



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

Editor-in-Chief: James C. Buckle

Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller

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



POW - MIA MEMORIAL

NATIONAL CEMETERY - BOURNE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Americal Magazine

By Lelie Hines, Vietnam Historian

The quarterly Americal magazine was published by the Americal Division Information Office from 1968 through stand-down in 1971. The first issue was primarily black and white, but subsequent issues were printed in brilliant color. There was also a stand-down book in brilliant colors that was presented to Americal Division soldiers when the Americal stood-down in November 1971.



Other publications were the weekly "Southern Cross" newspaper. It had primarily black and white photos in newsprint, however some items were in color. There was an Americal daily "Newsheet" which was on mimeograph paper. This had a lot of information in it including a daily weather report and recap of action by unit. I have many of these from 1968-69. There also was unit publications like the "Trident" for the 11th Bde, and other publications for the battalions.

I have the Americal magazines for the following dates: May 1968, October 1968, January 1969, May 1969, July 1969, October 1969, January 1970, July 1970, Fall 1970, and Spring 1971. I am missing May 1970, Winter 1970, Summer 1971. I do not know if there was an issue in Fall, 1971.

Most of the Americal magazine issues were donated to the ADVA by LTC Paul Parham, a former Information Officer of the Americal Division. Don Boito loaned me an original January 1970 to copy; Jack Rogers is sending me a copy of the 1st issue, May 1968. If anybody has or knows where any of the missing Americal magazines are I would be interested in getting a copy (or better getting a chance to scan the original.)

These publications run 24-32 pages. Most of the material is in color. If someone wants copies in color most pages will probably cost a dollar a page to copy. If you want black and white this runs about 8-11 cents a page (depending on the rate at Kinkos). I use priority mail, so the mailing cost would include a minimum of \$3.00 but would go up for over 2 lbs.

I would like to get an idea of what people would like to have copies of so I can do them all at one time. Please respond by May 1. I will also try to have some things for display at the St. Louis reunion. Contact me at [REDACTED] Des Moines, IA, 50312-2609, phone [REDACTED].

I would like to thank Andrew Teague for sending me MTOE reports from the 196th LIB and F/8th Cav. Thanks also to Fran Fierson for transcribing these to electronic media.

Commander's Comments

Memorial Day- Washington, D.C.

Plans are being made once again for the ADVA to be represented at Memorial Day observances in Washington, D.C. This year will be a special year with the presentation of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns by the ADVA. This is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on May 31, Memorial Day. The Tomb of the Unknowns is in Arlington National Cemetery.

We also plan to have an information tent on the mall near the east end of the Vietnam Veterans memorial. People are needed to staff the tent and greet Americal veterans and ADVA members. Many veterans will be in town on this weekend to participate in Rolling Thunder and other events.

If you would like to volunteer a little time please call me at [REDACTED]. Your are encouraged to attend the wreath laying ceremony. Call me if you need additional information. You can also check the web page at <www.americal.org> for late breaking news. I hope to see you there. Ed Marsh

Scholarship Fund Contributors

L. G. Wichman

Louis Blumengarten

Edith S. Heckman

In memory of Walter F. Heckman.

James H. Doherty

In memory of James A. Farley, Co. G, 182nd Inf. Regt.

Patricia Quinn Moffa

In memory of James A. Quinn, Co. D, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB

Look for these books to be out soon

This is to advise you of a book I wrote that will soon be published. I served with Co. B, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB from 1/68 to 1/69. The company was also attached to the 196th LIB and 1/1st Cavalry for various lengths of time.

The book is titled Year in Nam: A Native American Soldier's Story. It will be coming out in March or April, 1999 and will be published by University of Nebraska Press. I am confident that it will be available through most bookstores. Leroy TeCube, P.O. Box 373, Dulce, NM, 87528.

Col. James F. Humphries (Ret.) served three tours in Vietnam, two with 3/21st Infantry, 196th LIB. His book Through the Valley: Vietnam, 1967-1968 will be available about June, 1999. He tells of combat from his perspective as a leader and commander of a combat infantry rifle company.

Included in his accounts are the battles of Hiep Duc, March 11, 1968, Nhi Ha, and Hill 406. His work brings those battles into sharp focus, chronicling the efforts of the proud Americal Division and the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. against a stubborn enemy in long-forgotten villages and on tortuous hills.

The book is published by Lynne Rienner Publishers and will be available through most bookstores. Col. Humphries retired from the Army in 1988 after commanding the Military Community in Heilbronn, Germany.

Looking For: Bob Blouin or anyone, Co. C, 4th/3rd Inf. 11th LIB, 1/69-1/70. Contact: Dan Colonello, [REDACTED] Valencia Ca, 91355, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bart Snead or anyone, C, 4/21, 11th Bde, 1/70 - 4/70. Contact: Bruce Parker, [REDACTED] Mountain City, TN 37683, [REDACTED]

Looking For: David Hare, Doc Noel, Brad Wachtel, Don Black, Bobby Holland Charles (Jake) Strickland, any other members E, mortars & recon - 1/6th, 2/68-2/69 Contact: Duffy Riebe, [REDACTED] Irvine, CA 92604

Looking For: Anyone on 175 SP "Bloody Bitch" 'B' Btry. 3/18th, 6/68-69 and with Svc. Btry., 3/18th. Ammo Sec., 7/69-9/70. Contact: Dale Albers, [REDACTED] Kennewick, Wa. 99337

Looking For: Anyone-K Co. 182nd Inf., 1/6/41-11/1/44. Contact: Joe Richards, [REDACTED] So., Portland, ME 04106

Looking For: Anyone, D Co., 26th Engineers, 9/68-6/69. Contact: Val G. Shaull, [REDACTED] Gresham, OR 97030

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 1/6, 198th LIB 3/70-1/71. Contact: Charlie Kennerly, [REDACTED] Coldspring, TX. 77331

Looking For: Anyone who knew CPT John E. Tumas, 196th LIB, 3/21st, 66-67. Contact: Brian M. Tumas, [REDACTED] Strongsville, OH 44136

Looking For: Eugene Pugh, 196 LIB, 66-67. Contact: Hilton T. Douglas, [REDACTED] Grove City, Fl. 34224

Looking For: Mert Parent, D Co., 26 Engr. Bn., 9/67-3/68. Contact: Cleve Smith, [REDACTED] Hartsville, SC 29550

Looking For: David Moore, David Nagel, or Rick Honeycut, Co. C, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 5/69-5/70. Contact: Al Shaw, [REDACTED] Madisonville, TN 37354

Looking For: Anyone, B 1/46th, 6/69-8/69. Contact: Allen F. Wilson, [REDACTED]

Manchester, IA 52057-8858

Looking For: Capt. David F. Borison, C.O., 196th LIB, A Co., 4/31st, 1070-10/71. Contact: Bill Jenkins, [REDACTED] Columbia S.C. 29210

Looking For: Anyone In H Trp., 17th Cav., 11/69-3/70. Contact: Greg Reynolds, [REDACTED] Austin, Texas 78753

Looking For: Anyone, 198th LIB, Co. C. 68-69 who knew my brother, Spec 4 James J. Lister. KIA 21 March 1969. Contact: Dale Lister, [REDACTED] Nampa ID 83651-2413, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Buddies, Co. A, 3/21, 196LIB, 2/68-12/68. Contact: Jim Emilo, [REDACTED] E. Middlebury, VT. 05740

Looking For: Anyone, Hawk Missle unit, 1967, D Btry, 6th/56th Arty. Contact: Joe Lindauer, [REDACTED] Fort Branch, In. 47648

Looking For: Anyone, D 4/31st, 196th. 10/68-9/69. Contact: Vance A. Van Wieren, [REDACTED] Fennville, Mi. 49408-9750

Looking For: Anyone, C Co. 1st/20th, 11th LIB, 68-69. Contact: Jay Grieser, [REDACTED] Phoenix, Arizona 85027

Looking For: Fred Hensing, LRP with the Americal Division, 67-68. Contact: Chuck 'C.C.' Olson, [REDACTED] Sandy Springs, GA, 30328-1254,

Looking For: Anyone, C Co., 1/6 Inf. 198th LIB. Contact: Richard D. Cox, [REDACTED] Denham Springs, LA 70806-1949

Looking For: Anyone, K Co., 182nd Inf., 1/42-12/44. Contact: Joe Richards, [REDACTED] Portland, ME 04106

Looking For: Bob Brindle, 5th/46th, 198th LIB 4/68. Contact: Wally Wecal, [REDACTED] Titusville, FL 32780

Looking For: Donald Rieke, Bell, MO, 1/20th, 11th LIB. Contact: Harold P Lutz, [REDACTED] Dumfries, Va 22026

Looking For: Anyone, B Trp., 1/1 Cav, 69-70. Contact: Sgt. Ken Cummings, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, C Btry., 1/14th Arty., 9/68-2/69. Contact: Robert Agans, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bobby Joe Youngblood, B Co., 3/1st., 70-71. Contact: Charles L. Walker, [REDACTED]

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Looking For: Mevlvin Linkis, A Btry, 1/82nd Arty, 7/68-7/69. Contact: Ken Wingerter, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 4/21 Inf., 11/70-4/71. Contact: Rick Lamca, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Eduardo Texeira, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, C Co., 1/6th, 12/66-12/68. Contact: Gilbert, Pa. 18331-0003, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, A Co., 3/21st Inf. 196 LIB. 1/69-1/70. Contact: Larry Dycus, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who knew my father SP4 Robert N. Clarke Jr., deployed with 196 LIB via ship in 1966. Contact: Robert Clarke III, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Hawk Missle unit, 1967, D Btry, 6th/56th Arty. Contact: Joe Lindauer, [REDACTED] Fort Branch, In. 47648

Looking For: Anyone, 198th LIB, 1/6th. Contact: Brooke Walsh, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, D 4/31st, 196th. 10/68-9/69. Contact: Vance A. Van Wieren, [REDACTED] Fennville, Mi. 49408-9750

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Looking For: Anyone, A Co, 3/21, 196th LIB, 13 APR 68. Contact: Anthony [Tony] V. Valdes, [REDACTED] Spring, Tx 77386-2422

Looking For: Anyone, Co. D 1/20th, 12/67-11/68. Contact: Norman Cerulli, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. D, 4/21st Inf, 11th LIB, 5/70-6/71. Contact: John W. Anderson, [REDACTED]

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ADJUTANT'S NOTES

11 LIB 4/3 INFANTRY
John J. Gonzales
San Pedro, CA
June 1998

182 INFANTRY E CO.
Lawrence E. Holoway
Seminole, FL
December 12, 1998

182 INFANTRY B CO.
Perry M. Johnston
Cogan Station, PA
August 6, 1997

182 INFANTRY L CO.

William Magmudson
Raynham, MA
November 13, 1998

182 INFANTRY L CO.

Leo Renard
Omaha, NE
July 9, 1998

101 MEDICAL BN.

Ralph Serino
East Boston, MA
October 1, 1998

221 FA B BTRY

Howard A. Webb Sr.
Apopka, FL
December 26, 1998

NEW MEMBERS

Col. Robert H. Acton (Re
22 Ordnance Co.
Loganville, WI
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Joseph Altimari
132 ASHC
Exton, PA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Russell W. Appleton
1 Cav HHT C 1/1 Cav
Merrimack, NH
#Don Ballou

Mr. Andrew Don Ash
Americal Chem Sect
Pharr, TX
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Thomas A. Aubrey
196 LIB B/4/31 Inf
Charleston, WV
#VFW Brian Mulcrone

72 FIELD ARTILLERY
Harold B. Holcombe
Bonita Springs, FL
February 13, 1998

182 INFANTRY
Lawrence J. Houghton
Billerica, MA
November 1, 1998

182 INFANTRY A CO.
Eugene L. Kull
New Albany, IN
January 1999

196 LIB

Paul M. Martinetti
Milwaukee, WI
September 9, 1998

182 INFANTRY K CO.

David A. Scott
Sunnyvale, CA
October 20, 1998

182 INFANTRY

Leo J. Sullivan
Milton, MA
April 26, 1997

MAY THEY
REST
IN PEACE

Mr. Raymond Berryman
11 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Baker City, OR
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Alvin Bilbo
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf
New York, NY
#VFW Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Scott C. Birdsall
198 LIB HHC 5/46 In
Lake Forest, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bob Brantley
SSG-ASCI HHC
Visalia, CA
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Donald C. Brown Sr.
132 Infantry E Co.
Wheelerburg, OH
#Roger D. Barney

Mr. James L. Campbell
221 FA Ser Btry
Woodleaf, NC
#VFW Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Lawrence P. Christie
1 Cav 1 Sq B Troop
Moreno, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Carl M. Crowthers
11 LIB HHC/4/3 Inf
Crystal Lake, IL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bruce Arnold Davis
523 Sig Bn Hq
Simpsonville, SC
#Don Ballou

Mr. Joseph D. Dillon Sr.
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf
San Carlos, AZ
#Arthur Cole

Mr. Stanley W. Elliott
52 Infantry HHC/1/5
Redmond, OR
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Douglas M. Falck
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Edmond, OK
#Self

Mr. David D. Farris
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
Weston, MO
#John F. Green

Mr. Paul M. Funke
746 AAA Gun Bn
Perryville, MO
#'Sack' Owczarzak

Mr. William N. Gregg Jr.
182 Infantry L Co.
Columbus, OH
#Fred Cowburn

Mr. Jerry 113 Ashcraft
198 LIB A/1/5 Inf
Columbus, OH
#Don Ballou

Mr. George Barr
523 Signal A Co.
Bryn Mawr, PA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Harold K. Bettin
221 FA B Btry
Tomahawk, WI
#VFW Brian Mulcrone

Mr. John P. Bilello
11 Arty B/2/11
Stillwater, MN
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John T. Boyt
6 Infantry D/1/6
Los Angles, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Donald C. Brown Jr.
196 LIB Airborne
Wheelerburg, OH
#Roger D. Barney

Mr. Thomas J. Burns
570 TC
Webster, NY
#Thomas Burkhart

Mr. Ernest R. Cassell
196 LIB HHC/3/21 In
Kaneohe, HI
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Dave Cooper
198 LIB
Dale City, CA
#R. Castranova

Mr. Daniel Daugherty
358 Per Ser Co TFO
North Jackson, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Walter E. Dengler
132 Infantry H Co.
Auburn, IL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Raymond E. Eilman
746 AAA Gun Bn
St. Peters, MO
#'Sack' Owczarzak

Mr. Benjamin F. Evenbeck
182 Infantry Ser Co
Fosteria, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bill Farrell
16 CAG
Hope Valley, RI
#R. Castranova

Mr. John J. Frelmuth
198 LIB D/HHC/1/6
Omaha, NE
#Richard K. Smith

Mr. John W. Geisewite
723 Maint HHC/A
Birdsboro, PA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Willard W. Greis
746 AAA Gun Bn
Neshkoro, WI
#'Sack' Owczarzak

Mr. J.P. Grice Jr.
11 LIB HHC/4/21 Inf
Houston, TX
#Don Ballou

Mr. George W. Guckes
746 AAA Gun Bn
St. Louis, MO
#'Sack' Owczarzak

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Mr. Gene C. Hacker
182 Infantry Reg Hq
St. Louis, MO
#VFW Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Leo 961 Harrington
1 Cav
Omaha, NE
#Rick Smith

Mr. Jorge Hernandez
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf
Julesburg, CO
#John Hofer

Mr. William T. Honjiyo
11 LIB HHC/1/20 Inf
Hanapepe, HI
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Billy D. Hughes
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf
Burnsville, NC
#Gary M. Crosby

Mr. Raymond W. Jeffrey
196 LIB A/3/21 Inf
Springfield, PA
#R. Castranova

Mr. Charlie C. Kennerly
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf
Coldspring, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Raymond E. Lewis
56 Arty B/6/56
Circleville, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Howard Marion
182 Infantry M Co.
Goodland, TX
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Alexander F. Mata II
1 Cav E Troop
New Orleans, LA
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. James I. McMahan
? Portland, OR
#R. Castranova

Mr. Gottlieb (Mike M. Me
708 Main B Com
Austin, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. John W. Miner
198 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Ponca City, OK
#Don Ballou

Mr. Wesley B. Montgomery
723 Main C Co.
Cincinnati, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Ms. Patricia Muehling
4312 Evac 2 Sur Hos
Castlerock, CO
#Edward Marsh

Mr. Edward Myczkowski
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf
Roslyn Heights, NY
#Kenneth Musselman

