



# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1996

Editor in Chief: James C. Buckle  
Vietnam Editor: Roland T. Castranova  
Published Quarterly

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



*Happy  
Holidays*

## AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION 1996-1997 DIRECTORY

**Commander**  
Gary L. Noller  
[REDACTED]  
Kansas City, MO 64114

**Sr. Vice-Commander**  
Edward W. Marsh  
[REDACTED]  
Jones, MI 49061

**Jr. Vice-Commander**  
Ronald R. Ellis  
[REDACTED]  
Henderson, TX 75652

**Finance Officer**  
Rick Olson  
[REDACTED]  
St. Paul, MN 55116

**Adjutant**  
Bernard C. Chase  
[REDACTED]  
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

**Judge Advocate**  
Peter J. Messina  
[REDACTED]  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
Larry Gelnett  
[REDACTED]  
Pocasset, MA 02559

**Editor-in-Chief**  
James C. Buckle  
[REDACTED]  
Harwich, MA 02645

**Vietnam Editor**  
Roland T. Castranova  
[REDACTED]  
Peabody, MA 01960

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Austin Jay Roth  
[REDACTED]  
Westlake Village, CA 91362

This is a list of the 1996-1997 elected and appointed officers and committee chairs of the Americal Division Veterans Association\*. Phone numbers may be obtained elsewhere in this newsletter or by writing to the individual.

**Executive Council Chair**  
James C. Buckle  
[REDACTED]  
Harwich, MA 02645

**Exec. Council Member**  
Austin J. Roth  
[REDACTED]  
Westlake Village, CA 91362

**Exec. Council Member**  
Roland T. Castranova  
[REDACTED]  
Peabody, MA 01960

**Exec. Council Member**  
William K. Maddox  
[REDACTED]  
Portland, TX 78374

**Exec. Council Member**  
Peter J. Messina  
[REDACTED]  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**Exec. Council Member**  
Edward J. den Braven  
[REDACTED]  
McKee City, NJ 08232

**Chaplain**  
Rev. William T. Elliott  
[REDACTED]  
Hope, MI 48628

**Chaplain**  
Rev. Perry Woerner  
[REDACTED]  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

**Historian**  
W. Mark Durley  
[REDACTED]  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**Chapter Commander**  
South Midwest Region  
Ernest B. Carlson  
[REDACTED]  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

**Chapter Commander**  
Great Lakes Region  
Terry Babler  
[REDACTED]

**Exec. Council Member**  
Alfred R. Doig  
[REDACTED]  
Westwood, MA 02090

**Exec. Council Member**  
Robert N. Thornton  
[REDACTED]  
Melrose, MA 02176

**Exec. Council Member**  
John (Dutch) DeGroot  
[REDACTED]  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

**Exec. Council Member**  
John A. Bowley  
[REDACTED]  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

**Vietnam Historian**  
David E. Williams  
[REDACTED]  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

**Museum Curator**  
Kenneth B. Turner  
[REDACTED]  
Wakefield, MA 01880

**Nom. Committee Chair**  
Joseph B. Chin  
[REDACTED]  
Lincoln, MA 01773-0006

**Scholarship Chair**  
Ronald L. Ward  
[REDACTED]  
Carver, MA 02330-1809

\* As of July 15, 1996

### Greetings for the New Year!

I wish to extend to each and every one of you my wishes that the holiday season has brought joy and happiness to you and that the new year will be one of health and prosperity. Please call on me if there is any way that I may be of assistance in the new year.

It is not too early to begin planning for the national reunion to be held June 19-22 in Worcester, MA. This is the new location of the Americal Museum and early indications are that this reunion will be well attended by Americal veterans of all eras. More details will be available in the next issue of the *Americal Newsletter*.

### ADVA Dues Structure Has Changed

The Executive Council has approved changes to the membership dues. The annual rate of \$12 will remain the same. A new rate of \$30 for three years has been established. One-time life dues have been changed and are based on the member's age at the time of payment. Members age 75 or over will pay \$75. Members under the age of 75 will pay \$165.

The three year rate gives a discount for those who wish to pay dues for a period of more than one year but less than life. The life dues are being adjusted to more adequately reflect the current financial requirements of carrying life members.

The dues structure will be effective March 1, 1997. Until then you can become a life member at the rate of \$50 for age 75 and over or \$125 for age under 75.

New member applications and renewal dues should be sent to Mr. Bernie Chase, National Adjutant, [REDACTED] South Yarmouth, MA 02664. Please let Bernie know if you wish the new three year rate or if you would like to become a paid-up life member.

### ADVA: Not-for-Profit Organization

The Americal Division Veterans Association is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a not-for-profit veterans association. Donations made to the ADVA may be considered deductible on your tax returns as charitable contributions. Donations are gladly accepted and may be mailed to the ADVA in care of the National Finance Officer. More on this topic will follow in a future issue of the newsletter.

### Turner History Book

Those seeking information on the Turner Publishing history book on the Americal Division may contact C.I.B. Media, 120 Landing Ct., Novato, CA 94945. (The ADVA does not receive any proceeds from this commercial publication advertised at \$59.50.)

### A Note of Condolence

It is with great sadness that I inform you that a sudden illness has taken the life of Frances Buckle, wife of James C. Buckle. Jim is the editor of the newsletter and Chairman of the Executive Council. Your prayers and words of support will be greatly appreciated. Jim's address is on the back cover.

### Americal Museum Needs Artifacts

The Americal Division Museum is now located in the historic National Guard Armory building in Worcester, MA. Many hours of volunteer labor have gone into moving the museum from its former location at Ft. Devins, MA. The museum staff and volunteers are deserving of our thanks for their contributions in preserving the history and traditions of the Americal Division.

The museum is now accepting donations of artifacts relating to the Americal Division during all eras of activation. Of particular need are those items that are related to the personal day-to-day lives of soldiers in the field. This may consist of field equipment, uniforms, weapons, maps, souvenirs, and other items of militaria. Photographs, documents, and personal letters are also needed to provide a library for those researching the history of the Americal Division.



PRC-25 Radio-Telephone and related gear.

Items of the Vietnam era are highly desired for display in the museum. There is plenty of space in the new building to contain a quality representation of items from this era of Americal Division activation.

With the assistance of an influential contact in the Signal Corps, I have obtained a PRC-25 radio-telephone as a donation to the museum. This is a radio like the one I carried for many months (and miles) while serving as a radio-telephone operator in an infantry company in Vietnam. I know of no finer place to display this radio than in the Americal Museum.

If you have items that you would consider placing in the museum I encourage you to contact Mr. Ken Turner, Museum Curator. He can be reached at [REDACTED] or you may write to him at [REDACTED] Wakefield, MA 01880. Ken would also like to hear from you if you have time to volunteer at the museum to greet visitors and to maintain the displays.



## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

January 4, 1997  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:00 A.M.

February 1, 1997  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:00 A.M.

March 1, 1997  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:00 A.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Mr. Frank Ballak  
109 Station Hospital  
Los Angles, CA  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Thomas F. Mayer  
459 - 509 Sig HHD  
Pontiac, MI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Corey C. Thompson  
123 Avn Bn-D/1/1 Cav  
Robbinsdale, MN  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Ronnie N. Williams  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Festus, MO  
#Ron Davis

\*\*\*\*\*

**REINSTATED MEMBERS**

Jon Bales  
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf  
Glendale, CA

Gary M. Crosby  
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf  
Burnsville, NC

Alfred Guttag  
754 Tank  
Punta Gorda, FL

Peter G. TenEyck  
11 LIB  
Palatine, IL

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS**

Mr. James B. Adams  
23 Hdq R&V  
Elberton, GA  
#James Lewellen

Mr. Dennis G. Allen  
26 Engineers  
Charlotte, NC  
#PNC Castronova

Mr. Richard D. Anderson  
11 LIB  
Yelm, WA  
#PNC Castronova

Ltc. Lewis D. Adams Jr.  
11 F.A.  
Jonesboro, GA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Clyde R. Allen  
246 Field Artillery  
Waynesville, NC  
#PNC Castronova

Mr. Stanley A. Anderson  
182 Infantry D/Hq/1  
Dracut, MA  
#Elliot Carey

Mr. Robert D. Antuono  
123 Military Police  
Cranston, RI  
#PNC Castronova

Mr. Frederick B. Arch  
?  
Tucson, AZ  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. George W. Atzel  
Hdq A - Chu-Lai  
Elmwood Park, IL  
#William Maddox

Mr. Charles D. Barney  
MI Det (Prov)  
Enfield, NH  
#Don Ballon-Memb. Com.

Mr. John H. Brawley III  
198 LIB  
West Roxbury, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Earl J. Carlson  
198 LIB 1/6 Inf  
Waupaca, WI  
#Earl J. Carlson

Mr. Celerino Castillo  
182 Infantry F Co.  
McAllen, TX  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Horace L. Cline  
182 Infantry 3/Hdq  
Cave Spring, GA  
#Calvin R. Jackson

Mr. Kevin B. Conway  
23 Div  
Hull, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. David L. Cote  
196 LIB 4/31 Inf  
Amesbury, MA  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Laurence J. Dahlke  
182 Infantry K Co.  
Oshkosh, WI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Thomas Dier  
198 LIB 1/52 Inf  
Greeneville, TN  
#Don Ballon-Memb. Com.

Mr. Paul Fairbanks  
198 LIB D/1/46 Inf  
Fitchburg, MA  
#Non-Listed

Mr. James A. Ferguson  
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf  
Hummelstown, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. John Fleck Jr.  
221 F.A. Bn.  
Sheboygan, WI  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Leslie D. Griffith  
196 LIB B/4/31 Inf  
Grand Chenier, LA  
#Castronova & Hines

Mr. David H. Aquino  
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
San Juan Pueblo, NM  
#Dennis Ferr

Ltc. Rolfe G. Arnhyms  
1 Cavalry  
Tarzana, CA  
#PNC Castronova

Mr. David A. Bales  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Clifton, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Roy L. Bergbower  
Associate  
Tyler, TX  
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Michael Brennan  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Costa Mesa, CA  
#Castronova & Hines

Mr. Brian Carry  
23 Div  
Lake Ariel, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert L. Cato  
164 Infantry  
Philadelphia, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Daniel L. Collins  
23 Div  
North Adams, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mrs. Kathryn D. Corcoran  
Associate  
West Roxbury, MA  
Kevin Hoey

Mr. Steve Crabtree  
75 Rangers G Co.  
Mesa, AZ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Andres Delgado  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
San Antonio, TX  
#John Pacheco

Mr. Wayne C. Erickson  
82 Arty B/1/82  
Wenatchee, WA  
#Self

Mr. Patrick Farmer  
Associate  
Oak Creek, WI  
#Ron Ward

Mr. James A. Ferguson  
198 LIB D/1/46 Inf  
Hummelstown, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Glenn A. Gardiner  
196 LIB E/3/21 Inf  
Easton, PA  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. Russell V. Gross  
11 LIB HHC HHC 4/26  
Ocoee, FL  
#Lloyd Morrell

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Mr. James Harvard  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Roselle, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Dan A. Helton  
23 Div Arty IOS HHB  
Hisson, TN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Richard J. Hurtado  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Hayward, CA  
#Castronova

Mr. Joseph L. Jackson  
182 Infantry C Co.  
Flint, MI  
#William McLaughlin

Mr. Edward W. Kelly  
26 Eng E Co.  
Yaphanic, NY  
#Mike Ackerfeld

Mr. William M. Keogh  
23 Adm Co.  
Medway, MA  
#Don Ballon-Memb. Com.

Mr. Charles W. Kleinhage  
121 Med Bn  
Tamaqua, PA  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. David C. Kral  
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Lancaster, NY  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Cecil L. Lewis  
199 LIB E/2/3 Inf  
Fairfield, NC  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Julios Lulli  
245 F.A. C Battery  
Bayonne, NJ  
#Castronova & Hines

Mr. Floyd L. Mason  
C.B.M.U. 536 USN  
Williamstown, WV  
#R. Castronova

1Mr. Martin O. McClellan  
196 LIB 4/31 Inf  
Franklin, OH  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Thomas C. Molina  
23 S & T  
Madera, CA  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Anthony N. Nero  
NUL  
Winstead, CT  
#Joseph Poletsky

Mr. Glenn A. Gardiner  
196 LIB E/3/21 Inf  
Easton, PA  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. Russell V. Gross  
11 LIB HHC HHC 4/26  
Ocoee, FL  
#Lloyd Morrell

Mr. Sam Haynes  
1 Cav E Troop  
Cave Junction, OR  
#Edward D. Slette

Mr. Dean M. Hendrickson  
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf  
Fort Dodge, IA  
#Castronova & Hines

Mr. Louis Ivery  
75 Rangers E/51  
El Paso, TX  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Paul J. Jones  
196 LIB C/1/21 Inf  
Jersey City, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Patrick Kennedy  
198 LIB 1/46 Inf  
Beaverton, OR  
#CSM Jim Meade

Mr. Daniel A. Kirby  
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf  
Arlington, VA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Arthur H. Korsch  
132 Infantry G Co.  
Copiague, NY  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Walter H. Kujath  
26 Eng C + E Co.  
Junction City, KS  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. John T. Lively  
11 LIB 3/1 Inf  
East Flat Rock, NC  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Francis J. Magee  
164 Infantry  
West Roxbury, MA  
#Robert Keenan

Mr. Bruce J. McCart  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Eagle Bridge, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Thomas M. McPherson  
198 LIB A/5/46 Inf  
Slippery Rock, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert L. Navarro  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Reno, NV  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Edward L. Newton  
196 LIB C/1/46 Inf  
Sawyer, KS  
#William Walker

Mr. David A. Pearl  
23 Div Arty HHB  
Spencer, IN  
#Ronald L. Davis

Mr. James H. Pearson Jr.  
198 LIB  
Preston, CT  
#Louis F. Pearson

Mr. Henry E. Powell  
164 Infantry  
Auburndale, FL  
#Memb. Comm. Don Ballou

Mr. Ramon Quinones  
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf  
Rochester, NY  
#Ron Davis

Mr. George H. Reynolds J  
196 LIB B/1/46 Inf  
Toms River, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Hugh A. Robinson  
18 Arty B/3/18  
Chester, GA  
#Elbert L. Horton

Mr. Leo J. Skrabacz  
23 Americal  
St. Charles, MO  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Charles T. Smith  
198 LIB  
Hattiesburg, MS  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Morris Spadaccini  
198 LIB  
Canaan, CT  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Patrick J. Stone  
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf  
The Dalles, OR  
#Membership Committee

Mr. Richard T. Stowe  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
North Versailles, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James A. Tassi  
182 Infantry  
Brooklyn, NY  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Charles H. Tucker  
182 Infantry AT  
Charlestown, MA  
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Benjamin P. Willet  
198 LIB D/1/6 Inf  
Buckner, KY  
#Self

Mr. Duane D. Wilson  
188 Maint Bn.  
Merritt Island, FL  
#J. Krianits

Mr. Richard G. Zimmer  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Niagara Falls, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Herman Quarles  
3 Inf B/4/3 Medic  
Edge Field, SC  
#Jimmy Ellis

Mr. Robert W. Raleigh  
16 Arty 3/16  
Marisita, GA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James T. Richmond  
196 LIB 1/46 Inf  
Blacklick, OH  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Peter J. Schultes  
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf  
Bowling Green, OH  
#Memb. Comm. Don Ballou

Mr. Jerry D. Smith  
198 LIB E/1/52 Inf  
Waterloo, IA  
#R. Castronova

B.G. Robert W. Smith III  
82 Arty 1/82  
W. Bloomfield, MI  
#Dennis J. Nickels

Mr. William C. Spencer  
198 LIB E/1/52 Inf  
Coldwater, MI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Harold G. Stone  
17 Cav H Troop  
Columbus, OH  
#VFW Memb. Comm.

