

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1986

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor in Chief; Jim Buckle  
Vietnam Editor; Ron Ward

Published Bi-Monthly

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

*Holiday Greetings*



*The  
Americal Family*



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Wakefield, MA 01880

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1986

**NATIONAL OFFICERS**

1987

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January 14, 1987

1:00 P.M. Executive Board Meeting

1:30 P.M. General Meeting

National Guard Armory

Victory Road Dorchester, Mass

NOTE: This is an afternoon meeting

February 11, 1987

1:00 P.M.

National Guard Armory

Victory Road Dorchester, Mass.

NOTE: This is an afternoon meeting

March 11, 1987

8:00 P.M.

National Guard Armory

Victory Road Dorchester, Mass.

April 8, 1987

8:00 P.M.

National Guard Armory

Victory Road Dorchester, Mass.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE APRIL 25, 1987

**Vietnam Vets Network**

By Ron Ward - Vietnam News Editor

This is the seventh in a series of Medal of Honor recipients.

PRUDEN, ROBERT J. (K.I.A.)

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 75th Infantry, Americal Division. Place and date: Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam, 29 November 1969. Entered service at: Minneapolis, Minn. Born: 9 September 1949, St. Paul, Minn. CITATION: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt Pruden, Company G, distinguished himself while serving as a reconnaissance team leader during an ambush mission. The 6-man team was inserted by helicopter into enemy controlled territory to establish an ambush position and to obtain information concerning enemy movements. As the team moved into the preplanned area, S/Sgt. Pruden deployed his men into 2 groups on the opposite sides of a well used trail. As the groups were establishing their defensive positions, 1 member of the team was trapped in the open by the heavy fire from an enemy squad. Realizing that the ambush position had been compromised, S/Sgt. Pruden directed his team to open fire on the enemy force. Immediately, the team came under heavy fire from a second element. S/Sgt. Pruden, with full knowledge of the extreme danger involved, left his concealed position and, firing as he ran, advanced toward the enemy to draw the hostile fire. He was seriously wounded twice but continued his attack until he fell for a third time, in front of the enemy positions. S/Sgt. Pruden's actions resulted in several enemy casualties and withdrawal of the remaining enemy force. Although grievously wounded, he directed his men into defensive positions and called for evacuation helicopters, which safely withdrew the members of the team. S/Sgt. Pruden's outstanding courage, selfless concern for the welfare of his men, and intrepidity in action at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

**ATTENTION**

In past newsletters we have requested that any members interested in starting up a mid-west chapter of the ADVA should get in touch with me or the HQ in Boston. So far I haven't had enough responses to get this project off the ground but that doesn't mean that we've given up. We still want to try and get organized here in the heart-land. Now that we Nam vets are becoming "middle-aged", we should become more involved in Association activities. It won't be long before we'll have to start assuming some of the duties on the Associations Executive Council. The NW 2 vets are getting up there in the years by now so it's up to us to keep this organization moving in a growing and positive manner. I know that there's plenty of members from all the wars who reside here in the mid-west. Don't be bashful. My address is in the newsletter so how about getting in touch.

Ron

ARE YOUR DUES PAID !



## VIETNAM VETS NETWORK (Continues)

Dear fellow ADVA members;

It was good to see all of you who were fortunate enough to be in Washington on this past Veterans Day. As there were no major events planned by vets for that week in D.C., the turn-out was small but those who did make it all enjoyed themselves.

On Veterans Day, we were disappointed by the terrible weather that descended upon us for the ceremony at the "Wall". It started raining in the early morning and also turned a lot colder. By the time all the politicians had made their speeches, and the gates were again opened for visitors to enter the monument area, we were all soaked and frozen. The bitter weather didn't keep any of the crowd away at the Wall though. It was difficult to walk due to the heavy crowds.

A floral wreath on behalf of all Americal vets was laid at the base of the wall by ADVA member, Skip Knell. By the way Skip, when I got back home to St. Louis that evening, I saw a good close-up on CNN news of you carrying the wreath down the walk-way to the Wall. I got into the picture myself as I placed a wreath for my local VFW Post. My personal thanks for Skip helping out that day.