Mr. Thomas M. Hackler Sr
196 LIB E/2/1 Inf
Osceola, WI
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Kenneth N. Hendrix
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf
Sumter, SC
#John Hansen

Mr. Thomas J. Hickey
11 LIB Hq/6/11 Arty
Lyndhurst, NJ
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Thomas Howard
754 Tank Bn
Saint Charles, MO
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John 'Steve' Huston
198 LIB 8 Cav F Tr
Santa Barbara, CA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Fletcher (Ted) B. Jo
198 LIB 1/6/Inf
Waitsfield, VT
#R. Castranova

Mr. William R. Lambert J
196 LIB C Co.
Concord, NC
#Bernie Chase

Mr. James L. Lundbohm
196 LIB D/E/2/1 Inf
Hull, MA
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Peter E. Martin
198 LIB H Tr 17 Cav
River Falls, WI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Billie N. McDonald
198 LIB HHC Div Art
Savannah, MO
#Ron Davis

Mr. Ronald E. McMillan
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Dover, FL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Stanley E. Mills
26 Engineers A Co.
Lima, OH
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Paul R. Montan
746 AAA Gun B Btry
Wadena, MN
#'Sack' Owczarzak

Mr. Garland Morgan
198 LIB HHC/1/46 In
Ardmore, OK
#Lynn Hart

Mr. Thomas D. Murphy
1 Cav 1/1 Cav
Lindenwold, NJ
#R. Castranova

Mr. Robert W. Myles
14 Avn Bn 174 ASH
Canandaigua, NY
#Robert J. Miller

Mr. Floyd Petty
132 Infantry G Co.
Bakersfield, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Col. Leland Prentice (Re
23 Americal Dep G-1
Keizer, OR
#Don Ballou

Mr. Mickey Reed
26 Engineers HHC
Westmont, NJ
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Jerry D. Rice
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf
Coal City, WV
#Ken York

Mr. Gerald Roberts
164 Infantry Div Hd
Tulaca Lake, CA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Mike Robinson
11 LIB F/1/20 Inf
Virden, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Richard A. Ruh
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf
Gresham,
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. George Salcido
196 LIB A/46 Inf
San Jose, CA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John Schultz
11 LIB HHC/4/3 Inf
Decatur, IN
#Self

Mr. Milton J. Skrabaneck
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf
Snook, TX
#Ron Davis

Mr. Herman J. Soeder
746 AAA Bn.
Louisville, KY
#'Sack' Owczarzak

Mr. John C. Stricklin
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
Riverdale, GA
#James Brown

Mr. Larry James Tiller
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf
Kernersville, NC
#Charles E. Arnette

Mr. James M. Tuttle
123 Avn Bn A+Hq
Charlotte, NC
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Joseph J. Vaites
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Chadds Ford, PA
#Membership Committee

Mr. Robert G. Wason
164 Infantry C Co.
Trappe, PA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Dale Pottoroff
746 AAA Gun Bn
Tallahassee, FL
#'Sack' Owczarzak

Mr. James Price
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf
Overland Park, KS
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Richard Remash
588 Main 226 Spt Co
Manchester, NH
#Don Ballou

Mr. Dave Richardson
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
San Bernadino, CA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. David V. Robinson
46 Infantry C/5/46
Burnsville, NC
#Billy Hughes

Col. Thomas P. Ross (Ret
18 Arty A/Hq/18
Missoula, MT
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John A. Sabene
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
North Syracuse, NY
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Chester R. Sawyer
164 Infantry C Co.
Amesbury, MA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Val G. Shauil
26 Engrs D Co.
Gresham, OR
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Donald J. Smock
164 Infantry F Co.
Evansdale, IA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Joseph W. Stelzl
746 AAA Gun Bn
Milwaukee, WI
#'Sack' Owczarzak

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Mr. John G. Weyansky
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Colonial Heights, VA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Keith A. Whitman
8 Cav F Troop
Naperville, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Kenneth L. Wingerter
82 Arty 1/A/82
Olathe, KS
#VFW Brian Mulcrone

Mr. James B. Wood
11 LIB HHC/C/31 Inf
Fairbanks, AK
#Don Ballou

Mr. Charles L. White
523 Sig Bn C Co.
Albertville AL
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Carl E. Williams
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf
Grover Beach, CA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Robert A. Witter
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Annandale, VA
#Brian Mulcrone

published in its entirety. However every veteran's household should have a copy so that the procedure to follow, in the event of a death of a veteran, will be known.

Write to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery System
Washington, DC 20420

Ask for Document number VA-NCS-IS-1 October 1997

You may also write or telephone the nearest national cemetery for information.

Thanks Colonel.

If you know of a former member of the Americal Division, that is ill or has passed away, please notify your Adjutant:

Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664
Tel. [REDACTED]

Don't figure someone else will send in that important notice. I would rather have been notified twice than not at all.

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scott Birdsell

Louis H. Blumengarten

Sonja Busi
in loving memory of
John V. Busi

Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Wichmann

Ephraim F. Close

Walter F. Heckman

James H. Doherty

Patricia Quinn Moffa
in memory of
James A. Quinn
D/3/21 Inf 196 LIB

Mrs. John P. Clark

GENERAL COLIN L. POWELL, USA (RETIRED)

Dear CSM McQuade:

Many thanks to you and your Americal buddies for your thoughtful card.

It's good to hear from fellow veterans.

Sincerely,
Colin L. Powell
General USA (Retired)

Note: Tom McQuade invited General Powell to attend our last Reunion in Orlando and the above is his response.

INTERNMENT IN VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES

In a recent issue of the Americal Newsletter a question was asked about internment in VA National Cemeteries. Ltc. Charles E. Allard was kind enough to send me a brochure on the rights of veterans to be buried in a VA National Cemetery.

The brochure is quite lengthy and could not be

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

COMMANDER
Robert L. Granoff

SECRETARY
Joseph Tunis

Collegeville, PA 19426
Phone [REDACTED]

Lake Ariel, PA 18436

TREASURER
Al Barbieri
[REDACTED]
Woodbury, NJ 08096

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

Our Chapter business meeting was called to order by Chapter Commander Bob Granoff, at 8:08 PM, September 17, 1998, at Cliffside Inn, Harpers Ferry, WV. An opening prayer was given by Leo Orfe followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Our Chapter Commander asked Past Commanders and Charter Members to stand and be recognized. He then called on new members and attendees who had not been to a previous Reunion to stand and introduce themselves.

Before reading the minutes of the 1997 meeting, Secretary Bill Gold read notes from Pete Messina and Jim Doherty expressing their regrets at not being at the Reunion and explaining why. Pete had a hip replacement and Jim a knee replacement and both were still in the process of recovering and not able to comfortably travel.

Bill further announced that this would be his last term as secretary and thanked Eileen Tunis for the help she had volunteered and given this past year. He then said that Joe Tunis would accept the office of secretary if elected, and he then nominated Joe. Election for the office was held and Joe Tunis was elected our new secretary.

The minutes of the 1997 meeting were then read and accepted as read.

Treasurer Al Barbieri was then called upon to give the financial report which was also accepted as given.

As one of the attendees of the 1998 National Reunion in Orlando, FL, Alice Mullen was called on to tell us about it. She regaled us with her reminiscences and it was obvious that she enjoyed the Reunion immensely.

Under new business, Bill Gold made a motion to donate \$25.00 to the Harpers Ferry Historical Association as a 'Thank You' for the good service that Park Ranger, Michael Dixon, rendered as our guide in our visit to the National Park.

Continuing under new business, Jim Rains was called on to give a report on our coming 1999 Reunion in Corning, New York. Jim said things were pretty well set up for 1999 -- just the necessity of changing the dates and possibly adjusting the prices.

Commander Granoff then mentioned possible sites for the year 2000 Reunion which included Scranton, PA and Wildwood, NJ. Wildwood was given the go ahead for 2000 and Scranton a tentative go-ahead for the year 2001.

George Yates asked for the floor and he made a strong plea to our few attending Vietnam veterans

to become more active in both our Chapter and National Association. As he said, for ADVA to continue it will be necessary for the Vietnam veterans to make their voices heard.

Bob Granoff brought up for discussion whether we should have a speaker or not for future Reunions. Both Honey and John O'Keefe spoke highly of a speaker they heard at the National Convention - a Vietnam vet who told of his war time experiences.

It was decided that unless we could arrange for a speaker who was a known personality or who had a particular interesting field of knowledge, we would forego a Reunion speaker.

Election of Officers was held. Bob Granoff was re-elected Chapter Commander. Al Barbieri was once again elected Treasurer as was George Yates as Sergeant-at-Arms. Joe Tunis had already been elected Secretary. The election of officers was completed.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made to adjourn. After a closing prayer giving by Leo Orfe and a moment of silence for our departed members, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Tunis
Secretary

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander
Ernest B. Carlson

Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Tel. [REDACTED]

Secretary/Treasurer
Malcolm P. East

Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel. [REDACTED]

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

On June 11, 1999 at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, the George Bush Presidential Gallery will be dedicated. In attendance will be former President George Bush, and his two sons, Governor Bush of Florida and Governor Bush of Texas.

The permanent display of Americal Division Veterans Association artifacts will go on display at this time.

Bruce Mobley, the Sergeant-at-Arms for the South Mid West Chapter is seriously ill. All members of the Chapter are asked to send Bruce a card:

Alfred H. Mobley
[REDACTED]
San Antonio, TX 78229-2904

WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK - NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI

COMMANDER

Roland T. Castranova
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960

SEC/TREAS

Carlos A. Pola
[REDACTED]
Sandwich, MA 02563

DUES ARE NOW DUE

SEE YOU ALL IN ST. LOUIS, JUNE 17-20, 1999

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

THIN RED LINE

When I first learned that there was going to be a movie about the Army on Guadalcanal I said, "Oh Boy! Our story is now going to be told--a story about an Army infantry company on Guadalcanal".

Shortly after that I received a call from a young lady representing the History Channel. She was looking for infantry soldier that had served on Guadalcanal. I immediately gave her the telephone number of a former officer in the 164th Infantry. I have always felt that the 164th Infantry shouldered the main Army effort during that campaign.

The 'Thin Red Line' finally showed up at a local theater and I put down \$5.25 only to be disappointed. This was not a Marine type picture--get the job done--it was a physiological study. The scenery was beautiful, great villages--I don't remember them, great flash backs--always sexy, many natives, etc. But I think it questioned the ability of the Army to get the job done--officers refusing orders--men going AWOL in a combat zone.

Reviews of this picture have been both good and bad. In my estimation, a critic for the 'Herald' from Florida, (Thanks to Jack Folmer for sending me the article), Rene Rodriguez, sums it up the best:

Hollywood is running dangerously low on mad geniuses. Sam Fuller and Sam Peckinpah, two of the most talented nut cakes to ever direct a movie, have gone on to the big asylum in the sky. Fred Ford Coppola, who was crazy as a loon when he made 'Apocalypse Now' is now making John Grisham adaptations. Oliver Stone isn't nuts, he just refuses to behave.

Fortunately there is Malik, the reclusive director who made two mini-masterpieces in the 1970's and then dropped out of sight for twenty years. He's back to make nothing less than one of the most flat-out kookiest World War II dramas ever made.

Loosely based on James Jones' novel, 'Thin Red Line' tells the story of Charlie Company, an Army infantry unit assigned to wrest a strategic hill on Guadalcanal from Japanese forces. The battle will be a bloody one, since the Japanese are ensconced in bunkers and armed with machine guns atop the hill, making American troops easy pickings as they work their way up the ridge.

That premise makes 'The Thin Red Line' sound like every war flick you have ever seen. But Malik has something else in mind. As he gives 'The Thin Red Line' a strong anthropological slant: The movie is less concerned with World War II than with man's innate connection to nature, and the disruptive power of war--any war--on the fragile harmony between us and the world that surrounds us.

Fittingly, 'The Thin Red Line' ultimately becomes a beguiling poem itself, one that seduces with its sublime beauty but leaves you wondering what it's all supposed to mean. It's a deeply flawed work, by turns infuriating, hypnotic, and exhausting, but overflowing with passion and earnest intent. In other words it's the work of --yes--a mad genius. Here's hoping that Malik doesn't wait another two decades to make another film -- and the next time hires himself a good screenwriter. Rene Rodriguez

Ed Note: I would like to hear from the men of the 132nd Infantry that participated in the Mt. Austen battles. They lost many a good man on those slopes

including their Colonel, Colonel Wright. It seems to me that the 132nd 'cracked the nut' that was Mt. Austen and made life a little easier for the troops from the 25th Division.

In closing I would like to say that I am glad that the 25th Division was glorified (?) in that picture and not the Americal.

The author of the book 'Thin Red Line', James Jones, also wrote 'From Here To Eternity', and he served with an infantry company in the 25th Infantry Division. The thin red line is supposed to be the line that separates the sane from the insane--the civilized from the uncivilized.

Your Editor

THE BOMB; IT WAS DEATH OR MORE DEATH
By Stephen Ambrose

At the Potsdam conference in July 1945, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson told Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower about the Manhattan Project, described the atomic bombs and said the United States intended to use them if Japan's leaders did not comply with the demand for an immediate unconditional surrender.

Eisenhower, upset, told Stimson he had "grave misgivings" about using this "horrible and destructive" weapon. He said it was "completely unnecessary" and wanted to "avoid shocking world opinion." He expressed a vague hope that if the United States did not use the bomb, other nations would not learn about it and thus not try to duplicate the feat.

This was one of the rare times Eisenhower spoke forcefully when he didn't know what he was talking about. Writing in 1948, he confessed: "My views were merely personal and immediate reactions; they were not based upon any analysis of the subject."

Later analysis showed, as Eisenhower acknowledged, that because an army of scientists had worked on the Manhattan Project, the secret could not possibly have been kept. It showed he was wrong in assuming that Japan's military leaders were rational men who recognized that their cause was hopeless and were looking for a way to surrender with honor, demanding only that the Emperor be retained.

In fact, Japan's leaders were ready to negotiate, not surrender. They had led the country into a war it could not win and had fought with brutal disregard for the laws of war. They had fought stupidly. But they thought they could go down fighting bravely and force the United States to grant concessions in negotiations.

The generals would not have surrendered if the Allies had relented and allowed Japan to keep the Emperor. If such a modification of the demand for unconditional surrender had been announced, they would have concluded that the heavy losses suffered in Okinawa had opened the negotiations--that the concession on the Emperor would be followed by others.

The Japanese weren't about to surrender.

The Japanese Army was ready to fight to the last man to avoid unconditional surrender. It had done so on Okinawa and on every other island. Undoubtedly on their home islands the Japanese would have fought just as furiously in the

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

mountains and cities. The bloodletting on both sides would have been catastrophic.

Col. Andrew Goodpaster of the War Department (later a general and commander of NATO) prepared casualty estimates. He determined that the Japanese had two divisions on Okinawa and 20 in Japan, plus many more kamikazes. He tallied the American casualties on Okinawa--12,500 killed, 36,500 wounded--and concluded that American casualties in an offensive against the home islands might reach a half million. The estimate has been challenged by revisionist historians as far too pessimistic--but not by anyone who had been in combat against the Japanese.

No one wanted to invade Japan, but Gen. George Marshall advised Truman that he could either use the atomic bombs or go forward with invasion plans. Nothing short of these options would force an unconditional surrender, he said. In June, Truman approved preparations for invasion.

Colonel Goodpaster was working on a plan for the occupation based on the assumption that it would be preceded by a long and bloody battle on the home islands.

In the Allied planners' view, Japanese resentment, hatred and shame would combine with the Americans' hatred of the Japanese to create a tinderbox that would require two million men for the occupation. The planners assumed that the American people would not accept the cost of maintaining two million men in Japan, and thus called for British, Chinese and Soviet troops to join the occupation. Defeated Japan would be split among four powers.

Revisionist critics have challenged, if not dismissed, Truman's claim that both bombs saved tens of thousands of Japanese and American lives. These historians are especially critical of the use of the second bomb, on Aug 9 at Nagasaki, three days after Hiroshima. They are wrong. It was necessary to shock the Japanese into surrender.

Gen. H.H. (Hap) Arnold, the Army Air Force commander, wanted, as he said, "as big a finale as possible" to end the war. On Aug 14, six days after the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, the Air Force raided Tokyo with a thousand bombers. On Aug 15, Truman announced Japan's acceptance of unconditional surrender before all the bombers returned to their bases. If Nagasaki had not been bombed, the Japanese almost certainly would have delayed until the end of the month.

On Aug 7, between the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks, Stalin ordered the invasion of Hokkaido moved forward to Aug 22. Japan's surrender ended those plans. Had the Russian Army overrun this northern island the Soviets would have had an occupation zone in Japan.