Mr. Timothy Sullivan  
182 Infantry  
Lexington, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Dennis R. Thompson  
1 Cav A/1  
Hamilton, Ontario  
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Tony Turasky  
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf  
Springfield, IL  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. Ralph Williams  
26 Engrs C Co.  
Sacramento, CA  
#Maurice Henson

Mr. John D. Wincz  
30 Arty  
Avenel, NJ  
#J. Krianits

Mr. Mark Zirngibl  
57 Inf Scout Dog Plt  
Williams Bay, WI  
#Castronova & Hines

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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE  
AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR,  
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES  
\*\*\*\*\*

## DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PNC Peter J. Messina  
 Frances S. Pyzanowski  
 George K. Williams  
 Lorraine Murnaghan  
 in memory of  
 Frances J. Buckle  
 Michael A. Antosh  
 Peter J. Schultes  
 Eastern Regional Chapter A.D.V.A.  
 Harry Schnell  
 Kathleen E. Drowley  
 Sonja Busi  
 in memory of  
 John V. Busi  
 Anthony Lupparelli  
 in memory of  
 Dad  
 Herman D. Wildermuth

\*\*\*\*\*  
AMERICAL DIVISION POST CARDS

We are now able to offer some very nice post cards to the membership, that will also benefit the ADVA Scholarship Fund. You may purchase 20 cards for \$6.00 or 44 cards for \$12.00. Here is a chance to get something that everyone will use and help your Scholarship Fund at the same time.

To order cards contact:

Ron Ward [REDACTED] Gary Noller [REDACTED]  
 St. Louis, MO 63123 Kansas City, MO 64114

## \*\*\*\*\*

MAY 1, 1997

## DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

PNC Ronald Ward, Chairman of the ADVA Scholarship Fund, wishes to remind all persons interested in applying for a Scholarship, that the deadline for receiving completed applications for 1997 is:

MAY 1, 1997.

If you are in need of an application or a copy of the by-laws, write to:

PNC Ronald L. Ward [REDACTED]

St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

DO IT NOW! IMMEDIATELY! TODAY!

## \*\*\*\*\*

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

## NOW HEAR THIS!

There have been some complaints about slow delivery on our ADVA jackets, being sold to benefit the Scholarship Fund, and rightfully so. Our original ad in the Americal Newsletter indicated that we would send them out immediately after receiving your order and you would receive them in three days. Unfortunately this ad was done without the proper planning that should have been used.

The only type of jacket that we can ship immediately is the one that we have on hand with your required size, color, liner, logo, and no name embroidered on the front. The many combinations of styles would require me to stockpile more jackets than I want in my house. Since this project is being run with my personal funds you can understand why I wouldn't want to have several thousand dollars tied up in jackets that in the end I might not be able to sell.

As for the money, we make a profit of \$10.00 on each jacket and that is donated to the Scholarship Fund. No member of the ADVA is making a monetary gain on this.

The vendor that I hired to silk screen the jacket originally promised me he could deliver any size/color in three weeks. That turned out not to be true. I'm not happy with vendor but for the moment I have to stay with him due to the orders still waiting. Many of our orders were done with wrong logos, color etc., and I had to send them back to him for correction. In that situation the delay involved many weeks.

If we decide to do this again next year, I'll contract with some other business.

I apologize to any member who has been kept waiting but I have mailed out every jacket on the day it has been made available to me. I've learned some lessons on this project and we'll be applying those lessons in the future to give our fund raising a more professional style.

Ron Ward

## \*\*\*\*\*

## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Many inquiries have come in concerning tax deductible donations to the Americal Division Veterans Association or to the Scholarship Fund.

The Americal Division Veterans is a qualified and registered non-profit organization. As such the ADVA can receive donations and will supply the necessary certification of your contribution.

## \*\*\*\*\*

## WATCH YOUR MAIL

In early 1997 we will once again be mailing the chance books in support of our Scholarship Fund. We ask that you give consideration to supporting this program. If you are not a gambler a donation of \$10.00 would be appreciated.

Contributions are accepted in any amount and may be made in the memory of a buddy or loved one. Acknowledgments will be printed in the Americal Newsletter.

## \*\*\*\*\*

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

COMMANDER  
 Robert (Bob) Kapp  
 Tampa, FL 33615

SEC/TREAS  
 George P. Dakin  
 Deltona, FL 32728

Below is a picture of the Past Commander and the present Commander of the South-East Chapter, placing a wreath at the Americal Memorial in Bushnell National Cemetery, on Memorial Day 1996,



P.C. Elmer Matola - Commander Bob Kapp

\*\*\*\*\*  
SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander  
 Ernest B. Carlson

Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
 Tel. [REDACTED]

Secretary/Treasurer  
 Malcolm P. East

Lumberton, TX 77656  
 Tel. [REDACTED]

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Mobley  
 Chaplain: Rev Perry M. Woerner

It was nice to be able to invite into our Chapter a brother from the Marines, one from the Korean era, and even a couple of those very elusive guys from the good 'ld 164th Infantry.

Let us not forget our Vietnam brothers--in case you World War ii vets haven't noticed, they have a lot more energy than we do!

Back to the Nimitz Museum of the South Pacific in World War II: Lew Turner has given to me to present to the Museum two 'Los Angeles Times' dated October 19, 1944 and August 15, 1945. Also, a 'Corpus Christi Caller' dated August 15, 1945--this was headlined "World Again At Peace". Didn't last long did it??

Everybody--pay your National Dues so that you can pay your Chapter dues.

Wear a smile, your C.I.B., and hug somebody,

Ernie Carlson

\*\*\*\*\*  
GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

REGIONAL - Terry Babler - COMMANDER  
 [REDACTED]  
 New Glarus, Wisconsin 53574  
 Telephone: [REDACTED]

I have been appointed Commander of the Great Lakes Chapter of the ADVA by National Commander, Gary Noller, due to the death of Rush Propper.

This year, I want to invite all Chapter members as well as the Americal Association to New Glarus, Wisconsin for our eleventh (11) Annual winterfest R&R All Veterans Rally on January 17-19, 1997. The Americal will have a platoon in the parade. Some thirty (30) plus Americal Vets attended last year. I have attached a flyer and hopefully its in this issue. (Contact address above--if not).

My plan is to send all ADVA members in the Chapter area a newsletter, set up a meeting, elect a board of directors and establish a chain of command, so in the event I have to leave for any reason, the next person in line would take over.

As of right now this is my only way of contacting members. I just received ADVA membership for this area and find there are about 600 eligible members in this Chapter area.

In 1997, I am the Chairman of the LZ/DC all Veterans Reunion slated for November 8-11, 1997 in Washington, DC. This is the fifteenth (15) Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Plan for a dance, hospitality parties, etc. Anyone wanting information can write to me. I hope to have the Americal as one of the sponsors. I will be posting an article in a future issue of the Americal Newsletter.

I look forward to serving as your Chapter Commander.

Terry Babler

## \*\*\*\*\*

## COMMENTS FROM CHAPTER COMMANDER CARLSON

Change is usually good, but in the case of the A.D.V.A. Directory, I think it is very necessary to include telephone numbers, in the listing, and to include the actual States that makes up each Chapter. Doing this would save several days in making contact with other members.

Although this is the era of the COMPUTER, I believe that we still must keep the HUMAN element, in our association with each of our buddies. It has been brought to my attention that the PRODIGY pages are being used, more as personal correspondence, than for the use of the entire membership. Now I think that nowadays we must make more of the computer, but, we must remember that MOST of us do not have such usage. If I were twenty, or thirty years younger, for sure, I would be amongst the ever growing number of people to be using one. Meantime, since I am not wealthy to begin even thinking of it, I will keep on struggling with my old worn out L.C. Smith.

Ernie Carlson

## \*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 1996  
ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM

The introduction: The first three American soldiers killed in France are sleeping in French soil, casualties of World War 1. A French guard and a detachment of American soldiers stood attention as the flag draped caskets were lowered in their graves.

## I. The scene that day, 78 years ago.

A. Bugler played taps, and a French officer spoke.

1. "In the name of France and in the name of the French army, Pvt. Enright, Pvt. Gresham, and Pvt. Hay, I thank you. I bid you farewell."

B. Yes, gone but not forgotten. We must re-dedicate ourselves to the principles for which they died.

1. Those being dead they speak to us: "For your tomorrow, we gave today."

2. It has been said, that poor indeed is the nation that has no heroes; but poorer indeed is the nation that forgets her heroes".

3. A monument stands on our courthouse square dedicated to the 66 Gillespies who gave their lives for freedom's cause.

## II. In the city of Paris in the front of the Hotel des Invalides stands a railroad car.

A. Across its broad side are the words: "The car in which the Armistice was signed, November 11, 1918."

1. It is the most historic car in the world.

2. The word "Armistice" according to Webster means, "suspension of hostilities by agreement", in other words "truce or peace".

3. In the Greek it would mean "bind", and in the Hebrew it would render "friendliness or rest and security".

B. But is Veterans Day losing its significance? Today, as is often Memorial Day, is set aside to attract people to spend a day at the mall.

1. Many arise in the morning and retire at night without ever giving some thought to the men and women who served, bled and died to keep our country free.

2. How fitting it would be if church bells in our cities would again ring out the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to remind the citizens of the cost of freedom.

## III. Let Us Always Remember That Freedom Is Never "Free".

A. There is a price to pay.

1. On this Veterans Day let us pause and remember that there has been much sacrifice, painful endurance, and eternal vigilance.

2. But I believe we would agree that the end was worth the means.

3. Where would we be had not many counted the cost, and gave themselves without reserve?

B. The 11th month, the 11th day, and the 11th hour 1918 brought joy and elation.

1. But many others have suffered and died since that armistice was signed.

2. Thomas Payne wrote in 1776: "What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness that gives everything its value." My friends, freedom is dear to us Americans.

C. America is Great in spite of Her ills.

1. Homemakers in America buy more food in one trip to the supermarket than many families in other countries can buy in in one year.

2. Katherine Lee Bates from atop Pikes Peak wrote, "America the Beautiful".

## IV. 220 Years Ago A Nation Was Born In An Unexplored Wilderness,

A. In an astonishing short period of time it grew into a nation that is a leader among the Nations of the world.

B. But it took sacrifice to preserve that nation. John Quincy Adams:

Posterity you will never know how much it cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.

C. Lyman Abbot said: "A nation is made great, not by its fruitful acres, but by the men who cultivate them; not by its forests, but by the men who use them. America was a great land when Columbus discovered it, but its people have made it a great nation." (Dedicated men and women have paid the supreme sacrifice to keep us great).

D. We today can enjoy "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

1. We choose our work place, and worship according to the dictates of our hearts.

E. The cost cannot be forgotten.

1. It was Woodrow Wilson who said: "It is sad for a nation not to remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do for its future. We need to realize where we came from and what we are about".

2. Monuments of stone are a fitting tribute, but we must somehow instill into the hearts of our youth a sense of loyalty and patriotism. Then our posterity can enjoy America, the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

3. May the prayer of our hearts be expressed in the words from "America the Beautiful":

"America, America.  
God shed His Grace on Thee".

F. God hath made us and preserved us a Nation. May we never forget that.

G. While other nations built barbed wire fences to keep people from getting out, America has opened her arms to millions to let them in. They came, first from Europe, then more recently from Laos, Viet Nam, Mexico and other Latin countries.

These were the people that did not know "freedom" until they came here. Many people take it for granted here in America, forgetting the cost. But permit me to say it again, "With a great price obtained we this freedom."

Let us never forget our veterans and their needs. When you see a veteran, why not stop and say, "Thanks for serving to keep America free"!

Above what we owe God, nothing should be more dear than our loyalty to our country. Love of country is one of the noblest virtues we can exhibit.

(Speech given by Rev. Perry M. Woerner, on Veterans Day at the Adm. Nimitz Museum).

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

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

Regional Commander  
Paris Tognoli

Sec/Treas  
Gino Massagli

Isleton, CA 95641

Eureka, CA 95501

Vice Commander: Tom Knott  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Harvey Bell  
Chaplain Herbert A. Holt

The annual business of the Far West Regional Chapter of the Americal Division was held on June 21, 1996 at the Holiday Inn in Reno, Nevada.

The meeting was called to order by Commander John Bowley. The invocation was given by Chaplain Herb Holt followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. John Bowley introduced the presiding officers and all member introduced themselves. Approximately 40 people were in attendance, representing a cross section of the Chapter Region.

A financial report followed showing a balance of \$4167. This gives an excellent financial base from which to run the Chapter business.

Election of officers for years 1996-1997 were held. Nominations and acceptances were made and the following members elected:

Paris Tognoli	--	Commander
Tom Knott	--	Vice Commander
Gino Massagli	--	Sec/Treasurer
Harvey Bell	--	Sgt-at-Arms
Herb Holt	--	Chaplain

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Regretfully on July 31, I received a telephone call from our Secretary/Treasurer, Gino Massagli, informing me he would be unable to continue in that position, and he submitted his resignation. I will miss Gino's warm smile, his personality, and dedication to the job. I expressed to him our sincere appreciation for his contributions to the Chapter these many years. Filling his shoes will be a tough act to follow.

In the interim, and to keep the continuity of Chapter business going, I will fill the position along with Commanders job and with the help of Tom Knott, continue functioning. That said, the door is now open for one of you to step up to bat and fill this important position. So, from here on, or until otherwise notified, mail all correspondence to me.

The major item at our next meeting will be the selection of the place of our get-together for 1997. Larry O'Boyle was appointed Chairman and will look at San Diego, Arizona, and possibly New Mexico as the location for Reunion--the latter part of August 1997. More explicit details will follow--keep that date open!

My last remark is directed to John Bowley our Past Commander--From all of us to you John--You did one hell of a job as Commander of this Chapter. It's men like you, John, that exemplifies the tradition and catalyst that bonds us together.

Yours in comradeship,  
Paris Tognoli, Commander  
Far West Regional Chapter

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

Regional Commander  
Terry Babler

Adj/Finance Officer  
Gilbert F. Abele

New Glarus, WI 53574

Commerce Township, MI

As Commander of this area, I have contacted my, our, Adjutant, Gilbert F. Abele, who is also our Finance Officer. I have contacted him and have plans on building membership in this Chapter area in the future.

As I have stated in the last Newsletter this will be my primary source of update on our Chapter until I can get out a formable newsletter to all eligible members in my area.

I am again inviting all Americal Veterans to New Glarus, Wisconsin on January 17-18-19, 1997 for a get together. Yes, it is dead winter in Wisconsin. And, yes, the Americal will have a unit in the parade as they have in the past 5 years. We have had anywhere between 20 to 45 Americal Vets join us for the weekend. And I look to improve this again this year.

Also, I am chairman of LZ/DC an all-veterans reunion in Washington, D.C. on Nov 8-9-10-11, 1997 at the Marriott in Crystal City. The Americal will be one of the sponsors. Hospitality parties, Dance & Banquet, Veterans Program, etc. The price of the hotel is \$79, for up to 4 people to a room. Start making reservations now if you are planning to go. The phone number is Toll-Free and is: 1-800-228-9290. Tell them it is for the LZ/DC all Veterans Reunion.

I hope to see many of our Americal friends at both of these events. Why not go? It's the best time to go and meet friends and see the sights of DC.

Terry Babler, Commander

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## ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER COMMANDERS

At the National Convention in Reno, Nevada this past June, Jay Roth was appointed Chapter Coordinator.

The deadline for your next article for the Americal Newsletter is January 30, 1997. It is most important that you meet this deadline for Jay to computerize your report onto a disk to be sent to the Editor.

Send your articles to:

Mr. Jay Roth  
Westlake Village, CA 91362

I sincerely hope that you will give Jay your full cooperation. Putting the Americal News together is very time consuming and your help is needed to meet deadlines and to help spread the work load.

Thanks,  
Jim Buckle  
Editor

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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER  
IT NEEDS YOU!

## THE PROFESSIONALS

"UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS"

198th LIB

196th LIB

LZ Baldy, Pineapple Forest, Tien Phuoc, LZ Professional, Freedom Hill, Hill 218, LZ MaryAnn, LZ Judy, Hiep Duc, Hau Duc, FB Moude, FB Linda, DaNang, Hill 497, Happy Valley, Million Dollar Hill, Dragon Valley, Siege of LZ Professional, Operations Burlington Trail, Wheeler Wallowa, Golden Valley Trexler, Fayette Canon, Lamar Plains, Ft Hood TX., USS Upshur, Whitehead Beach, Okinawa, DaNang, Chu Lai, Duc Pho, LZ Liz Chrin Tan, Hill 69, Hill 54 OP9, An Tan Bridge, Fish and Cigar Islands, Tam Ky, Sam Base, Paradise Island, Hill 707 LZ Bowman, Thanh Phuoc 4, Kham Duc, LZ Bayonet, LZ Young, Hill 248, Pineapple Valley, Cedar Falls, Muscatine, Cochise Green, Vance Canyon, AK Valley, Champagne Grove, Nui Chom Mountain, Taylor Commons, Manassas, Bold Mariner, Geneva Park, Recon Operation Menu, Frederick Hill, Support of Bold Pursuit, Nantucket Beach, OP Elk Canyon 1 & 11, Dewey Canyon 11, Lam Son 719, FSB MaryAnn, Mildred and Judy, Caroline Hill, DaNang Rocket Belt.

