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# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

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Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller  
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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION P. O. BOX 1381 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



**Edward W. Marsh**  
National Commander, 1998-1999

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www.americal.org

## Commander's Greeting

It is a very great honor for me to assume the position as your National Commander. It seems like only a few years have gone by (30 years) since I left Vietnam and my service under the Southern Cross.

I was proud to have served with the best of the best, the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, in the best of times in my life, and sometimes in the worst of times. I will always keep in my heart the memory of the veterans who served under the Southern Cross, and of those who did not come home. (Lest we Forget).

It has been twelve years since I became a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association. Boy! Look how it has grown. Membership is at an all time high. We now have e-mail and the web site. The newsletter keeps getting better year by year. Our investments were our biggest risk but rewards are paying off.

I am very proud to see the scholarship fund grow. I hope the young people will learn from all of us that freedom is not free and that the opportunities in this country were paid for by all veterans.

Our association leadership has made all of this happen in a very short time because the people within the ADVA community care about it. I hope to be some small part of this in the years to come. Thanks to all of those who so many years ago took the time out of their lives to make ADVA what it is today. I look towards a very bright future in the years to come.

## Reunion Thanks

The Orlando reunion is over. One comes away with many new friends as well as seeing many old friends once again. Many thanks to Tom and Helen McQuade, Bob and Carol Kapp, and Jon Hansen for running the reunion.

The weather was warm and the activities were well planned. The highlights were the trip to Church Street Station and the Kennedy Space Center. Most of us could have stayed longer at Church Street Station because of all the fun and cool weather inside.

Thanks again to all the Florida reunion staff who did an outstanding job. Make plans to attend the 1999 reunion in St. Louis on June 17-20. See you all next year.

## Kokomo Veterans Reunion

The Americal Division Veterans Association has made a small donation to the Howard County Vietnam Veterans building fund. The property, located in Kokomo, IN, will be the new site of the annual veterans reunion.

A certificate of appreciation for the donation was received by the ADVA. I plan to be in Kokomo again this year to represent our association and greet Americal Division veterans. Dates for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual reunion are September 18-20, 1998. Try to make it if you can. It is a fun event.

## Ron Ridenhour Obituary

The following story was originally published in the VVA **Veteran**. It is reprinted here for your information.

*Ronald L. Ridenhour, best known as the first American to disclose the My Lai massacre, died May 10 in New Orleans. He was 52 years old and suffered a heart attack while playing handball. An award winning journalist, Ridenhour at the time of his death was a freelance writer and television producer in his adopted hometown of New Orleans.*

*Ridenhour was born in Oakland, California, and grew up in Phoenix. In March 1967 he was drafted into the Army. After basic and AIT, he was shipped to Hawaii in October and assigned to the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Detachment (LRP), 11<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, at Schofield Barracks. That unit disbanded a week before shipping out to Vietnam in December.*

*Most of the men in the detachment were then assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry, attached to the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> of the 20<sup>th</sup> had been put together from scratch the previous summer at Schofield. Some of Ridenhour's buddies went to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 20<sup>th</sup>'s Charlie Company under the command of Lt. William L. Calley.*

*Ridenhour was assigned elsewhere, to the aviation section of HQ company of the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade. In Vietnam, he volunteered to be a helicopter door gunner and, later, a member of a LRRP team. In early 1968, Ridenhour ran into one of his former Charlie Company buddies who told him about what the company had done on March 16, 1969, in a village the troops called "Pinkville." In the following months, Ridenhour heard more versions of the story from several other buddies in Charlie Company.*

*On April, 1969, after he came home from Vietnam, Ridenhour wrote a three-page, 1,500 word letter about what would become known as the My Lai massacre. He sent copies to President Nixon, Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, and to thirty members of Congress, including his congressman, Morris Udall of Arizona. Udall made the letter public, an event that led to My Lai investigations in congress and in the Army.*

*"Exactly what did, in fact, occur in the village of 'Pinkville' in March 1968 I do not know for certain," Ridenhour said in the letter, "but I am convinced that it was something very black indeed." Ridenhour said he was disclosing details of the event because he was "a conscientious citizen" who wanted to see and investigation of what happened. "I have no desire," he said "to further besmirch the image of the American serviceman in the eyes of the world."*

*"He was an American original," author David Halberstam said of Ridenhour after his death. "His story encompassed the worst and finally the best of America. There is nothing I cherish and value more than the nobility of ordinary people, and he was a sterling example of it."*



## Memorial Weekend, 1998

### Washington, D.C.

The ADVA was present again this year in Washington, D.C. to participate in Memorial Day observances. Wreaths were laid at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean Veterans Memorial by National Commander Gary L. Noller, PNC John (Dutch) DeGroot, and myself.

We were happy to have Col. John L. Insani (USA, Ret.) join us for the wreath laying. Col. Insani is a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. In 1970 he commanded the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division.

About 50 Americal veterans signed in at the information tent. We had some good discussions and met many fine people. Tentative plans are being made to do the same thing for Memorial Day, 1999. If you are interested in helping out, please write or call. We are always in need of a little help.

### VA Hospital, June 16

#### Battle Creek, MI

On June 16 it was great weather outside, but a room full of veterans of all wars gathered inside at the Battle Creek, MI VA hospital. They were there with a smile on their faces and their hearts ready to sing. They were ready to have a good time.

My old friend, Michael J. Martin, an Americal veteran of Co. C, 4/3 Inf., 11<sup>th</sup> LIB, was also there to sing and have a good time. The next three hours went by fast with plenty of songs and sipping coffee.

Mike has been around for many years and has done a lot for POW/MIAs and veterans of all wars. He is an accomplished musician and is always in demand at veterans events across the country. Keep an eye out for Mike as he is never too far away from giving a vet a helping hand.

### Firebase Indy, June 5-7

#### Indianapolis, IN

The skies were dark and the weather was cold, but with warm jackets and warm hearts we made the trip to Indianapolis to attend Firebase Indy. Each year we set up a tent and information table to greet old friends and to seek new members. We handed out application forms and answered questions about the ADVA.

Two new members joined at Indianapolis. They are Anna Marie (Pugliese) Rutallie, U.S. Army nurse, 91<sup>st</sup> Evac, Chu Lai, 70-71, and Frank J. Davis, Lieutenant, Co. A, 1/46<sup>th</sup> Inf., 68-69.

Thanks to all who came by to say hello. It is always nice to meet Americal veterans wherever we go. Hope to see you there next year. Thanks also to Mr. Gary Warn, Co. C., 26<sup>th</sup> Engineers, for his assistance in setting up and operating the tent.



Col. John Insani (USA, Ret.) and Ed Marsh lay a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day.



The Americal Division flag on the Mall in Washington D.C. displayed by PNCs Gary Noller and Dutch DeGroot.

**Plans for Veterans Day in D. C.**  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 1998, in Washington D.C. A wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial will take place at 1:00 PM. This will be followed by a candelight ceremony at 6:00 PM at the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

Other special activities are being planned. For more information, call the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project at [redacted] or send an e-mail to [redacted]

Limited reduced hotel rates at the Omni Shoreham Hotel are available until October 11. Call 1-800-THE-OMNI and be sure to tell them that you want the special rate for the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project.

A number of Americal vets are always in town at this time. I'll hope to see you in D.C. on Veterans Day.

## Orlando Reunion 1998

Approximately 300 people registered for the 1998 annual ADVA reunion held June 25-28 in Orlando. The event was under the sponsorship of the South-East Chapter and was held at the Orlando Delta Resort. This location is near Universal Studios and in the heart of the Orlando tourist area.

Pre-planned tours to Church Street Station in downtown Orlando and to the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral were well received by reunion attendees. Many also ventured out on their own to visit such sites as Disney World, Epcot Center, Cocoa Beach, Universal Studios, and Sea World. Others simply enjoyed lounging around the pool and visiting with friends, both new and old.

Mr. David Taylor, ADVA member, provided a slide show on Friday night. He told of his recent trip to Vietnam and his success in locating several sites that he was at while serving with the Americal Division. (He has also submitted a story about his trip to the Americal Newsletter.)

The annual business meeting was held on Saturday morning. The members were given reports on the status of the association and its programs by ADVA officers and committee chairs. Members decided to hold the 2000 reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

The Saturday night banquet rounded out three days of activities. The guest speaker was Frank Anton, ADVA member and POW during the Vietnam war. He gave a riveting account of his days of captivity at the hands of the enemy. (See the box below.) Officers for the 1998-1999 term were given the oath of office by Mr. Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant.

Hosts for the reunion were Tom and Helen McQuade, Bob and Carol Kapp, Jon Hansen, and Pat Matola. Kapp thanked the chapter members for their efforts in making the reunion a success. "Now that we have this accomplished," he stated, "I hope we can get more members, especially Vietnam veterans, involved in chapter functions."

The 1999 reunion will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO, on June 17-20. PNC Ron Ward and PNC Gary Noller, reunion chairmen, advise members to watch the web site or Americal Newsletter for future announcements.

### Why Didn't You Get Me Out? Available

Frank Anton was captured by the enemy after the helicopter he was piloting was shot down during a night mission to assist embattled Americal troops. Anton was imprisoned for over five years in prisons in South Vietnam and North Vietnam. He has told the story of his ordeal in the recently published book Why Didn't You Get Me Out? (See a review of the book on the ADVA web site or in a previous Americal Newsletter.)

Given the hardship that he endured while in captivity, Anton has not lost his sense of humor. While going through the buffet line he encountered a serving dish of rice pilaf. He was heard to comment "After all these years, it looks like they would serve me something besides rice."

Anton completed a career in the Army and then flew commercial airliners until he was forced to retire. Malnutrition in the prison camps has caused a vision impairment which prevents him from flying. He currently resides with his family in Florida.

Anyone interested in obtaining an autographed copy of the book should write to Frank Anton at 730 Palm Drive, Satellite Beach, FL, 32937-2523. Please include \$20 for each book.



Members listen carefully as David Taylor gives details of his trip back to Vietnam to visit former Americal locations.



Mrs. Ron Ward, Mrs. Ron Ellis, and Mrs. Bernie Carrol find time to converse after the Saturday night banquet.



Jon Hansen (L) and Frank Anton enjoy the cocktail hour.



(L to R) National Adjutant Bernie Chase, Robin Smith, Gary Noller, Frank Anton, and National Commander Ed Marsh



## Nimitz Plaque Unveiled

A plaque honoring the service of veterans of the Americal Division was unveiled at the Admiral Nimitz Museum on July 4, 1998. The museum, located in Fredericksburg, Texas, is internationally known for its focus on the South Pacific war.

The ceremony was attended by WWII and Vietnam veterans of the only division in the U.S. Army to be known exclusively by a name and not a number. Friends and family members joined the veterans to recognize all who served in the Americal Division at any time.

The plaque features the division name in bold letters at the top of 20 inch by 20 inch bronze tablet. Under the name is the shoulder patch centered between two columns of text. The text lists the places and dates of Americal actions in WWII. The three infantry regiments that composed the division in WWII are also named. The division motto *Under the Southern Cross* frames the plaque at the bottom.

Mr. Ernie Carlson, Commander of the South Midwest Chapter, acted as Master of Ceremonies. He was assisted in the unveiling by Mr. Cameron Baird, Fredericksburg, Texas, and by Mr. Gary L. Noller, Kansas City, Missouri. Noller is the Past National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association and represented the national membership. About 50 ADVA members, family, and friends attended the event.

The Nimitz Museum prepared a special display of Americal Division memorabilia for the unveiling ceremony. A permanent exhibit is being planned and the museum is requesting the donation of items for future display. They are in special need of U.S. Army items that depict the every day lives of soldiers in the South Pacific.

The plaque will be on display in an outdoor courtyard adjacent to the museum. The museum is open all year and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Tentative plans for a tour of the museum are being made in conjunction with the annual ADVA reunion in 2000.

The unveiling came at the end of a year-long effort to secure the plaque. Funds were raised through a direct appeal to the members of the Americal Division Veterans Association. Mr. Carlson recognized those who provided funds by presenting them with an appreciation certificate.

For further information on the museum or a personal guided tour of the facility, contact Ernie Carlson, [REDACTED] Fredericksburg, TX, 78624.

## Medal of Honor Recipients Recognized at Nimitz Museum

A plaque honoring the Americal Division veterans who received the Medal of Honor was unveiled on July 4, 1998. The plaque will be displayed along the walk of honor at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas.

The Americal Division had one Medal of Honor recipient in WWII, SSgt. Jesse R. Drowley. Mr. Drowley was active in the ADVA and attended the reunion in Chicago in 1995. He has since passed away.

The recipients from the Vietnam War were CPL Michael Crescenzo, SP4 Thomas J. McMahon, SSG Robert C. Murray, SSG Robert J. Pruden, PFC Daniel John Shea, SGT Lester R. Stone, Jr, PFC David M. Winder, MAJ Kern W. Dunagan, SSG Nicky Daniel Bacon, PSG Finnis D. McCleery, and CPT James Allen Taylor. Several of the Vietnam awards were posthumous. All but Bacon, McCleery, and Taylor are now deceased.



Americal veterans and their wives pause outside the Nimitz Museum while awaiting the unveiling of the Americal plaque.



Mr. Ernest B. Carlson, Commander, South Midwest Region, proudly displays the Americal Division plaque installed at the Nimitz Museum. The plaque was funded by ADVA members.



A Nimitz Museum exhibit in honor of Americal Division veterans went on display July 4, 1998. Items in the display, including a U.S. Army uniform, a map of South Pacific Islands, and a Japanese flag, sword, and pistol, were donated by association members.

## 1998-1999 Positions Filled

The Nominating Committee reported the following results for the election of officers for the 1998-1999 term: Edward W. Marsh, National Commander; Ronald R. Ellis, Senior Vice-Commander; and Malcolm P. East, Junior Vice-Commander.

Executive Council Members were elected as follows: Gary L. Noller, Chairman; William K. Maddox, Malcolm Cate, Leslie Hines, James C. Buckle, James G. Craig, W. Mark Durley, Alfred R. Doig, Stephen N. Dennison, Austin J. Roth, and John A. Bowley. Regional Commanders also serve as members of on the Executive Council.

National Commander Edward W. Marsh has made the following appointments to office: Rick Olson, Finance Officer; Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant; James G. Craig, Judge Advocate; Larry O'Boyle, Sergeant-at-Arms; James C. Buckle, Editor-in-Chief; Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor; John (Jay) Flanagan, Chapter Coordinator.

Also appointed by the National Commander are Rev. William T. Elliot, Chaplain; Rev. Perry Woerner, Chaplain; Rev. Richard J. Shannon, Chaplain; W. Mark Durley, Historian; Leslie Hines, Vietnam Historian; and Kenneth B. Turner, Museum Curator.

The National Commander will submit his selections for the Nominating Committee to the Executive Council for approval. The nominees are PNC Ronald L. Ward, PNC Roland T. Castronova, PNC James C. Buckle, PNC John (Dutch) Degroot, and Chapter Commander Lloyd J. Morrell.

## Flags and T-Shirts Prove Popular

About 40 Americal Division flags were sold after the ad appeared in the last issue of the *Americal Newsletter*. About another 40 are still available for purchase. However, the flag with gold fringe has sold out. The twelve fringed flags did not prove to be enough for the demand. The flags that remain available are those with canvas header (\$38) and those with the tubular sleeve (\$40).

In the past year the ADVA has sold about 400 t-shirts. The shirts have been available at the annual reunions and by mail order. The most popular shirt has been the one with the Jungle Fighter motif. However, a couple of problems have been encountered with this shirt.

A malfunction in the drying process caused some of the designs to wash off a few shirts during laundering. If this has happened to a shirt that you purchased, a refund or exchange will be made. The Jungle Fighter design is on a tan color heavy-duty cotton shirt. Distributors have been out of stock on the shirt and this has delayed filling some orders. It has become necessary to change the color of the shirt in order to replace stock. The new color is a grey with blue pinstripe. They should be in stock at this time.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience with defective products and pledge to have you satisfied with your purchases. Contact Ken Turner or Gary Noller for help.

## Vietnam Editor Named

PNC Gary L. Noller has been named to the post of Vietnam Editor. Articles and letters should be sent to him at 10107 Central, #301, Kansas City, MO 64114. E-mail him at <gnoller@aol.com>. Please include a return address and phone number with your correspondence.

All submissions are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity. Writers are asked to be as concise as possible to allow for the timely publication of all items. Items are published as space permits. If you have questions about the status of your article please feel free to contact the editors.

## ADVA Mail Box

A directory of officers is located in the front of the *Americal Newsletter*. It is suggested that if you wish to contact one of the officers that you send mail directly to their home address. This will greatly speed the service as mail to the Boston post office box may take a couple of weeks to re-distribute.

Items for the newsletter should go to either the Editor-in-Chief or the Vietnam Editor. Questions regarding membership status, payment of dues, and new member applications should go to the National Adjutant. Other mail of a general nature should also go to the National Adjutant. Mail for the National Commander, Scholarship Chairman, Museum Curator, Historian, etc. should be sent to their home addresses.

Joe Chin has been extremely helpful for several years in picking up the mail in downtown Boston and distributing it to recipients. Joe has asked that someone take this duty in his place. Mr. Arthur Cole of Wakefield, MA has volunteered his services and will now be responsible for picking up mail.