The Hotel Washington was our LZ for the weekend. The staff was very kind to us and waited until about 4AM on the night we ran our hospitality room to call us and say that we were making too much noise. No hard feelings though. I spoke to the boss on the next day and were welcome to stay at the same place anytime.

The POW-MIA activist are constantly in the area of the Vietnam Memorial and perhaps more so on Veterans Day. There was a POW march from the Wall to the White House and also one from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery while we were in town. Several demonstrators were arrested at the Wall when they refused to leave the area as ordered by the Park Police. I was informed by a policeman that we were forbidden to have any unfurled flags, banners, or signs in the vicinity of the Vietnam Memorial. I wanted to display the Americal flag so that fellow Americal vets would know that we were there but the local regulations prohibited that. The reasoning is that if we were allowed to display our flag, then any other groups would also have to be allowed to display theirs, even if we were in total disagreement with each other, such as a Nazi or communist organization. Oh well, with all the protesters of every type that are frequently in the Capitol, I can understand.

Keep the faith, and remember, "POWs never have a nice day".

Ron Ward

ADVA member Wayne Wilson who formerly served with the 176th. Assault Helicopter Company and then with the 196th. Infantry on a second tour, writes in to let us know that two former Americal soldiers were honored recently at a Vet Center ceremony in Philadelphia. The honorees were Jerry Irby of "D" Troop 1/1 Cavalry 196th. Brigade and J.C. Collins of "H" Troop 17th. Cavalry 196th. Brigade. Collins is an artist, (sculpture), and very good at that. He is doing a series of shows in the New Jersey area. Both of these men can be found doing volunteer work at the VA Vet Center on 1107 Arch Street in Philadelphia, Pa. 19101

Wayne Wilson is keeping busy helping his fellow vets also. He's the Director of the New Jersey State Commission on Agent Orange and the Chairman of the Allied Council of New Jersey Veterans..

If there's any more Americal vets that you know of doing work that calls for recognition in the newsletter, let us know about them,

## THE VIETNAM VETERAN IN TEXAS

A former "Grunt" with the 1/52nd Infantry 196th Brigade, Frank Schulgen, writes to let us know about another Chicago-style gathering planned for this coming Memorial Day in "Frank's home State of Texas. I think that this one has some great potential to rival all the fun we had in Chicago this summer. Frank writes, "We're building a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Dallas. It will be located at the State Fair Grounds. Ground breaking will be held on Veterans Day this year and will be dedicated on Memorial Day 1987. Texas lost 3,243 men as well as 162 still missing. We're trying to raise 2.5 million dollars. Well make it. I don't know how many Americal Texans we lost but I can imagine "one or two". The other thing is our own welcome home parade and reunion to be held Memorial Day weekend in Houston. A lot of us missed Chicago. We wanted to be there. There just wasn't any way. I would like to set up a hospitality room for the Americal but I'm not sure how. Can you assist me in this? By the way, I don't know about the rest of the country, but Texas has a Vietnam Veterans Day, April 8."

P.S. "The parade route is subject to change. POLITICS. If you know any big brass guns, let us know. We could sure use the help."

Editors note: Franks letter included a proposed calendar of events for this parade and reunion. It's quite lengthy so we were unable to reprint it in this issue. As Memorial Day grows closer, I'll be updating the information. The dates will be on May 21 thru May 24 1987. For more information contact Texas Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade [redacted] Houston, Texas 77052. Address for the Memorial Fund is [redacted] Dallas, Texas 75250.

I'll be getting together with Frank to help set up a hospitality room for the Americal and see that the Division flags are available for the parade.

