



FOUNDED 1945

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor in Chief: James C. Buckle

Vietnam Editor: John R. McNown Jr.

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



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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

**Chapter Commander**  
New England Region  
Roland T. Castronova

 Peabody, MA 01960  
[REDACTED]

**Web Site (Internet)**  
www.americal.org

## Why Have ADVA?

As I begin my second year as National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I have reason to reflect on the purpose of the association. I have determined that there are at least four good reasons for the existence of ADVA.

**Memorial:** The ADVA is a living memorial to the veterans who served in the Americal Division. Who better than we to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the times of war. We also remember those who have gone in the years succeeding their military service. As veterans and families of veterans, we have a sacred obligation to remember our dearly departed.

**Historical:** The ADVA strives to preserve the history of the Americal Division. The thousands of soldiers that served in the division have a story to tell about the unit and its honorable service to our country. The Americal Museum accepts and displays artifacts, photographs, and documents that relate the distinctive contributions of the division in time of war. The Americal Newsletter publishes living history in the words of those who know it best.

**Service:** The ADVA provides unique services to veterans of the Americal Division. The most notable service is that of helping veterans and families locate buddies from long ago. Many successful reunions are initiated through locator requests posted in the Americal Newsletter and on the ADVA web site. The association has also helped veterans obtain information critical to processing claims for service related disabilities.

**Social:** The ADVA gives members the opportunity to get together and have fun. The annual national reunion and regional chapter reunions bring Americal veterans together to enjoy good times today while remembering times past. Many members make life-long friends from those they meet at ADVA functions. We all need a sense of belonging and the association gives us the means by which we can stay in touch with an important time in our lives.

I am sure that there are many other reasons to have the ADVA. I hope that you find good reasons to continue your membership and that membership in the association is beneficial to you. I am always interested in receiving suggestions from members regarding ways we can make improvements. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

## Reunion Kudos

The annual reunion in Worcester is now behind us and we are already looking forward to next year in Orlando. My thanks to Bernie Chase for all the hours he and his committee spent to make the event very enjoyable.

I also want to recognize Ken Turner, Al Doig, and the many other volunteers who did such a fine job to get the Americal Museum in top shape for the reunion.

During the annual business meeting I made a special recognition award presentation to Roland Castronova for his exceptional work in recruiting new members to the ADVA. In the past few years Rollie has recruited several hundred new members and deserves recognition for his stellar performance.

Rollie was not able to attend the reunion due to a medical condition. Jim Buckle accepted the award on Rollie's behalf. Please take a minute or two and drop Rollie a card. His address is [REDACTED] Peabody, MA, 09160.

## Meeting Members

One of the benefits of being National Commander of the ADVA is that I get to meet many interesting people who are veterans of the Americal Division.

This year I have been fortunate to travel to New Glarus, WI and Washington, D.C. for veterans events. Although I missed the annual event in Melbourne, FL, I plan to attend the Far West chapter reunion in San Diego as well as Veterans Day in the nation's capitol.



Joe Balcazar, San Antonio, TX, displays souvenirs.

On July Fourth I was in Fredericksburg, TX for local festivities. Several ADVA members were also in town and we were able to spend some time together enjoying the holiday.

I am always grateful for the fine reception that is accorded me and I look forward to my next out-of-town trip. I just wish I had the time and resources to take in all the events around the country.

## New Appointments

Several new appointments to office were made effective July 1, 1997.

John McNown, Jr. of Overland Park, KS has been named Vietnam Editor of the Americal Newsletter. He succeeds Rollie Castronova.

Leslie Hines of Des Moines, IA has been named Vietnam Historian. He succeeds Dave Williams.

Jim Craig of West Des Moines, IA has been named Adjutant. He succeeds Peter Messina.

My gratitude is extended to Rollie, Dave, and Peter for their much needed and appreciated service to the association.

Rev. Richard Shannon of Lemont, IL has been appointed to a Chaplain post. He joins Rev. William Elliott and Rev. Perry Woerner in serving the spiritual needs of our members.

I think it is very important that we continue to bring new people into the leadership positions of the ADVA. We have many talented people within our ranks and they must be given the opportunity to contribute to the success of the organization.

At the same time it is recognized that some of the current office holders desire the opportunity to move on to other things. If you would like to take a more active role in the ADVA, please let me know. Your efforts will be appreciated.



The following locator requests were received on the ADVA web page locator. If you wish to respond but need further assistance, please contact Gary L. Noller, National Commander, 816-941-0096.

Paul King, 1/46th, 198th, served from 5/68 thru 5/69, is from San Francisco, Contact Name: Jim Lion, email: [REDACTED]

Anyone, 26th Engr 70-71, anyone remember NDP Knight? We were across the street from My Lai (4) grid:BS719779. Contact Name: sp/4 d Larosa, [REDACTED]

Anyone, recon/mortars with 1st/20th, 11th LIB, from '66-'68,...and recon/mortars with the 4th/21st, from '70-'71 around LZ Debbie and Charlie Brown. Contact Name: Mike Carter, email: [REDACTED] St. Albans, WV 25177

Any member of the 5/46th Co. A. I was mortar plt. F.O. LZ Gator was our main base camp. 9/68-9/69. Contact Name: Leon Remakus. email: [REDACTED]

Battles, Ronald. Chu Lai, Quang Ngai Province, Co. C 1/52 198th LIB, Americal Division, LZ Stinson, 1970, Friend of Gordon 'Gordo' Dadisman KIA 8/70. Contact Name: Michael Cook, email: [REDACTED] Santa Barbara CA 93108

Calderon, 198th LIB, Chu Lai, 1968, wounded in shoulder, from Gallup, NM, Contact Name: Andy Brito, email: [REDACTED]

Anyone, 532rd Sig from Oct 70 TO MAY 71. Transfer from 4th Div. Worked in club at Bn. Hqs. and in Syscom bunker. Contact Name: Ssg Allen Thomas, email: [REDACTED]

Gary Antell, 1/6 Inf, 198th 1968, Contact Name: Dan Gunter, email: [REDACTED], Nornan, OK 73072, [REDACTED]

Skip Thomlin, serving with C Company 4/31 67to mar 68, from up state new york, wounded in feb 68, email: [REDACTED], Riverside, Ca 92504 [REDACTED]

Any copter pilots or arty personnel, anyone who may have photos, maps, descriptions of knowledge of LZ Ryder, LZ West, LZ O'Connor or any mountain-top LZs in or near Laos. Any copter pilots who may know these LZs or who may have flown personnel into or out of Laos in 1968 or 1969. Contact Name: Don Ray, EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Toll Free: [REDACTED] ext, 6397

Anyone that served with B or C Btry. 6th Bn. 11th FA 11th Inf.Bdg. from 3/Oct/68 to 3/Oct/69. I was on LZ BUFF, BULLDOG, PEPPER, CORK, DRAGON, JET, JEFF and at the BRONCO Base Camp. Contact Name: David B. Wever, EmailAddr: [REDACTED], Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

Anyone who served with the 39th Engineer Group Mar. 1970 to Sept. 1970, Lz Snoopy and Lz. Dottie, and Chu Lai. I was with the 39th Engineer Group from mar. of 1970 to Sept. 1970. Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Douglas Bottomley, Emai Addr: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Richland, Wa.

William Zolar, HQ Americal Division 1971/72, Office of the AG (LTC DELANDRO). Lived across from the HQ TOC. Bill will remember my dog Sir Goffie Grape. Contact Name: e-mail [REDACTED]

"The Adams Family", Anyone who served in Recon platoon, 1/20th, 11th Lt Inf Bde in Hawaii through May 68. Lt Adams, Sgt Bartley, Sgt Booth, Sp4 Henry, Jackson, Cox, Contact Name: Ken Keck, EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

Anyone, HHC, Co B, and Co A 4/21 Infantry, November 1967 (Hawaii) to Feb 1969 in I Corps, RVN. Contact Name: Tom Smith, EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] McLean, VA 22101

Chris Noble, Anyone, A Troop 1/1 Armored Cavalry, Jan 68-Jan69, Hill 29, Hawk Hill. Have a lot of Pics from that Year. Contact Name: Bob (Doc) Johnston, EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

ANYONE, 723RD SIGNAL. 70-71, CHU-LAI. Contact Name: JAMES R. CALDWELL, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

James M. Cox, He was a Captain, assistant AG, who wrote an article for the Americal Division about booby traps and land mines. I believe he was also a Platoon Leader in the 1/52 Ready Rifles. Contact Name: Tom Dier, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

Anyone, I am looking for anyone in 1 Bat 14th Arty LZ Stinson and Chippewa 70-71 Contact Name: Capt. Ron Boone, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

WO Doug Lackey or any others, 70-71 Chu Lai, LZ Stinson/Chippewa 1/52 Inf, 198 Inf Brg, 14th Arty, Contact Name: Ron Boone, EmailAddr: [REDACTED], AltContact: [REDACTED]

Any Blue Ghosts, I was Blue Ghost 35. Served in Chu Lai, Quang Tri and Da Nang from July 70 to July 71. Contact Name: Bob Henshaw (Blue Ghost 35), EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

Anyone who knew Sgt Paul McSpadden. Since my dad died in 1993, I've been trying to learn more about his service in New Caledonia and Guadalcanal. I know little other than that he was wounded in Guadalcanal on 9 Jan 1943. Contact Name: Casey McSpadden. Email Addr: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Washington DC 20008  
Anyone, E Compnay 1Bn, 6th Inf, 198th LIB, Dec 68- 69 LZ Fat City. Contac Name: Bill Sawyer (LT). EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

Anyone who served with my father, Donald Kienast (sometimes called slim or just kineast) in FOX Co. on Leyte or Cebu from 44-45, or in Japan 45-46. Contact Name: Kevin Kienast, EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

William S. Polan M.D., Bn. Surgeon 3/18 Arty 1967-68. Contact Name: Bill Rauscher, EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

Continued Next Page

Anyone who was with E Co, 5th Bn, 46th Inf, 198 Inf Bde Recon from Oct 70 thru Aug 71. Contact Name: Alfred Thomas, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

ANYONE, I SERVED WITH THE 176TH AHC IN CHU LAI FROM MAY 1970 UNTIL APRIL 1971 Contact Name: BRIAN ELLIOTT Email Addr: [REDACTED]

Anyone, Div Arty Air, Chu Lai '68-'69, Contact Name: Darryl James, Email Addr: [REDACTED], Midland, Texas 79701, [REDACTED] hm

Jungle Warriors, C Co., 3/1st Inf. 11th Brg., Jan.1968 to Jan.1969, Duc Pho area in I Corp, Contact Name: Neil Burke, EmailAddr: [REDACTED], Burke Investigations [REDACTED], Annapolis, Maryland, 21403, [REDACTED]

Tom Homan, Was at Chu Lai 1969-70. I believe in radio repair. From Omaha, Nebraska. Contact Name: Forrest Carper, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

Budda or Doc or a golfer named Day, E Co, 5th Bn, 46th Inf 198 Bde; dates are approximate 10/70-08/71. Contact Name: Alfred Thomas, Email Addr: [REDACTED] Enid OK 73703, [REDACTED]

Sp/4 Lemons, Radio/Telephone Operator in Delta Company, 3/1, 11th LIB. We operated in the 'Horseshoe' area west of Quang Ni City (circa 1969-1970). Contact Name: Victor Jones Russell Email Addr: [REDACTED], Jacksonville, NC 28540-9161

Goetz, Charles E?, MAJ USA INF, LZ STINSON during August 1970 until August 1971. I would like to correspond with any and all of the members of the 1/52, the 1/14, the 155's, the Searchlight Platoon. Contact Name: Ron Boone, Email Addr: [REDACTED] Maryville, TN 37804, [REDACTED]

Thomas Mastroianni, WWII, Pacific. I was told last night that my late Uncle was in the Americal Div in the Pacific. His name was Tommy Mastroianni. I'm told he was in the "heavy artillery", and perhaps drove a truck. He may have been nicknamed "Costello". Any information or stories about my Uncle would be appreciated by all of his surviving relatives! Contact Name: Peter Risman, EmailAddr: [REDACTED], Lebanon, NJ 08833

Anyone in B Co 1/52 198 LIB, in 68-69, LZ's Bowman, Proffesional, Buff-Stinson. Also looking for the Medic who always went out with the Recon Platoon. Contact Name: Herbert (Hump) Wheeler Email Addr: [REDACTED] Or contact Frank Schulgen, [REDACTED], Dripping Springs, TX. 78620, [REDACTED]

Buddies that were with A Co., 2nd of 1st, 196 (Americal Div) at Black Hawk Hill between March 1969 and May 1970. Worked AO of Chu Lai, Tien Fuch, Tam Ky, and My Lai. Contact Name: Richard A. Moore, Email Addr: [REDACTED], Indianapolis, Indiana 46237, [REDACTED]

Flight school friend, Marty Ott, Americal Division, 1970, Contact: Raymond Colles, email: [REDACTED]

Anyone from CO. C 1/46th 196th, and anyone who was on Firebase Maryanne in 1971. Contact Name: Wally Brandt, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

Anyone who served in the 125th Quartermaster Company, Americal Division, from 1943-1945. Contact Name: Robert R. Dye Jr., Email Addr: [REDACTED] Ft. Gibson, OK 74437

Anyone who served with my brother, Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 2/1, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Chu Lai, February 1967 - August 1967. My brother, PFC Randy Lee Taylor was killed by friendly fire on August 17, 1967. I have found his platoon Sergeant, Joe Santiago, we hope to find the other platoon men. My brother was killed by "small arms fire" and the veteran whose gun killed him may need speak with me. More importantly, I NEED to speak with him and let him know that it is OK, that he is loved and has been thought about for over 30 years. I understand his pain and want him to know that it's O.K. Contact Name: Jennifer Taylor Nichols, Email Addr: [REDACTED], AltContact: Jennifer Taylor Nichols, [REDACTED], Millburn, NJ 07041

Anyone, Recon 2/1, 1970. Contact Name: Scott Smith "Doc". Email Addr: [REDACTED], Sumner, WA, 98390

Wesley W. Young, 1st/1st Cav, Americal Division, October 1969-October 1970, Tampee, Maili. Contact Name: [REDACTED] Seattle, WA, 98122

Albert Johns Jr., 198th 1/52, B company from April 69 to April 70. Contact Name: Max Loffgren Email Addr: [REDACTED]

Anyone, Floyd Talley from Kentucky(Doc) with the 1/46 Co D in 68-69. Contact Name: Ernie Freymuth, Email Addr: [REDACTED] or Regina Talley, [REDACTED] Raleigh, NC 27604, tx: work [REDACTED] home [REDACTED]

Anyone, 1/82nd Arty A btry; or B btry 1/14 Arty, 68'-69 located on LZ's Fat City, Young, Cork, Baldy, Tam Ky and battalion hq. at Chu Lai. Contact Name: Rod Harp Email Addr: [REDACTED], Silver City, N.M. 88061

Mike Kuhn, 2nd Lt. 2nd Plt., B Co., 5th/46th, 198th Lt. Inf 3/68 3/69, Contact Name: Terry DeMott, Email Addr: [REDACTED]

Anyone, June 68 thru May 14, 1969. I was in Third Platoon, Charlie Co. We were on a place called LZ Professional. Contact Name: Roy L. Cordingley EmailAddr: [REDACTED]

David McArtor, Served Duc Pho 68/69. From Indiana. Co. A, 4th BN, 3rd Inf, 11th Inf. Bde. Contact Name: Christina Sharik, Email Addr: [REDACTED] St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Anyone, Co. A, 1/20, 11th LIB., Sept 69 thru Aug 70. Contact Name: Leroy Waguespack, Email Addr: [REDACTED], Leroy Waguespack, [REDACTED], Baker, LA 70714, [REDACTED]

Anyone, B Co., 3rd/21st, 3/69-5/70. Contact Name: Ralph Gorton Email [REDACTED], MI 48901-7210



The following letters were posted on the ADVA web page by children of veterans seeking assistance. If you can be of help, please answer directly, or, if you need assistance, contact Gary Noller, National Commander, [REDACTED].

My dad served as an FO in the 245 FA WWII. I would like to get some history on his unit and info about any unit citations, battle stars, and engagements they were in. He has seen 3 1/2 yrs of combat and been on countless combat missions during his duration. I also found a terrific photo album he has kept with gritty photos of action at Guadalcanal and other campaigns. Please respond with a contact or address I can reach for info.

LTC Rich Lolli, CA, USAR  
[REDACTED]

My Dad served in the 57th Engineer Battalion of the Americal Division during World War II. I am trying to put together any and all info regarding his service. He served at Guadalcanal and tells stories of the hasty formation of the Division and being shipped out of San Francisco on the S.S. "Nurdham" to a staging area in New Caledonia.

His name is Maurice Waxman. I do not have his service number but I am working on that. He was inducted in Hammond, IN and returned to Ft. Harrison after serving overseas and contracting malaria.

I would appreciate any advice on how to obtain records so that I can assemble any awards & citations he may have earned while serving during WWII. He is still alive at age 85 and has a remarkable memory. I would like to preserve as much of the details and share them with him while I can.

Howard Waxman  
[REDACTED]

I am trying to find some information concerning the activities of the 182d Inf Reg while on mainland Japan. My father was a member of the Regiment and I can recall him talking about the trips his unit took to the nuclear bomb sites. Is there any information you or any member of the association might have that would discuss the activities of the regiment while on Japan. I am assisting my mother with a claim with VA trying to establish service connection for my dad's death based on exposure to radiation. Any assistance you might be able to provide will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Col (R) Jim Frederick  
[REDACTED]

My name is Antoinette Andrews. My father, Henry Ramirez, and my mother, Lupe, had made reservations for the reunion and planned to drive out in their motor home (from California). Unfortunately, he is in the hospital, and they will not be able to attend.