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## AMERICAL UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Leyte, Southern Philippines, Task Force 6814 Mt Austen, Gifu Strong Point, Verahue, Bougainville, Torokina Hornets' Nest, Hill 260, Torokina River Hills 165, 155, 500, 501, Numa Numa Trail, Jarovalencia-Palompon Line, Samar, San Berardino Straights, Capul, Naranjo Islands, Burias and Ticao Islands, Cebu, Cebu City, Battle of Go Chan Hill, Bolo Ridge, Bohol Island, Japanese Occupation.

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## PROFESSIONALS IN EUROPE

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Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Alsace Rhineland, Central Europe, Germany, Utah Beach, Vitre, Lemans, Argentan-Gaix Line, Falaise, Dreux, Eure River, Seine River, Mantes, Falaise Gap, St. Sauveur Le Vicomte, Paris, Compeigne Forest, Conde, Belgium, River at Siegfried Line, Wallendorf, Aachen, Hurtgen Forest, Brandenberg, Bergstein, Hill 401 on the Roer River, From the Rhine to the Elbe, within 45 miles of Berlin....Tangermunde and Elbe River Bridge Dannenberg and German surrender....Professionals with the Fifth Armored Division.

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The Professionals fought as an armored infantry unit in Germany, 46th AIB but re-trained to enter the Hurtgen Forest as a LIB, + Light Infantry Brigade as in Vietnam. The Americal fought in small units in the jungles of the Pacific Islands with Marines as did the professionals and other units in Vietnam, in similar environments. Whether it was the hot, humid jungles of Southeast Asia, 25 or 50 years ago, or the sub-zero winters of Europe, professionals distinguished themselves and the units they fought with. In Vietnam forces of the Americal and US Army and Marines won every major engagement that it fought against the North Vietnamese Army and the Vietcong in South Vietnam and Laos/Cambodia.

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## PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

196th LIB \*\*\*2nd 1st, 3rd/21st, 4th/31st  
1st/46th, 1/1 CAV, F/17th Cav

198th LIB \*\*\*1/52nd, 1/6th, 5/46th, H/17th Cav

11th LIB \*\*\*3/1st, 1/20th, 4/3rd, 4/21st, E/1st CAV

Chu Lai, South Vietnam is located 56 miles south of DaNang on the South China Sea and serves as the headquarters of the Americal Division: which utilizes 17,000 men & women to provide the necessary logistical support to the infantrymen in the field.

SHORT TIMER: COMBAT PUPPY  
by Al Fuchs

I met Short Timer for the first time on Hill 54 in South Vietnam in late 1967. It was an odd meeting in a hard rain during the monsoon season. A group of us stood on a small hill, discussing gun emplacements for our 105mm Howitzers.

Suddenly, something on the ground between my legs caught my eye. A little black nose and two warm brown eyes looked up at me from under my gear. Something had sought refuge under me from the rain. Jumping back, I saw a golden brown puppy, wet to the bone, standing in the mud. All the guys laughed about how I jumped away from the little critter.

"What's his name, Al?" they asked. I thought for a minute and then answered, "Short Timer".

I picked him up, put him back under my rain gear, and took him into my wet bunker. Everything was soaked, but I found a dry spot up high on the sandbags. I dried him off as best I could, cleaning and checking him out in the process. His eyes were clear, but he still shivered.

Taking off my rain gear, I stuffed the little guy into my jungle fatigue jacket next to my body. I was shivering too, but at least we could shiver together. As I leaned back, he laid across my stomach, seemingly content. We just stayed that way for a while, both of us just looking at each other. What was he doing there in the middle of a war zone? Could he even understand English?

I opened a can of C-rations and offered him some, but he turned his nose up.

'Smart dog', I thought. 'Nobody else likes Ham & Eggs either'. However, I had a can of Spam from my folks back home which he ate without hesitation.

"Listen", I said to Short Timer, "We are in a war zone, understand? You're going to have to go back where you came from, you hear? On a United States Military Base you are definitely against regulations".

I looked outside. It was still overcast, but the rain had stopped. I picked him up, took him over to the perimeter wire and put him on the ground. "Go home!" I said with a stern voice, pointing beyond the barbed wire. He just sat there looking at me.

"It's dangerous here. People die here. What if...And who is going to take care of you anyway? You're going to have to find your own way. You live here! I don't. Someday if I'm lucky, I'll go home too. Then what'll happen to you?"

I turned away from him and walked toward the gun pit. At the sandbag wall, I looked back and he wasn't there. I didn't see him until I looked down at my right side. Short Timer was sitting there looking up at me. "OK", I said, giving in to his gaze, "but you'll have to listen up when I talk".

As the days passed he followed me everywhere. Strangely, though, he never played or showed any emotion. Which is kind of unnerving from a dog. At night I would pull phone watch, in case the infantry out in the "bush" needed artillery support. Short Timer would sit next to me and look out into the darkness, for the enemy I guess.

We knew the North Vietnamese Army was out there somewhere. Some nights we could hear gunfire in the distance. Towards the end of the monsoons, we got some clear nights. I would look up at the stars while his ears continually panned back and forth, nose sniffing the air. It was quiet and peaceful.

Since most of the infantry was out on patrol at night, we had to pull guard duty ourselves. I'd pick up the M-60 machine gun, and the M-79 grenade launcher, my M-16 rifle, a 38 S&W pistol in my shoulder holster, a large hunting knife on my belt, with a bandoleer of ammunition slung criss cross over my shoulder, dressed in jungle fatigues, combat boots, a flack jacket, and helmet, looking like I'm going to end the war in Vietnam. And there, by my side, was a puppy dog. We were two mean dudes.

At the guard bunker I would do a "commo" check on the phone to let the men know I was in position. I rearranged the sandbags so Short Timer had a hole to look through. If he sat on top where we looked out, the local sniper could pick him off. Short Timer never made a sound. We would read each other's body language, communicating with our eyes. Sometimes during the night, he would move close to me and lick me.

One night during phone watch on the gun, a big rat came into the gunpit, as big as an alley cat. I was leaning back, resting my head against the sandbags and didn't see it. Suddenly, the rat jumped on my face and Short Timer went after it. It was twice the size of Short Timer, but they scuffled in the dirt, with Short Timer puppy growling and biting the rat. He got bitten a few times himself, but the rat decided it was too much for him and scurried away.

I got on the phone and called the Sergeant to get Doc up to my gun right away. The Medic came running with his bag. The other guys on the guns saw Doc running and come over too. Short Timer was bit pretty bad, so Doc took care of his wounds while a little crowd gathered at Gun 2.

Then the Top Sergeant (who was known as Chief of Smoke) came up. "That's a pretty mean dog you got there", he said, holding up a dead rat that was all of two feet long! He had found it on his way up to my gun.

Short Timer was only a puppy I told him.

"Well it must have been him that killed it. There's a blood trail from where I found it all the way up to this gun pit".

The Medic bandaged Short Timer's wounds up. For the rest of the night, he lay in my lap. I looked at him and said, "Rest easy my friend".

One night in January 1968, the silence was broken by the beginning of the Tet Offensive. Our gun emplacement was taking a heavy barrage from a North Vietnamese Rocket battalion. At the onset of the first explosion I placed my helmet over Short Timer. No time to get him to a bunker.

I went to my job on the Howitzer: the number 1 man. Locked into an artillery duel that lasted for 11 hours, I continued to load as we fired away. It wasn't until well into the next day that the guns went silent. We had taken heavy casualties. My gun was broken down due to the amount of firing.

Continues next page

We certainly appreciate your help and the Association.

William S. "Bill" Bacon

San Antonio, TX 78250  
1-210-520-9881

HHC & A Co 2/1 Inf 196th LIB  
LZ Hawk Hill  
1969 & 1970



## Help Us Find Americal Veterans

The ADVA is looking for documents pertaining to veterans of the Americal Division. In particular, we are looking for copies of orders that have soldiers names and serial or SSAN numbers. Many times, a set of orders would contain many names for the same award or movement.

This information will be used to replace copies of lost orders and to locate former members of the Division.

Please send legible photocopies to:

Roland T Castronova

Peabody, Ma 01960

Please don't send originals, as we can't guarantee they'll be returned.

Roland,

Are there any members in the ADVA that are from the same unit, E-3-1, 11th Inf Br. If so, can I get a list.

Thanks  
Pat Gauthier

Lafayette, LA 70507

Dear Editor:

I got your address through the Internet and am writing to ask for your assistance.

I am a writer working on a book about the role of Hispanics in the Vietnam War and need very much to get in contact with Cuban-Americans who might be interested in being included in my project. Basically, it is a collection of first-person oral histories.

I would appreciate it very much if you would run the following announcement:

"Writer seeks Cuban-American vets for a book he is editing on the role of Hispanics in the Vietnam War. For more information, write to Gil Dominguez, [REDACTED], San Antonio, Texas 78235; or leave a message at [REDACTED]"

Also, I am in the process of starting a quarterly newsletter—with plans for turning it into a magazine later—for Vietnam vets of all backgrounds. Its tentative name is Perimeter and I hope to get it started next year. I am seeking articles, photos, cartoons, poetry, essays, movie and book reviews and commentary for the modest publication.

Since I'm starting on a shoe string budget I won't be able to pay for submissions now but may in the future, depending on the Perimeter's success. Initially, I can afford only copies of the newsletter as compensation. Anyone interested can write to me at the address noted above.

Thank you very much for your attention to this letter. Please let me know if there is any charge connected with running this notice.

Sincerely

Gil Dominguez

San Antonio, TX 78325

FOUNDER, VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT

Diane Carlson Evans R.N.

Diane Carlson Evans, R.N., is the founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project and Chair of the Board of Directors. She currently volunteers full-time for the Project and also serves as Board liaison with veterans organizations. As part of that responsibility, she participates in educational activities throughout the United States talking about the Vietnam experience.

The idea for the Memorial to honor over 265,000 women who served during the Vietnam War was conceived by Diane Carlson Evans. A former Army nurse. Evans was stationed in Vietnam in 1968-1969. Although the eloquent wall of sorrows at Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. lists the names of eight women nurses who were killed, Evans felt deeply that the Memorial, with its statue of three fighting men, did not acknowledge adequately the women. In her words "women are also soldiers. Women also need to heal. Their service is worthy of equal recognition."

So in 1984, Evans incorporated the Vietnam Women's Memorial project as a nonprofit organization. Its mission encompasses three broad objectives to educate the American people about the contributions of all women who served during the Vietnam era; to identify the military and civilian women who served; and to erect a suitable memorial in the nation's capitol to Vietnam women veterans.

During six years in the military, Evans served in Vietnam as a staff nurse in the surgical and burn wards at Vung Tau, and later as head nurse in a surgical unit at Pleiku.

(Ms. Evans will be guest of honor at the Winterfest, at New Glarus, Wisconsin, on January 17-18-19, 1997)



Photo names left to right: Jeff Sanchez, Mike Colligan, Dave Hammond, Andy (LT) Ladak, Scott Longhurst, Jon Bales.

Dear Mr Castronova,

I have enclosed three sets of orders that I found pertaining to my service in the Americal Division. I hope that this will assist you.

I also have the original home addresses for the following men who served with me in Co A 5/46, 198th LIB. Please let me know if you are interested in having these addresses.

Francis R Hale  
Gregory Sikora  
Michael J Richardson  
Harold Manley  
Jim D'Amico  
J.D. White  
Vaughn D Delong

I am afraid the I never contacted them, nor do I know if all made it home. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Robert L Cummings  
Sgt., Co. A 5/46 Inf. 198th LIB  
March 1968- March 1969

Morehead City, NC 28557



WINTERFEST R & R ALL VETERANS RALLY  
NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN 11th ANNUAL  
TOGETHER THEN - TOGETHER NOW  
January 17-18-19, 1997

Friday Night January 17, 1997

Schedule: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Meet at Swiss Lanes for hospitality (Free beer and snacks)

9:00 pm - 9:15 pm Burning of Winter Ceremony, 2 blocks from Swiss Lanes.

9:15 pm-----Line up for parade Between 6th & 7th Ave. on Railroad St.

9:30 pm---Parade start. POW/MIA/KIA's vigil in front of parade. Then Navy Seabees Veterans America will lead the Parade. Followed by Desert Storm, Americal Division, Marines, etc. Just fall in anyway. Other units to be assigned at Swiss Lanes. Banners welcome

9:30 pm - 1:00 am - At end of parade a dance at the Fire Station. Music by SUMMER HAZE BAND 50'S-60'S \$3.00 cover

Saturday, January 18, 1997

10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Hobby show at New Glarus School. Milit vendors welcome.

12 Non - 5:00 pm - Poker Run - Prizes, all around town. Ends Burrisson's.

4:00 pm - Annual All Vets Group Picture. Outside Puempels Old Tavern

5:00 pm - 1:00 am - 11th Anniversary Winterfest R&R Veterans Rally Dance at Flannery's. Some Free Beer - Dinner Veterans Program - Dance \$15.00 Cover, Tax, Tips, Etc. Music by band "BADGE". Speaker TBA. At Midnight join us in singing - GOOD BLESS AMERICA - and we close the night by joining the Marines in singing the Marine Hymn.

Sunday, January 19, 1997

9:00 am - Veterans Church Service at Swiss Church downtown.

8:00 am - 10:00 am - Breakfast get together at Four Corners Restaurant.

For more info: Call Doug Oppiger at [REDACTED] or call Ronald lewis [REDACTED] days.

LODGING IN NEW GLARUS

Chalet Landhaus Motel - [REDACTED]  
Swiss Aire Motel - [REDACTED]  
New Glarus Motel - [REDACTED]

Plus many Bed & Breakfasts. For information on these call Chamber of Commerce at [REDACTED].

NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN

New Glarus is a Swiss community of 1800 and is known for its year 'round festivals and its hospitality. What sets this Veterans Rally off from other Veterans Reunions is this is held in January in the winter of Wisconsin. Motels, hotels, Bed and Breakfasts are walking distance to everything. If you go in the center of New Glarus and go in either direction 6 blocks you will be at the city limits. We have plenty of restaurants, bars, and gift shops, for you. You will have a great time in New Glarus!

OTHER EVENTS

Helicopter rides, Brewery tours, Chili making demonstration, Blue Grass and Fiddle contests.

11th Annual Winterfest R & R shirts will be available at both dances.

AMERICAL VETERANS: Yes, this is the dead of winter in Wisconsin, and yes, the Americal will have a unit in the parade.

In past years there have been between 25 and 40 Americal Vets show up for this Reunion. Let's see if we can better those numbers this year.

## Constitution and By-Laws

### **America Division Veterans Association**

These By-Laws were voted on and approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly, to be effective as of July 1, 1996.

This Constitution and By-Laws supersede all previous By-Laws and amendments enacted by this organization.

### **Constitution**

#### **Preamble**

We, the Officers and Enlisted Persons on active duty or who having been honorably discharged or released from active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and having served honorably with the America Division, do unite to establish a permanent organization which shall be known as the America Division Veterans Association, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### **Article I Objectives**

The objectives of this organization are fraternal, patriotic, historical, social, and beneficial; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its constitution and laws; to honor its flag, to foster true patriotism; to maintain the institutions of American freedom; to preserve and protect the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to maintain the history of the America Division.

#### **Article II Organization**

Section 1: This organization, hereinafter referred to as "the Association", shall consist of a National Headquarters, which shall be located in the vicinity of Boston, Massachusetts, and such subordinate chapters as may be authorized within the United States of America.

Section 2: A. Should the organization dissolve for one reason or another, the assets are to be converted into cash. B. These moneys to be placed in the America Division Scholarship Foundation and used at the discretion of the Trustees of such fund.

#### **Article III Amendments**

Section 1: This constitution maybe amended through the use of the official ballot at the annual election, by a majority vote of the individual Active members in good standing.

Section 2: Amendments shall be made in writing and submitted to the National Adjutant who shall forward the proposal to the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall study the proposal prior to presenting it to the general membership.

Section 3: Amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted not later than February 1st of each year.

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I Membership and Voting Rights**

Section 1: Classes of Membership: There shall be three (3) classes of members- ACTIVE, HONORARY, and ASSOCIATE. Only Active members shall have the right to vote. No person who obtains membership in this Association shall be permitted to retain such membership if their military service past or present, is other than honorable, or if that person is engaged in un-American activities.