## CHICAGO SOUVENIR'S

Americal vets who attended the Welcome Home Parade in Chicago this year might be interested in purchasing a copy of the parade program as a souvenir of that historic event. Highlights of magazine include stories from the Vietnam War, a large 17 by 22 inch poster, and a schedule of the four days of "Welcome Home" activities. The Assn. has been contacted by the parade committee and it appears that they have a large supply of these remaining. If you need one, contact them at the following address: Chicago Vietnam Veterans Parade Committee [redacted] Chicago, Illinois 60655 or phone [redacted]

ADVA member, Roland Whitney has received mention in the newsletter previously for his efforts on behalf of the POW-MIAs. He apparently hasn't lost the faith yet as last month he organized a large POW-MIA program at his VFW Post 6402 in Port Sulphur, Louisiana. Information received here at the HQ indicates that the program was well attended and a huge success in spreading the word on the sad plight of our missing men. Now he's putting together some information on Korean War POW-MIAs. In Korea, 7,141 of our men were captured and interned. Of those, 2,701 died while in captivity and 4,418 were eventually returned to U.S. Military control. Roland will be letting us know some more in the future about the possibility of Americans still being held by the North Korean communists. My hats off to him on his continued support for the cause.



## VIETNAM VETS NETWORK (Continues)

## CAN YOU HELP THIS COMRADE?

A new member, Santos Chalmers, needs some help from the membership to assist him in a claim for compensation from the Veterans Administration. He writes the following: "I served in Vietnam from 22 Oct 1970 to 23 Oct 1971. My M.O.S. was 91 Bravo, combat medic. I was assigned to HC & HQ Company, 4/21st Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, from Nov 1970 to Feb 1971. I was platoon medic with the third platoon of Alpha Company. From Feb 1971 to May 1971 I was assigned to the second platoon of Bravo Company. The rest of my tour is insignificant. I am being denied compensation because orders for my Combat Medical Badge were never issued. I need to contact members of the 4/21st Infantry, specifically #1) the Mexican Sergeant at our Battalion aid station who was in charge of assigning us combat medics to the companies and platoons. #2) members of third platoon 4/21st Infantry from Nov 1970 to Feb 1971. Especially Sgt. Bonaparte, our platoon sergeant who was wounded in action. #3) members of second platoon B Company 4/21st Infantry from Feb 1971 to May 1971, also the SRRP team. Their sergeant was second platoon sergeant until he formed the SRRP team. All I can remember him by is Sgt. Billy Joe. Also in the SRRP team, Skippy Tom, a Chocktaw/Cherokee from Oklahoma. They will remember April 10th and 11th 1971 Easter. Its really ridiculous I have to prove to the VA I served in combat. The guys called me Chief or Doc as I am a Sioux Indian. Whatever information you can assist me with will help and expedite my claim." P.S. "I would like to recommend our RTO man, named Ballentine, from Georgia, for an ArCom with V device the day Victor Charlie turned our mechanical ambush on us. There was only him, me, and an ARVN left from the squad." P.S.S. "Our other RTO man was slightly wounded in late Nov or Dec 1970. I treated his wound in the field as the shrapnel penetrated only the skin. Our sergeant who tripped it was dusted off. This RTO man was from Wisconsin or Minnesota. I want to make sure that he was awarded the Purple Heart. After 16 years its kind of hard to remember names and dates."

Sincerely Yours,  
Santos S. Chalmers

Whitewood, So. Dakota 57793

## AMERICAL IN ACTION SEPT. 1969

Randy Hummel sent the following letter which accompanied some copies of Americal actions as printed in "The Army Reporter" an official U.S. Army publication circulated during the Vietnam War.

Dear Ron;

I've been a member of the ADVA for about two years. I've enjoyed the Vietnam articles that have been published. I came across the enclosed articles and thought you might want to reprint them in the newsletter sometime.

I made contact with my former C.O. through the newsletter, and we are in the planning stage of a company reunion of Co D 4/31st Infantry, 196th.

## NVA SAPPERS REPELLED IN FIGHT-OUT

Chu-Lai: Sappers from NVA units operating in the Hiep Duc Valley were turned back in an attempt to overrun a Division fire base and pave the way for an attack on the refugee center at Hiep Duc, twenty miles west of Tam Ky. - CONT. NEXT COLUMN

## Randy Hummel's story continues

The purpose of the early morning attack was evidently to tie up artillery gun crews in their own defense, so that another NVA force would not have to face the guns in attacking the refugee center. Both attacks failed.

