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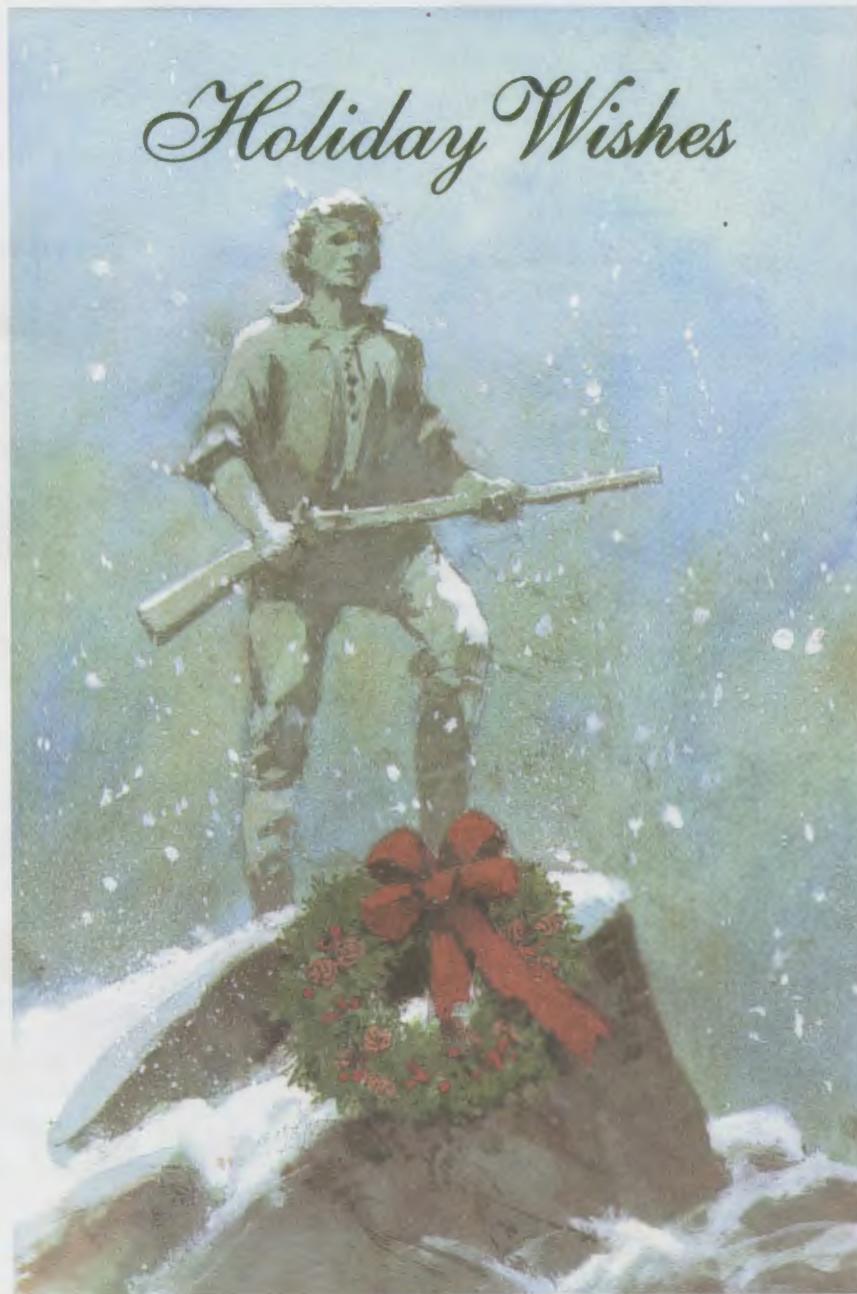
AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor-in-Chief: James C. Buckle
Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2001

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION – 82 PHYLLIS DRIVE – SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664



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COMMANDER'S PAGE

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
2001 DIRECTORY

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Ronald R. Ellis
[REDACTED]
Henderson, TX 75652

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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

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

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Les Hines
[REDACTED]
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Gary L. Noller
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Blue Springs, MO 64014

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Kenneth B. Turner
[REDACTED]
Stoneham, MA 02180

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[REDACTED]
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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Greensboro, NC 27405

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[REDACTED]
Kevin M. Sartorius

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Beaverton, OR 97005

Chapter Commander
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[REDACTED]
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Chapter Commander
New England Region
Roland T. Castranova
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960

Chapter Commander
South Midwest Region
Cameron F. Baird
[REDACTED]
Stonewall, TX 78671

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

Chapter Commander
Far West Region
Lawrence J. O'Boyle
[REDACTED]
R. S. Margarita, CA 92688

Chapter Commander
East Region
David D. Eichhorn
[REDACTED]
Fleming, OH 45729-9643

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

Web Site (Internet)
www.americal.org

08/01

Greetings from the Commander

As I begin the last phase of my term as your commander, I would like to start by thanking each and everyone of you for your support. It has been a very good year and a half and I am looking forward to a good finish. I have been traveling more than I normally do but that goes along with the job. I have enjoyed seeing the membership and visiting with many hopeful new members. I have contacted a lot of new prospects recently with the hope of making them proud American members.

I am very proud to be able to tell people that I am a member of the American Division Veterans Association. I display the Americal shield on my vehicles and I am often asked what it means. I encourage each and everyone of you to display our window stickers and decals.

We have completed our donation to the National Museum of the Vietnam War. It is to be built in Ft. Wolters, Texas and is scheduled to open in 2004. This is just one of the many projects I have been working on recently.

We must remember to pray for our Nation and our leaders as we go through this terrible era with the Terroist. We must not forget World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, where we all served our nation and fought proudly. We now have a young generation of soldiers as we were young then. Their task is large but I feel we are well represented in the military today. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Washington, D.C. for the next reunion. God Bless America and Hug a Vet.

Ronald R Ellis, National Commander

Dear members,

I have been sitting here thinking about what to say. This has been one of the most trying times in my life. Probably a lot of you have been going through the same thing with the same bag of mixed emotions. So with the holidays just around the corner, I just want to say that this would be a great time for us to sit back and see what we have to be thankful for.

It is a nice time to thank the people that made it possible for us to be in a free country. We should also give thanks to the ones that are making it possible for us to stay that way today. It may be the time for us to forgive and forget that loved one or friend that did something that made us mad or just didn't see things our way.

So with that, I say thank you to all that made freedom possible and to those on the job today. And to my friends, I wish that all is forgiven, for we have more important things to do than be mad at the ones we love. Happy Holidays and Thank You!

Richard Scales, Senior Vice-Commander

The National Museum of the Vietnam War

The Americal Division Veterans Association made a \$1,000 contribution to the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells, TX. This contribution entitles the ADVA to membership in the Museum Founders Association. This group is limited to organizations that contribute \$1,000 or more prior to the museum groundbreaking.

A goal of the museum is to put the Vietnam experience "in a broader cultural and historical perspective and further our understanding of this important moment in American history." The museum plans construction on land it owns in Mineral Wells, TX, about an hour west of the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex.



Ronald Ellis presents donation to Gerald Brazell, President of the Board of Directors, and Jim Messinger, Treasurer and Board Member, National Museum of the Vietnam War.

For more information write to [REDACTED], Mineral Wells, TX, 76068 or see the website at <http://www.nationalvnwmuseum.org/>. You can also contact Mr. Jim Messinger at [REDACTED].

196th Light Infantry Brigade Reunion

National Commander Ronald Ellis attended the 196th Light Infantry Brigade reunion in August, 2001. The reunion was held at Gettysburg, PA. Ellis was an infantryman with Co. C, 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB, Americal Division in 1971.



Ronald Ellis presents gift to COL Kim Kadesch

Special presentations were made by Commander Ellis on behalf of the ADVA. A plaque bearing the image of the 196th LIB shoulder patch was presented to Colonel Kim Kadesch of Ft. Shafter, HI. COL Kadesch is the current commander of the 196th Infantry Brigade. The current 196th is a training support brigade with responsibilities for National Guard and Reserve components in the Pacific. The brigade has elements on the West Coast of the United States as well as the islands of Hawaii, Samoa, Guam, Saipan, and Tinian.

A plaque was also presented to Mr. Bill Knight of the 196th LIB Association. Bill was a founder of the association and served as its president for many years. He is succeeded by Mr. Warren Neil.

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

TAPS	TAPS	TAPS
164 INFANTRY H CO.	164 INFANTRY	Ralph Rogato Peabody, MA September 1, 2001
James Aipperspach Jamestown ND May 20, 2001	Carlos N. Anaya Jr. Ontario, CA October 30, 2001	Warren B. Schmidt Philadelphia, PA February 13, 1998
AMERICAL DIVISION	132 INFANTRY	182 INFANTRY
James A Arbogast Allentown, PA June 3, 2001	Peter J. Buki Chicago, IL September 6, 2001	Herold P. Schulz San Francisco, CA May 27, 2001
182 INFANTRY F CO	164 INFANTRY	246 FIELD ARTILLERY
Maurice W. Daniels Catumet, MA March 9, 2001	Martin J. Edwards La Junta, CO December 12, 1982	William H Shackelford Rocky Mount, NC October 1, 2001
164 INFANTRY D CO.	221 FIELD ARTILLERY	101 MEDICAL REGIMENT
Glenn Fleck Minot, ND May 30, 2001	John R. Foley Woburn, MA March 30, 2001	Bernard (Shaw) Shaevitz Quincy, MA October 17, 2001
23 MILITARY POLICE	101 QUARTERMASTER	125 QUARTERMASTER
Larry B. Gelnett Pocasset, MA September 2, 2001	George Vasilescu South Houston, TX Date Unknown	Thaddeus W. Sybil Reading, MA August 14, 2001
164 INFANTRY K CO.	132 INFANTRY G CO.	246 FIELD ARTILLERY C BTRY
Laverne Greenace Freemont, CA April 2001	Raymond Griffin Wahpeton, ND February 28, 2001	John E. Teeple Mesa, AZ July 20, 2001
164 INFANTRY SER CO.	164 INFANTRY	Ellsworth Tracy ND September 2000
Fred O. Jesse Fremont, CA August 30, 2000	James A. Johnson Fargo, ND June 2001	132 INFANTRY
182 INFANTRY	132 INFANTRY B CO.	George Vasilescu South Houston, TX Date Unknown
Maurice M. Kent Long Beach, CA January 1998	Eugene Koeppel Lisle, IL April 25, 2001	Orval Volden Fargo, ND April 30, 2001
164 INFANTRY MEDIC	26 ENGINEERS	132 INFANTRY K CO.
Leonard F. Krestschmar Fremont, CA April 7, 2001	Doyle Mason Kilgore, TX April 21, 2001	182 INFANTRY
132 INFANTRY	164 INFANTRY F CO.	Charles A. Willis Los Angles, CA Date Unknown
Glenn M. Mayo Brookfield, IL September 21, 2001	Russell W. McCrea Jamestown, ND June 11, 2001	Frank L. Young Billerica, MA August 25, 2001
182 INFANTRY	182 INFANTRY A-T CO.	*****
James J. McGranahan Cotuit, MA November 18, 2000	John F. McNulty Holyoke, MA Date Unknown	NEW MEMBERS
132 INFANTRY A/HQ	221 FIELD ARTILLERY	Mr. Joseph Adelsberger 11 LIB E/1/20 Inf Plain City, OH #Reunion
Philippe L. Moreau Springvale, ME August 1, 2001	Joseph J. Nolan Peabody, MA August 2001	Mr. Gordon L. Aleshire 132 ASHC Gig Harbor, WA #PNC Gary L. Noller
182 INFANTRY M CO.	247 FIELD ARTILLERY	Mr. Vernon L. Allen 21 Recon Troop Tallahassee, FL #Self
John F. O'Keefe Point Pleasant, NJ April 2001	Robert V. Patterson East Grand Forks, MN Date Unknown	Mr. Terry K. Andreessen 198 LIB D/1/6 Inf Libby, MT #Bill Dunphy

182 INFANTRY I CO.	132 INFANTRY CAN CO.
Ralph Rogato Peabody, MA September 1, 2001	Warren B. Schmidt Philadelphia, PA February 13, 1998
182 INFANTRY	246 FIELD ARTILLERY
Herold P. Schulz San Francisco, CA May 27, 2001	William H Shackelford Rocky Mount, NC October 1, 2001
101 MEDICAL REGIMENT	125 QUARTERMASTER
Bernard (Shaw) Shaevitz Quincy, MA October 17, 2001	Thaddeus W. Sybil Reading, MA August 14, 2001
246 FIELD ARTILLERY C BTRY	164 INFANTRY MEDIC
John E. Teeple Mesa, AZ July 20, 2001	Ellsworth Tracy ND September 2000
132 INFANTRY G CO.	164 INFANTRY
George Vasilescu South Houston, TX Date Unknown	George Vasilescu South Houston, TX Date Unknown
132 INFANTRY K CO.	182 INFANTRY
Charles A. Willis Los Angles, CA Date Unknown	Frank L. Young Billerica, MA August 25, 2001
164 INFANTRY	*****
James A. Johnson Fargo, ND June 2001	Mr. Joseph Adelsberger 11 LIB E/1/20 Inf Plain City, OH #Reunion
132 INFANTRY B CO.	Mr. Gordon L. Aleshire 132 ASHC Gig Harbor, WA #PNC Gary L. Noller
Eugene Koeppel Lisle, IL April 25, 2001	Mr. Vernon L. Allen 21 Recon Troop Tallahassee, FL #Self
26 ENGINEERS	Mr. Terry K. Andreessen 198 LIB D/1/6 Inf Libby, MT #Bill Dunphy
Doyle Mason Kilgore, TX April 21, 2001	Mr. Willis Bartlett 198 LIB Carlisle, PA #Jon Hansen
164 INFANTRY F CO.	Mr. Virgil Baughman 337 F.A. Btry A 88 Div Longview, TX #Reunion
Russell W. McCrea Jamestown, ND June 11, 2001	Mr. Kenneth E. Bausinger 11 LIB B/3/1 Inf Blackwood, NJ #PNC Gary L. Noller
182 INFANTRY A-T CO.	Mr. Craig L. Bewsey 23 M.P. San Juan Capistrano, CA #Rich Merlin
John F. McNulty Holyoke, MA Date Unknown	Mr. Eugene L. Blackford 746 AAA 90MM Joplin, MO #Dale Pottoroff
221 FIELD ARTILLERY	Capt. Richard L. Bomaste 11 Arty A/6-FO C/1/ 3 Somerville, TN #Roy Pearce
Joseph J. Nolan Peabody, MA August 2001	Mr. John E. Brewer 196 LIB C/1/46 Inf Quincy, IL #Bob Short
247 FIELD ARTILLERY	Mr. Francis M. Bromagen 17 Arm Cav H Troop Union City, IN #Bernie Chase
Robert V. Patterson East Grand Forks, MN Date Unknown	Mr. Martin Broudy 164 Infantry K Co. Coconut Creek, FL #Self
182 INFANTRY M CO.	Mr. James W. Campbell 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Willingboro, NJ #Vance A. Van Wieren
John F. O'Keefe Point Pleasant, NJ April 2001	Mr. Michael J. Canci 39 Eng B Co. Brooklyn, NY #Anthony Amatulli

