* GUADALCANAL * NORTHERN SOLOMONS * LEYTE * SOUTHERN PHILLIPINES * KOREA * VIETNAM

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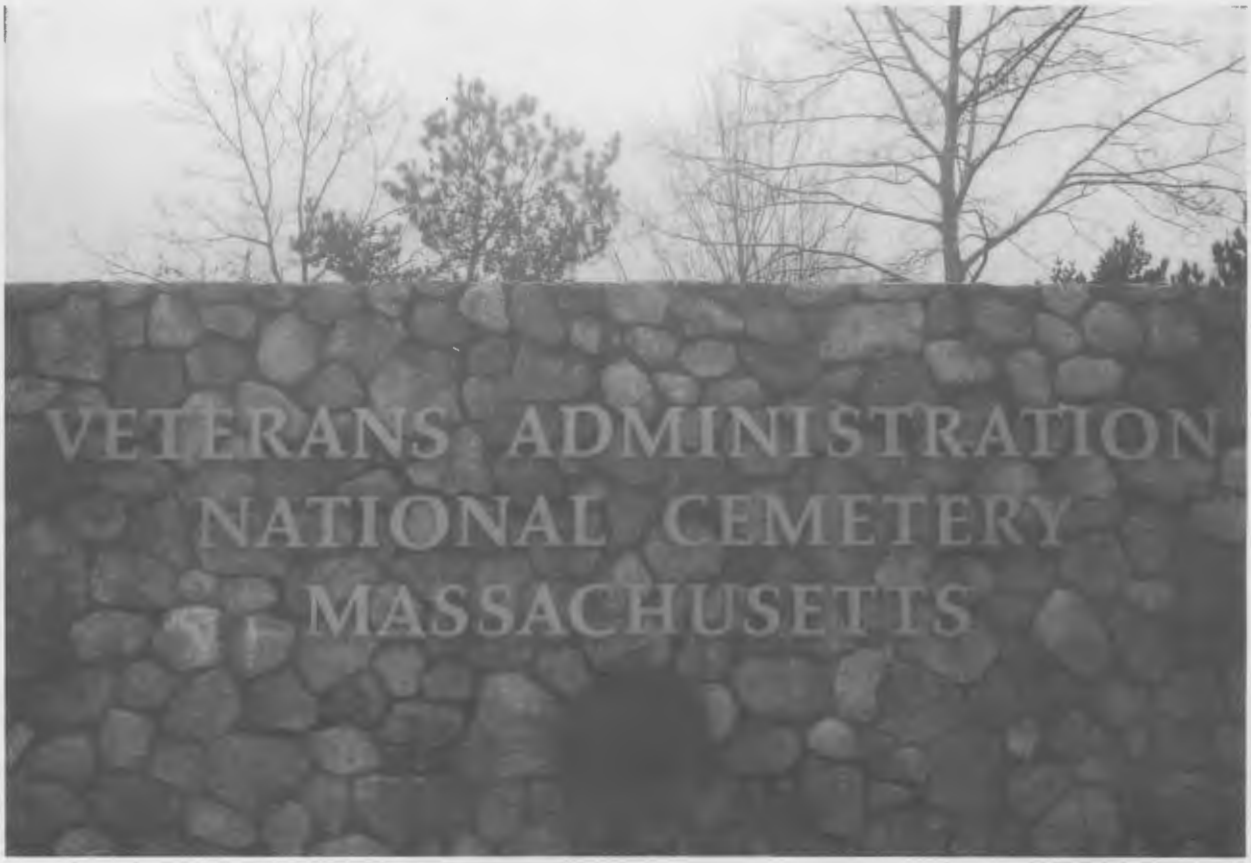
THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION P. O. BOX 1381 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



MEMORIAL DAY — MAY 31, 1999

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
1998-1999 DIRECTORY

Commander
Edward W. Marsh
[redacted]
Jones, MI 49061
[redacted]

Sr. Vice-Commander
Ronald R. Ellis
[redacted]
Henderson, TX 75652
[redacted]

Jr. Vice-Commander
Malcolm P. East
[redacted]
Lumberton, TX 77656
[redacted]

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Rick Olson
[redacted]
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[redacted]

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Bernard C. Chase
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[redacted]

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

Exec. Council Chairman
Gary L. Noller
[redacted]
Kansas City, MO 64114
[redacted]

Judge Advocate
James G. Craig
[redacted]
Longmont, CO 80503
[redacted]

Chapter Coordinator
John C. (Jay) Flanagan
[redacted]
Cranford, NJ 07016
[redacted]

Sergeant-at-Arms
Lawrence J. O'Boyle
[redacted]
R. S. Margaurita, CA 92688
[redacted]

Exec. Council Member
James C. Buckle
[redacted]
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Austin J. Roth
[redacted]
Westlake Village, CA 91362
[redacted]

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

Exec. Council Member
W. Mark Durley
[redacted]
Sonome, CA 95476
[redacted]

Exec. Council Member
Stephen N. Dennison
[redacted]
Pittsburg, PA 15227
[redacted]

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

Exec. Council Member
Les Hines
[redacted]
Des Moines, IA 50312
[redacted]

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

Exec. Council Member
James G. Craig
[redacted]
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[redacted]

Exec. Council Member
Malcolm Cate, Jr.
[redacted]
Waltham, MA 02154
[redacted]

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Rev. William T. Elliott
[redacted]
Hope, MI 48628
[redacted]

Chaplain
Rev. Perry Woerner
[redacted]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
[redacted]

Chaplain
Rev. Richard J. Shannon
[redacted]
Lemont, IL 60439

Historian
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Vietnam Historian
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Vietnam Editor
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Kansas City, MO 64114
[redacted]

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

Scholarship Chair
Ron Ward
[redacted]
St. Louis, MO 63123
[redacted]

Americal Foundation Treas
Joseph B. Chin
[redacted]
Lincoln, MA 01773
[redacted]

Headquarters
Americal Division
Veterans. Association
[redacted]
Boston, MA 02104

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

Chapter Commander
Great Lakes Region
John Mathews
[redacted]
Verona, WI 53593
[redacted]

Chapter Commander
Far West Region
Don Shebesta
[redacted]
Rio Vista, CA 94571
[redacted]

Chapter Commander
East Region
Robert L. Granoff
[redacted]
Collegeville, PA 19426
[redacted]

Chapter Commander
Central Midwest Region
Ronald L. Ward
[redacted]
St. Louis, MO 63123
[redacted]

Chapter Commander
Northwest Region
Lloyd J. Morrell
[redacted]
Redmond, OR 97756
[redacted]

Chapter Commander
Southeast Region
Bob Kapp
[redacted]
Oldsmar, FL 34677
[redacted]

Chapter Commander
New England Region
Roland T. Castronova
[redacted]
Peabody, MA 01960
[redacted]

Web Site (Internet)
www.americal.org

4/1/99

Dear Editor,

I had the honor to help Les Hines with his Americal history by transcribing documents, some copies and some originals, into electronic media. Obviously, while I was typing I was reading. And some interesting things happened.

I lived through all the stuff I was transcribing (well, not lived through it, but during it, even if I didn't know it was happening.) I suppose I even read some of it in the papers at the time (what the papers chose to publish. By the way, why didn't the national papers ever print any of the funny stuff? And there was funny stuff!)

But to read the logs with actual events, word by word, with name, rank, serial number, time of day, weather conditions: just the routine punctuated by times of fighting; having a real name, a real individual, truly brought home to me what generalized stories in the media couldn't. Sometimes while I was transcribing I got so frustrated because after some awful event the log would just stop. And I never knew what the outcome was; and I wanted to shout, "But what happened? Did they live? Did they recover the helicopter with its crew? Did he get to go home?"

With real names and real events, even after 30 years I still felt the punch. I came away with a better understanding and a deeper respect. I also experienced a lot of sadness - I didn't say pity- I mean sadness for the losses, for the everyday hardships, for the ones who came home and the ones who didn't. That's why I felt privileged for the opportunity to help, and to have been allowed to see a little into your world.

You may or may not know that during the Vietnam War I was "on the other side." Not violently, or showily, but (in that way that teen-agers and college students have of knowing everything...) in my heart I "knew" it was wrong, and, by deduction, those who fought were "wrong" - wrong, hell, they were dupes. (Not that I actually knew anyone who was fighting, mind you...)

The truth is, if I have helped the Association at all these last several years, it is you guys who have made a difference in my life. I understand things now I didn't then; I know people now I didn't then; I know FACTS now I didn't then. And I think for both sides, for anyone with strong feelings about that time, for those still struggling to understand, such an opportunity to see into the other's experiences is one of the best things that can happen - it was for me. So I thank you all.

Fran Fierson

(Editor's Note: The ADVA would like to say thanks to Fran Fierson for her volunteer work as well as her financial contributions.)

Memorials to Scholarship Fund

In memory of Steven Kronnick, USN RET. He was a friend of all veterans and the Americal. Cameron Baird & family, Jim Brown, Joseph & Eva Balcazar, Ernie & Fay Carlson.

In memory of J.G. McClintock. Mac, as he was known to just about everyone, and my father, Col. John M. Barry, deceased, were original members of the Americal and were very close friends. John M. Barry, Jr.

Americal Foundation Scholarships are awarded each year at the ADVA annual reunion. Children and grandchildren of living or deceased Americal veterans are eligible for consideration for scholarships under the rules established by the Scholarship Committee.

Donations to the scholarship fund are solicited. The major fundraising event for the scholarship fund is the annual raffle. In 1998 scholarships in the amount of $6,000 were split among three recipients. For further information contact PNC Ronald L. Ward, Scholarship Committee Chairman.

From the National Commander

Some of you may get this too late for the events in May or June but I would like to inform you of our planned activities just in case it is not too late.

The ADVA will present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery at 6:00 PM on Monday, May 31. Look for a news story and photos in the next issue of the Americal Newsletter.

The annual reunion will be held at the Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel on June 17-20. Early registrations indicate that this event will draw a large attendance. Please submit any items of new business to the National Adjutant or myself prior to the business meeting scheduled for June 19.

I plan to be at the Howard County Vietnam Veterans annual reunion in Kokomo, IN in September. This event usually draws a large number of Americal veterans. Give me a call if you would like more information.

The ADVA will also be present in Washington, D.C for Veterans Day activities. November 11 is on a Thursday this year so many visitors will probably take time and stay a few extra days. Call me for information.

Ed Marsh

Southeast Chapter
Robert Kapp, Commander
[redacted]
Oldsmar, Fl 34677-2564

On the weekend of April 16-18, the 12th Annual Florida Vietnam Veterans Reunion was held at Wickham Park in Melbourne, FL. At the same time, the Holiday Inn on Melbourne Beach was the location of LZ Oceanside. It was organized by a group of veterans organizations led by Terry Babler, Great Lakes region.

Southeast Chapter Commander Bob Kapp and I felt this would be a good time and place to hold a Chapter meeting. I sent out 100 plus e-mails and 250 plus letters to all the addresses I had at that time.

Both the 12th Reunion and LZ Oceanside were a great time. Out at Wickham Park there were veterans from all eras visiting the Moving Wall and the reunion area. Bob and I set up a hospitality tent at campsite A. With plenty of entertainment, food, merchandise vendors, and things to see and do, a great time was had by all.

The dinner/dance at LZ Oceanside on Sunday night was also a success. Terry Babler and his reunion group from the Great Lakes area did a fantastic job of putting this together. Britt Small & Festival performed. Sammy Davis and Michael J. Murphy also showed up on stage. Despite the rain on Saturday, everyone there had a great time. ADVA Commander Ed Marsh and PNC Gary Noller were in Melbourne for these events.

Jon Hansen, Vice-Commander

ADVA Financial Report

Rick Olson, National Finance Officer, reports that revenues to date are slightly exceeding expenditures. It is anticipated that the association will be a little under budget for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 1999. No increase in annual or life dues are expected to be proposed at this time.

ADVA Membership Report

Bernie Chase, National Adjutant, reports that 350 new members have signed up since July 1, 1998. The association now has about 3,500 members. The membership count says steady even though new members are added to the rolls. Deaths and non-payment of dues reduce the membership rolls to balance new members.

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

NATIONAL CONVENTION
JUNE 17-18-19-29, 1999
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
MEETING TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

SEPTEMBER 11, 1999
AMERICAL MUSEUM
WORCESTER, MA
10:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 4, 1999
AMERICAL MUSEUM
WORCESTER, MA
10:00 A.M.

JUNE 25,26,27,28,1998
NATIONAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

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TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS

57 ENGINEERS

Charles Allen
Star Lake, NY
January 29, 1999

39 MP PLATOON

Sidney Borgia
New Rochelle, NY
January 25, 1999

182 INFANTRY

Dennis Botelho
Fall River, MA
April 12, 1999

132 INFANTRY K CO.

Harry G. Bryla
Elmwood Park, IL
March 29, 1999

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

James F. Burns
Tewksbury, MA
March 4, 1999

182 INFANTRY M CO.

Maurice F. Cavanaugh
Somerville, MA
June 25, 1998

101 QUARTERMASTER

George E. Connors
Weymouth, MA
Date Unknown

121 MEDICAL BN.

William J. Crowley
Mashpee, MA
March 28, 1999

164 INFANTRY K CO.

Loran R. Hardgrave
French Village, MO
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY F CO.

Gerard Harris
Wilmington, MA
April 3, 1999

198 LIB C/1/52 INF

John R. Harrison
Junction City, KS
December 22, 1998

132 INFANTRY G CO.

Michael Hoyducho
Lakehurst, NJ
Date Unknown

121 MEDICAL BN C CO

Clarence O. Klang
Chicago, IL
February 1, 1999

132 INFANTRY 3/HQ

Walter W. Krause
Chicago, IL
Date Unknown

****

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

26 SIGNAL 6814

Douglas N. Leaman
Plymouth, MA
May 2, 1999

101 MED & 121 MED

Joseph G. McClintock
Methuen, MA
March 12, 1999

121 MEDICAL BN B CO

Charles Mikaelian
Cranston, RI
March 17, 1999

26 SIGNAL CO.

Harry T. Miller
Stoneham, MA
April 19, 1999

182 INFANTRY G CO.

Elmer E. Mitchell
Wayland, MA
January 14, 1999

26 SIGNAL CO.

Walter P. Morse
Wellesley, MA
April 3, 1999

182 IFANTRY F CO.

Thomas O'Reilly
Waltham, MA
February 22, 1999

97 F.A. (PACK)

John N. Parsons
Fitchburg, MA
November 12, 1998

723 MAINT CO.

James W. Roby
Woodville, TX
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY B CO.

David Rogers
Dighton, MA
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY F CO.

Henry Satenstein
Wayland, MA
February 19, 1999

132 INFANTRY CO. F

Gordon L. Silseth
Minneapolis, MN
April 18, 1999

198 LIB 265 MP Plt

Brent M. Smith
Ogden, UT
February 27, 1999

182 INFANTRY A CO.

Robert M. Thurston
Carver, MA
March 30, 1999

182 INFANTRY E CO.

George Vieto
Metairie, LA
December 26, 1998

180 FA 21 REC 26 S

Wendall S. Whitmore
Havre De Grace, MD
Date Unknown

AMERICAL FINANCE OFF

Richard L. Woods
Bellevue, WA
November 22, 1998

MAY THEY
REST
IN PEACE

****

CONVALESCING

101 Med

Henry A. Doherty
[redacted]
Needham, MA 02192

132 Infantry

Robert C. Muehrcke M.D.
[redacted]
Waterloo, WI 53594-9106

221 FA B Btry + Hdq

Robert E. Galpin
Arizona State Vets Home
Phoenix, AZ 85012-1832

How About A Card
GUYS?