Section 2: Eligibility Requirements: A. Active membership: Any officer or enlisted person, who has honorably served with the America Division, Task Force 6814, Task Force Oregon, and any other unit of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, who was attached with or assigned to and served with the America Division for a period of thirty (30) days or more shall be eligible for Active membership upon submission of proper application and payment of appropriate fees and dues that may be established. No application for membership need be submitted to the General Assembly unless one (1) or more members in good standing raise an objection to the applicant being received into membership of this Association.

B. Honorary Life Membership: May be awarded to an individual who has served with distinction in the America Division or the ADVA. Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Medal of Honor veterans of the America Division. Members receiving this award shall retain their right to vote. This award shall be made on the approval of the National Commander and the National Executive Council, showing cause why he or she should not be removed.

C. All Officers who are removed from office by the National Executive Council shall not have the right of appeal.

Section 8: Oath: A. "I \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear or affirm that I shall bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, to the governments of its component states and municipalities, and to be ready to defend the same against all their enemies whomsoever. B. "I \_\_\_\_\_, do further swear or affirm that I shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association and shall carry out my assigned duties to the best of my ability, so help me God."

Section 9: Dues, Fees, Assessments, and Funds: A. The National Executive Council, may on the advice of the National Commander, National Finance Officer, and the National Adjutant, fix the dues, fees, and other assessments necessary to balance the budget and make the Association financially sound.

B. Associate membership shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of Active membership as of January 1st of each year.

Section 3: Right to Vote: Active members in good standing only shall have the right to vote.

Section 4: Right of office: Only Active members in good standing shall have the right to hold elective or appointive office, to serve on committees or other administrative bodies that may be established.

Section 5: Application for Membership: Application for membership, except Honorary, shall be submitted on an approved form, completed in full and signed by the applicant, and shall be accompanied by such fees and dues applicable to the period in which the application is made. No person convicted of a felony or who supports the violent overthrow of the government of the United States, or any of its subdivisions thereof, shall be accepted for membership.

Section 6: Suspension or Expulsion: Any member who has been suspended from office or expelled from the Association for any just cause may be considered for reinstatement upon appeal to the Chairman of the National Executive Council, who shall present the petition to the National Executive Council. The Executive Council members shall be required to register their vote in writing.

Section 7: Causes for Suspension or Expulsion: A. Any Officer of this Association, elective or appointive, may be suspended from office and expelled from the Association for: failure to carry out the duties of their office, violation of their oath of office, continued absence, unauthorized or misuse of Association funds or property, conduct unbecoming their office, bringing discredit upon the good name of the Association, failure to pay assessments and dues collected, and any and all other actions detrimental to the Association, or failure to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

B. When found delinquent in their office, the individual concerned shall be notified by USPS certified mail of their contemplated suspension. This notice is to be signed by both the National Commander and the National Adjutant, and it shall request the individual to resign, or appeal to the National Executive Council, showing cause why he or she should not be removed.

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b. Any such petition shall be submitted in writing, stating all the facts of the case, including any evidence or witness to the complaint, to the Chairman of the National Executive Council, who shall present the petition to the National Executive Council. The Executive Council members shall be required to register their vote in writing.

### **Article II National Officers**

Section 1: National Executive Council: A. The National Executive Council shall be an elective body consisting of not less than seven (7) members nor more than eleven (11) members, excluding Chapter Commanders, elected annually.

B. The elected Chapter Commander of each chapter shall automatically become a member of the Executive Council.

C. The Council shall have a Chairman and a Recorder who shall serve as clerk. The member receiving the majority vote shall serve as Chairman. For any reason the member with the majority vote should refuse, the member with the second most votes, and so forth, shall be the designated Chairman. In the event of a tie vote, a flip of a coin shall decide the Chairman. The Recorder shall be elected from within the Executive Council.

D. The term of office for each member elected to the Executive Council shall be for one (1) year. Each member elected to the Council shall be eligible for re-election and subsequent re-election no to exceed four (4) consecutive years in office.

E. Vacancies on the Council shall be filled by the National Commander.

F. The National Executive Council shall serve primarily as the monitoring and advisory board of the Association.

Section 2: Duties of the National Executive Council: A. Approve a yearly budget for the Association, and to approve non-budgeted expenditures.

B. Inspect and audit books of all funds of the Association.

C. To cause additional assessments and fees as may be necessary to meet the obligations of the Association.

D. To handle all appeals, petitions, and recommendations of any nature pertaining to the Association from Active members and Officers of the Association.

E. When found necessary, to take such action to suspend from office or expel from membership an elective or appointive Officer or other member for just cause after investigation and review.

F. On all issues requiring the vote of the National Executive Council, the Chairman shall write to all Executive Council members, stating the question and enclosing a ballot. The ballot is to be signed and returned to the Chairman.

A two-thirds vote shall be required to carry the question.

Section 3: National Officers (Elective): A. The elective Officers of the Association shall consist of the following: 1. Commander, 2. Senior Vice-Commander, 3. Junior Vice-Commander.

E. Any member shall petition in writing to the Chairman of the National Executive Council for approval to solicit funds.

Section 10: Right of Redress: A. All Active members in good standing shall have the right of redress to the National Executive Council for any action by this Association.

B. The term of office for each elective Officer shall be for one (1) year, however, an Officer shall be eligible for re-election and subsequent re-elections not to exceed two (2) consecutive terms in office.

not to exceed two (2) consecutive terms in office. 2. The Finance Officer shall be bonded by the Association in a sum to be determined by the Executive Council. 3. The Finance Officer shall open the books and records to the Executive Council. He shall act as Financial Advisor to any committee or other body of this Association who may be dealing with Association funds. 4. Perform such other duties as may be required of this office. 5. Shall not honor any request for payment of non-budgeted items.

Section 4. National Officers (Appointive): A. The appointive Officers of the Association shall consist of the following: 1. Adjutant, 2. Historian, 3. Historian, Vietnam, 4. Sergeant-At-Arms, 5. Finance Officer, 6. Chaplains, 7. Editor-in-Chief, Newsletter, 8. Editor, Vietnam, 9. Museum Curator, 10. Chapter Coordinator, 11. Judge Advocate. B. The term of office for each appointive officer shall be for one (1) year.

Section 5. National Officers (Eligibility): A. All Active members in good standing shall be eligible for any office in this Association, provided that the member has not previously been suspended from office.

B. No member shall hold more than one (1) elective office at the same time, but they may hold one (1) appointive office at the same time, providing that one office does not conflict with the other office.

C. All Officers, when duly installed, shall serve during the period which elected or appointed until the next election and installation of Officers.

Section 6: National Officers (Duties): The following duties shall be the responsibility of each Officer holding office in this Association and shall be governed by these By-Laws and Constitution.

A. National Commander. 1. Preside at the General Meetings of this Association. 2. Insure that all business matters are handled in an efficient manner. 3. Appoint committees, fill vacancies, and insure that the Association has the necessary personnel, equipment, and supplies to conduct its business. 4. Check all records and reports submitted by the Officers and committees and assure that they are in the proper order and properly signed. 5. Supervise all activities of the Association and cooperate with Executive Council and perform such other duties as may be required of this office by the laws of the Association or on orders from a competent authority.

6. Maintain a roster of all departed comrades. 7. Be custodian of all property of the Association and insure that such property is safeguarded and properly utilized. 8. In case none of the Commanders are present, the Adjutant shall preside and will designate an acting Adjutant. 9. Perform such duties as shall be required of this office by the laws of the Association or on orders from a competent authority.

G. National Historian: 1. The National Historian is to maintain from records and data submitted him a true history of this Association and of the America Division.

H. National Sergeant-At-Arms: 1. The National Sergeant-At-Arms shall assist the Adjutant in those duties and shall act as assistant custodian of Association property.

2. Shall at the beginning of every General Meeting have the Colors posted, before taking a position at the entrance of the meeting place. 3. During the period the meeting is in progress, admit no one except members in good standing or such invited guests and other persons authorized by the presiding officer. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall escort and present to the presiding officer and invited or distinguished guest.

4. Perform such duties as may be required of this office.

C. National Junior Vice-Commander: 1. The Junior Vice-Commander shall preside in the absence of both the commander and Senior Vice-Commander.

2. Perform such duties as may be required of his office.

D. National Finance Officer: 1. The Finance Officer is to receive, hold, and disperse all funds of this Association.

The Finance Officer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all funds, securities, financial records, and any other items concerned with the moneys of this Association. Incoming moneys shall be banked promptly and all authorized debts paid and receipts obtained.

meeting. 3. Perform such other duties as may be required by this office.

### **Article III Committees**

Section 1: Organization: A. There shall be two (2) classes of committees to be known as: 1. Standing 2. Temporary.

B. Standing committees are of a permanent nature and are established by these By-Laws.

C. Temporary committees shall be appointed by the National Commander when deemed necessary to carry out the business of this Association.

Section 2. Function and Purpose: The Membership Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Senior Vice-Commander, shall be charged with the organization and operation of the membership program for the purpose of recruiting new members, the retention of present members, and to establish qualifications, records, and credentials.

This committee shall, on the recommendation of the Commander, investigate applications for membership and shall notify the Commander on all applications rejected for just cause.

forwarded to the National Executive Council for approval.

E. Chapter Commanders may appoint as many committees as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the chapter.

Section 2. Procedures: A. To organize a chapter, a request in writing must be submitted to the National Adjutant for review by the National Executive Council and must contain the following information: 1. Name, address, and card number of ten (10) members. 2. Name of each proposed officer. 3. The designated name of title of the proposed chapter. 4. The mailing address of the proposed chapter.

B. The above request shall be signed by both the Chapter Commander and the Secretary.

C. Chapter may be identified by the following: 1. Name of a deceased America veteran. 2. Name of locality in which chapter is located.

D. Upon approval by the National Executive Council, a Charter shall be issued to the new chapter.

### **Article VI Alcohol Usage**

Section 1. The policy of the America Division Veterans Association is that no alcoholic drinks shall be dispensed, sold, or otherwise distributed by the Association or its members in any hospitality room, official function, or at any other function of the Association. Previous arrangements shall be made to have the entity where the meetings are held dispense and charge for alcohol provided.

### **Article VII Miscellaneous**

Section 1: Nothing herein constitutes members of the Association as partners for any purpose. No member, Officer, or agent of this Association shall be liable for the acts or failure to act under this Constitution and By-Laws, excepting only acts or omissions to act arising from willful misfeasance. Nothing herein shall constitute any liability for acts or omissions committed by any entity associated with the Association. Each such activity stands alone and is governed by its Constitution and By-Laws, Charter, or agreements.

### **Article VIII Rules of Order**

Section 1. A. The official reference and guide for the proper conduct of business meetings ceremonies, and such other business of the Association shall be governed by the "Roberts Rules of Order".

B. The latest edition of the above reference shall always be utilized and shall be in the possession of the Judge Advocate during all business sessions.

C. The term, General Assembly, shall mean the general business meeting held within the annual National Convention.

Revised and submitted in the year 1996 by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. PNC Peter J. Messina, PNC James C. Buckle, Nat. Fin. Off. Joseph B. Chin

Voted and passed at the General Assembly at the National Convention, Reno, NV, 22Jun96.

## KOKOMO 1996

by David "Doc" Williams

I packed up the Jeep Wagoneer, made a last minute weather check, and opened the back door for Winchester and Sterling, my English Springer Spaniel traveling companions. They slowly hopped aboard and we headed out behind a swirling front that was already bringing rain to the Kokomo area. By the time we reached the 14th annual Vietnam veterans reunion the wind and rain, combined with foot and vehicle traffic, transformed the site into a remembrance of Vietnam- monsoon style.

As I drove around the campground looking for a "high and dry" spot to park it was evident that those who arrived early got the closest spots. They also got submerged under mud and water. Fires glowed in the slow rain. Shelters consisting of plastic sheets attached to tents, vans, and campers kept the rain from the veterans and their gear.

There were flags everywhere and of every sort. Flags of the USA, POW-MIA, regiments, and divisions flew in the wet and windy skies. They proclaimed honor and pride. Underneath the flags veterans with matching patches and camo's sat around smoldering fires swapping stories and greeting buddies. Every "base camp" signaled its origin: Marines, Air Force, Army, 4th Division, 1st Cav, 101st, Americal, and many others.

Many thousands moved from tent to tent and around the grounds. The smell of food cooking on wood fires and the sounds of the moment filled the place. Wet eyes were washed

## Veterans Day Activities

The Americal Division Veterans Association was well represented at Veterans Day activities throughout the country. National Chaplain Perry Woerner was the featured speaker at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. (See a related story in this issue.)

Americal Veterans placed a memorial wreath at the Moving Wall display in Hayward, CA. The Moving Wall is a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. It constantly tours the country and never fails to have a lasting impact on those who come to remember those lost in the war.



A wreath was placed at the Moving Wall in Hayward, CA by members Maurice Henson, Rey Mendoza, and Harvey Bell.

The Moving Wall was also recently on display in Medicine Lodge, KS. ADVA members Ed Newton, William Walker, JVC Ronald Ellis, and NC Gary Noller were on hand for events. Newton was an event organizer and the Master of Ceremonies. Noller made a few brief remarks at the opening ceremony.

Several ADVA members made the trip to Washington, D.C. for Veterans Day activities. National Commander Gary Noller attended the observances at Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. Several of the regulars from the internet e-mail group (led by Jay Roth) also made the trip again this year.

with Indiana rain as veterans welcomed each other to the weekend reunion.

After driving through the area twice I found a place under a small elm. "Win" and "Ster" were getting a little anxious for a break after our 5 1/2 hour ride. We were a long distance from the action but we were not under water. It was a perfect place to stay between our three to four hour visits to the reunion.

The weather delayed and rescheduled some of the events of the day. Britt Small and Festival had to delay its performance from afternoon to evening. But the weather could not put a damper on the spirit and testimony of comradeship and loyalty.

I was able to meet veterans and reinforce my basic assumption all over again. Veterans, especially the Vietnam veteran, is unlike any friend a man will ever have. The reunion brought this feeling back. The feeling once acquired in the jungles of Vietnam so many years ago. The feeling that you were there for your buddies, the ones you ate with, slept with, fought with, and if necessary, risked your life for as they did for you.

Put Kokomo on your calendar for next year. If you miss it you will be like me- 13 years without the experience. I'll try to never be away from it again.

*Editor's Note. The Vietnam veterans reunion is held each year in Kokomo, IN. The Americal Division and ADVA is always well represented. Watch for next year's schedule in the newsletter.*



President Clinton is framed by American flags at the end of Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

## To the Editor of USA Today

On Veterans Day I was at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and heard the beautiful words of forgiveness as spoken by Kim Phuc. I was amazed that she chose to speak of reconciliation in light of the tragic napalm attack that left her with severe wounds and killed her two brothers.

On the same page that you displayed the famous photograph of Kim Phuc you also printed and editorial by David Harris. It is ironic that he, a resistor of the war, cannot find a means to reconcile with the veterans who fought and died in Vietnam. Are his "wounds of war" more severe than those of Kim Phuc?

Harris takes an unfair swipe at veterans, particularly those of Vietnam and of the Americal Division. He seems to imply that only in "our" war did atrocities occur and only by our veterans. Wars have always produced tragic mistakes that have been brought to bear on innocent civilians. Our war and my division were not special in that regard.

Harris suggests that in Veterans Day observances we should also include an apology for all the bad uses to which veterans have been put. Kim Phuc did not ask for an apology, she extended forgiveness. Harris would do well to follow her example.

I would be very happy to author a commentary for USA Today for publication next Veterans Day. I can describe why veterans consider it a duty to remember those with whom they fought and died, and why some might ask Harris for an apology. Gary L. Noller, National Commander

## LAM SON 719

I remember the months preceding the Lam Son 719 operation when my unit got a large number of replacements. We actually got to where we were overstrength by about 20 or so people. I kept wondering what was going on so asked the Battery Commander what was up. Since the operation was classified he wouldn't tell me anything - need to know and all that. Well being an intelligent and extremely curious NCO I pressed the issue but still to no avail. I then bet him a case of beer that I could find out the details within 24 hours.

The obvious place to obtain the details was Division TOC. Since I frequently made official trips to the TOC delivering information on my unit's movements, fire mission results, etc. I had developed a few friends there. Off I went, unofficially, to the TOC. A few discrete questions later and I had the outline of the operation and a case of beer from the BC, and it only took me a couple of hours. So much for security and need to know.