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Mr. Matthew Czubacki 97 F.A. Btry A Inglis, FL #Robert Miller	Mr. Edward T. Davies 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf San Diego, CA #Vance Van Wieren	Mr. David W. Navy 23 M.P. St. Louis, MO #Rich Merlin	Mr. Lloyd A. Perry 182 Infantry F Co. Lubbock, TX #Jim Buckle
Mr. William DeVan 198 LIB E/1/6 Inf Perryville, OH #Reunion 01	Mr. Michael R. Decker 11 LIB D/4/31 Inf Shelby Township, MI #Don Ballou	Mr. Roger D. Peterson 23 M.P. Luck, TX #Rich Merlin	Mr. Dennis K. Philburn 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf McKeesport, PA #Ronald Ellis
Mr. Frank E. Dulah 196 LIB Blasdell, NY #George Bestpitch	Mr. Walter E. Ensminger 164 Infantry Hq/3 Grants Pass, OR #Jim Buckle-164 News	Mr. Chuck Phillipson 123 Avn Bn Niles, OH #Jan Hansen	Mr. Michael S. Phoenix 196 LIB A/1/46 Inf Christianburg, VA #Brig Gen Dallor
Mr. William V. Frankovic 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf Hickory, PA #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Robert A. Frey 196 LIB HHC/B/1/46 Inf Sibley, IA #Self	Mr. Thomas J. Platts 23 M.P. McClaren Vale, SA #Rick Merlin	Mr. John R. Pullen Jr. 23 M.P. CED Moreno Valley, CA #Rich Merlin
Mr. Francisco Garcia 198 LIB C/2/52 Inf Chicago, IL #Gary Young	Mr. Gerard A. Gauthier 178 ASHC (Boxcars) Wharton, NJ #Joe Emma	Mr. Samuel R. Rader 198 LIB B/1/52 Inf Needville, TX #Dan Young	Mr. Doug Rebman 11 LIB D/4/21 Inf New Bern, NC #Reunion
Mr. Sid George 198 LIB D/5/46 Inf Houston, TX #David W. Taylor	Mr. Sonto A. Gerace 198 LIB B/5/46 Inf Gendale, NY #Don Ballou	Mr. Thomas J. Reggina 26 Eng E Co. Valhalla, NY #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Robert F. Reichel 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Merrick, NY #Vance Van Wieren
Mr. Carl (Tex) J. Henson 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Deridder, LA #Vance Van Wieren	Mr. Ramon Hernandez 23 M.P. San Antonio, TX #Reunion	Mr. John E. Roark 11 LIB 4/21 Inf Honer Path, SC #James E. Ellis	Mr. Ronald Schramm 11 LIB B/4/21 Inf Chicago, IL #Leo F. Buck
Mr. James L. Highland 196 LIB D/3/21 Inf Mattoon, IL #Ronald Ellis	Mr. William D. Highland 198 LIB C Mattoon, IL #Ronald Ellis	Ltc. James Simms (Ret) 196 LIB C/HHC/4/31 Inf Carlisle, PA #Nat. Com. Ron Ellis	Mr. James L. Sistar 182 Infantry Hdq Co. Waycross, GA #Jim Buckle
Mr. Andrew J. Huber 132 Infantry F Co. Hillsboro, IL #Charles Runkel	Mr. James R. Hudnall 196 LIB C/HHC/3/21 Inf Charleston, WV #David D. Eichhorn	Mr. Harlan 'Chip' G. Sku 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Sewaren, NJ #Vance Van Wieren	Mr. William P. Snyder 196 LIB 3/21 Inf Willow Street, PA #Bernie Chase
Mr. Bill Illingsworth 11 LIB B/1/20 Inf Everett, PA #Don Ballou	Mr. Richard Jean 196 LIB B/4/31 Inf Deerfield, NH #Ronald Ellis	Mr. John M. Stringer 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf Eagle Rock, MO #Dan Young	Mr. Charles Swanson 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf Lawton, MI #PNC Gary L. Noller
Mr. Malcolm C. Johnson I 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf San Marcos, TX #Vance Van Wieren	Mr. John R. Kisner 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Rochelle, IL #Vance Van Wieren	Mr. Tony Swindell 11 LIB 31 PID Howe, TX #Larry F. Henry	Mr. Michael D. Thompson 11 LIB C/4/21 Inf Westerville, OH #PNC Gary L. Noller
Mr. Anthony M. LaPalio 196 LIB 4/31 HHC D&C Long Beach, CA #Self	Mr. Joseph P. Lavey 182 Infantry AT Long Beach, CA #Max Reynolds	Mr. Gregory Trimmer 198 LIB E/5/46 Inf Laurel, MD #Reunion	Mr. Danny Lee Tucker 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Dade City, FL #Vance Van Wieren
Mr. Larry Levy 196 LIB 23 M.P. Reno, NV #Rich Merlin	Mr. Robert L. Lewis 23 M.P. Bloomingburg OH #Dan Thorlton	Mr. Louis Turenne Jr. 26 Combat Eng C Co. East Wareham, MA #Don Ballou	Mr. Robert Verlezza 11 LIB E/4/21 Inf Lawrence, KS #Don Young
Mr. Harris G Louque Jr. 46 Reg B/Hq Gramercy, LA #Ralph Brown	Mr. Warren J. Lucas Div. PM. HHC Chu Lai Mt. Pleasant, SC #Paul Stiff	Mr. Richard H. Woods 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Jefferson City, MO #Vance Van Wieren	Mr. Elmer F. Wright 182 Infantry K Co. Glen Ridge, NJ #PNC Gary L. Noller
Mr. Ronald MacKie 198 LIB 8/46 Inf Providence, RI #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Gregg L. Mark 11 LIB C/1/20 Inf Mt. Morris, MI #Reunion	*****	*****
Mr. Clarence L. Marrs 198 LIB B/1/14 Arty Porterville, CA #Self	Mr. Vincent M. McMenamy 196 LIB 4/31 Inf Henderson, NV #Ron Davis	ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION	If you know of a member that has passed away on that is ill, please notify your Adjutant:
Mr. Michael J. Canci 39 Eng B Co. Brooklyn, NY #Anthony Amatulli	Mr. W.E. Cole 246 F.A. Hdq Btry Burley, ID #Jim Buckle	Adj. Bernard Chase [REDACTED]	South Yarmouth, MA 02664

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. John Alejandro
8 Cav F Tr - B/4/31
Springfield, MO
#Gary L. Noller

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

Mr. Michael W. Blum
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Deland, FL
#Dave Decker

Mr. Lemuel D. Briggman
198 LIB D/1/46 Inf
Orangeburg, SC
#Jim Buckle

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

Mr. Arthur B. Davis
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
North Las Vegas, NV
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Peter A. Hammersen
37 Port Surg Hosp 48
Fredericksburg, TX
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Charles J. Irion
23 S+T A Co.
Yorba Linda, CA
#Membership Committee

Mr. Phillip J. Mertz
23 Medical A Co.
Lancaster, PA
#VFW Memb. Com.

Mr. Gary G. Piont
G/29 SL7 G/55, G
Shabboma, IL
#Art Cole

Lt. William J. Sawyer (R
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Virginia Beach, VA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. William E. Stucker J
1 Cav Tr A/1/1
Hartsburg, MO
#Terry Babler

Mr. Jake I. Tufele
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Chicago, IL
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. James K. Wambold
11 LIB H.B/6/11/Art
West Chester, PA
#R. Thornton

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

Mr. Reginald D. Wicks
198 LIB A/1/14 Arty
Duluth, MN
#Don Ballou

#SPONSOR

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Steven L. Anderson
14 Arty HH Btry 1/14
Pleasant Grove, UT
#James Winkler

Mr. Jesus E. Avila
164 Infantry Hq/2
Long Beach, CA
#Joe D. Feeler

Mr. Bill Bradley
23 SST T-Force Ore
Middletown, DE
#Joe Krisanits

Mr. John A. Buren
182 Infantry AT Co.
West Hartford, CT
#Memb. Committee

Mr. Robert Ciulla
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Lorain, OH
#Memb. Com.

Mr. Joseph DeStasio
American Div HHC
Highland Mills, NY
#PNC R. Castronova

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

Mr. David R. Kocan
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
White Marsh, MD
#R. Castronova

Mr. William J. H. Peters
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf
Hampton, VA
#Self

Mr. Peter Rico
11 LIB D/4/3 Infantry
East Chicago, IN
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Richard L. Smith
23 Div Arty HH Btry
Gladwin, MI
#Memb. Com.

Mr. Larry R. Sullivan
11 LIB HHC
Hollywood, FL
#Royal W. Loveridge

Mr. Jimmy R. Turner
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf
Whitehouse, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Howard B. Ward
132 Infantry H Co
Meridian, MS
#Membership Committee

Lt. Bruce J. Wicks
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
Fayetteville, NC
#Castronova-Hines

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Thomas M. Bielecki
23 Military Police
Miami, FL
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Richard E. McCarter
1 Cav Reg
Clover, SC
#Jim Buckle

Mr. John Sabol
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Edgefield, SC
#Vance Van Wieren

Mr. Juan Valentin Jr.
11 LIB E/3/4 Inf
Miami, FL
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert H. Williams
196 LIB F/4/31 Inf
Arlington VA
#Jim Buckle

CENTRAL MIDWEST CHAPTER

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

The Central Midwest Chapter is looking for a new Commander. PNC Ron Ward has led this Chapter for several years and is looking for a replacement.

Ron served as National Commander in 1990-1991, the first Vietnam veteran to hold this office, and many other positions in the ADVA.

Ron states that he needs a vacation from any duties but promises to return to serve in two years when he retires from his every day job.

If you are interested please contact Ron and he will fill you in on all the details. Contact him at:

PNC Ronald L. Ward
[REDACTED]

St. Louis, MO 63123-6510
Telephone: [REDACTED]

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The officers and the staff of the American Division Veterans Association wishes each and every member of the ADVA the happiest of holiday season.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC, DE, KY, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV, MD, NJ

COMMANDER
David Eichhorn

SECRETARY
Joe Tunis
[REDACTED]
Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Fleming, OH 45729
[REDACTED]

VICE COMMANDER
Jay Flanagan
[REDACTED]

246 F. A. B Btry
Jacksonville, FL
#Robert Feekin
[REDACTED]

TREASURER
Mark Deam
[REDACTED]

Cranford, NJ 07016
[REDACTED]

Sidney, OH 45365
[REDACTED]

Col. William H Tomlinson
246 F. A. B Btry
Jacksonville, FL
#Robert Feekin
[REDACTED]

Some arrived a day early, others checked in on the first day of our Reunion, September 11th. Who would have thought it would be another "day of infamy". We gathered at an historic landmark, The Lafayette Hotel on the river front in Marietta, Ohio.

In spite of the devastating news, we were able to enjoy each others company and the activities planned for us by Chairman David Eichhorn.

We had a large accommodating hospitality room. Our thanks go out to Warren and Adele Reed for the bag of peanuts. Our thanks also to Mary Ann Flanagan for her fingerlicking good homemade cookies. Thank you Elsie Trout for the lemon pastries. Everyone appreciated these special treats.

On Wednesday morning we boarded the Valley Gem Sternwheeler for a riverboat ride to an island in the Ohio River and there toured a Colonial Mansion. On the return trip we enjoyed a hot buffet lunch.

Several of the ladies drove to nearby Belpre to tour the Lee Middleton Doll Factory. Spotted carrying around a very life like baby doll was Joyce Deam.

A trolley tour of historic Marietta included a trip across the river to West Virginia and the Fenton Glass Factory. We were escorted on our tour of the factory and let loose in the gift shop with discount coupons. Leo Orfe was delighted with a bunch of butterflies he bought and we hope Warren and Adele's daughter likes the glass cat they bought for her.

Thursday evening, after the banquet dinner, we held our business meeting. All the officers were re-elected. Mark Deam was elected treasurer.

A motion was made and approved to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Al Barbieri and John O'Keefe. Both were faithful in attending our Reunions and both passed away this year.

It was voted to hold our next Reunion in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Robert Cudworth will be the Reunion Chairman.

Adele Reed added to the banquet festivities by holding a raffle of gifts for every lady in attendance. Adele, thank you for your generosity.

Joe Tunis
Secretary

ARE YOUR NATIONAL DUES PAID?

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

COMMANDER

John Mathews

[REDACTED]

Verona, WI 53593
[REDACTED]

ADJ/FIN OFF

Terry Babler

[REDACTED]

New Glarus, WI 53574
[REDACTED]

The planning stages are almost done for the Americal National Reunion. The January Americal Newsletter should have the Registration form set for everyone to make their reservation at the Doubletree Hotel for their room and events planned for the Hotel. The National Reunion is planned for the Veterans Day Weekend in Washington, DC on November 8-12, 2002. See related information in this Newsletter on the Reunion.

The next Great Lakes Chapter function will be at New Glarus, Wisconsin for the 16th Annual Winterfest R&R All Veterans Reunion & Festival on January 17-20, 2001. This is billed as the first Veterans Reunion of the new year in the nation. Our Americal activities include: Friday night: Hospitality parties, burning of winter, parade and dance. Saturday, January 20: 11am - Poker run and Auction starts at Chalet Landhaus Hotel and Americal get-together at the Puempels Old Tavern on Main Street at 1:30 p.m. till 2:30 p.m. and then to Ott Haus Pub in front for a group picture at 3:00 p.m. Finish the night for dinner/Veterans Program/ and the band "Badge" 5 p.m. till 11:30 p.m. at the New Glarus Hotel. If there are any die-hards in the end, the Hotel will have some music around the fireplace starting at midnight until whenever. Then on Sunday morning everyone gathers at Chalet Landhaus Hotel for breakfast and to say good byes. Don't miss this one! We had an excellent Americal turnout in January 2001.

All Americal veterans, wherever they live, are welcome to join us in the little town of New Glarus, 1800 people, in the winter in Wisconsin. Dress for the weather. For a flyer on this event write to:

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574
[REDACTED]

We had excellent attendance at the Kokomo Reunion in September 2001. One hundred thirty five (135) Americal men signed in at the vendor tent, according to Jon Hansen and Terry Babler. Total attendance was over 40,000 veterans. If anyone has a group shot of the Americal please send a copy to Adj. Terry Babler, at the above address.

Great Lakes member, Bill Allen, of the 1/20 Infantry is planning Reunion/get-together in Dearborn, Michigan over the Fourth of July 2002.

Our next Great Lakes Chapter Newsletter will be coming out in November. If you are not a member yet, the dues are \$5.00 a year which covers Newsletters and events and functions. Send your dues to Terry Babler at the above address.

Terry Babler
Adjutant

ARE YOUR CHAPTER DUES PAID?

MEMBERS OF THE ADVA

I do not know where to begin. A proverbial 'thank you' seems so trivial. Yet at the same time it is a start. Besides the very generous and appreciated gift of money, I know for certain that I have reaped the benefits of your worldwide service. I truly believe that your dedication to our country has been a blessing. This is only one reason I continue to look toward all who served as role models of upholding citizens and people.

For you gifts of money and service, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God Bless
Love,
Melissa-Ann Camp



Above is a picture of Melissa-Ann and her grandfather Conrad Krueger. Conrad served in the 164th Infantry.

Miss Camp was the first place winner in this years Scholarship awards. She received \$3000.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thomas E. Morris

Thomas E. Mayer

Eastern Regional Chapter
in memory of
Alphonso Barbieri
John O'Keefe

James Doherty
in memory of
John O'Keefe

Jack and Jean Warkow
in memory of
John O'Keefe
Al Barbieri

Please request your application for next years
Scholarship Awards to:

Bob Short

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

I would like to thank the members of the Americal Division Veterans Association for granting me this scholarship. It is such an honor to receive this gift from incredible and brave men like my father.

The chance I have to graduate from Wake Forest University is a dream come true and it was only made possible by the generosity of the people of this organization. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Courtney Chapman Smith



Courtney was sponsored by her Dad, Dantzler Smith. Dan served with the 1/1 Cavalry in Vietnam. Miss Smith was the third place award winner and received \$1000.

Above is a picture of Courtney and her Dad,

MANY THANKS TO ADVA

I am writing to thank the members of the Americal Division Veterans Association for the \$1000 award I received from the Americal Division Scholarship Fund. I am anticipating starting school this fall and working toward my goals of becoming an elementary teacher and someday becoming a superintendent.

This award not only aids with the cost of my education, but also serves as a great motivational tool toward next year's essay. I thank you for the money, but most of all, for the encouragement to continue my pursuit.

Nicole E. Robinson



Above is a picture of Nicole. Her father, Dan Robinson served with the 23rd Military Police in Vietnam.

Nine Eleven--A Strike
Against Humanity

By Colonel (Ret.) Richard F. Carvell

Dear Fellow Veterans:

On nine eleven of this year, fanatical terrorists of middle eastern origin, speared the heart of humanity. Our nation's centers of commerce and national security were their prime targets. Shock, fear, and anger cast an immediate cloud worldwide.

We've been forced into a war unlike we've ever known. Since that moment, our airwaves and written media have been filled with timely reporting and speculation. Much light has already been shed on this war, but I have been asked to do a separate article, from my perspective, especially for you.

As I proceed, I am reminded that old soldiers, like journalists, too, are tempted to speak as prophets; to pretend to be wiser than they really are. You know what I mean, for during our last unclear conflict—Vietnam—you remember that reporting was as apt to be wrong as it was right and our country paid in lives for those mistakes. I will be more discreet. Our cause, being indisputably righteous, needs no embellishment.

The atrocities of September 11 are having a defining effect on America and the free world. Humanity has been targeted by the jealous and wicked. Nations have gotten a "close-up" of hijacked planes used as bombs, great buildings crumbling and human beings dying in an unprovoked massacre. Witnesses will never forget the explosions, the sirens, nor the wail of human beings. For the first time in history, our President was forced to take evasive action to escape death. An unwanted era has dawned. The horror won't disappear until swift action is dealt. We've heard reveille!

"Nine Eleven" will not be forgotten. It marks the date when the battle for "Enduring Freedom" commenced in earnest, in a type of war very alien to our society. It signifies the date of a sneak attack on American soil...and a violent stab at our way of life. No aggressor has hit our soil in over 150

years, but since 9/11, we have been targeted for anthrax and other unconscionable means of destruction. These shocks may have rattled our psyche, but they have not shaken our resolve. As our country trembled in anguish, it didn't take long for our government to pinpoint its new enemy—Osama bin Ladin, the "leader" of the Al Qaeda terrorist movement and the Taliban, the illegal regime that has controlled most of Afghanistan since 1996.

What do we really know about the enemy? Starting with bin Ladin, he was reared as a very rich kid in Saudi Arabia and lived a spoiled life. At an early age, when rejected by his billionaire parents, he became enthralled with terrorism and a form of extremely Islamic radicalism, dedicated to the utter destruction of human life. He was involved in the recent war against the Soviets. He operates out of Afghanistan and acts in concert with the Taliban, his mission being to wipe out anyone who differs with his radicalized views. He finds pleasure in crippling children and killing people. He's the butcher of Somalia and Sudan; the bomber of Kenya, Tanzania, Riyadh and Dhahran; the compadre of Saddam Hussein and assassins from Algeria, Libya, Syria and nearly sixty locations bent on hatred and human slaughter.

Osama and the Taliban are in for a tough lesson. They will find out the hard way that they're not facing a small, out-gunned, nineteenth century British expeditionary force trying to make it's way through nonnegotiable mountain passes. Neither, are they dealing with a gaggle of twentieth century Soviets who didn't want to fight in the first place, nor contending with a US

administration that would be willing to accord another free pass. Their impunity has run out! Mr. Osama, in the words of President Kennedy,..."we will bear any price, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty." You are about to witness the resolve and wrath of a nation destined to preserve its peace.