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Marc D. Adams
196 LIB HHC/1/6 Inf
So. Minneapolis, MN
#Don Ballou

Mr. Gordon A. Beal
23 Div Arty HHB
China Spring, TX
#Lynn 'Doc' Hart

Mr. Donald E. Boito
82 Arty HHB 4/31 In
Akron, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Robert Brink
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
Sacremento, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bruce M. Butler
196 LIB Hq Div Arty
Lena, WI
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Alvin D. Carlson
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
Langdon, ND
Marlin Egeland

Mr. Grant Coble
1 Cav C/1/1
Kalamazoo, MI
#Lynn "Doc" Hart

Mr. Eddie W. Cosner
523 Sig Bn C Co.
Mt. Storm, WV
#Richard O. Lyons

Mr. David L. Craig
523 Signal
Parachute, CO
#Don Ballou

Mr. James W. Eden
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf
Calvert City, KY
#R. Gordon Williams

Mr. Theodore V. Esquivel
123 S+T B Co.
San Antonio, TX
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Leonard W. Frye
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Richland Center, WI
#Earl 'Bud' Carlson

Mr. Nolan Hargrave
16 Arty A/3/16
Littleton, CO
#Don Ballou

Mr. James P. Heneghan
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf
Margate, FL
#Ed Marsh

Col Wayne R. Johnson
6 Inf B/C/E/Hq/Reco
Falls Church, VA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Wilfredo Y. Ascencio
198 LIB B/1/6 Inf
Abilene, TX
#Don Ballou

Mr. William J. Blomgren
527 Sig Bn
Chandler, AZ
#Don Ballou

Mr. James L. Bowerman
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf
Lake Odessa, MI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Larry L. Brown
16 Arty HHB+Ser
Tyler, TX
#Don Ballou

MSG Fred Cagle
723 Main B Co.
Orland Park, IL
#Col. William Ridgely

Mr. Paul J. Chappell
57 Engineers B Co.
Stewarts Point, CA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Jimmy Cosby
196 LIB Recon
Jessieville, AR
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Don S. Counter
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Hoover, AL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Edward T. Damron
1 Cav D/1/1
Franklin, OH
#Terry Babler

Mr. Harold E. Erickson
132 Infantry G Co.
Salt Lake City, UT
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Craig Fletcher
196 LIB B/4/21 Inf
Ruston, WA
#Jon Hansen

B.G. Robert F. Griffin
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
Fort Gordon, GA
#Nock Bacon

Mr. Clinton L. Harmon
182 Infantry Hq/2
Tulsa, OK
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Jesse D. Herrera
123 Avn Aero Scout
Tomah, WI
#John E. Geib

Mr. John E. Kerner
33 Infantry HQ&HHC
Mt. Holly, NJ
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. J. Larry Kinyan
23 Admin C Co Div A
Victorville, CA
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Rudy Frank Lopez
198 LIB HHC 1/6 Inf
San Dimas, CA
#Marc L. Deam

Mr. Gary L. Marshall
198 LIB D/1/14 Arty
Shelton, WA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. James I. McMahan
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Portland, OR
#R. Castronova

Mr. Bill Mitchell
Associate
St. Robert, MO
#Don Ballou

Mr. Raymond C. Myers
11 LIB 6/11 Arty
Raliegh, NC
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert W. Phelps
31 Inf HHC/1/31
Sidney, NY
#Don Ballou

Mr. James F. Popp
108 QM B Co.
Chicago, IL
#Toby Wienshenker

Mr. Joseph Richards
182 Infantry K Co.
South Portland, ME
#Don Ballou

Mr. David R. Roberts
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Evans City, PA
#John R. McNown

Mr. Charles A. Rosser
11 LIB HHC 1/20 Inf
Highlands, TX
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Jeffrey C. Shauck
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Double Oak, TX
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Ronald R. Trueblood
198 LIB HHC/1/6 Inf
Lafayette, IN
#Don Ballou

Mr. George Vasilesco
132 Infantry G Co.
South Houston, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. James Walden
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Athens, TN
#Donald V. Johnson

Mr. Jerome R. Wiese
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf
Loda, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. James R. Liedahl
132 Infantry K Co.
Moorhead, MN
#Roco A. Solto

Mr. Michael A. Machon
198 LIB A/1/14 Arty
Warwick, RI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Patrick R. McCann
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf
Akron, NY
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Johnnie C. Mims
23 Infantry HHC
Ridge Spring, SC
#James E. Ellis

Mr. Richard P. Mosher
196 LIB 8 Sup-17 Ar
Gurnee, IL
#R. Castronova

Mr. Harry T. Nahigian
164 Inf Cannon Co.
Cranston, RI
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. C. Nicholas Picek
23 Div Arty HQ Btry
Norman, OK
#Davis A. Pearl

Mr. Dennis Ray
23 STT A Co.
Delta, CO
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John P. Riddle
3 Infantry A/1/3
Houston, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Scott L. Robinson
11 LIB 1 Inf
Midvale, UT
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Thomas P. Russell
198 LIB 17 Arm Cav
St. Paul, MN
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Chris G. Thorpe
11 LIB HHC
Gobles, MI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Thomas A. Turner
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf
Mooresville, NC
#Paul Hennes

Mr. Michael D. Wagner
11 LIB D/4/21 Inf
Waterloo, IA
#Don Ballou

Mr. John D. Walters
17 Cav M Tr 1 Plt
Perkasie, PA
#Don Ballou

#SPONSOR

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. James J. Hanley
Air Cav D Troop
Citrus Heights, CA
R. Castronova

Mr. James J. Hendricks J
198 LIB
Baltimore, MD
Self

Mr. Robert D. Hull
42 Arty A/5/42
Grant City, MO
R. Castronova

Mr. Dennis O'Connor
52 Infantry D/1/52
Cincinnati, OH
Bob Urban

Mr. Donald E. Smith
196 LIB 52 Inf C Re
Bangor, ME
Jim Buckle & Pete

Mr. Gary W. Warner
8 Cav Troop F
Limestone, ME
#Don Ballou

****

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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

Mr. Rudy Frank Lopez
198 LIB HHC 1/6 Inf
San Dimas, CA
#Marc L. Deam

Mr. William (Bill) Norri
1 Infantry C/3/1
Advance, NC
#Don Ballou

Mr. Ralph W. Persinger
182 Infantry D Co.
New Port Richey, FL
#Bernie Chase

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

****

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ernest B. Carlson

Al E. Glass

Richard Vander Molen

****

COMPANY D - 132nd INFANTRY
(Gene Clay)

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 we people bonded together during those war years and remain meshed 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 fourteen of fifteen 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 past 20 years of 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!

Lewis Cooper

****

1917 SIDNEY BORGIA 1999

Sid Borgia was sent to the Americal Division in New Caledonia and then on to Guadalcanal, Fiji Islands, Bougainville, Leyte, and finally Cebu. Sid served three and one half years (3 1/2) overseas during World War II.

Sid was always a basketball official at the Madison Square Boys Club in New York, and returned to referee in the National Basketball Association after the war. He was one of the most colorful referees in NBA history - both hated and loved, but respected by all.

He picked up baseball umpiring in the service. The Americal Division had a great softball team that beat Army, Navy and Marine teams. Sid was the umpire. When he got out of the service in 1945 he started umpiring in the Pony League, Class D. He worked his way up to the International League Class AA.

Winters, he would referee in the NBA and summers he would umpire baseball in the old New England League.

A great lover of sports and kids, many times we would speak at local sports nights throughout the area for various charities for children.

Sid passed away on January 25, 1999. He will be missed.

His friend,
Ralph Antonelli

****

HARRY T. MILLER

It is with deep regret that I now inform that Harry T. Miller died on April 19, 1999. His death was sudden and he suffered no apparent pain. He was eighty nine (89) years old.

Harry was a patriot and it is fitting that he died on Patriots Day.

He was my father and I know how much his military career meant to him. In starting to clear out his desk I have found many records having to do with his career, his military friend and his Americal Division involvement.

I found the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER (JAN-FEB-MAR 99) on top of his desk. It is interesting that his picture appeared on Page 18.

Sincerely,
Paul A. Miller

****

CHARLES MIKAELIAN

This to advise you that my husband, Charles Mikaelian died on March 17, 1999.

He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage March 11th, went into a coma, and died six days later. He was seventy five (75) years old on February 15, 1999.

He was proud to be a member of the 121st Medical Battalion, Company B, and having served in the South Pacific with the Americal Division.

He was buried with Military Honors.

Sincerely,
Margaret Mikaelian

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
Robert L. Granoff
[redacted]
Collegeville, PA 19426
Phone [redacted]

SECRETARY
Joe Tunis
[redacted]
Lake Ariel, PA 18436

TREASURER
Al Barbieri - [redacted] - Woodbury, NJ 08096
George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

1999 CHAPTER REUNION
September 21-22-23-24, 1999
Corning, New York

Because of the success and approval of last years mid-week Reunion we will again reunite mid-week. Arrangements are finalized for the Chapter to gather in the Finger Lakes Region of New York.

Known for world class wineries, our itinerary includes a wine tasting tour of one of the thirty two (32) wineries in the area. Also included is a tour of the Warplane Museum and a luncheon cruise on scenic Lake Seneca.

A short ride to downtown Corning's Historic Market Street will provide time to shop and tour the Corning Glass Center to discover the art, science and history of glass. Not to be missed--the New Hot Glass Show.

Located in the Romanesque revival style brick building which once served as Corning's city hall, fire station and jail is the Rockwell Museum with collections of western paintings and sculptures, American Indian artifacts, antique firearms, Carden Stueben Glass and antique toys.

The next mailing for members to make reservations will be sent out in early June.

A bus will provide all transportation from the hotel to all the activities and back.

This Reunion site was selected for having a variety of interests and every taste--be it sweet or dry, red, white, or blush.

CHEERS,
Joe Tunis

****

****

NORTHWEST CHAPTER
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

Lloyd J. Morrell
[redacted]
Redmond, OR 97756
Tel. [redacted]

David Hammond
[redacted]
Beaverton, WA 97005
Tel. [redacted]

It is with real mixed emotions that after more than twenty five (25) years as Chapter Commander I am tendering my resignation as the Northwest Chapter Commander, to take effect at the time of the National Convention in St. Louis in June. I recommend that Dave Hammond. Vice Commander, be considered for the post of Chapter Commander. I think Dave will do a good job for the organization. Maybe he can be sworn in at the National Convention. I know he will be in attendance.

Thank you for your past friendship and considerations and feel free to call on me if I can be of assistance in any way. I intend to remain active in the ADVA in whatever capacity requested.

Yours in comradeship,
Lloyd Morrell
Chapter Commander

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

Chapter Commander
Don Shebesta
[redacted]
Rio Vista, CA 94571
Tel [redacted]

Sec/Treas
Paris Tognoli
[redacted]
Isleton, CA 95641
Tel [redacted]

Vice Commander: Victor Lopez
Sergeant-at-Arms: Howard Walker
Chaplain: John Bowley

FAR WEST CHAPTER REUNION
October 17 - 18 - 19 - 20, 1999
Gold Coast Casino/Hotel
[redacted]
Los Vegas, Nevada

Rate for a standard room, Sunday through Thursday is $42.00 plus 9% room tax. Guest parking is free and valet parking is offered. There is a heated swimming pool, five restaurants, room service barber shop, beauty salon, ice cream parlor, twin movie theaters, large dance hall, two show lounges, and a seventy two lane bowling alley. The hotel offers FREE shuttle service to the Orleans Casino/Hotel and the Barbary Coast Casino on the STRIP.

The Reunion is being held Sunday thru Wednesday in order to take advantage of more favorable rates, both room rates and airfare.

For full information brochures and registration forms contact:

Don Shebesta
Chapter Commander
[redacted]
Rio Vista, CA 94571
[redacted]

Larry O'Boyle
Chair Reunion Comm
[redacted]

The Far West Chapter would like to extend an invitation to ADVA members residing in the seven states of the Far West Chapter to join our Chapter. Please give me a call or drop me a line.

AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL ADVA MEMBERS.

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HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

Each individual Chapter is self supporting and holds meetingS in there given area. Chapters hold Reunions in theIR area usually once a year. The Reunion is sometimes held in an historic area. For instance, last year the Eastern Region Chapter held their Reunion in historic Harpers Ferry. This year they are holding their reunion in the scenic Finger Lakes region of New York state. Last year The Far West Chapter went mining for gold in Los Vegas and they must have been successful for they are returning there this year.

Looking For: W.O. Michael Curtis, **D Troop, 1\1 Cav & 123rd Aviation BN**. 1970-1971. Contact: Gary Owen Faas, [redacted] Albuquerque, NM, 87106, [redacted]

Looking For: Members **D/1/6, 198 LIB**, Mar 70 - Jul 70. Contact: Lynn D. Baker [redacted] Tucson, AZ 85713

Looking For: Cpl. Andrew Elias, **21st Recon** Troop on Bougainville 1944-45, and Leyte & Cebu Islands 1945. Contact: Edwin O. Booth, [redacted] Scottsdale, AZ 85259, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. 198th LIB**, Nov 68 - Jul 69. Contact: William Oberle [redacted], Phoenix, AZ 85029

Looking For: Albert Gower, Roger Schibani, Terry MacArthur; **B Co, 5/46th**. Contact: Jim Baumgartner [redacted] Binghamton, NY 13901

Looking For: Anyone, **D/5/46, 198 LIB**, 1/71-6/71 or **71st AHC "Firebirds/Rattlers"** 5/71-9/71, or 101st Airborne Echo 2/327 Hawk Recon/Sniper, 9/71-1/72. Contact: James Malone [redacted], Goodspring, TN, 38460, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone - **1/1 Cav**. We have a Association started. Contact: Terry Babler, President, [redacted], New Glarus, WI, 53574, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone- **MPs** who served with me at LZ Ross, **2/1/196th Inf** in 69. Contact: Edward C. Costello, [redacted] Afton, NY, 13730

Looking For: Anybody, **HHQ. CO, 11th LIB**, Motor Pool, 10/9/68 to 1/9/69. Contact: Bill Seaholm, [redacted] Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Looking For: Anyone, **A Btry, 1/14 Arty**, 70-71. Contact: David Lovins, [redacted] Dwarf, Kentucky 41739

Looking For: Tullos, Robert T., E Co. **1/46 Recon, 198 LIB**, 14-May-69 or anyone from the unit. Contact: Gonzales, John SSG {Ret}, [redacted], PA 18350, [redacted]

Looking For: Robert J.(Bobby) Foreman, **3/1, 11LIB**, 1969-1970. Contact: James R. Wood, [redacted], Fairbanks, AK, 99712, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone who served with Sgt. Thomas J. Ridge, **Co.B, 1/20th Inf.**, 69-70. Contact: Ken Dilanian, [redacted] State Capitol, [redacted] Harrisburg, PA, 17108

Looking For: George Shur (Dutch) or A. Shepard, **A/4/31/196th**, 67-68. Contact: Bill Hankins [redacted] Tucker, AR 72618

Looking For: Roger "Pete" Peterson, **182nd Rgt., Service Co**., Cebu, 1945, & Sgt. Major Jack London, 182nd Regt. HQ, 1945, Japan. Contact: Don Shebesta, [redacted] Rio Vista, CA, 94571, [redacted]

Looking For: Eugene Paschal, Gerald Wilson, William Spencer, Frank Wells, and anyone, **Btry. A, 1/14th Arty**., 66-69. Contact: David J. [redacted] Boise, ID 83706

Looking For: Anyone, **Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB**, 11/69-2/70, who knows about KIA first name Frank, Mexican from around San Diego, last name unknown. Contact: Carlos Rivera, [redacted], CA, 91786, [redacted]

Looking For: Mike Aspermonti, Security Platoon, **HQ, 196 LIB** at Tam Ky. Contact: Jack Bell, [redacted], Buffalo,TX 75831, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **HHC, TFO**, 1967. Jerry {Uncle Joe} Ladd , [redacted], San Pablo, CA 94806, [redacted]

Looking For: Troy Blevins, **D Btry, 1/14 Arty, 198th LIB**, 68. Contact: Gary Marshall, [redacted] Shelton, WA, 98584, [redacted]

Looking For: Danny Holder, **H Trp, 17th Cav**, 69. Contact: Jim Carr, [redacted] Visalia, CA, 93278-4315

Looking For: Anyone, **D Co., 3./21st., & B Btry, 3/82nd FDC**, 1969. Scott LaGreca, [redacted] Fountain Hills, AZ. 85268

Looking For: Anyone, **1/14th Arty, HHB**, 11/69-12/70. Contact: Jerry Gordon, [redacted] Riverside, OH, 45431 [redacted]

Looking For: Woody Moss, Larry Fella, Buzz Gabbert or Anyone, **C or D Co., 2/1 196 LIB**, Kahm Duc, 5/68. Contact: Bill {Doc} Tidwell, [redacted], Everett, WA, 98203, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **E Co, 3/1, 11th LIB**, 7/68-7/69. Contact: Terry Sula, [redacted], Arlington Hts, IL 60004, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **A Co., 1/20 Inf, 11th LIB**, 69-71. Contact: Eugene Gainey, [redacted] APO AE 09031, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, Aeroscout Co., Warlords, **B/123 Aviation Battalion**. Contact: Robert Cook, [redacted], Valrico, FL 33594-6424, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **1/46th Inf**., from the ship until July 68. Contact: Patrick Dougherty, [redacted], Collingdale PA, 19023

Looking For: Anyone, **164th Inf.** on Guadalcanal, 43-45. My dad was Irwin "Don" Brenna. Contact: Douglas S. Brenna, [redacted] Kirkland, WA, 98034, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone that knew my father, T/Sgt.Raymond D.Robinson, **Guadalcanal**, wounded on Bougainville. Contact: Michael Robinson, [redacted] Lenoir, NC 28645, [redacted]

Looking For: John Sell, **11th LIB, D Co., 3/1st Inf.**, 10/68-10/69. Contact: Robert Murphy, [redacted], Ponchatoula, LA. 70454

Looking For: Dennis Metcalf, **75th Rangers**, 70-71. Contact: Bill Mountin, [redacted], Pepin, WI, 54759, [redacted]

Looking For: Lyle Metcalf & Dale Rogers, **17th. Cav. H Trp**., 8/70-4/71. Contact: Chuck Furan/Lee Patzner, [redacted] Jamestown, ND, 58401 [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **B, 1/46th, 198th LIB**, 2/68-6/68. Would like to hear from W.L. Wolfe, Sgt. J. McMahon, Cap. John F. Mills, Doc Thompson, Bowalski, Sgt. Jones. Contact: Richard D. Vaughn, [redacted] Fulton, MO 65251, [redacted]

Looking For: David Lambert, **A Co., 3/1, 11th LIB**, 1969. Contact: Sam Rice, [redacted] Toulon, IL 61483

Looking For: Anyone, **A Btry., 11th Arty**, 67-68. Contact: Michael Miller, Pamela Porter, [redacted], Elwood, IN, 46036, [redacted]

Looking For: Glenn Cronin, Richard Young, or Anyone, **3/1, B Co**. 2nd Plt., 10/68 - 11/69. Contact: Jerry {Dink} Dinkel, [redacted] Great Bend, KS 67530, [redacted]

Looking For: R H May or anyone who served with **182nd, Co A** in the Philippines. Contact: Rolla E Martin, [redacted] Drive, Troy, MO 63379, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, **Trp. C., 1/1 Cav.**, 3/68-2/69. Contact: Roy J. Ames, [redacted] Russellville, AR. 72801

Looking For: Anyone, **Co. B, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB**, 11/68-1069. Contact: Larry C. Olsen, [redacted] Jasper, OR, 97438, [redacted]

Looking For: Bobby Foreman, **Co. C, 3rd Bn, 11th LIB,** 1970. Contact: James R. Wood , [redacted] Fairbanks, AK, 99712, [redacted]

www.americal.org/locator/

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the **Americal Newsletter**, and the last article entitled "198th LIB Starts Training". A Second Lieutenant by the name of Fernando Blanco was mentioned.

I served 7 1/2 months (2/68 to 9/68) in C/1/6th, 198th, carrying a PRC-25. I was asked if I had any interest in working in the Brigade TOC for the rest of my tour, which I think you probably know what my answer was. There was a captain by the name of Blanco that I worked for. I'm guessing that this is the same man mentioned in the article. About all I remember about him is that he was kind of short, was a very nice man, and was from Cuba. Do you have any record of where he is now?

Do you have any way of knowing if these two are the same person? The article was submitted by Michael Gardner. Thanks.

Mark Deam, [redacted]., Sidney, OH 45365[redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Dear Mrs. Ginn:

My name is Norman Boxley. I am an attorney in Pasadena, California. From January 1969 to July 1969 I served as First Platoon Leader, Executive Officer and Company Commander of A Company 1/6 198th LIB Americal Division, your father's unit. Before serving in the Americal I had already served 5 months in the 5th Mechanized Division on the DMZ. In February 1969 Gerry O'Connor was my medic. He and I see each other occasionally still, although never often enough, and have been friends since our service in Viet Nam.