## 2000 Reunion Site Announced

Members attending the 1998 annual reunion in Orlando picked San Antonio, TX as the location for the reunion in the year 2000. The reunion will be hosted by the South Midwest Chapter. Mr. Ernest Carlson is Chapter Commander. The newly formed reunion committee includes Bill Bacon, Cameron Baird, Malcolm East, and Ron Ellis.

A bid was also submitted by the Far West Chapter for a reunion in California or Nevada. Interest was also shown by the Great Lakes Chapter for a reunion in their area. The location for the reunion in 2001 will be decided by vote at the 1999 reunion in St. Louis.

The 1999 reunion will be June 17-20 at the Radisson Airport Hotel in St. Louis. More information on this reunion will be available in the next issue of the *Americal Newsletter*. Plans are being made for the 1999 reunion to be held with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association reunion.

## VN Historian Seeks Records

Mr. Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, is interested in locating and documenting Americal Division publications that were issued during the Vietnam War. Examples of these are the "Southern Cross", the "Americal Magazine", "Americal Division Daily Newsheet", "Task Force Oregon Daily Newsheet", "Trident" (11th Brigade), "Falcon" (16th Avn Group), and etc.

He is also interested in military reports from the Americal Division or Task Force Oregon such as unit journals, combat after action reports, and etc. He would like people to write him a letter and list these types of materials that they have to offer. Please do not mail anything to him except a list to review.

If a SASE is included he will send a description of the types of materials that he has accumulated on behalf of the ADVA. If the unit and time of service is included he will try to make a copy of an article on the named unit. Please include a name, address and phone number so that he may contact you about materials that are not yet documented in his files.

Les also has computer diskettes of information about the Americal Division in Vietnam. These include some of the items as mentioned above. If you would like a set of diskettes, please send your request to him. Please include \$10 for reproduction costs if you order the diskettes.

Correspondence should be directed to Mr. Les Hines, Vietnam Historian, [REDACTED] Des Moines, IA 50312. E-mail can be sent to [REDACTED]



Below are only a few of the many locator requests that have been entered on the ADVA web locator in the past few months. More locators can be viewed on the web page at <www.americal.org/locator>.

The ADVA Web Locator is maintained by SFC Anthony Greene. We wish to thank Tony for his many hours of hard work. Tony is currently on active duty with the United States Army and is assigned to the Signal Corps in Germany.

Locators are known to be at least ten to twenty percent successful. If you would like to post a request and do not have access to the internet, contact Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED] Kansas City, MO 64114.

Looking For: Joseph Podzemik. D Co., 2/1, Sep 1971- Jan 72. Contact: Luis C. Arauz [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Union City, New Jersey, 07087

Looking For: "Fats" Morehead, lived in Nebraska and served with D, 1/6, CP during the last part of 1969. Contact: Doug Burnett, [REDACTED], Hartsburg, MO, 65039, [REDACTED]

Looking For: David Thomas, Lt. Trifero, anyone else, Co. A, 3/1, 11th LIB, Sept. 69-70. I was mortar platoon medic, and then CP medic. Contact: Steve 'Doc' Knuboff, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dunwoody, Ga. 30338, [REDACTED]  
Looking For: Terry Doso, July, 1970 to 71 in D Co. 1/6 198th LIB. Contact: David Disch, [REDACTED], Madison, WI, 53704, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Gordon Smith, 132nd Inf, L Co., Dec 1944 - Nov 1946, platoon sargent. Contact: Jim Thompson, [REDACTED] Weidman, Michigan, 48893, [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone, 4.2" mortars of E Co., 4/3 Bn., 11th L.I.B., Sept. '69-'70. Remembered names = 1Lt. Charles Fitzgerald, 1ST Sgt. Guzman, Jeff Chartier, Sgt. Pollock, Joe Weiss, Chuck Theusch, Lee Green, Jack Ellis, "Popo", Roger Ford, John Williams (X 2), Santucci, P.D. Contact: Mike Donley, [REDACTED], St David, Ariz. 85630, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, B Co., 123rd Avn Bn, Chu Lai. Anyone remember gas gernade that went off in officer's hooch July 4, 1970? Contact: Danny Richards, [REDACTED], Kemah, TX 77565, [REDACTED]

Looking For: ANYONE, C [MED], 8TH SPT BN 1966-7/FT DEVENS/TAY NINH/CHU LAI. Contact: LES MacLAUGHLIN [REDACTED], EVERETT, MA. 02149

Looking For: Photos of the ruins of the ville below LZ Professional. I was a medic with C 1/46th March 1969- March 1970. Most prominent in the ruins was a Roman Catholic Church. Would also like photos of LZ itself. Contact: Alan Johnson, [REDACTED], MT 59538, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, B Co. 4/21, 11th LIB, Jan. 69 thru Jan 70. Contact: Randy H Fox [REDACTED], Cleveland, Tn. 37312

Looking For: F Troopers, 7-69 to 2-70, 2nd platoon. Contact: Bob Akridge [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Puyallup, WA, 98374, [REDACTED]  
Looking For: ANYONE, CO. C, 4/31ST, 196TH, NOV 1969 THRU OCT 1970. Contact: STEVE LEON-GUERRERO [REDACTED], VALLEJO, CA, 94591

Looking For: anyone, 5th/46th INF, 198th, 20 Dec 68 thru 11 Jan 69. Like to know what I got hit by on 11 Jan 69 and what happen to the others. Contact: Ronnie W. Brown, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Richmond Hill, Ga 31324, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Sgt. Richard Berdan, Served with C Co. 4th/31st and also HHC 4th/31st (Commo) in summer of 69, wounded in Aug or Sept. Contact: David Pfeil [REDACTED], Mt. Rainier, Md. 20712, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Information concerning the death of 2nd Lt. John M. Scully, Co. C, 3rd Inf. 11th LIB. KIA January 13, 1968. Contact: Bob Krajnal [REDACTED] Solon, Ohio 44139 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 1/46 Inf., '67/68, A Co., C Co., HHC Mantey, Mistrot, Mosebrook, Nadolski, Sowers, Westbrook Contact: Pete Everts [REDACTED] Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Looking For: Anyone, HHC, 523 Sig. Bn., 9/69-9/70 knowing Ronald Lawrence. Contact: Linda Lawrence, [REDACTED] Cleveland, OH 44130 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B or Co. C, 4/21st. Inf, 11 LIB, that knew Walter Lee Moore, KIA 3/11/69. Father is seeking to talk with anyone knowing his son. Contact: Harold Moore [REDACTED] Frankton, TX 75763, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone knowing SSG Freddie A. Bonetti, HHC, 5/46th Infantry, 198th LIB '68-'69, KIA on January 18, 1969, LZ Young, incoming mortars. Angelina Bonetti, Freddie's daughter, was 2 years old at the time. She has some momentos of her father and would like to contact those that knew him in Vietnam. Contact: Bill Bacon [REDACTED], San Antonio, TX 78250, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Kenneth Musselman, LTC Edward Oliver, SFC John T. Schlitt, 198th LIB, HHQ Co. Contact: James G. Fuller [REDACTED] Salem, OR 97310

Looking For: Anyone, 23 MP Co., Sep '71 thru July '72. Contact: Bruce Rosin [REDACTED] Redondo Beach, CA. 90277

Looking For: Kangus, Leapole, 10th Trans., 23rd S&T BN, 68-69. Contact: John (MIKE) Rea [REDACTED], Columbia SC 29223

Looking For: Anyone, A Co., 1/52, December 24, 1969. Would like to hear from Ron Weber, "FAB", Gary Bates, "Mike", and anyone else who was there. Contact: Glen Barrus [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Grantsville, Utah 84029

Looking For: E Trp, 1st Cav Members, June-Aug 70 and again Mar 71. Contact: Ken Lord [REDACTED], Williamsport, TN 38487

Looking For: Capt Morgan, C/3/1. Contact: Greg Miller [REDACTED] Bloomington, IN 47401 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, B-Btry 3/16 Arty, 66-May 68. Contact: Jason L. [REDACTED] Jonesboro, AR, 72401 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 176th AHC, (Minutemen) 1969-1970. Contact: Donald Ramsey, [REDACTED] Levittown, PA 19057 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co B 1/46, 1969. Contact: Allen F. Wilson [REDACTED] Manchester, IA 52057-8858, [REDACTED]

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

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 1998  
AMERICAL MUSEUM  
WORCESTER, MA  
10:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 3, 1998  
AMERICAL MUSEUM  
WORCESTER, MA  
10:00 A.M.

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

## TAPS TAPS TAPS

57 ENGINEERS 182 INFANTRY H CO.

Paul Barnes  
Burlington, MA  
July 26, 1998

Thomas Ciamma

May 1998

132 INFANTRY REG HQ

Thomas G. Cogswell M.D.  
Concord, NH  
March 12, 1998

164 INFANTRY MED DE

Donald D. DeLap  
Cape Coral, FL  
June 1998

182 INFANTRY HQ 1

Ollie Droganes  
Florence, KY  
June 6, 1998

11 LIB

Oran K. Henderson  
Carlisle, PA  
June 2, 1998

196 LIB

Van K. Hunt  
Ayer, MA  
Date Unknown

23 TED HQ. CO. ADM.

George I. LaPoint  
Killeen, TX  
February 16, 1998

26 SIGNAL CO.

James W. Mitchell  
Buffalo, TX  
June 1997

196 LIB A/3/21 INF

Fletcher C. Phillips  
Gainesville, FL  
June 29, 1998

245 FA A BTRY

Ralph W. Sears  
Montevallo, AL  
February 14, 1996

121 MEDICAL BN

Hyman Sherman  
Hingham, MA  
March 4, 1998

247 F.A. HDQ BTRY

Charles Stuart  
Cherry Valley, MA  
December 21, 1997

182 INFANTRY B CO

Robert J. Walland  
Sandusky, OH  
March 2, 1998

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Donna (Solle) West  
Everett, WA  
April 11, 1998

U.S.N. (Ret)

Steven Kronnick  
Fredericksburg, TX  
Date Unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

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

DONNA SOLLE WEST

She was born on April 28, 1947 and graduated from Everett High School in 1964 and the University of Washington in 1968.

After graduation she was employed by the American Red Cross as a Recreation Aide and served at several Fire Bases in Vietnam.

She was married to Captain John West, of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1969. Captain West was shot down while flying a combat mission in Vietnam and he was listed as 'Missing in Action' four months before their son was born in 1970.

Following the death of her husband, Donna immersed herself in MIA/POW causes.

Donna will be remembered for her love of people, her love of life, and her love of family.



Above is a picture taken of Donna and myself somewhere in the 198th LIB AO, perhaps Hill 176, in February 1969.

Larry Hines

\*\*\*\*\*

MAJOR FLETCHER C. PHILLIPS USA (Retired)

Major Fletcher C. Phillips, USA (Retired) passed away on June 29, 1998, at Gainesville, Florida.

The Major was the First Platoon leader of A/3/21 Infantry, 196 LIB, 1968-1969. His call sign was 'Snoopy'.

He was a very close friend of mine and I want to let the 'First Herd' of the A/3/21 know that he cherished the time he served with them. We would talk for hours on the 'phone and always those he served with were the main topic.

He served three tours in Vietnam. He was a POW for a short time but escaped and brought his team back with him. He served his country and the Americal with distinction.

The Memorial Service in Gainesville was extremely beautiful. His final resting place will be the Arlington National Cemetery.

Larry McNamara  
A/3/21 68-69



## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Robert J. Amass  
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf  
San Antonio, TX  
#Dave Hammond

Mr. Glen A. Barrus  
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
Grantsville, UT  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Gary T. Biggar  
196 LIB 48 Scout Do  
Riverview, MI  
#Memb. Com.

Mr. Frank M. Brach  
132 Infantry H Co.  
Dolton, IL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Tim Britsch  
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Cloverdale, OH  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Roger L. Buettner  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Decatur, IN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James R. Caldwell  
723 Main CMMI Team  
Eustace, TX  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Michael R. Chirsky  
723 Maint E Co.  
Waterbury, CT  
#Ron Ward

Mr. Carman E. Collier  
198 LIB D/1/6 Inf  
Abilene, TX  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James Cronkwrite  
11 LIB E/1 Cav  
Elmira, NY  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Scott W. Curtis  
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf  
Rochester, NY  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Frank Davis  
196 LIB A/1/46  
Muncie, IN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Edward G. Dewald  
23 Adm  
Sterling Heights, MI  
#Ron Davis

Mr Homer J. Finch  
723 Maint Sup Com  
Houston, TX  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Dan J. Fodness  
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf  
Show Low, AZ  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Garry J. Fowler  
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Trumansburg, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Tom Baeucci  
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf  
Bloomington, IL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Anthony G. Beck  
56 Infantry A+B A/D  
Buffalo, NY  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Graham W. Bishop  
APO, AE  
#R.Castronova

Mr. Peter M. Bramble Jr.  
Task Force Oregon  
Herndon, VA  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Thomas J. Brown  
198 LIB HHC 11 MP  
Upper Darby, PA  
#Wallace H. Nunn

Mr. Michael R. Burr  
11 LIB 3/1 Inf  
Breacex Bridge, LA  
#Nathan Parsley

Mr. Joseph Callahan  
1 Cavalry HH/1  
Springfield, VA  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Hyman Cohen  
182 Infantry Hq/3  
W. Roxbury, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Thomas R. Crane  
196 LIB E/D/1/46  
Meredith, NH  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. David R. Culver  
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf  
Sisters, OR  
#R. Castronova

Mr. John Datka  
196 LIB C/1/1 Inf  
Big Bend, WI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Laverne Dean  
196 LIB Hq. S-3  
Lincolntown, ME  
R. Castronova

Mr. Brian L. Feeheley  
196 LIB B/4/31 Inf  
Glen Burnie, MD  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Larry C. Flinders  
1 Cav Tr B/1/1  
Maysville, KY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Gary Folk  
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf  
Dorchester, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. John Frederick  
196 LIB C/1/46 Inf  
Weston, WV  
#Gary L. Noller

1/Sgt Gerald Gabriel (Re  
91 Evac Hosp  
Bismarck, ND  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Thomas M. Gauby Sr.  
174 Avn Bn  
Leesport, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Lannie D. Gilbert  
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Jonesville, VA  
R. Castronova

Mr. David Graham  
196 LIB Hdq  
Augusta, GA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James H. Grubka  
198 LIB 1/52 Inf  
East Aurora, NY  
#Dick Dukat

Mr. R. A. Gutmueller  
11 LIB A/3 Inf  
San Antonio, TX  
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Leo B. Harootunia  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Lockport, IL  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Richard D. Heath  
132 Infantry C Co.  
Sumner, IL  
#Everett Goudy

Mr. Alan D. Hess  
523 Sig Bn B Co.  
Sedgewick, KS  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Phil Horsch  
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf  
Plano, TX  
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Garland Howard  
11 LIB  
Lexington, KY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. A. D. James  
23 Div Arty Air  
Midland, TX  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Nicholas A. Jarvela  
11 LIB E/3/1 Inf  
Iron River, WI  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr Robert J. Kenefic  
196 LIB HHC/31 Inf  
Buffalo, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Evan Ketcherside  
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf  
Sacramento, CA  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John Krasnitski  
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf  
East Hampton, CT  
#R.Castronova

Mr. Lou Gallob  
198 LIB  
Security, CO  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Douglas George Sr.  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
New Ashford, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Jesse A. Goss  
101 Eng  
Orlando, FL  
#Jon Hansen

Mr. Joseph E. Greear  
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf  
Lincoln Park, MI  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Dennis W. Gutman  
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf  
St. Nazianz, WI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Clifford Hamlett  
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Wichita Falls, TX  
#Don Ballou

CSM Charles T. Hass  
196 LIB 2/1 Inf  
Columbia, SC  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Mike Heldt  
18 Arty C/3/18 Arty  
Battle Creek, MI  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Joseph R. Hill  
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf  
Harrah, OK  
R. Castronova

Mr. Larry N. Horsley  
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf  
Tillahoma, TN  
#Vance Van Wieren

Mr. Robert G. Hynson  
14 Arty B/1/14  
Laurel, MS  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr Richard S. Jansen  
196 LIB  
Acushnet, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Foster W. Jenkins  
196 LIB HHB/3/82 Ar  
Capiz, KY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Andrew J. Kennedy  
198 LIB D/4/3 Inf  
Commack, NY  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Gordon K. Kitts  
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf  
Tazewell, VA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Toivo J. Kuivala  
132 Infantry HQ/Ser  
Astoria, OR  
#George Strom

Mr. Pasquale Lapomarda J  
198 LIB  
Portland, ME  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert E. Lee  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Hoschton, GA  
#Larry Watson

Mr. John M. Lindenauer  
196 LIB  
Federal Way, WA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Kenneth P. Lord  
11 LIB E Troop  
Williamsport, TN  
#Don Ballou

Mr Peter E Lutz  
198 LIB HHC  
Fairfield, CT  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Frank Marriott  
31 Infantry C/4/31  
Ormand Beach, FL  
#Self

Mr. Charles H. Mathes  
132 Infantry K Co.  
New Castle, IN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Charles McCoy  
23 Admin Hq  
Tampa, FL  
#Bob Kapp

Mr. Julius Merola  
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf  
Woodhaven, NY  
Gany Finkbeiner

Mr. Donald F. Musilek  
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
Pittsburgh, PA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Edward F. Noonan  
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
Titusville, FL  
#Gary Noller