Thus the almost certain results not using the bombs would not only have been the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians in Gen. Arnold's fire-bomb raids but the possible division of Japan into Communist north and a democratic south. Truman's sense of urgency was appropriate to the situation.

The revisionists claim that the Japanese probably would have surrendered before the scheduled invasion of the southernmost home island, Kyushu, in November 1945 and certainly before the invasion of Honshu scheduled for March 1946. Perhaps. But the documentary record of meetings of Japan's top military leaders in August indicates the opposite.

Waiting would have meant continued misery and death for the millions of Chinese, Vietnamese, Koreans, others in the Japanese empire, also with the thousand of American P.O.W.'s in Japanese camps.

(Sent in by Earl P. Cook)

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

One of the least known battlefields in World War II was the setting for the unique, legendary fighting force known as Merrill's Marauders in Burma. Merrill's Marauders, was a regiment sized unit - officially known as the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), code named "Galahad".

A long-range deep-penetration unit, the Marauders fought behind Japanese lines, being supplied solely by parachute drops.

The unit campaigned in some of the most rugged mountainous jungle terrain in the world, where the humid heat was as high as 104 degrees. The unit's ranks were decimated by a range of jungle diseases including scrub typhus and malaria.

The terrain in the mountains was so steep that even the Missouri mules used by the Marauders were unable to cope with it. Their loads had to be off loaded and pack over some trails by men

By the time the unit took part in its last major battle, the siege of Myitkyina, which was wrested from the Japanese, the Marauders were a spent force.

(Taken from The Burma News)

Ed Note: Many Americal vet volunteered for combat duty while we were on Fiji, and wound up with Merrill's Marauder in Burma. I would like to receive some of their stories for the Newsletter.

COMPANY I - 132 INFANTRY
(Do You Know This Man)

During World War II my father, Homer L. Ross, who is now deceased, served with Company I, 132nd Infantry. Going through his personal effects was an awesome experience. I never knew that he was a highly trained combat infantry soldier.

I would like very much to contact any member of the 132nd Infantry that knew or had contact with my father. Please contact:

Homer L. Ross Jr.

Houston, TX 77049

I would like to attend the Reunion in June if I may. I'm the oldest son, Homer Jr. Question--Does the Armory at Rockwell and Madison, in Chicago, still stand as a symbol to the 132nd Infantry.

Ed Note: Glad to hear from you Homer. I am sure that some of the former members of the 132nd Infantry will come through for you.

You are most welcome to attend the Reunion in June. The information on our up-coming Reunion in St. Louis is contained in the center fold of this Newsletter.

REPORT ON THE GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL

As the Treasurer and Project Manager of the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation, I had the privilege of visiting Guadalcanal nine times in a six year period. (Each round trip about 18,000 miles.)

In a joint-venture agreement with the American Battle Monuments Commission we constructed a huge magnificent Memorial on Skyline Drive overlooking the Matanikau River. On August 7, 1992 we had a 50th Year Anniversary Dedication of the Memorial. Over 20,000 people were in attendance, including military contingents from the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy plus units from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands etc. Many political dignitaries from many nations were also present. It was a very moving experience to be an important part of the dedication ceremony. (The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, Chairman of our Foundation.)

To maintain the Americal Memorial in top-shape, the American Battle Monuments Commission has contracted with a local organization to keep our Memorial in super condition. I personally receive reports (some through internet) assuring me of the perpetual care given to our WWII Memorial, which is now a National Landmark in the Solomon Islands.

The Jap Memorial built near Mt. Austen is quite a distance away from Honiara, the Capital of Guadalcanal. The Memorial is not maintained very well and pales when compared to our magnificent Memorial, just a short distance out of Honiara.

In addition to building the American Memorial on Skyline Drive, our Foundation built a beautiful and very impressive statue of Sir Jacob Vouza and was put in front of the Rove Police station in Honiara. Vouza was a constable before the war. The statue is in perfect condition and a great inspiration to the locals and visiting tourists.

We also constructed a large monument near Henderson Field Control Tower to memorialize the "Battle of Bloody Ridge."

We put up other monuments/markers on Mt. Austen near Hill 27 and another the "GIFU", the strongest Japanese position in the 'Canal. A large marker was installed at the mouth of the Tenaru River, east of Cape Esperance to identify the end of the Guadalcanal Campaign.

We set up an Honor Wall in the old Henderson Field Terminal which now is being transferred to the new Henderson Field Terminal. Various plaques are displayed, plus a rather large plaque showing the 22 Medal of Honor recipients of the Battle for Guadalcanal. Unfortunately, the Japanese funded the building of the new terminal and are insisting on putting up some plaques and sculptures.

Various groups have been formed to preserve the Guadalcanal Battle sites and the many monuments and markers placed on the Island. The American Battle Monuments Commission, our Foundation, the US Marine Corps WWII Raiders Battalions, the Solomon Islanders that fought alongside of us and other private individuals, all are keeping an eye on maintaining the physical history of the Guadalcanal Campaign. The Japs are looking after their own markers which are small in number and not very impressive.

The reason for my writing is to assure all Guadalcanal Veterans that there are many people and organizations involved in preserving the

memory of the six month long battle in WWII.

On one of my later trips to Guadalcanal, I met a gentleman from Brisbane, Australia by the name of John Innes, who worked in Honiara as a Computer contractor. John got extremely interested in the history of the Guadalcanal Campaign and devoted every spare hour he had in visiting the battle sites and reading every book he could find on the subject. He is now quite an authority on the Campaign and we have been corresponding via the internet.

I just received a letter from John Innes, via the internet, indicating that he found a ring in a foxhole near the GIFU by Hill 27. It is a military ring. It has "Army of the United States" surrounding a blue stone. It has "Infantry" and "132" above crossed rifles and Sergeant stripes. Inside the ring it has the inscription "F.A.K." We believe this ring belonged to Fred A. Kucera, CO.K. 132nd Infantry Division, Americal Division. Lt. Kucera was badly wounded while leading 26 men on an attack on the GIFU stronghold on Jan. 2, 1943. He died of his wounds later that year. We are trying to find Lt. Kucera's family or any surviving members of that ill-fated patrol. John Innes is willing to give the ring back to the closest family that can be found. If anyone can help us in this search, please contact me as soon as possible. I'm sure Lt. Kucera's family would really appreciate having this ring.

Thank you very much.

Joseph G. Micek

Norridge, IL 60656

Tel: [REDACTED]

Ed Note: Joe Micek served with the 132nd Infantry on Guadalcanal. Thanks Joe.

MY THANKS TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

I wanted to thank Jim Buckle for sending along the address of Bill Bradley and let him know that Bill has contacted me. It had been 29 years since we had spoke. We must have talkeed over an hour and we will be trying to set up a meeting in the near future. We may make that reunion in St. Louis if all goes as planned.

It is very hard for me to express my feelings as I have not been in contct with anyone from my unit in Nam. Now to be able to talk to Bill who was not just in my unit but who was a close buddy and shared some of the same feelings of the time. Real feelings if you can relate. I can't express my thanks enough for your help in finding him.

John M. Rea

Ed Note: One of the most rewarding aspects of being the Editor of the Americal Newsletter is being able to bring old buddies together again. Thanks for your thanks.

THE TIP OF THE SPEAR

On the wall of the War Plans Directorate of the Army General Staff used to hang a poster of a World War II infantryman with a fixed bayonet advancing against the enemy. Underneath was the caption, "At the end of the most grandiose plans and strategies is a soldier walking point".

MOBILE COMBAT RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON
TROOP A

I entered the Army with A Company, 137th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Division and was later transferred to, and went overseas with, the 164th Infantry.

I volunteered to serve with the Mobile Combat Reconnaissance Squadron when it was organized on New Caledonia. I was assigned to Troop A. We were known as the "Peep Troops".

I served with the Peep Troops on Guadalcanal and when the Americal Division moved to Fiji the Peep Troops were broken up. I then ended up in the 132nd Infantry.

That was a very interesting article that Ernest Correale wrote for the last issue of the Americal Newsletter.

I have a duty roster of A Troop before it left New Caledonia. If anyone would like a copy I will sent it to them for free.

H. O. MCADOW

[REDACTED] Atchison, KS 66002

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

This Is To Certify That
The President Of The United States Of America
Authorized By Act Of Congress July 9, 1918
Has Awarded

THE SILVER STAR

To
Private First Class Jack C. Henley
Infantry, United States Army
For

Gallantry In Action
In The Philippines Islands On 2 April 1945

Private First Class Jack C. Henley, Infantry, is cited for gallantry in action at Cebu, Philippine Islands, 2 April 1945. When his company suffered numerous casualties, the company commander asked Private Henley, a runner, to attempt to reach a squad of men, pocketed in positions to the left and to tell the to return to fill a gap in the lines. The bands of enemy fire were so intense and close to the ground that a path to the squad was considered practically impassable, yet Private Henley maneuvered through the line of fire and reached the squad and was able to lead them back to the command post without a casualty. Later in the morning, Private Henley twice exposed himself to 20mm gun grazing fire in order that he might bring in two seriously wounded comrade to the aid station. Private Henley's gallantry in action and devotion to duty contributed greatly to the thwarting of the enemy attack and was a major factor in saving two of his comrades' lives.

Ed Note: Jack Henley asked to have his awarded placed in the Newsletter for main purpose of trying to locate the two men that he saved that day. If you are these two men, or you know who these two men are, please contact:

Jack C. Henley

[REDACTED] Pineville, WV 24874

M. S. KUNGSHOLM I, II, and III

The M. S. Kungsholm was the Swedish American Line's second commissioned ship. She was delivered in 1928 and became the sister ship to the M.S. Gripsholm. The American press called her the most beautiful ship that had ever come into New York Harbor. She was indeed a, "home for kings," as her name implied. She held 1,575 passengers, 970 in third class. After fourteen years, the Swedish American Line's fleet was complete with three ships, M. S. Kungsholm, M.S. Gripsholm and M. S. Drottingholm. However, this harmony would not last.

After the bombing on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States desperately needed troop ships. In 1942, while M.S. Kungsholm lay in New York Harbor, the U.S. government requisitioned her, removed most of her lavish interior and threw it overboard. She was renamed, John Ericsson, after the Swedish inventor, and was sent into service for the U. S. Navy as a troop ship. Her first class library alone became home for 410 soldiers. The Swedish government, after hearing of the confiscation, forced the United States government to compensate for their loss. A six million dollar sum was agreed upon. She served in two trips across the Pacific and in 1944 at the invasion of France. After the war, the Swedish American Line repurchased her. But before she could be refitted as a cruise ship, a fire in her interior caused over a half million dollars worth of damage. It was decided that the M. S. Kungsholm, as well as the M. S. Drottingholm should be sold to the Panamanian Home Lines, which took effect in 1948.

The second M.S.Kungsholm was delivered October 1953. She held 769 passengers, 132 in first class, 637 in tourist class, and 355 crew. Her elegance rivaled that of her predecessor, the first M.S.Kungsholm. It took the following to build her:

8,000 tons of Steel
550,000 meters of Electric Cable
125,000 kilo Paint (enough to paint 800 homes) and would have kept one person at work for 35 years!

Her library held 800 books and was truly international, as the portraits which hung there were of Gustaf III, George Washington and John Hansson.

In 1965, M.S. Kungsholm was sold to Norddeutscher Lloyd and renamed the Europa. She continued service with that company for five years. In 1970, she was withdrawn from trans-atlantic service.

The third ship to bear the name M.S.Kungsholm was completed in 1966. She carried 750 passengers and 355 crew members while on service between Gothenburg and New York. But, on cruises she carried 450 passengers and 430 crew. Like the M.S. Gripsholm, she held 30 cars in her garage.

When the Swedish American Line dissolved their assets in 1975, M.S. Kungsholm was sold to the Flagship Cruise Lines in Bermuda. She retained her original name and cruises from U.S. Ports.

Ed Note: The men of Task Force 6814 will remember the first Kungsholm, or should I say, John Ericsson. The above story lists the Ericsson as a Navy Transport. This is not true. the John Ericsson was an Army Transport.

The second M.S. Kungsholm made its claim to fame by ramming and sinking the Italian luxury liner, Andre Doria, fifty miles of the coast of Nantucket Island on July 25, 1956.

IS IT A PEEP OR A JEEP

In the Oct-Nov-Dec 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter under "Letters from the Old Guard" on page 27 was an article entitled "More on the Jeep," by Ernest Correale of the Peep Troop.

It is encouraging to know that I was not the only one to know what a Peep was. It was an impossible task to explain to people what a Peep was so I finally agreed with the majority, that a Peep was a Jeep.

It is my understanding that Jeep originally was understood to be a Staff car with a canvas roof seating about six people.

I have ridden and/or driven most every military vehicle, except the tank, all over Hell's Highway and the Bush country of New Caledonia doing inspections of infantry outfits and their weapons, even checking the rifles of the few soldiers on a mountain top as they were operators of searchlights.

I remember when the call went out for volunteers to form the new outfit that was equipped with Peeps. Gun mounts were in the rear for 50 caliber machine guns. Our welding crews did the work on the renovations of some of the Peeps. An emblem with a chick emerging from its shell was painted on the side of each vehicle. Therefore the name of Peep Troop.

Ernest Correale has all of his facts correct.

Nowadays every one knows the Peep as a Jeep.

In addition I read an article in the same issue of the Americal Newsletter by Al Barbiere of Task Force 6814 from the 22nd Ordinance Co. M. M. I was assigned to that company as soon as I completed the test at Fort Benjamin Harrison, in March of 1941 and was transferred to Fort Knox, Kentucky. I was in the 22nd Ordinance Co. M. M. until I was rotated back to the United States in April of 1944.

Perhaps Al will read this article and contact me.

James L. Bertie, Jr.

Willowick, Oh 44095-4821

IS IT A PEEP OR A JEEP OR WHAT

Just received the latest Newsletter. As usual it was extremely interesting to this old member of the Old Guard, Task Force 6814 and the subsequent Division, Americal (Americans in New Caledonia).

Obviously, as Eugene Koepple wrote, I was frequently upset when some well meaning, but ill-informed editor changed a reporter's story to "An American division". Was delighted with your report that an Australian film maker will probably correct the notion that only the Marines fought on the 'Canal'.

Also, I'm meeting the challenge of Ernest Correale regarding any member of the old Guard who remembers Col. Alex George's Peep Troop. (As a member of it's Heavy Weapons Troop). Actual name was the Mobile Combat Reconnaissance Squadron (MCRS). Like Ernest, I joined when it was organized in New Caledonia, fought with it at the 'Canal' and was with it when it was reduced to a single troop in Fiji (1945).

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I was a member of the troop. 21st Recon. Troop. I'm still in annual contact with one of the members of my old platoon, Ed Loeb. Incidentally, Ed said he didn't know where the nomenclature "Jeep" came from. As I remember, it's official designation was Truck, 1/4 Ton General Purpose or GP (Jeep). We used "Peep" because Alex George was an early Armored Force (Cavalry man) and for the reasons explained by Ed, Knox called the new vehicles "Peeps".

Fast forward some 56 years and I like to thank you for printing the articles on the re-flagging of the 196th LIB submitted by Ken McKenzie, Editor of the 196th LIB Association Newsletter. It was a great day for old soldiers.

Look forward very much to next June and the Americal/196th Reunion in St. Louis. As probably the only individual present at the birth of both units--the Americal in '42 and the 196th at Fort Devens, MA in 1965--a grand opportunity for me to share experiences with two divergent groups -- one in their 80's and the other, youngsters in their mid-50's!

Unfortunately, I didn't get to serve with the Americal in Viet Nam as I left the 196th before it became a part of Task Force Oregon and subsequently, the grand old Americal.

Keep up the good work!

Francis S. Conaty
1st Lt MCRS (Peep Troop)
196th LIB

Ed Note: Jim Bertie has an excellent article on the Jeep or Peep elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I do recall seeing Staff cars as Jim Bertie describes them, on Carolina maneuvers. They were also called Reconnaissance cars and Jeeps. They were equipped with radios and also had a storage compartment built in to the rear end. The door of this compartment came down flat and was used as map plot. The officers could lay their maps out flat to study them or plot maneuvers.

How a Jeep became a Peep or a Peep became a Jeep I'll never know.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

BOUGAINVILLE 1944

We were scheduled to go out into the jungle on a patrol that would last a week, the morning after Bob Hope's Troupe was to perform in our area. We were able to see the show, pleasant break, and Bob Hope and his entertainers were great.