But I just wanted to add what a wonderful time they had at the last reunion (in Reno I think). He just can't stop talking about it and loves to review the video he bought of the parade, etc.

[Editor's note: Henry has since been released from the hospital. It would be a wonderful gesture if reunion attendees would send him any video or photographs of this year's reunion. Henry's address is [REDACTED] Pasadena, CA., 91107.]

[www.americal.org](http://www.americal.org)

The following success story is very wonderful to hear. It demonstrates how the internet can be an effective tool in keeping people in touch. What a great joy it must be to find a long lost buddy. Compliments to all the children of veterans who take the time an interest to connect their parents with friends of long ago.

## A Very Happy Reunion

I can not thank you enough for your help in locating Mr. Underwood. Through the address you provided I was able to contact Mr. Underwood by mail and he quickly called me and we were able to arrange a surprise luncheon date for he and my father. My father and I were to leave for New York on the day of the luncheon and the postponed trip was a source of disappointment...soooo

I invited my father to go for a drive to a nearby town under the false pretense that my husband had gone to work without his wallet and was in need of money or lunch. I pretended to be lost and knocked on Mr. Underwood's door seeking directions....my father was still muttering about my husband leaving his wallet behind...and how he should be on his way to New York.

When I knocked on Mr. Underwood's door he immediately came out to the car and I stuck my head in the window and asked my father if he were going to get out and say hello. The look of disbelief on my father's face was truly laughable. Imagine having to introduce yourself to a stranger who is supposed to be giving your daughter directions! He of course asked 'why' he needed to get out to meet this man and when he learned his name was Underwood, the trips intent became very clear.

After the initial hand shaking..and sharing a couple of tears, the fellows settled down to some serious talking. I didn't think they would come up for air, but managed to eat a nice lunch at a nearby restaurant. They traded names and places for over an hour..and when we returned to Mr. Underwood's home they looked through his album of pictures and newspaper clippings which brought back more names and places.

I purchased a camera to record this surprise luncheon and look forward to adding another photograph to Mr. Underwood's album.

Right now my father is in New York for the summer and hopes to visit Massachusetts to see another army buddy by the name of Bill McLaughlin. He has his camera with him and I hope he will take a few more memorable pictures...if they turn out good I'll be sure to send you a snapshot or two.

Again, thank you for all your help. I loved playing the devious one and pride myself at still being able to pull the wool over my father's eyes!

Sincerely,  
Jeanine McCombe Ropes

## Virtual Reunion

If you would like to see photos of the 1997 ADVA reunion on the internet, check the page at:

[www.americal.org/reunion2.htm](http://www.americal.org/reunion2.htm)

Photos were taken on a digital camera and posted to the web site by Kevin Sartorius, Webmaster.

While it cannot be known with any certainty, this is probably the first unit reunion where photos of events were posted to the internet within minutes of the actual event.

Many thanks to Kevin for joining us at the reunion and posting the photos to the web page.

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

September 6, 1997  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:00 A.M.

October 11, 1997  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:30 A.M.

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

### SICK CALL

182 Inf D/H/M/AT

John T. Algeo (Ret)

Brewster, MA 02631

125 QM

Harry L. Corliss

Medford, MA 02155-2156

196 LIB

Ralph E. Durain

Jacksonville, AR 72076-3

182 Infantry D Co

Ernest B. Carlson

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

121 Med Bn

Anthony J. DeYeso

Quincy, MA 02169

21 Recon

William J. McLaughlin

Marston Mills, MA 02648

HOW ABOUT A CARD GUYS?

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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

Mr. James L. Brown  
198 LIB  
Austin, TX  
#Self

Mr. Joseph A. Castagneto  
164 Infantry A Co.  
Lincoln, AL  
#R. Castronova

Ltc. Milton D. Houghton  
11 LIB C/1/20 4/3  
Los Alamitos, CA  
#Jim Collins

Mr. Michael A. Antosh  
198 LIB Hdq Co.  
Aurora, CO  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Larry J. Brown  
1 Cavalry C/1/1  
Pontiac, MI  
#Ed Marsh-R. Thomas Jr.

Mr. Ernest Cathers  
82 Arty D/1 A/3/18  
Shell Lake, WI  
#Bob Thornton

Mr. Craig R. Singer  
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Kersey, PA  
#R. Castronova - Bernie

\*\*\*\*\*

### REINSTATED MEMBERS

Hyman Forman  
121 Med Bn 101 Med  
Randolph, MA

Luther R. Perry  
198 LIB 5/46 Inf  
Cincinnati, OH

Chester C. Holloway III  
123 Avn Bn Co B  
Atlanta, GA

Domingo Jr. Vasquez  
75 Infantry G Co.  
Olympia, WA

### TAPS TAPS TAPS

182 INFANTRY I CO.

Joseph C. Becker  
Dedham, MA  
1992 Date Unknown

121 MED BN H CO.

Ernest A. Brown  
Homeland, CA  
June 4, 1997

132 INFANTRY E CO.

Chester Daczkowski  
Lansing IL  
July 7, 1997

182 INFANTRY

Frederick A. Ingalls  
Chelmsford, MA  
April 7, 1997

247 F.A. A BTRY

Raymond C. Minard  
Huntington Beach, CA  
February 1996

182 INFANTRY

Joseph A. Plantamura  
West Long Branch, NJ  
March 21, 1997

182 INFANTRY H CO.

Charles Rock  
Everett, MA  
July 1997

180 FIELD ARTILLERY

Alexander Stamatouros  
Portsmouth, NH  
June 7, 1997

182 INFANTRY

Leo J. Sullivan  
Milton, MA  
April 26, 1997

182 INFANTRY

Theodore J. Zaborski  
Plymouth, MA  
June 21, 1997

132 INFANTRY I CO.

Harry W. Beneke  
Creal Springs, IL  
Date Unknown

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

Thomas W. Casey  
Westwood, MA  
June 7, 1997

182 INFANTRY

Walter C. Fuller (Ret)  
Braintree, MA  
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY

James M. McGrady  
Brockton, MA  
March 16, 1996

AMERICAL DIV. HDQ.

Sumner Myerson  
Chestnut Hill, MA  
June 7, 1997

164 INFANTRY G CO.

Edward R. Puhr  
Danville, IL  
December 15, 1997

25 INFANTRY DIV.

Kent R. Shields  
Wayland, MA  
April 18, 1997

182 INFANTRY E CO.

Anthony G. Streitmatter  
Cincinnati, OH  
March 20, 1997

132 INFANTRY 129

Frank H. Vogel  
Temple City, CA  
December 19, 1996

132 INFANTRY 3/HQ

Henry J. Ramirez  
Pasadena, CA  
August 11, 1997

\*\*\*\*\*

The Americal Division Veterans Association makes a generous contribution, each year, to the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Fund, in honor of our departed comrades.

\*\*\*\*\*



## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony F. Akscyn  
180 F.A. B Btry  
Amesbury, MA  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. Frank C. Anton  
71 AHC  
Satellite Beach, FL  
#Les Hines

Mr. Cameron F. Baird  
82 Arty 1/82  
Stonewall, TX  
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Carl J. Bengiovanni  
196 LIB  
Carmichael, CA  
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Jimmie R. Colter  
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf  
Couincil Bluffs, IA  
#Self

Mr. Daniel J. Daniel  
123 Avn B Co.  
Florence, CO  
#Les Hines

CW4 Gerald L. Davis  
182 Infantry B Co.  
Elkins, WV  
#Tilman J. Cole

Mr. John C. Flanagan  
198 LIB C/1/15 Inf  
Cranford, NJ  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. David L. Fort  
23 Americal Band  
Lompoc, CA  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Edward R. Goacci  
11 LIB  
Trumball, CT  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Kenneth J. Hermann  
196 LIBm HHC/4/31  
East Pembroke, NY  
#Vance Van Wieren

Col. John L. Iasani  
11 LIB Div Hdq  
Alexandria, VA  
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Gary L. Kitzman  
178 ASHC  
Darlen, WI  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. Henry S. Kulacz  
182 Infantry M Co.  
Wakefield, MA  
#Joseph B. Chin

Mr. Eugene J. Levesque  
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf  
Hampden, ME  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John W. Anderson  
8 Cavalry F Troop  
Paso Robles, CA  
#Self

Mr. Elon F. Bailey  
721 Ordnance  
Sylacauga, AL  
#John R. Geib Jr.

Mr. Marcel A. Barcomb  
198 LIB HHC/1/52  
Plattsburgh, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Paul F. Carmel  
196 LIB B/4/31 Inf  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
#Helpline 12/96

Mr. Daniel J. Dale  
123 Avn Bn B Co.  
Florence, CO  
#Les Hines

Mr. James F. Davis  
Vietnam  
Raleigh, NC  
#Joe Kralich

Mr. John P. Evance  
11 LIB HHC 4/3 Inf  
Arivaca, AZ  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Robert J. Florkowski  
101 Sig Bn  
Lagrangeville, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Gary R. Gilmour  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
St. Louis, MO  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Everett Goudy  
132 Infantry C Co.  
Milford, IL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. John Holman  
21 Inf A/B/D/4/21  
Silver Springs, MD  
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Ira A. Kimm  
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf  
Cedar Falls, IA  
#Lindley Hoopes

Mr. Kenneth M. Koehl  
11 LIB  
Stroudsburg, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Gerald D. Kushner  
196 LIB 3/82 Arty  
Antioch, IL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Julio S. Lolli  
245 F.A.  
Bayonne, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Luther H. Lutz  
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf  
Neffs, PA  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Kempton B. McManus  
23 Americal  
Westfield, ME  
#Bernie Chase

Ma. Gen. John P. Michits  
11 Arty 6/11 HHSB  
Dover, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Michael S. Miller  
211 Arty  
Alexandria, IN  
#Ron Davis

Mr. Bernard J. Nienhaus  
23 Division HHC  
Buffalo, NY  
#Thomas McGreavy

Mr. John R. Petty  
26 Engineers  
Bad Axe, MI  
#Col Matthew Hoey

Mr. Michael C. Rogers  
23 M.P.  
Newhall, CA  
#Larry Gelnet

Mr. Thomas Ryan  
182 Infantry H Co.  
Nashua, NH  
#John Groppi

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

Mr. Thomas A. Schubert  
31 Infantry C/4/31  
North Canton, OH  
#Bernie Sobjak

Mr. Richard G. Silvoy  
26 Eng C Co.  
Carasauqua, PA  
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Johnny M. States  
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf  
Hazard, KY  
#Paul A. Edwards

Mr. Earl L. Toomey  
196 LIB LRRP G/51  
Cape Coral, FL  
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Wilburn A. Trower  
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf  
Bowling Green, MD  
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Theodore H. Wetzel  
82 Arty HHS 3/82  
Delano, MN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Leland J. Woodson  
544 M.P. Security Pl  
Blaine, WA  
#Self

Mr. Willie Phillip Mallo  
18 Arty Hq/3/18 6/11  
Independence, MO  
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. Samuel C. Meeker  
132 Infantry D Co.  
Danville IL  
#William Sipavich

Mr. Jimmy R. Miller  
23 Div HHC  
Lenoir City, TN  
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Joseph G. Myers  
183 Infantry B Co.  
Watsonville, CA  
#Joe Jackson

Mr. Alexander P. Perez  
11 LIB  
Vassar, MI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Raymond Reubart  
132 Infantry D Co.  
St. Louis, MO  
#Joseph Balcager

Mr. Gary D. Roschevitz  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Kansas City, KS  
#Andres Delgado

Mr. William J. Sawyer  
198 LIB B/3/1 Inf  
Virginia Beach, VA  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Jon Schmitz  
?  
Hazelhurst, WI  
#Castronova-Hayes

Mr. James B. Sherman  
82 Arty A/3/83 Arty  
Moorefield, WV  
#Membership Committee

Mr. Stan D. Smith  
11 LIB 3/1 Inf  
Loudon, TN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James L. Swanson  
523 Signal Bn.  
Brockport, PA  
#Craig R. Singer

Mr. Charles R. Towe  
26 Engineers C/D Co  
Jackson, VA  
#Vincent Ventertino

Mr. Karl H. Von Halle  
164 Infantry D Co.  
Davie, FL  
#R.W. Buckley

Mr. Charles T. Wiggs  
196 LIB  
Selma, NC  
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Ceremonies for Veterans Day will be held at the National Cemetery, Bourne, Massachusetts on Sunday November 9, 1997 at 1:00 p.m.

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## ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

WOULD YOU PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL OVER VERY CLOSELY AND MAKE SURE THE ADDRESS IS EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD BE.

BECAUSE OF THE MANY NEW AND AUTOMATED METHODS THAT ARE NOW BEING USED, WITH MORE TO BE ADDED BY THE POST OFFICE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOUR ADDRESS BE EXACT.

MANY NEWSLETTERS ARE BEING RETURNED BECAUSE ONE DIGIT IS WRONG, THE STREET IS SPELLED WRONG, OR THE APARTMENT NUMBER IS MISSING.

PLEASE, IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON MOVING, OR YOUR PRESENT LABEL IS INCORRECT, CLIP THE LABEL AND MAIL IT TO ME WITH YOUR NEW ADDRESS OR CORRECTION:

JAMES C. BUCKLE

HARWICH, MA 02645

## HELP KEEP MAILING COSTS DOWN

IF YOU KNOW OF A MEMBER THAT IS ILL OR HAS PASSED AWAY PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR ADJUTANT IMMEDIATELY! SEND THE NOTICE TO:

BERNARD CHASE

SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664

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## NOW HEAR THIS!!

There are quite a few members that are delinquent on their dues and they have been carried on the rolls for a year. Not many organizations will do this. Because of the rising costs of printing and mailing we will be forced to drop delinquent members. Check your dues card or address label.

PLEASE: If you are planning to move, PLEASE notify Headquarters. The Post Office is getting picky about addresses so make sure your address label is correct.

\*\*\*\*\*

ALL YOU SNOW BIRDS: Please let this office know by September 1, 1996 if you are planning to head south next winter. PLEASE send in your winter address and the dates you will be gone. the Post Office will no longer forward your Newsletter. This office is notified that your are "TEMPORARILY AWAY" and the charge for this advise is \$.50.

Contact: Jim Buckle

East Harwich, MA 01645

Telephone

Please send your dues and any sick or death notices to:

Adjutant Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

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## CONTRIBUTING TO ADVA

From time to time the ADVA receives requests from members for information about the tax status of the organization and the deductibility of donations given to the ADVA and the Americal Division Foundation. The following is provided as a means of better informing the membership of these issues. As with all questions regarding the deductibility of charitable contributions, the donor should consult current IRS regulations and/or a qualified tax preparer.

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Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code defines the type of organizations to which charitable donations can be made. The charitable donations can be deducted, with limitations, by the donor on the donor's tax return. Section 170(c)(3) states that deductible charitable organizations can be made to certain types of veterans organizations. The ADVA meets the definition described in this section. Charitable contributions are denoted on Schedule A of Form 1040 of the IRS tax form.

The ADVA is a not-for-profit organization and has no paid employees. The chief source of income to the association are membership dues, donations, and investment income. Members are encouraged to include the ADVA and the Americal Division Foundation in their gift giving plans.

The Americal Division Foundation funds scholarships to selected qualified applicants. Any donation intended for the scholarships should be made payable to the Americal Division Foundation so that proper accounting will be made. Funds for the ADVA and the Americal Division Foundation are kept as separate funds.

Contributions for any purpose can be sent to National Finance Officer, [REDACTED], Boston, MA 02104. You are advised to consult with a qualified tax preparer for a professional determination of the deductibility of charitable contributions given to any organization or fund. Please write the address above if you have additional questions that can be answered by the association. Your contributions are greatly appreciated

(Written by National Commander Gary L. Noller)

\*\*\*\*\*

Kent R. Shields

You will note in the "TAPS" column of the passing of Kent R. Shields. Kent was a rifleman in the 25th Infantry Division and served as Vietnam Editor of the Americal Newsletter at one time. Kent told of the fighting the way he saw it.

Mr. Shield was the nephew of ADVA member Bill McLaughlin.

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## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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## Memorial Day 1997 Washington, D.C.

After some very long delays in tracing lost paperwork (our application for a permit to put a booth on the Mall) with the National Park service, and the many, many phone calls to the NPS, and the cold and sometimes rainy weather, we finally got it all together for the trip to Washington, D.C. for Memorial Day. I traveled by motorcycle for Rolling Thunder Ten which is held on Memorial Day Weekend each year. Many also came by cars and trucks to show their support for our POW/MIAs.

We still have MIAs from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and Somalia. Additionally, the Cold War has its own list of MIAs from missions that never existed on military assets and that have never been accounted for.

We set up an Americal hospitality tent on the mall, particularly to remember all the brothers and sisters from all wars. It was great to meet so many members from the area around D.C. It offered a great recruiting opportunity for our organization (ADVA). It is my hope to be there again next year. Watch for information on Rolling Thunder Eleven sometime after the first of the year.

Special appreciation goes to Commander Gary Noller, Kevin Sartorius, Joe Krisantis, Dave Casey (a 25th Inf. Div. non-member) and my good friend Jim Ferreira from Western Michigan University (non-member). He took all of the equipment down to Washington in his vehicle and helped me set-up and tear down the tent and display each day. Tremendous THANKS to all!! Your help made it happen for me.

