothes, grabs a bar of soap and towel and runs outdoors for a shower.

When in his daily conversation he utters such things as: "Xin Loi" and "Choi oi" just be patient, and simply leave quickly and calmly if by some chance he utters "Di di" with an irritated look on his face because it is no less than "Get the hell out of here!" Do not let him shake you if he picks up the phone and yells "Puncher forward, Sir" or says "Roger out" for good-bye or simply shouts "working!"

Never ask why the Jones' son held a higher rank than he did, and by no means mention the word "extend". Pretend not to notice if at a restaurant he calls the waitress "numba one girl!" or uses the floor as an ashtray. He will probably keep listening for "Homeward Bound" to sound off on AFRS. If he does, comfort him, for he is still reminiscing. Be especially watchful when he is in the presence of a woman--especially a beautiful woman.

Above all, keep in mind that beneath that tanned and rugged exterior there is a heart of gold [the only thing of value he has left]. Treat him with kindness, tolerance, and an occasional fifth of good liquor and you will be able to rehabilitate that which was once [and now a hollow shell of] the happy-go-lucky guy you once knew and loved.

Last, but by all means, send no more mail to the APO, fill the ice box with beer, get the civies out of mothballs, fill the car with gas, and get the women and kids off the streets... "Because the KID IS COMING HOME!"

[signed]

Contributed by: Jerry Anderson, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Ed comment: This is the so called government letter that was sent by troops to their relatives when getting ready to DEROS stateside from 'Nam. Many Vietnam veterans have sought a copy of it, for sentimental reasons. So - for all those who wanted a copy, here it is. It is our hope that all can have a big laugh now, more than 20 years later.



DUTCH DeGROOT

TERRY BABLER



THE JOYFUL GROUP IN A WARM GATHERING



RAY MASSIE

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Mr. Frank Patsy

02-08-94

Sterling, VA 20164

Dear Mr. Recob:

I just joined the Americal Division Veterans Association and received my first Newsletter Jan-Feb. As I was in the 11th LIB and 23rd Admin Co in Vietnam, I think I have attended every Veterans Day in Washington, D.C., since 1969.

This past one was special since it was 25 years since I left Vietnam in December 1968. So, I really enjoyed the article by PNC Ron Ward and meeting him and others at the Hospitality Suite.

Since your article mentioned not getting a photograph of the Woman's Memorial. I am sending you one. Perhaps you can print it in the next issue of the Newsletter.

I am most anxious to know more about people who served in the 6th Support Battalion [Admin Co] who were part of the 11th LIB in Hawaii during our boat trip to Vietnam, at Duc Pho, and then when it became part of the 23rd Administrative Company on Christmas eve 1967.

Is there a "membership roster" available somewhere, in someones possession, I can procure a copy of?

I have several publications put out by the 11th LIB and HQ's Americal Division, that may be of interest to the Association. Since I am a new member, I don't know what items that would be of interest.

I was the 12th Officer on the 11th LIB roster in Hawaii when it was activated, and I have yet to hear from them. I was released from active duty at Ft. Meade, MD in 1971 after finishing the Peers Report on My Lai. Capt Medina, Col. Oran K. Henderson, etc., were the last people I had any contact with from the 11th LIB. I would like to contact anyone I served with from Private to General, who were part of my year in Vietnam in the 23rd Admin Co. Thanks.

Francis Patsy

Tel: [REDACTED]



VIETNAM WOMAN'S MEMORIAL STATUE

DEDICATED NOVEMBER 11, 1994

WASHINGTON, D.C.

B BATTERY 14 ARTILLERY
COMPANY B + D + RECON 46 INFANTRY

I just received the Jan-Feb 94 issue of the Americal Newsletter. When I arrived home I saw it on the kitchen counter and, at a distance, I noticed that it did not look to contain much material. Well, things are not what they appear!

First, I was amazed, and very pleased, to see the number of new members in our organization! If every issue contained 3 pages of new members, to me, nothing could be finer. We all share something unique to each of us, the Americal Division and the war. Reading our Newsletter from front to back, it makes no difference which war, we have something in common. Letters from the "Old Guard" are truly enjoyed as these members began the history and tradition of the Americal Division. Although I may disagree with a few of our older Americal brothers who may still harbor some resentment towards the Vietnam vet, two things come to mind.

First, the right to disagree and to voice that disagreement is something we, as America's veterans have fought and died for. Second, just because someone does not support the United States action and intervention in, say Vietnam, please remember to separate the war from the warrior. Whether drafted or enlisted, most veterans did not have a choice of going to, or participating in, war. Therefore, I submit to All Americal veterans, that we should support each other, as we did while in the service, no matter what our political differences may be, past, present or future.

To those who are actively bringing in members, I salute you. If only one member would bring in.....you know the saying. Well, we all should get off our butts. Working as a unit, a lot can and will be accomplished.