Our nation's response to this surprise and mess has been, surprisingly, exemplary. Who can forget the heroism

aboard the flight over Pennsylvania, the three passengers who stopped the hijackers, averting a third disaster? That was a selfless and inspiring example of duty, honor and country. We fighting men like that! A renewed spark ignited our national leaders. Legions of firefighters, policemen and common people came to the aid of suffering victims.

In a short time, our nation witnessed a "zip" in leadership and stature that is reflective of a new era. Our new President and the Mayor of New York lead the way. Our Congress looks revived and is responding responsibly. We can take pride in seeing the political sector acting differently. The enemy no doubt is taken aback by our renewed spirit. Their miscalculation on this point will cost them.

Our C-inC's establishment of a "Home Base Security Office" was a brilliant move, long overdue. The Director, former Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania, is one of our fellow Vietnam War comrades. He served as an infantryman in our division, the Americal. His office will integrate and orchestrate the efforts of agencies and forces that have traditionally operated independently and inefficiently. We can expect to see tighter controls on immigration and internal security and more effective use of intelligence

sources. He's got to correct much that has gone awry over the years. He faces an upward challenge. Putting country first is bound to rattle the American Civil Liberties Union, that organization that challenges any attempt to keep America safe and chaste.

President Bush put it clearly when he stated that this war is aimed at terrorists, not the Islamic religion. I'm with him on that. Our government has access to information that will lead to practical decisions. Defining the enemy with precision is exceedingly difficult, simply because radical terrorists operate obscurely from various countries, our own included. We would be wise to remain patient and speak supportively.

Our first strategic objective is the Taliban in Afghanistan. Despite hues and cries to the contrary, a campaign of selective heavy bombing is the most practical way to start. Eventually, we

might have to put more foot troops on the ground, to operate as a separate entity, or as part of the Northern Alliance, or in some combination of both. Our C-in-C needs to be able to do this on his time schedule, no one else.

For those of you prone to use WWII, Korea, Vietnam or some other as a reference, keep in mind, this is different. Tactics reflect our latest weapons and technology. "Principles of war" set the tone for action. Combat commanders should, at first, seek to maximize punishment, using our latest and most potent combat power. They realize that conventional ground forces will be required to do the tough and dirty work of war and that weather and terrain could be their great obstacles.

At least, we have a toehold with the Alliance in the north. Our Special Forces are specially prepared to work with such forces. I just hope that the Alliance leaders, this time, are better than what we've run into previously in such situations. I am sure you recall Diem, "Big" Minh, and Thieu. Sad sacks they were, but there was no one else, so, we had to go along with the best we had. If we see similar problems with the alliance, we'll just have to proceed cautiously, then take our licks later, when the shooting ends. One has to be on the ground or in the situation to understand the problem. The Coalition has got to be better than at governing then is the Taliban.

What about the use of ground troops? Well, no matter what, the enemy will have to be rooted from their caves and entrenchments. That will require a definite ground effort. Even smart bombs won't take some of them out. That sort of suicidal work could be passed to the Alliance. Their forces should carry the ground fight as much as possible. In the end, their return to power will be more credible amongst their people and other Muslim countries if final victory is perceived as their own.

The defender has distinct advantages. That's why it's so important to bombard heavily and accurately and to use our other powers judiciously. Any US ground effort will require proper planning, support, courage, skill and determination. US Special forces soldiers and army

rangers, our nation's finest, can hit special targets. Good intelligence is key in this type of fight. It has to be better than ever before.

Psychological Operations enhances our capability immeasurably when used properly. The problem is that we've had some crazy notion about being credible and truthful... even in mortal combat. We must get over it! We're talking about propaganda... the white, gray and black stuff, with messages ranging from honest truths to outright lies... planted via radio, leaflets and other means.... anything to get the enemy to weaken, quit or defect in mass.

Now what about Bush's Coalition involving other nations? I've heard the commentary rating it from "good" to "bad", but I ask, "what's the alternative?" Under the circumstances, the coalition happens to be a splendid idea.

It's one way of getting the backing of the most affected nations and keeping them in our camp, even if their commitment might be minimal. After all, why should we handle this world wide menace alone? We're the first modern nation, after Israel, to engage the problem head on. Bush's quick action had to be a shocker to Al Queda.

Then, how about the UN? Well, where are they now? They're seldom with us. That ideal, conceived by Wilson and made a reality under Truman, has strayed drastically from the original intent. Who would have suspected that they would support terrorists or engage in causes contrary to common interests. Not surprising that we go more often with regional or special coalitions, such as NATO. They're better. Realizing the situation, Bush and his aides raced all over to engage its own "coalition of supportive friends".

Iraq and other nations fund and harbor terrorists? Our top brass know the specifics of each situation, but for cogent security reasons, much has to be kept classified. I like it that way. No doubt, we'll be prepared to strike elsewhere, but I presume that we would prefer to silence the culprits of Afghanistan first, then deal one-on-one diplomatically or selectively with countries such as Egypt. Surely, a

strategy of "containment", similar to the way we dealt with the former Warsaw Pact, might serve useful and reduce the conflict to nonviolence.

For years, I've been appalled at the looseness of our internal security. We're a nation flooded with illegal immigrants and distrustful persons. Airports, power plants, bridges, borders, transportation systems, and our cities are vulnerable. Recently, we have become enrapt in "freedoms" and unwary of individuals and organizations bent on disrupting our way of life. The time has come for change. Policemen, firemen, postmen, security guards, school officials, and common citizens have a new role. Suspected terrorists, drug dealers, illegal aliens, law breakers, and subversives need to be reported to the proper authorities. Security is everyone's business.

Fighting for one's country has got to be one of the noblest of our callings. Since the Korean War, certain married people, students, teacher, professors, actors, athletes, businessmen, politicians and myriad of others have been able to duck service during times of national emergencies. That's a disgrace! Perhaps that's why our citizenry have become less respectful, less responsible, less caring, less moral and less patriotic.

The ultimate question involves obligation and duty, beyond self-interest. Show me a person unwilling to fight for our his country and I'll show you one who doesn't deserve to live in a land bought by someone else's blood. Those who dodge war owe a debt to their country and the servicemen who paid their fare. Jesus once said, "Greater love hath no man than he who is willing to lay down his life for a friend."

Some folks who've never known sacrifice look up to athletes or celebrities as their heroes. My heroes are soldiers in final rest. Those who died for liberty. We sleep in their shadows of freedom.

Colonel Carvell commanded the 1/46th Infantry of the Americal Division in 1970. He resides in St. Albans, WV.

Sharon Lane Clinic

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mary Reynolds Powell, the author of a recently published excellent book about Vietnam from a nursing yet political perspective. It is entitled A World of Hurt: Between Innocence and Arrogance in Vietnam. I visited with Mary in Canton, Ohio at the June 8, 2001 Remembrance Day ceremony for Sharon Ann Lane at Aultman Hospital where Sharon completed her nursing studies.

May I discuss our project to build a medical clinic in memory of Sharon Ann Lane in Vietnam? We, a group of Vietnam veteran nurses, brother and sister veterans, and friends called The Friends of Sharon Ann Lane, have established The Sharon Ann Lane Foundation. The purpose of constructing this clinic is to honor the professional nursing practice of Sharon at the 312th Evac Hospital in Chu Lai, where she was assigned to the Vietnamese Ward 4 in April, 1969.

Sharon's nursing responsibilities included caring for Vietnamese men, women and children, whom she loved, soldiers of both the South and North Vietnamese Army, VC and POWs. Sharon discharged her nursing duties with caring compassion, dignity, and respect despite the uniform of the patients she treated. Sharon's empathy for these particular patients demonstrated a balance amidst the horrors of war which daily surrounded us.

On her sole day off, Sharon elected to work in the Surgical ICU of the hospital caring for severely injured American GIs. On numerous occasions Sharon declined transfer to another ward, preferring to remain with her Vietnamese patients. She became an inspiration to all her medical colleagues, associates, and friends because of her ability to see the human suffering in all who were admitted to her care on Ward 4. At 0530 on June 8, 1969 an incoming 122 mortar directly hit the Ward 4, instantly killing Sharon and a twelve year old child. The blast injured twenty-seven other patients.

We have the blessing of Sharon's mom, Gold Star Mother Mrs. Kay Lane. Mrs. Lane has embraced this project with love, support and guidance to honor the memory of her daughter in this special way and numerous other American veterans and citizens. Mrs. Lane tearfully told me how happy it made her to know that Sharon is beloved by veterans and so many Americans who never even knew her. I assured her that we will always love Sharon and will continue to honor her sacrifice to America.

In regard to questions referring to the name of the clinic, I am kept informed by an American with whom we are working in Vietnam. Since the Sharon Ann Lane Foundation is building the clinic, there will be a plaque with her name on the building. Two American nurses are currently in Vietnam working with another NGO. They have visited the clinic site at Chu Lai and will bring new photos to us on their return.

Will you consider assisting us in reaching our fellow brother and sister veterans? It is our desire to complete this project in her memory as a living legacy of her service as an American military nurse in Vietnam. It is also to offer a hand, extended in friendship and peace across the distant and yet painful memories of the Vietnam War, to the people of Vietnam. Most particularly, it is for the children whom Sharon loved so dearly.

I will be happy to forward literature to you about our project. Our web site is in process of development, and upon completion I will hope to forward it to you for your review. Mary Powell has suggested you might be interested in approaching your organization to help us with exposure of our endeavor to honor Sharon. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

God Bless you for your service to America in Vietnam. Welcome Home.

Kathleen Fennell, PA-c, R.N.

12th Evac Hospital, Cu Chi RVN 1968-69

The Sharon Ann Lane Foundation
The Friends of Sharon Ann Lane

Media, PA 19063

6th Infantry Regiment Association

Dear Editor,

About ten or twelve years ago I joined the 6th U.S. Infantry Association. At the time it was limited mostly to WW II and Berlin veterans. In 1993 business took me to St. Louis, MO and while there I attended a meeting of the organization at Jefferson Barracks, the home post of the 6th from the Mexican-American War until W.W.II.

With the aging of the W.W.II members the association activities have come to a virtual standstill. While the roster of the association includes a good number of highly visible members, General Schwartzkopf, for instance, little is done to get them to contribute to the association.

I have been asked to take over the presidency of the association by several of the older members as they can no longer perform the duties of the office. They are also looking for other office holders. I have not committed myself as yet. If I took this position it would be on a pro-temp basis and only to safeguard any assets that might be of interest to the regiment.

I am seeking veterans of the 1/6th Infantry that are interested in keeping the 6th Infantry Association from certain demise. Please contact me at [REDACTED], Red Hook, NY, 12571 [REDACTED].

Jan F. Milles

SGT George C. Carpenter

Dear Editor,

I am seeking information on a friend of mine (now deceased). He was with the Americal at Chu Lai, 1969-1970. The only information I can now find is his address on a letter (Sgt George C. Carpenter, HHC Americal Div C/S). I know he served in the field and after getting a Purple Heart was driver for General Donaldson. How can I help his family find out more about his unit and maybe contact those who knew him? Thanks for any help you can give me.

Paul Kaser, [REDACTED] Fresno, CA, 93720 [REDACTED]

Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB

Dear Editor,

I am one of the old guys, and I need some help in getting to know the other brigades besides the 196th. I signed into Co. D, 2/1st Inf. on 8 Sept 65. I trained my recon platoon and went to war with them. We went to Chu Lai with Task Force Oregon in April 1967. I was there when colors were lowered in 1971. I was on my 5th tour in Viet Nam with MACV Team 17. I would like to know what the other brigade patches meant and the history behind those patches. I finally left VN on my birthday after exchanging 2,700 NVA POW across the DMZ.

SGT Patrick L. Turner, D/2/1 66/67, Vietnam 66/73
[REDACTED] Austin, TX 78728

Larry Bruce Gelnett, Rest in Peace

Larry Bruce Gelnett, 53, of Pocasset, MA, died Sunday, September 2, 2001, at his home. He was the husband of Janice F. (Barry) Gelnett. Born in Fall River and raised in Brockton, he graduated from Brockton High School in 1966.

After basic training with the Army at Fort Campbell, Ky., he served two tours of duty in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star.

Mr. Gelnett graduated from the 56th Massachusetts State Police training class in 1972. He served in Troop A until 1978, and for the next nine years worked out of Bourne and Middleboro in Troop D. He joined the truck team in 1987 and was the Southeast Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit team leader from 1987 to 1995, when he was promoted to sergeant. He spent one year with the state police in Foxboro and then returned to Bourne, retiring in 1999.

He was a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association and was active in reunions throughout the United States. He was an active member of many charitable organizations and a communicant of St. Margaret's Church, where he was a lector and Eucharistic minister.

Besides his wife, he is survived by four sons, Bryan J. Gelnett of Annapolis, Md., Kenneth S. Gelnett of Sandwich, Kevin W. Gelnett of Pocasset and Scott C. Gelnett of Newton; three daughters, Keri L. Gelnett, Kristen M. Gelnett and Lori A. Gelnett, all of Pocasset; and two brothers, Donald Gelnett of Brockton and Wayne Gelnett of Abington.

Burial is in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. Memorial donations may be made to Hearts & Hands, 52 Ash St., New Bedford, MA; or to Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod, 923 Route 6A, Yarmouthport, MA 02675.

-Editor's note: Larry was a long time member of the Americal Division Veterans Association. He served as Sergeant-at-Arms in 1996-1998. He served honorably with the 23rd M.P. Company in Vietnam. Larry will be remembered for his handsome looks, his great sense of humor, and for his love and caring of his friends and family. The ADVA wishes to express sincere condolences to Janice and the Gelnett children. May the spirit of the Lord be with you.

"Te salutamos, 'SGTLAR' "

Book Notes

Keith William Nolan, author of Death Valley, The Magnificent Bastards, Sappers in the Wire, and several other histories of the Vietnam War, is busy writing his next book. It is a work involving the 9th Division's house-to-house battle in southern Saigon during the so-called Mini-Tet Offensive of May 1968. His most recent work is Ripcord and tells of the hard fought battles on and around FSB Ripcord by elements of the 101st Airborne Division.

Do you have a spare copy of The Magnificent Bastards or know where to obtain one? If so, please write to Mr. Charles Machart, [REDACTED], Bay City, TX, 77414-4524. He would like to obtain a copy. Charles served with the 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB from Oct. 1967 to Oct. 1968.

Winter/Spring reunions

Americal vets will be in attendance at regional reunions coming up very soon. Make plans to attend and take part in the festivities.

Winterfest will be held in New Glarus, WI on January 17-20, 2002. This will offer an opportunity for members of the Great Lakes Chapter to have some frosty fun. Contact Terry Babler for more information. (Terry D. Babler, W5889 Durst Rd., New Glarus, WI, 53574)

The annual reunion in Melbourne, FL will take place on April 26-28, 2002. Members of the Southeast region will sponsor a hospitality

tent with beverages and snacks at Campground A. An Americal photo will be taken at 2:00 PM on Saturday. For more information contact Bob Kapp. (Robert Kapp [REDACTED] Thonotosassa, FL 33592, [REDACTED])

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Bill Bacon, San Antonio, TX, has recently taken the position as National Membership Director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Bill is currently serving as a member of the Executive Council of the ADVA. He was co-chairman of the 2000 ADVA reunion in San Antonio.

Bill graduated from Texas A&M in August, 1967 and entered the Army in September. He completed OCS and Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA and was posted to Fort Wainwright, AK in 1968. He began his tour in Vietnam in December, 1969. He was assigned to 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB at LZ Hawk Hill as S-5, Civic Action, Psychological Operations.

Of his time as S-5 he says, "I really got to know and admire the local Vietnamese, some good guys and some bad. But the basic truth is they were really wonderful people. Hard working and industrious, they were peace loving and just wanted to live without fear. It is something we used to take for granted here in America."

In June, 1970 he went to bush with 3rd Platoon, Alpha Co. He remembers the soldiers as "wonderful guys who did very well." In July he was promoted to Captain and given command of Co. A in the Kham Duc area of operations. Two weeks later Bill was wounded in action and hospitalized at Cam Rahn Bay. He retired from the Army in 1971.

Bill followed a profession in the meat packing business for 30 years to include the position of Vice-President of a \$1.4 Billion international company. He has been married to his wife Debbie for 16 years. He has two children and two grandchildren.

DID YOU EARN THIS?

THEN YOU DESERVE
TO BE A MEMBER OF THE

**MILITARY ORDER
OF The
PURPLE HEART**

Contact:
Bill Bacon
[REDACTED]



Bill's change of occupation is remarkable. He says, "I took the position of National Membership Director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart because of Ernie Carlson. A number of years ago Ernie called me and asked me to come to Fredericksburg, TX for July 4th. It was the first time I had been asked to participate in any veterans activities since I left the Army. I began to get involved with the Americal and helping out where I could. Ernie called me and asked, and I did it whatever it was."

"Soon after I got a call from the commander of MOPH Chapter 1836, Harry Smart, a Korean vet and a Marine. He asked me to help out, and I did. Involvement with both organizations made me to realize what a wonderful group of people the veterans are, and I wanted to be associated with them once again. I am just overwhelmed sometimes."

"My new job just is an extension of that. I cover the entire 50 states plus we are starting chapters in Mexico, Canada and Guam! I design marketing materials and work on projects that will increase visibility of the MOPH and recruit new members to the Order."

"I invite members of the ADVA to contact me any time about either organization. I will be very happy to talk with them."