I read your letter in the **Americal Newsletter** (JAN-FEB-MAR 1999) and it brought tears to my eyes. There are so many memories that lie hidden until I see or hear something that suddenly brings back the event and emotions in full as if I it was yesterday.

We held a memorial service for your father and the other Scorpions killed that day. It was on top of Hill 54, a service with military honors. We all cared for each other and the loss of one of ours was, and still is, very painful.

I cannot say I knew your father well, I was new in the company when the Scorpions were hit, but I was party to many conversations between "the troops" as well the officers. All spoke of your father with great respect and affection.

Think of it. The oldest among us was under 30 - that was the Company Commander, John Pleese. I was 22, O'Connor was 19 or 20 and the vast majority of the soldiers were in their late teens or early 20s. Your father was in the position he was in with the Scorpions because he had shown great skill and talent in leading men and in finding his way safely in dangerous surroundings. \

Those of us who fought and survived saw many like your father. He and we did not fight for the freedom of Viet Nam, nor Democracy nor any ethereal philosophical ideal, we fought for each other and survival. I believe all wars are like that, the soldiers fight for each other while politicians and senior officers deal with strategy and policy. We protected each other and tried to help each other survive and mourned when we lost friends. The pain, dulled by the passing years, remains today, submerged but not forgotten.

I thank you for writing to the Americal Newsletter and permitting me to once more visit those feelings. I hope you and yours are well.

Norman F. Boxley

Dear Editor,

I am looking for veterans who served with my father in the 2/1st infantry. He was 1st Lt. Wright. His unit was responsible for search and clear operation east of Tien Phuoc when the unit came under heavy fire from NVA. He was wounded while assisting in the evacuation of fellow comrades.
Write to [redacted], Jefferson City, MO 65109-8810
Garret Kremer-Wright

Dear Veterans of the Americal Division:

I am writing a book about the campaign for Leyte during World War II. The book will essentially be an oral history of the fighting on Leyte, told by the men who struggled there. Obviously, such a book must include the experiences of members of the Americal Division, who slogged through, and fought in, the jungles and mountains of Leyte for weeks. This letter is then a request for recollections from vets of the Leyte campaign an d my explanation for writing the book.

Often in histories of the war Leyte is framed in the context of MacArthur's return to the Philippines, or as a backdrop to the Battle of Leyte Gulf, or even as a prelude to the assault on Luzon. The campaign is seldom focused on in its own rights. Even Stanley Falk's fine book Decision at Leyte, pays equal attention to the naval and air engagements. Yet, the Japanese Army High Command viewed the Battle for Leyte as their decisive battle, where the Americans would have to be stopped if the war was to be won. The enemy forces committed to Leyte were the cream of Yamashita's forces. For the Japanese the gamble was all on Leyte.

Despite the toil and blood of units like the Americal, the full extent of the fighting for Leyte seems mired historians' thoughts as a mere prelude to Luzon. The deeds of the Americal Division and the units that fought alongside them, deserve better than to remain the opening chapters on a book about retaking the Philippines - they deserve their own book.

So if you would like to contribute your story to this history of the fight for Leyte you can contact me in any of the following methods; mail your information to [redacted], Kingwood, TX 77345, or call me at [redacted] (I will be glad to call you on my dime and record your recollections.) I also have an e-mail address; [redacted]

Tracy Derks,

Dear Editor:

Please make a correction to the information in the last edition of the Americal Newsletter about upcoming reunions. The unit and contact should read as follows: **HHC, 4/3rd Infantry, 1969-1970**. Write to [redacted] New Hartford, CT 06057-0075, or call [redacted]

Herbert H. Case.

Dear Editor,

For many years I have been trying to find out what happened to the men in my platoon after I left Vietnam in March, 1970. I was with the **Recon, Co. E, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB**, working off of San Juan Hill. We normally worked in seven man "tiger" teams on special operations and short range recon patrol.

I have heard that the platoon was ambushed and wiped out in heavy action in May, 1970. I trained these men and it is hard for me to believe that anything bad happened to them. Any information on them would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to know what happened to Percy Richardson, Sgt. Ural Slater, Danny Ochoa, and Danny Soto. Write to me at [redacted] Shirley, NY, 11967-4231 or call [redacted].

Kurt W. Johnson

Letters to the editor should be received by the first day of the second month of the quarter for inclusion in the newsletter for that quarter. Please include your name and mailing address with your letter.

Twelve Men Missing

By Rick Olson

This story is about a combat event that happened in May, 1969 in the area around the fire support base named LZ Professional. It is a reconstruction of events from declassified official records as well as the personal recollections of veterans from Americal units who were involved.

Sources include Americal Division after-action reports, 1/46 Inf. daily staff journals, the Operation Lamar Plain after-action report filed by the 101st Airborne Division, Medal of Honor documentation, and an August 1993 Vietnam Magazine article titled "Recon Zone Alpha" written by John Hayes.

US Infantry Battalion under Siege

On May 12, 1969, the North Vietnam Army (NVA) began a major offensive throughout the Americal Division area of operations at LZ's Baldy, Center, and Professional. One of the most intense attacks occurred in the "free-fire zone" around LZ Professional patrolled by the 1/46 Infantry. The attack on LZ Professional escalated into a Tactical Emergency (TAC-E.) on May 15, 1969 when a full airmobile brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was dispatched into the area.

The 101st Airborne's, 1st Brigade brought a force of two infantry battalions, the 2nd Squadron/17th Air Cav, teams of OH-6A "Loaches" armed with 7.65 mm miniguns, AH-1G Cobras (aerial rocket artillery), a 105mm Artillery battery, a company of UH-1 Hueys, and a section of CH-47 Chinooks and a team of Air Force forward controllers.

The 1/46 Inf. battalion was placed under the operational control (OPCON) of the 101st brigade, which was in-turn OPCON to the Americal Division. May 15 became the start of a joint Americal/101st Airborne effort named Operation Lamar Plain that continued until mid-August 1969.

From May 12 to the conclusion of Operation Lamar Plain, US casualties counted to 125 US KIA, 460 US WIA, and 1 US MIA. Most of these counts were sustained in intense combat during the month of May.

The Americal units directly affected were the 1/46th Infantry companies and C Battery, 1st/14th Arty, which maintained 105mm artillery atop LZ Professional. The 101st Airborne Division units directly affected were the infantry companies of two battalions, the 1st/501st Inf. and 2nd/501 Inf., and a helicopter assault unit, B Co., 2nd Squadron/17th Air Cavalry.

A massive show of NVA firepower and endurance

On a moonless night, at 0220 hours on May 12, 1969, LZ Professional, defended by Co. D, 1/46 Inf. and Btry. C, 1/14 Arty, was surprise attacked by a NVA sapper unit from the V-16 NVA Sapper Battalion. On the morning after the attack the remains of twenty NVA sappers killed in action were left stranded in the perimeter line barbed wire.

The LZ received a continuous barrage of incoming mortar rounds and rocket fire from a recoilless on the adjacent hill 497. The intense incoming fire prevented carcasses of the dead NVA from being removed from the LZ's perimeter wire. They were left to rot in the hot sun leaving a horrible smell and sight.

As the day wore on, conditions on LZ Professional had become severe. Any medical evacuation required significant air support to temporarily dowse incoming fire. Defense of the LZ required constant day and night air support, including the awesome firepower of AC-47 "Spooky " fixed wing gunships circling the hill.

The NVA also set up a substantial battery in the area immediately surrounding the LZ. An estimated 15 to 20 anti-aircraft (12.7mm) positions which were strategically placed where two or more guns could fire simultaneously against aircraft. For several days, anything airborne near the LZ would face a virtual continuous wall of salvos. As an aircraft flew over the area it would be fired at from one or more NVA guns… and when it would move out of range of one NVA gun …another would begin firing from an adjoining position…and so on.

NVA anti-aircraft firepower was so effective that in the period of just a few days, it disabled most of the B, 2/17 Air Cav unit. On one day, the damage to B, 2/17 aircraft was so severe that only one helicopter of out of 28 aircraft was reported in flying condition. (For more information about 101st Airborne aircraft damage, refer to the "Recon Zone Alpha" article mentioned above.)

Overwhelming odds for A Co. 1st/46th Inf.

At the same time that LZ Professional was under heavy fire, NVA units from the 3rd Regiment, 2nd NVA Division stunned outnumbered 1/46th Infantry line companies fighting near the firebase. A severe attack began at 0810 hours on May 13, 1969 when the 3rd Battalion of the 3rd NVA Regiment (estimated to be 250 to 300 men) engaged Co. A, 1/46th Inf. and the attached E. Co. Recon platoon, a total US force of 91 men. The battle continued for 35 hours.

On May 13, Co. A, under the command of Captain Kern T. Dunagan, was attempting to clear a high ground area immediately north of LZ Professional when the NVA engaged. During the day, Co. A took intense fire. It was able to medevac out wounded around noon.

By 1645 hours an emergency re-supply helicopter landed in the perimeter. Its assistant pilot was shot in the head and later declared KIA. At the same time, Dunagan was knocked flat on his back and seriously wounded with a mortar fragment in the jaw.

Under this attack, Dunagan was forced to pull his men into a defensive position for the night. He assured that all dead and wounded were inside of the perimeter. For the rest of that day and night, any further medical evacuations for Co. A became impossible to accomplish.

On May 14, at 0530 hours, an AC-47 "Spooky" was diverted from the defense of LZ Professional to support Co. A. It enabled a medevac mission to evacuate 1 US KIA and 13 US WIA. Dunagan's company was in still in serious trouble and faced great danger. The enemy was reported to have behaved as if losses were unimportant. The NVA had moved in so close in proximity to Co. A that their ability to fire at the enemy was severely restricted in order to avoid hitting comrades.

Dunagan had correctly sensed that Co. A was being attacked by a major NVA force. He realized that he must again link up with the Echo Recon platoon which had been separated from his company. He personally began walking point for the company, which was highly unusual for a company commander. He established the link-up with the recon platoon by 0930 hours.

Cpt. Dunagan was wounded for a second time by AK 47 fire while he dragged a disabled soldier to safety. Despite his jaw wound, Dunagan was able to speak clearly enough to keep calling in air strikes. The strikes delivered napalm and 500 pound bombs on enemy positions.

Co. C attempts a futile link-up with Co. A

At 1105 hours, Co. C, 1/46 Infantry was ordered to force march to the aid of Co. A and to link-up by 1500 hours. Co. C encountered intense mortar and automatic weapons fire and took numerous casualties. At one point a platoon of Co. C got to within 20-50 meters of Co. A, but could reach no further.

Dunagan tried to move his men closer to Co. C, but the first two men were cut down in the middle of a stream bed. The blood of the fallen men turned the flowing water red for fifty meters and was clearly visible to pilots of aircraft overhead. Dunagan made still another attempt to link-up with Co. C. Another enemy position opened up and his five lead men were quickly killed.

Realizing the futility of the attempted link-up, Dunagan dropped his pack and ordered his men to crawl back into the stream bed. At 1630 hours he realized that he had left the classified cipher gun to the KY-38 secure radio set in his discarded pack.

Dunagan instantly recognized that the entire US Army radio security could have been compromised by the loss of this equipment. Despite his wounds and without hesitation he crawled back out into an open area under intense hostile fire and recovered the cipher gun.

His company's casualties had risen to about one half of its men. The NVA continued an intense attack of mortar rounds and grenades. Co. A had to get out of its indefensible position by nightfall or risk loss of the entire unit.

At 1715 hours, Dunagan, through the Battalion Commander, LTC Underhill, made a desperate decision. He decided to utilize a smoke screen to enable his men to make a break across open rice paddies for Co. C's. position 300 meters away.

Because of the intense attack that had been going on against LZ Professional, supporting artillery did not have enough HC smoke rounds on hand. It was necessary to use highly dangerous white phosphorous rounds to build up and maintain a sufficient screen.

The escape under smoke

Dunagan moved throughout his position and readied men to lighten loads and destroy any useful property. He demanded that no wounded be left behind. He gave directions and organized the men in groups around a man with a compass.

All of Co. C's machine guns were given targets off the flanks of Co. A's route of withdrawal. Gunships were directed to fire over the heads of the withdrawing company as the artillery smoke screen was laid.

It was immediately apparent there were not enough uninjured men left to carry both the wounded and the dead. Dunagan and LTC Underhill made the agonizing decision that the dead must be left.

After assuring all wounded men were assigned a carrying party and the smoke had been built up to sufficient density, Dunagan led his company out across the open rice paddy to the position of Co. C. The NVA sensed that Co. A was getting away and directed fire out across the open field. However, the smoke suppressed the effectiveness of enemy fire.

After almost all of the men were accounted for, it was discovered that a six man carrying party led by 1LT Tamantha (the FO) had been hit by a 155mm white phosphorous round. Upon learning of the situation, Dunagan, with complete disregard for his own life, ran back out into the rice paddy to assist in their recovery.

Captain Kern T. Dunagan

Co. A, 1/46th Infantry

Medal of Honor

May, 1969

Dunagan found a badly wounded Sgt. Robert Tullos, a squad leader in the recon platoon, with a missing foot. He shoulder-carried Tullos back to safety, being forced to stop and rest along the way due to his own painful wounds. Upon returning with Tullos, Dunagan started to return to the rice paddy to bring back yet another missing man. He was stopped at the perimeter's edge when it was determined the man had already been recovered.

At 1815 hours, medevac missions began. The last medevac was completed by 1845 hours. The Commanding Officer of Co. C, Lt. Walter Brownlee, had to force Dunagan to get on the last medevac chopper. Still in the bush were twelve men missing in action but all presumed dead

The Battalion Commander, LTC Underhill, had to order Dunagan to the hospital for medical treatment as Dunagan did not want to leave his troops. It was later determined that Dunagan's jaw wound caused him to lose two teeth and numbed his face. His arm had bone splinters numbing his fingers and he had a hairline fracture of one of his ankles.

By the end of May 14, the field strength of the Co. A and the E-recon team had declined to a count of 47 men. On the next day, May 15, the Americal Division declared a Tactical Emergency.

Award of the Medal of Honor

Some fourteen months later, a memorandum was written documenting bits and pieces of information outlining the circumstances of what had happened with Dunagan's unit. On July 20, 1970, a letter was sent to the HQ, US Army, Pacific, from Lt. Gen. William P. Yarborough, Deputy Commander in Chief. The letter contained one sentence: "Recommend approval of award of the Medal of Honor". The award was for Cpt. Kern W. Dunagan, Commanding Officer of Alpha Co., 1st/46th Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, for heroic action in May, 1969.

Witnesses to the action who were listed in the MOH recommendation were: David A. Waltz, 1Lt, Co E, 1st/46th Inf.; Thomas N. Tamanaha, 1Lt., D Btry, 1/14th Arty; Joseph S. Dolock, 1Lt. Co. C., 1st/46th Inf.; Pete Gonzales, Psg.,Co. C. , 1st/46th Inf.; Brian P. Shaw, Sp/4, Co A., 1st/46th Inf.; Richard M. Belanger, Sp/4, HHC Co., 1st/46th Inf.; Walter W. Brownlee, 1Lt., Co. C., 1st/46th Inf.; and Roy J. Ginder, Major, USAF

The actions of Cpt. Dunagan were probably the most heroic of any single individual in this 1969 combat event. The predicament endured by Co. A was presumably the most severe of that endured by any unit involved in this fighting.

Many other units of the Americal and 101st Airborne also took significant casualties. Btry. C, 1/14th Artillery sustained serious losses, which reduced its ability to maintain artillery support, and necessitated its replacement on LZ Professional by Btry. B, 1/14th Arty. The 1/501st Inf. companies were engaged in a savage day-long battle near LZ Professional on May 18th. Co. D, 1/46th took numerous losses on the perimeter of LZ Professional on May 12.

(Unfortunately, all of the incidents happening to these and other units involved in May 1969 cannot be covered in this writing due to space constraints. However, their significance must not be understated.)

Despite the TAC-E declaration, the insertion of an 101st Airborne force, the high US casualty counts, and the significant damage and destruction of US aircraft, this fierce combat episode was given only minor amounts of news media coverage in 1969.

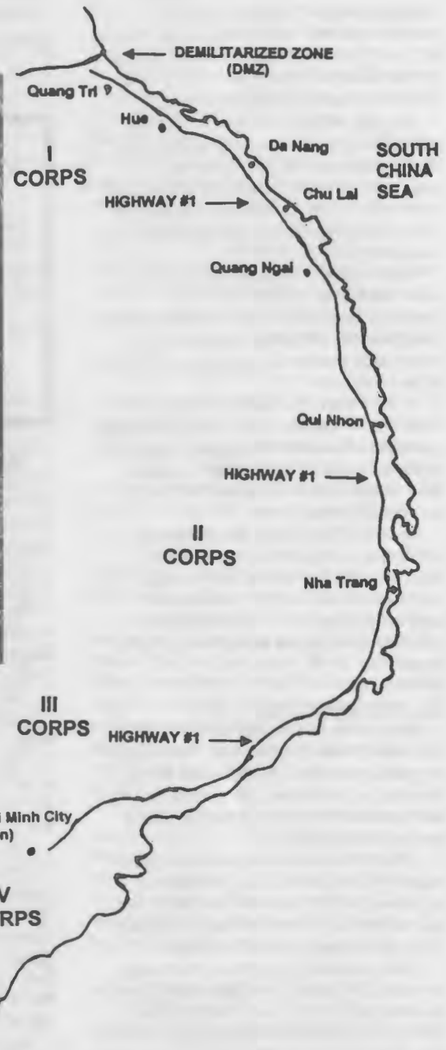
Another brigade of the 101st Airborne was engaged in the "Hamburger Hill" battle at almost the same time. The more famous "Hamburger Hill" battle had significant news coverage and some of it was very visibly negative due to high numbers of US casualties. Speculation existed that the 101st was reluctant to take additional unfavorable publicity and it discouraged or diverted news coverage of the Operation Lamar Plain story.

Perhaps, in time, we may learn even more of the background of what was happening to all of us who were involved in this intense event some 30 years ago in May 1969.