In the early morning hours, LZ Siberia was hit by RPG, recoilless rifle, and intense automatic weapons fire. Sappers carrying grenades, satchell charges and flamethrowers moved up to the perimeter wire. Their advance had been slowed by artillery fire from the battery on the hilltop and more rounds flying from LZ West, a nearby fire base. As contact continued, Army gunships and Air Force tactical air strikes were called in.

The two NVA companies moved up the hill from the west and the north and after breaching the outer wire, used their grenades, satchell charges, and flamethrowers to get close to the inner wire. But they ran head-on into combined infantry and arty firepower which stopped them dead.

The defenders of the hill, a company from the 196th Brigade's 4/31st Infantry, poured small arms fire on the NVA, stalling the attack at the wire. The effect of the 105mm howitzers from the 3rd Bn 82nd Arty firing point blank into the NVA broke the attack and pushed it off the hill.

The retreating NVA left behind 32 dead on the slopes of LZ Siberia. One enemy was captured as infantrymen combed the weapon-strewn hill at first light. Among the captured equipment were rifles, grenades, satchell charges, several rocket launchers and one of the flamethrowers.

The following attack on Hiep Duc was folded by the combined efforts of the U.S. artillery and units of RF-PF soldiers based at Hiep Duc. As the enemy pushed toward the center from the west, air strikes and artillery broke up all coordination in their efforts. At this point, ARVN forces met the enemy units and drove them back.

The sapper attack and the drive toward the refugee center followed the same pattern as a similar attack on LZ West earlier, which kicked off 12 days of fighting around Hiep Duc. Both attacks have failed and LZs Siberia and West continue to stand guard over the Hiep Duc Valley.

Editors note: Thanks to Randy Hummel for sending in this battle write-up which occurred in mid-September 1969.



## SIBERIA ISN'T TOO BAD

While providing security for LZ Siberia, 35 miles northwest of Chu Lai, infantrymen of the 4-31st Infantry, 196th BDE, relax by writing letters, reading books and thinking of home during a quiet morning. Most soldiers consider bunker guard a pleasure.



VIETNAM VETS NETWORK (Continues)

## VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

Russ Marceau, a former trooper with the 198th Light Infantry, sends in the following citation for the Valorous Unit Award to the 1/6th Infantry. If anyone else is interested in researching possible unit citations for their old outfit, contact The Dept of the Army the Chief of Military History Washington, D.C. 20314-0200. This service is provided by the Army to you at no charge.

**VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.** By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under provisions of paragraph 202.1, AR 672-5-2, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the periods indicated: The citations read as follow:

1. The 1st BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, 198th INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION comprised of:  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
Company A  
Company B  
Company C  
Company E

The 1st BATTALION, 6th INFANTRY, 198th INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 7 February 1968 to 11 February 1968 near the hamlet Lo Giang (1), Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting search operations to the south of the hamlet, Company C was pinned down by an extremely heavy attack from an enemy force of undetermined size. Company A immediately moved to assist the beleaguered unit, and, while approaching Lo Giang (1) from the north the element came under a barrage of small arms, rocket and mortar fire which caused several casualties and forced the company to withdraw and regroup before launching a counterattack. Exhibiting conspicuous gallantry and relentless determination, the men in the lead element fought in place to cover the withdrawal of the remainder of the company and engaged the Viet Cong in savage hand-to-hand combat to halt the human wave assault that followed the mortar and rocket attack. Their inspired fighting temporarily repulsed the enemy, enabling the remainder of Company A to mount a counter-offensive which drove the enemy back into the hamlet. Concurrently, Company B arrived and pressed on with fury and force to assist Company C in repelling the communist aggressors. Fighting brilliantly, the three companies completely destroyed the hostile force. Their efforts resulted in more than 250 confirmed enemy dead, with evidence that an additional 300 dead or wounded were removed from the area. The men of the 1st BATTALION, 6th INFANTRY, 198th INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

## ALL VIETNAM VETERANS

Send Material for Newsletter to:

Ron Ward

St. Louis, MO  
63123

## AT THE WALL

Washington, D. C. November 11, 1986



OUR COLORS Washington, DC Nov. 11, 1986



Photos sent in by DAN DINKLAGE

## Commander's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to extend "HOLIDAY GREETINGS" to all members of the Americal Division Veterans Association and their families.