The next morning we were up and off at 2:00 A.M. I think the hike was about 10+ miles out and we had to hustle to do it by nightfall. It was slipping and sliding up and down muddy hills, holding onto each other's rifles, pulling each other up until we reached the flooding Torokina river which we crossed, waist and shoulder deep, holding our rifles overhead. It was quite a hot, exhausting hike on the Numa-Numa Trail.

After a few days we left the perimeter out there and established a "Trail-Block" on a trail known to be used by the Japanese. The area was dark and heavily treed part way up a trail at a level point.

We then established a small perimeter there with our "Re-inforced Platoon". Then we dug deep foxholes in a large circle around the trail. You can see we were looking for trouble and we got it. I remember it was good, quick digging in the dark rich dirt and the three of us had a good sized hole in a short time...just in time for dark. "Towhead" (Wayne Boring) and another fellow was with me. Soon it was dark, very dark under the canopy of trees and underbrush. We took turns of three hours each, grenades ready and rifle in hand. One waited and watched as the other two slept. Somewhere about nine or ten o'clock we heard running feet pounding the ground rapidly approaching down the trail from the hill...heading towards the foxholes to our right about 20 feet away...then a pop of a grenade, then another but no explosions (later we found out the fuses were wet inside the grenades). Then our guys yelling "he's over here" ..bang, bang, bang of M1 rifles and bum, bum, bum, of a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) and then silence. The next morning we walked over and saw 3 dead Japs. One was lying halfway across into a GI's hole still with a hand grenade clutched in his hand in death.

The following night, I thought "Tonight they'll be coming from another direction" . The earth sloped downward from the front of our foxhole so I found a lot of dried bamboo and spread it below our hole.

I took the first watch that 2nd night and woke Towhead to take the next watch, carefully shaking him from the shoulder so as not to startle him. I had just gone to sleep when he awakened me.. whispering in my ear that he heard Japs below our hole. We awakened our other hole-mate and listened. I started to hear the noises too...Towhead whispered "I have a grenade with the pin out but I'm too scared to throw it." Usually, we would throw a grenade in the dark so that we wouldn't give away our position with the flash from our rifle barrel, and it would cover more area..and besides ours were beaten up, old rifles. (we called them one lingers because sometimes they would eject the spent shell casing and inject another but sometimes not). M1's fired 8 rounds as fast as you could pull the trigger. Anyway, Towhead whispered "Saunders, you throw the grenade" ..so in pitch dark we intertwined our fingers around the grenade and I grasped the lever that kept it from igniting. I put my ear to the edge of the hole..straining to hear and see in the darkness is better in the dark). I heard "crunch" ..then careful "crunch, crunches" ..I waited, then lobbed

the grenade in the direction of the sound. At the same time the guys in the hole to left of us also flipped a grenade and they both exploded with a loud bang, bang..then rapid crunch, crunch. crunch..running feet and silence.

The next day our supply party found a dead Jap on the trail, so I guess we got him or them. I also recovered the grenade lever to use as a makeshift fork to eat my "C" rations, as I had lost mine.

Warren Saunders
Co I, 1st Platoon
182nd Infantry

BOUGAINVILLE

In our research to date of combat actions during World War II, in the South Pacific, I have found published materials, and detailed information on the Bougainville campaign extremely difficult to obtain.

I would deeply appreciate receiving any copies of communications from veterans of this campaign, particularly photos, with permission to copy. This material would be returned and the individuals would be recognized and receive credit. Particular emphasis on the following:

1. Crossing the Laruma River 2 Apr 44
2. Patrolling the Torokina Valley 7-12 Apr 44
3. Kuma and East-West Trails
4. Green Island
5. Finschhafen - New Guinea
6. Morotai Island - Rosoboso Area

Any assistance a veteran of these campaigns can give will be greatly appreciated.

Ltc. Everett L. Copeland (Ret)
[REDACTED]
Kansas City, MO 66104

HISTORY OF THE WWII BRONZE STAR MEDAL

It has been the Army's policy since 1947 to award the Bronze Star Medal (BSM) to only World War II soldiers who were awarded either the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) or the Combat Medical Badge (CMB) but who had not received an award of the BSM. This policy is not applicable to soldiers who fought in Korea or Vietnam and were awarded either the CIB or the CMB.

The rationale of this "dual" award program evolved from the fact the BSM was first authorized in February 1944. Therefore, many WW II soldiers who served prior to this time were denied the opportunity to have been recommended for such an award. Hence, the 1947 "special policy" was an attempt to retroactively recognize the efforts of at least two categories of combatants: the front line infantryman and the front line medic.

Because the BSM has been in existence continually throughout both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts there is no rationale to extend the 1947 special policy. Or, stated in another way, since 1944 any soldier can be recommended for an award of the BSM based on the individual's act of valor, outstanding performance of duty or for some unique achievement.

(Taken from 'Massachusetts Leagonnaire', Dec. 1998)

AMERICAL MUSEUM - NEW CALEDONIA

A Christmas greeting was received from Paul Paturel from New Caledonia. He extends the greeting to the Americal family and states he remembers well the Americal group that visited New Caledonia to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our arrival there in 1942.



Paul and one of the Museum relics
(Note the Americal cap)

Paul established the Americal Museum, mostly at his own expense. This he maintains plus adding to the collection of World War II memorabilia whenever possible. His latest acquisition was a GMC Amphibious DUKW, which he says will require a lot of work to rebuild.

NEW CALEDONIA - DECEMBER 7, 1998

The Caledonians never forget the Americans. There was a big turn-out for Mass at Church commemorating Pearl Harbor and gratitude for the Americans who gave their lives in the struggle.

Ed Note: The above message was on a Christmas card that I received from Emery and Janine LaValle of New Caledonia. They, and many others, were on the committee to welcome the Americal Division veterans on our return there in August of 1992. A reception we will always remember!

COMPANY A - 132nd INFANTRY

Just got around to reading the latest issue of the Americal Newsletter. The 'Old Guard' letters prompted me to tell this story:

I joined A Company, 132nd Infantry in May of 1945 on Cebu. I don't remember what platoon I was assigned to, but I do remember the Platoon Leader's name. It was Gideon E. Russell. How could I forget a name like Gideon? My squad leaders name was Page.

I went on several patrols while on Cebu. Trained for the invasion of Japan and arrived in Yokohama about September 6, 1945 and was trucked to Atsugi Air Base. Spent a couple of weeks there and then

on to Fujisawa.

After the Americal was disbanded I ended up with the 836th Engineers Aviation Battalion in Niigata, Japan. By September of 1946 I had amassed enough points to go home.

Just about that time a shipload of war wives had arrived in Yokohama. Rather than send the ship back to San Francisco empty, the Army decided to give about 850 GI's a treat and put them on the ship.

The ship was the SS Monterey, which had been a cruise liner in the Pacific before the War. And what a treat it was! We each had private staterooms, ate three meals a day in the dining room, and ordered what we wanted from a menu!

On board the Monterey I met a fellow GI that I had taken basic training with in Camp Blanding, FL. His last name was Beatty, and I believe he was from Ellicott City, MD.

The trip took all of ten days, as opposed to the 31 days it took to get to Leyte.

Best wishes,
John Crnkovich

BUCK ROGERS ASSURES AMERICAL'S POSTERITY

Yokohama-Veteran GI's of the Americal Division, who for more than three years have endured such newspaper misidentification as 'American,' 'Miracle,' 'Medical,' 'Mericles,' and even 'Commercial' Division, received assurance that their exploits will be remembered by posterity, even though their contemporaries may be hopelessly confused.

In the comic strip "Buck Rogers," forwarded from home to Sgt. Roy W. Buckley, of Redmond, Washington, the hero mutter, as his enemies close in on him in the darkness, "Whew! Reminds me of my foxhole days with the Americal Division on Mindanao, five centuries ago."

(This article appeared in the 'Pacific Stars and Stripes' on October 3, 1945. Thanks to roy Buckley for sending it to the Newsletter.)

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to the Editor for placing my story and picture of my friends of C Company, 57th Engineers, in the July-August-September 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter.

It was great to receive letters from three of my comrades and also my Captain.

Captain Zimlick also sent a copy of the roster of C Company.

After all these years since World War II, it was great to hear about friends.

Daryl Brown
[REDACTED]
Sheperd, MI 48883

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER
IT NEEDS YOU!

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

Leo Ciccolo claims to be the oldest Americal Division vet. He will be ninety (90) year of age on March 31, 1999, and still going strong.

Leo served with the 182nd Infantry during World War II.



Leo Ciccolo
(Taken in December 1998)

If you agree send a him a birthday card and wish him a 'Happy Birthday'.

Leo Ciccolo
15 Locust St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

If you do not agree please send a picture and your birth date to your Editor.

PHILIPPINE MEDALS

Some time ago the Americal Newsletter carried a story on how to acquire medals that were being given out by the Philippine government. Supposedly one could send a check and your qualification to the Philippine Consul in Washington, DC. I did and I got the check back but no medals.

A few months ago I saw the Veteran County Advisor and he knew all about the fiasco and headed me in the right direction. He said that I had the Philippine Independence Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal and the WW II Victory Medal. The Victory Medal was not issued at the time of our home-coming. Anyway, I was issued three medals when I came home, with stars and arrowheads, but received two more a few weeks ago. I wanted to fix up a display for my kids and write up a bit of history of their old man.

Anyone that wishes to get these medals can contact:

Medals of America
[REDACTED]
Fountain Inn, SC 29644

Rev. William T. Elliott
Chaplain: A.D.V.A.

WHAT IS A VET?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service; a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel; the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a Vet just by looking.

What is a Vet?

She (or he) is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchly, no account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extra-ordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say 'Thank You'. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have awarded or were awarded.

It's the soldier, not the reporter, Who gave us our freedom of the press.

It's the soldier, not the poet, Who gave us our freedom of speech.

It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, Who gave us our freedom to demonstrate.

It's the soldier, Who salutes the flag, Who serves others with respect for the flag.

And whose coffin is draped by the flag.

(From Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, USMC)



1999 Reunion St. Louis, MO

The Americal Division Veterans Association, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association, and E-51st/G-75th LRRP Ranger Association will meet June 17-20 at the Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel.

Hotel Reservations

The Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel is conveniently located near the airport at 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO, 63044. Reservations must be made by May 15, 1999 to qualify for the special reunion rate of \$69. Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at 314-291-6700 and indicate that you are attending the reunion. The special room rate will not apply after the May 15 cut-off date so be sure to make reservations early. Reservations may be canceled in advance and according to hotel rules.

The hotel features free guest parking, free airport shuttle, indoor pool and spa, 325 spacious guest rooms, lobby bar, TGI Friday's restaurant for lunch and dinner, Clouds Restaurant for breakfast, an eight story atrium with waterfall, and rooms with balconies. The hotel is easily reached from I-70 and provides shuttle service to the Metrolink and nearby shopping.

Reunion Pre-Registration

Please complete a reunion registration form to indicate your intention to attend the reunion and to make reservations for tours and meals. A registration fee of \$10 will provide each registrant with a name badge and registration materials. Tours, entertainment, and meals are individually priced and are optional. The registration form should be returned no later than May 15 to guarantee your arrangements.

Completed registration forms should be sent to Mr. Ron Ward, 9619 Dana, St. Louis, MO, 63123, 314-631-4106

Special Airfare Discounts

Southwest Airlines is offering a 10% discount on most of its already low fares for travel to and from the 1999 St. Louis reunion. Call (or have your professional travel agent call) the Southwest Airlines Group and Meeting Desk at 1-800-433-5368, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. 0 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. and refer to ID Code T6739. Call by no later than 5 days prior to first date of travel to take advantage of this offer. Call right away as fares are subject to terms and availability. (Because advance bookings are accepted by Southwest only through dates for which schedules have been opened, reservations may not yet be available for confirmation.) Travel in or out of Dallas Love Field is subject to the requirements of the Wright Amendment.

More Information

For more information contact one of the co-chairmen. Ron Ward [REDACTED], Bill Knight [REDACTED], Warren Neill [REDACTED], Gary Noller, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. Updated information will also be available on the web site at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We are expecting a high turn-out so please make reservations early to ensure your place at the hotel and at the reunion events of your choice. See you there!



1999 Reunion St. Louis, MO

REGISTRATION FORM



Completed registration and payments should be received by May 15, 1999 to ensure your arrangements. Late registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed.

Hotel Reservations: Make hotel reservations directly with the Radisson Hotel. The Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel is conveniently located near the airport at 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO, 63044. Room reservations must be made by May 15, 1999 to qualify for the special reunion rate of \$69. Make your reservations by calling 314-291-6700 and indicate that you are attending the reunion. The special room rate will not apply after May 15 and the number of rooms available are limited. Please make reservations early.

Please check as appropriate: I am a member of: ADVA 196th LIB Assoc. Neither

Registration Fee: Number of people _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
Registration fee provides registration gift, name badge, and entrance to hospitality rooms, displays, and free events.

Friday, June 18, 1999

8 Hr Tour 8:00-4:00 Number of people _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
[Grant's Farm, Downtown, Soldiers Memorial, Union Station, Historic St. Charles]

5 Hr Tour 10:00-3:00 Number of people _____ x \$20 = \$ _____
[Downtown, Soldiers Memorial, Union Station, New Cathedral]

Evening Dinner Number of people _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
(Includes admission to Michael J. Martin concert)

Michael J. Martin Concert Number of people _____ x \$3 = \$ _____
(free with Friday dinner ticket)

Saturday, June 19, 1999

Banquet Number of people _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Make checks payable to Ron Ward, Reunion Treasurer. **ENCLOSE PAYMENT FOR TOTAL** \$ _____

Name _____ Guests _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Unit(s) _____ Dates _____

Send completed form to: **Mr. Ron Ward, Reunion Co-Chairman, [REDACTED], St. Louis, MO, 63123.**
Checks payable to Ron Ward, Reunion Treasurer. Receipts sent on request.

26th SIGNAL COMPANY

Recently I sent a letter and a couple of photos that were made on a copy machine. The letter was printed but the pictures would not reproduce well enough.

I am now enclosing the original picture of the officers in the 26th Signal Company. This picture was taken on Fiji Island in 1943.



Front Row L-R: 1st Lt. Carlos Guiffre, 1st Lt. Earl P. Cook, Lt. Robert B.H. Rockwell, Capt. Harry T. Miller, 1st Lt. Patrick Jordan, 1st Lt Everett Griek. Back Row L-R: WO Jack Hallman, 1st Lt Howard G. Bush, 2nd Lt Clifford R. McNeil, CWO Walter P. Morse, WO James McEachern, 2nd Lt John F. Sperry, WO Roland A. Merullo.

Sherman Lilly

Ed Note: I will pass the pictures along to the Museum if possible. If not I will return them to you.

'GREATEST AMERICANS' CELEBRATES WINNERS OF WORLD WAR II
New York -- Like so many in his trade this past year, Tom Brokaw had his hands full with the squalid little war upending Washington, D. C. But every moment he could spare from his NBC News duties he devoted to a different war. World War II, and to completing a book that honors those who helped win it.

In his just-published "The Greatest Generation," Brokaw has composed a sweeping tribute to Americans who saved the world; the citizen heroes and heroines who, during World War II, put themselves on the line.

They had come of age during the Depression. Then, with little respite, they faced war. When that job was done, they roused the nation to unprecedented prosperity. They meant to make life better not only for themselves, but also for their baby boomer progeny.

"This is the greatest generation any society has ever produced," writes Brokaw, summing up the

thesis of his book (and of a companion documentary that NBC aired in January).

Giving this generation its due has driven Brokaw at least since 1984.

In his book, he recounts traveling to Normandy for a documentary on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944, which opened the Allied invasion of Europe and marked the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

Born in 1940, Brokaw had spent his early childhood on a South Dakota Army base where his father served the war effort as, in Brokaw's words, "an all purpose Mr. Fix It." His future wife's father had been a doctor on the front lines from North Africa through Italy.

Brokaw arrived at Normandy believing he fully understood what led to the victory there. But as he walked the beach with American veterans back for the anniversary, "I was deeply moved and profoundly grateful for all they had done," he writes "I underwent a life-changing experience."

The trip sparked what he calls "a kind of missionary zeal." It resulted in his book.

In "The Greatest Generation," Brokaw draws heartfelt portraits of some 50 Americans.

There are chapters on a future president (George Bush), Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist (Art Buchwald) and celebrity chef (Julia Child).

But most tell of rank-and-file men and women. Like Charles Van Gorder who only hours after the invasion set up a MASH-like medical facility that was often in the line of fire, then, after the war established a hospital in his North Carolina hometown.