About 250,000 people came to this year's rally. This generated a lot of traffic in our booth and many applications were handed out. I found that many people expressed an interest in our newsletter. I am also looking forward to many new members contacting our Membership Committee on the web. The web is a very successful information source for prospective ADVA members.

Until we meet again, ride free and keep the recruitment of new members as a primary goal.

## Be a Recruiter

You are the most successful recruiting tool that we have for new members. You know other Americal veterans and you know the benefits of being a member of the ADVA. You can put the two together and bring new members into our organization.

Never assume that other Americal veterans know that they are eligible and welcome in the association. Sometimes it takes a personal contact to gain a new member's interest. Please spread the word and help the membership committee in the recruitment of new members. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

## Windsor, Ontario, Canada July 12, 1997



I had a super trip to Windsor because the weather was great. I rode my motorcycle across Michigan and into Canada via the Ambassador Bridge. My destination was the Run to the North Wall. This is my third year attending this activity to pay my respects as your ADVA Senior Vice-Commander to our Canadian Brothers.

### "All Gave Some, Some Gave All"

We should never forget them. I will hope to see you all in Canada next year... 'till then, ride with the wind.

## Kokomo September 19-21, 1997

The 15th annual Indiana Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana will be held on September 19-21, 1997.

The ADVA will attend and have a booth in the big tent. If you would like to help your association by attending the reunion and helping to staff our booth for a few hours on Saturday, please see me at the booth. If you have re-visited Vietnam within the past year, we would appreciate the opportunity to hear about your trip and as well as any other information that you feel may be interesting.

We will offer the new Americal t-shirts for sale. We think you will be impressed with the design.

Our primary goal remains the recruitment of new members. The opportunity to meet you all again and renew our friendships makes this trip all the more worthwhile. I look forward to talking about old times. Don't forget the Americal group photo which is taken at this reunion. If possible, we will assemble at the hospitality tent at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. (If we are not there, we will meet at the main entrance.)

Be sure to visit the Americal booth and SIGN IN! This is the only way that we know if you came to Kokomo. I'll see you in September.  
Ed "Top Gun" Marsh, Senior Vice-Commander

### AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

At the 1997 National Convention of the ADVA held in Worcester, MA, the Trustees of the Scholarship Foundation announced the winners. Two scholarships were given, one for \$3,000 and the other for \$2,000.

The first place winner is: Danielle D. Beschle, from Clayton, NY. sponsored by Bob Beschle, her grandfather, a WW II vet who served with the 121 Medical Battalion.

The second place winner: Tara R. Barney, from McArthur, OH. Her father, Roger Barney, is the sponsor, a Vietnam veteran who served with 1/1 Cavalry.

The Scholarship Foundation is permitted to award scholarships in the amount of one-half of its annual income. In 1997 the Raffle alone brought in just over \$10,000.

Prior awards were for \$500 each year in 1993 and 1994. For 1995, two awards were made, for \$2,000 and \$1,000. Then in 1996 the scholarships were increased to \$3,000 and \$2,000. For 1997 the receipts were again high enough to grant the same two awards that totaled \$5,000.

Over the past five years the Foundation awards have totaled \$14,000. And in these five years the Foundation has reached one-third of its goal to have assets of \$100,000., with \$35,000. on hand now. This is made possible by the fine support from all the Americal members.

The present Trustees are: Ed Marsh, Dutch DeGroot and Dan Herald. Jay Roth is the newly-elected Trustee for four years. Ron Ward will remain as Chairman and Joe Chin continues as Treasurer.

We have a group of three school teachers who are not connected to the Americal Division Scholarship Foundation in any way. They review the 18 or so applications received and make the selections. The application process requires minimal time on the part of the student and I encourage more of our members to look into having one of their family apply for scholarships in 1998 and in future years. Applications can be requested at any time from the Scholarship Foundation Chairman, Ron Ward. There is a deadline of May 1st for completed applications to arrive at the Chairman's address. If you would like a copy of the Foundation By-Laws, they will be sent to you upon request.

We thank all of you who participated in our Annual Raffle which raised over \$10,000 for the Foundation. Many members sent checks with additional funds beyond the \$10 we asked for. In a future issue of the Newsletter we will be listing the names of those who were especially generous. We Thank all of you who are helping to make the Americal Division Scholarship Foundation the success that it has become.

The winner of the 1997 Raffle is William Maack, Queens, NY. He was with the 75th R & R, 196 LIB and the check for \$250 was sent to him.

Ron Ward & Joe Chin

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(Written by National Commander Gary L. Noller)

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### DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Michael A. Antoch

Mrs. Walter F. Heckman  
in memory of  
Walter F. Heckman

Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen

Virginia F. Stoeckel

Joseph L. Jackson

Peter K. Doyle  
in memory of my fallen comrades  
SSG Joshua E. Carney - McAlester, OK  
SP4 Willie Gardner Jr. - Brent AL  
SGT Robert J. Schumacher - Ormand Beach, FL  
CPT John 'Larry' Hogan - Exeter, NH  
1LT Carl Barry McGee - Detroit, MI  
SSG Terry H. Price - Salt Lake City, UT



## FIRST PLACE WINNER AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP



Danielle D. Beschle

Her response:

Dear Mr. Ward:

I remember the day when I received your phone call in June; the day when you informed me of the great scholarship that I was to receive. I also received a letter from Mr. Noller congratulating me on the award that I won. At this time I would like to thank the ADVA Trustees of the Scholarship Foundation Board for selecting me to receive this award.

My grandfather, Robert Beschle, was a member of the AMERICAL DIVISION (121 Med. Bn.). He is still extremely proud of his association with the division. His pride and loyalty to his division and country inspired my story. I accept this award with great pride and gratitude, and I extend a sincere thank you to everyone who made this scholarship possible. It is wonderful that you are able to keep our history alive by investing in the future. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Danielle D. Beschle

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## AND THE WINNER IS!!!

William Maack of Queens, New York was the winner of the raffle that was held to support the Americal Scholarship program.

Bill served with the 75th R&R, 196 LIB.

Congratulations Bill, and many thanks for your support.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Ward:

My husband, Walter F Heckman, USMC, served with the Americal Division in World War II, recently passed away. I would like to make a one-time donation to the Americal Division Scholarship Fund of \$1000.00, a check for which is enclosed.

Very truly yours,  
Mrs. Walter F. Heckman  
Clearwater, Florida

\*\*\*\*\*

## SECOND PLACE WINNER AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP



Tara R. Barney

Her response:

Dear Mr. Ward:

I would like to sincerely thank the ADVA for the scholarship awarded to me. It is greatly appreciated and will help me reach my educational goals.

Your organization is to be highly commended for your services and dedication to veterans and their families.

THE AMERICAN FLAG; PATRIOTISM; VIETNAM WAR; POW-MIA for veterans and their families these are not just words. They have meaning and will not be forgotten. Thank you ADVA for remembering and not letting the rest of the world forget. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Tara R. Barney

Ed Note: Tara's father served with the 1st Cavalry, A Troop, 1968.

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## SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

You will find my check enclosed for the Scholarship Foundation.

I am sure you will recall that Lara Sweedo was the first and second recipient our scholarship. She just graduated from Notre Dame with Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Phi Beta Kappa. Last month she started school at Dickenson School of Law at Carlisle, PA, to study law. She has always been very thankful for the scholarship from the ADVA.

Hope to see you at the next reunion

Regards,  
Ltc Peter J. Messina

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

Why not donate to the Foundation in memory of a buddy that has passed away or in the memory of a loved one?

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

COMMANDER: Bob Kapp, 5821 Dory Way, Tampa, FL

Our Spring meeting was held in Melbourne, this past year, during the Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park. Our Chapter had a Hospitality Tent at the park to recruit new members for the Americal Association. This was a great success and we had a good time.



Hospitality Tent at Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL.  
L to R: Harriett Dakin, Carol Kapp, Bob Kapp, Pat Matola, Peter Mastroio, Elmer Matola, Richard Comeau, George Dakin.

We all extend our deepest sympathy to member Richard Comeau on the recent loss of his wife, Claire. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.

Our Chapter had a short business meeting at the Park. We will be going to Bushnell on Memorial Day. a wreath will be placed on the Americal Memorial Stone following the ceremonies there.

The S.E Regional fall meeting will be held at the Vanderbilt Beach Motel in Naples, Florida--October 26 thru October 28. Hope to see you all there.

## FALL CONVENTION -- MINI VACATION

Mini Vacation Includes:

Gulf View accommodations for two nights.  
Continental breakfast each morning  
Dinner one evening (Choice of restaurant)  
Lunch one day (Choice of restaurant)  
Check-in on any Sun-Mon-Tues-Wed or Thurs enjoy an additional lunch plus 10% off your 2nd evening dinner with a complimentary cocktail

Your attraction voucher entitles you to choice:

Beautiful 1 1/2 hour cruise on the Nautilus  
A narrated Trolley Tour of Naples  
18 holes of golf (\$10 cart fee required)  
Admission to National Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary  
Admission to Collier Automotive Museum  
10% off the 1/2 day rental fee of a luxury 24 foot Pontoon boat  
Free Tennis - Heated Pool - Fishing Docks

ALL FOR \$92.50 PER PERSON  
For reservations - [redacted] - mention ADVA

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

Regional Commander Terry Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574  
Tel. [redacted]

In June I sent out a Great Lakes Newsletter to all members of this region about having an organizational meeting on August 23 in Middleton, WI and to participate in the Middleton Good Festival Parade on August 24, here in Wisconsin. Results of that weekend will be sent out to all members that are paid up on their dues.

If you want the last Newsletter and want to be a member sent your \$5.00 yearly dues to me. I have also had an AMERICAL GREAT LAKES T-SHIRT for members. If you are interested please send \$13.00 which includes mailing.

Up coming events will be the LZ/DC All Veterans Reunion in Washington DC. This will be the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (For further info see notice under 'Reunions' in this issue of the Americal Newsletter). Hope to see a lot of you there.

The Great Lakes Chapter will be attending the New Glarus Wisconsin Winterfest R&R All Veterans Parade on Friday night, January 16, 1998. Last year we had over 25 Americal Veterans in attendance. Our National Commander Gary L. Noller, PNC John DeGroot, SE Regional Commander Bob Kapp were present. We will meet at the Swiss Lanes on Friday night at 6:30 P.M.. Free beer and food until 8:30 P.M. before parade. (More later).

For flyers on any of these activities write to me at the address above.

Terry Babler

\*\*\*\*\*

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

COMMANDER SECRETARY/TREASURER  
Ernest B. Carlson Malcolm P. East  
[redacted] [redacted]  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Lumberton, TX 77656

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

It was brought up at the general meeting at the Convention that a plaque should be placed in the Admiral Nimitz Museum, honoring the Americal Division. At a meeting held in my house on the 4th I reported that Cameron Baird, 1/82 Arty, had pledged \$100 to start the fund for the plaque. I also received donations from Bill Bacon, A/2/1 Inf, Malcolm & Beverly East, 721 Maint, and one anonymous donation--when all donations were in we had \$470! If you wish to donate send a check to me made out to the ADVA Plaque Committee.

HEY GUYS! Check the back of your Chapter Dues Card--my area code has been changed from 210 to 830--also the front of your card tell you when your dues are due!!

Ernie

\*\*\*\*\*

Each Chapter is financially independent from National. They collect Chapter dues and finance their own functions.



## Commemorative Plaque Sought For Americal Vets

The Admiral Nimitz Museum of the Pacific War is located in Fredericksburg, TX. The museum features a Memorial Wall lined with plaques commemorating the service of individuals, ships, and units from all military branches that served in the Pacific in World War II.

Mr. Carlo Pola, Sandwich, MA, made a suggestion at the national reunion that a committee be established to acquire a commemorative plaque in honor of the Americal Division. The suggested action has been completed and the committee has begun the task of securing an appropriate plaque for the Memorial Wall (see item below.)

The Nimitz Museum is becoming well known as a focal point for the preservation and teaching of history related to the Pacific War. Scholars from around the world are attracted to special seminars frequently held at the Nimitz.

The George Bush Gallery containing over 17,000 square feet of new space was recently opened. Another similar addition is in the planning stages and is expected to be under construction soon. The museum is looking forward to receiving a designation from Congress as the National Museum of the Pacific War.

On July 4 several ADVA members were at the museum to participate in a ceremony officially recognizing the Americal Division. Several "souvenir" items were contributed by members to the museum collection. Bruce Smith, Museum Curator, explained that the museum is in particular need of items from the U.S. military of that era.

More information is available by contacting the Nimitz Museum, [REDACTED], Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

## Committee Established

Pursuant to an item brought before the national membership at the 1997 ADVA business meeting and in accordance with Article III, Section 1, Paragraph C of the by-laws of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I hereby appoint a Temporary Committee to be named the National Museum of the South Pacific Plaque Committee (Plaque Committee).

The members of the committee shall consist of Ernest Carlson, Malcolm East, Ron Ellis, Lloyd Perry, Tillman Cole, Joe Balcazar, Cameron Baird, and Bill Maddox. Julia Patch Diehl will be an honorary committee member. The National Commander, National Finance Officer, and Executive Council Chairman shall be ex-officio members.

The duties of the committee shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Coordination with the museum staff for the acquisition and placement of a suitable plaque.
- The appropriate design and wording for the plaque.
- The raising, safe holding, and disbursement of funds to cover the costs of obtaining the plaque.
- Reporting to the Officers, Executive Council, and membership as to the status of the acquisition of the plaque.
- Planning and execution of an appropriate dedication ceremony to install the plaque.
- Appropriate disbursement of any unused funds raised on behalf of the plaque acquisition.

I hereby request approval from the Chairman of the National Executive Council for the Plaque Committee to solicit funds from the national membership to cover costs of obtaining a plaque. Such funds shall be held separate from the general fund of the ADVA and shall be accounted for by the Plaque Committee. Gary L. Noller, National Commander



Mike Deel, Austin, TX, admires the plaque in honor of the 11th Airborne Div. The plaque is 20"x20", etched in metal.



First Marine Division Association, Bodfish Chapter plaque.



Dedication of plaque at memorial wall. Former Admiral addresses group of Naval Academy graduates.

## Plaque Fundraising Begins

Members of the South Midwest Chapter of ADVA contributed over \$500 to kick off the fundraising efforts to obtain the plaque honoring the Americal Division at the Nimitz Museum.

The museum asks for a donation of \$2,500 for a 20 inch by 20 inch anodized metal plaque. The plaque will have a dark bronze background with silver text and detail.

Members who would like to help fund the acquisition of the plaque may send their donations to Mr. Malcolm East, Chapter Treasurer, [REDACTED], Lumberton, TX, 77656-9429.



Ed Marsh (11th LIB) and Larry O'Boyle (182d Inf. Rgt.) enjoy a moment of camaraderie.



Ron Ellis (196 LIB) peers around Jim Craig (196 LIB) in anticipation of the next stop on the bus tour.



A historic stop at the famous site of the 'Shot heard around the world.'



Guests gather for the Saturday banquet at the historic National Guard Armory gym.



Dutch DeGroot (23d MP) looks on as Kevin Sartorius (Assoc) loads photos onto a computer.



Friday lunch for bus tour participants at the officers club at Hanscom AFB.



A U.S. Park Ranger gives a colorful interpretation of the battle at Old North Bridge.



Members enjoy dancing and entertainment at the Saturday night banquet.



1998 CONVENTION  
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA JUNE 25 - JUNE 28, 1998

PNC Tom McQuade, Chairman of the Convention, wishes to give you advance notice of this Convention so that you will set the dates aside.

The hotel will be the beautiful Delta Orlando Resort. It is located at the main gate Universal Studios, Florida. Just 15 minutes from Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom, Epcot Center and Disney/MGM Studio Theme Park. 5 minutes to International Drive, Wet'n Wild, Sea World and Factory Outlet Malls, 15 minutes from Orlando International Airport.

Rooms will be \$69.00 plus tax and several tours are being planned.

Don't miss this one---great place to bring the children to!!

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# 164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Minot, North Dakota 58702-1114

The 52nd Annual Convention of the 164th Association will be held October 3-4-5, 1997 at the Holiday Inn Riverside which is located on Highway #2 on the east side of Minot across from the Fairgrounds. Their telephone number is 701-852-2504. If you arrive by plane you may call them and they will send a vehicle to get you as it is only 10 minutes away from the airport.

The registration fee for the year is \$35.00 per person. This amount will come very close to covering the cost for the food and refreshments.

For more information contact me,

George M. Christensen  
Chairman

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ARTHUR WOOD - SOUTH EAST CHAPTER ADVA  
October 26 thru 28, 1997

Vanderbilt Beach Motel - Naples, Florida

Contact: Bob Kapp-5821 Dory Way-Tampa, FL 33615

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## INDIANA VIETNAM VETERAN REUNION

September 19, 20, 21, 1997  
Evans Kokomo Speedway - Kokomo, Indiana

Live Music, Food & Drink, Military Vendors, Military Displays, POW/MIA Ceremonies, Unit Reunions.

Call: Howard County Vietnam Veterans -765-453-3305

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## 132ND INFANTRY REGIMENT WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION



NEW LENOX, IL 60451



56th FINAL REUNION  
AUGUST 28th THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1997

With regret, the Officers and Directors of the Association announce that our Final Reunion Celebration will be held on the above dates at the Marriott Oak Brook Hotel in Oak Brook, Illinois, during the Labor Day weekend.