Americal vet to carry Olympic Torch

Don Counsell, St. Charles, IL, has been selected to carry the Olympic Torch as it makes its way across the USA. Don served in Vietnam from July 22, 1970 until July 21, 1971. He was with G2 TMF, HQ & HQ Co., Americal Division in Chu Lai. His duties were related to unattended ground sensors and electronic warfare.



Don Counsell
Olympic Torch Runner
2002 Olympics

The torch run begins in Atlanta, GA and follows a route to Salt Lake City, the site of the Olympic Games. Of the 210,000 people who were nominated to participate, only 3,500 were selected. Don will be carrying the torch on either January 4 or 5, 2002, somewhere in the suburban Chicago area. He will carry the torch for two-tenths of a mile before handing it off to another runner.

Don owes his selection as a torch runner to his daughter, Darcy Moder, and his son, Don W. Counsell. During the Super Bowl last year Darcy saw an advertisement on television sponsored by Chevrolet. They were seeking nominations of people to carry the torch. The rules required a 50-100 word essay to explain how the nominee met the criteria of serving the community, inspiring others and overcoming adversity. Darcy decided to nominate her father. Her first draft of the required essay was over 1,000 words long.

The sponsor anticipated a huge response. The rules stated that there would be a random drawing to get the nominations to a manageable number before any of the essays would even be read. The rules allowed one e-mail nomination per day so Darcy and her brother both submitted their father's name every day for about two months. Don was not aware of his children's plans.

Months passed and nothing was heard. Darcy recounts, "We never heard anything. Then in July my mom called and said that dad had received a packet special delivery from the Olympic Committee and was very confused. That night I called my brother and we had a conference call with my dad. We told him that we had nominated him. WOW! What emotions - pride, joy, excitement..."

This is Darcy's essay in its entirety: "An excellent oarsman, Don Counsell was training for the 1972 Summer Olympics until he was drafted for the Vietnam War. Instead of representing his country in Crew and living his dream, he represented his country in war and lived a nightmare. His exposure to Agent Orange led to the diagnosis of multiple myeloma in 1993. He was given 6 months to live at age 47. After a bone marrow transplant and a slow, painful recovery, he beat the odds. He views each day as a gift and preaches the slogan, 'Never Give Up!' Please give him his Olympic dream."

Darcy adds about her father, "My dad truly is my hero and when I think of the hardships he's had to endure, I feel crummy for complaining about anything in my life."

Don married his wife Sue before he left for Vietnam. Their son Don was born while Don, Sr. was still in Vietnam. They also have three grandchildren. Don enjoys fishing, hunting, golfing, playing cards, and spending time with his family. He volunteers for his church

and his community. He is active with Habitat for Humanity, Knights of Columbus, and Kiwanis.

Don enjoyed a 32 year career with Wisconsin Bell (which became Ameritech), holding a variety of positions including installation and repair, sales, budgeting, corporate strategy. He retired as Vice-President of Sales for Ameritech Long Distance Information Services unit in Jan. 2000.

Don maintains contact with several of his Vietnam buddies. Darcy says, "I know that my dad, Art Hanley, George Jacobs, and Mike Thomason were "hooch-mates" in Vietnam. He still keeps in touch with them. He said they made the best of their time there together and I know they are all very important people in my dad's life."

To Don Counsell: May you go with God's speed. -GLN-

M. P. Poem

Dear Editor,

Can you please put this article in the Americal Newsletter for all my fellow MPs?

Roy Dolgos, Vietnam, 1967 196th M.P.

Supporting the Three

By SGT Allan L. Perkins, USA MP

I am the Infantry, follow me
Not a foot soldier, we're much more you see
We'll take the fight to the enemy
I am the Infantry, first of THE THREE

I am the Calvary, follow me
A modern horse soldier in an APC
Charging straight forward to the enemy
I am the Cav, most daring of THE THREE

I am the Armor, follow me
The arm of decision I'll always be
When the going gets rough, call on me
I am the Armor, the best of THE THREE

Armor, Cav, and Infantry
Rush headlong in to the melee
Breaking the lines like an angry sea
Deep into enemy territory

Approaching a crossroads, what do we see
The area secured by two lonely MPs
Directing us forward, how can this be
How long has he been here waiting for me

What a crazy person an MP must be
He has no firepower or armor like me
And I thought everyone followed THE THREE
Armor, Cav, and Infantry

I am the MP, don't follow me
You don't want to be where I will be
Guarding a crossroad, waiting for THE THREE
Just my partner, a sixteen, a sixty and me

With the objective taken, wait and see
No one will remember the lonely MP
Who held this ground so they could run free
But that's my job, supporting THE THREE

Aussie show band

Dear Editor,

I worked in Vietnam and at Chu Lai in 1968-1969 with a Aussie show band. We toured over there and got mixed up with some guys from the Americal Division. I am an honoury member of their platoon, "Luther's Animals", a recon platoon run by Lt. Barry Luther.

Some of the guys I have kept in contact with for over 30 years are the likes of Leonard Owen Barefoot, Jay Vaughan, Ronnie Hull and Herbert "Hump" Wheeler. Leonard and Jay stayed with my parents on R&R in Sydney in 1968. Leonard did a doubler after he was hit in the head with a RPG. I thought this was a bit of comeback as he was nearly scalped and he's part American Indian.

They hold their own reunion which I have managed to get across for once. I have been over to the states three times to catch up with some of the guys. The last time was November last year. I stayed with Ron Hull in Illinois and had the time of my life.

There are more that I have not mentioned but I can assure you that they are my brothers and I love each and all deeply. As time passing has shown, we might be looking older and grey, some bald, but in our hearts we are the young of so many years ago. We remember the bad times with courage and the good times with laughter. We friends have been home for many years and we still look after each other even half a world away. May God bless and love them all for they have done the hard yards.

Myself, well I live a little north of Brisbane and am a member of our Vietnam Veterans Association here in Redcliffe. I am now semi-retired but will shortly be doing a welfare course with the Dept. of Veteran Affairs. I will help some of those less fortunate than myself. If anyone would like to contact me I would be more than glad to answer them and have a chat.

Well I must go. Like all those years ago, we are back together again. The same brave men and women, only different faces and a different place, fight for freedom. But by God we will overcome them and strike them down. Friends forever.

John Manley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Co. E, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB

Dear Editor,

I would like to hear from anyone who served in Co. E, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, August 1970-71, to establish a service-connection claim for a back injury and hearing loss.

Jimmy Lynn Burton, [REDACTED], Abilene, TX 79601;
[REDACTED]

Edward E. Duff

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter concerning my deceased brother, Edward E. Duff. I am interested in finding any information possible about his service time in the Vietnam War. He was born November 10, 1947 in Happy, Kentucky. He entered the U.S. Army in May 1967. He was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii prior to entering Vietnam approximately December 1967. He served in the Americal Division during his tour in Vietnam. He was wounded in April or May 1968, and was transferred to a hospital in Japan. He was called to Washington D.C. to give a deposition during the Calley investigation.

If at all possible, I would like to locate the following information or a source(s) to locate the information: 1. Dates of service, 2. Unit(s) served in, 3. Places served, 4. Injuries suffered, 5. Hospitals where he

was treated, 6. Any resources available to possibly contact people who served with him. All nieces and nephews were young children when he died, therefore they can not remember their uncle. I would like to be able to tell them and their children about him, and Vietnam was a big part of his life.

Mary Spencer, 4416 Tincher Road, Indianapolis, IN, 46221-3130

2nd Platoon, Co. D, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB

We are looking for the members of our infantry platoon pictured above who served in Vietnam in 1969. We were with the 2nd platoon, Delta Co., 1/6th Inf. Bn., 198th LIB, Americal Division.

Terry Andreessen [REDACTED], Libby, MT, 59923 or Dave Gibson, [REDACTED]

Agent Orange in Americal AO

Dear Editor,

I need some information from the troops. About a month ago I was diagnosed with a tumor on the lung. I had a preliminary hearing with the VA and it appears they are now recognizing four different kinds of cancer associated with exposure to Agent Orange. My question for the guys is does anybody know for sure when Agent Orange was first used in I Corps, Chu Lai base camp, and the Americal A.O.? Maybe some ex-military intelligence people or engineers would know.

I was a door gunner with the 178th Avn. Co. I go to the Americal in October 1967 and left in August 1968. I remember flying into areas that looked like they could have been used for a "Roundup" commercial. I remember hauling 55 gallon drums of stuff but I never paid attention to what was in them.

Tony Percoskie, 178th Aviation Co.
[REDACTED] Desert Hills, AZ 85086

PFC Victor M. Haglund, Jr.

Dear Editor,

I am looking for information about Victor M. Haglund, Jr., a friend who served in the Americal Division. He was the only man lost in Viet Nam from our small town of Crawford, Colorado. I have taken it as a personal goal to set up a small memorial to him at the American Legion in Crawford. I would like to get in touch with anyone who may have served with him. The details of his death are so very limited and leaves me with so many questions. Victor has no living relatives.

All I know is: PFC Victor Milford Haglund, Jr, SS# 522-72-5171, Occupation: 11B10, Start Tour: 8-28-69, Died 11-14-69 Quang NGAI South Viet Nam, cause of death: suffocation (drowned).

Thank you for any help that you may be able to give me. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [REDACTED].

Phil Wright, [REDACTED], Ruidoso, NM, 88355

investigate it more at the time, and if you had, the massacre might have become known earlier.

SECRETARY POWELL: Let me put the question in perspective. When I was a young major in Vietnam in 1968 and '69, I was the Operations Officer of the Americal Division. It was the largest division in Vietnam and my job was to draw up the plans every day for the next day's war. And this was months after My Lai took place. My Lai was not known to any of us. We just didn't know that anything like that had happened. A letter came up from Saigon one day, written by a young soldier who had gone home, saying that he thought the relations between one of our units and the Vietnamese civilians in the area were not good, and that things might have happened. He did not give us any specific data with respect to what might have happened where, who might have done it, and what might have been the results. It was just a general statement. It did not come up through investigative or inspector general channels; it came up through the operational channel. So it ended up on my desk. I sent the letter out to the unit concerned, and asked the commander, "do you see anything that would relate to this; is there any substance to this?" The answer came back saying, "we have pretty good relations." This is months after, now. And I'm not even sure he was talking about My Lai. He wasn't talking about My Lai. I heard from him in recent years, frankly, he put the letter in perspective. He wasn't talking about My Lai. The answer came back saying that the unit was not aware of anything that had happened. I then forwarded that answer back to my commander in the Americal Division and it went back to Saigon.

It was months later that another investigator -- this time from the Inspector General's Office in Saigon -- came up and said, "let me show you something else." And he gave me some information about a certain day and a certain time and a certain place. And we went through the journals of the division and we could find an incident with a large casualty report that matched that date. That's the first time that I ever had some inkling that something had happened. And that turned out to be My Lai. And that was another year before I discovered that's what was he was looking at. That first letter has been used over the years to suggest that I was responsible in some way for covering up this incident. It's come up several times as a result of investigative reporters and authors. I've tried to answer it every time, "I was not there, I came in months later." And the letter I received and I acted on made no reference to any particular place or any time or any date or any particular unit, and that is the way I handled it. Sent it back through operational channels, and when it came up through investigative channels, IG channels with specific data, then we were able to find information that kind of matched what had been reported. Sorry to take so long with it, but it comes up every now and again. *

Powell wrote his biography in 1995 with the title My American Journey. His life's journey is not yet over. He may be at its most perilous point. We hope and pray that his path will be successful.

-GLN-

**REPRODUCED AT THE
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HISTORICAL SUMMARY
Quarterly Period 1 April to 30 June 1968**

The 5th BN 46th Infantry was activated on 2 October 1967 at Fort Hood, Texas, and assigned to the 1st Brigade 2nd Armored Division. The 5th BN was activated as a light infantry battalion under the Command of Ltc. David K. Lyon to be deployed to the Republic of Vietnam. The first individual to officially sign into the Battalion was Captain Lawrence Johnson who became the Commanding officer of Charlie Company.

The month of October was spent in organizing and manning the Battalion. The months of November, December, and January were spent in training and preparation for deployment to Vietnam. In February the Battalion was involved in packing and preparing the Battalion for shipment to Vietnam. On the 11th of March the Advanced Planning Party departed the United States for Vietnam to prepare for the arrival of the Battalion at the end of the month.

The first elements of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry arrived in Vietnam on 12 March 1968 at Cam Ranh Bay. The Advance Planning Party consisting of one officer and four enlisted men arrived in Chu Lai on the 13th of March. The next element to reach Vietnam was the Advance Party consisting of ten officers and ten enlisted men under the command of LTC David K. Lyon, the Battalion Commander. They arrived in Chu Lai on the 16th of March 1968.

The first company to arrive in Vietnam was Bravo Company on the 24th of March followed that same afternoon by Charlie Company. On the 29th of March the general cargoes arrived along with elements from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Delta Company and Alpha Company arrived in Vietnam to complete the movement of the Battalion from Fort Hood, Texas to Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

The Battalion arrived in Vietnam under the command of LTC David K. Lyon who formed and trained the Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. The Principle Staff consisted of Major Herbert Krause, XO; CPT George Harmon, S-1; CPT Rodger Dimsdale, S-2; Major William S. Bickwermert, S-3; CPT Tennessee, S-4; and 2Lt David Ames, S-5.

The companies were commanded by: CPT Kenneth McCarley, A Co.; CPT James Lamb, B Co.; CPT Lawrence Johnson, C Co.; CPT Carl Koppies, D Co.; CPT Alfred Chioffe, E Co.; and CPT Earl Shackelford, Hq Co.

On 31 March 1968 Bravo Company and Charlie Company completed their training at the Combat Training Center in Chu Lai and moved to Landing Zone Gator to establish the Battalion Base Camp. On 3 April 1968 HHC, Delta Co., and Echo Co. completed their training and moved from Chu Lai to LZ Gator to complete training for the entire Battalion.

On the 4th of April 1968 the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry became tactically operational when at 2116 hours LTC David K. Lyon officially entered the Battalion in the 198th Brigade radio net.

The Professionals began tactical operations on April 5, 1968. Alpha, Bravo, Delta, and Echo Companies secured LZ Gator, and Charlie Company secured LZ Chippewa.

Working off these LZ's sweeps and rice denial operations were being used. With intelligence reports that two battalions of VC were working in the area. Nightly ambushes were sent out. No significant action was encountered with the enemy during the first week of April.

The second week of April the Battalion undertook the defense of LZ Ann. Search and clear operations were established in the rocket pocket. Numerous booby traps were found and destroyed. Detainees were sent to Brigade.

The final two weeks of April LZ's Gator, Chippewa, and Ann were still under the security of the battalion. Companies working off their respective LZ's were on rice denial operations, locating and destroying enemy rice caches.

The first week of May saw A company securing LZ Paradise, and performing sweeps with blocking positions. B company defending LZ Ann conducted combat sweeps in the area and the LZ. C company at LZ Chippewa ran daily patrols and night OP's. D company securing LZ Gator conducted night combat sweeps in the area around the LZ. E company had mortar support teams at each of the firebases.

Daily patrols, sweeps, night OP's, and ambushes were sent out during the second week of May. Squad size patrol bases were set up off respective LZ's and patrols were departed from that area.

The third week of May found Professionals still securing LZ's Gator, Chippewa, Ann, Paradise, and Riverboat South. Patrol bases were still set up around each LZ. Squads ran daytime patrols and night ambushes from these patrol bases.

The final week of May companies continued to work off mentioned LZ's. Sweeps and ambushes were still being performed with negative results. Occasional detainees were turned over to Brigade. May ended with action being light for the entire month. Sniper fire was received on LZ's on several occasions results negative. Men were

told to be more careful as several personal accidents occurred during the month.

June began with 5th Bn 46th continuing operations in the A O with an emphasis being put on rocket launching sites in the Rocket Pocket. Blocking forces were used throughout the area with negative results. The Battalion still maintained LZ's Gator, Chippewa, Ann, and Paradise. E company with mortars supported each of these LZ's. Action for the first week of June was light with LZ Paradise receiving the only sniper fire recorded.

The week of 8-14 June, Professionals conducting day patrols made several encounters with the enemy. Heavy sniper fire was received by a patrol of A company. Known and suspected VC were turned over to officials at Binh Son.

On 15 June the Battalion under took Operation Burlington Trail. Working Southwest of Tam Ky Professionals were in action from the time they landed. Sniper fire was received after the C A was completed. The following day C company located and destroyed a 1500 pound rice cache. On 17 June an NVA base camp with 25 bunkers was found. Additional rice caches were discovered and destroyed. Detainees were sent to

Brigade.

The final week of June Professionals C A'd into the Tra Bong A. O. Companies working with elements of the Tra Bong Special Forces began Operation Vance Canyon.

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE TRIDENT VOLUME 2 NUMBER 7 AUGUST 16, 1968

NCO BRIEFS GEN LIKE THIS

The Americal Division Wednesday morning fired its two millionth artillery round since its formation as Task Force Oregon in April, 1967. At LZ Center, division commander MG Charles H. Gettys was on hand to pull the lanyard, aided by COL Lawrence M. Jones Jr., division artillery commander.

The round was fired from the guns of C Battery of the 11th Brigade's 6th Bn., 11th Arty, commanded by CPT Bruce A. Raybeck. This unit was singled out for the ceremony after being named the outstanding battery in the division.

Before the planned firing, GEN Gettys was briefed by SGT Burnie M. Owens, gun crew commander, on the weapon's operation. "When the command comes over the radio, sir, you fire the gun by pulling the lanyard...like this...." BOOM!