I might add a real personal note to this letter. I read with great interest in the current Newsletter a letter from Command Sergeant Major Lawrence Cross that my unit in Vietnam had been reactivated and is now a part of the 2nd Armored Division. To those members of the 1st BN, 14th Arty, CSM Cross would like to hear from you so he may provide current members of the unit the history of the 1st/14th while in Vietnam. I am pleased to hear from CSM Cross that the current members of the 1/14th are continuing the fine, dedicated service as those who preceded them. Talk to the Sergeant Major guys!

Respectfully,
Douglas Lay
67/68

Ed Note: Douglas Lay is the Executive Director, Ohio State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America.

CONVALESCING

Dave Recob is currently recovering from surgery. I am sure he would like to hear from some of the old gang.

David L. Recob
Topeka, KS 66611

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

AN OPPOSING VIEW

Jim Buckle
Wakefield, MA 01880

Dear Sir:

We all fought for freedom and the American way of life, at least that's what they told us. The totalitarian, closed minded, extremism to any view contrary to his own, exhibited by the Vietnam Editor, D. Recob is against my idea of journalistic freedom. There is no doubt that he is entitled to his views, and to publish them anywhere he can find a forum, but to deny ANY opposing view is not right.

Enclosed are some of his reflection that he freely published on our Americal BB clearly stating that I'm not entitled to my opinions if they disagree with his, and that any dissenting opinions will never see the light of day. I have no reason to believe otherwise so the following essays may just be pissing in the wind but I figure it would be worth the effort, if only to vent my views. Other Americaliers on the BB also agree with me so I know that I'm not just some crackpot with a radical agenda. In fact it seems as if Recob's is the off the wall position.

Re: Homosexuals in the Military
May/June 93 ADVA Newsletter

It is said that a perfect compromise is one in which both parties reach the same degree of dissatisfaction. It looks as if the President has done it again. Everyone seems to be displeased by the decision regarding "Gay's in the Military." "Don't ask, don't tell," this is going to look real good in Bartletts, don't you think?

Of course it was pretty much of a no win situation. Bill is real good at finding those, it seems. He was bound to make a lot of people mad with this decision, so he tried to split the mad equally between the military and the gays.

It has been said that the military services are not democratic organizations. Anyone who joins gives up some basic rights to become a member. Everyone can't serve, some are too old, too weak, too fat, too tall, or too something. Even for the physically acceptable there are constraints. People unwilling to accept authority, who can't conform to standards, who are too loud, too aggressive, or have poor standards of personal care, are usually asked to leave. This latter category usually falls under the heading "Prejudicial to good order and discipline."

The key phrase in this argument is "disruptive element". Anyone, for whatever reason, who becomes disruptive to the unit is corrected or removed. Gays have served honorably for many years, in all services, because they were not disruptive elements. If they are willing to continue so do that, they should be welcomed. Sexual preference is not relevant under fire. Even Barry Goldwater, Mr. Conservative, Senator from Arizona, '64 presidential candidate, surprised me by saying "You don't have to be straight to shoot straight." He's right.

Lets face the facts. We have all known someone in the service that was a little "different" and it

didn't affect the unit cohesiveness. If the "disruptive element" is the homophobe, then he is the one who isn't following orders and should be removed from the unit.

The previous witch hunt against gays was instituted by the Reagan administration and has cost us, the taxpayers, many millions of dollars and the careers of many fine servicemen and women because there were rumors of impropriety. What any consenting adult does or does not do in private should be their own business.

Before 1982 it was the same as the present policy. "Don't ask, don't tell" and it worked fine. There have been homosexuals in uniform since the first Revolutionary War units were formed to fight the British and yes there were even gays in both the Americals.

There studies that have come to the conclusion that between 5% and 15% of ALL people could be classified as homosexuals, or bi's, or whatever. If that is were true there are thousands of our revered war dead that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to discriminate is to dishonor.

Public and private behavior is now and should be the standard.

Our President made the right decision in the fact of bitter controversy and bigotry.

Re: Bloopers and Blunders
July/August Issue

One of the purposes of the ADVA Newsletter is to inform the WW II Americaliers how it was to be a Vietnam Americallier, and Vice-Versa. This should include descriptions of weapons, tactics, politics, and our different [though much the same] way of life and survival in the tropics. This should include differing commonly used jargon.

Commonly used terms were "Grunts and Remf's". The grunt was the much used term for the equivalent WW II dogface or combat soldier. The "Willy and Joe" of Vietnam.

The term Remf was also a commonly used term meaning anyone to the rear. The first two letter of the acronym stood for Rear Echelon and the last tow for a vulgar phrase also commonly used by the vast majority of filthy mouthed servicemen. Like it or not, that's the way it was.