We have enjoyed a good year --- an excellent National Convention, thanks to Joe Marotta, a successful Clam Bake, thanks to the efforts of Jerry Altieri, and a great Christmas Party, thanks to Bob Thornton. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all the members who made these affairs a success and a special thanks to the committeemen for their assistance in these programs.

The Americal Division Veterans Association had a good turnout for the Veteran's Day program held November 9, 1986 at the National Cemetery at Bourne, Mass. Our thanks to Bernie Chase for organizing this program.

On November 11, 1986 the Americal Division Veterans Association had representatives at the placing of a memorial wreath in the Hall of Flags located in the State House in Boston, Mass.

Thank you again for your support.

Our next function will be the annual dinner dance. This year it will be held at the Cottage Crest Restaurant in Waltham, Mass. -- See you there

Kenneth R. Turner  
National Commander

## TAPS

Edward B. Henry Jr.  
Culpepper, VA  
180 FA  
Life Member  
October 15, 1986

Alfred P. Lopresti  
Malden, MA  
182nd Infantry  
Life Member  
October 2, 1986

Thomas C. Nolan  
Gloucester, MA  
121 Med Bn.  
Life Member  
November 26, 1986

John E. Tyll  
Lynn, MA  
132nd Infantry  
November 27, 1986

Richard Downs  
No. Reading, MA  
182nd Infantry  
November 14, 1986  
Non-member

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Please send all applications for membership, dues, and death notices to the National Adjutant

Mr. William L. Dunphy  
[REDACTED]  
West Roxbury, MA  
02132

## NEW MEMBERS

\*Stephan Dingle  
Walla Walla, WA  
52nd Infantry  
#Lloyd Morrell

James J. McGranachan  
Cotuit, MA  
182nd Infantry  
#Bernie Chase

\*Albert E. Scott  
Woodhaven, NY  
123rd Av Bn  
#Dave Greiger

\*Jerry L. Feldman  
Cabool, Mo  
196th LIB  
#Ron Ward

\*Albert A. Blooser  
Uniontown, OH  
11th LIB  
#Dave Greiger

Richard C. Lovett  
Albany, OR  
182nd Infantry  
#Ken Turner

\*William J. H. Peters  
Ft. Monroe, VA  
198th LIB  
#David E. Gilbert

\*Louis P. Rios  
Santa Barbara, CA  
11th LIB  
#Ron Ward

\*Jim Sobery  
Decatur, Ga  
1st Cav  
#Ron Ward

\*Jesse A. Rivera  
Great Falls, MT  
196th LIB  
#Ron Ward

Theodore M. Blatter  
Brooklyn, NY  
246th FA  
#Carlo DePorto

Robert Chapek  
Richmond, IA  
182nd Infantry  
#Joe Marotta

Warner B. Huck  
Cherry Hill NJ  
132nd Infantry  
#Self

Russell B. Perham  
Chelmsford, MA  
182nd Infantry  
#Self

Richard Ryan  
Battle Creek, MI  
Associate  
# Herb Murphy

Ernie Lopes  
Oakland, CA  
121st Med Bn  
#William Colosimo

\*Daniel E. Kuzniar  
Riverside, IL  
18th Arty  
#John (Dutch) DeGroot

David A. Luke  
Stow, OH  
\* 182nd Infantry  
#Bernie Chase

\*Michael T. Healy  
Shoreview, MN  
11th LIB  
#Ron Ward

\*Joseph A. Winkowski  
Riverside, IL  
198th LIB  
#John (Dutch) DeGroot

Francis J. Quinn  
Saugus, MA  
182nd Infantry  
#Bernie Chase

\*Augustus R. Purnell JR.  
Reading, PA  
11th LIB  
#Bernie Chase

\*Robert G. Onyon  
Santa Ana, CA  
196th LIB  
#Norman Mullen

Howard B. Travis Jr.  
Bourne, MA  
182nd Infantry  
#Edward J. Smith

Irving Isaacson  
Quincy, MA  
182nd Infantry  
#Hy Forman

\* Vietnam Veteran  
# Sponsor

## CONVALESCING AT HOME

Maurice E. Sullivan (Sully)