In a flash it was all over. SGT Owens, still holding the lanyard, turned a bright red as the two millionth round sped on its way. (A correction was printed August 23, 1968, the hasty lanyard puller was SGT Gerald L. Smith, gunner, not SGT Owens).

ENGINEER SGT DISCOVERS MINE, DIVES FOR DITCH

A scrape of the foot, a jerk on the wire, and the world went boom for Sergeant Bobby L. Riley of B Company, 19th Engineer Battalion. Sergeant Riley is part of a team of combat engineers responsible for the maintenance and clearance of Highway 1 in the 11th Brigade area of operation 16 miles south of Quang Ngai city. Early Saturday morning Sergeant Riley prepared for the daily mine sweeping operation from Mo Duc to Duc Pho.

Only a mile out of Mo Duc, at a bridge bypass, a minesweeper picked up a very faint sound in his instrument signifying metal present in the road. It wasn't uncommon, and the operator hardly gave it a second thought. But behind him, Sergeant Riley was checking any suspicious place in the road. At one point a slight depression in the road's edge caused Sergeant Riley to kick at the area. Two wires appeared.

As he reached down to pull at the wires, a thought went through his mind. "Something told me to move, and as I turned to dive for the ditch I yelled "CD" (command detonated). At that time the blast went off, knocking me into the mud." The other minesweepers also scattered and hit the ground.

The next step was to apprehend the Viet Cong culprit. Three of the team remembered seeing a man move into a position in the rice paddy about 50 feet from the bridge bypass. In a few minutes they had rounded up seven suspects, including one wounded while attempting to escape.

As a result of Sergeant Riley's discovery and warning, the worst injury sustained by the team was a sprained arm suffered by one of the minesweepers. SGT Riley escaped with only a small scratch.

KILLS INCREASE; BDE UNCOVERS VC HIDEAWAYS

Infantrymen of the 11th Brigade, in a continuing effort to rid southern Quang Ngai Province of enemy activity, killed 54 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers this week while apprehending 81 suspects and capturing 15 weapons, plus documents, enemy flags, tons of rice and other enemy war material.

Aug 8th saw a 1st Bn., 20th Inf. (1st Plt A/Co) element led by 1LT Bradley J. Burggraft kill an evading VC and capture four suspects holed up in a pagoda four mi. southeast of Duc Pho.

The same day, 3d Bn., 1st Inf. soldiers killed an enemy soldier in a hole and later detained seven suspects five miles northwest of the "Jungle Warrior" home.

The following day and E Troop element killed two enemy and captured two in a hole and found two tons of rice, two NVA

uniforms and flags and documents two mi. north of Duc Pho.

"Sykes' Regular" infantrymen killed two VC in separate skirmishes. On Saturday, a company of the "Always First" battalion led by CPT John P. Nolan killed seven VC and captured seven suspects, two M1 carbines, two grenades and a pistol belt.

The scattered action took place five mi. north of "Warrior" headquarters. Earlier that morning, a 3/1 company killed an evading VC between Duc Pho and Mo Duc.

On Sunday, increased and widely scattered action in the brigade area netted 20 enemy killed, five weapons captured and five suspects apprehended.

A 3/1 platoon led by 1LT Virgil L. Rademaker killed eight VC in sporadic action five mi. west of Duc Pho. SSG William Kawihalau and his weapons squad accounted for three.

CPT William Adams and his 1/20 rifle company (A/Co), killed four VC and recovered a carbine and M16 five mi. south of Bronco, while another "Regulars" company killed another VC and detained suspect.

Thirty mi. northwest of Duc Pho the "Always First" Recon Platoon killed two NVA and captured 15 82mm mortar rounds, a pistol, rice stores and three suspects while another 3/1 company captured a K44 rifle on the beach near Bronco.

In other action that day, a LRRP killed two NVA deep in the jungles; gunships of the 174th Aviation Co. killed a uniformed enemy, and an informer led MI personnel to a VC, resulting in one kill and a captured carbine.

On Monday, Recon 3/1, led by 1LT Ovide J. Corriveau made repeated contact with NVA elements in the Son Tra River Valley, resulting in two NVA soldiers killed and their SKS and AK47 rifles captured. Air strikes called in by the recon platoon caused 13 secondary explosions. The night before, the same platoon engaged 30 to 40 NVA before finding an enemy base camp and capturing three weapons, two pair of binoculars, a telephone, two flags and numerous documents.

Another 3/1 unit, led by 1LT Frederick W. Long, killed two VC while elements of 1/20, led by SGT William W. Whelan and SP4 Charles N. Schell killed two VC and recovered an AK47 and two Chicom grenades from them. The night before, SGT Kenneth Bodine's 3/1 ambush killed one VC and recovered a carbine.

On the 13th, "Always First" soldiers killed seven VC. CPT James O'Herron's ground patrol killed six VC, and a seventh was shot down by the battalion C&C ship as he attempted to evade CPT O'Herron's men. Two Point men, SP4's Gary McGovern and Lawrence Rust, of B 3/1, killed two of the

evading VC. One of them was carrying a pistol belt, two grenades, surgical supplies and documents on his person.

South of Bronco, "Sykes Regulars" killed one VC and captured one VC and captured 1200 lbs of rice (A/1/20).

Early on Aug. 14, an ambush patrol led by 1LT Robert L. Dunn killed three VC. Later in the day another 3/1 element, under SGT Clive Wang killed an evading VC four mi. northwest of Duc Pho.

Shortly before midnight of the 14th, a "Regulars" night patrol (2nd & 3rd plt A/1/20) night patrol led by SGT Julio LazuLugo killed a VC carrying a pistol belt, hand grenades and M1 ammo. When the patrol started to search the VC they found one of the grenades under his body with the pin pulled.

COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE) This is the second part of a series on the History of Vietnam. Today's chapter deals with the country at the beginning of the 20th Century.)

French rule was detrimental to Vietnamese society and culture. It demoralized the emperors and mandarinate, tending to turn them into toadies and "yes" men.

French colonialism also had profound economic effects on the region. Large scale agricultural and rubber plantations soon appeared; absentee ownership grew.

Prosperous Vietnamese moved into the cities, and more and more of the land was tilled by peasants who did not own it. Large scale canal systems were dug in the Mekong Delta to exploit rice production. By the early 20th Century the French had managed to produce a rice surplus. But the worst abuses of absentee ownership also developed. European ideas and culture permeated the country, especially among the Mandarin classes. But western thought also stimulated another movement—the growth of Vietnamese nationalism.

Nationalist movements and anti-French secret societies spread like brushfire across Vietnam. But most were loosely organized with little or no welldefined political objectives. The leadership of the clandestine nationalist movement in Vietnam was eventually taken over by the Indochinese Communist Party (Dong Duong Cong Sand Dang). Formed in Hong Kong in 1930, it united several existing independent Communist groups under the leadership of Nguyen Ai Quoc, later known as Ho Chi Minh. When France was conquered by Germany in June, 1940, the Vichy Government acceded to the demands of the Japanese. Eventually all of French Indochina came under Japanese control. The French administration remained, intact, and many lucrative agreements were

**America Stands Tall at 19th Annual
Vietnam Vets Reunion, Kokomo, Indiana
(September 14-16, 2001)**



Over 80 America vets turned out for one of the largest annual Vietnam vet reunions in the USA, averaging 40,000 vets every year.



(Left)
E Troop, 1st Cavalry,
11th Light Infantry
Brigade



(Center)
Paul Stiff, 23rd MP
Company, seated at
Left, talks to Gary
Conant, a fellow MP
seated at the right,
for the first time in
33 years. Ken Bolton,
seated in the center
beams as these two
friends meet again.



made between wealthy French interests and the occupying forces.

In the meantime, Ho Chi Minh adopted a policy of collaboration with all nonCommunist nationalists. The united front organization was know as the Vietnam Independence League (Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh), or the VietMinh. One of the first actions of the Viet Minh was to form guerrilla bands under the direction of Vo Nguyen Giap to operate in Vietnamese territory against the Japanese and French, which continued though Ho was jailed in 1941. (NEXT WEEK: Ho Chi Minh's power coup).

VEHICLE REGULATIONS CHANGE FOR DUC PHO

The 11th Infantry Brigade Provost Marshall's Office announced this week that no military vehicles will be parked on the main street of Duc Pho (Highway 1) while road improvement and construction by Army engineers continues in town.

This regulation will be in effect as long as construction work continues, according to ILT James B. Perez, M.P. platoon leader.

LT Perez said that, in addition to the new parking regulation, drivers making "laundry runs" to the orphanage laundries in Duc Pho will be required to have a man in the vehicle at all times while it is parked.

He reminded brigade vehicle operators that the speed limit for all towns in the brigade area of operations is 15 MPH and asked all drivers to be especially children.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEEDS LIFEGUARDS

Americal Division has an urgent need for qualified lifeguards.

Those individuals who are qualified as lifeguards and who have approval for release from their unit for 90 days are requested to contact the Americal Special Services Officer. Phone 3313/2613.

Brigade Commander COL ORAN K. HENDERSON

Information Officer ILT ARTHUR J. DUNN

News Chief SFC JOHN STONICH

Editor SP5 JAY A. ROBERTS

Staff Reporters: SP5 James Ford, SP4's Dean Pohland, Kevin Howe and PFCs Kenneth Ainslie and Lawrence Mollner

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TALENTED TINKERERS TOOL UP FOR TRACK

Buzzing, roaring, highwinding engines; spurts of dust raising clouds over a dirt racing track; these have been a part of the American scene since the invention of the automobile.

And Americans, as everyone knows, take the trappings of their culture wherever they go. The "Witchdoctors" of the 409th Transportation Detachment (Aviation Maintenance) are no exception. When these men knock off from a hard day of tinkering with complicated machinery, they relax and unwind by tinkering with more complicated machinery.

The 409th, attached as a maintenance unit to the 174th Aviation Company at LZ Bronco, is a highlytrained, highly skilled group of specialists who spend all their working hours keeping the 174th's helicopter flying. But some of them just never seem to get enough of the challenges to their talents that wheels, cogs and engines present.

With a scrapyard full of breakdown parts and unlimited imaginations, these men have brought a breath of the excitement usually associated with the Bonneville Salt Flats or the Indianapolis "500" to Vietnam.

Two such men are Sergeant Raymond A. Williams and SP5 Richard C. Huber, who have constructed the only working GoKart in Southern I Corps. Their repainted machine, powered by a twocylinder generator motor, has turned in some impressive speeds around the hastily cleared dirt track behind the detachment's maintenance sheds, and is constantly undergoing improvement.

"It took us about two months to build," SGT Williams said, "and all the parts are either aviation parts that were rejected by technical inspectors, or other items we scrounged from the junkyard. It took three engines from the junkyard to make one for the gokart, and not all of them were the same type!"

He added that the kart he and SP5 Huber built included such features as a "positraction" twowheel rear drive, which a lot of competition machines lack.

"The hardest part was the steering assembly," he said. "We went through two complete systems before we finally settled on one we liked." He said the frame for the kart was constructed from aluminum, with chains and sprockets for the drive mechanism taken from bicycle parts purchased in Duc Pho.

"But we we're sure to have some competition," he said. "Two more gokarts are being built by other crews in the detachment."

Another twosome in the 409th is interested in racing on a different level. They are SP4's Gary A. Barnes and David T. Nimmons. The two electricians have constructed a model raceway and a racer to run on it a completely

home made model car patterned after the sleek, rear-engined Offenhausers that run at Indianapolis.

The car is powered by an Enya .15 model airplane engine bolted to an aluminum frame made from 1 X 1/4 inch strips, according to Barnes. The axles are 1/4 inch rods, with the rear wheels connected by direct drive gears to the engine.

The front axle has individual wheel suspension, Barnes said, "similar to "A" arm suspensions on race cars." The body is styrofoam plastic, coated with a sleek red finish of metalset material similar to epoxy.

"I traded one of the guys in the detachment for the engine," Barnes said, "and the rest of the parts came from an old Tachometer generator and a windshield wiper motor. I got the gears, springs for the suspension and bearings from them." Brass parts he added, were made from an old 105mm howitzer shell.

The car runs on a tether around the track dubbed the "Duc Pho Raceway" by Barnes and Nimmons.

SGT Williams stressed the fact that parts for these projects come only from scrap slated for disposal. "You have to be on the spot when something useful comes into the junkyard," he said, "But aside from the materials, the only thing that limits these guys is their imagination."

BDE AWARDS

The following personnel in the 11th Brigade have recently been presented the awards as indicated.

BRONZE STAR WITH "V" SGT Thomas F. Goldthwaite, C Co, 6/11; SP4 Paul G. Amazon, D Co, 4/3; SGT David L. Johnson, 11th Sig., SGT James E. Hutchinson, 11th Sig., SFC Jerry B. Donovan, HQ, 4/21.

BRONZE STAR SERVICE ILT Clyde H. Carroll, E Co 3/1; ILT Marshall D. Jones A Co, 3/1; ILT George M. Norris, Jr., HHC, 3/1; ILT Kenneth M. Haller, C Co, 3/1; ILT David S. Pena HHC, 3/1; ILT Samuel P. Stull, A Co, 3/1; CPT Harvey W. White, Jr., 52nd MI; SGT Joseph L. Martin, D Co, 3/1.

COMBAT STREAMER

The Combat Infantry Streamer has been awarded to two battalions in the 11th Brigade: 3/1 and 1/20.

In addition, all companies except Headquarters Company in both the "Always First" battalion and "Sykes' Regulars" have received the award.

Units must have 65% of their members awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge to be eligible for the streamer.

Vietnam History is taken from the compact disc provided by Mr. Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian.

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 5/46th Inf. who served with my dad Santo A. Gerace, Sep. 1968-Aug. 1969. Contact: Kimberly Gerace, [REDACTED], Glendale, NY, 11385

Looking For: James Pack, HHB, 3/82d FA, attached to 1st ARVN Special Brigade, Hill 37, MACV, Adv Tm #4. Contact: DJ Czerniejewski, [REDACTED] (111), Phoenix, AZ, 85015 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Jack O'Reilly, Craig Nielsen, Roger Macguire, Jim Sanders, G.K. Gomez, Co. D, 4/21st Inf, 11th LIB, 2d Platoon, Jul 70-Jun 71. Contact: John 'Fearless' Anderson, [REDACTED] Spartanburg, SC, 29301 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anybody, Btry. B, 3/18 Arty, July 68 - Feb 69. Contact: William Baldwin, [REDACTED] Saint James Place, Atlantic City, NJ, 08401 [REDACTED]

Looking For: D Co., 196th LIB, 1968-1969. Anyone in platoon with Horst Lang. Contact: Susan Kanelli, [REDACTED] Arlington Heights, IL, 60004, [REDACTED]

Looking For: John Judson Hodge, Americal Division -'70s? helicopter repair. Contact: Randy Hodge, [REDACTED] New Market, AL, 35761 [REDACTED]

Looking For: The original H Troop who served with my dad, Tom Russell from Ft. Hood until July 1968. SGT Joe LoCicero, LT Ted Liner, CPT Reasor, Jim Dietzenbach, Jim Richardson, and others. Contact: Shawn Russell, [REDACTED] Fayetteville, NC, 28305

Looking For: People who served with S/Sgt Alfred L. Ciesla, my Dad. He passed away in Mar. 1988. He told me he was in a Light Anti-Tank Company in the Americal Div. He said he used an M-1 Garand, BAR and flame thrower. He remembered guarding a downed P-38 lightning and being on sniper patrol. He received the Bronze Star, CIB, and arrowhead attachments for being on landing spearheads. Dad was originally from Lackawanna, NY. Contact: David A. Ciesla, [REDACTED] Buffalo, NY, 14220-2762

Looking For: Tom Harris, B Co., 4/3rd, 11th LIB, April 68 - April 69. Contact: Henry Froneberger, [REDACTED] Reyes Station, CA, 94956, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone. My husband Jack S. Grouf was with the 196th in Chu Lai 1969-70. He was KIA May 7, 1970, Quang Tri Province. Looking for anyone who served with him/knew him. Contact: Debra Wyker/Grouf, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone from Co. K, 132nd Inf. Regt., who new Kenneth (Sarge) Hinz. My dad served with the 132nd for the duration and was in every battle: Henderson Field, Bouganville and the Phillipines. He was a BAR man but never talked about his service. He has recently passed away and I would like to know more about his service from someone who served with him. He mentioned Rocco Salto many times before a stroke took his power of speech. Contact: Ben Celano, [REDACTED] Chicago, IL, 60656, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. A or Co. E, 4/31st Inf., Sep 69-Sep 70. Contact: Earle Franks, [REDACTED] Fresno, CA, 93727

Looking For: Anyone, 198th LIB, 5/46th mortars. May '70-Apr '71. Contact: Carl Peterson, [REDACTED] Antioch, CA, 94509

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB. Mar 12, 69-
Mar 9, 70. Contact: James R. Whitehead, 111 N 20th, Richmond,
IN, [REDACTED]

Looking For: William J. Hahn, HHC, 1/46th Inf., August 1970-
August 1971, Bn S-1 office. Contact: Robert Bischoff,
[REDACTED], Oak Grove, MO, 64075

Looking For: Anyone who served with Max Hartwick, K Co.,
132nd Inf. Regt. Max is my grandfather and would love to hear
from anybody who served with him. He's alive and doing well.
He's from State College, PA. Contact: Steve Dreibelbis
[REDACTED]

Looking For: Headhunters Hunter/Killer team members, 4th plt.,
Co. D, 5/46th, 198th LIB, 6-68/6-69. Contact: Ed Davis,
[REDACTED], Springerville, AZ 85938