Men, "Father Time" has taken his toll on all of us, but with this final Reunion, let's go out in a "blaze of glory" - our heads held high with pride and dignity just as we did when victory was ours at the end of our military service.

Respectively yours,

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT WW II ASSOCIATION  
1997 Reunion Co-Chairmen

Rocco Solto Ed Ozzie Mitch Przybycien  
Co. K Co. G Co. I

Ed Note: I am sorry to hear that this Association has decided to call it a day. I recognize the names of the Co-Chairman as the names that have long been associated with keeping the organization going and putting many many hours into the planning of many Reunions. The men of the 132nd Infantry Association owe these men a huge round of applause! I certainly hope that long established friendships that began with joining the 132nd Infantry Regiment will be maintained.

I realize that this notice is appearing after the FINAL REUNION was held, but the notice did not reach me until after the last Newsletter had gone to press. However, I felt that it should be noted. It is my sincere hope that the many friendships of these comrade-in-arms will continue to live through the Americal Division Veterans Association.

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LZ/DC ALL VETERANS REUNION  
November 8-9-10, 1997

The Marriott Hotel in Crystal City, across the bridge from Washington, DC is the Headquarters. Rooms at the Marriott Hotel are \$69.00 for 1-4 persons. Call 1-800-228-9290 for reservations NOW! Overflow will be Court Yard Marriott with rooms at \$79/1, \$89/2, \$99/3, \$100/4. Call 1-880-847-4774. Free Shuttle between airport and hotels. Metro system is near hotel.

Sat. Nov 8, Welcome room in Crystal Club Room.  
Sun. Nov 9, Veterans Program and dance.  
Mon. Nov 10, Hospitality Suites 7:00 -11:00 P.M.  
Tues. Nov 11, Wreath Laying Veterans Day Program-15th Anniversary at Noon

For more info: Terry Babler  
New Glarus, WI 53574

Terry Babler is Chairman of this Reunion, the 15th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The National ADVA is a sponsor.

## COMPANY M - 182 INFANTRY

This story is about the 'Courageous 500' that was made of two Companies of the 3rd Battalion of the 182 Infantry -- M Company, heavy weapons and L Company, a rifle company. The supporting units were a detachment from the Medics and Service Co., 182nd Infantry, and one platoon of Co. B, 101st Engineers. Capt. Gogan was in charge.

It would seem like this was a grass-roots idea--only the top officers knew what it was all about--we were told nothing.

We had just landed on New Caledonia and in a very short time this expedition was conceived. All we knew that we were again packing our gear and heading for an unknown place.

On March 17th, five days after we arrived on New Caledonia, we again boarded a ship -- the Westralia, and headed to sea.

The Westralia was a cargo ship but heavily armed. Its guns were enclosed by structures, the sides of which could drop down to allow the guns to be fired. During WW I these were called 'Q' Boats. The ship was large enough to carry all of the 500 men plus our equipment and supplies. The ship also carried a float airplane. When needed it could be lowered into the water and upon its return it would be hoisted aboard and set into a special cradle. The plane was added security for us as we were not accompanied by any Navy ships. But a funny mishap, (called funny by us), but a very serious accident. A G.I. was showing his rifle to one of the Aussie sailors. It was loaded and accidentally fired. The bullet ruptured the gas tank on the float plane and put it out of service--this could mean trouble! However, the ship was not turned around and we stayed on course.

Two days after leaving New Caledonia we landed on the island of Efate, New Hebrides. It was not known whether or not the French on Efate would prove to be friendly. After the fall of France some French remained true to their country, DeGaulists or Free French, and some followed the Vichy government, the occupation government. The people on Efate proved to be friendly and we landed without incident. Half of the island were English.

Our ship did not carry any landing barges but the officers in charge were able to procure some barges that were used to carry copra out to the waiting steamers. Somehow the Westralia was unloaded.

Once we got on land we became stevedores -- unloading the supplies from the copra barges as they came in. I can't remember how our trucks were brought ashore, but everything had to then be loaded onto the trucks. (There were large tins of fruit among the supplies and some how some of these were stashed away for future consumption -- we had a good feed!) We put in a miserable day unloading barges and loading trucks as the weather was very hot and muggy.

Once everything was ashore we left the harbor area and headed for the area we were to set up camp, walking and carrying all of our gear. The area that had been picked for us was not the best -- it was in a cow pasture with cows and cow dung everywhere -- this didn't bother us too much the first night because we were all a bunch of green men and the night was full of noises. The cows

were not far away and they were roaming around during the night. Not only were we GREEN but we were SCARED -- every noise made our hair stand on end. I am surprised the while standing guard duty that we did not shoot one another. I think there was some shooting during the night but not at people -- we may have shot a cow or two.

With the dawn of another day we could better see our situation. Cow flaps were everywhere -- true to Army tradition we had to police the area -- bury the cow flaps. We were given chow and that is when we discovered a new enemy -- the common fly. They were mean! They pestered us all day and then the mosquitoes took over at night. We were not ready for this onslaught. The flies were part of our meals and certainly many of them were eaten. It was only about two days and men were starting to get dysentery and some men really had it bad! No doubt it was caused by the flies.

I managed to stay well during this period. The mosquitoes were the malaria type but we were taking quinine daily and malaria was not a problem at this time.

We didn't stay in this area very long. We were soon split up into groups and given designated areas to guard and patrol. My squad was given a section of a beach and we were lucky to find a large unused copra shed. This was to be our sleeping quarters. We made some bunks and set up our mosquito nets. Sgt. Hewitt was in charge of the squad and Corp. Benda was second in command. Most of us were now Pfc's.

We were not camped here very long before we had company. Marines from the Fourth Defense Bn. arrived from the States. The Marines were sent to set up a strong defense. They came with anti-aircraft guns and coast artillery. They had been on their way to Tonga Tabu but had been diverted to the Hebrides. They seem surprised to find us here ahead of them. The Marines were sent to all areas of the island.

The Marines stationed near us were only kids but their Top Kick was an old timer and he was tough. He was in charge and it showed. He did not bother us but one could see the difference in the training. The dug-in all of their weapons. We did not have our 81mm mortars dug in. I think they thought we were a joke. We learned from them.

During this period of time a very important sea battle took place in the Coral Sea between the Allies and Japan. Each side suffered loss of ships and the Japanese were scared off. However, the U. S. aircraft Lexington was so severely damaged that it had to be abandoned and sunk. Little did we know how serious the situation was.

Our time on Efate was getting short and in May we left the defense of this island to the Marines, boarded the HMAS Leander with our 500 men and their equipment. We were late in getting away because of the lack of suitable equipment to load the ship or a place to dock the ship. Finally, all was onboard. Space was limited and even the crew were hard pressed to find a place to lie down. We traveled all night at full speed. With the dawn of a new day we entered the harbor of Espirito Santos.

Again, no docks or unloading facilities so it was back to the primitive -- everything being handled. We were greeted on shore by a sight we did not expect -- a small group of natives in war paint and carrying bows and arrows. They watched us but neither side made any unfriendly gestures.



That was the last we ever saw of them.

We moved from place to place during our stay on this island but we did set up a base camp for the Company. It was several weeks before we learned the name of the island we were on. It seemed that we were not kept informed of the situation except we were to defend the island. With so little materiel and so little man power, and without any help available, we could not put up a very strong defense -- we were the "sacrificial lamb".

A large coconut plantation near the harbor was picked as the site for an airfield. The men of Company L and Company M were given saws and axes ant told to clear the land. A small 1/2 ton truck was assigned to take the cut trees away. We chopped and sawed and trees were falling in all directions. What a mess! We were not lumberjacks! We were working around the clock and it was dangerous. This was war time and the lights were on all night.

Help finally arrived in the form of a Naval Construction Battalion -- the C B 's! They were experienced people and had the proper equipment. The first job they had to do was to clear up the mess that we had made. With the help of bulldozers the job was soon done. They also cleared many more acres. The trees were cleared, the land leveled, and soon the first plane arrived -- a B-17 with a General aboard -- General Rose.

We didn't stay working on the airfield after the CB's arrived but there much more to be done. After it was leveled a coral base was put down that proved to be very dusty. The Navy supplied large pumps that were set up near the ocean and a pipe was laid down to the airfield. We were then given the job of connecting fire hoses to the pipe line and watering down the air field. There was one hundred and fifty pounds pressure in the hose and it took a couple of men to hold the nozzle steady. We now had long lengths of hose to pull around. The Army got help from us in the nature of natives from some of the outer islands. After a while the hoses began to spring leaks from being dragged over the coral. The Navy became upset because there was a scarcity of hose and said we would have to stop dragging the 1500 feet of hose over the coral. This meant more work. Finally steel matting was brought in and the runway finished. This airfield was built in 18 days, believe it or not. We beat the Japanese who were constructing an airfield on Guadalcanal. This airport helped save the day -- We could now reach Guadalcanal with our bombers.

Our job complete at the airport we were then sent back to our base camp. Of the time spent on this island the building of the airfield was our shining accomplishment. I do not know if this airfield was ever given a name.

Espirito Santo seemed to be a cleaner island that Efate and there less flies and mosquitoes here. We received very little new training however, especially in jungle warfare. We were never told about the Marines landing on Guadalcanal and the trouble getting supplies or reinforcements to them because of the drubbing the Navy was taking at the hands of the Jap Navy. The Japanese never got close enough to the Hebrides to give us any trouble. We were lucky.

While on Espirito a terrible tradgey occurred. The Army Transport, President Coolidge, hit one of our own mines while attempting to enter the harbor without a pilot on board. An attempt to run her

aground failed as the huge ship settled to the bottom, the top of her masts still above water. Much needed materiel for Guadalcanal was on the bottom but luckily only two lives were lost. The troops that got off had little more than the clothes on their back -- no rifles or other equipment. It was many months before these troops were combat ready again. (The wreckage of this ship has become an attraction for scuba divers).

Little did we realize, at that time, the importance of the materiel that now lay on the bottom. It certainly would have been welcomed on Guadalcanal.

It was hard to believe that we were not getting any practice firing our 81mm Mortars. Just before leaving for Guadalcanal we were allowed to fire a few rounds of Australian ammo. All the time spent in the Hebrides could have been used to set up our mortars and fire them. We were the most unprepared jungle fighters around. We were very fortunate that we never had to use our mortars while in the New Hebrides. I don't know what the Brass was thinking about.

Before being shipped off to the 'Canal the rest of the 3rd Battalion was brought up to the Hebrides. We had seen and accomplished a lot in the months we were separated from the rest of the Division. We were lucky that we did not have to fight the Japs who might have tried to take this island. We were lucky we were just out of comfortable reach of the Jap bombers. This would have happened had they finished the airfield on Guadalcanal before the Marines landed. The "500" man unit was small but "Courageous". With God's help we were able to survive and to help establish an important base in the New Hebrides.

Yours in comradeship,

Fred R. Wonson

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AMERICAL MUSEUM

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

We are taking donations for the museum, anyone who would like to donate shoulder patches or pocket watches, crests, MPC, plasters, flags, belt buckles-VC or NVA or any other artifacts from Vietnam or WWII would greatly be appreciated.

If anyone has a list of names of men from the 11th LIB or 198th Brigade, that were killed in action, I would appreciate receiving a copy.

I would also appreciate a copy of anyone's citation pertaining to the D.S.C., Silver Star, or Bronze Star, sent to me.

Any Medal of Honor recipients, General, Colonel, C/SGM or S/MAJ who could send me an 8 x 10 color photo, if possible in uniform, black & white is acceptable, if no color photo is possible. A life history of military career from start to finish including service in Vietnam, Korea, World War II.

Please submit all replies to:

PNC Roland L. Castronova

Peabody, Ma 01960

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WW II COMBAT RESEARCH GROUP

I represent a group of individuals who are interested in researching, preserving and publishing the history of the second World War. We are especially interested in both the Pacific and European Theater of operations and, consequently, combat units such as the Americal Division.

Our intend is to tell the story of units, such as served in the Americal, that did the hard-slogging, day-in, day-out fighting, suffering and dying. In our opinion, there has been too much published about such "glory" outfits as the Rangers, Paratroopers, and various "flyboy" units. We think that the history of good old line outfits still needs to be told.

Please contact: Michael H. Frederick  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

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A SHORT HISTORY OF CO. D - 164TH INFANTRY

As the war in Europe increased and the world became more involved, the National Guard started making changes. One of the changes was the moving of a machine gun company from Minot to Rugby-and in that move Co. D of the 164th Infantry was born, in the fall of 1940.

The Company formed in the Memorial Hall at Rugby and immediately recruited its first roster of men from Rugby and the surrounding areas. The men reported to the Memorial Hall for formal drills. The Company was federalized on February 10, 1941, and soon afterwards prepared to embark for Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. February 25, 1941 was the departure date and the Company was sent off with parties and a big dance, then marched to the train and a new life of army troops.

The trip to Louisiana was quite an experience. The eating on the old military train was pretty haphazard with the moving back and forth of the mess car. The chair cars had old stoves which were comfortable to the ones next to them--that is, until one would become too hot, move away, and immediately become cold again. But all things come to and end and the Company finally got to its destination--Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, which was about 20 miles south of Alexandria. A book could be written about the next ten months.

The highlight of our training at Camp Claiborne was the Louisiana Maneuvers which covered four states. As part of the Blue Army, with Dwight D. Eisenhower as one of our officers, we helped win the final maneuvers. During this time we had received some of the 1st Selectees from the states of North and South Dakota and Minnesota. It was here that the 164th joined with three other regiments to become the Fighting 34th Division.

Sunday, Dec. 7th 1941, found some of us on leave, some discharged, some in bed, some in Alexandria, some at mess and some at church services. This was the beginning of the furor that started with the separation from the 34th Division and ended with our entraining to the west coast and bivoucing in the famous Cow Palace. While we were there we were on guard at the Presido and other places of note around the Frisco Bay area. It was here we received replacements from the East coast and the 164th was the first full numbered fighting force. Incidentally, the 164th was the first

group of humans to occupy Cow Palace--a squad to a stall.

After a time of guarding the Bay, our orders were changed and we boarded a train Christmas Eve for the north, our orders now to guard and Air base at Pendleton, Oregon.

The Company was mainly at the Air base guarding ammunition dumps, fuel dumps and some were even guarding some of the people in town. Of course, that was nothing new, as some of the Company did that whenever we stopped for an hour or so????? While at Pendleton Air Base, Co. D had one of the more spectacular tent fires; a squad tent burned from one of those little stoves overheating. When Supply Sergeant got through with the list of lost articles in the fire, I think it would have taken ten tents to house the stuff--he learned fast.

Late in February, 1942, the Company entrained for Fort Ord, California, for the necessary shots--including the unnecessary Yellow Fever shot--new replacements from all parts of the States, and filled platoons for full combat strength. Now under the command of the 14th Corps, we boarded trains and embarked on the luxury liner Pres. Coolidge for destination unknown.

The Coolidge had been made over to a troop ship with berths above deck and below decks and it was about 10 stories deep altogether. Eating twice a day was a new wrinkle; and many of the non-coms volunteered for KP to get near the food oftener. The roll of the ship tipped many a tray of food, plus the food that was sometimes "tipped" by some soldiers not used to the roll and sway. On the way we stopped at Marquesas Islands for refueling and then off SW through the Pacific Islands. During the trip we crossed the Equator and all had a rousing Father Neptune party. We berthed at Melbourne, Australia as it was the only port deep enough for the Coolidge.

Our stay on the beaches of Melbourne was something to see and hear. The fellows got leave now and then and the Australians took them into their folds like the Salvation Army. A few could not get used to the 14% beer after Coke at home.

All good things come to and end, and in a couple of days we were on a little Dutch ship, the PellaLaut, headed for New Caledonia for jungle training. Some of the fellows barely made the ship, others not at all, the weather was questionable?? and the cold mutton menu did not help matters any.

New caledonia and the town of Noumea, was another strange experience. The French have a way of their own of running and island and town, and it was enjoyed?? by all concerned. We had airfield, town Tontua Bridge, and Hotel duty, training sessions, and singing sessions. Even the bugler blew wrong one morning and sent the whole airfield into extreme alert. Many times the night alerts affected the daytime schedule. At this time some of the fellows took officer training and became Louies.

Then one night, the call came, and all got ready to embark for the fighting; climbed on board several Navy ships and sailed to Guadalcanal to reinforce the Marines. We landed one morning; and before the landing was complete that day, we were under many bombing and strafing attacks by the Japs, causing our first casualties. We landed on Red Beach, and side by side with Battalions of the 1st Marine Division we battled first to hold Henderson Air Strip and then pushed the Japanese



back into the island jungle and finally into the sea. Two rivers that stand out in our memories are Tenaru and the Matanikau. We sloshed through them many times, fought on them and filled our canteens. Early in 1943, we made the island safe, and even had a USO show with Joe E. Brown.

Our unit now was called the Americal Division (Southern Cross) made up of the 182nd Infantry, Mass., the 132nd Regiment from Illinois and our 164th. For our fighting and relieving the Marines, the Navy Commander saw to it that the 164th was given a Navy Citation. General Vandergrift and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said, "You soldiers can be called Marines any time and we would be proud to have you." This is a compliment coming from the Marines.

Here, too, we received the Combat Infantrymen's badge (a star before the name on the Ft. Ord roster indicates this).

Men of Co. D learned a new recipe for refreshment purposes---a juice called Raisin Jack and another from fermented coconut milk.