Mr. Gordon Oosting  
None Listed  
Hudsonville, MI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. John H. Paulsen  
196 LIB  
West Creek, NJ  
#Joe Krisanits

Mr. Dennis P. Ramagos  
11 LIB D/4/21 Inf  
New Roads, LA  
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Henry A. Redding III  
11 LIB  
Las Vegas, NV  
#Don Ballou

Gen. William R. Richards  
198 LIB  
McLean, VA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Michael S. Lee  
11 LIB E/3/1 Inf  
Newton, NC  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Michael B. Lester  
11 LIB C/23 Med  
San Antonio, TX  
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Alan C. Loomis  
198 LIB H/17 Cav  
Auburn, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Lawrence L. Lovelace  
Traer, IA  
#R.Castronova

Mr. Richard A. Malozi  
198 LIB A/5/46 Inf  
Allentown, PA  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Eugene Marsocci  
132 Infantry HHC  
Lakewood, NJ  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Tony Maym  
21 Infantry B/3/21  
Phoenix, OR  
#Jerry McDonald

Mr. Kenneth Meleky  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
Beaver, PA  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Winston W. Moody  
198 LIB B/1/6 Inf  
Humble, TX  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Joseph H. Nolan Jr.  
182 Infantry AT Co.  
Somerville, MA  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Jonathon D. Olson  
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf  
Arlington, VA  
#Don Ballou

Mr. David S. Orndorff  
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf  
Wilmington, MA  
#Membership Committee

Mr. Rick L. Plett  
20 Infantry D/1/20  
Bettendorf, IA  
#Self

Mr. Jon M. Rea  
23 S+T A/B Co.  
Columbia, SC  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Johnny F. Reed Jr.  
1 Cavalry C/1/1  
Woodland, CA  
#Self

Mr. Angel V. Rodriguez  
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
Odessa, TX  
#R. Castronova

Ms. Anna Marie Rutallie  
91 Evac Hosp  
Indianapolis, IN  
#Ed Marsh-Gary Ware

Mr. A.C. Sanders  
198 LIB C/1/14 Arty  
El Paso, TX  
#Joseph Fridley

Mr. William M. Schott  
23 Div Hdq  
Miami, FL  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Jerry Shuster  
75 Rangers G Co.  
Altus, OK  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Jimmy Steadman  
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf  
Lakeland, FL  
#John Hansen

Capt. Gerald Stillings  
196 LIB  
Lake City, FL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James P. Thompson  
132 Infantry L Co.  
Weidman, MI  
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Charles Vanderwater  
11 LIB HHC/1/20 Inf  
Dillon, MT  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert T. Vincent  
21 Infantry D/4/21  
Benton, PA  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. William T. Ware  
196 LIB C/23 Med  
Sweet Water, AL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert D. Webster  
1 Cav Troop B/1/1  
Saratoga, NY  
#Self

Mr. David B. Wever  
11 LIB C/6 Arty  
Valparaiso, IN  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert D. Wiggins  
23 Avn Bn F/8 Cav  
Panama City Beach, FL  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Toney Wireman  
Not Listed  
West Liberty, KY  
#Self

Mr. Wes Zanone  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Lexington, KY  
#Don Ballou

\*\*\*\*\*  
ARE YOUR DUES PAID?  
CHECK THAT CARD NOW!  
CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER

Mr. Walter F. Sanders  
26 Signal Co.  
Laurel, MS  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bruce Schamber  
198 LIB 1/A-C+46 In  
Garland, TX  
#Don Ballou

Mr. William Rex Shepard  
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf  
Lexington, KY  
#Don Ballou

Mr. James L. Slechta  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Des Moines, IA  
R. Castronova

Mr. Thomas L. Sterrett  
174 AHC 14 Avn 11 LI  
Greenfield, IN  
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Paul D. Sutton  
196 LIB 198 LIB  
Falls Church, VA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Michael B. Twomey  
82 Arty C/3/82  
Tallahassee, FL  
#Ballou-Roth

Mr. Orlando Vasquez  
196 LIB E/2/1 Inf  
Carolina, PR  
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Leroy Wagvespeck  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
Baker, LA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. William Watkins  
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf  
Vista, CA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Harold W. Werner  
132 Infantry D Co.  
Pana, IL  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Reginald D. Wicks  
198 LIB A/14 Arty  
Duluth, MN  
#Don Ballou

Maj. Dale E. Wilson (Ret)  
174 AHC 14 CAB  
Raymond, WA  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Wayne G. Wood  
57 Engineers  
Lansing, MI  
#Tom McQuade

Mr. Carl T. Zipperer  
16 CAG 14 Avn Bn  
Union City, OK  
#Don Ballou



REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. Orville E. Howe  
164 Infantry A Co.  
Osceola, IA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Myer Kendall  
132 Infantry  
Hull, MA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Don Malone  
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf  
Concord, CA  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Christopher Mattiace  
11 LIB C/3/1/Inf  
Briarcliff Manor, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Stanley J. Mitoraj  
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf  
Brandenburg, KY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Joseph Piscopo  
57 Engrs Hdq  
Staten Island, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Paul S. Spilberg  
196 LIB Sp Fs A/46  
Skokie, IL  
#Col Richard Carvell

Mr. Johnny B. Starnes  
75 Rangers G Co.  
Fayetteville, NC  
#R. Castronova

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Nicholas J. Dirago  
132 Infantry E Co.  
Des Plaines, IL  
R. Castronova

SFC Anthony E. Greene  
Associate  
APO AE  
Gary L. Noller

Mr. John C. Keefe  
16 Arty 3/16  
East Bridgewater, MA  
#Kenneth Krushas

Mr. Kevin M. Sartorius  
Associate  
Rockville, MD  
Gary L. Noller

CONVALESCING

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Joseph J. Nolan  
11 Muriel Avenue  
Wakefield, MA 01880

Mary L. Hines  
1547 Carr St.  
Raleigh, NC 27608

21 RECON

182 INFANTRY

William J. McLaughlin  
155 River Ridge Drive  
Marston Mills, MA 02648-

Daniel P. Ramsay Jr.  
224 Cross St.  
Norwell, MA 02061

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Robert N. Thornton  
Nason Drive Apt.  
Melrose, MA 02176

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 advice is \$.50.

Contact: Jim Buckle  
East Harwich, MA 01645  
Telephone

or death notices to:  
Adjutant Bernard Chase  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

REUNION - REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

FAR WEST CHAPTER

Plaza Hotel Casino  
Las Vegas, NV  
October 25 - 29, 1998

All members of the ADVA are invited to take part in our Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The room rates at the Plaza Hotel are \$30.00 Sunday thru Thursday and \$42.00 Saturday and Sunday night. Plus 11% room tax. A one night deposit is required to hold your room. Call the toll free number 1-800-634-6575 by September 25th.

A dinner is planned for 7:00 P.M. on October 28, 1998 and the cost is \$25.00 per person. Please remit the dinner cost and a \$10.00 non-refundable, per VETERAN, registration fee to:

Far West Chapter  
Isleton, CA

Any question please write to Pat Tognoli at the above address or call: 1-916-777-5379.

ATTENTION - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY - ATTENTION

I would like to make contact with anyone who served with my uncle, Lincoln W. Stoddard, in the Pacific.

He served for forty four (44) months, from 1941 to 1945 on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, and Yokohama--I believe with the 247th Field Artillery. He completed his service as a Lt. Col. and as Assistance Chief of Staff (G-1) of the Americal Division.

Please contact me at:  
Allen W. Fletcher  
Worcester Publishing Ltd.  
Worcester, MA 01604  
Tel.

LAST ROLL CALL

164th Infantry Regiment

Joseph Burgad - Napoleon, ND - April 17, 1998  
Henry L. Carman - Ayr, ND - November 21, 1997  
Max Foerster - Fargo, ND - February 18, 1998  
William C. Meline - Hillsboro, ND - April 17, 1998  
Roger A. Nauman - Faribault, MN - December 8, 1997  
James E. Nelson - Drayton, ND - March 23, 1998  
Fred Pagelhopf - Chaska, MN - February 22, 1998  
Albert L. Seigny - Lengby, MN - December 30, 1997  
Edward Splysicrfer - Edgely, ND - January 20, 1998  
Richard G. Stout - Dillon, MT - October 23, 1997  
Gerald Viesteny - Casselton, ND - April 28, 1997  
(Taken from the 164th Infantry News)

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

The are quite a few of our members that have not paid their 1997-1998 dues. You are now over a year delinquent! Within the next few weeks you will be receiving a delinquent notice in the mail. If you do not respond this will be the last issue of the Americal Newsletter that you will receive.

FIRST PLACE WINNER - AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP



Kelly L. Turnwald

Her response:

Dear Mr. Ward:

I was very excited when I learned that I was to receive the Scholarship. Thanks so much to all who served with the Americal Division, donate to the fund, and the ADVA for making this Scholarship possible. It will definitely help relieve some of the financial burden of my education. I hope this Scholarship can continue for year so come.

My father, Joe Turnwald, served with the 23rd MP's, 198th LIB from Nov 1968-Jan 1970. I'm very proud of him and all who served with the Americal Division.

Thank you again, ADVA, for selection me for the Scholarship!

Sincerely,  
Kelly L. Turnwald

SECOND PLACE WINNER - AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Her Response:

Dear Mr. Ward:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the scholarship awarded to me by the Americal Division. It means a great deal to me to be given this honor by an organization so worthy of honor itself.

Thanks, in part to this scholarship, I will be able to attend Loyola University, Chicago, for a realistic price, which I have found is uncommon for college. Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Courtney A. Stankey

AND THE WINNER IS ...

What a surprise! Thanks for the check for \$250.00. I've often wondered who won those drawings--now I know. Thanks for taking care of the Old Guard.

Sincerely,  
Jim Thomas  
182nd Inf. I Co.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We received sixteen (16) applications for the ADVA scholarships. At the meeting of the fund trustees in June selected the top three (3) applicants to receive cash awards.

Kelly Turnwald of Fort Jennings, Ohio was the first winner. She will have three thousand dollars (3000) deposited in her account at Lima Technical College. Kelly was sponsored by her father, Joseph Turnwald, who served in Vietnam with the 23rd Military Police.

Courtney Stankey of Belleville, Illinois was our second winner. She will have two thousand dollars (2000) deposited to her account at Loyola University. Courtney was sponsored by her father, Arthur Stankey, who served in Vietnam with the Combat Engineers of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade.

Terry Cabral of Wakefield, Massachusetts was our third winner. She will have one thousand dollars (1000) deposited to her account at Fitchburg State College. Terry was sponsored by her grandfather, Kenneth Turner, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry.

Although you were not successful, I would encourage you to participate in the competition for next year. We receive just about the same number of applicants each time. As our fund grows, we will be giving more scholarships each time. Should you remain interested please request another applications around the beginning of the new year.

Sincerely,  
Ron Ward  
Fund Chairman

DONATIONS TO THE AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Americal Division Veterans Association is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(19) as a certain type of veteran's organization. This means that, within limitations, the ADVA does not have to pay federal taxes on income generates by the organization.

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.

You are advised to consult with a qualified tax preparer for a professional determination of the deductability of charitable contributions given to any organization or fund.

The only source of income that the Americal Division Foundation has are your donation made directly to the Foundation or your support of the annual raffle conducted by the Foundation.



SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander Ernest B. Carlson	Secretary/Treasurer Malcolm P. East
Fredericksburg, TX 78624	Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel- [REDACTED]	Tel- [REDACTED]

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

JULY 4, 1998

On this day we gathered at Chapter Headquarters to get ready for the day's activities. For the first time in many weeks there was a light rain falling, so we were not able to to decorate the pickup and trailer for the annual parade. We then adjourned to the Admiral Nimitz Museum where we were able to view a temporary Americal Division exhibit.

A meeting was being held in the Admiral Nimitz Museum today to accept the Americal plaques that are to be place on the Memorial Wall.

The meeting was called to order by the Museum Director Bruce Smith. The Colors were presented by the 4th Recon Battalion United States Marine Corps, from San Antonio, Texas. Museum Director Smith then led us in the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

A welcoming speech was given by Smith in which he praised the Americal Division for its activities from the early days of World War II, the interest that the Americal has had in the Museum, and the Americal Division Veterans Association.

I was then called upon to say a few words and I extended my thanks, and the thanks of the ADVA, to all concerned in the raising of the funds for the two plaques.

I then requested PNC Gary L. Noller and Cameron Baird to come forward and present the Americal Plaques to the Museum.

A few moments of silence was then observed and as that ended TAPS were sounded by Jim Pounder, a local bugler, and the Colors were retired.

Just one year to the day, on July 4, 1997, we had discussed placing a plaque honoring the Americal, on the wall of the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Cameron Baird pledged the first donation a few days before as we were forming for the parade. Gary and Mike Deel, another Chapter member looked at the wall, and it was decide we would proceed with that mission. Several more donations were collected that day--and it came to pass.

As it had ceased raining while we were inside, we dashed back to Headquarters, threw some chairs on the trailer, erected the Stars and Stripes, the Americal Battle Flag, the Americal insignia, POW/MIA Flag, an Army Flag, and the Americal Banner and almost made the start of the parade. The parade officials held everything up until we found our spot in the line-up.

When the parade ended we returned to Headquarters, a 20 X 20 tent canopy, transferred the seats to this canopy, and proceeded to enjoy the rest of day.

Carlos and Peggy Pola, on the way home from a reunion, stopped by the Museum. We were also joined by Angelina Bonetti, who was two years old when her Dad was KIA on January 18, 1969. He was in 5/46 Infantry, 198 LIB.

I returned to the Museum on July 18th and helped to erect the Plaques on the Memorial Wall. They really look great!

There were about fifty people at the ceremony and about half of the came to my house to spend the afternoon.

Wear a smile - C.I.B. - Americal patch and hug somebody.

Thank you and God bless you all,  
Ernie Carlson

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AMERICAL VETS REMEMBER  
(Comrades Honored During Plaque Unveiling)

Two plaques dedicated to those who served with the U.S. Army's Americal Division were unveiled Saturday morning July 4, during a brief ceremony attended by veterans, family members and friends in the ballroom of the Admiral Nimitz Museum.

Presented by the Americal Division Veterans Association, one plaque recognized all those who served with the division during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Conflict, while the other lauded the Americal's Medal of Honor recipients from WW II (one) and Vietnam (II).

Presided over by Ernie Carlson of Fredericksburg, commander of the association's South Midwest Chapter (Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Oklahoma), the program recapped the division's accomplishments during World War II (May 27,1942-Dec 12, 1945), the Korean War (1954-56) and the Vietnam Conflict (1967-73).

Drawing its name from early WW II participation by "Ameri"can troops in New "Cal"edonia, the division also served in Australia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Fiji Islands, Bougainville and Philippine Islands before helping make up occupation forces in Yokohama immediately after the war ended.

Symbolized by a shield made up of four white stars on a blue background ("Under the Southern Cross"), the division was recognized as the only "named" U.S. Army division ever to be formed and to serve on foreign soil.

Making up the Americal over the years were the 182 Infantry (Massachusetts National Guard, 132 Infantry (Illinois National Guard), 164 Infantry (North Dakota National Guard) and support units.

In addition to Carlson, also participating in Saturday's in door program was a four-man color guard from the U.S. Marine Corp's 4th Recon Battalion in San Antonio.

Bruce Smith, superintendent of the Admiral Nimitz Museum, led the pledge of allegiance in addition to offering words of welcome for veterans and their families who attended, while Jim Fonder sounded "Taps" at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Also on hand for the ceremony was Gary Noller of Kansas City, MO, past commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

(News story as it appeared in the local paper)  
Sent in by Ernie Carlson

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HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

GREETINGS TO ALL COMRADES

Thank you very much for the copy of the Americal Newsletter. It must be a very welcome sight for the fellows who served in WW II and Vietnam. Unfortunately I did not serve with the Americal Division.

I came into the Army with the 132nd Infantry of the 33rd Division as 1/Sgt. of F Company, 132rd Infantry and was with the 132nd until they were split off from the 33rd Division and went overseas. At that time I was sent to the Infantry School at Fort Benning where I attended OCS Class #8.

Now the 132nd has been deactivated and is no more. The old Armory building in Chicago is a sad sight.

The ranks from WW II are getting pretty sparse but I send my greeting to all the comrades of all the wars. We shall not forget them.

Very Sincerely,  
William R. Doctor

Ed Note: Thanks for writing. We would be happy to welcome you as an Associate member.

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A DAY WITH THE 221st FIELD ARTILLERY  
(Bill McLaughlin)

Getting a bit bored I thought of a joke I could pull. I worked the pin almost out of a grenade I had from which I had dumped the powder, and went into my tent. I sat on my bunk playing with the grenade. Finally someone looked up and said, "What are you doing Mac?" I started to tell them about the grenade but moved it so that the pin fell out, and a pop and smoking activated. "OOOH" I said loudly as if hadn't been deliberate, and threw the grenade on the dirt floor. The tent cleared as if by magic as everyone took off through the sides, front and back, as I sat laughing. I saw Al "Soupy" Campbell in midair diving into a slit trench outside that I knew was a foot deep in mud and water. He had been in the midst of changing into clean clothes. Suddenly it occurred to me that there was a remote chance that I'd mixed up the grenades, and that this might be a live one after all. I joined them in flight. Nor did I return until it had cooled off.