And like Margaret Ray Ringenberg, a lifelong aviator who volunteered as one of the original Women's Air Force Service Pilots, and at age 74, flew her twin engine Cessna in a round-the-world race.

"It is impossible to read even a few of these accounts and not be touched by the book's overarching message: We who followed this generation have lived in the midst of greatness, a quality of greatness that seldom called attention to itself and, over time, became routinely overlooked.

"For the people who were in the book, and those that grew up in that generation," Brokaw explained, "I wanted to pay tribute. To say, 'Look it didn't go unnoticed.'

The book comes not a moment too soon for those it salutes, men and women now well into their 70 and beyond. But for the rest of us, too, the book is well-timed. It offers welcome inspiration.

"I think people are unsettled about where the country is and what our values are," Brokaw said. Indeed, Bill Clinton the first baby boomer president, has come to represent for many not the radiant promise but the glaring deficiencies of the Woodstock Generation now in charge. Make no mistake, writing the book caused Brokaw to take stock. And he continues to. Facing his 60th birthday in a little more than a year, He said, "I'm thinking about the worth of my own life. I'm constantly thinking about from whence I came."

(Taken from the Cape Cod Times--By Frazier Moore of the Associated Press.)

RESPECT FOR THE FLAG

The July, August, September 1998 Newsletter issue was passed around our office by our Director, David M. Bradley. as all your issues are passed around. I read them from cover to cover and take the information I gather from them to the children I work with in many and varied projects outside the office.

Recently I have noticed at the football, basketball and baseball games the children stand still sometimes, almost never keep quiet and hardly ever salute when the flag goes by at a parade, or when the National Anthem is played at these events as the occasions arise. A parent told me at one of the games that her daughter was never taught in the elementary school to salute or stand at attention for these occasions, therefore they do not do it as adults. A coach said he feels that it is political and he does not salute at the games and later the National Anthem was left out of the program.

Please pass this along to your veterans, old and young alike. I tell the children I work with that if they have a choice of what to wear to school, a choice of what subjects to study, a choice of being bused to a school of their choice....they can thank a veteran. If they think it is political it is not, it is R E S P E C T for the veterans who fought for their right of choice and that some veterans gave their lives for this ideal and it was a mighty price to pay for an institution as mighty as a school district to teach a child to disrespect the American Flag.

Later, several of the children I have talked with, came back to apologize, saying they did not know. I then tell them my husband, William F. Radford, Jr., a WWII veteran, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery and what he did to be buried there. I also tell them of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and supply them with articles and information for their homework and essays etc. I am proud to say our office also puts children and the news media in touch with veterans for articles.

PLEASE ASK YOUR VETERANS TO BECOME VERY ACTIVE IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY LIVE SO THE CHILDREN CAN RELATE TO THEM AND LEARN FROM THEM.

In this day and age, we have to be very careful who is teaching our children and just what they are teaching them in the school systems. I never in all my life thought I would find disrespect for the National Anthem or the American Flag a part of the school system's daily curriculum.

Catherine L. Radford

[REDACTED]
Columbus, Ohio 43206

Ed Note: David M. Bradley is a member of the Americal Division veterans Association and he served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry.

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

I am hoping you can answer a re-occurring question I have. The question is about the proper title of the Regimental/Battalion identification. Is it Regimental Insignia or Regimental Crest?

Of my years in the Army, 7/1940 to 8/1949, I served in 5 Regiments and 4 Divisions. 7th Cav (Horse), 1st Cav Div., 182nd Americal, 306th, 77th, 37th Inf. Independent. 38th 2nd Inf. Div.

During all these years & units it was always called, "The Regimental Insignia," never "Crest."

Is it now officially called the "Crest?" If so, by whom? Where or when was it changed and why? This may seem a silly question but it bothers me.

In James A. Sawicki's book, "Infantry Regiments of the U. S. Army," he writes on page 647, in the section, "Coats of Arms & Distinctive Insignia."

Each Regiment & separate Battalion "fixed type" of the United States Army is authorized a coat of arms for display on the organizational flag and a distinctive insignia, (Erroneously referred to as the "Unit Crest") for wear on the uniform. Sawicki devotes several pages to this "insignia."

Sawicki is a Master of Heraldry & Coats of Arms & distinctive insignia. He also is a consultant to the U. S. Army on matters concerning the above items.

Sawicki's book "Infantry Regiments of the U. S. Army," is considered one of the best ever written. It also includes all of the Divisions and their Regiments of World War I & II. He served in the Army in World War II in the 168th Infantry Regiment and was severely wounded at Villa Crocetta during the breakout of the Anzio beachhead. He was also with the 9th Infantry Regiment in Korea.

Hope someone can answer my questions.

Jim Daly

[REDACTED]
Long Beach, CA 90805.

A TRUCK DRIVERS NIGHTMARE

I enjoyed your article in the last Newsletter. It was about the truck drivers that died trying to negotiate the roads in New Caledonia. Because I drove a 2 1/2 ton truck over the same roads.

I would like to tell you about some of my experiences, while driving in New Caledonia, and Guadalcanal.

One of the times was when I went to Noumea to pick up a load of Mats. They are iron plates which interlock one another, making a road at Kumar airfield. We also used them to enlarge Henderson Field. When I got to the airport there was only 1 crane, with which to unload the awaiting trucks that had the Mats on them. I got a bright idea! I had this chain in my truck, all I needed to do was to attach it to the rear of my Mats and the other end to the rear of another Mats. So by each of us pulling out, we would drop the load. It didn't occur to me that by doing this, the front end of each truck would fly up about 10 feet into the air and come down with a crash. I don't know if this is what cracked my radiator or the roads.

Another time I was sent to Noumea to pick up some lumber. When the men finished loading the truck I checked on the springs, which I found were overloaded. I then asked the Lieutenant to remove some of the lumber, which he did. I started to go out with the convoy but couldn't handle the truck. I didn't want to take off any more lumber. I felt it would be a waste because they needed the lumber. I told the Lieutenant to go without me and I would go slow. I didn't chance going over 15 miles per hour. Remember this was 100 miles away to be delivered. I did make a stop at C battery 247

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

Field Artillery. I had supper there and let my sergeant know that I would continue on the next morning.

Getting back to the driving, while going up hill, the lumber would shift backwards and the front end of the truck would seem to lift up off the road. I saw this gigantic tree in the middle of the town. By backing up the truck to the tree it helped push the lumber back towards the front of the truck. Going up the hills and mountains, the lumber would shift and move to the back of the truck, where it would overhang.

Now I had no trees to help me push the lumber back to the front. The only way to help myself was that when I got to the top of the mountain and start to go down, I kept hitting the brakes, and praying that the lumber would shift back. I hoped that the wheels would touch the ground, so that I would be able to make a turn at the bottom of the hill. I then had to repeat the process over again.

At one point on the mountains an M.P. would be stationed because 2 vehicles could not pass side by side. He would count the amount of vehicles that passed then call the M.P. on the other end letting him know how many other vehicles were coming through. When he got to me he said I had a lot of guts but I made it safely across.

Everything was going well until I met a Jeep coming towards me and the two guys in the Jeep put up their hands trying to get me to move over. I'm thinking they have enough room to pass but when they got closer to me he put on his brakes and put the Jeep in reverse. They pointed a finger at me showing that something was wrong, so I stopped the truck. I got out and took a look and couldn't believe my eyes. The dual wheels and axle were sticking out on the other side of the road. The guys couldn't pass even if they wanted to. I asked them to call my sergeant to let him know what happened. It's a good thing it didn't happen when I was going over the mountain.

On Guadalcanal a soldier stopped me and asked for my help. His Jeep could not make the hill because of all the mud. This guy was a long way down. I knew my winch could not reach him. I stopped another soldier with a weapons carrier and asked him for his help. I told him I would hook my winch to the back of his weapons carrier. I would ease him half way down the hill. He in turn would hook his winch onto the Jeep at the bottom of the hill. I then dropped my front wheels in a foxhole, and we all started to pull, but I felt my truck being pulled out of the fox hole. As luck would have it, Smitty came along. Remember him? The guy who jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge on a dare. He hooked onto me and we got the Jeep out.

Another time I was told to go to the beach and pick up 500 lb. bombs. On my way to Henderson Field, the truck in front of me dropped a 500 lb. bomb in my path. Because of all the mud and grooves on the road I could not get away from the bomb. There was only one thing left for me to do. Push it and pray it would not go off. But at the first turn I managed to get rid of it. Thank God.

Another time I felt my truck about to slide down a steep hill. To save myself from rolling over, I cut my front wheels towards the hill and drove down to the bottom of the hill. I was then able to turn the truck around and use my winch to pull me back up.

I had this training at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont.

Jack Masucci

REUNIONS - REUNIONS - REUNIONS

AMERICAL DIVISION ARTILLERY
World War II - Korea - Vietnam

APRIL 22 - 23 - 24, 1999

Madison Hotel

Norfolk, VA 23510
Call [REDACTED] For Reservations

For info contact:

Elbert Horton
Timberlake, NC 27583-9574
Tel: [REDACTED]

E COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

Kernwood Restaurant - Lynnfield, MA
May 26, 1999
11:00 A.M. Social Hour - 12:00 Noon Luncheon

CONTACT

Jim Buckle
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470
Tel: [REDACTED]

F COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

CONTACT

Joe Papa
West Newton, MA 02165
Tel: [REDACTED]

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

March 20, 1999 - 11:00 A.M.
[REDACTED]
Lynn, MA 01904

Write to Bob Doucette at the above address or call him at: [REDACTED].

COMPANY D - 132nd INFANTRY

We have lost a good buddy and friend. Mr. Gene Clay, my personal best buddy during the war years and after, has died. Gene died in August, one day before his 74th birthday. I went to Fort Smith, Arkansas, for the funeral. It is amazing to me how people we were banded together with during those years remain enmeshed in our lives after so many years. I first met Clay the day we landed on Bougainville in April of 1944 as replacements. We were together in Company D until it was broken up in Japan around October of 1945. That is only 14 or 15 months, and yet that friendship lasted until the very end of his life. Clay and I had a phone contact for many years. Of course, there was a period of time when we were both raising our families when we were too busy and had too many other things on our minds to maintain contact, but for the past 20 years or so, every Sunday morning at 7:00 A.M., one of our phones would ring and for 30 minutes or so we would visit. I MISS HIM.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

LOOKING FOR

Anyone from K Company 182nd Infantry

CONTACT

Joe Richards
[REDACTED]

South Portland, ME 04106
Tel: [REDACTED]

182nd Infantry - Hdq. Co 2nd Battalion

Looking for Leland Miles Macon, GA and Edward Miller Shell Creek TN. Contact:

Alfonso M. Hildalgo
[REDACTED]

Pearblossom, CA 93553

Company G - 164 Infantry

Looking for Michael Hayduck

CONTACT

Warren Freeman
[REDACTED]
Simpsonville, SC 29681
Tel: [REDACTED]

247th FIELD ARTILLERY - HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Anthony Hagopian

Anthony is suffering the horrible effects of a stroke which occurred October 29, 1998. At present we cannot communicate with him for we are not sure he understands our messages. I am sure he would want me to let you know of his circumstances at this time.

Prayers from the Americal-ers would be appreciated.

He spoke well of his comrades and his country and was proud to have served.

After the war he attended Boston University and became an elementary teacher. He taught 5th and 6th graders and loved his work. He became very dedicated to his pupils and he leaned toward science subjects.

We have been married 47 years and are the parents of 3 sons and a daughter.

Anthony (nickname 'Happy') was 83 years old in June of 1998. He was a humble, honest, and good man, husband and father.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Anthony Hagopian

Hey fellows, how about a prayer and a card. Send cards to:

Mrs. Anthony Hagopian
[REDACTED]
Brewster, NY 10509-1037

HAVE YOU CONTACTED THAT OLD BUDDY YET?
DO IT NOW!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

William Porter, a former member of H Company, 182nd Infantry, was going through an old diary and wants to know if you old soldiers from Camp Edwards remembers the "dress for the day" as it was ordered on January 11, 1942?

To Be Worn

1 Wool Underwear
1 Shirt, Wool
1 Pair Shoes

1 Pair Socks, Wool

1 Pair Trousers

1 Field Jacket

1 Pair Leggings

1 Muffler

1 Waist Belt

1 Winter Cap

1 Pair Gloves

Cartridge Belt

2 Blanket Roll

Gas Mask

Side Arms or Rifle

Overshoes

Over Coat

Two Blanket Roll

1 Undershirt, Wool

2 Drawers, Wool

2 Hankerchiefs

2 Pair Socks, Wool

2 Blankets

5 Pins

1 Tent Pole & Rope

1 Shelter Half

1 Bayonet

1 Face Towel

Set of Toilet Articles

Mess Gear

Entrenching Tool

Helmet

You have until the next Newsletter to get this gear stowed away and then you will get your orders for the 'A' Bag and the 'B' Bag.

William E. Porter

21 RECON TROOP

While at Camp Forrest in Tennessee, in December of 1941, I was issued a one week pass to Nashville. About ten soldiers, including myself, decided to rent a room for the week end. In order to conserve money, one of us rented the room and the rest filed in later.

On Sunday, December 7, I'm not sure of the time, there was a knock on the door of our 'tight' quarters. One of us asked, "Who's there?" A man answered, "It's the M.P.'s, open the door." All of us scrambled for the bathroom, looking for a place to hide. We questioned each other, "Alright, who did what?" But no one replied.

The M. P. then opened the door and told all of us to get dressed as there was a truck waiting downstairs to take us back to Camp. They then informed us that the Japanese just bombed Pearl Harbor. As we boarded the truck we asked one another, "Where is Pearl Harbor?" At that time none of us knew where Pearl Harbor was.

Harry Schnell
21 Recon Troop

PFC Floyd G. Talley, 1/46th Inf.

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write and let you know what happened on the 8th of January. The Commander of the Old Guard, Col. Gregory Gardner, got my brother Floyd G's medals together and the Old Guard presented them to me in a special ceremony. The event was held at 10:00 AM at the Headquarters of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, Fort Myers, Va.

**In memory of
Specialist Five Floyd G Talley
Combat Medic
HHC, 1/46th Infantry Battalion
196th Infantry Brigade
23rd Infantry Division (AMERICAL)**

Two members of the unit got the medals and placed them in a beautiful shadow box. At the top above Floyd G's framed picture is the Americal patch and to the side is the 196th Light Infantry Brigade patch. Medals included are the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, National Defense Service, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, and the Gallantry Cross with Palm. The Combat Medic Badge and Expert Rifle Badge complete the display.

The picture of Floyd is taken from one that I had given to Colonel Gardner. My picture was a wallet size that was taken of Floyd at boot camp. I had kept since ever since I was 14 years old. They had it enlarged to a 5x7 for the display. There is a plaque also in the box. (See rendition above.)

The two young men that put this shadow box together are Spec. Sidney John Branch III and PFC. Joseph Lee Stear. They both received the Special Achievement Medal for this project and were awarded the medals at the ceremony.

The award ceremony was a moment that I have waited for ever since the family received word that Floyd was missing and killed. (Floyd was killed in action while serving with D Co., 1/46 Infantry, on December 8, 1969. The family had never received Floyd's medals.) I have worked on this since 1991 and it is good to finally see them. Floyd G is in heaven and at peace and I feel now he is looking down and feeling proud. I want his buddies to know.

I will also be at the 1999 reunion in St. Louis and will bring pictures of the ceremony. See you there. I am still interested in finding veterans who knew Floyd. In case anyone who knew Floyd wants to contact me my phone number is [REDACTED] (H) and [REDACTED] (W).

Regina Talley

PS: Also my son Barton Stewart Ray left for Bosnia 1-12-99 for his tour of 6 months. He is with the 1st Cav Armored Division. He works on the tanks and humvees.

SP4 Michael Lynn Mitchell, 1/6th Inf.

Dear Editor,

Michael Lynn Mitchell was born on January 17, 1948 in Indianapolis, IN. He graduated in 1966 from Brownsburg High School and went to work for FMC Linkbelt. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1968.

On November 17, 1966, his son, Michael Lee was born. On September 23, 1968, his daughter, Michelle Lynne was born. Brother and sister were not to meet for 21 years.

Michael Mitchell entered the service on his 20th birthday, before Michelle was born. He did his basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY, and AIT at Ft. Polk, LA. After spending leave with his wife, he arrived in Vietnam on June 24, 1968.