D. Recob, by his own admission, had been insulted and was not familiar with the term, then he jumped completely around and labeled it "one of the worse kind of name tags that could be put on person". Nonsense.

Practically every person that served in Nam had a remf job at one time or another. It was and is a term that was commonly used as an adjective. To the vast majority of us Vietnam Veterans it was NOT an offensive or derogatory term any more than being a hospital medic (which I was the last 3 months in country) or a clerk or a mechanic was a less important job than any other.

Recob also states that is was a term that was invented in the final days of the Americal when the troops were 'shot', 'worn out' or 'in despair'

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

MICHAEL MOEHRKE (Continues)

and was used "against" other troops to bring "disharmony". Again, Nonsense! The term was well known and in use in '68 when I was there. Practically any adjective can be used in a derogatory way by altering and choosing the context that it is used.

To distort and make judgment about commonly used jargon of the time is the same as rewriting history to suit the morals of the present. The facts are, that's the way it was.

Michael Moehrke
"Doc M"

DAVE RECOB COMMENTS

The above letter to the Editor in opposition to my views in previous Newsletters is printed in fairness and honesty to let Doc M have his say. He has distorted my views, but it is his right to dissent.

Ed note: I received the above letters from Michael Moehrke and forwarded them to Dave for his action.

In the book, 'The Long Gray Line', a story about West Pointers in Vietnam, the acronym 'Remf' was used. During World War II certain of our troops used the mf letters but the vast majority if G.I.s just used the four letter word that is so commonly used, even in the media today. We were kinder in the old war, we just called those rear area guys, "U.S.O Soldiers".

Jim Buckle

LIVING LEGACY Duster Heath

So many before, so few remain, the few who follow,
can stake their claim,

They've earned their right to share, you know,

Rights reserved in fire, blood, snow. Ordained
mortality, virtual reality, Their life's fire
radiates a glow, Help fuel that spark,
so others might know,

The Power, the glory, in evry story, various
times, diverse places, Terrain lines mapped,
on courageous faces,

Seek their friendship, their confidence earn,

Unique value, their lessons we can learn, We each
should, before we depart, invite the young and
"Old Guard", to share a special place,
in our mind and heart,

A cerebral place, few ever see, legend etched in
heraldry, Living echos,...Voiced memory, Willing
to share hearts, minds, history,

For future generation, vesting possibility,
Honoring those before, and those to be, Preceding
our boarding pass to eternity,
Behold these monuments to life.

Each a LIVING LEGACY

"Penned in '93"

1994 CONVENTION SOUTH FALLSBURG, NEW YORK
JUNE 9 - 12, 1994

Steve Dennison, our Junior Vice Commander and the Host of our 1994 convention is most anxious to get out the word on the 1994 Convention.

By now you should have received a packet that was mailed containing all the pertinent info on the Convention. If you have not received it please call Steve at [REDACTED].

Send your Registration form and fee, \$10.00 PER PERSON to Steve NOW!

Send your Reservation fee, \$25.00 PER ROOM to the Pines Hotel NOW! If you wish to make your reservation by telephone and credit card call the Pines Hotel, Toll Free, [REDACTED].

If you make your flight reservation through Kent Travel the will provide pick-up and drop-off at the airport. Their Toll Free Number [REDACTED].

REMEMBER--The price for the Hotel is a package deal--ALL INCLUSIVE--Only the golf is extra.

MAKE THOSE RESERVATIONS NOW!

KHAM DUC REUNION

This Reunion will be hosted by Alpha Company 1/46th. Infantry Alumni Group in conjunction with our 6th Reunion July 21, 22, 23, 1994 at the Holiday Inn-Beachside Resort Hotel in Key west, Florida. This Reunion is for all service branches that fought in the battle at Kham Duc in May 1968 and for anyone else who cares to attend. To receive Reunion information contact:

Fred Cowburn
[REDACTED]
Camillus, NY 13031
Tel [REDACTED]

Bill Schneider
[REDACTED]
Barnhart, MO 63012
Tel [REDACTED]

THE POWER OF ATTRACTION

It was great to discover two missing members of the Americal Division, Danny Harkins, now a police investigator for the City of Little Rock, a former 23rd MP Co Platoon leader, and Nicky D. Bacon, B-4-21st Inf, 11th LIB, both from Duc Pho. That "Southern Cross" patch has a lot of the powers of attraction. Keep your eyes open fella's. They are everywhere. "LOOK FOR THEM!"

NOW HEAR THIS

The Chapters are financially independent from National Headquarters. Any dues that are requested by a Chapter are up and above your National dues. It is necessary for Chapters to raise funds through dues in order to pay for postage and other office expense.

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MARCH - APRIL 1994

Mr. Gary L. Noller P.L.
[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

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Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Social Security #:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$12.00	

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)