Rick Olson currently serves as National Finance Officer for the Americal Division Veterans Association. He was a rifleman with Co. D, 1/46th Inf. In 1968-69.

Editor's Note: The photos presented here were taken by ADVA member David Taylor during a recent trip back to Vietnam. His thoughts and observations are reflections of a Vietnam seen after 28 years.

(Above) Catholic church just North of Chu Lai. Catholic churches, large and small, are seen throughout Vietnam.



(Right) Roadside refreshment stand along Highway #1, with fresh fruit, juice, coke, and cigarettes.

(Right) Fishing village along the coastline north of Nha Trang.

(Lower Left) Cyclo drivers are in abundance in all major cities. For $3 dollars they will take you for a one hour ride around Saigon.

(Lower Right) Main street in Nha Trang. All cities have monuments dedicated to the "soldiers of liberation". Yet the beaches and modern hotels are mostly empty, waiting for their most sought after guests, American tourists.

Clarence J. Wade, "Father Commo", 1/46th Infantry

Veterans of 1/46th Infantry gathered on March 27-28 for the fifth annual FSB Mary Ann memorial service and reunion. The event was held at Camp Carlson, a military travel camp at Ft. Knox, KY. Many of the attendees were from Co. C, but most other companies in the battalion were also represented.

This was the second time that I have been able to attend this reunion. My first time was at the initial reunion in 1995. Many of the 40 or so veterans in attendance had also been there before, but a few new faces were evident. As I arrived I said hello to Bill Walker, event organizer. He asked me if I remembered Sergeant Wade from the commo section on Mary Ann. I told him that I definitely remembered Wade. Walker then said, "Well just turn around, he is standing right behind you." Sure enough, a fellow that I had often thought about in the many years since I was in Vietnam.

I don't know exactly when I last saw SFC Clarence J. Wade, but it was probably in April, 1971. We worked closely together on FSB Mary Ann. Wade was responsible for keeping the battalion radios in top working condition was responsible for operating them in the battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC).

Wade worked out of a Conex next to the TOC. Since I generally worked at night, much of my time in the afternoons was spent around the commo area. I can still hear Wade patiently repeating over and over "CAN YOU HEAR ME? CAN YOU HEAR ME?" into a radio microphone. I seems as if he did this hundreds of times while running tests on errant radio equipment.

At about 1400 hours on March 27, 1971 Wade and I made the short hop from Mary Ann to LZ Mildred courtesy of a Huey helicopter. The battalion was going to close Mary Ann and move to the DaNang area to replace the exiting 1st Marine Division. Mildred, which was easier to re-supply than Mary Ann, had to be prepared for use by South Vietnamese forces prior to the move by the 1/46th.

Just twelve hours after our departure Mary Ann was hit by a devastating sapper attack which resulted in 30 US KIA. One of the killed was a technician under Wade's direction. Wade was quickly dispatched back to Mary Ann so he could re-establish communications for the battalion headquarters. Those of us left on Mildred were returned to Mary Ann three days later.

It was good to talk with Clarence and learn of his activities during the past 28 years. He finished his Army career as a Master Sergeant and returned to his hometown in North Carolina. He is married and has two children. He works six days a week in his wife's family's barbeque business and seemingly loves every minute of it.

Breakfast at 1/46th Inf. mess hall at Ft. Knox

One hears a great deal about the "modern" Army and how things are a lot easier now than they were before. Things are certainly not the same, however, after a brief visit to a basic training company I am happy to report that some things have not changed.

The 1/46th Infantry is now a training battalion at Ft. Knox, KY. The current cadre of the 1/46th have been very generous in supporting the annual reunions of the battalion's Vietnam veterans. One of the services provided is a morning breakfast in the battalion mess hall.

I did not feel unusual when the light green Army bus arrived at 0630 to take us to the mess hall. However, when the Drill Sergeant came aboard and stood facing us from the front of the bus I thought "Uh-Oh, I've been here before." I took AIT at Ft. Knox in 1970. But the DI did not shout or scold or call us " &$@ *!$^ Willie" so all was fine, at least for the moment.

We were dropped at the battalion area but we were shuffled around from mess hall to mess hall as no one seemed to know we were coming. We joked about the way things hadn't changed. Hurry up and wait. While standing in a rag-tag line outside the door of one mess halls we drew the attention of a nearby Drill Sergeant. He strode over to us, came to the position of attention, and ordered "FALL IN." No one moved other than to break a smile and say something to the effect "I don't think so--- not this time." The DI shrugged his shoulders, threw up his hands, and walked away shaking his head.

After paying our hosts $1.50 we entered the chow line to a breakfast of ham and eggs, toast, cereal, fresh fruit, and, of course, that biscuit and gravy stuff. It was really quite good. The mess hall manager, a civilian, even came out to ask if we had enough to eat. It seemed odd. The last time I was in a mess hall the conversation was "You're taking too long! You owe me 50!"

Trainees were still busy washing pots and pans, mopping floors, and carrying out other KP duties. Looks like that didn't change. (I was always pot and pan man.) After breakfast we stopped by a day room where trainees were having their rifles inspected by the Drill Sergeant. It grueling inspection was quite a sight. Let's just say I was reminded why I never did like Drill Sergeants.

As we rode back to the Louisville airport to return home I asked him what he thought about attending his first battalion reunion. He said "I am glad I did it. If I didn't I would have always wondered if I should have." I am glad he chose to attend the reunion. It was good for me to see him. **Gary L. Noller, Co. B, 1/46th Inf.**

Survival: Attack on LZ Cindy

By Daniel Kuzinar

This incident takes place in September, 1970, in Quang Nam Province, Tra Bong District, at the Village of Tra Bong, some 30 kilometers inland from the South China Sea, along the banks of the Song Tra Bong River. In this mountainous area the Americal command placed its model defense force.

The force consisted of an ARVN Ranger Battalion; a special forces group consisting of a mixture of ARVN and American Special Forces brass, 100 troops total; an Observation Post (OP) manned by only seven to ten GIs; and my unit, Btry. A, 3rd Bn. 18th Arty, with 70 to 100 troops at LZ Cindy. It was a pretty heavily defended area. Most importantly, it was considered a model/ showcase center on the Vietnamization effort of MACV.

In the pre-dawn hours of September 8th, 1970, the whole project fell apart with the destruction of the area by the 406th NVA Sapper Battalion and supporting units. In the very early hours of that morning, the Special Forces group began to receive a continuous mortar barrage of very accurate fire.

The old French fortress was ripped apart; it was destroyed and overrun, possibly taking 100% casualties. The ARVN Ranger Battalion compound was overrun and quickly occupied by the NVA. The small OP was also quickly overrun. LZ Cindy was attacked and was the only unit able to keep its perimeter intact. In the still twinkling hours of dawn, Battery A, 3/18th Arty., was the only friendly unit in the valley that was still putting up resistance.

The incident was in fact, a large scale defeat for the Allied command. One notable and highly commendable action in the battalion was that of Captain Washington Sanchez, commander of Btry. A, 3/18th Arty. He spotted activity earlier that night with a starlite scope, and, in violation of Division orders, fired several hundred rounds of anti-aircraft fire (two batteries of dual 40mm cannon "Dusters) into what he believed was a clustering of enemy troops getting ready for an imminent attack on LZ Cindy.

His courage in violating Division orders not to fire at a time when LT Calley and Capt. Medina were still on the front pages of American newspapers cannot be understated. From what I was told, the anti-aircraft fire killed almost 80 enemy troops, and most importantly, a large number of RPG's and launchers were said to be recovered in the area targeted. (There were no RPGs fired into LZ Cindy during the assault).

Captain Sanchez successfully defended his firing battery against a superior enemy force without the loss or wounding of a single soldier in his charge. However, he was relieved of his command within the week for violating direct orders not to fire on a group of people he thought were enemy troops but Division thought were friendlies.

I do not know what ever happened to Captain Washington Sanchez, but I hope he is in good health and doing fine. The men who fought with Btry A, 3/18th Arty that day all owe their lives to him disobeying direct orders and firing on a suspected enemy force that was preparing for a assault of his command. The enemy force was superior in size to Battery A and I am very sure that the story would have had quite a different ending if he had not acted in the manner that he did.

His assessment of the immediate situation was without flaw, and every action taken by him that night was beneficial and totally correct. His care and concern for the men under his command, and his good army training, overrode his obligation to follow direct orders.

I know that the reason I am here today is because of his leadership and courage. He was a very capable field commander, unusual in his devotion to his job. I have never known an officer quite as serious about his profession as Captain Sanchez. Where ever he is, God bless him.

Its my rifle, Doc!

By Tommy Poppell

This happened one day in July, 1970 while I was assigned to B Co., 1/46th Infantry. The company was making its way towards LZ Judy, a new firebase to the southwest of FSB Mary Ann. The terrain featured steaming jungles and rugged mountains. At one particular spot there was a very large rock face on the side of a tall mountain.

On other occasions we had thought of climbing this rock face to get to the top of the mountain. Doing so would give away our position. But this day, Jim Orlando, Bisbee, AZ, was point man. After a quick discussion about our route, the CO said "Hell, let's go up. It will make for quicker access to the top of the mountain." So we climbed up the bald face mountain. It was steep but not so steep that we could not make our way.

After we reached the top we moved an area that was still bush and set up our day laager. Jim had the M60 machine gun set up to guard a high speed trail that we had crossed on our way to the top. Some of us had made lunch and others set up hammocks for a quick nap.

I was fixing a cup of hot cocoa while sitting in my hammock. The hammock was loosely tied so as to keep me close to the ground but still in a sitting position. I noticed that Jim Orlando and his guys had gotten in a game of spades. It was not unusual for a game to be going on at such times, but this one almost cost Orlando his life.

The perimeter guards were all on careful watch as usual but no one saw what was coming. In less than a second we were transformed from grunts on a picnic to diving fools. Two NVA had manage to slip up on Jim from the rear. It was not known to us that there was no one guarding the trail behind Jim.

The NVA cut loose with two AKs cracking with 30 round magazines on full auto. As they opened up on us my first reaction was to dive away from the fire. My M-16 was sitting next to the tree were my hammock was tied. I dove for an old stump hole which I had previously checked out. (One thing you did in Nam was to always plan your next move.) As I dove I grabbed a M-16, flipped it to full auto, an waited for whatever was next. I didn't fire because there were several guys between me and the enemy. But I was ready.

Doc Frey, our platoon medic, was also dove in the hole with me. I am not sure who got there first, but we were quickly in the hole together. Doc reached over an grabbed my rifle, and I calmly grabbed it back. He reached for it again an I said "Turn loose Doc." He said "That's my rifle." I said "The hell you say!" and I yanked it back. He again reached for it an I knocked him away.

Doc was getting angry about me having his M-16 but I kept telling him it was mine. No more rounds were fired, not even return fire from us. The NVA had caught us half-stepping in the Nam.

We laid there together for a while then I rolled the M-16 on its side to look for the familiar General Motors logo on the side. It wasn't there! Gee, I must have grabbed Doc's rifle. I then looked at the other end of the tree were my hammock was tied and I saw another M-16. I pulled it into the hole and rolled it to its side and saw the GM logo on it. It was my rifle.

I looked at Doc and said "Gosh, sorry Doc, I didn't think it was your rifle. But I have mine now, so here's yours back". Doc looked at me with one of those looks that could stop a train. I sure hope he doesn't hold that against me after all these years.

We gathered up what was left of what we were doing I washed out my canteen cup. I did not want any more hot cocoa after I noticed that a branch on the tree between me and my canteen cup was had a perfect hole in it. I remember hearing the old zing-snap but didn't think it was that close!

Both Doc an I survived the Nam. So, Doc Frey, if you read this I'll buy you drink at our next reunion. As a matter of fact, I'll buy you several drinks.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BATTALION

The way it was ... 15 May 1969 ... 5/46th Inf., 198th L.I.B.

Editors Note: **Most soldiers only know their war from the view of their squad or platoon. A few see it from a vantage point of the company level. Yet every day in Vietnam each operational battalion employed hundreds of soldiers on many missions, covering many miles to take the war to Charlie Cong and the NVA. To provide that perspective we are listing some excerpts from the S-3 Daily Journal of an Americal battalion. It could be any battalion on any day ... but this is the way it was.**

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICERS LOG — PAGE NO. 4 — NO. OF PAGES 7

ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION: S3 5/46 198 Bde — LOCATION: LZ GATOR /BS/567962 — PERIOD COVERED: FROM HOUR 0001 DATE 15 May 69 TO HOUR 2400 DATE 15 May 69

ITEM NO.	TIME IN	TIME OUT	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS
32	1630		(C) S5 interpreter learned of a VN female who worked at LZ GATOR two months ago for a period of two weeks. She drew a sketch of the LZ and gave it and other information to her husband, a VC Sq leader. S5 with MP's and interpreter apprehended her in Nuoc Mau Hamlet and delivered her to IPW team at LZ Bayonet. She is classified as VCI/civil defendant and has yet to respond to interrogation;q	Bde	UB
33	1600		(C) Pacification Report; A) VCI Neg. B) Binh Son, Son Tinh, 3-6 ARVN in field. B S-3 coordinated w/Binh Son district advisor concerning current operations, C) [illegible] ambush	Bde	HJ

ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION: S3 5/46th 198 L.I.B. — LOCATION: LZ Gator / BS / 567962 — PERIOD COVERED: FROM HOUR 0001 DATE 15 May 69 TO HOUR 2400 DATE 15 May 69

ITEM	IN	OUT	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
1	0001		(U) Journal opened	Bde,Arty,M
2	0035	0100	(U) Sitrep to Hawkins	Bde,Arty,M
3	0040	0105	(C) Foxhole Report: HQ 144	Bde
			A 79 17 96 123	
			B 20 58 78 104	
			C 75 26 101 127	
			D 23 14 87 116	
			E 61 16 77 86	
			Total 308 131 439 700	
4	0025	0210	(C) Bunker 17 at 0025 Hrs observed 4 VC moving approximately 400 meters off perimeter	Bde
			They moved into a hooch at BS576963 at 0130 Hrs. Bunker 17 received 8-10 rounds of	
			Incoming AK 47 fire, returned fire with Neg friendly casualties & Neg results.	
5	0245	0300	(U) Sitrep to Eisenbrarth	Bde,Arty,M
6	0345	0400	(U) Sitrep to Hawkins	Bde,Arty,M
7	0425	0430	(C) 4.2 mortar report: 1)8 2)0 3)12 4)20 5)63 6)11 7)22 8)96	Bde
8	0300	0720	(C) Late entry. At 0200 Hrs ARVN element spotted squad of VC (local guerillas dressed	Bde,S2,S3
			In black) opened fire and have 5 VC KIA (4 males, 1 female). Captured 3 hammocks, 3	
			Chi Com grenades, Neg casualties. Grid 687815.	

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BATTALION (con't)

ITEM	IN	OUT	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
22	1910		(C) Binh Son intelligence: Local Liberation Front opening camp again, the name of the	Bde,S2
			Campaign is "The Broken Down Pacification Plan". They are using propaganda with the	
			People we plan to move from the Batangan Penninsula down the sea and are orienting their	
			Units to attack & destroy all friendly units for Ho Chi Minh's birthday on 19 May.	
23	2030		(U) TOC OIC Lt. Philip Lamerand came on duty; S/Sgt. Bendell Pawelski came on duty.	
24	2100		(C) LZ Gator control net opened. Reaction force for evening called in loud and clear.	
25	2115	2120	(C) Binh Son Intelligence: C/3 from agent 522: VC regiment strength 1000 men on 14	Bde,S2,S3
			May moved from Quang Tin divided into 3 battalions. 1 Bn 60 at 475948, 2 Bn 80 at	
			460901, 3 Bn 40 at BS/710900. VC documents captured at 576975 saying VC will retrain	
			From 11 May to 15 may in Eastern Binh Son district. After training they plan to attack	
			Bihn Son HQ, chau-o-town (Binh Son City) and all OP's in Bihn Son area.	
26	2110	2140	(C) Bunker Control: Bunker 21A spotted movement and opened fire, received 2-3 rounds	Bde,Arty,M
			Small arms. At 2130 spotted 4 unknown personnel, recon by fire with 50 cal. Results unk.	
27	2250	2305	(C) Binh Son report: CAP 144 at 1915 Hrs. observed 5.60mm mortar rounds land at	Bde
			750816. At 1920 Hrs. they received approximately 20 rounds small arms fire. Sent out	
			Patrol which heard movement and saw some light at 744818. Called for Arty, will sweep	
			Area at first light. Neg friendly casualties.	
28	2215	2340	(C) Binh Son: CAP 137 village received 10-20 small arms rounds. Returned fire with	Bde
			Small arms and M79. Called for illumination. Swept area, negative results. Sweep again	
			At first light. Negative casualties	
29	2400		(U) Journal Closed	
			SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:	
			A Co continues operations North and West of Batangan Penninsula. At 1415 an OP rec'd	
			Heavy fire, managed to fire and maneuver to main element.	
			B Co continues to defend LZ Gator and secure RMK work party on Highway #1. Bunker	
			Line received stray sniper fire at odd intervals throughout night.	
			C Co continues to interdict and deny enemy use of area East of LZ Minuteman. C1	
			Continues to secure engineer work party vicinity An Ky Hamlet. C4 in General Support	
			From LZ Minuteman with priority of fires to main element of Co C. Warning Order from	
			Brigade place Co C on alert to be placed OPCON to 1-52 Inf.	
			D Co continues to interdict and deny enemy use of Southern area of Rocket Pocket	
			E Co Recon reaction and reinforcement for LZ Gator. Radar operational out of Gator and	
			Mortars in General Support at Hill 26.	
			Friendly losses for period: NONE	
			Enemy losses for period: NONE	
			Friendly losses to-date: 62 Killed in Action; 537 Wounded in Action; 6 killed not as result	
			Of hostile action	
			Enemy losses to-date: 213 VC/NVA Killed in Action; 81 VC/NVA Captured in Action	
			18 Chieu Hoi's	

*The **Americal Newsletter** accepts and welcomes original stories from readers. Preprints from official documents and news items are also requested. Please send items related to Vietnam to Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor.*

Items should be sent no later than the end of the first month of the calendar quarter. (The deadline at the printer is the middle of the quarter.) Items in electronic format are acceptable and can be e-mailed to gnoller@aol.com.