He was assigned to the Americal Division, 198th LIB, 1st/6th Inf., A Co...the Gunfighters. After arriving in-country he spent time in the hospital with malaria. He attended leadership training and was nominated for the Bronze Star. In December, he volunteered for a special, short range reconnaissance team called the Scorpions. They watched "the trail", and called for artillery strikes on infiltrators.

On February 1, 1969 his team and other platoons went out on a mission. On February 7, the Scorpions were "dragging rear", making sure that the enemy didn't sneak up on them from behind, and Daddy was the point man. When it came time for the units to cross the paddy, a captain decided that the Scorpions were to go to the front. The first man across the paddy was ambushed by the enemy...our dad. His buddy had magazines shot off his waist while trying to save our dad, but it was to no avail. All reports are that he was killed instantly.

Brother and sister met for the first time in 1989. We both were looking for half of our identity, that half that was our father. We found him in each other. Since our father's family, with one exception, has refused to see us, we have had to rely on our "uncles" to fill in the story. Our thanks to "Doc O'Connor" who found us through the Americal Locator and gave us the information we needed. We have found healing through each other, our families, our "uncles", and our "sibs" in Sons and Daughters In Touch.

I came to the Americal internet page through the Sons & Daughters In Touch home page. I debated on registering with the Americal locator as I didn't think it would be fruitful. My request was posted on November 11. On November 23, I heard from Doc O'Connor. In his original e-mail he said his hands were trembling as he wrote. I responded to him that my heart went to my throat when I saw it. As it turns out, Doc and I live about 30 minutes away from each other! For the first time, Doc told me what my dad did!

It was a terrifying thing, but it gave me some completion. I cried, and had to explain to Doc that they were tears of joy and relief. Not knowing, I think is the hardest part. That's why it's so important for sons and daughters to connect with their "uncles". Even if they aren't as lucky to make the connection that I made, it is still comforting to find your "family".

If you knew our dad, contact [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Seffner, Florida, 33584. Thank you.

Michelle Mitchell Ginn

American Veterans Still Serve

John (Dutch) DeGroot
United States Air Force Reserve

For many of us, going off to the military was the first time that we endured a lengthy separation from our parents. It may have been harder for them than it was for us. John (Dutch) DeGroot fondly remembers his father dropping him off at the processing station early one morning in October, 1968. As Dutch got out of the car, he remembers his father telling him "Call me tonight when you want me to pick you up."

Dutch's mother, like many mothers at the time, did not want her son to join the Army. She thought it was too dangerous. So, in order to keep her from being upset about him joining, Dutch volunteered for the draft. When the draft notice appeared he said with surprise "Gee Mom, look what I just got!"

Dutch left home and proceeded to basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY, and then on to Ft. Gordon, GA for Military Police training. He was placed in a holding company at Ft. Gordon because of a requirement that MPs be at least nineteen years old. There was also a requirement that MPs be at least 5'10" tall. He got older and taller. At least temporarily taller, that is. The Army measured him at the required minimum of 5'10". However, a few years later Dutch discovered that he was really only 5'8" tall. While looking at photos of himself and his fellow MPs, he always wondered why he looking up to the others.

After training he was assigned to the 63rd MP Platoon which had police and security duty at the Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne, NJ. Not wanting to stay there, he immediately volunteered for duty in Vietnam. He arrived at the Americal Division Training Center in Chu Lai in October, 1969.

"Every day was a new experience" he recalls of his time with the 23rd MP Company. He worked road patrol up and down QL1 from Hill 54 to LZ Dottie. He also did a stint as an MP at the 198th LIB POW detention cage on LZ Bayonet. When the need came he would also serve as a door gunner on division helicopters.

When his term of service expired Dutch went back to civilian life. However, in 1988 he joined the 822nd MP Co. of the U.S. Army Reserve. He found that he had missed the military and was anxious to have that as part of his life once again. Shortly thereafter he switched to the Air Force Reserve as an aerial porter.

He was called to temporary active duty and went to Turkey in support of Operation Provide Comfort. This effort assisted the Kurds to resist the oppression of Iraq after Desert Storm. Dutch also went to Germany in support of the United States' peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Rwanda. "It was an exciting mission," he said. "Airplanes were landing and taking off every fifteen minutes. They were waiting in line to be loaded or unloaded. We were on twelve hour shifts with no time off even to eat. It was hard but rewarding work."

When his unit stationed at O'Hare Field in Chicago was deactivated he transferred to a unit in nearby Milwaukee, WI. He is now a Technical Sergeant (E-6) assigned to the 440th Air Wing as a graphic artist in the Visual Information Section.



MP hootch, 198th LIB, Vietnam, 1969



Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Desert Storm, 1991

Dutch enjoys his involvement in the reserves. "One of the main reasons I enjoy the service is the people I meet, especially the young folks," he said. "I can summarize them in one word: outstanding. They have a great attitude and a wonderful work ethic. It really restores one's faith in the younger generation knowing that there are so many patriotic young folks keeping our country's values intact."

He too notices that his status as a Vietnam veteran is appreciated by the younger troops. He states "I'm flattered that these younger troops give us Vietnam veterans a huge amount of respect just like our generation holds the WWII generation in awe."

When he rejoined the military he raised many eyebrows and some even questioned his sanity. He reflects that "When I look back at it was one of the best decisions I ever made. It has been a great experience. It sure helps to have an understanding wife and family that supports you." His only regret is that the Air Force will not let him wear his Americal Division combat patch on his present uniform.

Dutch has been very active in the ADVA for many years. He has served as National Commander and has held numerous elective and appointive offices. He has also spent many hours utilizing his skills as a graphic artist to design and layout printing for the association.

Incident at Firebase Maude

Editor's Note: This is a response to a letter from Pablo Flores, Jr. that was published in a previous newsletter. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the author.

Dear Pablo;

Its been over 26 years since we were on Firebase Maude. While my mind is still thinking clearly I want to tell you what I remember about that incident.

The day seemed to be shortly after News Year's, or it could have even been New Years Day. We were sitting around the firebase and a red star flare went off. I saw the officer who had come out of B-TOC to pop the flare. When a red flare goes off it tells everyone to start firing-- we're under attack. When I saw the officer come out to pop the flare I uncovered the sight on the gun and checked the two bubbles in my scope and got ready to fire.

When the flare popped, our pit, B Co., 2/1, 196th Inf., started to fire instantly. We had predetermined targets already given to us. We fired about five to ten rounds before the other 81mm pits started firing. Immediately after the firing started there was a loud explosion along the bunker line. Everyone who was unaware of what really happened thought it was enemy incoming fire. The lifers knew better.

"Cease fire" was yelled shortly after the explosion on the bunker line. An officer came over to our pit and told everyone stay in there. He put a guard on the gun to make sure no one touched it. They knew it was a short round from one of the 81s. I believe it landed on a bunker and wounded three guys, one of them seriously.

A medivac was called. When the bird came in guys were sent down to the chopper pad for security. The seriously wounded guy waved from his stretcher as he was carried to the bird. He died in route to the hospital. There was a feeling of shock, horror, and sickness that settled in among the men.

After the medevac left we were told that there were some big shots from the rear who were touring the firebase. (I believe one was a Navy Admiral.) In order to impress these big shots and to simulate reality, no one was told the red flare wasn't a real emergency. When the flare went off everyone went to work like it was a rocket attack. Once the short round occurred everything stopped and guards were put on the guns until the CID could investigate.

I was devastated because what if the round that killed that guy came from the 81 I was shooting. I believe the investigation turned up the round was fired from another 81 pit. They did not rotate their ammo and the powder bags could have gotten damp causing the round not to go as far as it was supposed to. These predetermined targets are close to the firebase, so any kind of small mistake can be a killer.

After the guys round out we fired only to impress some big shots lifers and not because of a rocket attack the mood was tense. Guys wanted those lifers asses hung out to dry. The mood turned sadder when we thought of the two wounded and one dead that got it for nothing. It still makes me mad and sick to my stomach to this day whenever I think about it.

I'm not sure I was any help to you, but if I can find out any more in information, I've got your number and will get in touch. Pablo, take care of yourself and if I can be of any help please feel free to contact me.

James W. Gales,

Glendale, WI 53217

Logic, Vietnamese Style

I arrived in Saigon in January, 1969. After processing and orientation I was assigned to MACV TEAM 16 at Tam Ky.

The northern boundary of Barrier Island was the Thu Bon river. The city of Hoi An was on the north side of the river and the Korean Blue Dragon Marine Brigade was stationed near there. The VC loved to set up mortars and rockets and shell Hoi An and the Marine installations before counter-battery fire could be cleared to fire back.

As a result of the trouble coming from Barrier Island, four USMC Special Landing Force Operations were conducted during 1969. The first, VALIANT HUNT, began 15 Dec 68 and ended 5 Jan 69. Among the units involved was the 2nd Bn, 26th Marines. This was followed in May (5 to 21) by OPERATION DARING REBEL. It involved the 1st Bn, 26th Marines, elements of the Korean Marine Brigade, one battalion each from the ARVN 51st and 54th Regiments and 1/1 Cav, Americal Division. U.S. Navy destroyers and rocket firing ships provided additional support. The operation claimed 363 VC KIA, 328 POWs and 131 weapons.

(Those of you who were there in 1969 know that during this period the "Siege of LZ Professional" (1/46th Inf.) took place and that there was heavy fighting around Tam Ky and Tien Phuoc. This period also saw the arrival in the Tam Ky area of the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne for OPERATION LAMAR PLAIN.)

The third operation, BOLD PURSUIT, was carried out from 27 Jun to 6 Jul. The 1-26 Marines were again involved, along with Americal Division elements, RFs and PFs, and naval elements of the USN, US Coast Guard, and RVNF. The operation netted 42 VC KIA and 19 weapons. Had the VC been wiped out?

OPERATION DEFIANT STAND ran from 7 to 18 Sep. It involved the 1-26 Marines, ROK Marines, US Navy, US Coast Guard, and RVNF, the Marine Air Wing, elements of the 1st Marine Division and the Americal Division and RF and PF units. The operation resulted in 293 VC KIA and 121 weapons captured.

So what does this all mean? The statistics of these operations and Team 16's own almost daily experiences certainly confirmed that Barrier Island was heavily infested with VC and their sympathizers. But the experience with the pre-operation planning was the big eye opener for me into the way the Vietnamese thought.

I was riding in a jeep with ARVN Major Cu as we passed a village near Tam Ky Airport where our USAF Forward Air Control Team based their O-2 airplanes. The VC/NVA hated the FACs because the FACs knew the AO very well and brought the VC/NVA death and destruction. So, on a fairly regular basis, the VC mortared or rocketed the airport. Major Cu said, "This is a very bad village. Everyone VC, everyone should be killed." I didn't say anything but I thought, "You have several thousand armed militia men in the area. Why don't you just mobilize them, surround the place and do it."

This is where Vietnamese logic took over. They wouldn't do it because that wasn't their way. When we pushed the Vietnamese to do things our way, they often retorted, "You come and stay one year and go home, but we must live here." If the USMC, ROKs, or Americal had wiped out everyone on Barrier Island, I think the Province Chief would have been delighted. His people would not get the blame for eliminating an area of VC infestation. The same applied to the village near the airport. Something needed to be done but they didn't want to do it. One of our unfortunate lessons from Vietnam is that not enough South Vietnamese wanted to do it.

I wonder what happened to the Province Chief and others I knew when the whole thing fell apart in 1975.

Mike Ebert, MACV Team 16, Tam Ky, 1969

Co. E, 1/6th Infantry

Members of Co. E, Recon Platoon, 1/6th Infantry, 198th LIB have had reunions in 1992 and 1996. They are looking for other members of the platoon from the 1969-1970 time period. Those already found include Mike Horkavi, Jim Kittson, Roger Oelrich, J. Robert Gray, Gary Thompson, Richard Bellrose, Phillip Brown, Danny Collins, Jim Brown, Miley Bailey, Gary McNeil, and Gene (Doc) Szpera.

If you know of others that should be included or if you would like more information, please call or write Jim Brown, [REDACTED], Austin, TX, 78759-8632, [REDACTED].

Great Lakes Chapter News

Our next event will be in Melbourne, FL on April 15-19 at Operation LZ-Oceanside in conjunction with Florida's Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion. Call the Holiday Inn, Indiatlantic, [REDACTED] to reserve a special room rate of \$69. We will be gathering with the Southeast Chapter on Saturday. A patio party is planned for Sunday night, \$25 in advance. The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry will also have a reunion in Melbourne on April 16-18.

We had about 25 Americal veterans at New Glarus Winterfest on January 15-17. The next Great Lakes chapter gathering will be in Kokomo, IN on Sept. 16-19. Annual dues of \$5 should be sent to Terry Babler, [REDACTED], New Glarus, WI 53574, [REDACTED].

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial

I wanted to share the photo of the paving stone sponsored by the East Region Chapter of ADVA at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Holmdel, NJ. I also want to tell all Engineer personnel to check out the Army Engineer Association's web page at [REDACTED]. They have some nice stuff there. MSG Joe Krisanits, NJANG, Co. A, 26th Engineers, 1969.

POW-MIA Awareness Day Parade

Editor's Note: The following item was received from Max Loffgren, 11th LIB. His car was shown at the ADVA reunion in Reno, NV.

Make plans to attend the biggest POW*MIA Awareness Day parade ever held in the United States of America. It is going to happen in Klamath Falls, Oregon on July 4, 1999.

The sponsor contribution fee is \$150.00. The proceeds of this event will be distributed to The National League of Families, Never Forgotten Inc., and the Klamath County Combat Veterans Association.

Sponsors will receive one 3'x5' double sided POW*MIA flag, a flag pole, one POW*MIA race car T-shirt, and a ball cap. You will have the privilege to march in the parade with at least 3,000 other supporters of this worthwhile cause. We are honoring all POW*MIA from all our wars.

In the event you would like to contribute but cannot make it to the event, we will have a worthy veteran carry the flag in the parade in your absence. After the parade the flag and the T-Shirt will be mailed to you. You may also contact the Klamath Falls, Oregon Chamber of Commerce with any questions. Thanks so very much.

Max Loffgren, 11th LIB, Never Forgotten Inc.,

[REDACTED] Fairfield, Ca. 94533 [REDACTED]

<http://www.americal.org/powmia55chevy>



Washington, D.C. for 2002 Reunion?

We are lobbying for sponsorship of the ADVA 2002 reunion to be held in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 8-11, 2002.

This will be a special date as it will be the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. If all goes well, the new WWII Memorial should be completed by that time. This is always a great city to visit and even more so for veterans events. I want to see how much support this idea has.

I know that the ADVA reunion is generally held in June but I think it is a great idea to hold a reunion in Washington, D.C. during Veterans Day week. I plan to bring this up for discussion at the 1999 reunion in St. Louis and I ask your support. If the local chapter would like to do this we would be very happy to help in any way that we can.

Terry Babler, 1st/1st Cav., New Glarus, WI.

Looking For

I am looking for members of Co. A, 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB, 69-70. I have found three or four so far. When I ask them if they are in contact with any others they reply "No, you are the first." I remember CPT Tyson, medic John Henyon, John Welch, James Brown, Roger Rice, McKenzie, and Gary Norman. Contact Robert J. Miller, 67 Gannett Rd., Farmington, NY, 14425, [REDACTED].

Every Cobra Wasn't A Helicopter Gunship

The point man crept along the jungle trail, alert for snipers and trip wires. The dense vegetation restricted his view to a few feet. THUMP! A huge snake dropped from a tree in front of the startled soldier. As the snake slithered rapidly toward him he identified it as a cobra, as deadly as the Viet Cong who occupied the jungle stronghold.

He fired his M-16 rifle, wounding the cobra near the tail. Now the snake raised its head higher, writhing, lashing, propelling itself toward the retreating infantryman. He fired a burst into the snake, leaving the reptile coiling around itself in its death convulsions.

As the commander of C Company, I heard the shots and called for a situation report. I expected we had killed a sniper. Instead, I received the report of one VC cobra KIA.

The seven-foot snake was heavy, and perforated by bullet holes. We didn't know why the snake was so aggressive, but it had been that kind of mission.

The company had assaulted by helicopter, landing just short of the jungle's edge. During the ensuing two weeks we found few VC, but the jungle inhabitants made up for a lack of enemy soldiers.

We waded upstream in a jungle river until it narrowed, spilling between walls of a steep ravine. Jungle menaced on both sides, blotting out the sunlight. Mountains rose beyond the stream, soaring to several thousand feet. The terrain guarded its secrets closely, daring us to continue. An ambush here would

COMMENTARY

Leaving a legacy.