Just before the operation began my unit was required to supply a number of personnel to one of the units who would be participating in it. I can't remember if a new unit was formed or an existing one was beefed up. At any rate these people were going to a transportation unit that would transport supplies to LZ's near the Laotian border, possibly Vandergriff or some LZ near there. Our BC took the opportunity to rid the outfit of as many "bad apples" as he could. Many of these guys had been sent to the rear by their squad leaders for various reasons, foremost reason being drug abuse. Once in Chu Lai they had all assigned permanent perimeter bunker guard duty since they couldn't do much of anything else and that kept them away from the rest of us. I don't know how alert they were on guard. Some of the guys sent to the new unit had such bad records that they were immediately sent back and other men replaced them. Some of them eventually came back to G55 and had some pretty rough stories to tell of the conditions along the resupply route.

Rob Cook  
G/55 ARTY 70-72

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## NVA BASE CAMP

Here's another article picked out from a military paper: "Recent discoveries by infantrymen should hamper enemy anti-aircraft capabilities for some time. Operating in dense, triple canopy jungle 55 miles southwest of Da Nang, soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade's 2nd Bn, 1st Infantry, discovered an NVA base camp used for conducting anti-aircraft classes and subsequently confiscated over 3600 rounds of .30 cal and .51 cal ammunition. Company A started the discoveries. Cutting through thick, dry brush, the infantrymen came upon two enemy bunkers. As the Americans searched further, the area's use became apparent. 'About 75 yards from those first two bunkers was a .51 cal machine gun pit,' recalled Specialist Four John Haze, Galt, California, 'and inside the pit were 14 cases of new .51 cal ammo. The bunkers were fresh and probably used recently.'

John Boyer  
F/8 CAV 123rd AVN 70-71

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

## BAYONET

I was back at the aid station on Bayonet when we all heard a big boom and could see the smoke just to the south. Short time later the call comes into the aid station that medics were needed. The Doc, another medic, and me jumped into one of our M-151A1 jeep type ambulances and headed south. A Lambretta had hit what looked like a 500 lb bomb. A big crater--what was left of the Lambretta was twisted wreckage thrown into the rice paddy, off the road. No survivors. Couldn't even tell how many people were on the thing--Many--Pieces of bodies strewn around. The Doc decided that we were of no use and wanted to didi.

As we were loading up I noticed a .45 in a cowboy holster still somewhat around what was left of a torso. Must have been an ARVN or PF. He didn't need it anymore. I threw the holster and .45 into the ambulance and we retreated back to the LZ. I cleaned it up and had my own Remington Model 1911 me and an M-16. I carried my M-79 in the field and really didn't need a .45. I was going to send it home piece by piece but it didn't work out that way. I ended up trading that 45 and 20 bucks MPC for a genuine Thompson and 4 magazines. Hell, we all watched Eliot Ness and this no stock Thompson was the real thing. HEAVY. I shot a few boxes of better reputation than usefulness. I traded it for a Remington pump 12 ga. that shot 00 Buck with the real shotgun shell brass, not the brass and paper or plastic. Those all brass 00 Buck buck were army issue and the scattergun made a pretty good medics weapon. I had my 79 though and have to admit I loved that thing so I again traded the shotgun for a WWII M-3 grease gun with a LURP.

Those LURP were weapon nuts anyway, and I figured I'd send the grease gun home even though its only automatic, with practice you could squeeze off single shots. That was the plan until I got hit, then all my stuff was forwarded and the grease gun was lost in the shuffle. Some supply guy probably got it, and now its over his mantle with an appropriate war story.

So it goes. Doc Merk

Michael Moehrke  
23 Med HHC 198th 68-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## GOOD BATTALIONS

"Is that a fair statement about the 1/6?" I suspect there were many good battalions in addition to the 1/6 within the 198th, 196th, and 11th. I know that as a redleg FNG RTO assigned to C 1/6, they were good. Spent a couple weeks with B 1/6 out west and they were ok. Spent a few months with D 1/6 as the FO and they were scary. it's hard to say they were the best. I was there when then Lt. Col Schwarzkopf was. Considering what I read on Prodigy, the 1/6 was quieter than what was happening north in the 196th. By the way, I read his book some time ago and know some details not mentioned. I believe Gen. Schwarzkopf did have a positive impact during his command.

DOUG BURNETT  
D/1/6 14 ARTY 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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LZ/DC ALL VETERANS REUNION  
NOVEMBER 8-9-10-11, 1997  
WASHINGTON, DC

The Americal will be one of the sponsors of this Reunion. The Headquarters will be the Marriott in Crystal City. Hospitality parties, a dance, a banquet, and Veterans program are planned.

The price of the Hotel is \$79.00 for up to four people per room. Start making reservations NOW if you are planning on attending. The toll free number is 1-800-228-9290. Tell them it is for the LZ/DC All Veterans Reunion.

I hope to see many of our Americal members at this event. Why not go! It's the best time to go and meet friends and see the sights of DC.

Any questions:

Terry Babler, Commander  
Great Lakes Chapter ADVA  
[REDACTED]  
New Glarus, WI 53574  
[REDACTED]

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#### MEMORIAL DAY

Following is a newspaper article entitled "Back to the Real Memorial Day". It was written by Richard Steel and given to me several years ago by a friend. Though I do not know how to reach the author, I hope he doesn't object to me sharing it with you, my friends:

"I never fought in a war. Although I did serve in the post-Korea pre-Vietnam peacetime army, the only battlefields I saw were as a tourist. I never had a relative or friend killed, or even wounded, in a war. My knowledge of war, like that of most Americans, came from the newspapers, photos and the movies.

For me, Memorial Day was always a holiday--the unofficial beginning of summer, when the outdoor swimming pools opened and the schools shut down. I guess that's how the Federal Government feels about it, too, ever since it started shuffling Memorial Day around to make long weekends. This is good for the airlines, motel operators, baseball team owners and ice cream vendors.

What it has to do with honoring the dead, I'm not sure. It's probably churlish to talk about the dead these days, now that it's morning in America. It's too downbeat. But Americans are still dying, mostly in little skirmishes these days rather than big wars. Even these--Lebanon, Grenada, Libya--take their tolls of lives cruelly snuffed out. And it would be wildly optimistic to assume that many more will not sooner or later join the 1.2 million Americans killed in wars.

On this Memorial Day, I found myself in Washington and thinking about the dead. The city, as always on holidays, was full of tourists from what people here call Middle America. They visit places that Washingtonians never set foot in: like the Space Museum, Congress and the monuments. These tourists are drawn especially to the Vietnam Memorial, and on this day I decided to join them.

For a great many Americans, this has become a shrine. It is a strange kind of shrine: a black flash on the brilliant green lawn between the reflecting pool and the monument to Abraham

Lincoln. The indentation in the earth--the slabs of black granite with the names of those fallen in Vietnam incised row after terrible row--seems so dignified, so respectful, so appropriate, that it is hard to remember what all the fuss was about when the design was first chosen.

Now it has become part of our heritage. Not a temple to house a god and inspire awe--like those to Lincoln and Jefferson. Not a symbol to mount or get one's bearings from, like the Washington Monument. Rather it has become a place of communion, where the living mingle with the spirits of the forever youthful dead. Here the line between those honoring and those being honored becomes ill-defined. The names, thousands and thousands of them, become living presences. This is not like a country graveyard, a place for eulogies; rather it is a meeting-ground. I remember a bitterly cold and brilliantly sunny November day nearly 20 years ago when I marched with hundreds of thousands of others just a few dozen yards from this site. I was protesting American involvement in the war these men were fighting and in which they ultimately died. I still think the war was wrong and that they should have never been sent there. But now I am here to honor their sacrifice and pay tribute to their memory.

Frank Fortuna  
B/1/46 14 Arty 69-70

#### (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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#### ENGINEER GRUNTS

Somehow the image of them asking you all "Who wants to be a grunt"? And all of you raising your hands didn't quite seem like reality to me.

No wonder my guardian angel had problems. He must have been helping yours out on the side as well.

The only person I ever saw go out with only a .45 was our medic when he was a new recruit. That lasted until we got ambushed, and then he became a walking arms room like the rest of us. (Never could find a comfortable place to fit his M-14 in with all his med gear. He was a good man though, as were most Docs I met).

As for sending the Engineers in first, I recall that when we first arrived in Chu Lai, someone started a rumor that they were going to send us up to the DMZ to help out the 101st. They were then engaged at Hamburger Hill and the rumor was that they were going to send us in first to remove enemy Claymores so they could attack. Dumb story, but it did have us in a sweat for a while. We worried in between filling sandbags. (Something I vividly remember doing on my first and last day in country. And most of the days in between, too).

Remember that bit about combat losses too. When I was on the survey crew, our transit was such a piece of sh\*\* that we almost couldn't wait for someone to snipe at us, because he was for sure going to hit it, if you know what I mean. So if you ever rode on QL-1 and thought at to be a little off level, it was probably because of that G\*\*\*\*\*n transit.

Nice talking to you, Peace, Big Ed

James Eddington  
C/39 Eng 69-70

#### MY LAI

The soldiers in Charlie company, were probably a representative cross-section of our soldiers in Vietnam. Do I know for a fact that I would not commit such an action? I hope not, but I can't say for certain. Was it terrible and unjustifiable? The answer is yes. These are simple questions that don't get to the heart of the matter. What drives armies to do such things? It has been done before, by many country's armies. It was repeated in Vietnam, but with more publicity. In My Lai, this platoon had experienced many deaths and wounds in the area and most were booby traps. There were times the villagers would watch as an American soldier triggered a booby trap. They would seemingly know what was to happen and do nothing to deter the injury. So, I can see how it happened even if I don't approve of it.

Do I think Lt. Calley is a scapegoat? Only in the sense he was the only one to be punished. The unit had a discipline break-down (simple explanation for a tragic event). At the primary location, Calley failed to control his platoon. Capt Medina failed to ensure his units had capable command at platoon level.

The Bn Co is also responsible. And so on to the President of The United States and Congress. And finally to the people of The United States. We sent young men to fight a war of attrition, with ridiculous rules of engagement and no moral support. No, we should not forget, we are all responsible as am I. Yes, I was in Vietnam and in the Americal Division. No I don't hang my head in shame and I am no more a red neck than any of the war protesters. I do have pride in doing a job well and pride in the way my men conducted themselves. What the protesters did wrong was to blame its soldiers. To protest the conduct of the war was ethically correct, depending on real intent. Attacking the returning servicemen and women was wrong. Whether anyone had been to Nam or not, is not important, but lumping all Viet vets in broad categories, assuming character traits, and the like is very poor logic and is plain stupid. And calling a person a red neck is in very poor taste and is as offensive as any ethnic or racial slur. So if any have been attacked, to respond in kind is to be at that level. Maybe many are easily influenced by others, a problem for many in Charlie company too!

William Wood Jr.  
Hq Div Arty 70-71

#### (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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#### TOP

We had a somewhat similar display of repentance by a Top on LZ Siberia. He came out maybe Aug. '69 to what had been a fairly laid back artillery unit. He pushed spit and polish as though we were in Basic Training. Uniforms had to be clean, boots shined, faces shaved, and mess hall behavior was square and neat. All this on a little hill of maybe 75 to 100 people, counting the visiting Infantry platoon.

We also had a new Captain, rumored to be 21 years old. He looked 18. He kept himself clean and starched, and we always assumed he had put the heat on Top to run the place like a parade ground.

One morning Top was yelling at some people whose boots did not gleam sufficiently to allow them the honor of entering his mess hall. The Capt., who

was standing by, slowly raked the muddy sole of his boot across Top's boot, leaving a thick gooey smear. And he looked at the men being yelled at and said something like 'I want you to look as good as Top.' That was the end of the spit and polish era.

After a subsequent sapper attack that left that Captain dead, along with a number of other casualties, Top really began to change. He did a wonderful job during the attack, and helped the men keep up their spirits during the subsequent weeks of mortaring. He was constantly walking around talking to everyone and became a rallying point. Then he was transferred back to Hawk Hill. There he apparently un-repentant, becoming again very strict and cold. But he had developed a permanent bond with those of us from Siberia. I was back once to Hawk Hill, maybe Christmas, and we were all drunk in a bunker. Top began telling all the poor Alpha Battery guys how great I was and how great all 'C' Battery guys on Siberia were. Finally, a Spc. 4 said 'I'm sick of you talking about Siberia!' and they got into a classic knock-down, with haymakers, kicks, and body throws. So whether it was the mud-shine from the Captain, or the bonding with men under fire, Top became permanently soft--at least for what he always called 'his boys'. But I guess he just could not live forever without irritating somebody again. Someone may know this guy, though this would have been 12/69.

How can anyone serve in the Army and then complain about their civilian boss?

Barry Kelly  
C/3/82 Arty 69-70

#### (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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#### INFORMATION

Hi, my name is Ray Pierce. I've been looking for any info that I could find on my old unit and I find you guys are talking about the 2 firebases I was at. LZ Professional and LZ Maryann. I was there July '69 till March '70. You were discussing viewable files of LZ Professional. I have some photos, not many tho. How could I get to see what you guys have? I was also in the C 1/46 AND was at Maryann shortly before it was overrun. I could not get many details as to what happened. I've have an idea though. We were loaded with may be 2/3rds FNGS that liked to sleep on guard. I had heard they were gassed with CS, panicked, and then ran from cover. When I heard about it I was in Japan army hospital. I was injured by a long round from a 105 howitzer. I don't know who was KIA or WIA. I never could get an answer from the guys I once knew. Is there anybody still out there that made it back to the WORLD from LZ Professional that was there in '69 and '70. Also who is the author and publisher of "DEATH VALLEY"? Hey I might have found a place to hang out and tell war stories. Thanks for letting me unload!!

Ray Pierce  
C 1/46 196LIB

#### (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE  
AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR,  
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

## OFFICERS

Comments about the apparent state of readiness (or lack of it) bring to mind my own experience and my sense of who was responsible for the failure and resulting deaths.

During the six months or so I was in command of C Btry, 3/82 Arty, I was the senior guy and, thus, the commander of Fire Support Base Siberia. For those six months I spent every night but one or two on the base. Every night I was there I stayed sober, stayed up until at least two or three in the morning and walked the bunker line at least once every night between 11 and 1 or so. We had 11 bunkers that were manned by rotating platoons of grunts who invariably thought they were safer on the hill than in the field. They were wrong for the most part (horribly hard to move a mountain top after stopping briefly before sundown), but the attitude was a prevailing one and one that I could not and did not tolerate. I did not trust the officers and NCOs of these units to properly supervise them and felt obliged to check on them every night.

I rarely called around on the bunker line phone system since I wanted the check to be unannounced. Bunkers were about 25 to 30 meters apart and walking to them involved going outside the wire around the guns and arty bunkers to the strip between this wire and the first string of wire outside the infantry bunkers. Footpath between the bunkers ran parallel to the bunkers and not so much behind the bunkers so that you were really out there. It was scary duty, not so much from the fear of the sapper that might be in the wire but, rather, from getting wasted by our own people. I don't think a single night passed that I did not find at least one of the eleven bunkers that was completely unmanned because all three or four of the men were down in the bunker or the guy on guard was either asleep or drunk. I raised hell with the officers and NCOs and their superiors whenever I found one of these situations.

I personally checked trip flares, claymores and the rest. We had an extensive system of fougasse (sp), which I took a personal hand in installing (we had many 55 gallon and smaller containers buried around and in the hillside). We had the large Integrated Observation System with crew-served starlight, which we used all the time. I also went to a great deal of trouble to obtain vehicle headlights and a DC generator, which I used to illuminate "Ghost Town", which was the hill overlooking the helipad from which Siberia had been attacked in April/May, 1970.

My point is that I felt one of my most important responsibilities over there, if not my most important beside fulfilling our mission to the Infantry, was protecting the lives of my men and all the men on the base. To use a much abused phrase these days, "Safety on Siberia was no accident." I worked hard to be alert and I am proud of my efforts. Conversely, I am somewhat contemptuous of those officers who were either too lazy or were concerned with being popular to carry out their responsibilities. Mary Ann was a clear tragedy, but one that should not have been allowed to take place.

Michael Twomey SR  
C/3/82 Arty 1-10/70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?  
YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED  
3/18 ARTILLERY

SP/4 Hugh A. Robinson is looking for assistance in establishing a claim resulting from injuries received as an artilleryman in Vietnam.