All submissions are subject to editing and the rules for publication as set by the editors.

LZ GATOR

by
James Fuller
5/46th 198th

Trip flares, burning bright,
showed people, in the light.
Sappers are in, the wire,
As the machine gun, starts to fire.
They blew the bunker, him at his gun,
one KIA, the rest on the run.
The bunker destroyed, illum in the air,
the VC continued on, with their terror.
The Colonel's hootch, and ammo dump blown,
it came to an end, without us knowing.
Were they still on the hill, inside the wire,
if they are it could be dire.
They hid all day, and into the night,
before under darkness, they took flight.
Very seldom, were they caught,
and on this night, it was naught.
They came looking, for a certain one,
and left when, the job was done.
The Colonel dead, ammo dump on fire,
they accomplished, what the did aspire.

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM
TO THE RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON
COMPANY E, 4TH BATTALION, 3D INFANTRY
11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY

The Reconnaissance Platoon, Company E, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force near the hamlet of Phuoc Loc, Quang Ngai, Republic of Vietnam on 6 and 7 September 1968. The platoon of 27 men was conducting a combat sweep operation on 6 September when it became engaged with a battalion-size enemy force entrenched in fortified defensive positions. Exposed to the heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the estimated 400-man enemy force, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon gallantly fought against the numerical odds and established defensive positions. Maintaining their position integrity, men of the platoon, with complete disregard for their own safety, braved the heavy fire to bring their fallen comrades within the perimeters. Although under heavy fire and repeated attacks from the enemy, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon valorously held their positions, directed airstrikes and artillery fires on the enemy positions, and repulsed all enemy efforts to overrun their defenses. The platoon was able to engage the enemy force until reinforcements arrived during the early morning hours of 7 September. A sweep of the battlefield on the morning of 7 September revealed that the Reconnaissance Platoon had killed 48 enemy soldiers. Intelligence from captured prisoners indicated that the enemy force had suffered 88 casualties, rendering it ineffective as a fighting force. The Reconnaissance Platoon is credited with spoiling an impending attack on the city of Quang Ngai by discovering and inflicting heavy losses on tone of the key enemy poised for attack, thereby sparing free world forces and the population of the city on Quang Ngai much loss of life, equipment and personal property. The heroic actions of the men of the platoon aided in the defeat of major enemy forces which had been poised for attacks on the major cities of Quang Ngai Province. The gallantry and devotion to duty of the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, against numerically superior enemy forces, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Provided by Andrew Teague

Newsletter, 1/46 Inf. Bn., October, 1969

Spreading the fame of the "Professionals" has taken a step higher, with two members of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry making their mark in the AMERICAL DIVISION.

In an unprecedented move, Major Richard P. Gerety (Wichita, Ka.), accompanied by CPT. Robert G. Nivens (Harporsville, Ala.), borrowed a class at the AMERICAL DIVISION COMBAT CENTER from its instructor for the purpose of presenting 2LT. Thomas R. Crane (Batville, N.Y.), with his 1LT Bar. 1LT. Crane had received orders assigning him to the 1/46th, but was still in attendance at the Combat Center when orders of his promotion were received in the Battalion's trains area. Knowing LT. Crane would be at the Combat Center for a few days more, the Battalion Commander, LTC. Craig G. Coverdale (Manhasset, N.Y.), decided to hold the promotion ceremony there.

When MAJ. Gerety arrived at the Combat Center, he approached the NCOIC of the class 1LT. Crane was attending, and asked if he could interrupt the class procedure for a few minutes. Receiving the OK, MAJ. Gerety told the class who he was and why he was there. He then called up 1LT. Crane and made the presentation.

The second "Professional" to bring credit to the unit is SSG. Edward Ostrosky (Cocoa Beach, Fla.), who had been promoted from SP/4 to SSG within a ten day period. SSG Ostrosky, formerly of the 3/21st before being wounded and sent back to the United States, is now with Delta Company. He has just completed the Combat Leadership School where he placed second, scoring 928 points out of a possible 1000. While attending the Leadership School, orders were cut for his promotion from SP/4 to SGT, this was on 8 October. On 18 October, after the points had been totaled, it was found SSG. Ostrosky placed high enough to warrant another promotion from SGT To SSG. "It was a shock to be promoted so fast," said SSG Ostrosky, "After finishing the course at the Combat Center, I feel I am fully prepared for any new tasks that I may confront."

The "Professionals" compliment these two men, realizing that with rank comes responsibilities, and knowing that these two are capable of handling their new responsibilities.

Provided by Edward Ostrosky

STANDING TALL

EACH YEAR AT THIS TIME I TRY TO STAND TALL
I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS AT THE WALL
I FACED IT AND STOOD TALL AS I COULD
FOR I AM GETTING OLD AND GRAY BUT
WHEN I TOUCHED THE WALL I STOOD VERY TALL
FOR I HAVE OVER 20 MEN I KNEW WHO STOOD
TALL BUT FELL FOR NOW THEIR NAMES ARE
ON THE WALL EACH MAY I'LL TRY MY
DAMNEST TO STAND TALL AS I CAN TILL
I CAN PASS THROUGH THE WALL AND WE CAN
ALL STAND TALL AGAIN FOR OUR LAST ROLL CALL

Ed Note: The above was submitted by Aime A. Thomas. He also remarked; Hopefully the poem can be included in the May issue of the Americal Newsletter for that was a bad month for me and my comrades-in-arms in VN. It would help me to have all that are still around to see and read about my feelings about what the war was all about.

1/Sgt. Aime A. Thomas USA Ret.
A/1/46 Infantry 11 LIB 68-69

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71st - 176th ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

I served with the 71st and 176th Helicopter Companies in Vietnam in 1968 at Chu Lai. I would appreciate and information you can send me about your organization and a Newsletter. I am also interested in corresponding with anyone who served with these two Companies from June 1968 until June 1969. I will certainly appreciate a response from any members.

Respectfully,
Antonio K. Taylor
[redacted]
Buffalo, NY 14201-2216

Ed Note: Antonio, hope you enjoy this issue of the Americal Newsletter and that you hear from some of your Army buddies. An application for membership is on the back cover.

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COMPANY A - 1st BATTALION - 20th INFANTRY - 11 LIB

My brother, SP4 Donald N. White, left for Vietnam on December 23, 1969. It was the last time that I would see him. He was in the 2nd Platoon, A/1/20 Infantry. 11 LIB and he completed Sniper School at the Americal Combat Center during the summer of 1970. On the evening of October 9, he and two other men from his platoon were with Company E, (Recon) on a 'search and clear' somewhere between Tu-son and Mo Duc when they were ambushed. My brother received wounds that resulted in his death on Sunday afternoon, October 11, 1970.

Don's biological father died before his birth, and I was born after our mother remarried. This will explain the differences in our last names, but has no bearing on the love we had for each other.

I knew that he had buddies somewhere, and I began a search that lasted for years. One day I found the ADVA Web Page, and posted messages there and with the In Touch Programs of Friends of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial (FVVM). Within about three months my family was contacted by several members of his unit that knew him.

I can think of no greater tribute, than supporting the activities of the ADVA. It is important, and beneficial to our country, that we continue to honor and preserve the contribution and sacrifice, that all veterans of the Americal have made for the sake of freedom. My wish is to give something back in return.

I am enclosing a membership application and dues in hope that I will be considered for an Associate membership.

Kindest Regards,
Bill Mitchell

Ed Note: Thanks Bill for your letter. You are most certainly welcome to join the ADVA as an Associated Member.

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NVA PAYMASTER

FSB Debbie--NVA Finance Clerks will have a difficult time balancing the books this quarter due to the cost-cutting suggestion of an 11 LIB unit of the Division.

An element of B/4/21 Infantry surprised an NVA paymaster cooking lunch, five miles southeast of Duc Pho.

They in turn were surprised to discover 180,000 piaster neatly broken down into 18 stacks of crisp, new, 500 piaster notes.

At this point, the unit convinced the man that a total wage cut would be advisable to curb the inflationary spending tendencies of the NVA soldiers in the area. (11th OI)

(From "Southern Cross" December 19, 1999)

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"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

I hope this letter finds everyone in the best of health and that all of you are ready to ride for our brothers still Prisoners of War - Missing in Action. ROLLING THUNDER XII is Sunday May 30, 1999.We are in Washington, DC every Memorial Day weekend to demonstrate for the return of live American POW's abandoned by our government after all past wars, for the return of all remains possible and to support veterans veteran issues.

We constantly work all year to pass legislation so future veterans will not be abandoned if they are captured during the next war or conflict. In the past few years three South Korean soldiers, that fought in the Korean War, escaped from Prisoner of War Camps in North Korea. Imagine being held captive for forty (40) some years after a war had ended?

If North Korea continues to hold South Korean POW's, there is no reason not to believe American POW's are being held by other Communist countries. How many American POW's were abandoned by the United States Government? Left to die at the hands of their captors because the United States Government is more concerned about accounting for equipment and money!

Why doesn't anyone in Washington ever demand that the leaders of these Communist countries return those left behind. The Gulf War is a good example of what is more important in todays world. How many men and women must be sacrificed for the games the leaders play with those in the military? It's very easy for someone who has never served to

order our troops into a foreign country. How many countries are we in now? They fight to keep oil safe and pay a high price in blood for it.

Is anyone in Washington fighting to find out what happened to the first Gulf War POW-MIA, Lt Cdr. Michael S. Speicher, U.S. Navy pilot? He was shot down and believed to be alive on the ground. His ejection seat was near a man made symbol. I think the photos and reports are still classified and still under investigation. Enough time has been spent on the paper work!

What ever happened to Pete Peterson, the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam? He is an ex POW who was going to get to the bottom of the POW-MIA issue. Peterson must be lost somewhere in North Vietnam or just working on the U.S. company relations ($$$$) that are in Vietnam. What happened to the two train loads of American POW's that President Eisenhower had investigated? Another issue swept under the carpet. Have a safe trip to Washington, DC, and never forget them, "POW-MIA".

Sgt. Artie Muller
U.S. Army Vietnam 66-67
4 Inf Div B/1/22 Inf

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1st BATTALION - 52nd INFANTRY - 198 LIB
1969-1971 Vietnam

Chicopee, MA
June 23-27, 1999

CONTACT

Don Smith
[redacted]
Bangor, ME 04401
[redacted]

Bob Salstead
[redacted]
Springfield, MA 01129
[redacted]

****

31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Loughlin, NV
October 11 - 14, 1999

31st Infantry Regiment Association, (Philippines, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, USA will hold a Reunion October 11 thru the 14, 1999 in Loughlin, Nevada.

For Information contact:
Tom Murray
[redacted]
Kingman, AZ 86401
Tel [redacted]
email [redacted]

****

POW/MIA NATIONAL AWARENESS PARADE
Klamath Falls, Oregon
July 4, 1999

For More Info Contact:

Klamath County Combat Veterans Association
[redacted]
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
FAX [redacted]
Toll Free 1-877-Klamath
email [redacted]

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DELTA COMPANY - 3RD BN - 21st INFANTRY - 196 LIB

Looking for all members of D/3/21 Infantry, 196 LIB who served in Vietnam in 1969-1970. We have 60 current members and we need you. Reunion is in the works for next year. Please contact:

Daniel Phillips
[redacted]
Eclectic, AL 36024
Tel: [redacted]
e mail [redacted]

****

D COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 20th INFANTRY 11 LIB
1968 - 1969

CONTACT

Allan Conger
Telephone [redacted]

****

MY OLD FRIENDS
Jim Stewart 377th SPS 67-68

Perhaps you met one of my old friends when you were in Vietnam many years ago. We called them Sarge, Fritz, Duke, and a hundred other names with a real character.

They were strong and served with dignity and didn't complain about having to go out on night patrol. We never heard them complain about having to eat C-rats, even ham-n-lima beans. They were a select unit so there were only about 3,200 members in the long history of the Vietnam War.

Some of them were trained killers, some were scouts, some tracked. They were branded inside the left ear so they could be identified. Only 191 returned home.

None were allowed to go back into society.

When we, who knew them, get together at reunions we talk of them with mist in our eyes, a lump in our throats, and sorrow for the fact that they were left behind "in country."

My special friend was Dobe 7X46. He was black. It took about a week for us to get comfortable with one another. He took orders from me and I took comfort in knowing he was with me on patrol. He liked to fight any time someone from his unit got to close. He could smell the enemy a long way off and when he let me know they were there I felt a chill go up my spine. He had a special sense.

He served five straight years in 'Nam without an R&R, and his life ended at Cam Ranh Bay. in 1972.

Dobe was my German Shepard sentry dog. We served together from September, 1967 to September, 1968, with the 377th Security Police Squadron Sentry Dog Section, at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Ed Note: There is an association for all dog handlers that served in Vietnam and they put out a Newsletter. For info contact:
Vietnam Dog Handlers Association
%Tom Mitchell, President
[redacted]
El Cajon, CA 92019

(Thanks to Art Cole for sending in this article).

THE HAUNTING of a MEMORY
June 8, 1960
by
SP/4 James Garigin
HHD 523rd Sig. Bn

It was the dawn of a new morning, the same as that of the many before it. It was a treasured Sunday, because we were allowed the luxury of sleeping until 0600. The discipline of rousting before first light caused me to be awake a good half hour before having to rise.

As I lay in my hooch waiting to greet a new day and thinking of X-ing off another square in the calendar, I had no knowledge that this would be the morning that would change my life forever. The events to pass before me would remain a permanent stain on my mind and heart, as indelible as India ink spilled onto fine paper.

On this Sunday morning, June 8, 1969, enjoying what would be the last few minutes of my peace of mind, I suddenly heard a "swishing sound," a sound I knew too well. I saw what always followed, a stream of fire, ripping over the mess hall about fifty feet from my hooch. Instinctively, I rolled over onto the floor, waiting to see if any more rockets would explode nearby. After a few moments of silence, I jumped up and ran to the bunker beside my hooch. Chaos took command as half-dressed GI's sprang from their hooches, running to bunkers.

The sirens which had been wailing suddenly stopped. It seemed strange and eerie that only one rocket had landed in what I thought was the "immediate area," although I heard another explosion further down the coast.

When the, `all clear` was given (sirens quiet), I returned to my hooch, got dressed and reported to my post at the 523rd Signal Battalion Headquarters. At this time, my job was to escort the Battalion XO. As he arrived, we mounted the jeep and patrolled the perimeter. We then returned to the Battalion Headquarters, as there didn't seem to be any activity taking place. Upon returning, we were informed that a 122mm rocket had landed in one of the yards at the 312th Evacuation Hospital. A nurse by the name of Lt. Sharon Lane had been fatally wounded. A few days later, an article appeared in the Stars and Stripes about the rocket attack. The article stated that Lt. Lane was the first American female personnel killed in Vietnam due to hostile action since the fighting in Vietnam had started. I have learned since then that Lt. Lane was the only American woman killed due to hostile action in the entire Vietnam War.

I wish that I could remember her without having to relive the day, or the way she died.

/s/ James H. Garigin
Captain, USAR Retired

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HHC - A COMPANY - 23rd MEDICAL BATTALION

I have been trying for years to get in touch with some of my buddies who were with me at Chu Lai in 1969. I was with Headquarters & Co. A 23rd Med. Bn. I have thought about my buddies for many years.

I am looking for my cooks, who worked so hard for me and our Company. I was their Mess Sgt., SFC Harold Kardonick. Because of the labors and dedication of these young men the Colonel of our Battalion declared, "This is the best damn Mess Hall in Vietnam", and he caused a sign to be put up over the entrance to our Mess Hall declaring just that.

When I came in as Mess Sgt., it was a real mess, paper work never done, never passed inspection from Division. In one month my cooks and I put our Mess Hall in such good shape that when we were inspected, we were rated 100 % for cleanliness and the greatest food in our Battalion for all the time I was there.

I am also looking for my buddy SFC Frank Gueterez, he was my best friend. We went on R & R to Sydney, Australia and had a great time. I am sending pictures of him and one of my best cook, Warren. I forgot his last name.

Frank Gueterez - Harold Kardonick

I put in 30 years with the Regular Army and Army Reserves. I was in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam. I was 43 when I was in Viet Nam. I was called the "Old Man."

Please put this in our Americal Newsletter. I never stop thinking about my men and friends.

SFC Harold Kardonick

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HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

Each individual Chapter is self supporting and holds meetingS in there given area. Chapters hold Reunions in theIR area usually once a year. The Reunion is sometimes held in an historic area. For instance, last year the Eastern Region Chapter held their Reunion in historic Harpers Ferry. This year they are holding their reunion in the scenic Finger Lakes region of New York state. Last year The Far West Chapter went mining for gold in Los Vegas and they must have been successful for they are returning there this year.

JOIN THE FUN -- JOIN A CHAPTER

****

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

COL. WALDIE - 198 LIB

I read Michael Gardner's account of the training of the 198th LIB in the January-March 1999 issue of the Americal Newsletter and was very pleased. My husband, Col James R. Waldie was its Commander.

I have many fond memories of the forming of the 198th LIB in Fort Hood, Texas by Col. Waldie.

One amusing recall was a day the General called him in out of a training exercise. It was a custom when the humidity reached a certain point all training would cease. When the General reminded Col. Waldie of this, his reply was, "But Sir, we can't do that in Vietnam." The General's response was, "You're right Waldie, carry on."

Col. Waldie died in May of 1991 of liver and pancreatic cancer. He is truly missed.

The 198th LIB was his "baby" and he was extremely proud of it--his men and his country.

I enjoy reading the Americal Newsletter-Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. James R. Waldie

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NAILS FOOD CACHE FOR DIVISION TROOPS

LZ Hawk Hill--A barrage of 105mm howitzer rounds from a Division Fire Base abruptly halted an attempt by group of VC to steal rice from a South Vietnamese village.

Artillery rounds killed 12 of the enemy. The next morning an element of ARVANs discovered four more bodies. 2 SKS weapons were also found.

PFC Patrick Sullivan (Greenville, MS) was on duty at the FDC of A/3/82nd Arty when a message from Cpt. Thomas Crews (Pittsburg, PA) liaison officer with a PF unit, was received over the radio.

Said Sullivan, "Apt Crews reported a large number of VC wading through the rice paddies near a small South Vietnamese village, six miles form Tam Ky. They are picking rice and stuffing it into baskets.