Although our guns were down in a hollow our tents were on the ridge, our foxholes were dug into the side of the hill near the bottom, a good distance from our bunks. We had had no air raids in weeks, and as the night drew on a huge, tropic moon rose..."Bombing Moon" someone said, and we nodded sagely, although we didn't think it would really happen.

It was a hot breathless tropic night, such as few I ever experienced on Guadalcanal. The air was so clear you could read a paper by the moon. Stars were bright as diamonds, and almost anytime you looked up you could see a shooting star leaving a trail. The air in that primitive part of the world was so free of smog and impurities that handkerchiefs issued to us usually wound up as gun patches. There was no need to blow noses. They never got clogged as at home. Nor were there colds and sniffles in most of the three years and seven months I spent out there in the war. But within a week of arriving home I came down with a beauty.

This night I slipped inside my mosquito bar,

naked, on my Army cot. Beside the cot were my clothes, but it was so hot I left them there. A phonograph was playing a recording of Harry James' 'Sleepy Lagoon'. "sleepy lagoon, a tropical moon, and you in my arms...".

It certainly seemed appropriate. Suddenly, in the tranquil air a siren wailed loudly and someone hollered "Condition Red", as the first string of bombs began bursting from inland, and came marching order. Instantly, I was out of my bunk, grabbed a piece of clothing...which turned out to be a T shirt...and my helmet. Running barefoot out of the front of the tent and around the side, heading for my foxhole down the hill.

As I came around the side of the tent I could see the bombs bursting and coming toward me. I dove for the ground just as big John Rotella came out under the side flap heading for the hole too. i caught him at the knees in beautiful blocking tackle, and he went headfirst over my body.

Leaping up I didn't stop to check him, but barreled down the hill, barefoot, on the sharp coral sand. I remembered that close to the bottom a communication line had been strung about a foot off the ground, and kept leaping in anticipation of hitting it. A tentmate didn't leap at the right time and it took him at the ankles, sending him sprawling forward, shaving his bare chest like a rasp.

I ducked in the cave like hole, watching as the lights went up and ack ack fire blasted into the sky with pieces of shrapnel coming back down humming like a taut wire to smack all around us. They were perhaps more dangerous than the Japanese bombs.

As the "All Clear" sounded I rose to go back. I found that I couldn't walk. The soles of my feet were nearly sandpapered off. I had to be carried up the hill.

The end of the fighting had caught us short. Normally, each day we'd have a fire mission, and never had to worry about cleaning the tube, a shell would take out all the fouling as it went. Now, however, as the days went by and nothing came down we realized we had better get moving on shaping up the pieces. I don't know about modern methods in maintenances, but back then we never used anything stronger than crocus cloth on most of the howitzers, and the tubes were cleaned out with burlap wrapped around a padded rammer. Every round fired in peace time had to be noted in the "gun book" with cleaning schedules and dates they were done.

Now, looking down the gun tubes we saw the coating of powder fouling and got to work. Buckets of water were heated, using extra powder charges to set them boiling in seconds. Salsoda and burlap soaked and then scrub, scrub, scrub. Time went by, but little improvement showed in the fouled barrels.

Suddenly, Lew Greenman on #3 hollered, "Hey, Mac, come here". He and I were brother sergeants from Dorchester, and I went over. "Look in there" he said, pointing at the gun. "Wow!" I said, "How did you do it"? The piece gleamed like brand new. "The burlap fell in the sand," he said, "And we wiped it off as best we could, and used it anyway..one or two passes through and it looked like this."

A day or so later an officer came down from Battalion Headquarters to inspect our guns. As he went from gun to gun his voice became almost



reverent. "Battery A has the best looking guns in the battalion," he said. "Sergeant", he said to me, "How do your section chiefs manage to keep them so clean?"

"Well sir" I said watching his face, "You take salsoda and burlap and hot water...". "Yes, yes" he said eagerly waiting for the secret. "... and then you throw the wet burlap down onto the sand".

His face turned red, then pale as he thought it over, and then without further conversation he turned on his heel and left. I don't know if he believed me or not, but I doubt it was ever mentioned in a revised artillery manual as the way to clean a really fouled gun.

Here for the first time in more than a year we had fresh eggs for breakfast. Actually it was fresh egg and a half the way it worked out and we stood as the cooks cut them to make sure we were not cheated an iota in the cut. Along with the new rations came some "butter" which we thought would be a plus, but it turned out to have the consistency of axle grease and never melted either in the sun or stove heat.

Bill Adds: My book, "The Americal Generation", which is almost ready for publication, is not only about our gang, but about out whole group in those years.

This is a sample of some of the stuff in the book. The first is at the end of Guadalcanal when the 1/Sgt. asked me to clean up some of the hand grenades that littered the area around our bivouac. There was a slew of them, and I would unscrew the body, dump the powder, then screw back the cap and pull the pin, it would pop and burn down to another blast of the booster and that was it. After a while I got bored with it and this followed.

I maintain that we were unique in that never before or since has a country been as united in one cause as during World War II. I also point out that our war was a watershed similar to the Civil War in that it began with antique weapons, theirs with the smoothbores and rifled muskets and ended with aerial observation, trench warfare and the Gatling gun, while ours began with the '03 Springfield and the 1917 Enfield and Schneider 155mm howitzers and ended with the atom bomb.

Bill McLaughlin

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WERE YOU ON THIS SHIP?

I joined the 132nd Infantry on Bougainville, went on to Leyte and Cebu, and then Japan.

I did not have enough points to come home with the Americal from Japan even though I had been overseas for two years. I was transferred to the 27th Division, since they were scheduled to return home the following month, and then I would have the necessary points to return with them.

I sailed from Japan to Seattle, Washington in December of 1945 with the 27th Infantry Division. We arrived in Seattle just before New Year's Eve.

I have been all over the Internet trying to find the name of the troop ship that brought us back to the States from Japan. No luck...maybe one of our members took the same trip and can tell me the name of the ship. I sure would appreciate your help.

Since the west coast was overflowing with returning troops, we had to live on that ship until there was room for us at Fort Lewis, Washington.

If you have any information you may reach me by:

E Mail [redacted]  
or call me at [redacted]

Frank J. Kreisel  
[redacted]  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

P.S. Many thanks for the wonderful job you and your staff are doing with the Americal Newsletter.

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A DRINK OF WATER

It was in late April or May of 1945 and as I recall the main Japanese defense in the mountains over looking Cebu City had been defeated. The third battalion of the 132nd Infantry was assigned to "company-size" reinforced patrols to search out and destroy isolated remnants of the Japanese army who had no idea of surrendering.

One hot muggy afternoon we were moving down a dirt road in a valley north of Cebu City. We were in a column of twos with scouts out and as always ready for the worst. The terrain was rocky mountain type country with high ridges on the east and west side of the valley.

As we came over a rise we noticed U.S. artillery troops setting up their 105 and 155 Howitzer artillery guns. We kidded and joshed them about being "rear echelon" as we moved through their gun positions. They took the kidding good naturedly and countered with the prediction that we would be "singing a different tune" when we called them at 1 a.m. in the morning when we needed artillery support (which we had done many times in the past) to keep the Japs from over running our positions. I think the artillery unit was the 245th or possibly 244th or 246th artillery. I am not sure which one.

Well we were only about 45 minutes past their positions when we got a radio message from the artillery men calling for help. It seems that the very minute we were moving through their positions the Japs located on the high ridges on the edge of the valley were watching us. They waited until we were gone and then swarmed down over running the artillery men. We were ordered to about face and double time back to the artillery positions. We could hear machine gun and rifle fire as we approached the scene. There were some wounded and some presumed dead.

Our platoon took up positions in the edge of a deep gorge. I came to a Captain (possibly one of the battery commanders who had a very bad stomach wound). He was laying on his back in great agony. A Second Lieutenant that I did not know came by and told me to stay with him while he found a stretcher. In the meantime the Captain begged me for a drink of water. I had two full canteens with me and I wanted to give him a drink but I remembered that in my first aid training the instructor said over and over again, never ever give a person with a stomach wound a drink of water because it would certainly kill him. I tried to tell the Captain why I couldn't give him a drink of water but I don't think he could hear me.

In any case he kept asking for water. I had a

handkerchief in my pocket that I had been using (for everything) for the 50 or 60 days that we had been in continuous combat. I was going to wet the handkerchief and moisten his mouth to relieve the thirst a little but one look at that filthy handkerchief changed my mind about that.

The Second Lieutenant finally came with a stretcher and we got the Captain on it. He was a big man, about 230 pounds and somehow I got the heavy end. As we got going I looked up to see an army ambulance about 200 yards away and it was then that I noticed that the ambulance was on the other side of the 60 foot gorge that I had seen earlier. As we came to the edge I saw two long coconut tree logs laying side by side over the gorge. It quickly appeared that the coconut tree logs were the only way to get across the gorge. It would have been no trick to getting across this "bridge" if I had been on an afternoon stroll. But carrying a 230 pound wounded man on a stretcher under existing circumstances on the insecure footing provided by a couple of wobbling coconut tree logs was something else.

Any kind of a slip by myself or the Second Lieutenant would have sent all three of us crashing down on the rocks sixty feet below. The Second Lieutenant did not indicate a rest period and being on the front end of the stretcher, he unhesitatingly moved out on the coconut tree logs so there was nothing else for me to do but "go for it."

Well, we made it to the waiting ambulance and I remember saying a little prayer of thanks. The ambulance already had three other wounded men and our Captain made a full load of four. By the time we got him on board I am not sure that he was still alive. In any case, he never got his drink of water.

I never saw either of the two officers again. If any of you artillery men know anything about that Captain or this incident, I would like to hear from you.

Staff Sergeant William F. Krentz  
Company M--132nd Infantry Regiment  
Americal Division

Home address:  
[redacted]  
Allen Park, MI 48101-1008

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26th SIGNAL COMPANY

I joined the Americal in New Caledonia and found out that I was to join the signal company. I was about as prepared to join that crack outfit as I would have been had they given me the job as Division Commander. But on Guadalcanal I found my niche. My job sounded quite glamorous but when I wrote to my girl (which I did not have) it would have spelled pile-it instead of pilot. But, really those three years were the most memorable years of my life and without them my life would have been only so-so.

In 1994-5 I spent twelve months in the Pacific, visiting every place I had been during the war. Because it was impossible to fly from New Caledonia back to my point of headquarters in Cebu. I flew to Sydney, Australia and up to Cairns. It had always been my desire to see a Cassowary in the wild. Sydney was so cold that I never left the airport. I stopped at Melbourne for a couple of days and did get to see the Kaoli

sanctuary and the millions of Lorikeets come in for their evening feeding just south of Melbourne, but I spent a couple of weeks in Cairns. (\$15.00 a week for a room on the esplanade and a big beef dinner with all the side salad for \$1.45 or fish for a lot less.)

I really want to tell the boys of the 26th Signal about my experience in La Foa on New Caledonia. Incidentally, all the buses on New Caledonia are Cadillac ones. You can hardly recognize any of our old area. I went into the Post Office to get some directions. The Postmistress was a Mrs. Christie and her husband was a kid during our time there as soldiers. It was about lunch time and I was invited to their place for dinner. (The Noon meal). What a wonderful meal. But the topper was the question at the end of the meal. Mrs. Christie asked me how I liked the meat. It was gray and coarse and very delicious.

Maybe you remember that big sea turtle that was brought into our camp and we were going to have sea turtle for chow. That happening never happened and I was one of the boys who was detailed to dig a big hole and bury it. Really, it was sea turtle that I had for that most memorable meal. They didn't say, but I suspect that they had been digging around and stumbled on that turtle and I just happened to be there to enjoy it.

I was the only American on the plane that landed at the airport in the Dumbea Valley. The plane was full and all Japanese. We could stop them in 1944 but not in 1974.

John L. Rorabaugh  
26th Signal Company

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COMPANY I - 182nd INFANTRY

Please print the following as it gives credit to men of Company G and I, to correct the story of retired Lt. Col. Len Chase's article in the last Newsletter, and I quote; "this may have been the first and possibly the only fixed bayonet attack by U.S. Army troops in the Pacific during WW II.

Retired Lt. Col. Chase must not have read in "Under the Souther Cross" where G Company and I Company made a midnight bayonet charge up Babag Ridge 12 April 45 were we suffered many WIA's. I was one of the WIA's and so were about a dozen more from I Company that participated in that attack.

We were evacuated after the Hill was taken, and all of us were in Leyte at the same time in the same hospital. We were in a convalescing hospital where we were made to work with Jap POW's. We were treated like slaves! We went AWOL and caught a ship back to our unit on Cebu to get away from all the work and harassment give by the hospital staff on Leyte.

To correct Ltc Chase's story--that was a real bayonet attack that was successful and we took the hill at all costs--as were the orders from the Battalion Commander.

I am sure there are others that remember that attack. I would like to hear from them.

Ray E. Poynter, 1/Sgt (Ret)  
I Co. 182 Infantry WW II,  
Korea, and two tours RVN

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## COMPANY C - 57th ENGINEERS

I am a Life Member of the Americal. I sure like the Americal Newsletter but I notice that the 'Old Guard' is 'fading away'.

I'm from the 57th Engineers, Company C, and have yet to see a face or name that I remember. We had a good outfit and our officers were great. I am now 74 years old--where did the years go!

We were called upon to put up a Chapel at an American grave site on either Cebu or Leyte. To bad this wasn't written down.

Enclose is a picture of my bunk mates:



Sam - Daryl - Henry - Nick

Would like to hear from any member of Company C. Write to:

Daryl D. Brown

Shepard, MI 48883

Ed Note: Sorry I could not run the picture of your Sgt. constructing the Chapel. It would not have reproduced well.

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## 247th FIELD ARTILLERY

The experience that is foremost in my mind is one that happened on January 13, and 14th, 1943, while I was on Guadalcanal. These are two days I will never forget.

It was just starting to get dark and our planes were returning from a raid on a Japanese base. I looked up and saw a plane, without any lights, following our planes in--I then realized that it was a Jap plane pulling an old trick--mixing in with our planes that were in a landing pattern.

At the first air raid warning signal, everyone that hears it yells condition red or black. 'Red' is for an air raid and 'black' is for an invasion. Just as I started to yell "Condition Red", all HELL broke loose! The next thing I saw was a white flash--it was so close that I dropped down behind a tree. I gave out one yell, "Father", meaning God. I thought I was a goner. I was prepared to die, but I didn't want to go out suffering.

The next morning I heard that we had lost six (6) men. Some of them were doctors. I was then told to take my truck to the cemetery. We wrapped the dead in burlap and buried them.

The next day a Jap plane returned and hit the same spot as the day before. (Must have been the same Jap) This time I had dug a foxhole. The tree I had been hiding behind the day before, was full of shrapnel holes--this time the Jap knocked the tree down with more shrapnel.

Another time we had a 'Condition Black'. I was told to go to Battery A and B and move their gun positions to the beach, we were expecting and invasion. We were told that if the Jap's got on the beach we were to destroy the breach block on the 105 Howitzers.

Once I got them settled, I started back to Headquarters, driving in a blackout. A Jap Zero spotted me going around Henderson Field and strafed me. He missed me but I could see the dirt kicking up on the left side of my truck. In my mind I was thinking, "why don't they shoot him down?"

On another occasion there was a big push on and B Battery was calling for more ammo. Smitty and I took off into the jungle looking for B Battery. We knocked down trees on the way, making a path to get through. All of a sudden, from out of the jungle comes a Jeep with several officers in it. Upon seeing us they asked, "Where the Hell are you going?" I told them that I was looking for B Battery, 247th Field Artillery. Their answer was, "You are in front of the infantry. Find a place to turn around and go back. By the way, you are among the first to know that the island has now been declared secured".

Jack Masucci

P.S. While serving with the 247th Field Artillery on Fiji, I had a friend named Smitty, (Walter Smith) who rolled a 2 1/2 ton truck over and was pinned beneath it. He suffered a broken hip and was sent home to recover.

## 2 Vet Takes Dare, Does a 'Brodie'



In Cumberland Hospital, Walter (Steve Brodie) Smith tells how he jumped off Brooklyn Bridge. (Other photos on Page 1)

Walter (Steve Brodie) Smith

On November 1, 1953 He made the front page headlines of the Sunday Mirror. He made a bet of a glass of beer with someone that he could jump off the Brooklyn Bridge--also known as 'take a Brodie'. They drove him to the bridge where he jumped off and survived. He was taken to the hospital where he checked out okay. Shortly after that I moved and lost contact with him.

## THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the Americal Family for the many telephone calls and get well card after the News Editor reported that the Dunphys were having their ups and downs.

Last December I (Bill) slipped in the bathtub and was immobile for the month of December, confined to bed with back injuries. Then in January I was waking up with angina pains while sleeping. The first of February the doctor told me that I could continue on medication and buy a new rocking chair or submit to a by-pass operation--which I did.

Three weeks home Helen was rushed to the hospital and diagnoses with an enlarged aorta which was pressing on the spinal column plus being wrapped around her heart. A ten (10) hour operation followed and a week under massive medication before she could recognize her family. Plus, four (4) months of hospital and rehabilitation followed which included many set backs. Helen is now on the road to recovery. As the doctor said, "Bill, you had a piece of cake compared to what Helen went through." It took about one hundred (100) staples to close the incision and about one thousand (1000) stitches to reconnect all the organs to the aorta. The doctor was not kidding when he said I had a 'piece of cake'.