Looking For: Andy Webber, 5/46th, 198th LIB, Sept 1970-
Sept 1971. Contact: Danny Thompson,
[REDACTED],
Newbern, TN, 38059

Looking For: Doug McCord, Americal Div, MP, E5. Contact: John
Cheek, [REDACTED], Sugar
Hill, GA, 30518, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Members, 247th FA Bn., Btry A. My grandfather,
Sgt. Gerald 'Jerry' Sloat left us three years ago. Months before his
death he finally told me of where he fought: Guadalcanal through
Cebu. There is much speculation gramps was bayoneted on Cebu,
but he would never tell us anything about what happened, and he
never received a Purple Heart. Looking for anyone that can help
me fill in the pieces. He was from Muskegon, MI. Dave Tate,
[REDACTED], Roanoke, Va, 24014,
[REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who served with Ray (Raymond) Bachewicz
(WWII) Americal Division. He was my Dad. Army, enlisted, from
Chicago, squad B.A.R. man, island hopper, Guadalcanal,
Bougainville etc. to Tokyo. Have a picture of him with 'Ed' and
'Harvey' 1944. Transported on USS Missouri July '45. At one
time received citation with 121st Medical Battalion, April '45.
Contact: Kenneth Bachewicz, [REDACTED],
Charleston, SC, 29418, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Philip E. Madlang or anyone, Co. D, 4/31st, 196th
LIB, 1968. We have addresses for over 200 Delta guys, possible
reunion in 2003 in Branson, MO. Contact: Vance A. van Wieren,
[REDACTED], Fennville, MI, 49408,
[REDACTED]

Looking For: The dates of the special mission out of the DaNang Air
Force Base, 1971. I'm trying to find out the dates that the 1/46th,
196th was on a special mission right after moving up from Chu
Lai. We were CAed out of the tarmac at Danang Air Force Base
at daybreak and then CAed back at nightfall. Contact: Kenneth
'Doc' or 'Chief' Shunatona,
[REDACTED], Wichita, KS, 67217, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who knew George Hobert Noe, my cousin, A
Co., 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB, KIA May 26, 1969. He was killed
by friendly fire. I am looking for anyone who may have known
him. My family and I have really grieved over him, and still are.
Contact: Sandy, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Any of my RTO's or Recon SGTs, B Btry, 1/14
Arty., attached to C Co., 5/46, 198 LIB from 1/1/70-5/1/70.
Contact: Kenneth Teglia, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, C Co., 4th/21st, 11th LIB, 4-68 to 4-69.
Contact: Bill {Woody} Woodside, [REDACTED],
Oxford Ct., Erlanger, KY, 41018, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Robert Otwiler (not sure of spelling) and 164th Inf.
Regt., Co C. members. Anyone who served with Morton 'Jerry'
Marks (from Alabama) in Cebu, Leyte, Guadalcanal, etc. from
1942- 1945. My Dad and Bob Otwiler were flamethrowers for
their unit. My Dad would love to hear from others in his Unit and
would love to find Bob who last lived near Washington, D.C.
Contact: Julie, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Richard Ellashek, D Co., 5/46th Inf., 198th Inf Bde,
'68-'69. Contact: Emmitt H. Clark, [REDACTED],
[REDACTED], Henderson, KY, 42420, [REDACTED]

Looking For: C Co., 1/46th, 198th LIB. Anyone who served with
my cousin Steven G. Pettis, Sp.4, Charlie Co., 1/46th, 198th LIB.
He served from Sept. '68 until he was KIA May 14th, 1969. Our
family is trying to find out more about his time in Vietnam. I
would like to know more about the cousin I never got the chance to
meet. Contact: Jennifer P. Ellis, [REDACTED],
St. Albans, VT, 05478, [REDACTED]

Looking For: B-Btry, 3/82 FA, Feb 68-Feb 69. Mike Rosa, Cpl
Lopez, Tanner, Bear from Chicago, Lt. Wilkerson, Doc the medic.
Contact: Larry Headley, [REDACTED],
White Marsh, Md, 21162

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 26th Engineers, 1967-68. Contact:
Gary Warr, [REDACTED], Portage, Mi
49002, [REDACTED]

Looking For: John Haven, 26th Engr Bn., 1967-1968. Contact:
James Wentink, [REDACTED],
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Looking For: Co. I, 182 Inf. Regt., 1945-1946. Trying to locate
others that are still around. Contact: Calder Darrel Riffe,
[REDACTED], Bridgeport,
WV, 26330, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Capt. Jack Thorenson, C Co., 1/52nd Inf., 198th
LIB, last half of 1968. Contact: Ronald {duece} Vandenberg,
[REDACTED], Federal Way, Wa,
98023, [REDACTED]

Looking For: LT John Wagner, Co. C, 4/31st, 196th LIB, Contact:
Rich Dziekonski, [REDACTED], Rome,
NY, 13440, [REDACTED]

Looking For: CPT Ben (?) Anderson, CO, A Co., 5/46th, 198th
LIB, 1968-1969. Contact: Ray {Doc} Essemacher,
[REDACTED], Oklahoma City,
Ok, 73119

Looking For: Steve Prisky, Medic, D Co., 3/21st Inf, 196th LIB,
TET Offensive 1968. Contact: Richard E. Aubrey, 1098 Trinity
Lane, Pekin, IN 47165-7297, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bubblegum or Orange Grimes or anyone, C Co.,
4/21st, 11th LIB, 69-71. Contact: Dezari' Frank-Taylor,
[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, 99511,
[REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who served with Richard (Dick) Gallant, my
grandfather, from Somerville, MA, served New Caledonia and
Guadalcanal during WWII. Contact: Geoffrey Gallant,
[REDACTED], Quincy, Ma

Looking For: Anyone, 523rd Sig. Bn. Some names are Roy
Manuel Garcia, Sergeant Garner, King, David Smith, and Major
A. E. Malloy. Contact: David C. Kendrick, [REDACTED],
Proctorville, OH, 45669, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Former members of the 6/56th Arty Bn., 1968-69.
Contact: Jim Marquis, 906-472-2670, [REDACTED]

Looking For: SSG James Reed, Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB, 65-
67. Contact Patrick L. Turner, [REDACTED], Austin, TX,
78728, [REDACTED]

MEMORIES OF COL. MAGGIE
By Patrick L. Turner (The Old Guy)
U.S. Army Retired

Some of you youngsters may not know who Col. Maggie was, just in case you don't I'll be glad to fill you in on a wonderful lady.

Col. Maggie was better known as Martha Reye the actress, who had roles in MacMillan and Wife, Alice's Restaurant, and also U.S.O. shows with Bob Hope during the wars. How she ever got the title of Colonel I don't know. I do know that it was respected at the highest level. The S.F. (Special Forces) took her as their Guardian Angel.

Now I'll enter the story. I was S-2 Sergeant for 1st Cavalry 3rd Brigade for two years. Anyway, it was a bad day: one our units went into a hot LZ and was being blown away. The call was put out for all medical personnel to come to Quang Loi.

Col. Maggie was in a helicopter on the pad in Saigon getting ready to go south when the call for medical personnel came. Being that she was a nurse in the Army reserves in World War II, she headed for Quang Loi.

I was posting the Intel map of enemy positions, when I heard a female voice behind me. Turning around there stood a lady of middle age, dressed in jungle fatigues, wearing a Ltc Oak leaves, and a name tag that read, Reye. She was then taken to the helicopter pad. For the next four hours she rode back and forth bringing in the wounded and the dead, stopping only when she was told that everyone had been accounted for.

She was worn out, and asked me where she could get a few hours rest. I told one of my men to escort her to the V.I.P tent, where she cat napped for a few hours.

At 1800 hours my shift was just getting off when L.T. Col. Reye requested that we go with her to the mess tent for coffee where Maggie started to ask questions about where we were from in the States.

When it came my turn, I explained that I was a lifer and that the Army was my home. She then asked where my mother lived and I told her Canoga Park, California. She then said that she could not believe that my Mom lived less than five minutes from her. She then gave me her telephone number and said for me to have my Mom call and arrange a time to have coffee together. (My Mom never did call). Later that day Col. Reye and her PR man headed back to Saigon.

I would not see her again until 1972 while serving on my 2nd year with Mac V Team 17 at BA-To distant headquarters in Quana-Ngai Province. Here, one Saturday afternoon our land phone, that was strung across the river to the SF Camp Nang, began to ring. When I answered the phone there was a female voice on the other end, requesting to know if we had any ice cubes. I inquired whom she was and was told to bring all the ice cubes we had and come over. Doc Shawley, my team Medic, and I were the only two at that location at that time. So we forded the river in a jeep and when we entered the SF compound a female in jungle fatigues came towards us.

As she came closer, we recognized each other--it was Col. Reye--twenty five (25) miles from the nearest military unit. The first thing she said

was, "I know you and your mother never called". Then she spotted the extra rocker on my collar saying, "You 've been promoted haven't you?"

Well, we spent the next few hours bending our elbows, and she could hold a few. She would have stayed the night but her PR man as getting goosey and wanted to head back to Da Nang.

In 1980 while wearing three hats, Bn S-4 officer, S4NO and HHC 1st Sgt. (I was a busy GI), I found out that Col. Reye was performing at the Fiesta Supper Club in San Antonio but I could not make it due to having FTX that weekend. So, I sent her a letter to tell her how sorry I was and why I could not make it to see her. Within a few days I received a card from Martha Reye, telling me that I had made her day.



That really
gave me a lift!

Martha
Reye
25 June 1999

The next time Maggie and I were together was when she was starring in the stage play, Annie, playing the part that Carol Burnet played in the movie. Afterwards I took my family back stage--yes my mother was with us. There were a lot of tears and we had a short but wonderful visit.

When Col. Reye was touring Vietnam there were no less than five failed attempts by the VC to kill her. The VC believed Maggie was a high moral factor, which she was.

In the early 80's Col. Reye developed diabetes. Over the next few years she put up a gallant fight and in the early 1990's she lost her battle. She was buried at Fort Bragg with full military honors.



(I believe that the men of the Americal will find this interesting).

CHRISTMAS

I have a list of folks I know,
All written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes,
I go and take a look
And that is when I realize
That these names are a part
Not of the book they're written in,
But of my very heart.

For each names stands for someone
Who has crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they've become
The rhythm in each rhyme
And while it sounds fantastic
For me to make this claim
I really feel that I'm composed
Of each remembered name

And while you may not be aware
Of my "special link"
Just meeting you has changed my life
A lot more than you think
For once I've met somebody
The years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
Or of a friendly face

So never think my Christmas cards
Are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas card
That is addressed to you
It's because your are on a list
Of folks I'm indebted to

For I am but the total
Of the many folks I've met
And you happen to be one of those
I prefer not to forget
And whether I have known you
For many years or few
In some way you have had a part
In shaping things I do

And every year when Christmas comes
I realize anew
The best gift life can offer
Is meeting folks like you
And may the spirit of Christmas
That forever endures
Leave its richest blessing
In the hearts of You and Yours

This poem was sent to me at Christmas. I want to share it with you because it says what I feel each Christmas as I begin to think about and prepare Christmas cards. Thank you to the one that sent it.

M/Sgt Warren Reed
23 Adm Company
Americal Division

Ed Note: Warren is a veteran of three (3) wars.

FIRST BATTALION - 6TH INFANTRY

It is my understanding that the First Battalion, 6th Infantry served as part of the Americal Division in Vietnam. Would you be so kind as to post the following in the Americal Newsletter.

Searching for members of the First Battalion, 6th Infantry. Write to:

Mr. Charles Farrell

St. Petersburg, FL 33732-5446

AMERICAL DIVISION NATIONAL REUNION

November 8-9-10-11-12, 2002

Double Tree Hotel

Arlington, VA

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Reservation can be made beginning NOW
Code: Operation LZ/DC 02

American Airlines allows 10% Discount Fare when
you lock in under LZ/DC Auth. NO. A21in2AA
Free Toll Call [REDACTED]

Full information on Reunion will be in the next
issue of the Americal Newsletter. Any questions:

Terry Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574

Telephone: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

11 LIB - COMPANY D - 1ST BATTALION - 20TH INFANTRY

April 26-27-28, 2002

Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry will be having a Reunion in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on the weekend of April 26, 27, 28, 2002.

We have located sixty five (65) men so far and we are still searching. Hopefully some of them will read this in the Americal Newsletter and contact me and we will send them an updated list of men we have found. Please contact:

Cliff Barger

Acworth, GA 30102

Tel: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

1ST BATTALION - 20TH INFANTRY

Bill Allen of the 1/20 Infantry is planning a Reunion/Get-together for members of this unit in Dearborn, Michigan over the 4th of July weekend in 2002. If you are interested please contact Bill:

William Allen

Taylor, MI 48180

Watch the Great Lakes Chapter Newsletter for more details.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL

November 11, 2002 will also be the anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial. Bus service to this ceremony, as well as other memorials, will be arranged.

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

COMMANDER

Cameron Baird

[REDACTED]

Stonewall, TX

Tel: [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS

Malcolm East

[REDACTED]

Lumberton, TX 77656

Tel: [REDACTED]

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

Our most recent Chapter meeting was held at Hooters in Arlington, Tx on September 21, 2001. Despite the spectacular scenery, attendance was somewhat sparse. Nonetheless, the objective was accomplished, and much to our amusement we discovered that one of the young ladies who works there is airborne qualified! Several of our stalwarts volunteered to check her rigging anytime. Highlights of the meeting was presentation of a donation from the ADVA in the amount of \$1000 to the Vietnam Museum to be built at the site of former Fort Walters near Mineral Springs, Texas. On hand to accept the check was Jim Messinger (174th AHC) and Mr., Gerald Brazell.

Ron Ellis is hosting a special event at his home in Henderson, TX on March 28, 2002 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the battle at FSB Mary Ann. All Americal veterans are welcome, especially those who were at Mary Ann. Although this date falls during the middle of the week, Ron has some interesting side trips in mind, so it would be worthwhile for anyone who can spend a two or three days in a nice part of Texas, (especially during the spring). He knows where to get some good barbecue too. RSVP to Ron by phone or email so that he will know how many armadillos to catch.

Despite the collapse of the only bridge to San Padre Island, we are proceeding with the All American Veterans Standown on January 11-13, 2002 at Bahia Mar Resort. The government promises that the bridge will be repaired before then, failing which ferry service will be available. Our publicity campaign isn't in full gear yet, so we're counting on y'all to do a little word of mouth advertising. here's the deal: get a nice room at a cheap rate (\$65 double, 2BR Condo \$170) and spend a couple of days on the Texas Riviera. Veterans of all branches are welcome. This is a great opportunity for reuniting with your old platoon, shipmates, squadrons or what ever. For Details, call Doss Kornegay at 956-428-8434; for reservations call Bahia mar at 800-997-2373.

The National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX will host the only official observance of the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor to be held on the mainland. The event promises to be very special. All WW II Americal vets are invited to attend and participate. Please contact me for details.

MISSING: Photos of the San Antonio Reunion. After spending \$20 in advance for Reunion photos, apparently nobody received them. The company closed shop and is probably operating under a new name and perpetuating the scam. If anyone in Florida is willing to make some phone calls, I would like to complain to the attorney general and file a complaint for fraud. The company is (or was) Photo International, [REDACTED] Fort Lauderdale, FL 33300.

Hug Somebody!

Cameron Baird

COMPANY C - 164th INFANTRY

Looking for Robert Otwiler (not sure of spelling) and any member of C Company that served with my father, Morton 'Jerry' Marks' from Alabama, on Guadalcanal, Leyte and Cebu.

Would certainly love to hear from Bob Otwiler (?) who last lived near Washington DC. Contact Julie:

email:bhamjami@aol.com

I COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

Trying to locate others that are still around.

Contact:

Calder Darel Riffey

Bridgeport, WV 26330

Telephone: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

57th ENGINEERS

Looking for anyone that knew my grandfather, Richard 'Dick' Gallant. He was from Somerville, MA and served on New Caledonia and Guadalcanal during WW II. Contact"

Geoffrey Gallant

Quincy, MA 021

email: [REDACTED]

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Looking for anyone that knew my Dad, S/Sgt. Alfred L. Ciesla. He received an arrowhead attachment for participating in an amphibious landing. He remembered guarding a P-38 Lighting fighter at one time.

My Dad was originally from Lackawanna, NY and he passed away in March 1988. Please contact:

David A. Ciesla

Buffalo, NY 14220-2762

[REDACTED]

COMPANY K - 132nd INFANTRY

Looking for anyone that knew my Dad Kenneth Hinz. He served with the 132 Infantry for duration and was in every battle--Guadalcanal, Bougainville and the Philippines.

He was a BAR man but never talked about his service. He recently passed away and I would like to know more about his service and men that knew him. He mentioned Rocco Solto many times before a stroke took his power of speech.

Please contact:

Ben Celano

Chicago, IL 60656

Telephone: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

SUCCESS!!!

My name is Ed Gekosky. My son Eddy, asked me to provide him some information about my father, Edward Gekosky, and his war time experiences. My father was in the Americal in the Pacific and I think he was in the 182nd Infantry. My father passed away in 1970. Your website is excellent. It really helped.

I used your locator to see if anyone was looking for my father. Sure enough, there was a 1977 posting from another soldier that shared the experience with Dad. Sgt. Marion was looking for information on Roys Raiders, and my father in particular. I have had an AP wirephoto of a 1944 picture of the eight remaining members of 43 original Roys Raiders hanging in my house for years.