[REDACTED]  
Brockton, MA 02401  
101st Medical Battalion



# Reunions

Service Battery 247th Field Artillery, Americal Division, holds it's 12th Annual Reunion at Fayetteville, North Carolina Sept 26 - 27, 1986

Fifty one former members, their wives and guests, gathered at Knights Inn in Fayetteville, NC for this annual event. The feature of this years reunion was to be the invited guests of Lt. General James J. Lindsay, Commanding the XVIII Airborne Corps. and Fort Bragg.

A reunion itinerary was completed by 1st Lt. Michelle A. Shreder of Co. C, 426th Sig. Bn., our assigned Project Officer for the two days, which included the following; Registration at Knights Inn, load bus for evening meal at Chason's (home of the best barbeque and sea food in North Carolina), and arrangements for breakfast for breakfast at Shoney's Resturant.

At 1000 we left Shoney's and boarded two busses that had been assigned to us. These busses took us to Fort Bragg. Our trip to Fort Bragg included a view of Airborne Operations. Sicily Drop Zone, 650 jumpers ---what a sight! From here we started our Historical Tour of Fort Bragg. A break for lunch was in order. We were invited into the 35th Sig Bn Dining facility (Home of the Best Mess) and it certainly was. We continued with our tour and a visit to the Airborne Museum. For many of us this was a nostalgic visit. Many having started their military careers and some of them terminated their careers here. The day was topped off with cocktails at the Officers Club Strac Lounge and then the "Main Event" dinner at the Officers Club. This reunion was a most memorable one thanks to Lt. Gen. Lindsay and our assigned Project Officer 1st Lt. Shreder and 1st Lt. Timothy R. Davidson who assisted in keeping us in tow and well informed. We are grateful for the courtesies shown us by the enlisted men assigned to this detail.

Plans for the 1987 reunion have already been set. We plan to meet in Nashville, Tenn. the latter part of September. If interested contact Melvin K. Sandy, Route 2 Box 81, Stephens City, Virginia 22655.

This article was sent in by PNC Al Doig.



John E. Sobotka of Bloomfield, N.J. representing the former members of Service Battery 247th F.A. BN. at their Annual Reunion.

## WWII Notebook

### 69th (245th) FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

On the French island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific, a motley crew of American units known as Task Force 6814 gathered during March and April of 1942. The force, made of in the main of National Guard regiments and battalions left over from recently triangularized divisions, had been hastily thrown together and sent out in answer to the desperate pleas of the Free French government of New Caledonia itself.

One of the units of Task Force 6814 was the 72nd Field Artillery Regiment, a new outfit organized at Fort Jackson, SC in June 1941, entirely of selectees. It was equipped with 105's, the only regiment so armed in the Force's odd collection of 155's, 75mm pack howitzers, and British 18 and 25- pounders. The 72nd Field Artillery had come out of the States by itself, its transport docking at Noumea on 13 April 1942.

Out of Task Force 6814 came the famed Americal Division. Its actual organization date was 24 May 42 and one of its elements was the 72nd FA. But War Dept. directives soon ended the regiments brief life by providing for the formation of three light and two medium separate field artillery battalions and the concurrent disbandment of the existing regiments. On 15 Aug 42 the reorganization took place and there came into being the 245th and 246th Field Artillery Battalions, their men medium guns coming from the old 1st and 2nd Bns of the 72nd. Thus was the 245th (the old designation of the 69th) "Born of Battle" on battle on foreign soil, as its present motto claims. Except for six years of inactive status from November 1945 until August of 1951, the Battalion has known only foreign service.

Throughout WWII the 245th supported the infantry of the Americal Division from Guadalcanal, through Bougainville and Leyte, to occupation duties in Japan.