Once again, Helen and myself, would like to thank every one who called or sent cards to our home. This is what the Americal is all about. Helen should be back to normal the first of the year per the doctor.

This is what the News Editor, Jim Buckle, meant when he said the Dunphys were having their 'ups and downs'.

In comradeship,  
Helen and Bill Dunphy

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## 101st QUARTERMASTER - SERVICE COMPANY



(Left to Right: Louis Sanseverino, Peter Fontana, Unknown, Vincent Sanseverino, Father Dunford, 2nd Cook McIlenny, Anthony Ruvide, Herb Ford)

The above picture was taken at one of our bivouac areas before World War II. We were then members of the 26th Yankee Division, Massachusetts National Guard.

Louis Sanseverino

## MANY THANKS

Just a short note to thank the many people for the cards and telephone calls I received during my recent forced confinement.

PNC Robert Thornton  
221st Field Artillery.

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## WOODBURY, NEW JERSEY

I am writing in reference to the cover of the April-May-June 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter, AMERICAL REMEMBERED - MEMORIAL DAY - WOODBURY, NEW JERSEY.

Woodbury, New Jersey is a very distinguished site. On September 4, 1862, F Company, 12th New Jersey Volunteers was mustered into United States service. This Regiment was famous for its stand at the wall--the high water mark of the Civil War during the Gettysburg battle.

Following is an extract from history of Company F:

## TWELFTH REGIMENT NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS

When we meet and talk, and grasp the hand  
Of those who are left of that gallant band;  
And think on the sorrows, hopes and joys  
Of our youthful days, as soldier boys.

Recruited at WOODBURY, NJ, during July and August 1862.

Mustered into United States service on September 4, 1862.

Left the State on September 7, 1862.

Mustered out of United States service June 4, 1865.

Discharged at Trenton, NJ June 12, 1865 with 290 men.

Recruits, subs, and a few old officers were mustered out on July 15, 1865.

Participated in 50 battles or skirmishes.

Had 179 Men killed in battle.

Had 410 men wounded.

Had 82 men die from sickness and exposure.

Thanks to John Millichamp for sending in this article.

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## AMERICAL DEDICATION SIGN

A section of I-95 in western Massachusetts is dedicated to the Americal Division. Every Memorial Day, for many years, Arthur Pope makes a pilgrimage to this road marker and places a wreath upon it in memory of the deceased members of the Americal Division.

A note from Arthur states: "Let the boys know that the mission for 1998 has been accomplished."

Thanks a million Arthur, from all the members of the Americal Division.

Ed Note: Sorry I couldn't use the picture. It would not reproduce well.

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



IT WILL STILL BE HENDERSON FIELD!

I'm happy to report that the Solomon Islands Government has passed a resolution to retain the name "Henderson" air field for the new air terminal built across the road from the old shabby terminal. (Henderson Field was named for a Naval pilot killed in the battle of Midway.) The official name is "Henderson International Airport." We won this one!

Although the Japs lost their fight to rename the terminal, they now have installed a huge sculpture in the new terminal honoring their dead, claiming that it represents not only Japanese soldiers but also Allied Forces who lost their lives during the Guadalcanal campaign. The sculpture measures 7 ft. X 7 ft.; rather huge and weighs about two tons.

Unfortunately the international travelers will be awe-struck by this sculpture versus the few small plaques we have in the new terminal. Seems the Japanese are determined to over-shadow our victory on the 'Canal.

Sincerely,  
Joseph G. Micek  
132nd Infantry

Ed Note: Thanks Joe for keeping us informed. From my experience the Japs "out did us" in placing monuments on Guadalcanal. The beautiful memorial they built on Mt Austen overshadows the American Memorial on Guadalcanal. My friend from Australia, Geoffrey Tierney, who has visited Guadalcanal asks, "Jim, how come the Japs got the high ground"?

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COMPANY G - 182nd INFANTRY

Enjoyed the April/May/June Americal Newsletter. I really think it is neat that in one issue you place Letters from the Old Guard first and the next issue the Vietnam News Network is placed first. I look over the Vietnam Network and am amazed at all of the different unit numbers. I believe the Old Guard had it easy with just three Regiments, three Battalions and three line Companies plus one heavy weapons Company.

The article on Page 25, in the above mentioned Newsletter, by Len Chase in regards to a bayonet attack upon a hill on western Leyte. It was interesting to note that Len was in "G" Company, 132nd Infantry while I was in "G" Company, 182nd Infantry. Our "G" Company made a night bayonet attack while on the island of Cebu. This battle was documented in 'UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS' on pages 296-297. It was interesting to note that G/132 was called 'Swinging G' while our G/182 was called 'Goat' Company because we were always going up one hill and down another. We crossed the island of Cebu from Cebu City to the western town of Toledo (not Ohio) and after a short rest, went right back to Cebu City by returning on the same trails.

I am still interested in finding anyone who might have made that trek across the island of Cebu.

I have asked before but can anyone tell me why we fire three (3) volleys at gravesite burial?

Good health to all Americal Veterans.

Kenneth Vander Molen  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

ATTENTION - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY - ATTENTION

I would like to make contact with anyone who served with my uncle, Lincoln W. Stoddard, in the Pacific.

He served for forty four (44) months, from 1941 to 1945 on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, and Yokohama--I believe with the 247th Field Artillery. He completed his service as a Lt. Col. and as Assistance Chief of Staff (G-1) of the Americal Division.

Please contact me at:  
Allen W. Fletcher  
Worcester Publishing Ltd.  
Worcester, MA 01604  
Tel. [REDACTED]

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COMPANY A - 57th ENGINEERS

I was reading the Americal Newsletter, April, May, June 1998 and I saw the article sent in by Leonard Owczarzak. He stated that one day he was on guard duty at a Japanese POW camp in the Philippines, and a prisoner motioned for him to come over to the fence as he wanted to talk. He asked Leonard for a cigarette and Leonard gave him a whole pack. In return the Japanese gave him his belt buckle. Leonard then questioned him about his good English and the Japanese said that he had studied at UCLA in California. In 1940 he returned home to Tokyo to visit his folks. In 1941 he was forced to join the Japanese military under threat of death.

When I read this, it surprised me as I met a Japanese, who surrendered to me in the Philippines and he gave me the same story. My letter concerning this incident was printed in an earlier edition of the Americal Newsletter.

I was on a road in the Philippines, checking it for footprints that would tell where the Japanese had crossed during the night, when I heard this voice yelling, "Don't shoot, don't shoot". I looked up and saw these two ragged Japanese coming out of the brush waving a white flag on a stick, and yelling, "Don't shoot". When he got to me he said that he and his cousin wanted to surrender to an American and not a Filipino because they would shoot them. He spoke perfect English and when I questioned him about this he stated that he had studied in California before the war. I put them in a Jeep, took them to Headquarters, and turned them in. As I was leaving he shook my hand and thanked me for saving him.

I often wonder what he is doing now and if he would remember me.

When I read the story written by Leonard, my first thought was if it was the same Japanese that had surrendered to me. The stories are the same. I sure would like to meet him now and reminisce about the stupid war and how glad that we both are that we had survived.

I am sure glad it was him waving the white flag and not me. I hate to think of how the world would be now.

God Bless America  
Darrell Wardien

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

WAS IT NECESSARY?

"Our overriding desire was to shorten the war. I'd seen too many 22-year-olds come back white haired from the terror of amphibious landings."

I was talking with retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Chuck Sweeney, who holds the historic distinction of being the only pilot on both atomic bomb missions over Japan, having piloted the instrument plane at Hiroshima and then having dropped the bomb on Nagasaki. Today Sweeney has embarked on another mission: to help put that terrible time into context.

As the world goes through a succession of 50th-anniversary remembrances of history's most horrific global war, no issue has caused more controversy than President Truman's decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945. Some historians argue that they were unnecessary to ending World War II and instead were the first shot of the Cold War, a clear warning to the Soviet Union. Others, including most veterans of that period, argue that the bombs were dropped in a successful effort to force a surrender before it became necessary to invade Japan's main islands.

Sweeney leaves no doubt where he stands on this matter, "The prospect of a ground invasion was never far from our minds," he noted. "We wanted to prevent it, and we did. We saved thousands of lives, we shortened the war, and we obviated an invasion."

Today, at 75, the big, bright-faced descendant of potato famine Irish immigrants still loves cigars, good food and trading sea stories. Having endured numerous interviews by "young reporters who don't even know the dates World War II was fought," he has become concerned about what he calls a "culture of ignorance" on many important issues of American history. At the same time, he regrets that even his own 10 children and 20 grandchildren "don't know very much about what really took place" during his historic World War II missions.

In the summer of 1945, Chuck Sweeney was stationed on the remote Pacific island of Tinian, training "to use a weapon system that had never even been tested, much less used before." The 39-square mile island, captured in a Marine assault a year earlier, had become the largest operational airport in the world, as fleets of B-29s conducted almost daily raids against Japan. Among the young airmen, there was an abiding sense of purpose. If their efforts did not bring Japan to its knees, a long and bloody ground campaign would ensue.

It is difficult for Sweeney and others to comprehend the allegations by some historians that Japan would have surrendered without this effort, embodied in the recent controversy over the Smithsonian Institution's now drastically scaled-back atomic bomb exhibit. In its original form, the exhibit downplayed the casualty estimates for a U.S. invasion given to President Truman prior to his decision to drop the bomb, provided more narrative space to anti-Asian racism in the U.S. than to the attack on Pearl Harbor, included only six sentences on Japan's nearly 10 years of aggression in Asia prior to the U.S. entry in the war, and showed 49 photos of suffering Japanese and three of Americans.

When asked about the exhibit, Sweeney may have spoken for a multitude who have to endure the moral ambiguity of virtually every battlefield: "I don't need some '60s-type professor poisoning the minds of our kids about how terrible America was.

Did any of these historians have the strength to make the decision that Truman had to make?"

By the time Sweeney took off to drop the second atomic bomb, we'd been fighting for more than three years to push back a Japanese military expansion that had conquered Korea, most of China, Southeast Asia and Pacific Oceania. Island by island, cave by cave, America and its allies had paid a heavy price to reverse this aggression.

And despite contemporary argument to the contrary, those who would be invading Japan if the war continued had no doubt that casualties would be immense. As Bruce Lee notes in his book Marching Orders, President Truman had been briefed to the effect that an invasion would mean 600,000 U.S. casualties in the first 30 days alone.

To preclude such slaughter, the U.S. military in early 1945 began a massive bombing campaign to break Japan's spirit and force an end to the war. Fire-bombs were dropped on predominantly civilian targets. "They'd run 16,000 pounds of napalm per plane," recalled Sweeney. "Hundreds of planes a night, for months on end. By August there was no reason to put the atomic bomb on Tokyo, Osaka or Nagoya. They were already reduced to rubble."

American leaders and citizens alike were strongly behind such bombings. But even after the the first atomic bomb was dropped, Japan did not surrender, Just the day before Sweeney's flight, a strong faction on the military, led by Japan's War Minister, Gen. Korechika Anami, still wanted to fight one more great battle on Japan's main islands, regardless of cost.

Sweeney recounted that by time they departed on the Nagasaki mission, he and his crew had been through nearly a year of rigorous, highly secret training. The 509th Composite Group---commanded by Col. Paul W. Tibbets, who piloted the first atomic bomb mission---was organized outside normal military chains of command, reporting only to the highest authorities. The mission was so classified that crew members were forbidden even to talk to each other about it. Upon arriving on Tinian, they were instructed to tell other airmen they were merely developing a new "blockbuster" conventional bomb.

On the morning of Aug 9, Sweeney took off from Tinian, banking over the island of Saipan, where some of the bloodiest fighting of the war had taken place. Because of bad weather the mission's three planes flew over Iwo Jima, where more Marines had died than would perish in the entire Korean war. If the mission were aborted or they ran out of fuel, they would be diverted to Okinawa, where the bloodiest battle of the Pacific had been waged. The dead there had included 150,000 civilians---more than the number of military deaths on both sides.

The mission became treacherous for Sweeney and his crew. Weather forced them from Kokura, their principle target, to Nagasaki, a secondary one. Once the bomb was dropped, fuel was so low that Sweeney canceled a damage-assessment turn over the city and headed for Okinawa, at the same time preparing to ditch in the sea. When Sweeney landed on Okinawa, he and his crew had been flying for 12 hours, "I was exhausted physically and mentally," he recalled.

After the war, Sweeney combined running a business with a career in the Air National Guard. He rose to the rank of major general before retiring in 1976. Sweeney has made few public statements regarding the atomic bomb missions, mostly due to



his deference to Paul Tibbets. But as he looks back a half-century to the conflict that shaped both him and the world in which we live, those last few days of the war still rankle.

"People should spend more time talking about the Russians, who after a week of war moved in and took the spoils," said Sweeney,, pointing out that Russia has yet to return the Kurile Islands to Japanese sovereignty. "We left whatever spoils the Japanese wanted and shipped more to them. We saved five times as many lives as we took, and then we rebuilt their country."

Written by James Webb

The Argument:  
In 1945, after the U.S. dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Albert Einstein warned, "The world is not ready for (nuclear weapons)." As time has passed, the bombings have come to be seen by some as crimes against humanity. This March, Nagasaki's mayor, Hitoshi Motoshima, called the nuclear attacks the moral equivalent of the Holocaust.

No one disputes that the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki inflicted a horrific number of civilian deaths, (70,000 were instantly killed in Hiroshima, 40,000 in Nagasaki, and still more died later of radiation sickness). But Japan also killed civilians when it bombed Chinese cities, and it has been asserted that if Japan had had nuclear weapons, it would have used them.

Although some historians believe that the U.S. should have tried harder to negotiate a surrender, more historians agree that Japan was committed to fighting to the end. Experts note that an invasion of Japan and re-capture of Japanese-held territory (in China, Southeast Asia, Indonesia) would have cost many lives.

If the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were atrocities, it has been argued, so were Japanese actions such as Bataan Death March the "medical experiments" performed on Chinese prisoners and the torture and starvation of prisoners of war.

(Taken from Parade magazine.)

Ed Note: This past month, July 1998 two antique airplanes were on exhibit at the Barnstable Airport on Cape Cod. One was a B-25 (Billy Mitchell Bomber) and the other was the only B-29 still flying. General Sweeney accepted and invitation to fly this B-29 on another mission. He accepted and took the controls of this veteran airplane on a flight over Cape Cod.

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STEVEN KRONNICK U.S.N. (Ret)

The body of Steven Kronnick was found near a country road, recently. Authorities are still investigating.

Steven drove our Americal float on many occasions and was a friend to all who knew him.

The South-Midwest Chapter is planning a Memorial donation, in his name, to the ADVA Scholarship Fund. Any donations made be sent to:

Ernest Carlson  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-3725  
Tel: [redacted]

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GUADALCANAL VETERANS

My name is David Chee. I am a life long resident of Massachusetts and an aspiring military history writer. I have been an avid reader of US military history since my youth, especially WW II. I graduated from Tufts University with as B.A.in 1983 majoring in political science and international relations. I have been employed by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue since college.

My interest in writing to Americal veterans is to obtain information in writing a short US military history of WW II, devoting one chapter to Guadalcanal. I intend to describe the campaign factually, detail commanders, list Medal of Honor recipients, some analysis, importantly--report brief retelling of the campaign by current Americal veterans of Guadalcanal.

Therefore, I would like to ask if anyone is interested in corresponding by mail with me, my address my provided below. My intention in writing is to promote knowledge of the great and humble deeds of World War II soldiers, sailors airmen, and Marines, to my generation and future ones. I do not expect to profit from any written material received, and if the book is published, all correspondees whose materials are used would be notified for permission and share in royalties.

Lastly, I would like to know of anyone who provide me with biographical information on the Commander of of the Americal Division at Guadalcanal.

Very Truly yours,  
David Chee  
[redacted]  
Attleboro, MA 02703

Ed Note: David, the commander of the Americal Division on Guadalcanal was Gen. Alexander M. Patch Jr. A starting point for the story of the Americal on Guadalcanal would be to read the history of the Division, 'Under the Southern Cross'. The book may be obtained by writing to Kenneth Turner, 70 Madison Avenue, Wakefield, MA 01880. The cost of the book is \$12.00 Post Paid.

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AMERICAL HISTORY

I am a WW II historian and I would like to purchase a History of the Americal Division and also any other items that the Americal has for sale.

Edward J. Dyar  
[redacted]  
Bloomfield, MI 48301

Ed Note: You may purchase the history of the Americal, "Under the Southern Cross", by sending \$12.00 to:

Kenneth Turner  
[redacted]  
Wakefield, MA 01880

He will send you a copy, post paid, and also a list of the items the Americal has for sale, if you request it.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? - CHECK YOUR CARD

AMERICAL DIVISION--FIRST TO FIGHT  
ONE OF THE FIRST TO ENTER JAP HOMELAND

The Americal Infantry Division--the first Army unit to take the offensive against the Japanese when they invaded Guadalcanal in October of 1942, and the first Army Division to arrive on the Pacific battlefield--added another first to its brilliant record this morning by being one of the first Infantry Divisions to reach their objective--JAPAN.