While on Guadalcanal, the few natives left were very helpful in any way they could be---litter, food and munitions bearers under the leadership of Company men.

In March of 1943, the 164th was given a relief on the line, and transferred to the Fiji Islands for a rest and reinforcements. Suva the capital, became the playground of the war-weary soldiers of our outfit; we lived in thatched huts in the countryside and in the native government house. The 18th General Hospital was where we were all patched up. Here the men experienced the new non-alcoholic drink made from dried up roots of the cava tree. (At the 1962 164th reunion Ratu Edwards, King of the Fijis, presented a cava bowl and cups to the 164th Infantry Association.)

Many of the men went into the interior to a native rest camp, while others went to a small island, Viti Levu.

While on Suva, in the Fall of 1943, with the first 18 year old replacements, and our quota near par, the 164th shipped out to Bougainville, relieving the 3rd Marines, and further war action. Our duty here was to hold Hill 608 and the river perimeter. This river was warm, due to the heat of the active volcano here. Here some joined the "dime a dozen" club. Here, too, the Infantrymen's Combat Badge was awarded to Company D (two stars on the Ft. Ord roster indicates this). Also, the 18-year old replacements who joined us at Fijis, whose names appear on the award roster Aug., 1944, received this award at this time.

After securing the Island and more amphibious training we embarked on L. S. T.'s for Red Beach, Leyte, P. I., on to San Jose and a forced march to Ornoc Valley, where the enemy had set up a successful ambush. We were able to withdraw via Navy barges. Back at San Jose we prepared for combat and left shortly afterwards for Cebu Island, P. I., then on to Negros and other combat areas.

The Americal Division, along with MacArthur's forces, moved to Japan where the unit was disbanded.

(Sent in by Eugene A. Hill)

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## COMPANY D - 164 INFANTRY

I have been trying to find out for over fifty years if there was an association of former AMERICAL DIVISION Veterans. I was a member of the 164th Infantry, Company D.

After basic training in Anniston, AL, we shipped out from CA to New Caledonia where I was assigned to the 164th Infantry Regiment as a replacement. We went to Guadalcanal, where I spent three or four weeks, then to Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Mindanao, Negros, etc. After the war ended, to Japan for a couple of months until the AMERICAL DIVISION went home. Since I didn't have enough points, I was assigned to the 112th Cavalry Regiment, (Texas National Guard), for duty until discharge in 1946.

Several months ago, I sent in a request to the "REMINISCE EXTRA" Magazine (Aug 1997) which is published in Greendale, WI.; they have a section called "Roll Call" which lists requests from Veterans trying to get in touch with one another.

Fortunately I received several replies though to date none from member of Co. D. One fellow did enclose a copy of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER (Apr-May-Jun 1997), with an application for membership that I sent in immediately.

The only surprise I experienced leafing through the Newsletter was I didn't see any of the "Old-Timers" names from the Bismarck, Fargo, ND areas Co D was made up of mostly fellows from that state. Could it be that they are all "gone" during these many years? At the time I joined I was a young kid and they were older men.

I look forward to becoming a member of the ADVA and have informed a few fellows who wrote to me who were also looking for buddies, about the AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

Sincerely,  
Karl H. von Halle  
[REDACTED]  
Davie, FL 33325-3881

Ed Note: Happy to hear that you finally found us. There are still hundreds of the "Old Timers" left in the 164th Infantry Regiment. If you will send me certain names I will try to locate them through the Newsletter.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find a "Short History of Co. D, 164 Infantry", that was sent in by ADVA member Eugene Hill, a member of Co. D. Co. D Has held many Reunions over the years.

The 164th also has an organization and puts out a Newsletter. You may receive information on this by writing:

The 164th Infantry News  
[REDACTED]  
Bismarck, ND 58502

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ARTHUR WOOD - SOUTH EAST CHAPTER ADVA  
October 26 thru 28, 1997

Vanderbilt Beach Motel - Naples, Florida

Contact: Bob Kapp-5821 Dory Way-Tampa, FL 33615

## A WORD FROM CHAPTER COMMANDER ERNIE CARLSON

If you ever get within driving (or flying) distance of Worcester, Mass., you have to see the Americal Museum. You will want to go back to it many times!!! I went there three times, during the National Reunion, but I'm sure I missed something!! Ken Turner and all his helpers deserve a hand!!!

On July 4th '97 we entered a Float in the Annual Veteran's Parade here in Fredericksburg, Texas. On the Float were our Guests of Honor, Ms. Julia Patch Diehl, Joe & Eva Balcazar, Alan Duglosh, Bill Bacon, Tillman Cole, Bill Rosenthal, Frank Schulgen & Frank Jr., Malcolm East, Mike Deel, Lloyd Perry, our National Commander Gary Noller and myself!! We have had a float entered every year, except last year, in this parade. 1993-1997.

After the parade we returned to my house for food-fun & fantasy. Then about 2 P.M. we went to the Nimitz Museum, where the first section of the Americal Exhibit was formally presented to the Museum. It consists of Jap Spotter Binoculars, donated by Stanley Marwil (247th Field Arty- WW1), Jap Battle Flag, from Tillman Cole (B Co. 182nd Inf) Jap Rifle & Bayonet, from Melvin C. Ickert (D Co. 182nd Inf), Wool Blanket, Back Pack & '40's' radio, from myself.

Unfortunately, I guess due to other commitments, the local weekly newspaper reporter and photographer failed to show, as promised.

Another section of the Americal Exhibit is taking up most of my time today, and I am supposed to deliver it to the Museum in the next day, or so. (We have more flags now than we need!!) Also photos from New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville (with several of Hill 260).

A copy of Jessie Drowley's Medal of Honor orders, Presidential Unit Citation orders from, 1st Marines to Units of the Americal on Guadalcanal. Photo copies of pics of Admiral Nimitz, Halsey & Admiral Fitch, presenting Gen. Patch with the Navy Cross. A copy of PFC David Fonseca's letter, naming the Americal Division on April 22, 1942 at La Foa, New Caledonia. Also copies of a dispatch to Adm. Halsey from Gen. Patch, and an answer to Gen. Patch from Halsey (which I'm sure many have not read before).

Gen. Patch notified Halsey of the total and complete defeat of Japanese Forces on Guadalcanal, cutting off the Japs march toward Australia. Halsey's reply goes:

"Secret Operational Priority"

"I'm sending you a Patch to act as tailor for Guadalcanal. I had not expected you to remove the enemies pants and sew it on so quickly!! Thanks, and congratulations."

"Halsey" (Action Commanding General Cactus)

Also we have a Jap Pistol & a Saber from Joe Balcazar (D Co 132nd Inf) and quite a bit more. Hopefully, next time I'll have a complete write up with pictures etc.

Also, as was brought up by a couple of us at the General meeting in Worcester. we have started a collection to finance a plaque on the Memorial Wall at the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Commander Noller will have more on this, I'm sure in this Newsletter.

At my house, on the 4th, I reported to members present that Cameron Baird (1/82 Artillery) had pledged \$100.00 to start the plaque. At that time I was handed \$20.00 from Bill Bacon (A 2/1st-196th), a check for \$100.00 from Malcolm & Beverly East (723rd Maintenance) and an anonymous donation of \$100.00. Next day, when I went to pick up Cameron Baird's \$100.00 check--it had somehow grown to \$250.00, making the total so far in this account of \$470.00!! Anyone that wishes to help us to obtain this plaque can contact me, or send a check to me to enter into this account. Please mark such..."ADVA Plaque Committee".

Ralph DuRain (B/3/21st 196 LIB) has been in McClellan Veterans Hospital (4-C- Bed 29) 4300 West 7th St., Little Rock, Ark., 72205...for the past month or so. I go into Audie Murphy in San Antonio, Tx. on Aug. 14th for bladder surgery!! Dr. McIver has promised me I would just have an over night stay!! Hope so.....

Hug somebody  
Your Buddy,  
Ernie Carlson

\*\*\*\*\*

## C BATTERY - 221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Fellow Members -- I enjoyed the recent Americal Reunion that was held in Worcester, Massachusetts. One of the highlights of the Reunion was visiting the Americal Museum--I made four (4) visits! Enclosed is a picture taken on one of my visits.



Below is my new address and telephone number. I would enjoy hearing from any of my old buddies..

Sincerely,

Leo W. Orfe  
[REDACTED]  
Burlington, NJ 08016-1742  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Ceremonies for Veterans Day will be held at the National Cemetery, Bourne, Massachusetts on Sunday November 9, 1997 at 1:00 p.m.



LT. OWEN R. MATTHEWS

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN? I am searching for information, or someone that knew my father, Owen R. Matthew, now deceased, that could tell me of his military experiences in World War II.

Despite his official Army records being damaged in the St. Louis fire, I believe that I have been able to gather a fair amount of general information, but without a lot of specific detail. I would like very much to find out more specifics during the time he was with the Americal Division. Perhaps someone may have morning reports or rosters covering the period of 7/1/45 to 10/31/45 that would identify the various groups within the Americal at that time.



LT OWEN R. MATTHEWS

This is the information that I have:

2nd Lt. Owen R. Matthews, ASN 01329497 Infantry From Chicago, IL - Was with 106 Inf Div before OCS Arrived Pacific theatre June 28, 1945 Heavy weapons, 81MM Mortar then Plt Ldr Rifle Co. Served on Cebu and Leyte Could have served in Hdq 1st Bn, 182 Infantry Boarded APA in Cebu 8/29/45 for Tokyo Landed in Yokohama on Sept. 7, 1945 Was in charge of destroying radar and signal equip Jap photos show Mitsubishi and Nippon Steel Late October transferred to 81 Inf Div (321 Reg?) Jan 1946 trans to 11th Airborne to Return USA

Please contact: Daniel R. Matthews  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

(Thanks to Joe Micek for forwarding this letter)

\*\*\*\*\*

Kent R. Shields

You will note in the "TAPS" column of the passing of Kent R. Shields. Kent was a rifleman in the 25th Infantry Division and served as Vietnam Editor of the Americal Newsletter at one time. Kent told of the fighting the way he saw it.

Mr. Shield was the nephew of ADVA member Bill McLaughlin.

\*\*\*\*\*

MY FRIENDS IN THE A.D.V.A. - THANK YOU!

My wife, Julie Messina, has had several mini-strokes and seizures in the past year. She would like to thank the many friends in the ADVA who have sent her get-well cards and phone calls. At this moment she is unable to answer any of her correspondence and wishes to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their well wishes. She hopes to be at the next reunion so that she may than you personally.

Yours in comradeship,  
Peter J. Messina  
PNC

\*\*\*\*\*

C COMPANY - 132 INFANTRY

My name is Ruby Stamper and I am seeking information on my husband, John Wesley Stamper who served with C Company, 132 Infantry Regiment. I have tried the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO, but his records were destroyed in the fire.

John Wesley Stamper was born on April 9, 1925in Morris Fork, Kentucky. He was inducted on September 9, 1943 and was at Fort Ord, California on March 20, 1944. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge on May 11, 1945. He was wounded near Hill 27, Cebu Island on April 12, 1945. Promoted to Sergeant on September 23, 1945 and to S/Sgt. on February 9, 1946. He passed away on April 14, 1953 in the Veteran's Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky.

My husband received several medals but I have no record of them.

I would be most grateful to hear from anyone that knew my husband or can supply me with more information.

Ruby D. Stamper  
Southgate, KY 41071

\*\*\*\*\*

97 FIELD ARTILLERY (PACK) A BATTERY

When we were in Pittsburg, CA waiting to be shipped out, we were given a pass to go into town. A fellow named Plummer got into a fight and wound up in the Guard House. The Provost Marshall said that I could get him out the next morning.

The next morning he was released and we boarded ship. Three days later I called him to my quarters and asked him, "Guilty or Not Guilty"? "If you are guilty do you wish to be Courts Martialed or will you accept Battery punishment"? He stated that he was guilty and accepted Battery punishment. I restricted him to the ship for seven days. He couldn't swim anyways.

While on Guadalcanal we went down to the beach where a cargo ship was unloading. I saw some boxes marked 'Maytag'. "Oh boy" I said, "a washing machine". We put one on our truck and sneaked out with it sort of gloating over the fact that we had awashing machine with a gasoline motor. Once back at our camp we tore off the sides of the packing crack -- "Bull----", it had an electric motor and we did not have any juice. I think the washing machine is still back there in the weeds. Les Braun

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The World War II Memorial is a long overdue tribute to the individual Americans who helped win the war, the largest war of all time and the defining event of the twentieth century. The Memorial honors the veterans who bravely fought to defend freedom, those on the home front who contributed to the war effort, and the high moral purposes that motivated the nation's call to arms. Never before or since has our country shared such a common bond of purpose and determination. This will be the first national memorial acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation.



It will cost approximately \$100 million to move the earth, haul tons of granite, and construct the magnificent edifice. It is a choice location.

We are asking for contributions of \$20, \$35, \$100.

With your gift of \$20 or more, you become a Charter Member of the World War II Memorial Society, and you receive:

The World War II Memorial Newsletter with stories about the war and its participants, both in battle and on the home front, plus updates on the Memorial's construction.

A Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging your financial support, and listing any names you enter in the Registry.

A personal Charter Membership Car to identify you as someone who stepped forward to help build the Memorial.

On behalf of everyone who contributed to the greatest military victory in history, please join with us by sending your gift today. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Fred F. Woerner USA (Ret)  
Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission

\*\*\*\*\*

You may copy the enclosed form to make your contibution and mail it to:

World War II Memorial Fund  
American Battle Monuments Commission  
Washington, DC 20090-6766

# THE WORLD WAR II REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES



Anyone who helped win the war, either a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry of Remembrances. You may enter your own name, or the name of someone you wish to honor for their service to our country during the war. The Registry of Remembrances will be kept on permanent display at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., to ensure that the names of these Patriotic Americans are recorded in history for all time. Please complete or check all that apply, if information is available.

Honoree's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Honoree is: ☐ World War II Veteran ☐ Civilian on the Home Front

Honoree is currently: ☐ Living ☐ Deceased ☐ Killed in World War II

Service Branch, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of wartime activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you!*

If you wish to register more than one name, please make copies of this form and return with the original. Be sure your name and address appears on all copies.

☐ YES! I want to help build America's National WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL on the Mall in Washington, D.C., a long overdue tribute to the men and women who helped win World War II, both overseas and on the home front. Future generations must always remember their sacrifices for freedom in the defining event of the twentieth century.

I understand that the National WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL cannot be built without private contributions like mine. So I am contributing in the amount checked below to help you raise your goal of \$100 million. Please list me as a Charter Member of the World War II Memorial Society and send me the following benefits:

- ☐ \$20 A subscription to the World War II Memorial Newsletter, Certificate of Appreciation and a personal Membership Card.
- ☐ \$35 All of the above, plus the World War II Memorial Lapel Pin.
- ☐ \$100 All of the above, plus a large scale Limited-Edition Print of the Memorial, suitable for framing.

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

- ☐ I'm enclosing my check made payable to: WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FUND
- ☐ Charge my credit card (check one): ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



A CO 57th ENGINEERS COMBAT BN.  
MEMORIES

I was talking to a Marine last night, at the Elks Club, and we were reminiscing about WW-2, in the South Pacific. When we were through, and I was driving home, I got to thinking about the odd things that happened to me during my service. Things that are funny now, but they weren't then.

Like the first foxhole I dug on Bougainville. When morning came my fox hole was half full of water. But I was safe. Then the time we were reconnoitering a trail, to find a way to build a road to B Company, on Bougainville. We were kind of lost and Lt. Diamond asked me to climb a tree and see if I could see anything. I climbed up about fifty feet and I could see which way we should go, when something started to bite me. They were red ants, about three quarters of an inch long, and they were after me. I started down as fast as I could, and finally fell out of the tree. Luckily I fell into a big bush. The guys helped me brush the ants off as they laughed.

Another time we were reconnoitering for another road and all of a sudden there was a blast. We were hit with dirt and brush and we hit the ground. Nobody was hurt but we back tracked and got back to camp. The Captain finally found out it was a mine field the Marines had put in and failed to tell us. It had Daisy Cutters in it. They jump up a couple of feet and then explode, throwing metal all around. Lucky we had tripped the wire to the warning blast. We didn't take the mines out but put a warning fence around it.

Another funny thing happened on Hill 260. We were bringing wounded and dead down a steep trail at the rear of the hill. We had this guy who had been shot, on a stretcher, and in our haste going down the hill, we lost our footing, and we both fell. The poor guy and us rolled down the hill. After we stopped falling, we got him back on the stretcher and to the Aid Station. We put him down and asked him if he was alright and he said yes, he was fine, but the next time he would take an elevator. Can you imagine the sense of humor of someone after a spill like that?

Another dumb thing I did, on our way to the Philippines, we stopped at New Guinea and moored in the Harbor, by this 3-inch rope to the dock. We were not allowed off the boat. We could see the USO Club up on the hill and we could hear music. I told the guys we could climb down the rope and go to the USO. They said I couldn't do it, so I showed them that I could. Nobody followed me, but I thought, what the hell, I've got nothing to lose, so I went up to the USO Club, and was welcomed with open arms. I had good food, drinks, and danced all night with pretty girls.

I sneaked back aboard the ship, with a few souvenirs and nobody said a word. I'm sure someone on guard duty saw me but didn't yell "halt". It wasn't long and they took off for Leyte.