Because of the remote location of the rice-stealing culprits, the PF and the ARVN soldiers with Crews were unable to pursue the enemy so the LO requested immediate artillery support.

Moments later the ground trembled as the mighty howitzers sent their high explosive projectiles in the VC direction.

'The artillery bombardment caught the VC completely off guard," said Cpt Crews. (196th IO)

(From the 'Southern Cross' December 19, 1969)

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C COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 20th INFANTRY - 11 LIB

In the last issue of the Americal Newsletter James I. McMahan was listed as a new members but his unit was not listed. It should have been listed as follows:

James I. McMahan
C/1/20 Inf 11 LIB
Portland, OR

****

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Jim Blankinship

COMPANY A - 3rd BATTALION - 1 INFANTRY - 11 LIB

When I was listed as a new member in the Americal Newsletter I was listed in the above unit, A/3/1 Inf. However, the last six on seven months I spent in Vietnam was with the 82nd Arty, Btry D stationed 10 miles south of Chu Lai. Units were being busted up as President Richard Nixon struggled to bring the long unpopular war to a conclusion. Myself and a good buddy, James Blankinship, both fell into some sort of a slot and were given order to report to Chu Lai headquarters of the 82nd Artillery.

I went to D Battery some 10 miles south of Chu Lai working with 8" track mounted guns and Jim went back south somewhere around Duc Pho working with 175 "Long Toms".

I saw Jim briefly a few time before our Deros late June something. We were to leave together, however, I had a gook sore on my right foot and could barely walk. I needed to go to the Medical, so we had a quiet good bye with me telling him, "I'll be down to see you sometime." Jim, who was a man of few words replied, "If you do I'll give you a gallon of the stuff we drink", meaning moonshine. I don't drink much now, but I sure would like to get down to see Jim. He lived in Virginia somewhere down Rt 81, I guess by the West Virginia border. The town Oakwood seems to stick in my mind.

Jim left Vietnam in late June 1970 or early July 1970. I don't know if Jim was reassigned when he returned to the States or he was given an early out.

Robert J. Miller
[redacted]
Farmington, NY 14425

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A LETTER HOME

I helped a buddy die today
By 'helped' I mean I talked with him
until he passed away.
He lay there bleeding, cradled in my arms;
And while he bled, he said these things to me;
He guessed this was the end, so went the game,
You lived, you chanced, you died; It was the same
Some must be sacrificed for victory's sake,
But then he had a lone request to make,
He held the photo of a little boy;
Begrimed, the image with youthful joy,
"My brother's kid" he smiled with pride
Then winced, as pain traversed his wounded side,
He stirred to ease the sharpness of the pain
Asked for a drink, then he spoke again,
He wanted something, for the life he gave,
He asked those he loved, that they should save,
In years to come, when mem'ry dim must grow,
From Fates like this, save little tykes as Joe,
He did not ask for mourners, or marble shrine,
Nor tears, nor tomb, nor stricken likeness fine,
But one request he made before "twas time to go",
"Spare them of this, don't let them know".
I turned to cradle his wounded head,
Then looked again, he was already dead.

Author Unknown

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

WAR VETERANS TO FORWARD COMPENSATION CLAIM TO JAPAN
By Donaldson Rusa

Guadalcanal World War II Veterans Association has completed a research to support its compensation claim which will be forwarded to the Japanese Government.

The association chairman, George Warren Thomas Titiulu, said a report based on the research will be submitted to the Guadalcanal Province Premier and his executive to review before presenting it to parliament for consideration.

He revealed as part of the research they had visited villages between Aola in the South and Lambi in the West of Guadalcanal, and conducted interviews with those who served in the war.

Most of those interviewed revealed that they have served as guides, scouts, marine, army and labour. Majority of them revealed that they are wounded, he said.

"Our claim is based on cruelty of Japanese soldiers towards the locals and the uncountable damages they inflicted on our Properties. The hard work of those captured and work as prisoners for the Japanese was also included in the claim," he said.

Titiulu revealed that most of the captured men were tortured physically and mentally and the young girls and married women were raped.

Revealing few of the many atrocities on women, Titiulu claimed that a married Guadalcanal was packed-raped to death while a number of young girls, as young as 16 were forced at gun point to sleep with them.

"These are not allegations because we have recorded proofs," he said.

Titiulu added that Solomon Islanders are not the only victims because records have it that similar activities were carried out by the Japanese army during the Korean war.

Recapping on what he saw in an Australian television documentary two years ago, Titiulu said a Korean woman revealed how she was forced to sleep with 45 clients simultaneously. She was 16 years old and amongst a group who are classified as comfort women.

"If such Japanese notorious activity were revealed in other countries, Solomon Islands is no exception," Titiulu said.

He called on the national government to assist the association, which also includes other provinces, in presenting its claim to the Japanese government.

It is understood that Central, Malaita, Makira and Western are also involved in the research work.

In another development, the association has expressed solidarity with the Japanese prisoners of war who are protesting on the occasion of the State Visit of the Emperor of Japan to Buckingham Palace recently.

The expression of solidarity was conveyed to the British Commonwealth Ex-Service League via the British High Commission in Honiara. It is hoped that the former will forward the message to the appropriate organization on their behalf.

Meanwhile, Titiulu revealed that the American government has confirmed its assistance to fund an office and a museum for the association and its affiliates association.

On completion of the museum, Titiulu said they hope to airlift the decomposed body of a World War II plane and machine gun from the highlands of Guadalcanal to the museum site, which is yet to be identified.

(Taken from the "Solomon Star" newspaper published in Honiara, Guadalcanal..June 5, 1998.)

Sent in by Joe Micek

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THE COMMODORE AND THE MYSTERIOUS LIGHT

When the war ended, we left Cebu for Japan on August 28, 1945 aboard the USS Goodhue.

As a heavy-weapons soldier, I was assigned as to assist an anti-aircraft gun crew located on the starboard side of the bridge. A sailor who I had known before the war was on that ship and his duties kept him on the bridge. We spent many evenings catching up on old times.

He told me that the Navy's last Commodore was aboard our ship and in command of the convoy of about a dozen ships moving toward Japan. Commodore was a Navy grade which was being retired, according to my friend.

Each evening around dusk, the Commodore would appear on the bridge with his orderly. My sailor friend referred to his aide as a "dog-robber." The Commodore and the "dog-robber" would throw a weighted medicine ball back and forth for a brief period and then both disappear into the area behind the bridge.

On one dark moonless evening a few days after leaving Cebu, a light appeared in the distance and seemed nearly dead ahead of our convoy. The Commodore, sans "dog-robber or medicine ball, stood on the bridge talking to the ship's Captain and pointing repeatedly toward the mysterious light. We were traveling without lights zigzagging back and forth toward Japan.

Finally, the Commodore gave the order for the convoy to disperse. (The details of the story being dutifully relayed to me by my sailor informant.) The ships which had been traveling along side us moved off into the darkness.

In time we came within sight of a mysterious lighted object. It was an American hospital ship lit from stern to stern and displaying a huge red cross on it's side. Presumably it was also on it's way to Japan.

We reached Yokohama on September 8. We never did re-group with the other ships. My sailor friend told me it would likely be the Commodores last command.

I'd like to know if anyone else who was on the USS Goodhue recalls this incident or was I the only one awake!

M Co. 132 Infantry

William H. Borling
[redacted]
Hartwell, GA 30643
barnmida@hartcom.net

THE DAY THE MOSQUITOES WON THEIR WAR

It was 1942 and World War II was, for America, about 4 months old. The chessboard manipulators were pondering where they might best checkmate Japan, who everyone seemed to think, would next invade Australia, at that time almost devoid of manpower because their men were fighting in Africa and the Far East.

On Australia's flank was the French Island of New Caledonia, it's loyalty tottering between Vichy and Free France. A hastily organized Task Force, 6814, had left America in January 1942. It's destination was changed in mid-ocean from the Philippines to New Caledonia, an island with so many inviting invasion sites it was a defender's nightmare. Moreover, it's length was split in half by a rugged range of jungle covered mountains that could only be crossed by means of a narrow pass so treacherous it was designated by the American command as a one way pass with military police at each end controlling traffic by radio, which did more to P.O. the French than losing Paris.

The most dangerous landing sites, including the harbor of Noumea, were in the South, and two Infantry Regiments were dispersed there. The third Infantry Regiment was kept in reserve. But the Northern end of the island held an air strip that required protection, plus there were many sites up there where the Japs could simply walk ashore. The only troops available to plug this gap in the North was a squadron of mechanized cavalry organized from volunteers. (HA!) You know how that worked, the first sergeant beckoned and told you, "Hey, yardbird, you just volunteered for a new outfit." Accordingly, the Squadron was alerted for a move to the North.

For a bivouac site, Staff officers decided that a high plateau that overlooked the Pacific Ocean on both sides, would put the squadron in a position to dash down to either coast and deal with any invasion. The plateau was studded with eucalyptus trees that provided cover from the air. Moreover, it was close to one end of the pass and troops could easily speed to the left or right.

In Noumea, trucks were loaded with supplies fresh from the ships and headed for the cavalry site. However, when the huge primemovers and two-and-a-half ton trucks tried to traverse the treacherous pass they were stopped in their tracks by the first hair pin curve. The road had been built by the French to accommodate horse, bicycle and small car traffic, and they stood and sadly shook their head at what the Americans were trying to push through.

There began a painstaking retreat to the beginning of the pass. Trucks moved slowly, guided every foot by men walking backwards. One slip and they would tumble thousands of yards into inaccessible jungle to be lost forever.

Once back on safe ground the supplies were off-loaded onto smaller trucks, mostly three-quarter ton pickups and some recon cars. The first four vehicles and a squad of men reached the camp area and began unloading supplies. Within minutes they were swearing in amazement and slapping themselves silly trying to kill mosquitoes as large as hornets and just as fierce.

They worked feverishly to unload the vehicles, spurred on by the agonizing stings. Once empty, the men leaped into the trucks and screaming curses at the mosquitoes shouted for the drivers to take off like jack rabbits.

Unfortunately, the second group of men and vehicles were not warned about the mosquitoes who by this time had sounded a call to arms. The second detail was subjected to the fiercest attack from insects every encountered. By the hundreds they swarmed and dove at any patch of bare skin, drove in the needle that felt like a hypo, sucked blood out so greedily they could barely take off, and left a lump the size of a boil.

Screaming, cursing, slapping and waving the arms and hopping about like savages doing a war dance was to no avail. Fresh hordes of mosquitoes pressed the attack. Not one part of the body was spared, any slit in the uniform was an entry point and they swarmed in under the heavy jungle suit and became trapped and exacted their vengeance by stabbing and sucking at any patch of skin.

So fierce was the attack that men rolled on the ground screaming and cursing and trying to crush the insects. Somehow they managed to unload the supplies. The plan had been for eight men to remain behind as an unloading detail. These eight men had volunteered, for this had seemed like a piece of cake. The oncoming trucks could not start out until the empty trucks had cleared the pass, thus allowing plenty of goofing off time. But the corporal in charge of the detail, his face a mass of bumps and smeared blood, shook his fist under the sergeant's nose and vowed he would be shot before spending another minute at this site. He jumped into an empty truck and was swiftly followed by his detail.

When this group cleared the pass they warned the oncoming detail about the mosquitoes and recommended head nets and citronella. One look at his returning men and an amazed captain quickly took them to the aid station. The doctor stared with disbelief at the group of men who had stripped down naked and were jumping around as if they had St. Vitus dance. Never had he seen such a mass of welts and smeared blood and he pressed them, asking, if they were not certain they had not run into a hornet's nest.

"Mosquitoes! Mosquitoes!" The men kept yelling and dancing around. The doctor had them smeared with calamine lotion and thought the incident important enough to report to the Colonel. "Doc!" The Colonel said with narrowed eyes, "You expect me to believe my men were disabled by mosquitoes? This I have to see!"

By the time the Colonel and his staff had cleared the pass the men unloading the third convoy were in a frenzy. Head nets were useless. Mosquitoes found any tiny openings and swarmed in and around the face and neck, became trapped in nostrils and in ears and buzzed and whined like high-pitched motors. They stung and bit whatever they blundered into. Eyes puffed un-naturally; large lumps were on every part of the face, neck and scalp and the stings brought howls of pain.

Desperate, one man rummaged in a duffle bag, brought out some khaki uniforms and set them afire, let them burn a moment then stomped out the flames and let them smoke. The billows of smoke kept the vampires at bay for a few moments, but six men breathed in dense smoke and were soon coughing their lungs out...Again desperation took over. They donned gas masks to enable them to breathe, then wrapped themselves in shelter halves and blankets and lay down in the smoke hoping to drive the insects away and enable them to make their escape.

This was how the Colonel and his officers found them. Surprised and angry, the Colonel kicked one man and ordered him out and up. A muffled reply that requested a kiss someplace stiffened the Colonel's back and he was about to explode, but at that moment, smelling fresh blood, a dense cloud of whining mosquitoes, big as hornets and just as angry attacked the officers and driver with a vengeance. Within seconds they were slapping and cursing and smearing themselves with blood. The Colonel darted for the recon car and shouted for the driver to jump in and start driving. And as he looked at his driver, a slightly built youth, he would forever swear that a bunch of mosquitoes picked him up and hurried him toward the car.

Suddenly impatient, the Colonel shoved the driver into the passenger seat and threw himself behind the wheel. He drove full speed down the road, not caring one bit about clearance. He sped past the MP station and straight to division headquarters where he collared the General. In his most respectful tone he told the General that the camp site he picked out, though perfect for defense, was untenable because of mosquitoes.

There ensued a verbal battle that bordered on insubordination. Finally, in utter frustration, the full bird Colonel dared the General to return with him to the camp site, and if he stayed 15 minutes--no 10!--he would order his men into the area.

The General stood stone-faced a moment, during which the remaining officers walked gingerly into the tent. The General took one look at their swollen and blood smeared faces and said quietly, "Okay, see if you can find another site."

And so, the U. S. Army gave up a very advantageous defense position to a horde of mosquitoes and moved to lower ground. A move almost unheard of, as any dogface who has been thrown into an untenable position and ordered to hold on will attest to.

Ernest V. Correale
Combat Recom

Ed Note: Excellent story and well written. However it holds one misconception. Task force 6814 was never destined for the Philippines. Chapter One, 'In The Beginning', of Under the Southern Cross clearly state that from the time of its organization, Task force 6814 was headed for New Caledonia.

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67th FIGHTER SQUAD

You may not know that at one time, at its inception the Americal Division had in addition to its many units, a full and complete fighter squadron. As a matter of fact, it was in combat at Guadalcanal when the attached special order No. 163 was written. It was the 67th Fighter Squadron under the command of Capt. Dale D. Brannon, on New Caledonia. He was on his way to Guadalcanal with the Squadron's Belle Airacobras and was attached to the First Marine Division fighting the Japanese there on the date of the enclosed special order.

For your information, the 67th Fighter Squadron is still in Japan (Okayama), and has been there since World War II.

Also, what might be interesting to some of your readers, the same Dale D. Brannon, shot down the first Japanese aircraft on Guadalcanal by the Army. The Marines had shot several down earlier. "DD" was flying an Airacobra named "Whistlin' Britches". The squadron had about 30 flying but as weeks went by and new aircraft arrived "WB" was the only one of this kind still flying. Of course, fighter planes only fly in pairs, but this crew kept "WB" in flying condition so she was used as a bomber, dropping 600 pound bombs on enemy ships and also dropping life rafts to pilots down at sea. She had other names, such as "Our Friend" and "Old 66".

In August 1944, I brought "WB" back to the states aboard a "Baby Carrier" to take around the country on a Bond Selling Tour. A few days back in California I came down with the first of many bouts of malaria. That was the last I heard about this museum scheduled plane on its way to Wright Field, Ohio. Research reveals the "Whistlin' Britches" was "scrapped" in California.

Presently at the Air Museum in Kalamazoo, an exact replica of "Whistlin Britches" has been added to this outstanding air museum, and is being credited with the original achievements of this aircraft. Mr. Robert Ellis, Director of the museum, has informed me that "WB" is being "located" at the museum in a Guadalcanal setting. This will give viewers a better understanding and appreciation of her remarkable war record.

Charles E. Allard

****

THE INFANTRY DIVISION

Regarding the structure of the infantry during World War II: a division was comprised of three regiments. The Americal Division had the 132nd, the 164th and the 182nd. Each regiment had three battalions which each had three rifle companies, one heavy weapons company and one headquarters company. The heavy weapons companies were equipped with two 50 caliber machine guns and three 80 millimeter mortars as well as some rifles, carbines and sidearms.

The rifle companies rounded out at about 187 enlisted men. This takes into account the various people whose business is other than that of being a rifleman. There were four platoons to a company. three rifle platoons and one weapons platoon. The weapons platoon had two 30 caliber machine guns and three 60 millimeter mortars.

A rifle platoon was made up of three squads. Each squad had 12 people when it was at full strength. A squad leader, a Staff Sergeant, had three stripes up one down. The assistant squad leader was a three stripe Sergeant. Each squad also had a BAR man and he had an assistant, both men were PFCs with one stripe. In addition the squad also had a 1st and 2nd scout and they each were PFCs.

Filling out the squad were six riflemen all of whom were PVTs. Each platoon was headed up by a Tech Sergeant, three up, two down. The platoon sergeant had a second in command and he was a Staff Sergeant, his title being Platoon Guide. The First Sergeant, three up and three down with a diamond in the middle, had a company clerk, a corporal or T5. In addition to that, each platoon was headed by a 2nd Lieutenant or 1st Lieutenant. That is four Platoon Leaders, a Company Commander. usually a Captain with an assistant, generally a 1st Lieutenant, with the title of Executive Officer.

Warren Freeman

****

A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY MORTON

My wife, Shirley Morton, died February 26, 1999. We were married fifty three (53) years.

She had more active duty than I had.

Shirley was a volunteer at the 'Buddies Club' in Boston, Massachusetts from 1941 through 1945. For this service she received a Commendation from Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

We were married on August 25, 1945.

From 1946 until November 1969 she was a volunteer at the V.A. Hospital on Huntington Avenue in Boston. On Thanksgiving Day in 1969 we moved to Florida and Shirley was a volunteer at the Miami, Florida V.A. Hospital until 1982. At this time we moved to Del Ray Beach, Florida and here she was a volunteer at the Out-Patient, Riviera Beach Veterans Hospital until 1990.