The first Americal unit, the 132nd Infantry Regiment, started for the Pacific in January 1942, arriving first at Australia and then preceding to New Caledonia. A short time later, the rest of the Division arrived and the various units were activated on May 27, 1942, as the Americal Division.

the 164th Infantry Regiment hit Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942, later being joined by the rest of the Division for nearly four months of the battle that was "the turning point of the Pacific War".

Then came the eleven month Bougainville Campaign, followed by the seven month Philippine Campaign--now a shotless entrance and landing of the Japanese homeland.

The Americal Division looked a the japanese shores this morning and deservedly felt that their work was "well done" and were thankful they could express silently, "mission accomplished."

(Taken from the Americal--News of the World--Saturday, September 8, 1945).

Sent in by Mitchell Pillarick

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WITHOUT THE BOMB, IT'S CLEAR  
W W II WOULD HAVE CONTINUED

What if Harry Truman had decided not to use the atomic bombs against Japan in the summer of 1945?

Horrifying new answers are emerging from recently declassified decryptons of secret Japanese diplomatic codes describing plans to defend the Japanese homeland and from newly available accounts of meetings at which U.S. leaders estimated the casualties from an invasion.

The documents leave no doubt that the atomic bombs saved hundreds of thousands of lives, both American and Japanese, and were, by far, the least terrible way to stop the war in the Pacific. They also undercut those revisionist arguments that the Japanese were ready to surrender on Allied terms and that using the bombs was unnecessary and racist.

One of the most crucial secrets of World War II was the U.S. success in breaking the Japanese diplomatic codes. Summaries of the intercepted messages were sent daily to the president, the secretaries of State, War and Navy, the army chief of staff and the chief of naval operations. These decoded messages leave no doubt they planned to defend Japan with even more of the suicidal fanaticism that the Japanese showed in Okinawa.

Bruce Lee, a writer and editor, has read about 15,000 pages of these intercepted messages as they were summarized for the president and U.S. military leaders. He shows how this supersecret

information shaped U.S. war decisions in a book published this month, "Marching Orders: The Untold Story of World War II."

On the basis of losses inflicted on U.S. forces by Japanese on Okinawa and Iwo Jima, 600,000 to 700,000 casualties were seen as likely among the two million U.S. troops to be engaged in the fighting by May 1946.

At the same time, a few Japanese diplomats were warning their leaders in coded messages that Japan would suffer the same fate as Germany if the war continued. Japan's population probably would be reduced by half "as a result of the difficult struggle for life and of food shortages," one message said. Also at stake were the lives of about 400,000 Allied prisoners of war in Japan and in territories it still occupied. Orders had been issued to execute them all if an invasion of Japan occurred.

During June and July, Japanese militarists urgently were proposing to the Soviet Union that the two long-time enemy nations join in dividing Asia "to make a force unequaled in the world" and suggesting trade arrangements.

The Japanese, after all, still had several million soldiers under arms, sworn to fight to the death, as Lee notes. They also still controlled Korea, Manchuria and parts of China, Formosa, French Indochina, Thailand, Malaya, Sumatra and Borneo.

Far from showing any interest in such a deal, the Soviets were moving about 300,000 troops per month to the Far East. U.S. strategists were concerned that Russian entry into the war in the Pacific greatly would complicate postwar settlements and peacemaking.

On July 26, the United states, Britain and China issued the Potsdam proclamation, telling the Japanese to surrender unconditionally or face prompt and utter destruction. Various hints also were dropped that better terms might be arranged--messages Lee says got through to Japanese leaders and to Emperor Hirohito, as evidenced by intercepted codes.

The Japanese High Command ignored the ultimatum.

The intercepted messages make it clear that Japanese leaders were warned adequately that their homeland was facing devastation and the faster they surrendered, the better the terms might be.

On August 6, the first Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

On Aug. 9, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and Russian troops began invading Manchuria. On the same day, the Americans dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

But even on Aug 9, Japanese war leaders could not bring themselves to surrender, as other records show. That night, at a second meeting, Emperor Hirohito defied the militarists and said continuing the war only could result in the annihilation of the Japanese people and a prolongation of the suffering of humanity. He approved the Allied demand for unconditional surrender.

Even then, even after two nuclear weapons had been exploded, even as the Russian were marching into Manchuria, Lee reports, the militarists revolted, tried to seize the Imperial Palace and prevent Japan from surrendering.



But early September 1945, Japanese officials already were deliberately trying to turn the use of the atomic bombs against the United States, as summaries of decoded messages make clear.

That propaganda strategy has succeeded far beyond expectation-both in Japan and in the United States.

Taken from the Chicago Tribune  
Written by Joan Beck.  
Sent in by Leonard Owczarzak.

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AMERICAN TROOPS MARCH THROUGH TOKYO;  
18 COMBAT UNITS TO OCCUPY JAPAN

Tokyo (ANS)--A three-mile-long parade, led by Supreme Commander General Douglas MacArthur, swept through the ruins of this defeated Japanese capital this morning, the first time in history that occupation forces have entered this subdued metropolis.

More than 15,000 men of the 1st Cavalry Division will parade behind General MacArthur before the historic march will finish this morning.

Last night and this morning this city was out under a tight curfew, although no trouble was anticipated during the march.

Scout patrols of the 1st Cavalry Division entered the Japanese capital yesterday and ran up the historic, globe-flying American flag over General MacArthur's Tokyo Headquarters in the former American Embassy building. This same flag flew over American Headquarters in Casablanca, Rome, Paris and Berlin. It was flown to General MacArthur's Headquarters shortly after the Japanese surrender became official.

So far not one American casualty has been reported, indicating that the Japanese are giving complete co-operation in the Allied occupation.

General MacArthur disclosed yesterday that 8 combat divisions, totaling more than 100,000 men with other units will comprise the occupation forces for Japan and South Korea.

(Taken from 'THE AMERICAL-News of the World-Saturday, September 8, 1945).

Sent in by Mitchel Pillarick  
B Company - 164th Infantry

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PAY RAISE

As a young soldier still looking for adventure and the winning of the war, I already had gotten two pay raises. One for being promoted to PFC and the other for being overseas. Then one day the company clerk handed me a directive pointing out another pay raise.

RESTRICTED

AMERICAL DIVISION  
APO 716

168 5 November 1944

SUBJECT; Combat Infantryman Badge.

TO: Personnel who hold the Combat Infantryman Badge.

1. You are receiving this extra money because you, personally, went out and faced the enemy, and the United States of America appreciates it.

Because of having engaged in combat, you, more than anybody else, wish to see this war brought to an early and victorious end. That requires not only your services, but every dollar you can make available to the United States to help provide materials to defeat the enemy.

2. When the war is over and you return to civilian life, the government will provide for your further education. That alone is not sufficient, and money is a most important factor in post-war readjustment. Now, better than any other time, can you provide the necessary reserve for post-war plans: marriage, home buying, education for your children, plus a few of the luxuries you hope to enjoy. Also, taxes are inevitable. The income tax you are now accruing must be paid within ninety days after you return to the United States.

3. You owe it to yourself to provide for the future. What better method is there than taking this extra money and putting it, one hundred percent, into War Bonds, in addition to what you are now purchasing?

Robert B. McClure  
Major General, United States Army,  
Commanding.

The directive had little affect on my monetary thinking, but it did have a great deal of affect on my ego. I had earned the Combat Infantry Badge. Although I did not see the award I prized it.

My going home uniform issued at separation center had in place my ribbons, stripes and that glistening Combat Infantry Badge. The uniform was worn only for a few hours and then stored away. The badge will forever be worn in my mind and memories. Worn in my mind with some sadness. Sadness for some of my friends who never got to wear or even see the badge they earned.

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

I am enclosing thoughts and a document that may be of interest to our members and readers. The words are mine but the document may be one that others have also received. Maybe they will recognize it and have fond or sad recollections because of it.

There are many stories I want to hear or read. The earning of the Combat Infantry Badge should bring many stories to mind. I do not look for blood and guts tales--but I enjoy the tales of the life lived while the guys were doing their job and duty.

It seems urgent that the Old Guard tell us those stories. Stories that only they can tell. Stories that will not be noted as the Old Guard fades away.

Sincerely,  
Everett Arnold  
Headquatr Company, 132 Infantry Reg.  
I & R Platoon

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NATIONAL ORDER OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS

The National Order of Battlefield Commissions is trying to locate all men, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam, who, on the field of battle against and armed enemy received a commission from enlisted or Warrant status. It may you or someone you know. Contact:

John C. Angier III  
St. Augustine, FL 32084-7451  
Tel

COMPANY H - 182nd INFANTRY

I have enjoyed reading all the stories from the "Old Guard" and feel it it about time to send in one of my own.

On Bougainville, the 81mm mortar platoon of H Company, 182nd Infantry had six 81mm Mortars. Sergeants Bob McGlashan and Sandy Morrison, of the 3rd squad, were sent to an OP on Hill260. Sgt. Vin Carvalho was in charge of the 3rd squad and the gunner was Manny Souza from Lexington, MA. Manny had his mortar zeroed in on the right spot, according to the OP, and the gun crew fired round after round and the ammo trucks kept supplying them.



Carvalho - Dee - McGlashan - Morrison

I am sure that our mortar helped win the battle for Hill 260.

Maurice L. Dee

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21 RECON - DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN? - 21 RECON

The enclosed picture is of myself and a good friend that I have lost track of and I am hoping to find him alive and well.

The picture was taken on Bougainville in 1944 during a period of time we were given to relax, before going on a 5-7 day patrol behind the Jap lines.



Harry Schnell - Stanley Kucharewicz

His name is Stanley Kucharewicz and I believe he was from the Boston area. If you know of him or his whereabouts contact:

Harry Schnell  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
Tel

REUNION - REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY - M COMPANY

September 12, 1998

All members of the 182nd Infantry, L and M Company invited to attend. Contact:

Bob Doucette  
Lynn, MA 01904  
Tel:



Ed Note: Above is a picture of Tim McCarthy (left) and Bob Doucette (right). These two men have kept L and M Company, alive and well. Bob has held this Reunion at his home for many years.

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26th SIGNAL COMPANY

It is a great let down when we know there are so many of the 26th Signal Company out there and we do not read more articles written about them! What a story each one has to impart to others--if only they would take the time to write.

We would not have any news what so ever about the "Old Guard" if it were not for the 182nd, 164th, and the 132nd. Thanks to everyone that has sent in news for others to enjoy.

It would be great if someone in Americal circle could help me locate PATRICK JORDAN. The last time I saw him was at Fort Dix. He had just been promoted to Captain. He as from Brooklyn, NY. I would also like to locate JACK ANDERSON from Louisiana.

When searching for a place to have the Reunions, have the Great Smokey Mountains in Tennessee ever been considered? There are many nice motels in Gatlinberg and Pigeon Forge, TN. Of course every-one wants to visit Dollywood. Just a thought.

Sincerely,  
Sherman Lilly  
Blountville, TN 37617  
Tel:

Ed Note: Sorry I could not use the photo's. They would not reproduce well. Would be great if you could loan me an original.



HIS GENERATION NEVER KNEW ABOUT SACRIFICE

I was embarrassed to read that President Clinton and members of Congress have said that the older generation must learn to sacrifice as other generations have done. I knew that eventually someone would ferret out our dirty little secret. We have lived the life of 'Riley' all our lives and now we must pay the piper.

During the depression we lived it up by dancing to the tune of 'Brother Can You Spare A Dime?' Many could choose to dine at one of country's fabulous Soup Kitchens, often joined by parents and siblings.

Then came World War II and our cup was really filled to overflowing. After cruising the beautiful water near Hawaii in that great big Canoe Club called the U.S. Navy and seeing fireworks, day and night, many of us got to see the 'Great Fireworks' display provide by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. We had a chance to bask on the beaches of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. We had a chance to visit the capitols of Europe and visit such scenic spots as Bastogne, Malmedy, and Monte Cassino. One of the most exhilarating strolls was from Bataan to the famous Japanese resorts laughingly referred to as Death Camps.

The good ties really rolled to those lucky enough to be on the beaches of Normandy for boating and swimming on that pleasant day in June 1944. Even luckier were those who won prize holiday cruises on sleek gray ships to such fun filled spots as Midway, the Solomons and Murmansk.

Instead of asking 'What can I do for your Country' an indulgent government let us fritter away our youths wandering through lush jungles of Burma and New Guinea.

Yes, it's all true. We are pampered and spoiled rotten. We never did learn what sacrifice meant. My generation is old, Mr. President and members of Congress, please punish us for failing so that we might learn the true meaning of "DUTY, HONOR, AND COUNTRY."

(Written by Don Wright for Ten Million GI's)  
(Sent in by Al Cotta - D Company, 121 Med Bn)

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DID YOU KNOW?

ON A NATIONAL NOTE: Most every one 50 and older knows what a NOTCH BABY is, well for those who don't, it's a person born in 1917 through 1926 who receives less Social security than those born before or after those years. Now there is a political afloat to appease all the NOTCH BABIES with a \$5000.00 lump sum. I don't buy it! Why? Because almost all the NOTCH BABIES are World War II Vets. They fought a War they didn't start and had to live in fox holes and filth for two or three years.

The Japanese who started the mess had their countrymen in this country interned. (Why I do not know) because they did not do that to the Germans or Italians.) Now the politicians come up with a \$20,000 stipend for each Japanese interned. How can they come up with this money for them? They were sleeping on sheets and had three meals a day while we were living in fox holes and eating C rations.

They can't or don't want to help our NOTCH BABIES

who fought for our freedom and are dying off faster than you can count. I was reading in my copy of the Americal Newsletter that we have played TAPS for 22 members this year, all NOTCH BABIES, so I can't believe he politicians. They won't have us around to bug them much longer.

Thanks for taking time to read MY THOUGHTS.

Pat Farino  
G Company, 182nd Infantry

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39th MILITARY POLICE - WHERE ARE YOU?

Sure enjoy reading the Americal Newsletter from front to back and hoping to see a familiar name from my outfit the 39th Military Police. As you well know, we were called 'Military Princes'. (CHUCKLE - CHUCKLE)

Ed Note: To answer your question on the cost of a Life Membership for a old ---. The cost for a fine old gentleman, like yourself would be \$75.00.

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I NEED YOUR HELP!

In the next issue, Oct-Nov-Dec 1998 I plan to deal with the Pearl Harbor issue. I would like to have any stories you have about this date. Where were you when you heard about the attack. How did it effect you? I know that many of you were already in the Army, being called up as a member of a National Guard unit.

In the Jan-Feb-Mar 1999 issue I would like to run stories on the great boat ride, New Caledonia, and Bougainville.

Please sit down now and put your thoughts on paper. Please include your telephone number so that I may call you on any questions that I may have.

Jim  
Your Editor

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H COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

Company H of the 182nd Infantry held their annual Reunion at the Sliver Fox restaurant in Everett, MA on Saturday May 23, 1998. A family style dinner was served to thirty one (31) members.

Old friendships were renewed and we are all looking forward to our Reunion next year.

John Groppi

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E COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

E Company, 182nd Infantry, held their annual luncheon and Reunion on May 27, 1998 at the Kernwood Restaurant in Lynnfield, MA. Forty two (42) members were present.

There were members present from Florida, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. A pleasant afternoon was spent swapping stories and greeting old friends.

A good time was had by all - See you next year.

Jim Buckle

Dear Editor,

Several of us have been trying to locate other guys that were on the Kham Duc operation (Elk Canyon I) in July and August, 1970. Participating units were the 2/1st Inf.; B Co., 3/21st Inf.; A Btry, 1/82nd Arty; and supporting aviation units. We would like to have a reunion in San Antonio in 2000 in conjunction with the annual ADVA reunion.

Those seeking more information should contact Bill Bacon, [REDACTED], San Antonio, TX 78250, [REDACTED]. My e-mail address is <memobacon@aol.com>. Thank you.

Dear Editor,

Daily, we swept the low land villages close to the South China Sea of Duc Pho. Every evening, we moved into the scrub wood line along the beach and pretended to set up a perimeter. We opened "C"s and had supper.

Being a rookie, I was amazed that our Red Leg would mark our position with a "Wilson Pickett" marking round every evening. Hey, what a good guy.

As we were digging in on the beach on night number five, all hell broke loose at our previous position.... mortar fire and muzzle flashes. Next, artillery rounds began to land to be followed by mini-gun fire from gunships sweeping the area.

My God!, "Fat Sam" had decided to set a trap and use us as the bait...100 plus wet and filthy U.S. Army Infantrymen in dirty, sweaty, jungle fatigues. I remember and try to vote accordingly plus influence others to do likewise.

Dr. Paul Buddy Clark, Co. A, 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB, 1969

Dear Editor,

I was going through my files and records when I ran across a 1993 Americal Newsletter column in which Dave Recob asked how many Generals names did we miss in a listing of those officers of the Americal who were or became Generals.

I do not know if anyone has pursued this question or if anyone has a historical list. But, I am going to turn in an additional six names. They are BG Bertrand K. Gorwitz, MG Jim Galloway, MG Joe McDonough, LTG Larry Jones, BG Jack Sadler, and LTG Howard Cooksey.

Gen. Frederick (Fritz) J. Kroesen

**Editor's Note:** Gen. Kroesen was CG of the Americal Division in 1971. The following list was published in the 1993 article: WWII- MG Alexander Patch, BG Edmund B. Seabee, MG John Hodge, MG Robert McClure, and BG William H. Arnold.