He was at LZ Small from July, 1969 to September, 1970. He would like to locate Sgt. Tims or Timms from Mississippi, an American Indian named Hummingbird from Oklahoma, and the 3/18 Arty First Sgt. from Texas.

He would also like to locate a medical officer Capt. Jerry E. King and a C.O. named Abbey.

Contact: Hugh A. Robinson  
Cochran, GA 31014

Tel: [REDACTED]  
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## AUTOMATIC

I suspect the jamming the Marines experienced was from firing on automatic for extended periods of time. In my entire 12 months I don't remember going full auto. My finger could go pretty fast when it had to and maintain control of the weapon. Our CO would have a s\*\*t fit if someone went auto. Said it was just wasting ammo. Even in firefights it didn't make much sense when you had an M60 around. We let them use up the ammo so we didn't have to carry it.

We also only loaded 18 rounds in a clip. Problems we experienced with jamming were from dirty ammo and magazines during the dry season. I also carried a 79 for 3 months. Great weapon to walk point with a canister round. Never got caught on anything and you had the ability to fire with one hand and hit a target at close range while the other one was covering you head on the way to the ground.

Bill Gerber  
C/3/21 11th & 196th 67-68

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

## LZ ENGLISH

If I remember correctly and there is no guarantee that I do. If you turned around at LZ English you were in the 173rd's area. That means that you also went by Charlie Brown which was just above the dividing line.

I can remember the Quad 50's being between the artillery and the infantry on the North side of Debbie. I'm not sure but the name I remember is Paris Peace Talks II. Does that ring a bell?

I'm not sure it's the same that's been mentioned but I do remember a five ton truck got its front wheel blown off by a mine but can't remember what time of year it was.

Used to catch a ride on the mine sweep from Charlie Brown to Debbie and Bronco once in awhile. I was at Debbie off and on 70-71. Was there a monkey on mine sweep?

William Bruinsma  
A/6/11 ARTY 70-71

## THE HOLIDAY SEASON 1996

The Reverend William T. Elliott, Chaplain

As Alice wandered through the Wonderland Woods, she happened upon the Cheshire Cat, uncertain of where she was, she inquired of the Cheshire Cat,

"Which way shall I go?"

"Where is it that you want to go?" replied the Cat.

"Well, answered Alice, "I don't really know for sure."

"Then", said the Cat, "If you don't know where you want to go, it really doesn't matter which way you go, does it?"

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is a time when our memories are pulled back to when we were young and wandered in the Wonderland Woods of the Solomons or Nam. Often in the terror of our wandering we asked "Why?"

The Alice in each of us senses that, in spite of what we endured, there was a purpose, however faint, to the suffering of that time. Even today there is a place we want to go, and even though we don't really know where it is, we know that getting there does matter.

"Where is it that you want to go?"

"I want to go where I may find the Father God of the Hebrew Christian tradition or the Allah of Islam. It is only there that I may find Love and Peace and Purpose as I journey the Wonderland Woods of my remaining years."

"Ah, then it does matter which way you go."

"I know, and it is time for me to leave."

GOD BLESS YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

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CEBU CAMPAIGN  
COMPANY D - 182nd INFANTRY

As an eighteen year old boy I was a member of a machine gun squad on the island of Cebu with Company D, 182nd Regiment of the Americal Division. I want to thank the publishers of the A.D.V.A. Newsletter for featuring the battle for Cebu Island in this issue. I have always felt we received little credit for a big job well done at the expense of heavy casualties which according to the publication "Under the Southern Cross" totaled 2,427 including 449 dead and 9 missing on Cebu, Bohol and Negros. Some of these men, I only knew for a short while, were Americans I was privileged to serve with.

As a member of a machine gun squad in combat you have little opportunity to make lasting friendships or to even know the names of each person in your squad whom you depend on to help you survive each day. I do not know if any of the people I fought with are still alive or if they remember me, but if so I would be honored to hear from them.

After securing Horseshoe Ridge I remember stretching barbed wire in front of our position as it was rumored the Japs were going to make an all out Banzai assault on our lines and I remember a Jap sniper who was zeroed in on a bomb crater and

hitting everything that passed by it. Word had it he was killed by mortar shell after he left his cover to use the bathroom. I believe it was close to this time the Japs blew up the side of the mountain on a platoon of our troops killing many if not all of them.

We were part of the big push to take Coconut Hill, Company "D" in support of Company "C", starting before dawn and during the day met with heavy enemy fire and intense resistance so that by night fall we were told only nine riflemen and two machine squads remained to hold the ground we had captured. It was reported that anyone who could carry a weapon was being brought up to help us hold the line. During the day I received word that one of my close friends, Everett Osborne of Galena, Ohio, had been hit by a Jap machine gun bullet but it was only a flesh wound. He was one of the lucky ones as he healed quickly and never returned to combat again.

That night was sure hell as the Japs did everything they could to get us to reveal our position. One soldier lost his cool and fired his weapon which caused all hell to break loose. I believe it was that night the Japs infiltrated through our lines and blew up the Ammo supply dump the rear. You can not imagine how disheartened we were at that event. We only had two hand grenades a piece and not much else.

The next morning was a continuation of the nightmare as dawn was breaking and I was on guard at the machine gun three Japs came out of a tunnel throwing dynamite which blew my pack to Kingdom Come and then one Jap came straight at me and when he got close enough I hit him over the head as hard as I could, with my Carbine, breaking it into two pieces. As he lay on the ground another squad member made sure he was dead by firing three rounds into his head, as he tried to blow up our machine gun nest, the other two Japs took off in another direction and were taken care of by another machine gun squad.

That morning we suffered a tremendous loss as our squad leader whose name I do not know was severely wounded by shrapnel from Japanese mortar shell. I do not know if he survived the wounds or not but I felt a great loss.

I will pass over the days and events leading up to my final days in combat which was April 13th, 1945 the day after President Roosevelt died.

On the morning of April 13th, 1945 the Japs mounted an all out attack on our lines in one last desperate attempt to drive us from our positions. It was on this day that Pfc. Derrell Walton from Texas, who had been on Bougainville and whose memory will be a treasure in my heart, was killed as a mortar shell exploded beside him with death coming instantly as his stomach had been completely blown away. That same mortar shell also wiped out our machine gun and seriously wounded the other gunner, whose name I do not know, and myself. Our casualties were high but we held and that was the last big assault by the Japs on Cebu.

Bill Maddox and Ernie Carlson are two Cebu veterans that I have met in recent years and I must say that I am proud to know them and of their great work in promoting the Americal Division and its membership.

Charles 'Dick' Bayman

Mountain Home, AR 72653-7934

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

THINGS MOVED QUICKLY FOR THIS SOLDIER  
121 Medical Bn. - Edward L. Brusstar

I had a low draft number. So because of my eyes, I checked with an eye doctor, who laughed at the possibility of my being called. With 20/200 in my right eye, and 20/400 in my left eye, they would never take me.

I went to the recruiting officer and they examined my eyes, too, and laughed. They wouldn't take me if they had 10 drafts.

Then in November 1941, I was notified to report in front of the San Leandro City Hall for a bus to San Francisco for physical exam.

I was advised to take public transportation to San Leandro because I could be immediately inducted. But knowing I was 4F, I parked my 1936 Buick at City Hall and along with 100 other guys, boarded buses for San Francisco.

The Army examiners had me leave my glasses on during the examination.

A HUNDRED of us were transported to the Presidio at Monterey for two weeks, then by train to Camp Lee Medical Training Center in Virginia. A few days after our arrival, Pearl Harbor occurred.

After five weeks of training, the camp commander called us together to deal with a rumor that we were being shipped overseas. The commander told us anyone who would believe that the U.S. would send troops overseas with only five weeks training was too stupid even to be in the Army.

Six days later, our ship sailed from New York Harbor as part of Task Force 6814. Carpenters were still building our bunks.

After the stopover in Australia, we were sent to the island of New Caledonia in the southwest Pacific. Our medical battalion was split up into 25-man groups, and given 1903 Springfield rifles, rations and 31 horses.

There were no bridles, halters or reins for the horses. Our captain, knowing I had worked on dredges, located a huge coil of rope so I could splice bridles (we had seven bits) halters, and reins for the horses. We took off for the hills 200 miles north.

As more troops arrived, we combined to make bands of 50, then 100, etc. Finally, on May 27, 1942, there were enough of us on the island to form the Americal Division, the first Army Division to be activated on foreign soil, the only division in World War II to bear a name instead of a number.

In October, we were moved up to reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal. We spent three months in combat there, followed by 12 months on Bougainville.

Then we went to the Philippines, where we were in combat for six months on the islands of Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Negros, Bohol and Mindanao.

Sometime in 1944, the Army started a point system. GIs with a certain number of points (based on time overseas, time in combat, etc.) would be sent home. If the system worked, our entire division would have gone at once. But it didn't work.

Headquarters advised us that with a lot more fighting to be done, the Army was not about to

release an entire division, that had more combat experience than any other unit in the history of the United States. For emphasis, they included the Revolutionary War and the Indian wars.

Our Medical Battalion, devised a furlough system. Those in the original Task Force (about 800) would have our names put into a hat. Two names would be drawn each month, and those two GIs would be sent home on 20 days furlough. That way, we would be a cinch to go on furlough sometime in the next 33 years.

The replacement troops (about 200) protested. Under this system, they could see their names wouldn't even get into the hat. Battalion decided to put all names into the hat, which extended our cinch time to 42 years.

The first two names drawn were replacements who had only been overseas three months.

On August 8, 1945, all remaining members of the original Task Force were told that ships were coming to Leyte to take us home. On August 10, the Japanese indicated they would accept terms of unconditional surrender. So the U.S. froze all shipping in preparation for a mass movement of troops to Japan.

We medics were offered an opportunity to work our way to Seattle by tending to 500 shell-shocked GIs who were scheduled to sail Aug. 13. We took it.

From Seattle, we were sent to Camp Beale for discharge. Since we had been in the Army just short of four years without so much as an overnight pass, much less a furlough, we suggested the Army pay us for our unused furloughs. No. We were advised furloughs were on a use-it-or-lose-it basis.

Six months later, Congress passed a bill that allowed us to be paid for the unused furlough time.

Forty one years later (1986) the Army notified me that I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Now, if I can find out what happened to the 1936 Buick that I parked in San Leandro 51 years ago, I can close the book on W W II.

(Edward Lee Brusstar has lived in Twain Harte for 10 years. He is retired from the Bechtal Group in San Francisco)

Ed Note: Ed Brusstar passed away last year. This article has just been brought to my attention.

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## 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

## MEMORY

Did some research on the March/April 1944 Bougainville campaign. In the book "Under the Southern Cross," there is this statement. "Gen. McClure on April 8, instructed the 132 Infantry to secure the elongated hill mass formed by hills 165, 155, 500, and 501, to clear the area of all organized Japanese resistance and protect the area against enemy counterattacks while a strong outpost line of resistance was being established by the 1st Bn., 25th Infantry. Attached to the 132d for the operation were, in addition to the Negro infantry battalion were; 3rd Bn. Fiji Infantry Reg.; Batt. D 82 Chem. Mortar Bn.; Co.C 121st Medical Battalion, my Company.

Don Ballou

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## WHO WON THE WAR?

What one retired four star general of the Marine Corps has said in a series of articles in the Saturday Evening Post, and whatever else he may say in a forthcoming book, should not be taken by anyone as reflecting an official desire on the part of the Marine Corps to attack the Army or any of its officers or units, past or present. A Marine Corps representative stated to the press at a conference held in the Pentagon on November 19, that the Marine Corps saw no reason to bring up such controversies as that of Smith versus Smith and that nothing was to be gained by so doing.

That is a sound general policy, the Infantry Journal believes-except when there actually is something to be gained. We brought up Saipan to our 30,000 member readers when we heard General Smith would reach 3,000,000 with his remarkable version.

Once well into the argument, The Journal finds that it does not agree with the Marine Corps official feeling that no profit lies in refighting the Battle of Saipan. There is much to be learned, and the chief lesson directly concerns unification and its improvement.

Army men of much experience, particularly in the Pacific area during World War II, are convinced that the Marine Corps has publicly exploited its very real combat achievements in a manner so efficient that the American public believes the Corps has something of a monopoly on the qualities of ground combat--that in the business of bold courageous fighting the Marines lead the field--and by a long distance.

The Journal knows there is wide spread resentment among individual Army men over this fact. And if opening up the Saipan argument does nothing else than bring out this resentment for open comments, it will have been worthwhile. We find the plainest statement of this feeling about the Marine Corps in the official statement of Major General George W. Griner, which we print in full on pages 15-16. General Griner pulled no punches when he wrote "The principle of praise for Marines above all others is deeply ingrained in the Marine mind."

The Journal, however, has said before--and it will continue to emphasize this important point--that the Marine Corps has no monopoly on high geared public relations, and so far as we are aware, it never claimed to have. If the Corps public relations effort has gained for it more than its share of headlines since Belleau Wood in World War I, The Journal can only measure that fact in great part as a criticism of the Army's wartime public relations effort.

But that does not alter the present situation--one of strong belief among Army men much as follows:

(1) The public thinks the Marine Corps is its No.1 fighting force and Marine Corps publicity constantly reinforces this belief. It is the common belief that the Marines are the country's "shock troops"--the roughest, toughest fighting body in existence. The Army--well, it tries mighty hard and did a good job in Europe, but maybe if we had had some Marines there, the war would have been won by Christmas.

(2) The Marine Corps simply tells Congress how big the Corps should be and money is appropriated, where as the Army comes under close scrutiny.

(3) The Marines captured most of the Jap-held islands in the Pacific, beginning with Guadalcanal.

The Army in the Pacific was some 15 times as large as the Marine Corps. It killed several times more Japanese and took many times as much Jap-held territory, and what is more, the Army did this with a far smaller proportion of casualties than the Marine Corps, chiefly because the "rush and die" tactics the Marines used were contrary, in Army belief, to modern combat.

As for the Guadalcanal, it is perhaps the best example of how the Marines have received more than their credit in the public mind. We will wager that not one citizen of the U. S. in a hundred can correctly state who captured Guadalcanal.

The facts are, of course, that General Vandegrift's 1st Marine Division (with part of the 2nd) landed on the island on August 7 and soon gained a good foothold consisting of about one-sixth of the area of the 80 by 25 mile island including the Jap airfield. Short of supplies and ammunition, the Marines hung onto their area for two months. Early in October part of the Army's Americal Division reinforced the Marines.

The Japs had been heavily reinforced and when they attacked on October 21, the 1st Marine Division with some Army help hung on with utmost bravery, and again on the 25th, holding till early December, when the 1st Marine Division, worn down with four months of fighting, was relieved by the Army's 25th Division, the 147th Infantry and fresh elements of the 2nd Marine Division, the whole under the late General Alexander Patch who took General Vandegrift's place. By February 9 these forces had cleaned the Japs from the other five-sixths of Guadalcanal. Here are some figures:

Total forces taking part in combat on Guadalcanal:

First Marine Division-----	19,000
Second Marine Division-----	14,733
America Division-----	15,600
25th Division-----	12,629

Killed on Guadalcanal:

First Marine Division-----	688
Second Marine Division-----	342
America Division-----	334
25th Division-----	216

Wounded on Guadalcanal:

First Marine Division-----	1,537
Second Marine Division-----	776
America Division-----	850
25th Division-----	439

Time on Guadalcanal:

First Marine Division-----	125 days
Second Marine Division-----	
2d Marines-----	188 days
8th Marines-----	125 days
6th Marines-----	33 days

America Division

164th Infantry-----	119 days
182nd Infantry-----	90 days (2 bns.)
	56 days (1 bn.)
132nd Infantry-----	63 days (part)
	57 days (part)

25th Division

35th Infantry-----	52 days
27th Infantry-----	32 days
161st Infantry-----	33 days

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

Unquestionably the troops that had the roughest time and deserve the greatest credit were those who fought under General Vandegrift. But General Patch's troops had no easy time of it. Estimates on their opposition vary considerably as follows:

Gen. Vandegrift's Hq. upon relief (written)--9,500  
Gen. Vandegrift's Hq. upon relief (oral)--13,000  
Gen. Patch's Hq. upon relief (G-2 est. low)--12,000  
Gen. Patch's Hq. upon relief (G-2 est. high)--16,000  
Japanese records and statements-----25,000

Every American (including the members of the U. S. Army) has full reason to be proud of what the Marine Corps did under Vandegrift on Guadalcanal.