In 1990 she had triple by-pass surgery. Between that and going blind in 1996 her volunteering days were over. However, she still knitted lap robes and Ditty bags for the Disabled Vets. The latest medal she received was given by Governor Chiles of Florida.

Also during 1974 and 1975 she was President of JWVA, Post 684 Miami, Florida.

George Morton

Ed Note: George, I think every veteran owes Shirley a great big THANK YOU. She was certainly a dedicated woman.

****

164th INFANTRY

On January 7, 1944, I was directed to lead a reconn in force toward Hill 250, some 3000 plus meters to the northeast of our Fry's nose (Snuff's nose) departure position. We crossed Eagle Creek then headed toward our objective, pausing shortly later so the 245th Field Artillery could adjust their fire behind Hill 250. This done we continued our movement toward the base of Hill 250. Just short of our objective we found and severed Jap commo lines that they had strung from the other side of the Torokina River.

Shortly after, when my lead scouts came close to our objective, we suddenly received a hail of rifle and machine gun fire. This violent action pinned us down in place. Fortunately for us, the Japs had already dug many "spider holes" that we could crawl into, also some large rocks and downed logs helped to shield us. Our units responded but it became plain to me that we had run into a hornets' nest. Within a few minutes we started to receive rifle fire from our exposed left flank. On our right flank was the Torokina River which was approximately 100 meters wide. Then we began to receive rifle fire even from our rear. I decided we must pull out of there as soon as possible.

By crawling within our group I notified all that upon signal from me, we would fight our way out. Over the noise of the battle I gave the signal to expedite our withdrawal. The men re-acted like veterans, though almost all the officers were replacements. Their baptism by fire made them real veterans in a short time, another advantage, we had a large number of `blooded` NCOs throughout our group.

All in all, we fought our way out of an ambush trap. Pulling back we had to be ready to take care against further Jap actions, so our rear guard was in place, just in case. Upon our return to the perimeter we all felt lucky that we hadn't left anyone behind or killed, even though four men were wounded, one requiring hospitalization.

Since this operation was directed by 1st Bn, C.O. 164th, LTC Wm. H. Considine, I reported to him promptly that day. Col. Considine was always a `Gung Ho` type; the debriefing went well and he thanked me. He had suggested to Capt. Conlon, my C.O., that as a Guadalcanal veteran I should lead that patrol. I was debriefed earlier by Capt. Conlon, he remarked that he was already aware how fortunate we were to get back with only a few men wounded.

The next day Capt. Conlon told me that he was going to recommend me for a Silver Star. I knew he was serious because he had already mentioned this to Col. Considine. Since I felt that all my fellow officers and NCOs had performed so well under intense fire, I told Capt. Conlon that unless they would award all deserving officers and NCOs that I would recommend, to forget it. The next day my C.O. contacted higher HQs and was told that my request was not practical. I then told Capt. Conlon, firmly, to forget the whole idea. So it was dropped.

Anthony A. Hannel
LTC USA (RET)

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ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Best known of more than one hundred national cemeteries in the United States, Arlington's green slopes shelter veterans from every war that has involved the nation. Over 245,000 service men and their family members rest on the 612 acres of Virginia land across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial. About 20 burials are conducted every weekday.

All who are remembered here have this in common; service to their country. To each one, no matter what rank or station, whether decorated hero or unknown, belongs a place of honor. Though the majority of those buried here have been servicemen, many women who have contributed to our Armed Forces are also interred within these hallowed grounds.

The granite and marble markers and memorials reflect the tides of American history, beginning in the Civil War and cresting since in times of armed conflict. The sinking of the USS Maine at Havana harbor, Cuba, in 1898 touched off the Spanish-American War and added graves of sailors near the salvaged mast of the ship. Like that of the troops who served under his command, the headstone for John J. Pershing, World War I's General of the Armies, is a simple standard-issue marker. World War II is represented by such distinguished persons as Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy and General George C. Marshall. From Korea and the Vietnam jungles came the remains of other veterans to this sacred spot. Cape Cod stones frame the eternal flame at the grave of President John F. Kennedy, where the words "with history the final judge of our deeds" are quoted from his inaugural address.

By tradition, American military cemeteries developed from the duty of commanders on the frontier and in battle to care for their casualties. When Civil War casualties overflowed

hospitals and burial grounds near Washington, D.C., Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs proposed in 1864 that 200 acres of the Robert E. Lee family property at Arlington be taken for a cemetery. "The grounds about the mansion," Meigs wrote. "Are admirably adapted to such use."

Burials had in fact begun at Arlington before the ink was even blotted on Meig's proposal! By war's end, 16,000 graves filled the spaces close to the house. Heir to the property Custis Lee sued the government for disputing his claim to ownership. After the Supreme Court ruled in Lee's favor. Congress paid him 150,000 for title to the land.

From the portico of Arlington House. known today as the Robert E. Lee Memorial, an official national day of remembrance was proclaimed in 1868 as a day to decorate the graves of the fallen. The Memorial Amphitheater, one of the most visited sections in Arlington National Cemetery, is now the setting for these observances. Flags bedeck the circle of arches around marble benches and the podium where leaders pay tribute to those who served. Presidential wreaths are presented each Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Just east of the amphitheater, visitors attend the timeless rituals of honor at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Here a sentinel of the Third U.S. Infantry maintains the vigil around the clock. The sentinel paces 21 steps down the mat before the Tomb, pauses 21 seconds, and returns. The changing of the guard takes place every hour (or half-hour from April through September). "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God" reads the inscription on the sarcophagus of the World War I soldier entombed here since 1921. Joining their comrade, unknown servicemen from World War II, Korea and Vietnam lie in crypts beneath the slabs flush with the terrace paving.

A funeral with full military honors is a dignified and moving occasion, An honor guard accompanies the American flag-draped coffin drawn by matched horses. A band plays solemn marches while muffled drums beat the slow cadence for the procession. Before the remains are lowered, a squad fires three rifle volleys and a bugler blows the long notes of "Taps." Finally the guard folds the flag and presents it to the next of kin.

Symbols of human struggle and sacrifice, the stones and monuments of Arlington National Cemetery are steeped in history. In their time, all buried here, taken from many walks of life, creeds, and races, answered their Country's call. Their stories will be remembered.

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ZERO TOLERANCE
(Or Saving Private Freeman)

My most vivid recollection from the 3 1/2 year of my WW II army service was of the day we landed in Guadalcanal, where our mission was to relieve the embattled Marines who had secured a temporary beachhead. It was the first attempt of our troops to regain a foothold in preventing the Japanese from further conquests in the Pacific.

Our small convoy of Army transport ships arrived from New Caledonia with minimum Navy escort. For defense our ships were equipped with small anti-aircraft guns mounted on deck, bow and stern. (As I recall).

We debarked uneventful onto the beachlike shore that featured a large Lever Brothers' coconut grove just a short distance inland. But we had no time to gaze at the similarity of the Hawaiian setting. A squadron of Japanese Zero fighters swiftly appeared on the horizon heading in our direction.

The shock of attempting to dig foxholes in the sharp coral with our tiny Army tools bordered on panic, frustration and fear, as we waited for the attack sure to come within minutes. But fate had other plans in store...

Suddenly, as a Zero approached to what we thought was a few yards from the ship's bow, a roar, and a ball of flame, as the kamikaze pilot met his maker. in rapid succession, another Zero, another poof. And another, and another. soon our tensions eased and we were up and cheering. "There goes another". And then it was over.

Weeks later, our Time Magazine confirmed what we had witnessed. 32 Zeros had come to visit, but only 2 managed to return home. We will be ever grateful for the ship's brave marksmen that were "Zero on the Spot".

No, I do not wish to see "Saving Private Ryan", it was much more peaceful in the Pacific.

Milton Freeman
E Co. 182Infantry

Ed Note: Milton, you asked how we got off the transports upon our arrival on Guadalcanal. The first wave loaded on the Higgins boats before they were lowered into the water. All later waves went over side and climbed down cargo nets into the boats. The Higgins boats put their bows on the beach and a gang plank was lowered and some what extended. You and I stepped off into water up to our arm pits. My good friend Roly Hatch was up to his eye balls.

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SURRENDER-ARMISTICE

Lifelong Wakefield resident, Army Colonel (Ret.) Raymond G. Chesley has donated five copies of his book "Surrender-Armistice" to the Beebe Library.

The book covers the personal combat experiences of the author as a Federalized National Guard officer in World War II with the Americal Division on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu and the initial occupation of Japan.

On Cebu, Philippine Islands, the author was appointed the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence) on the General Staff of the Americal Division. He also was the U.S. Envoy to convince the 35th Japanese Army to surrender to the Americal Division after the Atomic bombs were used on Japan. Pictures of the surrender ceremony are in the book.

The book also included the author's experiences as a regular army Lt. Colonel assigned to the 18th Regiment, Korean Army during the major battles in 1950-52.

"World War II Pacific and Korean veterans, teachers and people who like unvarnished history should find the book of interest," said Chesley.

(Taken from Daily Item, Wakefield, Massachusetts)

Ed Note: The book is an excellant reference book for it gives many dates important to our members. It may be obtained through our Museum Director Kenneth Turner. You may reach him by calling [redacted]

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Always look forward to receiving the Newsletter and looking for a few familiar names from the Old Guard. Though each year the list gets shorter and shorter.

Thought I was getting to be one of the real old timers, until I read about 90 year old Leo Ciccolo (makes me feel like a "kid" in an old body).

Always good to see an article by Joe Micek, from my unit, the 132nd Inf. Regt. He has been a very active member of our reunions and has spent many days working in getting the Guadalcanal War Memorial to be a reality, along with another 132nd member, Dr. Bob Muehrcke. I'm proud to consider them both my army buddies.

I joined the Guard in the late 1930s and after service in the Pacific, ended up in the Battle of the Bulge. I returned to the Guard after the war, commanding the 108th Med Bn of the 33rd Div. Finally ended up in the Reserve, retiring with 36 years of service.

Proud to say I have a son who started in the Guard, served in Desert Storm and is a Lt. Col. with 31 years service.

Keep up the good work with the Newsletter.

Regards,
Col. Toby Weinshenker

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AMERICAN BANTAM LOST OUT ON PACT
1940 Bantam Mark II (BRC)
(by Ted Burness)

Some automotive historians believe the American Bantam Co. got a raw deal in 1940-1941. The struggling little auto manufacturer in Butler, Pa., was the first to respond to the government's call for a new small, personal size military transport vehicle, but American Bantam eventually got passed over.

Was it politics? Was it the influence of bigger money? Or was it simply because American Bantam didn't have the production capability to meet the demand?

The American Bantam car had been the ultimate development of what began in 1930 as the American Austin; a tiny auto using mechanical parts of the British Austin "Seven" but manufactured in the United States just in time for the great depression. As the 1930s progressed, the car grew more American and less British and adopted the Bantam name in place of Austin.

But it always sold in small numbers because most buyers considered it much too little to make sense for American highways; It was a miniature suited only for local use.

American Bantam was, therefore, on shaky ground when it took on the big challenge to build a light weight military vehicle. Its first attempt in this direction was merely a modified Bantam convertible (not acceptable). Next, it produced 70 vehicles similar to the one illustrated, and following that, about 1,500 highly improved models, which looked more like the World War II Jeeps most people remember.

However, the war clouds rolling closer to America in 1940 and 1941, the U.S. Government was anxious to build up its arsenal of weapons and military vehicles, and Willys-Overland was ready and able to produce far more than American Bantam could. So W-O, as well as Ford Motor Co., got the big contracts for the general purpose vehicle, soon christened the "Jeep".

The Jeep name was derived from the phonic pronunciation of "GP" (general purpose) and was also inspired by a supporting character in King Features' popular comic strip, "Popeye" (aka "Thimble Theatre" in its early days). This character was a little animal known as "Eugene, the Jeep," who could predict the future and answer questions put to it by Popeye, Olive Oyl and others, by moving its tail up or down and crying "Jeep, Jeep!"

And the future of the Jeep vehicle? How was it? Great! Highly successful for years as army transportation. The Jeep is still produced in civilian versions (now by Chrysler Corp.) in several models and types. You know them well: Wrangler, Cherokee, Grand Cherokee, etc.

(This article was taken from 'Thunder from Heaven' News Bulletin of the 17th Airborne Division).

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Dear Editor,

I just wanted to keep you up to date on some of the activities I have been engaged in. This is a letter that I got this week from Mr. Scott Burger. It represents a major success story.

Dear David,

I want to thank you for some information you provided me last year concerning an uncle of mine who served with the Americal Division in the Pacific. The page showing his award of the Bronze Star Medal was a big surprise as it is not listed on his discharge paper along with his other awards. Now if we can just find out if he was ever awarded the medal or not. No one in my family ever heard talk about it, and I am guessing that his being seriously wounded and spending the next 11 months in various hospitals before being discharged might have led to some confusion concerning the award.

Another tip you gave led to me receiving a large file containing copies of his medical records, the most interesting of them being handwritten notes by a doctor at a forward aid station made minutes after my uncle was wounded. Are there other files available that show personnel records like promotions, assignments, etc? Though the file I got had lots of information, it was strictly related to his medical problems.

I believe I also saw somewhere where you have copies of battle maps available? My uncle, Ralph C. Bigley #37521508, served with Co. E, 2nd BN, 164th Inf., Americal Division. He fought on Bougainville, Leyte and Cebu, getting wounded on 15 April 1945 near Cebu City. He won the Bronze Star on Leyte during a battle on 1 March 1945. I would be very interested in maps of these areas if they are available. "Thanks again for your help last year. It was greatly appreciated." Scott Burger.

I will help others locate WWII records. They can write me at:

David Myers
[redacted]
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

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I REMEMBER

Referring to the article on Page 21 of the Jan-Feb-Mar 99 issue, "Order of the Day". I wore all those things!

I didn't get to Camp Edwards until July 1943 but I am sure we were issued all the items listed--and for a poor 98 pound scrawny kid--that was a load!

During the winter of '43 I wore all those items described as, 'to be worn'--wool drawers, wool undershirt and wool socks. Quite scratchy.

I wanted to wrap in my blankets too, but my roll wouldn't look right so they wouldn't let me.

Going up the ladder on the Queen L12, with all that gear plus the A & B Bag wa something. But by then I had put on a little weight and gotten stronger.

Note: Okay Carl, here is what you must have had in your A Bag:

2 Chino Pants
2 Chino Shirts
2 Chino Ties
1 Pair Shoes
Remaining Wool Socks
1 Denim Set
1 Mosquito Headnet
1 Blanket
1 Bath towel
1 Undershirt, Wool
1 Bed Sack
2 Handkerchiefs
5 Under Shirts, Cotton
5 Under Draws, Cotton
1 Field Cap, Wool
1 Chino Work Hat
1 Denim Work Hat
1 Pair Mittens
1 Helmet

SFC Carl E. Richardson (Ret) also served in Vietnam with 11th LIB 67-68.

When you have adjusted to the load of your A Bag we will then load your B Bag. (Thanks to William E. Porter for reminding us the proper way to pack.

USAT JOHN ERICSSON

The last Newsletter mentioned Merrill's Marauders and that some of the Americal people had joined that group. In 1959 I was given a book titled "Merrill's Marauders" written by one of the survivors. I can't find the book, but it was well written and may still be available. A mention in the Newsletter might answer the need of some historical buff.

The second matter has to do with the fact that this is a small world. The last Newsletter also mention the troop ships used by the Americal and that one of them was of Swedish registry (SS Kungsholm) which was renamed the JOHN ERICSSON when in use by the U.S. Government. He was a Swedish inventor which probably the reason for the name selection.

When I returned from the war, I went back to school, married a young lady named Marion Spence whose father was president and owned Spence Engineering Company. He died, my wife died and I ended up a majority stock holder in the company and chairman of the board. This is all leading to the fact that Spence Engineering Company, which manufactures steam valves and pressure regulators and other naval hardware, was once the Rider-Ericsson Company and before that the John Ericsson Company and the original manufacturer of the Moniter of Civil War fame.

As I said, small world.

Now that I am retired and living on a farm in northern Michigan I had better get out and get to work for spring is a busy time for us farmer.

William T. Elliott
246 F.A.

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LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

We are searching for a family member of Lt. Fred A. Kucera, 132nd Inf. Regt., wounded on Guadalcanal on 1/23/43 and later died of his wounds. A very valuable personal item belonging to him was recently found on Hill 27. Need information on any of his family members.

Please contact:

Don Ballou
[redacted]
or the 132nd Infantry Regt.
WWII Assoc.
[redacted]
New Lenox, IL 60451

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JOHN EARL CREEL

I am looking for anyone who knew John Earl Creel, killed on Cebu Island, in 1943. He was one of 33 men killed out of a 35 man patrol. He was my uncle and had a twin brother who was also in the army. His brother always felt guilty that he was not with John when he was wounded.

Please contact:

John O'Malley
[redacted]
Charlotte, NC 28205

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MOUNT BAGANA

At the upper end of the Solomon Islands, five-hundred miles east of New Guinea, is the island of Bougainville. Its 3,500 square miles represent the largest single land mass in the group. It is approximately 125 miles long and ranges from 30 to 50 miles in width. The island is split by the Emperor and Crown Prince Range and is capped by two active volcanoes--10,000-foot Mount Balbi in the north and 6,600-foot Mount Bagana near Empress Augusta Bay.

Bougainville's narrow coastal plain is generally low and swampy. Practically all of the island's interior is covered with what is reputed to be the thickest and most impenetrable jungle in the Pacific. The annual rainfall exceeds a hundred inches and in many parts of the island brief torrential rainstorms are almost a daily occurrence the year round.

Before World War II the population of the island was estimated to include more than forty-six thousand extremely dark-skinned natives, plus about a hundred white missionaries and plantation managers and some Chinese. Most of the natives had already been converted to Christianity by Catholic and Protestant missionaries. Many small villages were spread throughout the island.

In 1943-44 I was stationed on Bougainville for more than twelve months, in sight of Mount Bagana. On clear days and nights I could see smoke and fire coming from the top as a burning chimney, and earthquakes were felt real often. Thunderstorms and rain were as heavy as I have ever seen, and several people were killed by lightning in our camp area.