The 245th entered its first combat in Nov-42 on Guadalcanal with the 182nd Infantry Regiment. While unloading from transports, these units were greeted by an attack of about 30 Japanese planes - dive bombers, torpedo planes, and fighters. In the destruction of 25 or more planes the men of the 245th manned some of the AA guns on the beach.

During its stay on Guadalcanal, the 245th supported the 182nd, 147th, and the 161st Infantry Regiments and the 1st, 6th and 8th Marines. Its first artillery action occurred on 14 Nov 42 when it fired on a Japanese patrol while supporting the 1st Marines in the defense of Henderson Field. Its first major action was in the reduction of Point Cruz and its last preparation on Guadalcanal was fired in the early morning of 9 Feb 43 near the east bank of the Tenamba River. In this campaign the 245th fired 26,598 rounds of 105 mm ammunition.

Following the Guadalcanal campaign, the 245th supported the 164th Infantry in the protection of Suva, the Capitol of Fiji, Vita Levu.

On 28 Dec 43 the 245th landed on Bougainville with the Americal and took up support fire for the 182nd Infantry. Three days later it had taken over direct support of the 164th Infantry near the Torokina fighter strip.

On 23 Jan 44 a Japanese bomber dropped its load in the 245th's Headquarters Battery area, killing one man, injuring another and destroying tents and vehicles. Several men were commended by the Division Artillery Commander for their heroism during this disaster.

Continued on the next page

## 245th FIELD ARTILLERY (The Story Continues)

The Battalion received another surprise on 19 Feb 44 when a Navy dive bomber crashed into Battery C's emplacement and caught fire. Four members of the Battery received the Soldier's Medal for rescuing the trapped gunner. Just ten days later two of these same men, T/4 John Lichtey and Pvt. Robert C. Lunden, earned that award again when they extricated the pilot from the burning wreckage of a plane.

On 8 Jan 45 the Battalion left Bougainville for duty in the Philippines taking part in the operations on Leyte, Cebu, Negros, Bohol and Mindanao, and for this service has been decorated by the Philippine government.

The 245th moved to Japan on 9 Jan 45 and took occupation duties in the Fourumi District of Yokohama in the industrial city of Kawasaki. On 16 Nov 45 it sailed for the United States and nine days later it was inactivated at Ft. Lewis, WA, it's only station in the United States.

In the summer of 1951 was selected to replace the 159th Battalion in Korea. It was relieved from the Americal Division, made a Regular Army unit, and given a lower number more in line with it's new status.

In Korea the 245th, now the 69th, supported the 25th Infantry Division. The 69th now received a coat-of-arms and a distinctive insignia symbolizing it's service in both wars -- a small blue shield with four stars show that it was part of the Americal, and the three peaks dividing the shield proper represent Korean service.

This article sent in by Major Joseph Kruczek

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Dunphy:

I just received the copy of the Americal Newsletter and I had to write to you.

My husband, Alfred Lopresti, Maj. Ret., who was a Life Member passed away at the Boston V.A. Medical Ctr. on Oct. 2, 1986. He had been sick for over a year. He had his right leg amputated below the knee last November and he died from respiratory arrest.

He served with the 182nd Infantry, 1st Bn. in the South Pacific and he was in Korea also.

He really enjoyed getting the Newsletter.

I just thought that you would like to know that a Life Member had passed on to his Eternal Reward.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Alfred Lopresti

Dear Bill;

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Americal members who extended their sympathy and consolations at the time of my wife's death.

I would like to thank you and Helen and the Ravagnos and many others, including the Southeast Chapter. Their many cards, Masses, and donations to the Cancer Fund were greatly appreciated by me.

Sincerely,  
Frank J. Sullivan  
121 MED Bn

Dear James;

I've truly enjoyed reading about so many comrades even though I seldom see letters from the 26th Signal Co. Keep up the good work.

Ed Note: You will hear from Bill Dunphy about your problem.

Let hear it for the 26th Sig Co!