Every American (including members of the U. S. Marine Corps) has equal reason for pride in what the Army under Patch did on Guadalcanal.

What makes the Army man resentful is simply that most people don't know the facts of the Pacific battles, and think the Marines did the whole job. He blames it on super-efficient Marine publicity which constantly hollers that the Marines are good.

And what about the rest of the War? Who won it--the Marines? Or the Army, with its 89 combat divisions as compared to the Marines 6? Or maybe both, with the Navy helping some?

Here is the score on the Army and the Marines:

Total division in combat:  
Army-----89  
Marines-----6

Divisions trained for amphibious warfare:  
Army-----33  
Marines-----6

Amphibious assault landings of 1 Division or more:  
Army-----42  
Marines-----15

Same in the Pacific Area:  
Army-----26  
Marines-----15

Large scale (1 army or more) amphibious assault landings:

Made entirely or almost entirely by the Army (Philippines, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Southern France)---6  
Made entirely by the Marines---0  
Made by Marines and Army together-1 (Okinawa)

Total battle casualties in the war:  
Army-----948,400  
Marines-----85,600

Total dead, missing and prisoners in war:  
Army-----310,300  
Marines-----21,400  
(These figures include 46,300 accidental deaths in the Army and 1,700 in the Marines.)

Battle casualties in the Pacific Area:  
Army-----160,200  
Marines-----85,600

Killed in action throughout the war:  
Army-----173,400  
Marines-----16,300

Killed in action in the Pacific Area:  
Army-----66,100  
Marines-----16,300

Killed in the Mexican War ("The Halls of Montezuma")  
Army-----over 1,000  
Marines-----11

These figures, which are taken from published sources, give us a clear idea that the Army was among those present, in spite of the following additional data, which is purely an estimate, of what most Army Pacific veterans feel must be the case:

Words published about the Marines in the Pacific at least 100 billion.

Words published about the Army in the Pacific a few million, maybe.

Actually, the discrepancy hasn't been that great.

In summary, the fighting spirit of the Marines is beyond question. And Marine public relations have long been superior to our own. There has too often been the implication that the Army has fought with less valor, or against inferior odds, but for the most part, the Marines have simply applied both energy and ingenuity to making the Corps and its record known. What is needed most is a similar amount of intelligently delivered hollering by the U.S. Army about its own record since the day in June of 1775 when George Washington took command of the Continentals.

We join General Bradley in his recent high praise of the United States Marines. "You can always tell a Marine," he quoted, "but you can't tell him much." But, boy! How the Marines can tell the world!

Gil Dempsey  
E Co. 182nd Infantry

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## 26th SIGNAL COMPANY

Does anyone out there remember this episode that took place one day on Mount Austen?

Myself and a couple of other Radio operators from the 26th Signal Co., were sent to Mt. Austen attached to the unit guarding that area. I believe it was an Infantry Company from the 132nd.

One afternoon a few Zeros came strafing and dropping a bomb or two. By the time they were out to sea, some of our planes intercepted them and a dog fight followed. I do not remember if any planes went down, but I seem to recollect that a small ship near Savo Island was sunk. Also one night towards morning, some of us were on guard duty on both sides of the crest of Mt. Austen when a figure appeared, walking along, when a soldier hollered "Halt". The figure started to disappear to one side of the crest. All of a sudden some shots started popping and sure enough it was a Jap soldier.

In the morning a bunch of us gathered around the dead Jap and some one wanted to cut off his ears, someone else wanted to knock his teeth out, to see if he had any gold ones, but I believe it did not happen. I believe somebody put a stop to it.

Anthony Albini

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## C BATTERY 221ST FIELD ARTILLERY

Our great Americal Division Veterans Associations recent article on the death of Jesse R. Drowley, our only Congressional Medal recipient in World War II on Bougainville, in action against the "Hornets Nest", brought to my mind how grateful and proud I am to have met Jesse R. Drowley at our last Chicago reunion.

I mentioned to Jesse and others that I have been to the Beverly National Cemetery to visit and say a prayer over the grave of Americal soldier Kenneth Nelk, who was killed January 30, 1944 on Bougainville.

That date etched on his grave was the same date Jesse R. Drowley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I often turn into the Beverly National Cemetery here in New Jersey, about 15 miles from Philadelphia. The cemetery was formed during the Civil War on orders of President Lincoln. There are now over 40,000 gravesites.

I stop my automobile, get out and stand for a few minutes by the gravesite of Army P.F.C. Kenneth Nelk, Americal Division.

I first learned of Kenneth when I was a volunteer at the cemetery grounds installing sleeves to hold the American flags. I saw Kenneth's name and the date of his death. He died in battle on Bougainville.

My unit, the 221st Field Artillery, had a hand in this action on Bougainville. I can still remember the dead soldiers being carried past my gun position along a river on Bougainville.

Now days, as I visit the gravesite of Kenneth, I gaze upon his headstone marking his grave on which has been etched the Americal Division, I whisper softly "Sorry you couldn't make it home".

Our Eastern Americal Regional recent reunion at Fort Monroe, Va. was a really grand time, thanks to Commander Bob Granoff and Bill Gold and others.

The cruise through the Norfolk Naval Base, seeing all the huge ships of all kinds was truly an enjoyable trip on such a beautiful day.

Our Hospitality room at the convention was made very friendly, thanks to Bill Gold's great music that had us all singing and having a really wonderful time. I am very proud to be a member of our great Americal Family.

Jim, many thanks to you and your fine staff for our Americal Newsletter. It has to be the finest ever put to print.

Take care and God Bless You All,

Your Americal Friend,  
Leo

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## NOW HEAR THIS

RE: Book, "Touched with Fire: Ground War in the South Pacific".

I just finished reading the book, it was terrific, one of the best I ever read about "our" war in the South Pacific. Covers years 1942-1943 & early

1944. Limited to the Solomon Islands, including Bougainville, plus New Guinea.

You may want to consider putting the following letter in the next Americal Newsletter, as I believe our WW 11 vets will really enjoy it:

Dear Guadalcanal Veterans:

I am a professor of history at Lincoln University and associate member of the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans. Recently Viking/Penguin published my book "Touched with Fire: Ground War in the South Pacific". In my book, I try to describe the world I confronted GIs, Marines and Aussies in the Solomon and New Guinea by Japan and the US counter-attack at Guadalcanal) through early 1944 (the isolation of Rabaul and the crushing of the Japanese attack on the Torokina perimeter on Bougainville). I have not tried to do another week by week chronology of operations at the command level. Instead I have tried to explain the dynamics of the war faced by the men who fought it. Topics I look at include terrain, weather, weapons, tactics, disease, leadership and morale. Specifically I have covered everything from 105mm howitzers to homemade booze. I based the book on dozens of volumes of official histories written in the U.S. and Australia. More importantly, I gathered interviews from dozens of American and Australian veterans representing every major unit that served in the theater.

I hope that sailors and airmen do not feel slighted. The naval and air war in the theater was so important and complex that I could not do it justice in one volume that of manageable size. At present I am working on a companion volume that will deal with the air and naval operation. I hope to be done within the year.

The book was the main selection in July of the Military Book Club. In addition, Viking/Penguin is a very large publisher. Consequently, most good book stores will either have a copy or can order one quickly. It is also possible to place a direct order with Penguin USA at 1-800-527-0275. Many public libraries will also pick it up: if your local branch doesn't get it, inter-library loan should be able to track down a volume pretty quickly. I hope I have done the story justice.

Eric Bergerud

P.S. Hardback - 566 pages - \$34.95 plus P & H  
(Many thanks to Joe Micek for sending above).

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121 MEDICAL BATTALION  
HOSPITAL UNIT

While others were enjoying the lovely island of Negros, I was at the town of Villaba on Leyte. Villaba was not the best to say the least! We went by LCI to Villaba and set up a portable surgical unit in an old building, using a door for an operating table. Our job was to treat the wounded, with belly and chest wounds, that had to have immediate surgery and the only evacuation route was by boat and that took at least one day.

Our close by neighbors were a battery of 105 howitzers which made the surgery interesting when they had a firing mission. We were very busy being the only Medics in close support in the area. If we have had a unit like the 174th Sharks things would have been a lot easier! So it goes.

Don Ballou

CAM DIVISION  
"Composite Army/Marine Division"

The CAM Division, Composite Army / Marine Division was formed on order of Major General Alexander M. Patch, USA, Commander, XIV Corps. The CAM Division was under the command of Brig. Gen. Alphonse DeCarre, USMC. By 20 January 43, the CAM Division was functional.

The 2nd Marine Division, was among the early arrivals at Guadalcanal. It landed in the Guadalcanal-Tulagi area August on 7 August '42, as part of the reinforced 1st Marine Division. The 2nd Marines saw more than their fair share of the action at Guadalcanal. It participated in the 2nd Marine Division attack in the coastal area west of Point Cruz, on 13 January 43. On 14 January 43, the 2nd Marines were relieved and withdrew to the Lunga Point perimeter. They were far under strength and weary with battle fatigue. They had earned a rest in a far better area than any place Guadalcanal afforded.

The 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division arrived at Guadalcanal in November '42. They were immediately thrown into action. With the 2nd Marines they had relieved the 164th Infantry and 182nd Infantry, Americal Division, USA, west of the Matanikau in December '42. The 8th Marines employed flame-throwers against Jap pillboxes in the coastal area on 15 January '43, and knocked out three Jap emplacements. The 35th Infantry . 25th Division, USA, also used flame-throwers on this same date at Mount Austen. These were the first two instances of flame-throwers being used in the Guadalcanal campaign. The 8th Marines day after day, carried the fight to the enemy, and extracted a heavy toll among the Japs. This crack regiment was finally exhausted and it was relieved and withdrawn on 18 January 43.

The redesignated CAM Division, in essence was the 2nd Marine Division with two Marine regiments being replaced with two under strength Army infantry regiments, and the artillery units of the 2nd Marine Division were reinforced by the artillery units of the Army's Americal Division Artillery. In a nutshell, that is the composition of the CAM Division.

The Americal Division's 182nd Infantry (less the 3rd Battalion) replaced the 2nd Marines in the 2nd Marine Division, and the Army's Separate or Independent 147th Infantry Regiment (less the 2nd Battalion and Company A, which was on duty on Florida Island) replaced the 8th Marines of the 2nd Marine Division. As a result, throughout the remainder of the campaign the 2nd Marine Division was known as the CAM Division.

In the XIV Corps Second January offensive, the CAM Division carried the attack to the enemy as it pushed toward Kokumbona. The 6th Marines were on the right flank. The 147th Infantry was in the division's center and the 182nd Infantry was on the CAM's left flank, abutting the right flank of the Army's 25th Infantry Division.

Brig. Gen. Francis P. Mulcahy. USMC. 2nd Marine Air Wing, gave close support to the attacking units. U.S. Navy destroyers, directed by on shore fire control parties, shelled the Japanese coastal defenses, while the Americal Division (less the 182nd Infantry) and the 2nd and 8th Marines guarded the Lunga perimeter against potential roving bands of Japs.

The deep ravines running between the rocky north-south ridges in the coastal area provided the Japs with natural positions to lay flanking fire on the CAM's advancing infantry regiments. The going was slow, but the doggies and gyrenes pressed the attack and daily gained ground as they advanced toward Kokumbona, which was their primary objective.

In the 6th Marine sector the opposition was much heavier than in the sectors occupied by the 147th Infantry and the 182nd Infantry. It was only a matter of a couple of days until there was a beef between the 6th Marines and 182nd Infantry. The gyrenes got the idea that the doggies had been given an easier assignment. The bitching and usual griping was only minor and perhaps served as a pressure escape valve. Heck! The bitching was only S.O.P. The gyrenes and doggies couldn't visit a "cathouse" without complaining that their service got the short end of the horn, or that they had to take seconds.

On 22 January 43, Company G, 182nd Infantry, made contact with the 27th Infantry, 25th Division, north of Hill 88. The 147th Infantry took Hill 95, and drew Jap machine gun fire while patrolling the ravine to the west. The 6th Marines had encountered heavy resistance. The advance of their 3rd Battalion was halted by 250 Japs in a ravine west of Hill 94. The 2nd Battalion of the 6th Marines which was to the south of the 3rd Battalion, halted to protect the flank. The CAM Division gained 1,000 yards during the day's drive, but was 1,000 yards short of Hills 98 and 99 (the high ground east of Kokumbona).

To the south of the CAM Division's zone, the 25th Infantry Division found the Japanese resistance more scattered. While the terrain wasn't any picnic to navigate, they were able to advance faster than the CAM. On 23 January '43, the 25th Division's 27th Infantry swung north and captured Kokumbona and pocketed the Japs who were east of Kokumbona, between them and the CAM Division. The 182nd Infantry captured Hill 91. The 147th Infantry drove slowly against Jap strong points to the foot of Hill 92. All three battalions of the 6th Marines shared a piece of the day's action. They advanced against Japanese rifle and artillery fire and captured Hill 92. During the advance, the 6th Marines destroyed three 150mm guns, one light tank, two 37mm guns, and two machine guns.

On 24 January 43, the CAM Division assumed the attack. GIs of the 147th Infantry attacked to the northwest and killed eighteen Japs, and reached Hill 98 at 0940, where they made contact with elements of the 27th Infantry. The 6th Marines, in their advance, reportedly killed about 200 Japs, and by 1500, all three battalions were on Hills 98 and 99.

The 147th Infantry went into division reserve in Kokumbona. The 25th Infantry Division pushed west of the Poha River. The CAM Division attacked on 26 January and gained a thousand yards. On 28 January, the CAM Division drove to the Nueha River.

29 January 43 General Patch detached the 147th Infantry from the CAM. He attached the 75mm Pack Howitzers, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines and Battery A, 97th Field Artillery Battalion, to the 147th Infantry. The Americal Division Artillery was to give general support. The 6th Marines were held in reserve. Gen. DeCarre was given command of this composite combat team. The 182nd Infantry was reassigned to the Americal Division at Lunga

## UNITED STATES SHIP

## JOHN ERICSSON

Length, overall-609' 0" Gross Tons--16,552  
Beam-----78' 0" Speed (knots)---15  
Draft-----29' 0" Radius---13,000

Propulsion---Diesel (2)  
Passengers---5,461  
Cargo---167,000

Built in 1928 by Blohm & Voss, Hamburg, Germany. Operated prior to World War II by Swedish-American Line; during the war by the United States Lines Co.

The vessel, as the KUNGSHOLM, was obtained from the operators by the War Shipping Administration shortly after U. S. entry into World War II. She represented a valuable contribution to the war effort, having made besides two trans-Pacific voyages, 27 trips from American shores to Europe or Africa between January 1942 and May 1946, as outlined below. The ship was named JOHN ERICSSON in honor of John Ericsson, nineteenth century Swedish engineer and inventor, who designed the U.S.S. MONITOR.

Leaving New York in late January 1942 the JOHN ERICSSON transited the Panama Canal and proceeded to Melbourne and Noumea returning to Los Angeles in April. Following repairs at San Francisco the ship next went to Wellington, N.Z., and returned, via the Canal Zone, to New York in August. Three round trips were next to be made to Casablanca, and then in late April, 1943 the vessel sailed from New York to Oran, United Kingdom, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Capetown, South Africa.

The JOHN ERICSSON reached New York in August and left shortly for Liverpool. En route home, she was diverted to St. John's, Newfoundland, to pick up troops of the British Troopship STRATHNAVER. She returned to New York in late December 1943.

During all of 1944 and 1945 the vessel made numerous voyages from either New York or Boston to several European destinations. In, 1946 the JOHN ERICSSON arrived at Bremerhaven, Germany, leaving two days later for New York for repairs. From New York the ship had made three roundtrips to Southampton, England, by late May 1946.

(Some while ago, Arthur Guarente's diary was published about his trip in Task Force 6814 to Australia on the ship Cristobal.

I can recall that nice new banana boat when we sailed alongside on the John Ericsson, the former liner KUNGSHOLM.

I was fortunate to copy some literature about the KUNGSHOLM. There may be others who might like to learn a bit about the ship that they were on.

If memory serves me right, we made our landing at Noumea, New Caledonia in the Ericsson's rowboats.

Three rowboats towed by one power boat.)

Irbe E. Hanson  
247th Field Artillery

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

A SHORT STORY  
First Battalion, 182nd Infantry

Shortly after the Americal landed in the Philippines, the first Battalion, 182nd was sent to the island of Samar. "A" company was assigned to an area in and around the sea side town of Catbalogan where we took over the patrols and manned the O.P.'s. This lasted a few weeks and it turned out to be a pretty good place.