On Leyte a few things happened. One was a broken Jack-shaft on the dump truck, full of gravel. I was driving from the gravel pit, down a steep hill, to a road we were building. Well, it happened so quick, and with a full load, I couldn't stop it. At the bottom of the hill was a narrow cement bridge, and I could see a Filipino and his Oxen were coming at me from the other side. I blew my horn as I had no where to go but the river bottom, when all of a sudden they disappeared from the road and when I went by I

could see they were in the river, and safe. I was happy but scared. I finally got the truck stopped and said a little 'thank you' prayer.

They took me off the truck and put me on the crane with a drag line. I was dragging gravel from the pit and loading trucks. I practiced pulling and dumping. A truck pulled up, and thank goodness, the driver got out of the truck and was talking to the Sarge. I got this big load of gravel and brought it toward the truck, but I forgot, you have to bring it over the truck, slow, as the gravel scoop is swinging on a cable. Well, I didn't and I took off the cab of the truck and covered everything with gravel. I learned fast, but the drivers never stayed in the truck and I never took off another truck cab.

But, I did take the track off a TD-14 Dozer. It wasn't easy. These dozers had a half-inch of armor cabs built on them, like a tank, with slits, so you can see out. I was pushing dirt down from a hillside, at night, down to a scoop shovel, that loaded it on trucks. I had to do it mostly by feel as the only light was on the shovel. It seemed to be getting steeper, and the dozer seemed to be leaning sideways, so I turned left, down hill and the track slipped off. So I got out and we both quit and went back to camp.

I told the Captain what happened, he said, "Okay, we'll get it fixed in the morning". Well, needless to say, it took them 3 days to get the Dozer level so they could fix the track. The Captain said, when I did something, I did it right. Wonder what he meant???

After all the dumb things I did, I could say I did one thing right. We were on Cebu and I was told to go to Carigara and bring back some replacements for our company. They were landing from a troop ship in the harbor. When I got there other people were there from other companies and as they came down the gang plank they gave their names and were taken away. I was standing on the dock waiting when one of the recruits tried to throw his duffel bag over his shoulder and it threw him off the gang plank into the water.

I was looking down at him and when he came up I could see he couldn't swim. Without thinking, I jumped in and before I hit the water, I remembered not to let him get behind me, or grab me around the neck. Well, somehow when I hit the water, he got behind me, and got a grip. Thank Heaven I could breathe. When I paddled us to surface, I saw this jacket hanging above me. Someone had the hold of one sleeve and I grabbed the other, but it came out of his hand, and down we went again. I paddled like hell and got us back up and this time they had a rifle hanging down. Well, I grabbed it for dear life and they held on.

Well the guy on my back started to climb up and onto my head and they then grabbed his hands and pulled him up. Then it was my turn. I was very glad to be on the dock again, even though everything was wet.

A Lieutenant came over to find out what happened. When told what it was, he came over and got my name and company, and said I would get a Medal for what I did. I never heard anything more about it and I didn't do it for a Medal, I just re-acted, and it worked.

So, you can see I wasn't a complete loss. My life since then has proven, I was right. Don't take life too serious but pay attention to the things

JAN 44, BOUGAINVILLE, IBU PERIMETER

The Americal Division Artillery's Cubs played an important part in this operation when a small airstrip suitable for these light planes was hacked out of the jungle at Ibu by Fijians. This field, hacked out of eastern slopes of the Crown Prince Range, eight miles from Mount Balbi, proved valuable to the outpost as a means of rapidly delivering emergency messages and orders and of evacuating sick and wounded.

Lt. Charles W. Cross, one of the two original liason pilots assigned to the division, took over the most runs to the perimeter, crossing Japanese-held jungles and high, rugged mountains to do so. Between Jan 15 and 26, Lt Cross made an even dozen trips to Ibu. On Jan 27, while returning on his 13th trip, carrying a Fijian officer, as his passenger, a heavy tropical rainstorm caused him to crash into the jungle. Conserted efforts were made to find the wreckage by aerial reconnaissance, but finally the pilot and his passenger were given up for lost.

It was not until the Fijian officer, several weeks later, staggered into a coastal mission northwest of the perimeter that the full story came to light. After having rested and recuperated to some degree, the officer gave his accounts of the crash and the events that followed.

Neither the Fijian or Cross were more than shaken up by the crash, but the plane and its radio were destroyed beyond repair. Although both men were lightly clothed and ill equiped for such an emergency, they headed generally westward toward the coast, hoping to be picked up there. It was not long until the pilot, weakend by illness and lack of food, slowed down and almost stopped. The Fijian carried him for great distances through the maze of tropical trees and shrubs, weakening himself in so doing. After several days of this, the pair decided to stop and rest, forage for food in the jungle and regain their strength.

Instead, Lt Cross became increasingly weaker, so weak in fact, that he was virtually unable to move. Sensing that he was sacrificing the life of his companion by asking him to stay, he insisted that the Fijian leave him and head for the coast in an effort to send or bring aid. Twice the Fijian left and twice he returned to the stricken pilots side. The third time, however, he kept going after having made the Lt. as comfortable as possible.

After several days he reached the coastal mission, stammered out his tale and asked that help be sent. With the assistance of the Fijian, a party searched for the airman, but no trace of him was found. It was later assumed that the Fijian, weakened by his ordeal, became confused in his wanderings toward the coast and forgot the route he had taken, thus eliminating any hope of finding Lt. Cross.

As a result, the Division Artillery pilot's name remained on the list of those missing in action. A short time later, for his intrepid work in the support of the Ibu outpost, Lt. Cross was awarded the Air Medal in the first such citation in the Division.

How about that, boys. Doc Merk

Michael Moehrke  
23 Med HHC 198th 68-69

that count. I'm glad I can look back at my life then, and see all the good things that came out of it.

We saved the World, and I am sure Japan is much happier for it, I know the World is. It was quite a way to start my manhood. I think we were all a little older when we came home than we would have been without the War. I was glad for that. I also appreciated things more and I'm thankful for my family and for my life since then. No regrets. Nice to be able to read about it. I'm sure that we are all proud to be Veterans. I know I am.

Darrell Wardien  
A Co. 57th Engineers Combat Bn

P.S. Almost forgot about the time on Cebu and I was told to ride shotgun on the Grader. We were to grade the edge of the roads which had not been used during the occupation of the Japanese, so the weeds were very tall. We were riding along at a pretty fast speed, and everything was pretty dusty, but we were getting the job done, when all at once the Grader went sideways. I went flying into the ditch. After I picked myself up and found no broken bones, we found the culprit that did this. It was a cement culvert, that we couldn't see because of the weeds. It had a ten inch rail sticking up that caught the blade of the Grader. We were very careful from then on. Instead of looking for the Japanese, we looked for the cement culprits instead.

\*\*\*\*\*

H COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY

The Company H annual reunion was held recently at the Silver Fox restaurant in Everett, MA. It was well attended and the dinner was excellent.

In attendance were Col. John Patterson from L Company, Maj. Salvatore Vinciullo and his wife Margerett from F Company, Maj. Donald Prey from G Company, Hoe Chin and Barbara from M Company, Joe Papa and his wife Jo from F Company.

James Doherty and his wife Ellen traveled all the way from New Jersey to be with his comrades from H Company. A newcomer, Al Rigolini. He served with the First Marine Division, 5th Regiment. Robert Dokton represented the 247th Field Artillery.

We lost three of our comrades this past year:

John Hayes February 11, 1997  
Jimmy Pesce March 20, 1997  
Francis McPhillips April 1, 1997

\*\*\*\*\*

REUNION

640 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

September 26, 27, 1997

Executive Inn

Sacramento, CA 95825

For Reservations

More Information

Otto Lindskog

Stockton, CA 92505-5009

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## ELECTED OFFICERS FOR THE 1997-1998 YEAR

NATIONAL COMMANDER  
Gary L. Noller

SENIOR VICE COMMANDEE  
Edward W. Marsh

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER  
Ronald R. Ellis

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

James C. Buckle Chairman  
Alfrd R. Doig  
William K. Maddox  
John H. DeGroot  
Robert N. Thornton  
Austin J. Roth  
Stephen N. Dennison  
James P. Meade  
John A. Bowley  
Malcolm D. Cate Jr.  
Brian J. Mulcrone

## CHAPTER COMMANDERS - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ernest B. Carlson	South Midwest Region
Terry Babler	Great Lakes Region
Pat Tognoli	Far West Region
Robert L. Granoff	Eastern Region
Ronald L. Ward	Central Midwest Region
Lloyd J. Morell	Northwest Region
Bob Kapp	Southeast Region
Roland T. Castronova	New England Region

Above are the names of the duly elected officers for 1997-1998. In last months Newsletter the name of our Jr. Vice Commander, Ronald R. Ellis was omitted. I could blame the computer but in reality it was the nut on the key board that goofed. My apologies to you Ron. Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

247 FIELD ARTILLERY  
(Taken from the 'Cannoneers Posts')

I was quite excited to read Otto Petr's story about the Hill 500 incident on Bougainville. Capt Komarony and I had become fast friends some time before. We would often place chess together. On this mission, I was Liaison Officer from the 247th FA to 3rd Bn. 132 Infantry, Col. Louis France Comdg. Lt. Benning was one of the Forward Observers. I can't remember names of others, on the long trek Otto mentioned, seldom seeing the skies except at wide stream valleys until we got to the "blown down" area. Otto mentions the 247th laid wire "by hand" all the way to provide reliable and "secure" communications.

Once we passed where 132nd Infantry soldiers had manned defensive positions--but they were all dead--their bodies in gray-green coveralls were so bloated by the tropical heat that they looked like giants.

When we arrived at the base of Hill 500, artillery rounds were arriving, sporadically, not too far away. Col. France established his Hq in a deep depression where the roots of an overturned tree provided a ready-made dugout of sorts. I got up as high as I could and still be within speaking range. Then, Col. France called, "Corny, I want you down here with me", and down I came. I had just gotten re-established when our mid-afternoon tropical deluge began, crude dykes were quickly constructed, and very shortly washed away. Soon everyone in the CP, including the Bn Cmdr, was

stark naked and bailing frantically with his helmet.

Then suddenly, amid all this falling water, it seemed bullets were flying in every direction. Col. France turned to me and said, "Can you give me some artillery fire?" I wasn't quite sure how I would do it, but I said "Sure, Colonel, where would you want it?" None of us had any idea where "It" should be directed, and I was off the hook.

After a few more minutes, the firing died out as suddenly as it had begun. It seemed that someone thought he saw a Japanese sniper sitting in a tree, and opened fire. Others thought it was enemy fire, and "chain reaction" occurred. The rain stopped and we got dried out.

In our stabilized position below Hill 500, a telephone line run from F.O. Benning, up on the crest with the front line elements, to the 3rd CP below and back to 247th Fire Direction Center. As night fell, the plan was to continue harassing fire in front of our lines on a continuous schedule. Lt. Benning and I were on a "party line" with FDC. I went to sleep with the telephone by my ear. I don't know whether the short artillery round awakened me first or not. I do remember Lt. Benning's urgent voice, "CEASE FIRING!" and my repeating it to be sure FDC received it. (The sort round fell on a CP killing Capt. Komarony and several other men. After discussion, firing was resumed - further out to our front.

I knew most of the cannoneers who were during the firing - they were very conscientious, and sick at heart over what happened. That artillery ammunition had been many months in open storage in those cloverleaf bundles of cardboard tubes. I am personally certain that the howitzer crew performed flawlessly, and the ammunition was the sole cause of the disaster.

Back in New Caledonia, before we ever saw combat, we artillerists would sometimes teased the Infantry by saying, "You know we're entitled to 5% of your casualties..." That stopped when we reached Guadalcanal; but even so months later I would not have been surprised that some of those stupid remarks came home to roost. Instead, the Infantry was totally supportive - "We understand, don't fret about it!" Throughout the remainder of the operation, the acceptance and comradeship extended to us artillery people was the best part of my war time service.

The next morning the 132nd, 3rd Bn CP was on top of Hill 500. What I believe was the tree observation post of Otto's story, was still standing. Its structural integrity rather questionable.

I borrowed a set of lineman's climbers and a telephone and went up the tree..it held! But all I could see was tree tops, so nothing came of that. When we finally returned to home base, I cleaned up a bit and shaved before reporting to my Bn Cmdr., LTC Powers. That was an error -- he had wanted to see me "as was". That 5 day patrol; was the last action I saw before I went stateside.

I have often thought about Captain Komarony and how "you will never know" what fate will bring. There they were in the safest spot of the perimeter! Burying them where they died was most appropriate. I don't suppose we could find that site today. I was glad I could hear about from someone who was close of Captain Komarony.

Martin Cornelious

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## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Ceremonies for Veterans Day will be held at the National Cemetery, Bourne, Massachusetts on Sunday November 9, 1997 at 1:00 p.m.

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## INDIANA VIETNAM VETERAN REUNION

September 19,20,21, 1997  
Evans Kokomo Speedway - Kokomo, Indiana

Live Music, Food & Drink, Military Vendors, Military Displays, POW/MIA Ceremonies, Unit Reunions.

Call: Howard County Vietnam Veterans -765-453-3305

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WISCONSIN VIETNAM VETS  
1997 DINNER DANCE

Saturday---October 11, 1997  
Quality/Clarion Inn Airport  
Milwaukee, Wi.

They're back again!!!  
"TEDDY & THE RUFF RIDERS"

The hottest 50's-60's band in the country!!  
Teddy says he loves playing for our group "because the dance floor is constantly full.

Great prizes by Milwaukee Harley Davidson and more raffle prizes for the women this year!

The planning is at full speed and this years program believe it or not, promises to be even more fun than last years ball. Yes, even with the Seabees there. (Joke)

Someone said there's going to be even more Seabees here this year? Secure the building and baton down the hatches!!!! The only thing bad about that is it makes the Leathernecks sweat so bad in their tuxes. Well, the Army is there at all times to break up the tangles and the Air Force will fly out the injured and drop them over Lake Michigan, for the Coast Guard to cool 'em off.

Just so no one gets the wrong picture, everyone gets along very well and the night is always a very fun time for all, even for the rowdy Chapter 111 gang.

By the way this will be Terry and Judy Bablers' 50th? wedding anniversary, so everyone please congratulate them when you see them. When you see Ron Lewis from Chicago, Ill., tell him your sorry he lost the fishing tournament, he'll appreciate those kind words.

Tickets will be out in one week at \$30.00 each and that includes a beautiful, very well stocked, buffet by the Quality/Clarion Inn. Free beer and soda as usual. The dress will again be Coat and Tie, in honor of our wives and significant others.

Don't forget to call Quality Inn Airport 414-481-2400 after you read this and reserve your room. The rooms are under Wisconsin Vietnam Vets, October 11, 1997. The rooms usually go fast. To reserve tickets send checks to:

Don Bachmann

Milwaukee, Wi 53207

Make checks to Wisconsin Vietnam Vets Ch-1.

We'll be keeping you all up to date from here until the big party. See you at the Dance.

In Brotherhood,  
Glenn Fieber

( I have attended this function many times. It is really a great time. The ladies always like it because its a dress up affair. If you can make this, do it).

Terry Babler...Editor  
1st Squadron/1st Cavalry Assoc. Newsletter)

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## A NOTE FROM TERRY BABLER

An estimated half million visitors will attend this Veterans Day long week end event in Washington, DC. May will be looking for a place to stay in order to attend the many activities. Get your reservations in EARLY!

It is set up to have some of the events at the hotel and also a place of gathering for Veterans, family, and friends. Sixteen (16) organizations are helping to co-sponsor some of the events.

A huge block of rooms has been reserved. This is a very special weekend because we will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



DMZ TO DELTA DANCE  
NOVEMBER 10, 1997

## 9TH ANNUAL DANCE

The 9th annual DMZ to Delta Dance is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 1997. The dance is open to all veterans, their families, and their friends coming to Washington, DC in observance of Veteran's Day. Our dance salutes all those that served our country. The proceeds from the dance go to supporting our homeless veterans and scholarship programs.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

We have booked a block of rooms at a special rate of \$70.00 per night for a single or a double room. To book a room please contact the hotel at 1-800-HILTONS, or by calling the hotel direct at 1-703-418-6800. Remember, you don't have to have a room reservation to attend our dance, but we encourage those that don't have a place to stay to make their reservations at this hotel. The hotel is conveniently located close to Washington, DC and is within walking distance of the Metro subway. The number of rooms at this special rate is limited -- so book early.

Where: Washington Airport Hilton

Time: 8:00 PM til 1:00 AM

Cost: \$25.00 per person. Includes cocktail, food, cash bar, free parking, silent auction, book fair, & Vietnam collectibles.

## TICKET FORM

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I would also like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Unable to attend - accept my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable and mail to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227

Arlington, VA 22205

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11 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

B/4/3 Infantry - C/1/20 Infantry

I would like to hear from any who served with Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry or Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry of the 11 LIB from the period 5-22-December 1967. During this period I served in the 11th Brigade in Vietnam and met some nice guys.

John Beier

RR1

Dwight, IL. 60420

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CO. E - 5th BN. - 46th INFANTRY  
Jan 69 - July 70

I served in the Recon Platoon and would like to hear from anyone that remembers me.

John H. Forshag

Luling, LA 70070

THE JUDGE GETS A 'STANDOWN' REST  
(By PFC Ed Breidenbach)

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO 1970) - This is an exclusive interview with "The Judge" of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Some of them might remember "The Judge", which to the Army is just another tank.