Hardly a week goes by that I do not get a letter or e-mail from someone trying to find information about a veteran's service record. In many of these cases the request for help comes from the family of a deceased veteran. They inform me that their loved one is gone and they want to know about the military service of their father, grandfather, brother, or uncle.

In some cases they describe medals to me that they found in a hidden treasure box. "What did my dad do to get the bronze star I found among his things?" is a typical question. Another asks "I know my uncle was in the 182nd Infantry. How can I contact someone who can tell me what he did in the service?" Or simply "Dad never did tell us anything. We want to know more. Can you tell me where to go to find more information?"

be disastrous; perhaps there was another way.

Sloshing downstream, we found a small defile leading to higher ground. After struggling from the river I paused, leaning against a vine-entangled tree. One of the vines moved, inches from my hand.

A light green bamboo viper, three feet long, referred to as the Cambodian Two-Step, slithered slowly along the branches over my head. A bite from this deadly snake meant death within minutes. I moved away, warning the next man to pass the word about the viper.

As night approached we reached defendable ground and halted. While I was digging in, I saw a nearby soldier jerk backward. I hurried to him, thinking he had been bitten by a snake. He hadn't, but it was close. He was cutting bamboo when a krait crawled out, poised to strike. This small viper, two feet long, gray, with darker diagonal bands, is highly poisonous. We killed it with a machete as the light faded from the jungle.

My feet were a mass of sores from constant immersion in rivers, rice paddies, and monsoon rains, so when possible I exposed them to the air. The heat and high humidity made it impossible to dry our feet, but we tried. That night I removed my boots while I slept.

When I awoke I felt something sticky on the bottom of my right foot, and looked down to see two leeches dangling from it. Engorged with blood, they stretched to perhaps eight inches. I held

Sometimes the questions are easy to answer. But, many times I am unable to offer much help. The best resource, the veteran himself, is no longer available. Finding out what he accomplished and experienced in the military will not be easy to do without him being able to tell it.

I know it is not easy for many veterans to talk of their experiences about war. This may be particularly true of talking to family members about it. However, it is a part of who we are and something we cannot and should not remove from our identity. We owe it to our families to leave some kind of record so they can share our pride in service.

The article above was written by a Vietnam veteran who is a professional writer. However, you do not need to be a professional writer to recount your experiences. Tell of your experiences in your own words and manner. Make a video tape or audio tape, fill a scrapbook, or just sit down sometime with a younger one and tell them what you did. Leave them a legacy to remember and honor you by. Gary L. Noller

a cigarette lighter near them and they dropped, writhing in the damp jungle soil.

Leeches are not poisonous, but the wound they create is easily infected. When a leech bites it injects an anticoagulant to prevent clotting while it sucks its victim's blood. The substance keeps the wound open, oozing constantly. My foot leaked blood for three days.

I saw two more leeches undulating across the ground, their heads erect and swiveling, reacting to my odor, which by now was pretty impressive. These hadn't fed, so they were only two inches long—dark and slimy. I killed them as they reached my sore feet.

Two mornings later I shook out my jungle boots as part of my morning routine, and a few ants fell out. I slipped my left foot into the boot and immediately entertained the troops with a strange dance. My foot felt as if it were being stabbed with a hundred needles. I snatched the boot off, and discovered an ant colony had taken up residence during the night. I hadn't shaken the boot hard enough. I did now, knocking the heel on a rock. Hundreds of ants spilled out, along with ant eggs and their jungle-debris nest.

The monsoon rains slammed into us that day, putting the finishing touches on a mission that was long on misery and short on results. Nature, like the enemy, attacked without warning. Sometimes it was difficult to tell them apart.

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VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

C & D COMPANY - 4th BATTALION - 31st INFANTRY

Looking for anyone who served with C/D/4/31 Inf, under Captain Darrin. Several guys are in contact by email - Darrin, Hummel, Kuruc, Leon-Guererro, Ski with a D. If there is enough interest we will try to get together in St. Louis, at the Americal/196 LIB Reunion. In any event contact:

Randall (Chip) Hummel

Flourtown, PA 19031

email: [REDACTED]

CORRECTION - CORRECTION - CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Americal Newsletter, under new member the unit of Peter L. Lawson was listed incorrectly. It should read: 198 LIB 4/3 Infantry. Peter also served in D/E/1/52 Infantry.

Sorry about that mistake.

VIET VET EXPOSES BIG WAR LIE

By Reed Irvine and Joseph C. Goulden

Here's the remarkable story of a decorated Viet-Nam War veteran who exposed one of the more emotional lies to come out of the conflict, and in doing so serves as an inspiration to all fighting men who are tired of the incessant slanders heaped on them. We refer to retired Major Ron Timberlake, who won a Silver Star as a helicopter pilot, and who now lives in the Houston area.

You'll recall the picture of a young girl, clothes burned off her body, running down a road with other villagers, her mouth locked in a scream. Associated Press photographer Nick Ut took the picture, which ran around the world in 1972 and won him a Pulitzer Prize. Ut and UPI correspondent Chris Wain, who were eye witnesses, said a South Vietnamese pilot dropped napalm on the girl and other villagers because he mistook them for Viet Cong troops charging government positions.

The victim, Kim Phuc, survived. She made anti-American propaganda films and studied pharmacology in Cuba under the auspices of the Hanoi government. During an airline stop-over in Canada in 1986, she demonstrated what she thought of Hanoi by defecting. She now lives in Toronto. Kim Phuc recognized the fame she achieved through the photograph continued to give her box office value, so she was a regular at "peace rallies."

It was at one such rally, at the Viet-Nam Memorial in Washington in 1996, that she met a Viet-Nam veteran named John Plummer. As Plummer would tell the story repeatedly to the media, Kim Phuc said she'd like to meet the pilot responsible so that she could express forgiveness. Plummer sent a note to the podium saying he was the ground observer who ordered the attack, and he and Kim Phuc met and sobbed in one another's arms.

Plummer claimed that guilt haunted him for years, driving him into alcoholism and ruining two marriages. He got control of himself in the early 1990s and started preaching at a Methodist Church near Washington. Once he met Kim Phuc face to face he began telling audiences about how he ordered the bombing raid that caused her burns.

He was featured on ABC's Nightline and the Biography Channel, and his name appeared as the

byline for a signed article in Guideposts Magazine. The new surge of publicity helped Kim Phuc as well, and in November 1997 she was named a good will ambassador by UNESCO. A UNESCO film announcing her appointment included an interview with Plummer, who claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The publicity caught the eye of Timberlake, who in Viet-Nam did close support missions with both U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers. Plummer's claim did not ring true with him, for officers of Plummer's rank, assigned to a remote headquarters, did not have the authority to order any air strikes, either U.S. or Vietnamese.

So Timberlake worked through the old chain of command of which Plummer was a part. Plummer's claim quickly evaporated as Timberlake talked with Plummer's former superiors, names of whom he gave to the media so they could check for themselves the veracity of Plummer's account. Stories in the Baltimore Sun and Washington Post, as well as on the Associated Press wire, used sources supplied by Timberlake.

One officer, retired Maj. Gen. Niles Fulwyler, was a colonel in 1972 and Plummer's direct supervisor in the 3rd Regional Assistance Command. "I think he's stretching things the wrong way," Fulwyler told the Baltimore Sun. Another retired general James F. Hollingsworth, who commanded the entire region, told the Sun, that even he couldn't order strikes by South Vietnamese planes, much less someone with Plummer's rank of captain.

Bearded by these statements in interviews, Plummer seemed to back away a bit from his claimed responsibility. Tom Bowman, describing Plummer as "alternately testy and defensive," quoted him as saying. "I still feel the connection to what happened there because I was involved in the process." But he told the Sun and the AP that he would no longer claim that he "ordered" the air strike.

We can appreciate the emotional stress that tortured Plummer in past years. But for any veteran to make claims which blamed fellow Americans for a horrible episode is despicable. The hero is Timberlake, who had the tenacity to persuade the media to disavow the story. Timberlake tells us that he was 'deeply offended by the falsifications and implications' of how the Kim Phuc story was reported. We congratulate Timberlake for his splendid effort on behalf of "accuracy in media."

(Taken from the AIM Syndicate--Washington, D.C.)

INFANTRYMEN AID THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TU MY RESETTLEMENT AREA

By PFC Mark Geiser

FSB 4-11-- A flurry of activity has entered east of here as a joint Division-GVN operation begins to take hold.

The result is Tu My Resettlement Village. Located five miles west of Quang Ngai City, the village has a present population of 4,289 people. The number is expected to push close to 5,000 mark before the end of the year.

The operation had its beginning in early July when the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., working with the 4th ARVN Regiment, was moved into the Quang Ngai Valley to set up a fire support base.

It soon became apparent to the people that this was their chance to move from VC-controlled areas. According to District Senior Advisor, Ken Gould, "There were three reasons why the people decided to come under government control."

"The VC had taken all their young people from them and had enlisted them as soldiers and as porters; and they knew that the presence of the U.S. Forces would provide security for the movement."

The first group of people to pack up their belongings and move were 300 Montagnards who came out of the outskirts of Quang Ngai. They were closely followed by another 500 lowland Vietnamese.

Because the new village was not part of the 1969 pacification program, special permission had to be granted by the Saigon and Provincial governments for the construction of the village. Rather than having the people set up permanent homes near Quang Ngai, it was decided to make special plans for the village to be re-located near the new firebase. Special allocations provided food and other supplies. Shelters were built for the people until they were to move again.

In late July the District Chief, MAJ Hoa, conferred with the then battalion commander, LTC George V. Ellis (Kent, OH) as to when the people would be moved to the new village. Due to the amount of enemy activity during this time, it was decided to wait until the area was secure for the big move. By the middle of September, the move was fully co-ordinated. 800 people began their trek to their new homes. Construction started immediately upon arrival.

With the number of people increasing daily, buildings were erected to allow for the expansion. Tin for roofing and food supplies were sent in to fulfill the needs of the people. Cement was brought in to re-inforce the sides of the wells. Rice gathering parties were sent out to gather the crops of rice in the area.

In the early stages of settlement, two MEDCAP teams a week were sent from FSB 4-11 to administer medical aid to the people. Since that time the need has diminished to a point where one team is needed a week. Vietnamese nurses have helped to decrease the need for U.S. Assistance.

The village has been a significant rallying point for Hoi Chanhs. In the last two months, 136 have "chieu hoied" at Tu My. One of these recently led C Co. of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., to a large cache of 36 weapons.

As the District Senior Advisor stated, "The reason for the high number is attributed to the Revolutionary Development cadre in the area who are getting the word out to the people in the village and they in turn are contacting those not under GVN control."

Evidence of the freedom that the people have acquired is exemplified by the free election that will be held before the end of the year to select village leaders.

Defense and security of the village is provided jointly by U.S. personnel and ARVN forces. PF platoons are also working in the area. The people's Self Defense Force personnel are being trained by the U.S. and ARVN forces in the defense of the village.

Explaining the role of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., Battalion Commander LTC Leslie J. Stottie (Clarksville, TN), stated that "we have a twofold mission: providing security and defense for the village and working with the village cadre in meeting their needs."

The colonel added, "The people are now under the control of the Vietnamese Government. Security has been re-established in the area and thereby a complete turnover has taken place." District Senior Advisor Gould explained, "The people now live much better than they did before. They have a much greater chance for survival, for the village has given them a 'new hope' (11th, 10)

(Taken from Southern Cross--December 19, 1969)

SOLDIER'S DISCOVERY NETS TONS OF RICE By PFC Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ--- A company of Division soldiers drastically under mined enemy rice supply operations by uncovering one of the largest rice caches ever found in I Corps. Over 21 tons of the enemy food staple from a small hamlet completely surrounded by flooded rice paddies, five miles north of the Duc Pho, was evacuated by D Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Inf. Bde.

The company's 2nd Plt. had conducted a sweep through the area and came back to the hamlet to set up a night encampment. PFC Sam Wise (Etters, Pa.) was on guard early the next morning when he noticed something odd in the floor of one of the huts.

"There was a definite outline in the floor, and you could tell something was buried there," he explained. He borrowed an entrenching tool and started the digging that was to last more than a week.

Virtually every hut in the hamlet had contained large amounts of rice, bagged, buried, and in barrels. There was rice outside under the ground, in the pathways, and submerged in the rice paddy water. "There was even rice where they landed the choppers," said PFC Delbert Kirby (Johnstown, CO).

Although most of the rice was located in the small island hamlet, the men also found a number of smaller caches to the east, just past the water covered rice paddies surrounding the hamlet.

Each hut contained two or three large deposits of rice, most of it in 55 gallon drums or in plastic bags buried in layers under the floor. "There were holes five to six feet deep. Some of the rice was in small bags. probably so the VC could move it out quickly," explained 2nd Lt. Richard Stephens (Marshallville, GA), platoon leader of the 2d Plt.

It was learned that the enemy had moved its rice caches from the "Gaza Strip" coastline north of uncover the rice during its land clearing operations there.

Apparently they didn't anticipate that Sam Wise would be kicking around in a hut one morning and turn the isolated hamlet into "Rice Island." (11th IO)

(Taken from the Southern Cross--Dec 19, 1969).

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

the ghost of war is always there to say, "This is nothing compared to me."

And the ghost is right. The paradox of it is that, because war is the province of death, it forces men to be more intensely alive than they ever were before or ever will be again.

"Learning to suspend your imagination and live completely in the very second of the present moment with no before and no after is the greatest gift a soldier can acquire," Ernest Hemingway wrote. He knew something about war, thanks to an Austrian shell.

That shell is one of a million examples of the

When you look at a veteran you should remember that, however ordinary he looks and sounds, he is different than you are.

far-flung effects of war. Some Austrian gunners on the Italian front, whose names we will never know, changed world literature by firing a particular shell at a particular moment. Hemingway would have been a writer if he had not gone to war, but he was a different writer because of that Austrian shell. His leg healed, but his spirit never did, and he spent the rest of his life wrestling with death.

When you look at a veteran you should remember that, however ordinary he looks and sounds, he is different than you are. He knows things that we don't because civilian life doesn't teach them. We are never asked to die or to kill or to endure terror and horror day after day.

Einar Ingman, for example, might look like a farmer, but, in Korea, he charged a machine gun. He tossed in a grenade, then leaped up and pumped bullets into the survivors. He started toward a second machine gun. A grenade exploded by his head, tearing off an ear, splattering him with steel shards and knocking him to the ground. He got up and staggered forward. A machine-gun bullet ripped through his face, smashing out his upper teeth and exiting behind his left ear. He stood up again, a mangled, bloody mess, and killed 10 Chinese with bullets and his bayonet. He received the Medal of Honor.

Respect veterans. If you don't, it reflects badly on you.

Published in The Orlando Sentinel, November 11, 1997. Permission to reprint this article was requested.

THE START OF THE 1st SQUADRON/1st CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

The 1st Squadron/1st Cavalry Association was originated in January, 1992. A question I am always asked: what made you start it? Actually, we became an Association by accident. Here's the story:

In 1970, I was a Combat Medic (known as Doc in my platoon) and I was attached to the 1/1 Cav, A Trp, 2nd Platoon of which the unit was attached to the 23rd Infantry or Americal Division headquartered in Chu Lai. The 1/1 Cav wherever it went showed its fire power. Its soldiers were just kids who had to grow up in a hurry to become men and be in charge and make decisions. The unit was close, as being its Doc I had to make sure everyone was okay and given the necessary medication so no one would be harmed from disease and/or injury.

One summer night in August a bunch of us were sitting around near one of our tanks talking about when we get out of here (Viet Nam) what we were going to do. I can remember JOE REYNA, from San Antonio, Texas telling us that when we get back to the "real world" and get settled, we should all get together and have a big party. A lot of guys said "it would be great". Others thought about it but added, "it will probably never happen" because we would all go home to different times and are from different areas all over the USA.

On August 9, 1970. A Troop was conducting a search and clear mission Northwest of Hawk Hill when it unknowingly entered an enemy minefield, detonating a mine. In the resulting explosion four men were quickly seriously wounded. I remember jumping off my tank and aiding the wounded. Everyone was running, yelling and trying to help each other out. All this adding to more explosions and more people getting hurt. Some fatal.

I can remember one time that very day, Joe Reyna and I were giving first aid to one of our men on a stretcher, as we were moving along, Joe accidentally stepped on a mine and died instantly. A few minutes later a chopper arrived with Colonel Maddox on board and as he stepped off the chopper he stepped on a mine and was killed. A very horrible day in my memory of the 1/1 Cav. This day comes into my life yet. I know there was a lot more to this event, but its really too painful and tragic to elaborate. All I know is that I feel that I could have been in Joe Reyna's spot and not be here today.