"A" company soon got orders for a new mission. We were to land on another small island about ten miles off the northern tip of Samar. This island, named Capul, was about ten miles long and a little over one mile wide and was held by force of about three hundred Japs. Some of those men manned eight artillery guns which were used to harass the shipping using the San Bernadino Straits. "A" Company loaded aboard two landing craft taking food, ammunition and other gear needed to hold a small beach-head. Part of company "D" reinforced us with heavy machine guns and mortars. We loaded at night and traveled under cover of darkness, escorted by P.T. boats, arriving off the island of Capul by daybreak.

As we turned in towards the shore, a flight of Navy fighter bombers arrived and started to bomb and strafe our landing area. The P.T. boats opened up their guns as did the machine guns on our landing craft. Our two boats headed for shore, side by side. About fifty yards from the beach the boats stopped dead in the water, we were hung up on a coral reef. After efforts to free the boats failed, the C.O. ordered the ramps lowered and the men off the boats. The water was deep and some of the men had a hard time getting to shore, but they all made it. Over half of the men left the boats before the boats floated free and made it to shore.

The rifle-men made a good beach-head and made quick work of knocking out two Jap guns, which managed to get off a few rounds at us as we were coming in. Patrols moved inland soon after we secured the beach-head to locate Jap positions. A Jap defensive position was found in the hills beyond the beach, well protected with machine gun and rifle bunkers. The C.O. made plans to attack this position as soon as possible. We set up our mortars and put about a hundred fifty rounds of 60mm and 81mm shells into the enemy area. The rifle-men made their attack and a fierce battle raged all day. Just before dark we broke off the battle and the men returned to our beach-head area.

Early next morning a patrol was sent to a high hill which was about a mile to our right front. From this hill the patrol could see almost the whole island. It was while they were up there that they saw the Japs evacuating the island by barges and small boats. This information was radioed to headquarters and P.T. boats finished the job.

(Thanks to Joe Law - A Co. 182nd Infantry)

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## 746th AAA GUN BATTALION

We just returned from Knoxville, Tennessee where our old unit the 746th AAA Gun Bn. held our 20th annual reunion. As usual it was a very emotional experience for us all. We lost 30 men since our last reunion and our memorial service had few dry eyes.

We are so fortunate to have George and Doty Stewart of Tonganoxie take care of all the arrangements. She and George welcome each and every one of us like family when we arrive. We only had about 500 men in our whole battalion and so far we have found about 300 or so, and we are still searching for the rest. We will be meeting in Cincinnati next September.

I am now planning on my talks to the children in two of our local schools about the war and veterans and am really looking forward to it. Our local papers have been very good about printing war time experiences and honoring the veterans and the national holidays. The key to getting the stories out is telling the children because those revisionist teachers are not giving the children any history.

I am still very busy answering requests for material. Funny after 50 years suddenly people are interested.

Please inform the guys about this new book:

'TOUCHED WITH FIRE'---THE LAND WAR IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ---By ERIC BERGERUD--VIKING PRESS

It covers all the places the Americal served especially going into detail about Bougainville and the part the Americal played in winning the war. I've read a lot of books about this area of battle but this one is the best!

Did the Cebu City papers write anything about the Americal during the 50th anniversary? I wrote them but never received an answer.

At the reunion I spent a lot of time with our former Battalion Commander, Colonel John Long. What a great guy he is. He looked after and protected us like a mother hen and we would have followed him anywhere. I got a lot of new information about our unit from him.

Am really enjoying the Americal Newsletter.

Leonard "Sack" Owczarzak

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## BINGO

I spoke to one of the First Sergeants that I had in G Co. He moved from Mass to SC some time ago.

I read him about 30 names and old addresses that I have from the company. He remembered 25 of them, me included. Also has promised to send me some pictures. One of the guys that I send a Christmas card to every year is on his list also.

He picked up a copy of ADVA a while back and saw my picture in it. He had written to Bill Maddox and left his address and phone number. Yes, he has joined. What a membership committeeman I am <g>.

This is my first direct Bingo using the land of electronics.

By way of a postscript Sgt. Warren Freeman came to the Reno reunion and he, myself plus Don Ballou and wives drove to Los Angeles in a rented van. We visited many places and Warren drove to San Diego in a rented car. On the way he stopped overnight at our Company Commanders house, Milton Shedd, who was the former owner of Sea World.

Jay Roth  
G CO 164th

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

CROWD GATHERS FOR COMMEMORATION  
OF TRIBUTE TO ARTIST TRYGVE ROVELSTAD

The badge pinned to the lapels of veterans who had seen combat always symbolized strength, courage and the pride of a nation.

Men who risked their lives to defend American ideals wore the simple pin above their hearts. The Elgin sculptor who designed the emblem died knowing he had done his part to thank the men who preserved his freedom.

On Saturday, a hometown crowd of more than 300 people gathered to salute Trygve Rovelstad's artistic contribution and to honor the men who earned the right to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge.

In a hazy, foggy morning along the river front, on-lookers watched as city dignitaries unveiled a memorial sculpture honoring Rovelstad and the badge he created.

The crowd gasped as the covering fell away to reveal the first military monument Elgin has erected in 74 years.

"I hope this will serve as a reminder to all of us of the men and women who served our country," said Donald Quillman, chairman of Elgin's Cultural Arts Commission, which sponsored the ceremony and parade as part of the city's Heritage Days Festival. "This is a very prestigious medal. This is for the foot soldiers who served in the trenches, who fought hand to hand."

The sculpture, which sits near the bicycle path at Grove and Prairie streets, was designed by Elgin artist David Powers and depicts the badge Rovelstad created.

It's Kentucky long rifle was used in the Revolutionary War. A wreath of oak leaves symbolizes strength and the blue background chosen is the color of infantry blue.

A plaque at the base of the memorial sculpture explains this badge is the "most respected award the U.S. Army can bestow on ground troops who have served and proven themselves in combat."

Allan Bastian proudly wore his badge to the ceremony.

As flags unfurled from every lamp post and a military marching band played "God Bless America", Bastian stood among other veterans who wore the pin designed in 1943.

"This was very meaningful to me," said Bastian, a Hinckley man who belonged to the 101st Airborne, 327 Glider Infantry in World War II. "It's been more meaningful to me since that time. I realize when I see it on people how important it really is."

As Bastian talked, a woman reached out and touched the badge pinned to his shirt.

"It's such an honor," she whispered to her son as she walked away.

"Thank you," Bastian replied.

The words on the plaque:

The Combat Infantryman's Badge is the most respected award the U.S. Army can bestow on ground troops who have served and proven themselves in

combat.

It was designed and sculptured by Elgin resident Trygve A. Rovelstad. The first Heraldic artist and Medalist sculptor of the U.S. Army.

(This article appeared in the 'Courier-News' Elgin, Illinois, and was written by Amy Davis. Thanks to Henry E. Barton, 132nd Infantry, for sending to the Americal Newsletter).

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CARL HAUKE DAHL'S REPORT ON SAVO ISLAND  
Company C - 164th Infantry

Thinking back to Savo, Captain Mjogdalen and I were the only two men from Company C to walk around the island.

A fighter plane had crashed on a mountain and the natives complained about the pilot being left in the cockpit. A group from the Marines was sent over to bury the pilot but for some reason they did not do this, so a squad from Company C was sent up there to take care of this. I do not remember who was in this detail.

I met a Mr. Leif Schroeder on Savo. He said he was born in Narvik, Norway and his parents emigrated to Australia. He later went to the Solomons where he had been for thirty-five years at that time.

I had an outline on a map of Savo produced from an aerial photo. Captain Mjogdalen and I walked around the island. At each village we went through, a bunch of natives joined us. So, by the time we had walked around the island about one hundred natives had joined us.

Schroeder was like a God or Judge to the people. He settled arguments, divorces, etc. He communicated in pigeon English and a few talked English.

At each village he would ask if they had picked up anything Japanese. The Japs had made small bamboo rafts and floated in hand grenades, one hundred fifty-five casings etc. All information gathered I put on this map such as, a good boat landing area, poor area, where boat was picked up, location of each village, etc.

Schroeder said that I was the first man to map the island.

Regimental headquarters set up a communications station about four miles from our CP. A path was hacked out so they could get there with a jeep they had brought along. There was a level piece of grassland one hundred fifty feet in diameter where they set up their CP.

It was quite an experience to see the natives get their first ride in a jeep. At first they were scared, but as one after the other rode, everyone wanted a ride.

Natives picked up one of our pilots out on the ocean while we were there. Schroeder said that was the seventh one rescued on Savo.

We left the island with a six by six truck full of bananas furnished by the good hearted natives.

I came back to the States just before the Company left for the Phillipines. I was assigned to the Army Air Corp on my return duty.

(From the 164th Infantry)

## 164th INFANTRY REGIMENT

I am developing an article involving the 164th Infantry Regiment during the early days of the Guadalcanal Campaign. Needless to say, information is fairly scarce and most involves the First Marine Division and leaves out the critical role performed by the 164th. I find absence of material on those Army units in the Pacific far less than those that fought in the European Theater, and this, in my view, is unfortunate.

I am a retired Army officer and serving on the faculty at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va. The material will be used for an article for a World War II elective at the college. Some material was available at the Marshall Library in Lexington, Va., and while there, was given your address. I hope to put together sufficient material to let my Marine students know of the absolutely vital role that the 164th performed during the early days, and in fact, without the regiment, it was doubtful that Guadalcanal could have been held by the understrength 1st Marine Division. A secondary thesis will focus on jointness during the early days of W W II, particularly in the Pacific.

I hope you may have some material on the 164th...particularly during the first part of the campaign...and anything on General Sebree when he accompanied the regiment to Guadalcanal from New Caledonia would be a real plus.

Please forward any information to:

Eugene H. Grayson, Jr. Col USA (Ret).  
Marine Corps Command and Staff College

Quantico, Va 22134-5068

## AMMO

We were required to turn in our ammo after about 4 weeks in Japan. So by Mid Oct. 1945 we were disarmed except for the guard duty and that was closely supervised. I had thought I wanted a souvenir of the Army when I went home to CONUS so held back a grenade when I turned in my ammo. I unscrewed the igniter... am not sure of nomenclature... and dumped the powder out of the barrel of it and then took some electrical dykes and cut the metal rod that set the powder on fire to blow it up. Removed the pin and let the hammer hit the igniter, recocked the hammer and put the pin back in. That made it a totally disarmed grenade. I thought I wrapped it in the center of my duffle bag so no one could feel it as the bag was secured against the hull of the ship on way to Seattle from Yoko.

We had a very bad storm and everything in the hold was tossed around and some clown felt the grenade in my bag and told the Sgt. He was very upset and asked me to take the grenade topside and throw it overboard. I took the pin out and held the handle and everyone ran for cover. I just let it snap and held it for a good 30 seconds to show them it was disarmed. Needless to say, the Sgt. was not amused and still made me toss it over the stern. This grenade was what we called a pineapple and had serrations both vertical and horizontal. Can't recall how many pieces it would separate into. Did the same type grenades come as part of the VN armament for the grunts in tha war?

Zane Jacobs  
E CO 164th WW11

## COMPANY C - 182nd INFANTRY

Enclosed is a picture that Dick Bayman gave me when he came to visit me a while back. Maybe someone will remember what Company is shown in the picture.

Dick Bayman served in Company D, 182nd Infantry and was badly wounded on Coconut Hill on the island of Cebu.



Fight Into Tobogon, N Cebu Sig C 186-19

Look at the fourth guy from the left in the picture. It could be me as I always carried my BAR at the 'ready' at all times.

Bill Maddox

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

'Twas the night before Christmas, a long way away,  
Fifty years ago, on this very day.  
Those G.I.'s in bunkers did lay,  
At a jungled cove, called Empress Agusta Bay.

A quiet Christmas Eve, seemed to be in the offing,  
But very shortly, the air raid klaxon was coughing  
This went on through the night, six times in all,  
Washing Machine Charlie, sure was having ball.

Charlie finally went home, and soon dawn would break  
Those weary GI's were planning sack time to take  
Suddenly Bougainville's crust  
started to quiver and shake  
What a wonderful gift, a violent earthquake!

Thirteen times in all, the ground shook that day,  
Our Hero, Bunny Butt, changed his drawers they say.  
That Christmas on Bougainville,  
we will always remember  
While other memories may fade,  
like a fires dying ember.

(Thanks to Leonard "Sack" Owczarzak)

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

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE  
(A Portrait of Courage)

The Combat Medical Badge (CMB) was originally established as the Medical Badge and designed to recognize the important role and service of medical personnel assigned or attached to infantry units and who daily shared with the infantry, the hazards and hardships of combat during World War II. War Departments Circular 66, dated March 1945, authorized the award of the Medical Badge to officers (field grade officers were not authorized the award except for battalion and regimental surgeons) warrant officers, and enlisted personnel whose daily performance was satisfactory under combat conditions. The award of the Medical Badge was made retroactive to 7 December 1941.

The Medical Badge could be withdrawn by commanders from individuals who failed to perform their duties satisfactorily under combat conditions. It also was withdrawn on a temporary basis from personnel who were transferred or assigned outside the Medical Department to duties in which the individual may come in contact with the enemy. This was in order not to impair the protected status of regularly assigned medical personnel. In such cases, the right to the Medical Badge was restored on relief from combat duties or on reassignment to the Medical Department.

On 6 July 1945, Congress passed a bill (H.R. 2477) which became Public Law 137 stated:

That during the present war and for six months thereafter, any enlisted man of the Army who is entitled, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of War, to wear the Medical Badge shall be paid additional compensation at the rate of \$10 per month: Provided, That any enlisted man whose right to wear the Medical Badge has been temporarily suspended may, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of War, continue to be paid such additional compensation.

On 8 February 1951, the Army Chief of Staff approved the addition of stars on the Combat Medical Badge to indicate subsequent awards of the badge in separate wars.

Army Regulation 672-5-1, provides that the Combat Medical Badge may be awarded members of the Army Medical Department (colonels and below), the Navy Medical Department (captains or below) or the Air Force Medical Service (colonels or below) assigned or attached to the Army, and who have satisfactorily performed medical duties subsequent to 6 December 1941 while assigned or attached to a medical unit of company or smaller size organic to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size, during any period the infantry unit was engaged in active ground combat.

SET ASIDE THIS DATE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
June 19 - 20 - 21 - 22, 1997

The 1997 National Convention will be held on those date in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Headquarters will be in the Crowne Plaza Hotel and this Hotel is within walking distance of the Americal Museum, located in the old Armory.

The Saturday night dance and banquet will be held in the Armory.

97th PACK MULE  
WHERE DID ALL THE MULES GO?

Many of the Americal troops on New Caledonia were familiar with the Pack Mule outfit. They were 'dismounted' when they arrived in New Caledonia. There were rumors that the mules went down aboard a Dutch ship.

When I joined A Battery on the Canal they had a full complement of mules. B and C Battery later landed on the Canal and they were full strength. These mules were sent back to New Caledonia and eventually wound up in India and then on into Burma to join Merrill's Marauders. I was on the detail taking this trip.

Last August a group of us old 'Mule-Skinners' met in Springfield, Illinois. Many stories told about the China, Burma, India trip. Good time--let off a lot of steam.

Leslie H. Braun  
97th F.A.

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## I CAN'T REMEMBER!

Just a line to say I'm living,  
That I'm not among the dead,  
Though I'm getting more forgetful,  
And I'm mixed up in my head.

I got used to my arthritis.  
To my dentures I'm resigned,  
I can manage my bifocals,  
But God. I miss my mind.

For sometimes, I can't remember,  
When I stand at the foot of the stairs,  
If I must go up for something,  
Or have I just came down from there.

And before the fridge so often,  
My poor mind is full of doubt,  
Have I just put the food away,  
Or have I come to take some out?

And there's time when it is dark,  
With my nightcap on my head,  
I don't know if I'm retiring,  
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write you,  
There's no need for getting sore,  
I may think that I have written,  
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember that I love you,  
And wish that you were near,  
But for now it's really mail-time,  
So must say "good bye" my dear.

Then I stand beside my mailbox,  
With my face so very red--  
Though I planned to mail this letter,  
I had opened it instead.

(Thanks to who ever sent in this poem. I can't remember what I did with the envelope that had the return address on it). Jim

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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER  
IT NEEDS YOU!