To a group of guys who drove him, he was a welcome home on wheels. All the evidence of home are on him. Take for instance the candy wrappers and the newspapers from home. A connection with the good old life is what keeps men alive at times.

Presently "The Judge" is enjoying a rest in a kind of 'stand down' for traveled vehicles. Maybe he is just in for repairs, perhaps an overhaul, although his bullet wounds don't appear to be that devastating. Whatever the symptom, there is a special look about him that portrays the fact the he has character and was busy proving it when nature called for a time out.

Although "The Judge" is in from the field he is still outfitted for his task. An example is the storage collar screen girding most of his 360 degree neck. All shapes and sizes of ammo boxes, flares and other implements of war are there. On the deck under his pride lie many great cartridges in oily dirt and sand. His tracks and wheels that give him go and make people say "here comes 'da judge", are dried in mud from the quagmire on the way back. Poor fella could use a shower but he'll have to wait his turn. The asphalt looking stuff in his tread is missing in spots.

But up on top three quarters of the way up the antenna is the reason he's over here. The flag is very tattered and torn and in that way looks like part of his soul. But he's still all there. Soon he'll be bumping again.

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## AMERICAL MUSEUM

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

We are taking donations for the museum, anyone who would like to donate shoulder patches or pocket watches, crests, MPC, plasters, flags, belt buckles-VC or NVA or any other artifacts from Vietnam or WWII would greatly be appreciated.

If anyone has a list of names of men from the 11th LIB or 198th Brigade, that were killed in action, I would appreciate receiving a copy.

I would also appreciate a copy of anyone's citation pertaining to the D.S.C., Silver Star, or Bronze Star, sent to me.

Any Medal of Honor recipients, General, Colonel, C/SGM or S/MAJ who could send me an 8 x 10 color photo, if possible in uniform, black & white is acceptable, if no color photo is possible. A life history of military career from start to finish including service in Vietnam, Korea, World War II.

Please submit all replies to:

PNC Roland L. Castronova

Peabody, Ma 01960

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## BRAVO COMPANY, 1/46 INFANTRY

I recently interviewd a former member of Bravo Company, 1/46 Infantry who served in Vietnam from March to June of 1969 when he was medically evacuated after being wounded in a mortar ambush. My interview was supplemented by research in the National Archives on 1/46 operations around LZ Professional during Operation LAMAR PLAIN which took place between 15 May 1969 and 13 Aug 1969.

Because of the extensive research I've already conducted, I'm going to attempt to write a book focusing on Operation LAMAR PLAIN, a recon in force in the Tien Phouc District near Tam Ky. My intention is to supplement the official records with first person narratives or copies of letters from participants should I be able to collect enough.

Should any of the Americal's Vietnam veterans have recollection they wish to share for public disclosure, I'd be happy to receive them for possible inclusion in the book. Copies of photos would also be appreciated but are not as important as detailed individual recollections.

Individuals wishing to respond may send their letters to Greg Eanes, 105 Guy Ave., Crewe, Va 23930, ATTN:Lamar Plain. Please include full name, rank at the time, platoon, company and copies of certificates for medals awarded for individual actions during the time period if available.

The following is data gleaned from the official records specifically, the 52/53 Daily Staff hogs and the Battalion After-Action report:

Order of Battle  
Operation Lamar Plain  
(16 May 1969 to 13 August 1969)

## US UNITS

1/46 Inf Regt (23d Infantry Division)  
1/501 Inf Regt (101st Airmobile Division)  
1/502 Inf Regt (101st Airmobile Division)  
2/17 Cavalry, Bravo Company  
Battery B, 3/16 Field Artillery (155mm)  
Battery B, 3/18 Field Artillery (8 inch)  
Battery A, 2/320 F. A. (105mm) (31May-6 July 69)  
Battery B, 3/16 F. A. (155mm) 10 July-12 Aug 69)  
Battery B, 1/14 F. A. (105mm) (16-31 May 69)  
Battery C, 14 F. A. (105mm)(1 June-12 Aug 69)  
4-77 ARA  
TACP 20 TASS (Tactical Air)

Total Casualties: 105 KIA in Action and 333 WIA  
1/46 Casualties: 9 KIA and 59 WIA in Action

## Vietnamese Communist Units

Second North Vietnamese Army Division  
31st Regiment (NVA)  
--(Battalions 7/31, 8/31 and 9/31  
1st Main Force Regt (Viet Cong)  
--(Battalions 40/1, 60/1 and 90/1  
70th Main Force Regt (VC)  
72nd Main Force Rgt (VC)  
74th Main Force Regt (VC)  
Viet Cong Liberation Force Companies  
--(C7 LF Co. and V13 LF Co.)

Estimated total strength: 3000+

Total Casualties: 524 Killed in Action (estimated)  
11 Prisoners of War, Unknown wounded.

1/46 Identified Casualties  
Operation Lamar Plain  
(16 May 1969 to 13 August 1969)

Killed in Action	Date	Company	Rank
Alaniz, Federico	6/13	B	E-3
Camargo, Juan	6/13	B	E-4
Chadwick, Diny	6/13	A	E-4
Conners, Ralph W Jr.	5/22	---	---
Jealous-Of-Him, Frank	6/9	B	E-4
May, Clovis	5/22	---	---
Schofer, Karl	6/9	B	E-4
Sinnott, Daniel	7/2	B	---
Utgaard, Thomas	6/13	B	E-5

Wounded In Action	Date	Company	Rank
Adams, Ralph	6/13	B	E-4
Beam, Phillip	6/13	B	E-4
Bendert, Paul T.	5/22	-	-
Botts, James G.	6/13	HHC	E-4
Busch, George	6/17	A	E-3
Chandler Billy R.	5/22	-	-
Coleman, Willie R.	6/13	HHC	E-4
Conrad, Michael W.	5/22	-	-
Esch, James	6/9	B	E-5
Farinelli, A.P. Jr.	6/9	B	1Lt
Fleener, Bobby L.	6/13	B	E-4
Furnish, Richard J.	6/13	B	E-3
Garvin, Leslie R.	6/13	B	E-3
Gatie, Thomas	6/13	B	E-3
Gravatt, Mayo K.	6/13	B	E-3
Gross, Richard C.	6/13	B	E-4
Hansen Peter	8/5	B	-
Hatfield, Michael	6/17	A	E-3
Hatmaker, Lee V.	5/22	-	-
Hodorowski, Francis J.	6/13	HHC	E-3
Hurst, Louis	6/17	Recon	E-5
Johnson, Donald	6/17	A	E-4
King, Stephen L.	6/13	B	E-4
Lee, Gerald D.	6/13	B	E-4
Lewis, James	6/9	B	E-5
Lundren, Donald	6/9	B	E-4
Maddox, Benny J.	5/22	-	-
McDonald, Michael	7/2	B	-
Methena, Jay	6/13	B	E-4
Montgomery, Donald E.	6/12	C	E-5
Odom, Freddy J.	6/26	A	-
Paradis, Real R.	6/12	C	E-4
Payne, George M.	6/13	B	E-3
Penner, --	6/13	-	-
Perleberg, R.	7/12	B	-
Powell, Russell	6/13	B	E-6
Smith, Glenn A.	6/13	B	E-3
Williams, Gilbert	6/13	B	E-3
Wise Jonathan E.	6/8	C	-
Wyse, Barry M.	6/13	B	E-3
Yazzie, Tony T.	6/13	B	E-3
Zauala, Joe	6/13	B	E-4

146 Combat Actions  
Operation Lamar Plain  
(16 May 1969 to 13 August 1969)

Date Incident	Unit	Casualties
15 May 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46 --
15 May 69	Firefight	A Co --
16 May 69	Sm. Arms Fire/LZ Prof.	1/46 --
17 May 69	Sm. Arms Fire/LZ Prof.	1/46 --
20 May 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46 2 WIA
21 May 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46 --
22 May 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof	1/46 2KIA/6WIA
27 May 69	Skirmish/Firefight (x3)	A Co --
27 May 69	Booby Trap	A Co 9 WIA
5 June 69	Action	B Co --
7 June 69	Action	C Co --
7 June 69	Skirmish/Firefight	Recon 1 WIA



8 June 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46	3 WIA
8 June 69	Skirmish/Firefight	C Co	1 WIA
9 June 69	Skirm/Firefgt	B Co	2KIA/4WIA
10 June 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46	7WIA
11 June 69	Skirmish	C Co	--
12 June 69	Battle	C Co	2WIA
13 June 69	Battle(Mortar Ambush)	B Co	3KIA/25WIA
14 June 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46	--
15 June 69	Action	B Co	--
17 June 69	Battle	A Co	1KIA/2WIA
19 June 69	Action	A Co	--
24 June 69	Action	A Co	--
26 June 69	Skirmish/Firefight	A Co	1 WIA
30 June 69	Skirmish	B Co	--
2 July 69	Boobytrap	B Co	1KIA/2WIA
3 July 69	Action	B Co	--
4 July 69	Skirmish	A Co	--
18 July 69	Action	White Team	--
19 July 69	Action	White Team	--
20 July 69	Action	White Team	--
20 July 69	Action	B Co	--
21 July 69	Action	White Team	--
21 July 69	Skirmish	C Co	--
24 July 69	Action	B Co	--
26 July 69	Skirmish	Proservco	--
1 August 69	Skirmish	A & B Co	--
4 August 69	Mortar Attack/LZ Prof.	1/46	--
4 August 69	Skirmish	Recon	--
5 August 69	Boobytrap	A Co	1WIA
7 August 69	Action	Recon	--
8 August 69	Action	Recon	--
9 August 69	Action	Recon	--
9 August 69	Skirmish	D Co	--
11 August 69	Action	D Co	--
12 August 69	Action	B Co	--
12 August 69	Action	Recon	--

Note: The above chart reflects the 1/46 only and does not include other units located at LZ Professional or operating with 1/46 patrols such as the 1/14 Artillery, 1/501 or 1/502 which also sustained casualties during this period.

VETERAN WIVES STANDING TOGETHER

Vietnam Veterans Wives  
[redacted]  
Omak, Washington 98841  
[redacted] VVW Headquarters  
[redacted] VVW Vet Center

Many thanks to the Americal Division Veterans Association for giving recognition to our Awareness Quilt Project in your last issue of the Americal Newsletter.

Please note the change of address and telephone numbers (as shown above). VVW has also opened our first VVW Veteran Center and our VVW Headquarters office is now located in Omak, Washington.

I am so thankful for all the larger organizations that have reached out to help us. We have close to three hundred members now and we are in fifteen states and growing daily. I have always felt that to be heard we must all come together to help one another's organization and to be one voice. The VA does not want four million veteran wives on their doorstep. Much less four million PTSD Viet Nam Veteran Wives and the Desert Storm wives are now a close second.

Again thank you for allowing us in your Newsletter. I consider it an honor and will treat it as such. We are putting a coalition of organizations together to be an active part of the quilt if you are interested please just drop me or Jenny Lefevre a line.

"TOGETHER WE STAND...DIVIDED OUR HUSBANDS DIE"  
Peripheral Neuropathy  
Cancer  
Chloracne  
Immune System Toxicity  
Alcoholism  
PTSD  
Agent Orange  
Persian Gulf Syndrome  
Chaplainship Program  
Community Service Program through Department of Correction

Veteran Service Organization 501(c)19  
pending  
Washington State Non-Profit #601712559

Sincerely,

Danna C. Hughes  
President VVW

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CO. C 3/21st 196th LIB

It was with great excitement that I received and read my new Jan/Feb/March Americal Newsletter.

It was also a disappointment for me to see on page 8 the mis-information about who I served with in Vietnam. I did provide readable information, I thought, I'm sure the men in the Co. C 1/20 Infantry 11 LIB were good soldiers. I would have enjoyed being with them, but I wasn't.

I served with Co. C 3/21st 196 LIB of which I'm very proud to have served (67/68 RSVN). I enjoyed being a "Charlie Tiger" under Captain Dennis Leach and Jay Prior, his replacement. I served in the 3 PLT, and our PLT leader was Lt. Dale Musser, a very good man. Many of us from the 196th are in contact with each other with "Locate a Brother." You can read about us in Keith William Nolan's book, the Magnificent Bastards, the joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha-1968.

As you probably know, Keith Nolan is quite knowledgeable about the Americal/Task Force Oregon experience from many personal interviews for his books. I enjoy his books and find them well done and received.

I hope this correction will be noted in the next issue, as I'm sure I'm not the only soldier looking for a familiar name in the newsletter.

Thanks for putting this newsletter together and rest assured I enjoy reading your work.

Jimmie Lee Coulthard

Ed Note: Sorry about putting you in the wrong unit. The light grows dim many nights (mornings) when I am putting the Newsletter together.

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REUNION FIREBASE MARY ANN REUNION  
1st Battalion 46th Infantry  
Camp Carlson  
Fort Knox, Kentucky  
March 27 - 28, 1998

CONTACT: William "Skid Row Joe" Walker  
[redacted]  
Vine Grove, KY 40175  
Tel: [redacted]

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Your New Vietnam Editor

John R. McNown Jr. has been appointed by the National Commander to be your new Vietnam Editor.

John served with A Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.

PLEASE send all articles that you would like to have put into the Newsletter to John at:

Mr. John R. McNown Jr.  
[redacted]  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
Tel: [redacted]

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AMBASSADOR PETERSON VISITS 1965 CRASH SITE

Thai Hoa, Vn (AP) - A plate of twisted aluminum and a few bone fragments moved searchers one step closer to determining the fate of one of almost 1,600 US servicemen still unaccounted for in Vietnam.

A team of US military and civilian experts scouring a hillside and valley for remnants of an A1-H fighter bombershot down over North Vietnam in 1965 found the aircraft's serial number plate, a search team member said.

Forensic experts and an anthropologist also discovered bone and tooth fragments, shreds of a parachute and a broken piece from a pilot's helmet decorated with US military markings.

The discovery of the number plate positively identifies the aircraft and most likely will answer the question behind the fate of its pilot, still officially missing almost 32 years after his plane was shot down.

"This positively identifies this as the aircraft we're looking for and that there was one person in the aircraft when it was shot down," search team coordinator Dennis Danielson said.

The forensic evidence including the bone fragments, will be sent to Hawaii for testing to see if they belong to the missing pilot, whose identity has not been released.

Under a mercilessly hot summer sun, America's new Ambassador to Vietnam, Pete Peterson, toured the dig site and thanked US and Vietnamese volunteers working to excavate the crash zone.

Peterson, a prisoner of war for 6-1/2 years during the Vietnam War, emphasized the need to continue the search for America's war missing. Urging both countries to put the war into the past, the Ambassador said the search for America's war missing was a humanitarian issue.

"This aircraft crashed at a time of hostilities between American and Vietnam," he told about 30 Vietnamese workers helping on the dig site. "Now our two countries see that we can be friends."

The latest excavation site about 100 miles due south of the capital, Hanoi, is one of the dozens in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

It was on June 10, 1965 when the A1-H propeller powered aircraft plane was shot down while trying to attack a power plant tucked against a hillside near Thai Hoa village.

Almost 32 years later, the fate of the pilot one of almost 1,600 MIAs may now be determined.

VETS HELP:

Earlier last week, American and Vietnamese war veterans exchanged notes on old battlefields and grave sites that may help determine the fate of servicemen from both sides still listed as missing.

A delegation from Vietnam Veterans of America gave 10 documents detailing grave sites and battlefield locations in southern Vietnam to their Vietnam counterparts.

In return, the Vietnamese provided the US delegation with two documents showing the locations and times of battles involving US forces. One indicated an area where three American servicemen are believed to be buried.

(Article in newspaper on June 12, 1997)

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WHY DIDN'T THEY GET ME OUT?  
(Book Review)

When Frank Anton took off in his chopper to fly another routine mission over Vietnam on January 5, 1968, he had no idea that he was setting out on a five-year journey through hell. Shot down and taken captive, he was marched to the first of five different jungle camps that served as makeshift prisons. Bound in by the hostile jungle, he watched helplessly as his fellow POWs died, one-by-one, of starvation and disease. Near death himself, he was eventually marched north along the Ho Chi Minh Trail to Hanoi where he spent the last two years of his captivity.

After his release came an amazing revelation. During his intelligence debrief, he learned that the U.S. government had known of his exact location all along. He saw aerial photos of the camps in which he had been held and even saw a close-up photo of himself that was taken as he walked the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Stunned the question formed immediately in Frank's mind: "Why didn't you get me out?" Years later, Frank has figured out the answer to that question, but he doesn't like it--most likely you won't either.

There have been other books by Vietnam POWs, but this is the first one by an American who was held in these Viet Cong jungle camps. Frank's account not only relates the horror of that experience, but also sheds light on so many issues still debated, including the question of missing POWs and the role played by Marine Private First Class Bobby Garwood, who was known as the "white gook."

Ed Note: Frank Anton was in the "Firebirds" and his unit supported the 196 LIB. The book may be ordered directly from Frank for \$22.99. Contact him at:

Frank Anton  
[redacted]  
Satellite Beach, FL 32937-2523  
or call  
[redacted]

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM OR THE TRIPLE 50.

One morning in Oct. 70 my Quad 50 crew and I were returning to base with the rest of the road clearing convoy that swept QL1 from Duc Pho south to the II Corps boundary.

Just north of Mo Duc we took sniper fire directed at the lead vehicle, an MP amphibious "duck", and at the last vehicle, my Quad 50. The fire was coming from a line of hills to the west that rose out of the rice paddies that bordered the road. The hill line was about 600 meters at the closest point and trailed farther away to the southwest.