My Dad and Sgt. Marion were two of the eight in the picture. I wrote to Sgt. Marion this morning and hope to find him good health. It would be great to meet him and talk to him.

Edward Gekosky, of Roys Raiders, in the Americal Division, started us on a path to a good life. I am one of four children. I have two of his six grandchildren. My son is named Edward, and now his eight month old son, the first great-grandson for my father, is also named Edward.

I am very proud to be able to direct my son and grandson to the ADVA website. I would love to visit the Museum and I plan to share some of the documents I have with it. I would like to correspond with other veterans of Roys Raiders and learn more about their activities. Contact:

Ed Gekosky

Woodbridge, VA 22192
Telephone: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

ANOTHER SUCCESS!

I have been researching family members that have served during World War II. My uncle, Sgt. Joseph Pezzulo, Tank Commander, C/754 Tank Battalion. was the hardest to find any information on. He died in 1971. I heard many stories about him when I was growing up. The only thing my aunt remembered was the 754th Tank Battalion. I started out looking for any references to tanks on Bougainville. It came down to the 37th Division or the Americal.

I checked the internet and I finally found the 754th listed on the ADVA website. I contacted the ADVA for more information and I received the names of three 745th Tank Battalion veterans. Two responded to my request for help. Mr. Guttig was very helpful and supplied me with information and insight on his experiences. The other gentleman, Mr. Bugbee also told me of his time in the Army.

I also put a request for anyone who may have known my uncle in the Americal Newsletter. I soon got a letter from Mr. Ed. Shanahan in New Jersey. I talked to him on the phone for over an hour. He was very helpful and even though he and my uncle were in two different companies, he remembered my uncle. Ed had lots of stories to tell and I appreciated his willingness to talk about his memories.

With information on my uncle's unit and Army

Division, I can start putting the materiel together for the family album. Hearing from these veterans helped give me a greater insight, understanding and appreciation of their experiences during WW II.

I am also interested from hearing from any veteran who are willing to share their experiences. This is one way of saving history. Some day I would like to put what I have into something to commemorate our veterans. Contact:

Valerie Corvino

[REDACTED]
Bridgeville, PA 15017
email: [REDACTED]

COMPANY K - 132nd INFANTRY

I am looking for anyone that served with Max Hartwick. He was my grandfather. he is alive and doing well! He would love to hear from anyone that served with him. Contact:

Max Hartwick

[REDACTED]
State College, PA 16801-7345
Or contact Steve Dreibelbis at [REDACTED]

COMPANY D - 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

I am looking for any veterans taht served with James Warren Kelton who was KIA in the Philippines.

Please contact:

Bob Caldwell

[REDACTED]
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
email: [REDACTED]

BATTERY A - 247TH FIELD ARTILLERY

My grandfather, Sgt. Gerald 'Jerry' Sloat left us three years ago. Months before his death he told me he had served with the Americal from Guadalcanal through Cebu. There is much speculation that he was bayoneted on Cebu although he never received a Purple Heart. He would never tell us anything about what happened. Looking for anyone that can help fill in the pieces. He was from Michigan. Contact:

Dave Tate

[REDACTED]
Roanoke, VA 24014
Telephone: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Did you know Corp. Robert Slaght who served with the Americal on Bougainville and was KIA on Cebu in March of 1945?

I am researching my mother-in-laws father whom she never knew. Any information on his unit etc. would be greatly appreciated. Contact:

Michael Knight

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

A COMPANY - 57th ENGINEERS

I was playing golf the other day at the Port Hueneme CB Golf Course, with the Elks Club, when I remembered when I first met the CB's. It was on the island of Bougainville in the Northern Solomons.

I was eighteen years old and had been drafted out of college and then to the South Pacific island of New Caledonia where I was assigned to A Company, 57th Engineers, Americal Division. This Division was made up of 'spare parts', formed into a Division and given the name 'Americal'. It was the only Division to served under a name instead of a number and the first to take offensive action against the Japanese.

After Guadalcanal the Americal landed on Bougainville and helped to drive the Japs deep into the jungle. A huge perimeter was established to protect the air fields that were built within this protected area by the CB's.

The Japs kept trying to retake this area but were repulsed in all attempts. The finally gave up and withdrew to the other side of the island.

We then cleared the jungle and built roads and bridged the rivers. The bridges were built from mahogany logs that were run through a sawmill that the CB's had left to us. We had mahogany floors in our tents, and netting put up for walls to keep the ants and bugs out. We lived like this until we took off for Cebu in the Philippines.

But, not to get off the track, I'll get back to my story on Bougainville. Our Captain decided that we should try to find a way to build a road to B Company--further up the island. The Lieutenant picked five men to go on a reconnaissance mission. I was chosen to lead the group because I had a sub machine gun. We took off into the jungle with our guns and machetes. We had been cutting our way through for a while when all of a sudden there was an explosion and I fell back. When things settled down I picked myself up and checked for injuries--outside of the dirt on me I was alright. It seems that the CB's had put up a trip wire to protect any of us from walking into a mine field they had put down.

I sure am glad that the CB's did their job right, as I sure enjoy playing golf on their golf course, and living this long. I'm sure my wife thanks them and so do my children. God bless those CB's for doing their job right by putting the trip wire where it should be, saving us from walking into that mine field. We all lived and I've enjoyed a good life with my wife and children. And THANK YOU CB's whoever and whereever you are.

God Bless,
Darrell Wardien

Darrell ads: Just a note for the Newsletter that came to mind while playing golf. Glad I could remember it, but thank goodness I still have my health even after my Army life and eight years of Pro football, and by surprise, induction into the Hall of Fame. I was a 185 pound halfback in the Canadian League, where I met my wife. We have three children.

I enjoy the Newsletter for it brings back memories of that time in my life. This little incident could have stopped all of that and they could have used one of the mahogany crosses we made for the cemetery on Bougainville.

But everything has turned out well. My golf drives are down the middle but a lot shorter. Being out there with my buddies, going to dinner with good friends, and being active with the Elks, these are the things that matter and keep me going.

So, Keep up the good work and if any more memories turn up I'll send them in.

Darrell

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Raymond Bachewicz enlisted from Chicago and served with the Americal Division. He served in a BAR squad and was an island hopper--Guadalcanal, Bougainville, etc, to Tokyo.

I have a picture of him with 'Ed' and 'Harvey' 1944. Transported on the USS Missouri in 1945. At one time received a citation with the 121st Medical Battalion--April 1945. Contact:

Kenneth Bachewicz

[REDACTED]

Charleston, SC 29418

Telephone: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

COMPANY K - 132nd INFANTRY

Looking for anyone that knew J.C. Davis from North Carolina. He passed away on August 9, 2001. Contact:

Mike Davis

[REDACTED]

Newton, NC 28658

email: [REDACTED]

VETERAN'S PRIDE

It was a great disappointment to me to receive a letter from my old friend, Joe Micek, chairman of the 132nd Infantry Regiment, to announce that the reunion had been canceled. It seems that due to dwindling numbers, health problems and the difficulty of traveling, it was impossible to hold another reunion.

This would have been the 60th anniversary of our being called to active duty in March 1941 as part of the 33rd Infantry Division of the Illinois National Guard.

One of the great satisfactions of my life was the honor of serving in my small way alongside some of the greatest, most dedicated "guardsmen."

The years have matured us from a group of eager young GIs to what are now old retired veterans. I will always treasure the many years I spent in the military before, during and after World War II. The friends I made during those years will always be a big part of my life.

When you read or hear of the National Guard being activated, be it for war, civil disturbances, floods, tornadoes or other required duties, these are men and women who leave their jobs and families to answer the call to serve their community and country.

Col. Toby Weinshenker (Retired)
Chicago

THIS SAYS IT ALL!

Item: Broken Arrow, Oklahoma School officials remove "God Bless America" signs from schools in fear that someone might be offended.

Item: Channel 12 News in Long Island, New York, orders flags removed from the Newsroom and red, white and blue ribbons removed from the lapels of reporters. Why? Management did not want to appear biased and felt that our nation's flag might give the appearance that "they lean one way or another".

Item: Berkeley, California bans U.S. Flags from being displayed on city fire trucks because they didn't want to offend any one in the community.

Item: In an "act of tolerance" the head of the public library at Florida Gulf Coast University ordered all "Proud to be an American" signs removed so as not to offend international students.

I, for one, am quite disturbed by these actions of so-called American citizens; and I am tired of this nation worrying about whether or not we are offending some individual or culture.

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled on New York and Washington, D.C. when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others.

I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to America. In fact, our country's population is almost entirely comprised of descendants of immigrants, however, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some native Americans, need to understand. First of all, it is not our responsibility to continually try not to offend you in any way.

This idea of America being a multi-cultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language, and our own lifestyle. This culture called the "American Way" has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom. Our forefathers fought, bled and died at places such as Bunker Hill, Antietam, San Juan, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Normandy, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, for our way of life.

We speak English not Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian or any other language. Therefore if you wish to become part of our society---learn our language!

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some off-the-wall, Christian Right Wing, political slogan--it is our national motto. It is engraved in stone in the House of Representatives in our Capitol and it is printed on our currency. We adopted this motto because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented throughout our history.

If it is appropriate for our motto to be inscribed in the halls of our highest level of Government, then it is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools.

God is in our pledge, our National Anthem, nearly every patriotic song and in our founding documents. We honor His birth, death and resurrection as holidays, and we turn to Him in prayer in time of crisis. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture and we are proud to have Him.

We are proud of our heritage and those who have so honorably defended our freedoms. We celebrate Independence Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Flag Day. We have parades, picnics and barbecues where we proudly wave our flag. As an American I have the right to wave my flag, sing my national anthem, quote my national motto and cite my pledge whenever and wherever I choose.

If the Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet.

The American culture is our way of life, our heritage and we are proud of it. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. We are Americans like it or not, this is our country, our land and our lifestyle.

Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion about our government, culture or society, and we will allow you every opportunity to do so. But once you are done complaining, whining and griping about our flag, our pledge, our national motto, or our way of life. I highly encourage you take advantage of one other great American freedom, the right to leave.

Ed Note: This was taken off the net. I certainly sounds appropriate for this time and season.

We, men of our generation, learned respect for our FLAG beginning in the first grade of school. A child in a school in Connecticut refused to salute the FLAG and was suspended from school. Guess what? A law suit followed and the child was awarded thousands of dollars.

I would like to hear from our members how they feel on this issue.

Remember--protection for our Flag lost by two votes in the Senate. The two Senators from Massachusetts voted against it. The two Senators from North Dakota voted against it. One Senator from Illinois voted against it. The AMERICAL could have made the difference. Write to your Senator.

Here in Massachusetts Senator Kerry has stayed out of the news since that fateful day in September. Kennedy kind of sneaked in the back door in a couple of news items. But now--he is appearing on TV with a Flag in his lapel. Some people would call him a hypocrite.

USS LSM/LSMR ASSOCIATION

I received a membership application to join the AMERICAL Division Association. As you can see, I was never in the Army. I was in the Navy.

My first contact with the AMERICAL was on 30Aug45 when about twenty (20) LSMs arrived in Cebu to ferry the AMERICAL Division to Yokohama, Japan. I

was the engineering officer on LSM 186 which carried besides equipment, enlisted men and one officer, Major Charles Spooner, an artilleryman. He was a real gentleman. We arrived in Yokohama on 12Sep45, unloaded, and the next morning we were on our way back to the Philippines to pick up more occupation troops from Subic Bay.

This trip, however, we encountered a typhoon as we passed over the northern tip of Luzon. We had to alter course slightly, down the east coast of Luzon to let the typhoon pass by north of us, which put us in its wake, with favorable winds which helped us on our way to Tokyo Bay. Just before entering the Bay we ran over something in the darkness that damaged our port propeller, so, after unloading at Yokohama, we went to Yokosuka and into drydock to replace the bent screw with one of the spares we had aboard.

Taking advantage of being in drydock and also not too far from the Japanese naval training base where Major Spooner had charge of the peninsular down to the mouth of Tokyo Bay. I got permission to take one of our motormacs over to Kamakura in search of souvenirs for the crew. Hitch hiking was not like in the US, only US military vehicles were on the road and they kept taking side roads short of our destination. So, we walked a lot of the way. Finally arriving at the Kamakura railway station we found ourselves surrounded by Japanese civilians going about their own business, with one lone soldier on guard. He proved to be AMERICAL and on the first crank he had Maj. Spooner on the line. This was a month since he had been on our ship so it took him a half of minute before he remembered who I was. He said, "Where are you?" and when I told him he said, "You wait right there." Twenty minutes later he arrived driving his jeep. We oiled in and he drove us thru the little town of Zushi and on to the base with Mt. Fuji in the distance dead ahead.

We knew we would have to stay the night so the Major told us he would be busy in the afternoon but if we were free in the AM he would take us down to the mouth of Tokyo Bay to see some of the preparations the Japanese had made for our invasion they knew was coming. This suited us fine. We had already, while in the Yokosuka drydock, seen at least fifty midget submarines. Now we would see some of them in place, in caves, on the seacoast. I took a couple of pictures, including one of Maj. Spooner.

The next job was to collect souvenirs, that afternoon. The Major said to roam around the base, take what we wanted, and he would provide a truck and driver to take us back to Yokosuka that night. We arrived back about 11:00 PM, but our ship was out of drydock and anchored somewhere amidst all the other ships inside the first breakwater. Luckily there was an LST on the beach, where a movie was being shown. Bribing a motormac and a coxswain with three rifles, we unloaded the truck that held ninety five rifles, two sea chests and other small stuff and headed into the dark harbor. Because, while at Subic Bay, we had painted over the camouflage of green and brown, with gray and light gray conning tower, we were able to find our ship almost immediately.

That was the last contact that I had with the AMERICAL Division until the 1900's when I decided to look up Major Spooner. I had already found forty two of our crew, and that many more from other ships, that I had met in midshipman school, and diesel school and at Little Creek Amphibious Training.

I got an address from and wrote an open letter to the newly designated AMERICAL Division somewhere in Massachusetts asking that my letter be forwarded to Major Charles Spooner. My letter was evidently passed around from one to another until Bill McLaughlin, down in Marston Mills received it a month or so later. (Major Spooner had since died). I have been in touch with Bill ever since and through him I also contacted Col. Hill from Baltimore, MD and a former enemy on Cebu, George Fukui in Yokohama and at least one letter to Ray Chesley in Wakefield, MA.

I've been receiving 'Cannoneers Posts' from Bill for some time and read them thoroughly--and contribute now and then. I've attended two AMERICAL Reunions, (Artillery), at the Venus Di Milo restaurant, so I figured I might as well join your organization for at least one year. The way my crew is dwindling every year, I think for one year at a time.

Our Association has one advantage over yours--it is open to any of the 45,000 men who served on the 494 LSMs and the 60 LSM(R)s (the rocket ships) so, even though we have over 3000 members, and lose quite a few each year, we also gain a few members who have just heard about the USSLSM/LSM9(R)s Association. But eventually the Association will be turned over to those LSM's and LSM(R)s that served in the Korean War and finally the few that served in the Vietnam War. That will be the end of it.

We have had an annual Reunion every year since 1989. This year it was in Washington, DC, one week before the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon disasters.

I feel fortunate that my childhood occurred between WWI and WWII and that many of my best traits were derived from good parents and the depression.

Please excuse the lengthy epistle.

Best regards,
Kenneth E. Roberts

Ed Note: Welcome Aboard

COMPANY C - 132nd INFANTRY

Looking for James Stamper and James Cox.
CONTACT:

Carlos Stout
[REDACTED]

St. Charles, MO 63301
Telephone: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

ANTI-TANK COMPANY - 132nd INFANTRY

Looking for anyone that knew my Dad, S/Sgt. James S. Lance Jr. He was wounded by a knee mortar and returned to duty.

CONTACT:
Jay Lances
[REDACTED]

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

REUNION OF 182nd

On Sept. 5, 2001, a very happy meeting was held for the 182nd Co. L. Scheduled for the 15th of Sept. the meeting was changed to Wednesday, Sept. 5th, due to the request and arrival of one of our "Old Buddies."

For the first time in about 50 years, we got together with one of our guys, Larry La Cau.

Larry lived in Alaska for over 35 years. Last year he and his family moved to California.

Planning a family vacation at York Beach, Maine, he wondered about seeing the guys from Co. L. Changing the date from the 15th to the 5th was an easy thing to do, to get the guys together. We met with about 35 in attendance.

Larry, along with his son, Jim, arrived early and after much back-slapping, hugging and hand-shaking the stories started. Jim sure learned a lot that day about his Dad, during the days of Co. L and WWII. More than once he remarked, "Wow, I never knew that about my Dad."

The meeting started with the guys arriving around 10:30am, and we were again pleasantly surprised with the arrival of Haskell Saxe and his wife, Bernice.

Along with Joe Chin and his wife Barbara, Ken Turner and his wife, Jan. Vinnie Trigale and Grace, along with my wife, Mary. The women were very welcomed.

Jim Buckle, from the Cape and his friend Harry Mohla, Dick Pratt, Israel Rosenseweig, came from Connecticut. Al Greer, from New Hampshire and locally Jim McCarthy, Jim Standish, Ted Milgroom, John Patterson, Ray Kinnon and Bob Contant.

From Co. M., Fred Wonson, Ted Mathey, Carl Halupowski, Doug Surrette, Mike Imbrascio and Mario Binda.

We sure had a good time and hated for the meeting to end. Next meeting is tentively set for March 23, 2002.