A very short time later, I was told they were sending me home due to my mother, who was dying from cancer. My last few hours with the 1/1 Cav was spent trying to get everyone's name and address. Of course I did not get them all, everything was happening too quickly. But I did manage to get about 20 names and addresses. When I got home, I remembered how we ate, slept etc. in Viet Nam. I got a "care package" together right away from my local grocery store and sent it to Richard (MAC) McCarter (Clover, S C) in Viet Nam. I received a letter back from him telling me "You sure know what we needed!" I was glad I helped in some way.

Twelve years later, married, children and so on, I decided I would try to join a military organization. I tried to join my hometown American Legion, but they told me they didn't think I qualified since it was a conflict and not a war. Needless to say, I did not join. In 1982 a bunch of Viet Nam Vets started a VFW and I did join them.

In 1986, I heard that Chuchaho, IL was having a WELCOME HOME PARADE FOR VIET NAM VETS for all Viet Nam Veterans. The last minute I decided to go and went with 3 other Viet Nam Vets. I went and met these guys who I really didn't know at the time. We met thousands of Viet Nam Veterans. For the parade we had a New Glarus, WI banner with us. A lot of Wisconsin vets were able to find us and joined us in the parade. The parade lasted two hours. Our group did not even get started out in the parade until two hours after it began. When we did, people were cheering, paper confetti was flying all over and people would grab your hands to shake your hands on all sides of the parade. It was hard getting back to the center of the street because of all the people who were welcoming us home. I'll never forget this day - It was truly my Welcome Home Parade after 16 years.

The parade had inspired the four of us. After we left Chicago to go back home, we decided to start a Vietnam Veterans Chapter in Wisconsin. It became very popular among our area very quickly. Viet Nam Veterans Chapter III got started on Nov 2, 1986 only a few months after the Chicago Welcome Home Parade (June 1986).

In 1988, I heard there was going to be a Welcome Home Parade in Cleveland, Ohio for Vietnam Veterans. So I started thinking about my unit the 1/1 Cav and Joe Reyna saying we should all get together and have a party some day. It was at that time I decided that although Joe was gone, I would get out my old address list out of the closet--the first time since 1970. So I wrote a letter, made 20 copies of them and sent a copy to each address of A Trp, 2nd Platoon, 1970.

However there were no zip codes back in 1970 when I got the addresses. So I was hoping the letter would get to a mother/dad or relative and hopefully they would forward the letter. I got excited when a message was left on my answering machine from Richard McCarter who called to say he would be in Cleveland for the reunion. My blood was getting hot in hopes of seeing some of the others too. Our group from Wisconsin went to Cleveland on a bus road trip. We parked the bus in Cleveland Indian parking lot for the parade and this is where I met Richard McCarter for the first time since Viet Nam. He joined us in the parade and following the parade, we got together with others and talked about things. There were no other 1/1 Cav vets there other than Richard McCarter, but it was a beginning.

I did not give up, I would try it again. In 1990, I joined the Americal Division Veterans Association. The Americal was going to have a reunion in Chicago, IL. So again I sent out letters to all those 20 names and addresses I had from Viet Nam. This time I began to get more responses. Some guys got their letters the first time in 1988 that were forwarded to them from their mothers, dads, sisters, who still were living at the old address that I originally had. I got letters and calls, and I decided I would try and get everyone in Chicago for a reunion with the Americal.

Of those twenty addresses, nine 1/1 Cav vets from 2nd Platoon, A Troop attended. We had a great time, went over old pictures, talked to the early hours of the morning etc. It was great! Everyone found it hard to say good bye. One of the guys, Ken Krushas, said "I hope we don't have to wait another 20 years to get together again." The reunion helped me to remember a lot of things which over the years I forgot. The feeling at the end of the reunion was that maybe someday we could

find other A Troop, 2nd Platoon CAV vets for another reunion. Some time later Al Galbreath sent me a list of other 1/1 Cav vets that he had names and addresses for in our unit.

Since the reunion in Chicago in 1990 two of the guys have died. I am really glad I had some time with them and go over some experiences together. The two were Andrew Rorvik from Henry, South Dakota and Charles Conard from Boone, Iowa. Both their wives contacted me to inform me of their deaths. The odd thing is both guys came together to the 1990 reunion with their wives in the same car.

The next couple of years I did meet others at various other veterans reunions from other troops from across the country. My intention was to attend at least one reunion per year somewhere in hopes of finding others in my platoon.

In 1992, I wrote a letter to all the addresses I had and Al had. I thought we could have some kind of network of just A Troop, 2nd Platoon. However, I didn't know or realize that Al's list had some troopers from other Troops. I did not think much of it, I just figured we would have about 20-30 names and addresses and plan another reunion every 5 years or more. But to my surprise, I began getting more mail and calls than I planned. They weren't coming from just A Troop, but they were coming from other Troops. The word was getting around and suddenly we had enough to organize a club. What started to be a 1/1 Cav club for a few - became a full Association.

Sure we started slowly, but we just kept growing. Instead of just A Troop we were getting the other Troops like HQ-B,C,D and E Troops. I was starting to learn a lot of the history from others about the 1/1 Cav. I think they thought I knew it all, but I really did not know much of the history on the 1/1 Cav. However, I did learn that we were attached to other divisions in addition to the Americal.

The 1/1 Cav seemed like it was attached to everyone else in Viet Nam. We were attached to the 1st Armored Division, 101st Airborne, 196th & more. Later I found the 1/1 Cav still has not made it home yet. It is based in Germany, of which some of our members have visited. And yes, the 1/1 Cav is now under the 1st Armored Division and was the 1st unit in Bosnia and tragically had the first KIA in that area killed by a booby trap. It just goes on and on.

In 1995, we had our 1st /1st Cav Association reunion in Chicago, IL, again with the Americal for their reunion. Ours was the biggest group at the reunion. We had forty 1/1 guys. Some of the wives attended also. We had our own meeting and met a lot of great guys from the other units in Viet Nam. In the end everyone found it difficult to leave because of the bond we had made.

Last year, November 7-11, 1997, we again were united in Washington, DC for our 2nd reunion. This was the 10th Anniversary of the Wall. We had sixty plus guys attend the Veterans Day activities and reunion.

And now we are planning our 3rd reunion in Florida, which I have named Operation LZ Oceanside at Melbourne Beach. Our reunion will be April 15-16-17-18-19, 1999 in conjunction with Florida's Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion near Cocoa Beach at Wickham Park in Melbourne. Reunions can be a fun time. I am happy to see that some of the wives have made it to the reunions. Most of them told me they have had a great time in DC and are planning

on attending Florida's Reunion.

Remember-This was Joe Reyna's idea, I am just the carrier. Richard McCarter was the first one who came to get it going and has come to all the 1/1 Cav reunions plus the ones before the Association began.

And that's how it happened.

I visited the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial last Veterans Day, it was my third time. I meet JOE at the WALL and get the rubbing of his name with pencil and paper. I surely will remember him. This was and is a very emotional experience for me. I'm glad a lot of you made it to DC. For those of you who did not, I hope you can join us in Florida in 1999. Don't wait too long. We aren't getting any younger.

Terry Babler, A Trp, 2nd Platoon
"Doc", 1970 Americal Division

OUR VIETNAM WARRIORS

Confusion reigns when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports.

In Uniform and in Country:

Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation.

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era. (Aug 5, 1964-May 7, 1975)

8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war. (Aug 5, 1964-March 28, 1973)

3,403,100 (including 514,300 off-shore) personnel served in Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China waters).

2,594,000 personal served within the borders of South Vietnam. (Jan 1, 1965-March 28, 1973).

Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.

Of the 2.6 million, between 1 and 1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.

Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

Casualties:

Hostile deaths: 47,359
Non-hostile deaths: 10,797

Total: 58,156 (including men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). 27 other men have died of wounds, bring the total to 58,183.

8 nurses died - 1 KIA
Married men killed: 17,539
62% of the men killed were 21 years of age or younger.

(Taken from the Hyannis, MA VFW Newsletter and sent in by Bernie Chase)

ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?

REUNIONS - REUNIONS - REUNIONS

ROLLING THUNDER
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 30, 1999

For further info contact:

Artie Muller

Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
Tel: [REDACTED]

HHC/4/31 - 31 INFANTRY 1969-1970

Contact:

Herbert H. Case

New Hartford, CT 06057-0075
Tel: [REDACTED]

COMPANY D - 31 INFANTRY - 196 LIB

I am looking for Patrick J. Cassidy from California who was our 3rd Platoon Medic during late 1967 thru early 1968. Contact:

Go Go Gomez

Spring Hill, LA 71075
Tel: [REDACTED]

NATIONAL LEAGUE of POW/MIA FAMILIES

Dear Loyal Friends and Supporters,

It has been far too long since we have been in touch..not because we wanted it that way, but because we haven't had the money. We wanted to send you information...critical information about America's POW/MIA's and what is NOT being done to account for them.

President Clinton assured Congress in July that Vietnam is "cooperating in full faith" to account for missing Americans, yet not a single American has been returned and accounted for by Vietnam over the past year. This, despite U.S. intelligence and other evidence indicating that Vietnam, on its own, could locate and return remains that would account for hundreds of our missing loved ones. And, with a decision to cooperate fully, Vietnam could provide documents that would help answer many other questions.

Yes, the Vietnamese have given logistic support to joint field operations for which they are paid handsomely. But, the fact is that only 89 of America's POW/MIA's from the Vietnam War have been accounted for since January, 1993--and, 47 of them were accounted for due to cooperation by Laos; 4 from Cambodia; only 38 from Vietnam since.

These are facts that you will not read in the press and that have not been mentioned by the Clinton Administration. The reason? The truth, if told, could interfere with the fast-paced Clinton Administration policy to improve economic and political relations with Vietnam...and accounting for Americans is a "hoped-for by-product" as it was in the Carter Administration.

Despite all of the evidence, the current

Administration appears to gauge success on the basis of promises from Vietnam's leaders rather than actions that account for missing Americans. I heard welcome promises by Vietnam's leaders to increase their own accounting efforts when I was in Hanoi as again a member of a Presidential Delegation. President Clinton's National Security Advisor also received these same promises in mid-July, yet they remain unfulfilled.

Public claims by senior Administration officials about Vietnam's "superb Cooperation" have misled the American people, some in Congress and the international community. WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.

September 20, 1996 was National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Now is not the time to forget America's POW/MIA's, our missing loved ones, who sacrificed their lives and freedom for this great nation. They would expect us to continue to bring their plight before the American people so that together, we can get answers. But, as you know all to well, we can't do it alone.

That is why we are so grateful for your concern and support. After nearly a year of not being able to communicate with you, loyal family members raised enough money to pay for printing and postage to reach you again. We know that the League's perseverance kept the POW/MIA issue from being swept aside just after the Vietnam War, and we enthusiastically supported the renewed priority when President Reagan came into office.

It was the League that kept the issue alive during the lean years, fact that was recognized by the Reagan Administration, as was the need for a bipartisan approach. If we give up now, the effort to account for America's POW/MIA's could be in serious jeopardy in the future.

We hope that the major challenge we now face is one that you continue to share. You have done so much to help keep our missing loved ones in the forefront of the American people's conscience. And we hope that our absence from your home for nearly a year will bring forth a sorely needed, generous contribution.

Please, look carefully at what you have given before in a year's time and see if you can once again help us continue our quest.

Ann Mills Griffiths
Executor Director

Please make check payable to:

National League of POW/MIA Families
[REDACTED]
Washington, D.C. 20090-6958

P.S. Your communications with the White House and the Vietnamese have been most helpful as well. It is important that they know you still care and want answers. Could you take a few minutes to write to:

General Secretary Do Muoi
c/o SRV Embassy to the U.S.
1233-20th Street, N.W., Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036

Urge him to fulfill their repeated pledges to the families and our government to act on their own to account for America's POW/MIA's. This message from concerned Americans needs to be repeated to the Vietnamese leadership, not to re-fight the war, but for basic humanitarian reasons and because it is the right thing to do.

BROTHER JOHN'S TAPES

I served my tour in Vietnam at Cam Ranh Bay 69/70. I spent my free time recording Brother John off my Pioneer receiver directly on my 7-inch reel to reel Akai recorder. I've listened to this one remaining three hour reel of the Brother John Show for the past 28 Years.

I decided to have it digitally enhanced and made into a three tape set. Each tape is a one hour long original broadcast. It is now available to any Veteran that would like once again listen to "our music in Vietnam, not Hollywood's". This show came out of Nha Trang from AFVN radio station on 99.9 FM. The DJ was John Rydgren and his "Hour of Love" broadcast came on once a week.

I'm sure you will enjoy them as much as we have in New Jersey. I do not have a catalog of products to offer; just my three tape set at \$27.50 plus \$2.50 S/H. My ad can be found on the net at www.viet.org in the PX.

I am an Associate Member of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and a portion of your money will be donated to our brothers in need.

Glad to help and welcome home.

We would not have gone
If not for our brothers
We would not have fought
If not for our brothers
We would not have killed
If not for our brothers
We would not have died
If not for our brothers
We would not have to remember
If not...
For Our Brothers

Doug Gorski
[REDACTED]
Tabernacle, NJ 08088

198 LIB STARTS TRAINING

A huge late-July training operation to feature the use of napalm and live-fire support has been scheduled for the soldiers of the 1st Armored Division's newly activated 198th Inf. Bde.

Meanwhile, elements of the brigade began their training last week in the 16th Engr. Bn's Vietnam Village.

Second Lieutenant Fernando Blanco, assistant operations officer for Old Ironsides' newest unit, said the July operation will combine the foot soldier with tanks, artillery, mortars and high performance aircraft in a massive assault on a simulated objective.

"The entire exercise will be conducted with live ammunition to help give the men the feel of being around the live fire they will see when they are in actual combat conditions," he said.

The Department of Defense has announced that the new brigade is slated for future movement to Southeast Asia. It is the fourth such unit activated into the Army since 1965.

Colonel James R. Waldie, brigade commander, said the training of the unit's soldiers will follow "time-proven Army practices with a special slant towards preparing the men for conditions in Southeast Asia."

Increased use of live ammunition during training exercises will be one of the primary vehicles used to arrive at the realization of this goal, Blanco said.

He said the brigade will also initiate a program of increased training with helicopters and put more emphasis on special weapons such as mortars and grenade launchers.

"We have on the drawing board a new course in grenades which will eliminate use of the concrete bunkers while the men are throwing them.

The purpose of this program would be to help accustom the men to actual combat conditions," he explained.

"We also intend to give more detailed instructions on Claymore mines and use live mines for examples," the officer added.

Another facet of the new brigade's training program will be increased emphasis on physical conditioning. A unique--for the 1st Armd. Div.--feature of the unit is that the infantry battalions are not mechanized.

"The men will walk a good deal more than they have in the past while in mech. units for physical conditioning is one of the most important aspects of the straight infantryman." Blanco commented.

Major Walter Sanders, brigade operations officer said, increased emphasis will be placed on the development of individual leadership qualities of the men. "We want to train each man to be a squad leader," he explained.

Unconventional warfare training for members of the brigade was initiated last week as Co. A, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., put its men through their paces in the division's Vietnam Village.

"We used the RVN Village more or less as a 'stepping stone' to get an idea of where to concentrate our upcoming training," said Second Lieutenant William Breeton, company executive officer.

"This exercise was the first taste in unconventional warfare for the men, and we were watching them closely to see how they reacted. We didn't really expect them to be perfect, and they weren't," he commented.

"But they were able to get the feel of what they will be up against in the next few weeks of their training."

Breeton said one of the main weaknesses brought out by the exercise was ambush reaction, others were convoy procedures, searching procedures and avoiding of booby traps.

"I think one of the big things we noticed was that reaction time in the ambushes was sluggish. The men need more practice in organizing a defense and hitting back with as much spirit as possible," the officer said.

He feels that seeing the Village at the beginning of the special training will give the men more of a sense of direction in the next few weeks.

"It's a way of showing them what they will be up against. Their first impressions will undoubtedly stick with them quite awhile," he explained.

(Sent in by Michael Gardner--former member of 198 LIB, 1/46th Infantry)

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 American 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 American Division of the United States Army.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant

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

Sponsored by _____ **Please enclose dues: One year: \$12, Three years: \$30**
Send to Attn: National Adjutant **Life dues: 75 years of age or over \$75, Under 75 year of age: \$165**



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