Vietnam- MG William B. Rossen, BG Samuel W. Koster, MG Dick Knowles, BG George H. Young, Jr., MG Charles M. Gettys, MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, MG A.E. Milloy, BG Roy A. Atterbury, BG Edwin L. Powell, And BG Ted Mataxis.

Gen. Fritz Kroesen, Gen. Bill Richardson, Gen. Art Brown, Jr., Gen. Butch Saint, Gen. Fred Woerner, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Gen. Colin Powell, LTG Tom Tackberry, LTG Dick Graves, LTG Dick Lawrence, LTG Bob Arter, LTG Sin Melner, LTG Jim Lee, and BG Ed Kennedy.

The Editor adds the name of LTG James L. Baldwin to the list. Notify the editor if you wish to add names to the list.

Dear Editor,

I would like to get information on friends I knew in Vietnam. I do not know their names but I remember their nicknames. Anyone willing to help can contact me at 430 4th St., Glasgow, MT, 59230. I can forward a list of the known nicknames.

John Gideon Co B., 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB, 68-69

Dear Editor,

I am looking for anyone who was at FSB Maude in DaNang from January through March of 1972. Around 9:00 AM one morning one of our bunkers was hit with a mortar round with three of our men WIA. One later died. I had talked with the KIA the night before and I am trying to recall his name. Any information on this incident would be greatly appreciated. Send to Pablo Flores, Jr., [REDACTED], Harlingen, TX, 78550, phone [REDACTED]. Your help is appreciated.

Pablo Flores, Jr.

Dear Editor,

Major John A. Whittecar passed away on Sept. 6, 1997 Salina, KS. He was best known for his selfless action in the battle of Song Chang in August, 1969. He was in command of Co. D, 4/31st Inf. when the company was surrounded and outnumbered by an enemy force of the 2nd NVA Division. His heroism resulted in the survival of the company and the award to Captain Whittecar of a Purple Heart and his third Silver Star.

The survivors feel that without CPT Whittecar's actions, the company, which lost seven KIA and almost all others WIA, would have been annihilated. We have lost a great leader and a good friend.

(Keith Nolan wrote of this action in his book Death Valley.)

Vance A. Van Wieren, Co. D, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find information about the death of my son, Walter L. Moore. He was KHA on March 11, 1969 while serving with Co C., 4/21st Inf. Co. C and Co. B received mortars, grenades, RPGs, and SAF resulting in a total of 21 U.S. WHA and four U.S. KHA. I have located the Daily Staff Journal for this date but I would like to contact others who may have known my son. Contact me at [REDACTED], Frankston, TX, 75763, phone [REDACTED]. Thank you.

Harold Moore

Dear Editor,

I lost a good friend to hostile fire in Vietnam. After 25 years I located his parents in California. They told me that they were never told what happened to their son on the day that he was killed. He name was SGT Ronald McEuen and he was KIA on 23 May 1968.

He was either with the 196th LIB or the 198th LIB. He was killed near LZ West or thereabouts. Anyone having additional information is requested to contact me at 30245 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA, 90265-3603. Ron and I were good friends and I know he would do the same for me. Thanks.

Laurance H. See, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 3/68-3/69

Dear Editor,

I am trying to help find the buddies of Fidele Bastarache of Co. B, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. He was KIA in Vietnam and his sister is seeking more information about his service. Fidele was a Canadian who died while serving in the Americal. Kenneth Lewis and Howard Walker are other Canadians that also served with the Americal. Walker now lives in Colorado.

Please forward information to 7150 M.B. Jodoin, #501, Ville D'Anjou, QE H1J2J3, Canada. Thank you.

Jose Pierre Fernandez



## RETURN TO LZ GATOR — APRIL, 1997

David W. Taylor

**Editors Note:** David Taylor was an infantry First Lieutenant in Co. C, 5/46th, 198th L.I.B., from late February 1969 until early June 1969. From LZ Gator, the battalion's base camp, he led his rifle platoon on various missions throughout the battalions area of operation. This past April he returned to Vietnam for the first time in 28 years. Here are his reflections:

My return to Vietnam was a trip I had contemplated for some time. I traveled alone with my personal driver from the VietNam Chamber of Commerce. For 10 days I traveled down the coast on Highway #1 from Danang to Nha Trang where I spent two days on the beach and then took a VietNam Airlines flight into Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). However the most important day of the trip was my 4th day, the day I returned to Chu Lai, LZ Gator and special memories.

After a 1 1/2 hour drive from Danang heading south on Highway #1, we approached Chu Lai. I had my 5/46th map of the AO and could orient it fairly well to the terrain as we drove. The fact the car had an odometer in kilometers also helped. The terrain alongside Highway #1 was dotted with military cemeteries for the Viet Cong.

As we approached the Chu Lai airfield and general area of the Americal Division headquarters, my driver reminded me that the area was a major military base and no pictures in the area were allowed. I sat in the back seat and had him slow down to a crawl as we passed the main gate. No soldiers were seen so I snapped a picture of the main entrance (figure 1).

As we drove down the highway I was amazed at how little had changed in all those years. The area where LZ Bayonet was located was sighted easily as we drove slowly down the highway.

I wanted to find the hamlet of Tri Binh (1), just west of the highway where I had been sent with my platoon to bolster the small contingent of local militia quartered there against a suspected VC attack. My heart pounded as I recognized it immediately from the highway! Set off in the distance, across a huge expanse of rice paddy, just as I remembered it!

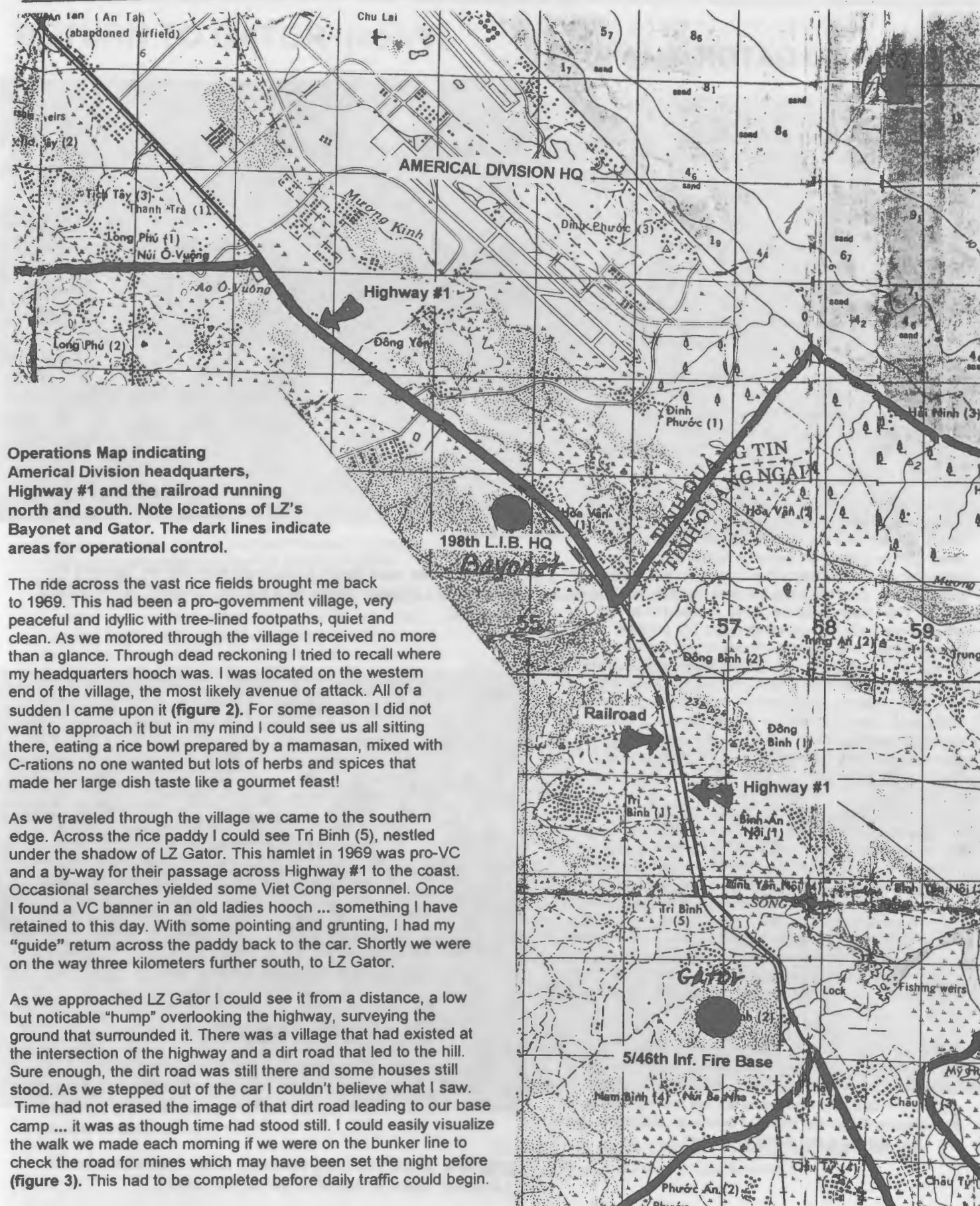
By the side of the road was a small refreshment stand alongside a dirt path that served as a foot path for the villagers to walk from the highway to the village. I asked my driver to negotiate with a local boy and his motor scooter to take me into the village. In three minutes we negotiated a fee of \$3.00 for the "tour" and I was off on my own as the driver watched the car.



(Figure 1. Entry area to what was once one of the main entrances to the Americal Division headquarters, Chu Lai. This area is now a major Vietnamese military base.)



(Figure 2. Inside the hamlet of Tri Binh (1), just west of Highway #1 and north - approximately 2.5 kilometers - of LZ Gator. The "hooch" with porch was my platoon headquarters.)



**Operations Map indicating Americal Division headquarters, Highway #1 and the railroad running north and south. Note locations of LZ's Bayonet and Gator. The dark lines indicate areas for operational control.**

The ride across the vast rice fields brought me back to 1969. This had been a pro-government village, very peaceful and idyllic with tree-lined footpaths, quiet and clean. As we motored through the village I received no more than a glance. Through dead reckoning I tried to recall where my headquarters hooch was. I was located on the western end of the village, the most likely avenue of attack. All of a sudden I came upon it (figure 2). For some reason I did not want to approach it but in my mind I could see us all sitting there, eating a rice bowl prepared by a mamasan, mixed with C-rations no one wanted but lots of herbs and spices that made her large dish taste like a gourmet feast!

As we traveled through the village we came to the southern edge. Across the rice paddy I could see Tri Binh (5), nestled under the shadow of LZ Gator. This hamlet in 1969 was pro-VC and a by-way for their passage across Highway #1 to the coast. Occasional searches yielded some Viet Cong personnel. Once I found a VC banner in an old ladies hooch ... something I have retained to this day. With some pointing and grunting, I had my "guide" return across the paddy back to the car. Shortly we were on the way three kilometers further south, to LZ Gator.

As we approached LZ Gator I could see it from a distance, a low but noticable "hump" overlooking the highway, surveying the ground that surrounded it. There was a village that had existed at the intersection of the highway and a dirt road that led to the hill. Sure enough, the dirt road was still there and some houses still stood. As we stepped out of the car I couldn't believe what I saw. Time had not erased the image of that dirt road leading to our base camp ... it was as though time had stood still. I could easily visualize the walk we made each morning if we were on the bunker line to check the road for mines which may have been set the night before (figure 3). This had to be completed before daily traffic could begin.



## RETURN TO GATOR (con't)

My driver stayed with the car as I walked up the road to the fire-base. I must admit the first few steps were slow, the hesitancy, even after 28 years, of stepping on a booby-trap. But up I went, the red soil reminding me of how dusty and dirty everything always was. As I approached the base of the hill, where the entrance once was, an image stopped me cold. There at the base of the hill on the southeast corner was a Viet Cong cemetery (figure 4). The silence that hung over the air left me with a chill. This small plot of headstones and some above-the-ground crypts were guarded by a tall cement obelisk in the center, the official government monument to the dead.

Across the dirt road from the cemetery, where the entrance to LZ Gator had been, the hill was sheared off by bulldozers, undoubtedly due to highway construction elsewhere. I estimated about 1/4 to 1/3 of LZ Gator, on the east side facing Highway #1, had been removed through the years.

I walked slowly up the hill on the southern edge using a footpath created by local villagers. Here and there, where the soil was not susceptible to erosion, were small garden plots. As I came up to the top of the hill, following the footpath provided, I came upon the helo pad that was just below the Tactical Operations Center (TOC). The tarmac was still there, cracked in spots where the weeds had grown through, but present none-the-less — a silent testimony to our former presence. As I stood there looking down at the tarmac and surveying the area around me, I could hear in the air echos of helicopters landing, men loading cargo on, soldiers climbing onboard for distant places ... the chaplain standing there, watching as the birds took off for more missions and uncertain fates ... and I began to realize how hot it was.

I walked up a slight grade to the plateau of the hill and slowly walked around. The ground was hard with some erosion here and there, but throughout the top of the hill were traces of the past ... sections of asphalt still existed, broken by clumps of weeds that served as the interior road for the LZ. I walked to the northwest corner, the approximate location of Company C, and stood on the outer ridge overlooking the bunker line. I could peer into the distance at the southern reaches of "rocket valley" (figure 5), my first assignment with my rifle platoon, "patrol the valley and keep the rockets off the general's back".

The ground was picked clean. No traces along the bunker line of what had once been. I walked to the northeast corner and could survey Highway #1, the village of Tri Binh (5) and the beautiful landscape across the highway to the east (figure 6). By this time the heat was starting to get to me. I had left my water bottle in the car.



(Figure 3. Dirt road which leads from Highway #1 - behind the camera- to LZ Gator. Gator is in the background, to the right of the road.)



(Figure 4 Small Viet Cong cemetery at the southeast base of LZ Gator. Gator is the hill in the background.)

## RETURN TO GATOR (con't)

As I walked slowly to find my way back down the hill, I saw my driver standing below on the dirt road — a look of anxiety on his face (perhaps he thought I was not coming back?). A wave from me assured him I was on my way, and in short order we were walking back to the car as I stole occasional glances back at this special hill.

There was one more objective I had in mind before we reached Quy Nhon that evening. Just south of Gator about three kilometers and just north of Binh Son, was the Tra Bong river and a dirt road which paralleled the river on the south side. The road led west to the mountains. On June 3, 1969 my platoon air assaulted onto the road, about 10 kilometers west of Highway #1. What was to be a coordinated road-clearing operation to help an ARVN convoy get to the Tra Bong special forces camp, turned out to be a bad day for us as I and six others found ourselves in an area occupied by a NVA regimental headquarters, as we attempted to rescue a downed helicopter crew (LOH). I had no desire to find that spot but I wanted at least to visit the site where we air assaulted to the road.

Throughout my ten days in Vietnam, the people were very friendly and generous, both in the countryside and cities, telling me how much they loved the Americans. But in this area around the Tra Bong river, my driver told me, "if they ask where you are from, tell them you are French". The drive west on this dirt road was very slow and dusty. In some places the road was washed out and my driver drove slowly around gulleys. It became apparent I was pushing my time to do this and make Quy Nhon before nightfall. Moreover, I did not want to risk damaging the car. This was not the place to be stranded. With great reluctance I told my driver to head back for Highway #1. I had been shot twice in the action on June 3, 1969, and I wanted to revisit a portion of that day. It appeared, however, some things were not meant to be.

**Editors Note:** First Lieutenant Taylor was medevaced on June 3, 1969 from a fire fight near the Tra Bong river and operated on at a MASH in Chu Lai. From there he was sent to Camp Zama, Japan and later Walson Army Hospital, Ft. Dix, NJ where he spent a year recovering from his wounds. 1LT Taylor subsequently was assigned to Ft. Jackson, SC and left active duty in 1971, joining the Army Reserve Special Forces. He remained in the Army Reserve for 22 years, with assignments primarily in joint special operations. He retired as a Colonel, Special Forces branch in 1993 and is a Life member of the Americal Division Association.



(Figure 5. Top of LZ Gator in the northwest corner, overlooking the southern stretch of "Rocket Valley".)



(Figure 6. On top of LZ Gator, looking northeast out over Highway #1 and the landscape beyond.)



REUNIONS - REUNIONS - REUNIONS -REUNIONS

10th ANNIVERSARY DANCE  
DMZ TO DELTA DANCE

Tuesday, November 10, 1998  
Washington National Airport Hilton  
Crystal City, Virginia

Dancing from 8:00 P.M. 'til 1:00 A.M.  
Cost is \$25.00 per person. Includes cocktail,  
food, cash bar, free parking, silent auction, book  
fair, and Vietnam veterans collectables.

For Full Information Contact

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227  
Arlington, VA 22205  
Tel: [redacted]

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INDIANA VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION  
September 18, 19, 20, 1998  
Kokomo, Indiana

For Full Information Contact:

Howard County Vietnam Veterans  
Tel: [redacted]

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GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

Our Chapter will get together at the Kokomo,  
Indiana for the 16th Annual Vietnam Veterans  
Reunion on September 18-19-20, 1998. We will have  
ameeting on tha grounds at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday  
19, 1998. It will be held in the big tent. All  
invited to attend whether members or not.