Why the snipers fired on us at such distance with small arms and against heavier weapons is beyond me. The Duck was armed with 7.62 mm miniguns and of course the Quad had the four fifties with an effective range of 2000 meters.

In the best tradition of American firepower we fired probably 3000-4000 rounds at the snipers. This wasn't in one extended fire mission but rather several shorter missions. It went something like this - someone saw rounds splashing into the rice paddy that seemed to come from the hill line, the convoy stopped and returned fire then ceased fire. After a short while rounds again splashed into the rice paddy right in front of us on the Quad. We'd return fire, cease fire again, return fire, cease fire. This went on for an hour or so, with the sniper firing just as we thought they had gone. During lulls we would light cigarettes on the barrels of the fifties that had become quite hot. Stand around and BS-Smoke 'em if you got 'em. During on of the periods of firing on of the 50 cal barrels "burned out". So many rounds had been fired through it that the rifling had been smoothed out. Tracer rounds from that burned out barrel had a corkscrew trajectory, just flying every which way. Once the belt of ammo had fed through the gun we became a tri 50. This was an common occurrence with the barrels. I think many that we received were rebored and just didn't last very long. Eventually the convoy commander called in an artillery fire mission which was followed by helicopter insertion of an infantry platoon that swept the hill. Of course, no snipers were found.

We eventually policed up the brass that had fallen outside the truck and proceeded back to Duc Pho. As we drove through the village outside the Brigade base camp one of the fifties cooked of a round. Oops. We hadn't cleared the guns as we wanted to be prepared for anything. We had followed standard procedure and elevated the guns about 60 degrees. That damn shot was heard all the way to Chu Lai. The convoy commander reported to his superior and it eventually made its way to my Battery Commander who chewed me out until I filled him in on the whole story. Still kinda embarrassing and hazardous but I wasn't going to clear until we approached the gate to the compound.

But anyway that's how we could save on matches and lighter fluid.

Rob Cook  
G/55 ARTY 70-72

(Computer Bulletin Board)

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REDLEG

I am a Redleg type, was Arty LO to 4/31 on West Jan-Apr, '70 and then commanded C Btry, 3/82 Arty on FSB Siberia for the next six months. We got most of our ammo, water, fuel and gun replacements from the Boxcars and the rest from the Rattlers and some from Div Arty ships. We had a six-week battle with the NVA in May-Jun '70 and wouldn't have made it without the chopper folks.

I don't know or remember any helicopter pilot names to ask about. I would be interested in contacting any pilots or crew that participated in the 6-week battle. As I have told these folks before (that is those who were not there and several were) that particular battle was especially rough on choppers. At one point, we had close to a dozen of them disabled at one time on Siberia, ranging from a LOH or two, slicks, guns and even a Hook. Some got repaired and flew out, but many, including the Hook, had to be lifted out.

I have pictures of a Crane coming in to get the Hook, which was in eyefull for those of us who might have doubted the lift capacity of a Crane. At any rate, I owe all the chopper community a bunch and would be happy to get in touch with any of the folks that were out there during that time frame. Thanks!

Michael Twomey SR  
C/3/82 Arty 1-10/70  
Miketwomey@prodigy.net

(Computer Bulletin Board)

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SAPPERS IN THE WIRE

When I was on Mary Ann I got very little sleep. What I did get was in the daylight hours. I had to constantly monitor all the bunkers for people sleeping while they were supposed to be on guard.

As far as the undermanned part, that was always a problem. The whole time I was in C 1/46th we never had more than 22 men. Most of them were newbies that went thru the "New Army training".

No responsibility. I almost got blown away by recoilless trying to rig up field telephones from bunker to bunker. It was my understanding from my CO that Mary Ann was normally protected by 2 companies. I don't know if the whole company was there when they were overrun but the 3 weeks I was there my platoon of less than 22 men held it. We had to pull back to a perimeter that was very close to the FDC and the arty pits. When I was there it was normally held by the 198th. They couldn't do it because they had taken heavy losses and could not leave the patrol areas in the field.

I had to admit the arty guys on Mary Ann knew how to push those 105 rounds thru those guns. When I was on one particular bunker we saw a dust cloud on the top of a hill about 7 clicks away. One guy named Ken said "I wonder if that was a recoilless?". The other guy hollered "incoming!". The bunker had a door on either end. Those guys were closer to the doors than I was. BUT! I watched them come inside (I had beat them inside!!!). I don't remember how I managed to do it though.

Ray Pierce  
C/1/46 196 Lib 69-70

THANK YOU ROLY!

I wish to express my sincere thanks to PNC Roland T. Castronova for his assistance to me while serving as Vietnam Editor.

Roly took over the position as Vietnam Editor to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Dave Recob, in August of 1994. It was his intention to stay on until a replacement could be found.

PNC Castronova has been, and is, the greatest recruiter that the ADVA has ever known. It is his plan to continue his recruiting activities.

Roly, THANKS again.

Jim Buckle  
Americal Editor

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KHE SAHN

The April/May 68 time frame was about as nasty if you put all the events together. We were originally sent to Camp Evans to support the troops at Khe Sahn and were told to expect to go there to get them out. As it turned out the next day was when the Marines at Dong Ha got surrounded. It might have been a little more embarrassing to the government to report that an entire Marine battalion was lost than have the base at Khe Sahn wait for someone else. But at any rate, between the Marine losses, ours, and the airborne, it was a pretty bloody time. I think you might find in the archives that due to all this the 1st Cav was brought up to Evans in full force. I think they were originally down in the highlands until TET. Most books I have also read talk about Hue still not being in full control until mid April. The night sky was lit up all along the DMZ for the time I was there. Fun times.

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

(Computer Bulletin Board)

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COMPANY C - 1st BN. - 20th INFANTRY - 11 LIB

I served in C-1-20 11th Lt Infantry Brigade. I also was a member of Lt. Calleys platoon, but I arrived in country and joined the platoon soon after the My Lai incident. I conducted myself in a very honorable manner and I'm still proud to have served my country. I carried an M-79 grenade launcher. I have been trying to locate a good friend I had over there. He was shot in an ambush in late summer or early fall of 1968. His name was Henry L. Woods. Could have been William L. Woods, memory has failed me a little. He was hit pretty bad and I watched as the med-e-vac chopper flew him off. Never heard from him again. I don't even know if he lived. I do know he was from Chattanooga, Tenn. If anyone knows this man or has any information on him, I sure would more than appreciate hearing from you.

I ended up with jungle rot on my feet so bad I spent 4-5 months in hospitals and then sent home. I think they were the 95th evac in Chu Lai, then Long Binh, then Camp Zama in Japan. Most of my records never made it back from Nam. None of my personal things made it back. What bothers me most is the fact that I was awarded the C.I.B. badge along with a bunch of guys and my discharge papers

do not have the C.I.B. on it. I was proud of that badge and I believe I earned it.

If anyone knows how I could get a copy of those orders showing my C.I.B. award, would you please let me know? I was on the several LZ's. I can remember being on Thunder, Charlie Brown, LZ Dottie and LZ Buff-very small. Was at Quang Nai air strip-Duc Pho and of course Chu Lai.

Please help me locate my friend-can still hear his screams.

I now have a bad neurological disease that is making my life pretty miserable. My first born daughter, who was conceived in 1970 had to have 3/4 of her liver removed because of a one in a million tumor. She has made it through that and doing pretty well now.

Does anyone know of anyone else awarded the CIB and did not get it posted on their discharge papers? Any information I might receive would be so greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much to Roland Castronova for getting me into the Americal Vets Association.

David L. Reed

Middletown, Oh 45042

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FIREBIRDS

My name is Jim McDaniel and I flew with the Firebirds often in 67 and 68, especially the 5-minute gunship standby missions we used to pull up at LZ Baldy (fly all the way up from Duc Pho and pull 24-hours of standby straight, then fly back to Duc Pho). I was also back in 71 flying slicks with the 116th Hornets.

Do you know that there is a Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association? They just had a joint reunion with us pilots in Philly over the 4th. I saw my crew chief from 71 for the first time in 23 years, and he managed to track down our door-gunner who got shot up flying with us out by Tra Bong. My copilot also got shot up and my crew chief got him off the controls before we crashed into the trees. If not for him, I wouldn't be here now. The gunner had his intestines in a bag for 6 months (we just found out this week) but recovered completely and is a successful businessman now. That is good news.

Shark 4  
Jim McDaniel  
174th AHC 67-69

(Computer Bulletin Board)

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TURTLE

The author of "Turtle" was Cobra pilot and XO of my unit, CPT David W. Owen. Owen was both a good pilot and good person, an English major at John Carrol Univ in Ohio, Owen was known for some of his literary creations while with F Troop, 8th Cav.

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

(Computer Bulletin Board)



# 20 YEARS LATER----HE DID NOT SURVIVE THE WAR A WIDOW'S STORY OF AGENT ORANGE

The following oral presentation was made before the National Academy of Science on June 19, 1997.

My name is Jennie LeFevre and I am the widow of Master Sergeant Gerald H. LeFevre, USAF retired, who died in 1989.

My husband was a career serviceman and went to Vietnam when he was 35 years old. He was in Vietnam from, 1968 to 1969, the worst two years ever for spraying of Agent Orange in Vietnam. He was stationed at Nhra Trang Air Force Base.

My husband was an airborne radio operator on C-130 aircraft that flew supply runs throughout Vietnam. He flew in and out of 26 bases in Vietnam, 15 of which had been sprayed, including his base. These bases received a total of 65 sprayings the year he was there. He flew into all four Corps of Vietnam.

Agent Orange was stored within 100 to 500 feet of his barracks and the mixing tank farms were close by. Agent Orange spraying planes were parked next to the C-140 aircraft my husband flew on. Agent Orange drums were seen leaking and residue was always on the ramp. The C-130 aircraft flew at low level with the cargo doors open on many missions. They constantly observed spraying and flew through spraying mist upon landing at various outposts, camps and bases during supply runs. They transported Agent Orange on in-country missions and also on missions to bring it to Vietnam at least twice a month. My husband's radio position on the aircraft was in the cargo section. He was exposed to Agent Orange both in the air and on the ground--a constant and daily exposure.

On one particular mission several drums burst open while the aircraft was in flight, and the toxic fumes were so intense the entire crew had to wear their oxygen masks in order to breathe. My husband helped load and unload the barrels of Agent Orange with his bare hands. While in Vietnam, he was taken off flying status various times for respiratory problems. He also experienced burning eyes, blurred vision and body rash. He told me in letters that the skin on his hands peeled off in layers.

He was perfectly healthy before he went to Vietnam. Upon his return, he was experiencing severe respiratory problems. Eight months before he retired from the USAF in 1974, he had developed fibro-nodular changes in both lungs. In 1982, he was a participant in the Air Force Ranch Hand Health Study. It is noted on his medical records of that study, the changes in his lungs and other medical problems he had.

Three months after he was in the health study, he was eliminated entirely from the study. The reason given was that he flew on classified missions in Vietnam, which he also did. Flying on classified missions, in my opinion, is no reason for being eliminated from a health study. The study knew of his lung condition. and to this day, I believe they only wanted healthy men and did not want his as a statistic in their study.

In 1989 he was hospitalized. He remained in the hospital for seven months until his death in December of the same year. The death certificate states the manner of death as "normal."

At the time of his death, he had been diagnosed as having chronic destructive obstructive pulmonary disease, degenerative joint disease, obstructive

jaundice, anemia, cardiopulmonary arrest, congestive heart failure, emphysema, fibrous lungs, extra gonadal germ cell tumor syndrome, and chest x-rays revealed abnormal status of the lungs showing ventilation perfusion defects involving greater than 50 per cent of his lungs. He also had the onset of peripheral neuropathy, which was never diagnosed.

He had inoperable cancer of the lungs, liver, stomach, pancreas, lymph nodes, kidneys peritoneum, bone, diaphragm and eimentum. Also at time of death, he had kidney failure, pneumonia in both lungs, respiratory failure and pulmonary emboli.

There was nothing normal about it at all.

It was not even a natural death for a man only 56 years old. Something caused all these medical problems, and I believe it was the result of his exposure to Agent Orange.

At this time, I present visual evidence of what Agent Orange did to my husband. The first photograph is of my husband before he went to Vietnam---smiling and happy. The second one is taken two weeks before his death, a very critically ill dying man.

Agent Orange totally destroyed his body. From the very day he went into the hospital, he was put on very heavy doses of Morphine. He went through chemotherapy sessions that caused him to lose his hair. He lost weight and got sores on the inside of his mouth from the chemo, and could not eat.

He was afraid to go to sleep for fear he would not wake up. The nurses had to give him sleeping pills at night so he could get his rest. He had to have blood transfusions because his white blood count would drop. And he was put in isolation several times.

He gave his country 23 years of military duty and served both during the Korean and Vietnam War. He thought he survived both wars, but he did not survive the Vietnam War.

He returned home from Vietnam, only to die two years later on the shores of his own country. He gave everything he had to his country, including his life.

His name does not appear on a granite wall. It is on a tombstone in Arlington National Cemetery. He cannot speak for himself now, so I must speak for him. If he knew what I know now, he would surely say, "I brought the war home in my body, and it was killing me for 20 years---and I didn't know it."

He is no longer in pain and is at rest now. It is the ones who are left behind that are in pain, and we will not rest until our government recognizes all of the illness caused by that horrible war. We are left with emotional scars that will never heal, and, with your help, we hope that some of the wounds of war can finally be closed.

For the past six years, I have run nationwide the Agent Orange Victims and Widows Support Network, and I ask that you consider the plight of these victims of the failure of our government to admit what Agent Orange has done. Of the health conditions you are now considering. I know of many veterans who have one of these conditions or combinations of them. We ask that you do not forget the children who have birth defects.

Dear Editor:

I had the honor of being the MC of the Veterans Day Memorial Service, held at the Oregon State Vietnam Veteran Living Memorial this past year. In the crowd of several thousand veterans was an old Americal trooper.

After the ceremonies, he approached me and several other former Americal soldiers. He turned out to be none other than Command Sergeant Major Meade. He was the Americal Division Sergeant Major in 1967-70.



Jerry Schleining, CSM Meade, Ron Cannon, Veterans Day, 1996

He was, of course, echelons above our pay grade at the time, but it was great to visit with him now. In February I ran into CSM Meade's son (former aviation Warrant Officer, DSC, two purple hearts) who told me that the Sergeant Major had had a stroke but was recovering well.

I had an interesting talk with the Sergeant Major's son. CSM Meade had one son killed in Vietnam. Another, the Warrant Officer, was shot down, hospitalized for over a year, and then wrote a book about his adventures in Vietnam. He has made a full recovery and is a psychiatrist helping veterans with PTSD.

I can't help but think of the burden Sergeant Major Meade has borne over the years and the sacrifice he and his family gave to this country during that period.

I just thought I'd pass this on. Perhaps some of the troops who knew him or those who have served under his charge will keep him and his family in mind... as once again they are facing another battle.

Jerry Schleining

Editor's note: CSM James Meade was the featured speaker at the ADVA National Reunion in 1996. His remarks were well received by the many members in attendance. If you wish to write CSM Meade, his address is [redacted] Beaverton, Or. 97008

Dear Editor:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in locating any former members of the 588th Maint. Co. (DS) as we want to have a reunion in a couple of years.

The 588th was a direct support unit of the 1st Logistical Command. It was stationed at Chu Lai in support of several units in the area. This included several units of Division Artillery. We also worked with 23rd S&T, 125 S&S, the ammo dump, and some of the signal units. I remember recovering vehicles from 63rd Trans., 39th Engineer, and the 26th Engineers.

I was a wrecker truck operator. One of our wreckers was on the convoy when one of the 3/18th 175 mm guns hit a land mine between LZ Baldy and LZ Ross in 1969.

Our M-88 tank retriever was stationed on LZ Ross in 68-69 with B Battery, 3/18th Artillery. I would really like to contact anyone who was with the M-88 or remembers the crew. I would also really like to hear from anyone who was in our contact team or remembers the team that was on LZ Dragon with C Battery, 3/18th.

I would also like to hear from drivers from B Co., 23rd S&T who remember our wreckers or who remember Jessie Smallwood. We were on LZ Young, LZ Dottie, and several other FSBs with artillery units. We R&R's the 175mm guns in Chu Lai at our shops.

Please contact William F. Smith, [redacted], Heavener, OK, 74937

VOL 2 NO 25 SOUTHERN CROSS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1969 (Researched by Les Hines)

## 1/52d Inf Gets New CO

LZ BAYONET - The home-ward bound LTC Reed E. Davis Jr. (Omaha, Neb.) handed over the reins-of-command of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. to LTC Arthur E. Brown Jr. (Savannah, Ga.) in change of command ceremonies here. MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (Somerset, Ky.) Americal commander presented LTC Davis the Legion of Merit with First Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, and the Purple Heart. LTC Brown recently arrived from his last assignment at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. The departing battalion commander will return to the United States for his new assignment with the office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington D.C.

## Upcoming Events

Americal veterans will be attending the annual Vietnam veterans gathering in Kokomo, IN again this September. Look for more information in a future newsletter or see <www.americal.org> on the internet. Terry Babler, 1/1 Cav Assoc. President and ADVA Great Lakes Region Commander, is planning a super event for Veterans Day weekend in Washington, DC. Check the web page for more info.





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#### Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

#### Dedication

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

### AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1381

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Americal Unit Rgt/Bde \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_ Co \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Serial/SSN No. \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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