In 1981, I learned of Sarah H. Norris's art work and she did a pencil drawing of Mount Bagana from the small picture that I made while stationed on the Island. I hold the original copy and have had re-productions made from it. These are available for $2.00 each.

Elbert R. Horton
[redacted]
Timberlake, NC 27583

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THE BEST LOCAL AMATEUR YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF
by Chad Konecky

Former featherweight champion Joe Nolan looks back on and illustrious career:

Wakefield's Joe Nolan vividly remembers the first time he ever raised his fists with the intention of doing someone harm. It was an August evening in Newton's Boyd Park. The year was 1933.

Nolan, a 16-year-old-park instructor was surrounded by five locals who took issue with him for ending their water pistol shenanigans. The leader of the pack confronted Nolan and leveled a fixed stare. His shoulders flexed as if he was about to throw a punch. A split-second later the would be assailant was unconscious--decked by Nolan's lighting quick right hand.

"That's the first time I knew I had any ability at all." said Nolan, now 81. "I was an incredibly skinny kid--5-feet-10-inches tall, 122 pounds. Kid used to call me 'muscles' as a joke. But as it turned out, I had fast hands, fast legs and a God-given short right hand."

Oh, what a right hand. Nolan's bread a butter punch led him deeper into trouble before it took him to three New England Gold Glove Championships, a 160-8 record and one of the most prolific amateur boxing careers ever.

It seems the 'pistol' toting lad that Nolan knocked out that August night was none other than the first cousin of Louie Barisano, the 1933 Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) National Feather-weight Champion. And so, Boyd Park, was also the venue for Nolan's second fight: a four minute tangle with Barisano himself, then 22 years old.

Barisano never forgot the spunk of the lanky park instructor from Boyd Park, who gave a good as he got. The pair later trained together as amateurs. Nolan's life changed forever after trading punches with Barisano.

Captivated by boxing and his obvious talents, Nolan soon came under the tutelage of a former National Welterweight Champion names Les Baker. As a pro in 1932, Baker fought Jackie Fields for the Welterweight Championship at the Boston Garden.

"He was the Phi Beta Kappa of the ring," said Nolan, who later graduated from Boston University Law School and worked for the Veterans Administration. "he was a champion and a perfectionist. He was the best instructor I could have had."

Evidently. Less than a year after beginning his training, Nolan fought on a amateur card at the Irish American Athletic Association in South Boston. In three bouts that night as a 122 pounder in the 126 pound featherweight division, Nolan scored three first round knockouts.

"I had that right hand and a six inch left hook," said Nolan. "It was just too much power in that weight class."

Nolan's amazing debut launched a tremendous four year career in which he won a New England AAU featherweight title, a Diamond Belt Championship and three straight New England Golden Glove titles. Nolan sold the honorary wrist watches he won to help put himself through the University of New Hampshire, where he met his wife and graduated in 1939.

In addition to his accomplishments inside the ring, Nolan was a semifinalist in the 1936 Olympic boxing trials, defeating two regional Golden Gloves champions on the way to the final bout. He was training for the 1940 Olympics when World War II broke out and canceled the scheduled games.

But not even the draft could stop the boxing wonder. As a member of the Army field artillery unit, he was stationed in Australia in 1942 before serving in the now famous operations at Guadalcanal. To be sure, 1942 was a depressing year for the Allied war effort. Nonetheless, the Army still had enough gumption to run a South Pacific Boxing Championship.

Wakefield's Joseph Nolan was one of the top amateur boxers of his time, winning three Golden Gloves Championships.

Four years removed from his last fight, Nolan began the tournament by serving as referee. But a general from his sector, who was desperate for a champion, learned of Nolan's amateur career and pressed him into service.

Nolan had a week to train. At 139 pounds, he eschewed the light division and decided to fight in the 147 pound welterweights.

Nolan reached the finals against great odds. there he battled former world-rated Brooklyn lightweight Patsy Giovanelli. Just one year earlier Giovanelli had defeated Bobby Ruffin, a top five contender, at Madison Square Garden. Nolan lost a split decision to Giovanelli in his 11th fight in nine days.

"It was a great fight." said Nolan. " A great one to remember as my last. Patsy looked better in the third round. I knocked him down twice, but I ran out of gas."

"I can't complain, though. Boxing was a thrill for me," he continued, "I trained hard and stayed in top shape. I had a lot going for me as a fighter."

Including that right hand.

(Taken from the Wakefield Observer-April 24, 1997)

Joe Nolan served with the 221 Field Artillery

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AMERICAL MUSEUM

On March 10, 1999 the Worcester Museum was open to a group of school students from Mansfield, Massachusetts. Since the Museum was open for all exhibits, the Americal was asked to staff the Americal Museum and several members were there to to talk to the students and answer any question they may have.

There were four volunteers at the meeting, Mal Cate, John Richardson, Nelson Dion and Joe Anderson. A very enjoyable mornign was had by all.

There were over forty (40) students plus two teachers present. The students were broken up into three groups and went from exhibit to exhibit throughout the Armory. As you might expect from youngsters, at their age, interest ranged from little or none to real enthusiasm.

Joe Anderson - Students - Nelson Dion

One thing that was obvious to me was how little the kids, in general, knew about World War II. I spoke to both teachers about this and they said, regretably, "there was almost no mention of World War II or WW I, in their history books--no wars since the Civil War".

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WAR APOLOGY SNAGS CHINA-JAPAN SUMMIT

Tokyo -- Before departing for Japan, Chinese President Jiang Zemin had insisted Tokyo's reluctance to face up to its wartime past was an obstacle to improved relations between the rival Asian powerhouses.

That thorn remained as both sides refused to endorse a written statement referring to Japan's "aggression" during World War II.

In talks with Jiang, Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi cited a 1995 statement expressing his country's "deep remorse and heartfelt apology" for the war, Japanese government spokesman Sadaaki Numata said.

But Jiang and Obuchi refused to sign a written declaration hammered out during hours of wrangling by negotiators while the two leaders attended a state dinner at the Imperial Palace.

The draft statement issued late yesterday acknowledged "responsibility in causing great misfortune and damage to the people of China

through its aggression against China." It was the first time Tokyo had used the term "aggression" in writing, Japanese officials said. Japanese conservatives have insisted the war was against Western colonialism.

The Chinese had hoped for a clearly worded apology from Japan during Jiangs's visit--the first by a Chinese head of state to Japan since the end of World War II.

Many Chinese remain bitter over the atrocities committed by Japanese troops.

(Taken from the Cape Cod Times Newspaper 11/29/98)

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101st QUARTERMASTER REGIMENT

Below is a picture of some of the members that served with the 101st Quartermaster Regiment while stationed at Camp Edwards in 1941.

Red Welch - Herb Ford - Paul Riceberg
Joe Sullivan - Larry Donovan - Jim Driscoll
Tiny Usavich - Harry Lee - John Kelly

Louis Sanseverino sent in this photo. He could not be in it because he was taking it.

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26st SIGNAL COMPANY

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

We would not have any news whatsoever about the "Old Guard" if it were not for the 182nd, 164th, and 132nd.

Thanks to everyone that has sent news for others to enjoy.

Sherman Lilly

Ed Note:That is exactly how I feel. We need letters from all the different units in order to make a well rounded Newsletter. Hey Medics, Engineers, Quartermaster, Artillery, Signal and all Special Troops, how about your story?

IS IT A PEEP OR A JEEP?

After reading the Article "Is It A Peep Or Jeep" by James L. Bertle Jr. in our most interesting Newsletter, I couldn't help but travel back to May of 1941, at Camp Edwards. It was here on a local maneuvers, that we first became aware of an odd looking command car, inside of which officers were poring over maps, and discussing tactics. somehow, somewhere, the "moniker" JEEP was pasted to this particular vehicle. The derivative came from the comic strip, "Popeye", which along with, "Wimpy the Hamburger Glutton", contained a cat and a dog-like odd looking called "The Jeep". It answered questions affirmatively or negatively by its tail straight in the air. The same name later applied to a small car, first called "The Peep"..Therefore, I agree with Mr. Correale and Mr. Bertie's article on the originality, and derivation of a "Jeep & "Peep" background birth.

Your brother "Dogface",
Bill Picardy

Note: See Page 26 of this issue for a new entry into the field.

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ATABRINE

Atabrine for malaria
It's the pill that keeps those chills so far away
Try to grin, don't let it scare ya
If your color starts to change that's okay
Look at me--see whats it done for me
Look--my face is gray, my hand are turning green
But we've got the Japs on the run
And when it all said and done
We owe it all to atabrine
(I don't mean quinine)
We owe it all to atabrine!

Note: Just going through my old files and I ran across this note from Jerry Martel, he says;

Dear Jim:

Was pleasantly surprised to read a letter from Jim Standish regarding the "Atabrine" parody I wrote on Guadalcanal around 1942-43. It turned out to be the most popular thing I ever did and I'm amazed how many guys remember it after 46 years year have passed.

So to the tune of 'Tangerine' here are the lyrics which you can print in the Newsletter for anyone interested. Jerry
(This letter was dated April 6, 1990).

We still remember you Jerry. My favorite singer is Helen O'Connell and whenever she sings 'Tangerine' the lyrics you wrote run through my mind. I also remember the parody you wrote on board the Santa Elena. You used the Boston College football song for the music and the lyrics started;

Australia, Australia, we've come from overeas,
To fight a common enemy
and to bring him to his knees
We'll battle every Jap on the map
Day and night
(Here my memorory fails me)

Jerry put on many shows for us overseas and made us laugh and forget our problems. Jerry passed away on December 30, 1995. Wherever he is I know he has them laughing.

Jim

BATTERY C - 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

This is a true story about a fire mission on the island of Bougainville.

Enclosed is a picture of my Number 1 Gun crew, 155 MM Howitzer, taken in 1944 on Bougainville. It interesting to note in the picture, that my Chief of Section, Barney Chase (Nat. Adj Bernard Chase) is the only one with his shirt on. He had fair skin and burned easily.

Jr. Congelton - Frank Mader - Charlie Lounds
Squint McGinley - Barney Chase - Joe ? - Leo Orfe

Once again my #1 gun crew of 150 MM Howitzer was picked to go up to the front lines. we were one of the best gun crews in the U.S. Army, and had many combat fire missions to our credit. We had been credited with knocking out Jap artillery positions that were giving us counter-battery fire.

This fire mission was right up to the barbed wire on the front lines. Barney Chase was our Chief of Section and some of the other men I remember were Junior Congilton, Frank Mader, Charlie Lounds, Squint McGinley and John Ford.

One man I only remember as "Reds" made up part of a two .50 caliber machine gun crews. One was set up on our left and one on our right.

It was a very rapid movement to the front and we set up our gun position to fire directly over the barbed wire into the Jap positions. The infantry had just taken the Jap bodies off of the wire after an attack.

I still remember very clearly, Barney Chase showing me the Jap positions and telling me to look at the shells as they were fired, as they were clearly visible as they left the barrel and ON THE WAY.

I have never written about this fire mission before and I am hoping the gun crew that served with me will remember the battle when the Japs tried to push us off the island 54 years ago.

At the Convention last year in Florida I met Howard Webb, whom I had not seen since Cebu, who also served in C Battery. He asked me if I remembered pushing the dead Japs off the hill with a shovel. I answered that I did not remember that but I did remember the terrible smell and having a difficult time eating my C rations with so many flies around.

Bougainville was a long time ago. we were there one year and one day. A lot happened to us from Jap bombing, Jap artillery fire, but we did have a break in the action when Bob Hope brought his show to the island. It is also interesting to remember the natives with weird scores on their bodies--some very fancy.

Sometimes in the dark of night it seemed we were all alone, but one night our guns shot down a Jap you could hear a loud cheer letting you know you were not alone.

A few days before we left Bougainville, we heard on the radio in our mess hall tent from Tokyo Rose. She said she could see the ships in Empress Augusta Bay that would take the Americal off the island. She said we would all be killed as Jap subs were waiting to sink all of our ships.

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

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DESIGN FOR WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL APPROVED

The new design for the World War II Memorial was unanimously supported by the Commission of Fine arts on May 21. Now it must be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the secretary of the interior. Last year the Commission of Fine Arts and the NCPC rejected a design that would have blocked the open vistas on the Mall and destroyed elm trees.

In Fredrich St. Florian's new design, the important environmental features of the Mall have been preserved. "The modified design concept remains powerful in its purity, simplicity and serenity," notes St. Florian. "The refinements fully respect the memorial's historic surroundings, the magnificent vistas and the site's park-like setting."

The memorial will be funded through a $100 million campaign led by former Sen. Bob Dole and Frederick Smith, chairman, president and chief executive officer of FDX Corporation.

Although the commission welcomes any and all donations, one special way to contribute to the memorial is to register the name of a living or deceased World War II veteran or home-front civilian in the World War II Registry of Remembrances. Registrants will be listed in one of three categories: those who gave their lives, those who served in uniform, and those who supported the war effort on the home-front.

Include the honoree's name, hometown, state, branch of service (if applicable) and your relationship to the honoree. Indicate whether the honoree was a veteran or home-front civilian and whether he or she is living or deceased, or was killed in World War II.

For more information on the memorial or to send a tax-deductible donation, write to the:

American Battle Monuments Commission
[redacted]
Arlington, VA 22201
or call [redacted]
(Sent in by Col. Warren R. Hester)

****

101st MEDICAL REGIMENT
TF-6814

I respectfully disagree with Leo Ciccolo's claim to be the oldest member of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

I was born on September 7, 1908, which made me Ninety (90) years old on September 7, 1998.

I belonged to the 101st Medical Regiment and went overseas with Task Force 6814.

Everett R. Roper

The enclosed picture was taken at my grand niece's wedding on August 31, 1998.

I still live alone with a little help from my family and friends. According to my doctor, at my last check-up, I am in good health.

Any cards would be appreciated.

Everett D. Roper
[redacted]
Needham, MA 02492-3627

****

F COMPANY, 182nd REUNION HELD APRIL 14, 1999

On Wednesday April 14, 1999, the World War II Veterans of Co. F, 182nd Infantry held their annual Reunion luncheon at J.J. McKays Restaurant in Wayland, Mass. Also attending were seventeen men of the post WW II Co. F National Guard.

Reunion Chairman Frank Rourke gave the welcoming address. He announced messages received from Al Hartwell of Louisville, KY, who stated that his age now matches his golf score of 84. Also Vinnie Leblanc of California.

The sad news of the day was the announcement of the Co. F men who died since last years Reunion. This list included Kenneth Colburn, Elmer 'Lefty' Mitchell, Henry Satenstein, Thomas O'Rielly, And Gerard Harris.

On the sick list is Buddy Lorenz, Del Ferranti, and Bob Perry.

Ltc. Salavtore Vincuillo spoke about his after V.J. Day inspection of the Yokohama Harbor defenses readies for the anticipated U.S. attack. He estimated the U. S. forces casualties would have been astronomical. Any G.I. facing the landing had to be grateful for the Atomic bombing okayed by President Harry Truman.

Very noticeable was the few F Co. men that were able to attend. Sadly these diminishing numbers are inevitable.

Sincerely,
Joe Papa
Secretary

****

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY HOLDS REUNION

On March 20, 1999 a meeting was held at Bob Doucette's home in Lynn, Mass. to continue the friendships that had begun many years ago during World War II. Originally it was a meeting of L Company bust has now blossomed into a meeting of many members of the 182 Infantry. Bob and his wife prepared a terrific luncheon and with plenty of conversation a pleasant time was had by all. Any other members wishing to attend future get-togethers can contact:
Bob Doucette at [redacted]

Jim McCarthy
Secretary

****

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

August 27-28-29, 1999
OR
September 3-4-5, 1999

Our negotiations with the hotels are flipping back and forth. It will be one of the two weekends as indicated above.

For complete info and update contact:

Joseph G. Micek
[redacted]
Norridge, Il 60656-3231
Tel. [redacted]

****

1st BN BUDDIES ASSOCIATION - 182nd INFANTRY

August 14, 1999
Contact:

Elliott Carey
[redacted]
North Billerica, MA 01862

****

YANKEE DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Ashworth by the Sea, Hampton Beach, NH
June 8-8-10, 1999
CONTACT
Robert R. Raney
[redacted]
Peabody, MA 01960-4138

****

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SEND IT IN TODAY!

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The following items are for sale from the ADVA Quartermaster

No. #	*Item*	*Price Includes S&H*
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2.	ASSOCIATION PATCH (*large*)	$3.25
3.	AMERICAL PATCH (*dress blue*)	$3.00
4.	AMERICAL PATCH (*subdued*)	$1.75
5.	AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	$2.45
6.	AMERICAN FLAG PATCH	$1.25
7.	AMERICAL CAR PLATE	$8.00
8.	AMERICAL PIN SHIELD (*large*)	$2.75
9.	AMERICAL DIVISION CREST	$2.25
10.	ADVA WINDOW DECAL	$1.25
11.	LAPEL PIN (*ADVA*)	$2.75
12.	TIE BAR W/SHIELD	$4.25
13.	MINIATURE COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE (*lapel*)	$3.75
14.	MINIATURE COMBAT MEDIC BADGE (*lapel*)	$3.75
15.	182 INFANTRY LAPEL PIN (*Miniature*)	$3.75
16.	UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS (*WWII Americal History, Soft Cover*)	$15.00
17.	CAP, BASEBALL TYPE (*ADVA Patch*)	$7.00
18.	AMERICAL T-SHIRTS S-M-LXL-XXL (*Specify Style A, B, C*)	$15.00
19.	AMERICAL T-SHIRTS S-M-LXL-XXL (D. *Jungle fighter Heavy Duty*)	$18.00
20.	AMERICAL DIVISION FLAG(*Specify Style a, b, c*) *Starting At*	$38.00
21.	AMERICAL DIVISION VIDEO	$15.00

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Americal Divisional Flag

Americal Crest

NOTE: For your convenience, Shipping & Handling has been included in the final price.

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant
[redacted]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Name_____ Telephone_____

Street_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Americal Unit Rgt/Bde_____ Bn_____ Co_____ Other_____ Associate____

Dates of Service_____ to_____ Serial/SSN No._____

Occupation_____ Name of Spouse_____

Date_____ Signature_____ Enclosed DD-214 Y N

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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