CONTACT: Commander John Matthews  
Verona, WI 53593  
Tel: [redacted]

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ANNUAL WINTERFEST R&R ALL VETERANS RALLY  
January 15-16-17, 1999  
New Glarus, Wisconsin

For Info:

Ron Lewis  
Winterfest 1999  
New Glarus, WI 53574-0014  
Tel: [redacted]

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STEVEN KRONNICK U.S.N. (Ret)

The body of Steven Kronnick was found near a  
country road, recently. Authorities are still  
investigating.

Steven drove our Americal float on many occasions  
and was a friend to all who knew him.

The South-Midwest Chapter is planning a Memorial  
donation, in his name, to the ADVA Scholarship  
Fund. Any donations made be sent to:

Ernest Carlson  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-3725

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I think it's time for anti-Vietnam War Americans  
to recognize the pain they caused.  
By Robert J. Brudno

Twenty-Five years ago, our POWs came home from  
Vietnam. They looked better than anyone could have  
imagined, after what they had endured. Only months  
later, Air Force Capt. E. Alan Brudno committed  
suicide; he was the first to die. It was national  
news. How could anyone give up just when he had  
won his freedom after more than seven years of  
unspeakable torture? As his brother, one who feels  
the pain of his loss as deeply today as when it  
happened, perhaps I can provide some answers.  
Suicide never has simple causes, but his story  
reveals some unfinished business from the Vietnam  
War.

This young American flier had nothing to be  
ashamed about. Posthumously, he received the  
Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and other medals.  
He took the worst the North Vietnamese dished out.  
His fellow prisoners said he was "hard-core,  
tough...he often mocked his captors and kept his  
honor...he was one of us." He was one of the POWs  
who were paraded through Hanoi, called war  
criminals and subjected to incredible physical  
abuse. For his first 2 1/2 years of captivity, he  
was allowed to send no letters. His family did not  
know whether he was even alive. Later, he  
courageously slipped into one of his letters (we  
received fewer than 20 in 7 1/2 years) that the  
"problem with fags (burning cigarettes) on his  
skin" had cleared up a bit, thus providing the  
first evidence that our POWs were being tortured.  
That treatment was mild. On many occasions he was  
beaten senseless or hung from the ceiling by ropes  
tied to his arms, which were trussed together  
behind his back until his shoulder blades touched,  
leaving his arms paralyzed long thereafter. The  
pain is impossible for us to imagine, yet he held  
out hope for his return with honor.

He went to Vietnam in September 1965 because he  
was told to. He did not go to bomb churches and  
hospitals, or because he hated the North  
Vietnamese, or because he was a killer. He went  
because his country asked him to, as it would have  
against a Hitler or a Saddam Hussein. He was not  
some hot-shot, macho Top Gun. He actually joined  
the Air Force to become an astronaut. Thirty days  
after he arrived in Southeast Asia, he was shot  
down. He survived until his release in 1973,  
because of his love of country, love of his wife  
and family and his belief that he sacrificed so  
much for something. But a warning of what awaited  
him came before he even set foot on U.S. soil.  
Someone close to him said to me, "He has to know  
that the war was wrong."

After the euphoria of his release wore off, he  
realized that a lot of the propaganda that had  
accompanied his torture sessions was true. His own  
countrymen went beyond being against the war, many  
supported those he understandably viewed to be the  
"enemy." This was not some philosophical or  
political concept for him. The enemy were the  
people who had beaten some of his comrades to  
death. His idealized image of what would follow  
his return began to crumble. I begged the person  
who set out to tell him that he "needed" to know  
the "truth" about the war to not do so, or at  
least give him some time. I said he had to believe  
what he endured was worth it somehow. Despair,  
then self-doubt, then a feeling of failure set in.  
Then disaster struck.

He became a victim not just of North Vietnamese,  
but of the inability of so many in his own  
country, during that horrible war, to separate the  
war from the warriors. Many returning soldiers  
before him were spat upon and branded as  
murderers, often just surviving their own  
harrowing experiences. No wonder there was a  
"Vietnam Syndrome." Like my brother few wanted to  
go to war, yet Americans on the left did not  
respect their sacrifice, because it somehow  
conflicted with their passionate anti-war beliefs.  
Draped in the freedom of speech this country  
provides, self-righteous and designating  
themselves as true patriots, they waved the Viet  
Cong flag and justified their silence over the  
treatment of POWs by saying that all that has to  
be done to help the POWs is end the war.  
Unfortunately, that took a while. Today, many  
anti-war protesters proudly claim that they were  
right about the war, in part as a result of Robert  
McNamara's belated admission that he was wrong.  
Whether the war was right or wrong, these were  
our boys. They deserved our support whatever the  
cause, whatever the result.

The anti-war movement has yet to recognize the  
pain and heartache that it caused. My brother had  
no say in politics that sent him to war. The lack  
of appreciation for what he had done, combined  
with the rationale of those who gave aid and  
comfort to the enemy, helped destroy the will to  
live that had kept him alive for all those years.

All that was needed then was for the most vocal  
American anti-war spokespersons, the ones Hanoi  
was clearly listening to, to say that while they  
believed the war was wrong, our POWs must be  
treated according to the Geneva Convention..  
History has now documented Hanoi's great  
sensitivity to the swings of the American public  
opinion. For years, my family and I begged these  
leaders to the left to do this, but to no avail.  
To do so would have been "pro-war" somehow. As a  
result the North Vietnamese had years of free rein  
to torture and kill our men. When the POWs  
families were finally able to get attention in  
1971 and 1972, the treatment dramatically  
improved. For many of the POWs, unfortunately, the  
damage was done. This is the unfinished business  
of that war. Few Americans who were silent then  
have acknowledged much responsibility for the  
consequences of their actions on the home front.  
Whether the war was right or wrong, then or now, is  
irrelevant.

Years ago, I tried to get my brother's name added  
to the Vietnam Memorial wall. I was told that I  
could not, because the wall was for servicemen who  
were killed in Vietnam or died later from wounds  
received there. Technically, I guess, Alan Brudno  
was mortally wounded back here.

Taken from the 178th A.S.H.C. Newsletter

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VIETNAM: DEFEAT OR VICTORY  
By Steve Crabtree

Did we lose in Vietnam? When I came home in 1970 I  
had that shoved down my throat along with the  
"puported fact" that every Vietnam Veteran was a  
loser, a time bomb waiting to explode. It got to  
the point where I would not talk about having been  
there or even having been in the service.

About 1990, the perception of the Vietnam Veteran  
began to change. At first ever so slightly but as  
time passed, by leaps and bounds.. I remember the  
first time I was ever thanked for going. It meant

a great deal, even though it was twenty years  
later.

Larry Chambers, a former 101st Airborne Division  
Ranger, wrote the book "Recondo." Although his  
book will never be awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the  
epilog should have been. It talks about the time  
we bought democracy in those smaller nations who  
were teetering between Democracy and Communism.  
With Russia and Communist China supporting North  
Vietnam both militarily and politically, the two  
Communist giants could not commit the additional  
resources required to pressure these smaller  
nations into complete acceptance of their socio-  
political dogma, Communism.

If any of you believe that China was not heavily  
involved in Vietnam, talk to my friend Ben Dunham.  
Even before his nineteenth birthday, Ben was  
awarded the Silver Star for capturing a Chinese  
Colonel over a hundred miles below the DMZ.

Almost thirty years have passed and I have been  
blessed with a three year old granddaughter,  
Alexis. She's just the most beautiful gift I could  
ever hope to receive. She is not going to grow up  
learning to get under her desk and put her hands  
behind her head at the sound of an air raid siren.  
She is not going to grow up fearing a nuclear  
holocaust. She is not going to grow up fearing the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republic for the big  
bear is no more. And she is not going to grow up  
in a world where cities are divided by huge walls  
with Democracy on one side and Communism on the  
other.

Did we lose in Vietnam? Just as those brave men in  
the Alamo lost the battle, they won the war.  
History says we lost in Vietnam and I would have  
to agree. The current situation in the world today  
says that the 58,000+ men and women who made the  
ultimate sacrifice and bought time with their  
lives did not die in vain. Yes, we lost the  
battle; but we won the war!. We won the war!

To every man and woman who has ever worn the  
uniform of the United States of America and  
especially to those who served in Vietnam: God  
bless you, thank you for a job well done and  
WELCOME HOME.

Steve Crabtree  
Chu Lai, South Vietnam  
69-70

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CAN YOU HELP THIS MAN?

Recently, my father discovered an organization  
that keeps pictures of old military transport  
ships and they will sell copies of them at a  
reasonable price.

He told me that if I could find the name of the  
ship that took me to Vietnam, he'd buy one.  
Unfortunately I have no idea what the name was. I  
do know that I was in B Co. 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., of  
the 11th Bde. and that we left Hawaii for Qui Nhon  
on or about December 19, 1967.

If anyone out there knows, please let me know. I  
can be contacted at:

David S. Carter Ph.D  
Butte, MT. 59701  
or  
D Carter @ PO1. MTECH. EDQ



196 LIB

I am one of the charter members of the 196th LIB formed back in the summer of 1965 at Fort Devens, Mass. As you probably already know, we were, as I remember, formed specifically for specialized training in both riot control and/or jungle fighting. Why the army sent us to the cold Northeast to get this training is beyond me.

We did end up going to Vietnam in the summer of 1966. We left Boston Harbor in two troop ships (the Darby and the Patch), went through the Panama Canal, stopped at Long Beach, California to refit and refuel, and one month after leaving Boston, we landed in Vietnam.

While I could relate some of the things that happened in the year I spent in Vietnam, most of them were not happy events and I have forgotten most of the details anyway.

However, many funny things happened in the year we spent training at Fort Devens and Camp Drum.

We had driven to Camp Drum sometime in early winter to conduct special jungle training techniques. At the time I was attached to the 106 Recoilless Rifles Platoon. It was a cold snowy day and everybody was miserable. The exercise consisted of eight jeeps starting at the same location, going different routes and ending up at the same location. Each jeep had a radio with a speaker so all three men on the jeep could hear the communications. The trip should have taken a half hour or so but after about 45 minutes we knew we had a problem. But we weren't the only ones. All of a sudden out of the speaker comes an obviously disguised voice that said: "Lost One, this is Lost Three, are you lost Two?" While the three of us laughed, our platoon sergeant was incensed because just moments later we hear him yelling: "Who was that? Who was that?" Among other things we loved it!

Another exercise we went through (at Fort Devens this time) was the "Finding our way home" adventure. Sometime after dark, we were all loaded into deuce-and-a-halfs and transported into the woods. No packs or weapons, one by one we were dropped off into the woods and told to return to camp any way we can and as soon as we can. The first one back from the exercise would get the next day off. I was let off by a stream which I proceeded to follow. It eventually went up a fairly steep incline but I decided to stay with it anyway. When I got to the top of the incline, there was a flat clearing a few hundred yards long and wide. At the other side I saw a bright light flash for a few seconds and then disappear. I went around the clearing, but headed for that light. When I got there, I saw a huge military trailer. I sat and waited a few minutes and then two soldiers came up to the trailer, opened the door, yelled something to somebody in the trailer, closed the door and left.

The inside of the trailer was very well lit. I went up to the trailer and opened the door. There was a soldier sitting at a desk surrounded by all kinds of electronic gear. I asked him where I was. He told me that he was part of a secret camp that no one is supposed to know about. I told him I just wanted to get back to camp. He gave me directions to his camp, which I followed.

I came to a homemade perimeter fence made from rope and tin cans but didn't see anybody, I stepped over the fence, walked about 200 yards right into the middle of a big camp. There must

have been 20 or 30 huge tents and people walking everywhere but no one challenged me.

I asked one soldier how do I get out of here? He and his buddies immediately led me over to a tent and knocked on the door. We were then let in. I found myself with a number of officers seated around a table with numerous maps on it. One officer asked me who I was and how I got here. When I told him he was furious. He ordered another officer to check the security of the camp and how it was that I was able to walk into a supposedly secure camp without even being challenged.

He then ordered a Sgt. to take me back to my company area. The Sgt. took me to a jeep and off we went back to my barracks. I will never forget the look on my First Sergeant's face, when I reported back to him less than two hours after leaving on the truck. In fact, the truck that dropped me off had barely beaten me back! I sure enjoyed that day off!

Bob Kenefic  
HHC 4 BN 31st INF  
196TH LIB

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## REMEMBERING LUTHER

As I write this letter I am filled with much sadness. July 29th, 1998 will be 30 years since Luther M. Sexton, Jr., was killed in a rocket attack on Chu-Lai and L-Z Bayonet.

Luther and I were cooks posted to HHC 1st Bn. 52nd Inf., 198th LIB, at L-Z Bayonet. Allow me to recap what happened that day in 1968.

In the early morning hours of July 24th, 1968, Chu-Lai came under a rocket attack, at 0300 hours a 122 MM rocket fell short of the air strip and scored a direct hit on the hooch, where Luther was sleeping. The rocket hit a wood beam above his bunk and went off. Luther was covered all over with shrapnel wounds. He also had a large wound on the right side of his head..

I was not wounded that morning but many others were. The same blast that hurt so many, saved my life by blowing me to the other side of my hooch. The fact that I stayed in another hooch saved me, as I was able to get to an underground bunker.

After everything was over I left the bunker to find out what really happened. As I walked up to the hooch, where the wounded were being treated, Luther was being carried out on a stretcher. The Medics placed him on the back of a jeep and drove him to the Heli-pad and airlifted him to 2nd Surgical Hospital. Luther died of his wounds on July 29th. I knew when I saw how badly he was wounded that he would not live very long.

In December of 1994, I went to visit Luther's family in Lake City, Florida. I wanted to meet his mother, sisters, uncle and cousins. I also visited Luther's grave.

I told Luther's family how Luther had been hit and how many days passed between the attack and the day he died. Luther was my buddy and we hung out together whenever I was back at Bayonet.

I have missed Luther so much these past 30 years, but every July 29th I go into a shell and miss him that much more.

John S. Ferraiolo  
Winston Salem, North Carolina

E COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 46th INFANTRY  
196 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

I want to thank this fine outfit and the people that run it. They call me 'Pop' --first as an instructor at Fort Benning, platoon sergeant, platoon leader, and finally a teacher at Firebase Mary Ann and after that Da Nang. I was forty two (42) years old at the time.

Came home after twenty two (22) years in the service and told Uncle Sam to forget it.



Edward 'Pop' Manson

The Americal Newsletter made me feel good when I see 20+ names of people that I knew 28 years ago. They fellows are the best there ever was or ever will be!

Edward L. Manson  
[REDACTED]  
Farmington, NH 03835

Ed Note: Thanks for the list. We will check it against our roster.

\*\*\*\*\*

'HEAVENLY' BIRD TRIPS RED ATTACK  
CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special)

May the bird of paradise fly down and trip your illumination flare. May the light from the flare expose a company of camouflaged enemy soldiers surrounding your position.

It happened recently when a company of the 196th Inf. Brigade set up a night position in the flatlands 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Soon after dark a trip flare went off and everybody took to their foxholes. Then a bird was seen flying away from where the trip wire was triggered.

Just as the men began laughing and relaxing again, the fighting broke loose. The enemy attacked from five areas of the perimeter. Some of them were within 30 yards from the Americal Division Unit.

Illumination rounds were called for and revealed several camouflaged enemy troops moving toward the 3rd Bn., 21st Infantry, camp.

One platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Randall Hain saw what he estimated to be a "whole enemy platoon moving towards our sector."

The four-and-one-half hour fight was believed started by one enemy platoon. "We figure possibly another two platoons were attempting to close in on our perimeter," said Capt. William Donsbach of Madison, N.J., the Company Commander.

This article was published in the Army Times in January, 1969 and sent in by:

Randall H. Hain  
C/3/21 Inf, 196 LIB

To this day Randall believes that God warned them by sending that white bird.

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## DID YOU KNOW:

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was formed in 1979 for the purpose of building a National Memorial honoring the Americans who served in Vietnam. The Memorial was the idea of Jan C. Scruggs, an infantry veteran of that war, who wanted America to remember those who had served in our nation's longest armed conflict.

After winning the competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the age of 21, Maya Lin has continued designing important works of art including the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; the Peace Chapel at Juniata College in Pennsylvania; and the Park Presidio environmental project in San Francisco, California, to name a few.

The Memorial contains the names of all U.S. military personnel "in order they were taken from us." Starting in the middle, the names are listed chronologically out to the far eastern panel, resume at the far western panel and conclude in the middle.

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## CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS (TORONTO)

We have spent a lot of time petitioning the provincial government for land for the Memorial. Unfortunately, that has not panned out, although we did have a lot of support behind us from various members of the provincial government. We will now revert to our original plan and go with the private land. We will need a lot of help to raise the necessary money for the building of the Memorial and the upkeep of the Memorial in the future. Please consider what you can do to help since there is no way that this will be a success without YOUR help.

For more information contact:  
Canadian Vietnam Veterans (Toronto)  
[REDACTED]  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
Canada M94-4X2

\*\*\*\*\*

## ATTENTION ALL VIETNAM VETERANS

PNC Gary L. Noller has been appointed Vietnam News Editor for the coming year. Please send all articles for the VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK to Gary at:

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## Eligibility for Membership

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

World War II	1942-1945
Korea 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.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**  
**AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant**  
[REDACTED]  
**South Yarmouth, MA 02664**

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

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

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

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed DD-214 Y N

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