Robert E. Doucette
(I am enclosing an e-mail from Larry La Cau which he sent after his arrival home)

WHERE IN HELL HAVE I BEEN?????
Well it had been a story and a half--Been off the keyboard for about three weeks or more now--around the 27th of Aug., my wife and I, daughter and son, decided to go to York Beach, Maine---in the midst of many relatives, lobster feeds and fried clams--I thought I'd pull something real smart, so I had myself a "Mini-stroke" and a ride in an ambulance after a fast 911 call--after three days in the hospital and a fistfull of tests I got permission to leave. "Arteries in the neck about 80% blocked"--only thing was I had missed my scheduled return flight to Calif.--so this was about the same time some ragheads decided to use the WTC as an airport--so that delayed me another week--but here I am, my same old miserable self--the only good part was that I was able to attend a reunion with some of my old war buddies, whom I have not seen since 1945--what a time and what a crew--WOW--believe me that made it all worth while!!!!

So that's where I have been, and looking at all my unanswered E-mail, looks like I am going to be a busy beaver for some time to come--Larry

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
By Cynthia Bass

Wednesday was the 53rd anniversary of the official end of World War II in the Pacific.

In a ceremony on board the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Harbor, in the presence of officers, allies and former enemies, Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the formal surrender of Imperial Japan. The terms surrender were unconditional.

The concept of "unconditional surrender" was first introduced into modern warfare in 1862 by Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Considered at the time extremely callous and harsh, even by Grant's own officers. The expression so intrigued President Abraham Lincoln he made it a policy aim.

Lincoln's insistence on unconditional surrender was hotly criticized in the North, which feared it would only encourage the South to dig in and so prolong the fighting. Once the war ended, however, the North was more than pleased that Lincoln, who by then was dead, had been so insistent, as his policy permitted free reign to set up Reconstruction in a thoroughly demilitarized South.

Half a century later, with World War I drawing to a close, Gen. John Pershing, head of the American Expeditionary Force, urgently recommended "unconditional surrender in the field" to President Woodrow Wilson, contending that only under such stringent conditions would Germany stay defeated. Perhaps remembering the devastation wreaked on his native Virginia during Reconstruction. Wilson demurred, instead offering Germany an armistice and later, his beautifully worded, fatally flawed Fourteen Points.

Defeated but not defanged, Germany eventually embraced fascism. It spent most of the 30's re-arming, until, 21 years after her conditional surrender in the Great War, it proved Pershing's point--and Lincoln's--by invading Poland and driving Europe into a second, even more disastrous war.

The connection between Germany's conditional surrender in 1918 and its invasion of Poland in 1939 was noted with great avidity by every military and political leader of World War II. Both Great Britain and Germany aimed for the unconditional surrender of the other from day one of the war. Later, the Soviet Union, Japan and the United States gunned for total victory, too.

As things turned sour for them, Germany and Japan began hinting that they were prepared to accept peace terms which were almost, but not quite, unconditional. They were told bluntly, to take a hike; the only acceptable surrender was total, take it or leave it. Rather than take it, Hitler committed suicide, while the Japanese would absorb two atomic bombs before agreeing to it.

After the war, the Allies occupied Germany and the United States occupied Japan. These occupations transformed both nations into such loyal allies that today it is just as hard to imagine either country as our enemy as it was, during the war, to imagine them as anything but. The insistence on unconditional surrender is one of the World War II's most important and meaningful legacies. Whether or not it is a legacy worth continuing depends on which we want more: peace or a pause between wars.

(Cynthia Bass is the author of "Sherman's March" (Bantam 1995) and "Maiden Voyage" (Bantam 1997). She lives in Danville, Calif.)

LOWELL IS SET TO HONOR MEN WHO FOUGHT
IN WORLD WAR II

As Mike Zammiti talks about the Medic who tried to care for him after he was wounded in the Pacific during World War II, his eyes water up, his shoulders sag, and his head slowly falls until he's quietly looking straight down.

Zammiti had been shot just above the heart by a Japanese sniper in Guadalcanal--"It felt like a hot sledgehammer hitting you. I thought I was gone. The blood was coming out of my mouth and everything," he said -- John Nutile came out to help him.

Nutile, who was a boyhood friend of Zammiti's was shot and killed, almost immediately. Zammiti survived, after a plane, getting ready to take off, picked him up only after a nurse on the plane saw him move his arm as he lay on the runway, after he slept through a seven day coma, and after he shriveled to 100 pounds. He saw many men killed while he fought, but the memory of that Medic sticks with him nearly sixty years later.

"That was a tough one because we went to school together. We grew up together," Zammiti said.

John, and other casualties just like him, will be on the minds of survivors like Zammiti today, when historic Yankee Division and its Pacific brother the Americal Division are honored in two city ceremonies.

The city is naming its Riverwalk after the Yankee Division, which fought in famous Civil War battles like Gettysburg and Antietam and was in Europe for both World Wars. The Americal was based in the Pacific in World War II, and there were many local soldiers in both Divisions.

There were 17 Lowell men in the Yankee Division's 101st Infantry who fought in World War II, with five of the soldiers dying overseas. One survivor, James Guthrie, will speak at today's ceremony.

Before the Yankee Division is honored, the city will name a corner of Westford and Grand streets after the Americal Division. Zammiti, who was a sergeant in the Army, will unveil the statue, and will be thinking of the Medic who died in front of him.

"You can't get over what happened to young John," Zammiti said. "How do you forget? That's why I'm so busy with charities and everything. I try to forget."

Lowell Sun
Jason Leffert

(Thanks to Harry Mohla and Elliot Carey for sending in this article.)

Elliot Carey says: The main point that ties the Americal to Lowell, Massachusetts seems to be left out of the above story. The 182nd Infantry Regiment, the oldest Regiment in the United States, was the tie between the Yankee Division and the Americal Division.

The 1st Battalion of the 182nd Infantry came from the cities of Lowell, Haverhill and Lawrence. Battalion Headquarters and C and D Company were from Lowell, A Company was from Haverhill and B Company was from Lawrence.

The 182nd Infantry was inducted into Federal service on January 16, 1941 and C, D, and Battalion Headquarters was made up of many, many

men of Lowell that served in the local Armory of the Massachusetts National Guard,

The 182nd Infantry was part of the Yankee Division up until the end of 1941, the beginning of World War II. At this time all square divisions, meaning they had four regiments of infantry and supporting units, were reorganized and made into triangular divisions, meaning that each division now contained three regiments of infantry. The 182nd Infantry was the odd man out and on January 23, 1942 was on its way over seas.

The 182nd Infantry Regiment became part of the Americal Division when it was formed on New Caledonia.

The 1st Battalion first saw action on Guadalcanal. When it was decided to enlarge the beachhead. This Battalion led the way across the Matanikau River. Here on Point Cruz, it first engaged the enemy in heavy combat and suffered many casualties.

This Battalion saw much combat on the island of Bougainville, in the Northern Solomons, and on Cebu in the Philippines. The Battalion suffered casualties on Bougainville and many on casualties on Cebu.



Above is a picture of three veterans of World War II and members of the 1st Battalion. On the left is Al Hudon who served with C Company, in the center is Elliot Carey of D Company and to the right is Stanley Anderson of D and Headquarters Company. The Lowell Armory once stood at this location.

Ed Note: Too bad a little recognition could not have been given to these three veterans and the Battalion. The 182nd Infantry, serving under several regimental banners, has fought in every war from the American Revolution up through World War II.

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Looking for anyone that knew OLIVER CONRAD MANUEL from Elbert, Texas. He was a scout in an Infantry platoon. CONTACT:

John Judah
[REDACTED]

Balch Springs, TX 75180
email: [REDACTED]

RAILROAD OF DEATH

"The Burma Thailand 'Death Railway' was one of the most horrible sentences that a prisoner of war could endure."

For 42 months, 668 American POWs endured constant degradation, pain and brutality in the jungles of Burma between March 1942 and August 1945. Some 133, or 20%, died as slave laborers building a Japanese rail link connecting Ban Pong, Thailand to Thanbyuzayat, Burma.

Survivors of the USS Houston, flagship of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet sunk in the Sunda Strait March 1, 1942 and 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery Regt., 36th Infantry Division, captured in the Dutch East Indies, together form a forgotten chapter in the Pacific war.

Fifty years ago they battled starvation, disease, medical mal-treatment and enemy sadism--today they fight indifference. For five years, members of the Lost Battalion Association--so named because the men vanished without a trace in 1942--struggled to have a memorial plaque erected in Thailand. In the end it was put in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

"The Death Railway is where they died in WWII, so it would be fitting to have the memorial in Thailand," said Otto Schwarz, head of the USS Houston Survivors Association. "We still love the Thai people because of their generosity during the war, but this experience with Thai officials has left us feeling bitter and disappointed."

Two-thirds of the U.S. dead perished in the 65 miles between Thanbyuzayat (the Burma Base Camp) and the 105 Kilo marker. More than 100 Americans died along that section of the 260-mile railway in less than a year.

In early April 1944, B-24s of the 436th Squadron, 7th Bomb Group, 10th Air Force, destroyed three bridges between Moulmein, Burma and Kanchanaburi, Thailand. Jesse Bumpass, then a member of the 131st Artillery, was sent to Tamarkan, Thailand in February 1944 to work on the River Kwai. He saw the raid.

"There were actually two bridges, a steel one and a wooden one that looked just like the one in the movie," he said. "They had to bomb them eight days before they fell. I guess we built them pretty good."

When the war ended, the 317th Troop Carrier Squadron evacuated 127 U. S. prisoners from Bangkok and 94 from Phet Buri, Thailand. They and other survivors went home to Texas and elsewhere. But the men of the USS Houston and "Lost Battalion" never forgot their comrades. Neither did the Brits or Aussies.

On April 26, 1987, the Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce dedicated a memorial at the "Konyu Cutting," better known as Hellfire Pass (a notorious section), north of Kanchanaburi, to the memory of all those who died building the railway.

Ever since then, the Chamber has worked with others to maintain and expand the memorial. For Rod Beattie, formerly of the Royal Australian Engineers, it has become a labor of love. "We owe it to all 12,400 Allied POWs who died and the 50,000 who survived to keep the memory of what went on here alive for future generations to understand."

Danny Simpson, a veteran of the British 33rd Parachute Regiment who served on Cyprus and in the Suez Crisis, feels the same. "Mine is more than simply a tour operation," he says. "Every time I make a trip with veterans to Hellfire Pass it's like going on a pilgrimage to honor the sacrifices of POWs." (Simpson runs an excellent tour service out of Kanchanaburi to where the memorial railway is being restored in the surrounding hills at Hellfire Pass.)

Another advocate of the cause is Australian Nicoll Brooke, a writer for the Bangkok Post. His recently published book "Captive of the River Kwei," is based on first-person accounts of former POWs--including Americans--who suffered along the Death Railway.

"Hopefully, my series of articles in the Post has focused some attention on what took place in Thailand 50 years ago," he says. "And the book will shed some light on a subject far too long ignored. The world must remember the suffering that was endured in building this infamous railway and its bridges."

Unfortunately, memorialization is not what all have in mind in preserving the famous bridge. To some it has become a tasteless tourist trap. "They dance on the graves of the men who died here," feels ex-POW Trevor Dakin. Dakin, now a resident of Kanchanaburi and a Canadian citizen, slaved on the railroad after being captured with his British army unit in Singapore in 1942.

Subject of a recent BBC documentary, he has taken on the one-man mission of reminding anyone who will listen that visiting the bridge should be accompanied by a trip to nearby Allied cemetery, as well as Hellfire Pass. "We were forced to dig a ditch around the camp's perimeter, with machine gun emplacements in each corner, so we could be executed on order of the emperor if the camp was attacked," Dakin recalls with emotion.

Strangely enough, even the Japanese have a memorial in Thailand. Yet the American plaque has been denied a place at the Allied Cemetery in Kanchanaburi," laments Otto Schwarz. The VFW in Bangkok, however, hopes to help the railway survivors in their quest for recognition.

"Whatever influence we can exert will be applied," says Dick Vileo, of Post 995. "Since we have always had a great working relationship with the War Veterans Organization of Thailand, perhaps we can lend a hand in finding a permanent and appropriate Thai home for the plaque. In fact, when I spoke with the director general, he gave me a positive response to my request."

Meanwhile, the various veterans organizations and individuals involved will plow ahead with their plans to preserve a part of the place where so many memories were formed. "If we don't do it, who will?" asks Rod Beattie.

(Taken from VFW Magazine.)

SPECIAL EVENTS MARK PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY

President George W. Bush is expected to lead a special memorial service at the Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii on December 7th to honor the memory of the United States Military heroes of Pearl Harbor for their valiant defense of our country.

The memorial service will cap off a series of special observances marking the 60th anniversary of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that thrust the United States into World War II.

Events schedules for Dec. 3-8 also will feature personal interviews with survivors, a flag-raising ceremony at Honolulu Convention Center, and a special reunion dinner dance for Pearl Harbor survivors. On the morning of Dec. 6, an Armed Forces parade will be held in downtown Honolulu.

MilitaryWorld.com, along with OneTravel.com, is furnishing airfare, accommodations, and expenses for some Pearl Harbor survivors in need of financial assistance. Representatives of the Pearl Harbor Association and the USS Arizona Reunion Association will assist Militaryworld.com in locating Pearl Harbor survivors and arranging for their attendance at the reunion event.

OneTravel.com, the official travel service of the reunion, also is offering deeply discounted fares to Hawaii for all survivors to attend the reunion.

Eastman Kodak has offered to document the event on video, featuring the press event, private memorial, and survivors memoirs. Each survivor will receive a copy of the video. Kodak will also present each Pearl harbor survivor with a camera to capture lasting memories with comrades and family members at this historic event.

In addition, the Franklin Mint has produced a special edition commemorative medallion honoring Pearl Harbor survivors. Each survivor will be presented with a medal. A copy of the video and a commemorative medal will also be available to the public for purchase. Leading up to the grand reunion event in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Militaryworld.com will make a \$5000 cash donation to the USS Arizona Memorial Museum Fund to continue its heritage of remembrance and pride in America's military, past, present and future.

For more info, contact John Miele at [REDACTED] or via-email at jmiele@militaryworld.com. The MilitaryWorld.com website is www.militaryworld.com. For information about discount airfares to Hawaii, visit the OneTravel.com website www.onetravel.com.

Ed Note: This article was taken from the July/Aug 2001 issue of DAV magazine. Doesn't it seem strange that the word Japanese does not appear once in this article--who did attack Pearl Harbor?

I have noticed in past years how the media does not mention 'Japanese'. The do not even mention the Japanese surrender on the anniversary of the historic event.

I would like our members across the country to let me know how your local newspaper handles the anniversary of the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. ("Sneak" is another forgotten, or should I say, forbidden word).

"SAN DIEGO'S OWN" 251st CA(AA) REGIMENT TO OBSERVE IT'S 44TH PEARL HARBOR ATTACK ANNIVERSARY

Former members of "San Diego's Own" 251st Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the California National Guard will observe the 44th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor with a reunion luncheon at noon on December 7th at the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot Officers Club.

The Regiment actively participated in the battle of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked the Hawaiian Islands On December 7, 1941. Soldiers of the Regiment hastily set up a defense and drove off Japanese dive bombers attacking their base at Camp Malakole. The Regiment received official credit for destroying at least two of the attacking aircraft.

Formally designated as "San Diego's Own," on October 26, 1936, this National Guard Regiment was presented to the city of San Diego by Colonel John H. Sherman, Regimental Commander. Then Mayor, J.P. Benbough accepted the presentation on behalf of the citizens of San Diego.

The 251st Regiment was the first National Guard unit ordered into active duty and the first mobilized since World War I. Inducted into Federal Service on September 16, 1940, the Regiment was ordered to Hawaii to bolster the defense of the Hawaiian Islands. Washington reported that the 251st was the first National Guard unit ever sent outside the Continental United States in peacetime.

The first contingent of 1,000 men and officers sailed from Los Angeles Harbor on October 31, 1940, arriving in Hawaii on November 5, 1940. The remainder of the Regiment, many from Long Beach area, departed for Hawaii on November 23, 1940.

After "The day that will live in infamy," President Roosevelt ordered the Regiment to set up the anti-aircraft defense of the Fiji Islands. The Regiment was again "FIRST" in being the initial unit to be deployed in a zone of operations after the Declaration of War, with its troops arriving at Suva Harbor on June 1, 1942.

The Regiment participated with distinction in combat on the Island of Bougainville, the Solomon Islands, and in the Philippines. Most of the original members from the San Diego and Long Beach areas served in the Southwest Pacific Theatre of Operations for periods in excess of 44 months before returning to the United States.

Leonard (Zack) Owczarzak
746 AAA Gun Btry D Btry

Ed Note: Thanks to Zack for sending in this story. This notice is several years old but it was used to show the lineage of this unit. The 251st CA(AA) Regiment was the parent unit of the 746 AAA which was attached to the Americal.

COMPANY C - 132nd INFANTRY

I started out with the Company C, 129th Infantry and then I was transferred to Company C, 132 Infantry. I would like to know why Company C has not been mentioned in the Americal Newsletter.

Everett Goudy, Milford, IL, and I fought side by side during World War II and we returned home, unharmed, after fighting on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Cebu in the Philippines.

Richard D. Heath Jr.

[REDACTED] Sumner, IL 50674

Ed Note: The reason that you have not seen C company, 132nd Infantry mentioned in the Americal Newsletter is that no one from that Company has sent in any news items etc. I am only too happy to print stories from our members.

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



Editor-In-Chief

James C. Buckle

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