Sincerely, Sherman Lilly, 26th Sig Co

Dear Jim;

Your Oct 86 issue of the Americal Newsletter again is very interesting. However, tell our good member Bob Carbray that 2nd Bn 132nd Inf. Reg. formed a single line behind the Jap lines and moved up to the summit of Mt. Austen on Guadalcanal during the morning 2 Jan 43. I was with Company G. See Page 136, Orchids in the Mud, edited by Robert Muehrcke, also of the 2nd Bn.

Regards to our members of all wars.

Sincerely, George Haertel Tucson, AZ

Dear Mr. Buckle;

I would like very much to contact anyone who served with my father in the Americal on Guadalcanal. All I can tell you is that he was a Tech. Sgt. and was in the 132nd Infantry and landed in Australia before being shipped out to New Caledonia and Guadalcanal.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, good work on a fine Newsletter. I'm happy to be an associate (non-Americal) Vietnam Veteran.

Bill Laurie

Anyone out there know Bill Laurie? If so write to his son.

Bill Laurie

Mesa, AZ 85201

Dear Mr. Buckle;

It is with deep regret that I must tell you of the death of my husband, Edward B. Henry Jr. on October 15, 1986.

He was a proud member of your organization, and looked forward to your Americal Newsletter. He read it through from beginning to end, looking for familiar names or pictures.

I am enclosing a tribute that I wrote to Ted, and think that some of your members who knew him would enjoy reading it. He was very special.

Sincerely,  
Grace Henry

Dear Sirs'

It is curious to me if the Americal Division is aware that the New Hebrides is now Vanuata. This was published out here and so I sent a clipping to the Americal Museum but never heard from them.

Parts of the T F 6814 spent a lot of time on Espirito, exactly where on the enclosed map I have no idea. Perhaps more could be published on this.

Sincerely,  
Robert J. O'Malley  
101 Med Bn

We'll see what we can do Bob. Ed.

On the T.V. News tonight, Dec. 4, it was stated that the Russians are to be given permission to build a base there.



Adjutant's Note

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

As we reported in the July-August and September-October Newsletters that a new method of reporting DELINQUENT DUES NOTICES the following list of card numbers are the members who have not paid their DUES.

Would you PLEASE take the time to open your wallet and check your card number to see if your card is listed as overdue. We send your membership card in advance as your first notice.

September members who were past due for one year last September 1986 have been dropped. January members who will be overdue January 1987 will be dropped. I sometimes wonder if the membership read the list because of the poor response.

I do want to thank the membership who do send in their dues right away as it makes the job that much easy. THANKS AGAIN.

FINAL -3rd NOTICE - FINAL

1986-1987 Dues Notices to expires May 1987 - Mailed MAY 1986

503	513	526	510	520	523	519	536
561	564	548	549		565	587	589
590	604	631	635	624	645	646	649
647	650	662	678	682	684	677	683
691	698	695	707	714	715	717	731
737	752	744	745	760	802	804	824
818	833	835	838	844	843		

This will be your last NEWSLETTER so why not pay the overdue and send in \$12.00 to take care of next year.

\* \* \* \* \* 2nd NOTICE \* \* \* \* \*

1986-1987 Dues Notices to expire Sept 1987 - Mailed SEPTEMBER 1986

1997	1995	1984	1969	1978	1965	1956
1963	1962	1961	1949	1938	1937	
1933		1915	1905	1894	1895	1872
	1867	1850	1848	1842	1839	1838
1835		1826	1810	1797	1791	1787
1785	1775					

YOUR CANCELLED CHECK IS YOUR RECEIPTNEW ADDRESS WHEN YOU MOVE

Don't keep it a SECRET - Let us know.

CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS.

Americal Newsletter  
P.O. Box 1381  
Boston, MA., 02104

ADDRESS  
CHANGE?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

The returned mail after the last mailing was (35) returns and as the Post Office gives your new address we correct your record and do not remail the Newsletter.

RETIRED ACTIVITIES DAY

Fort Devens, Massachusetts 01433  
Friday, 12 September, 1986

The Americal was honored this year by Mr Howard C. Hanning, Retirement Services Officer who requested the Americal to participate in this years Retired Activities Day. It was anticipated that approximately 1200-1500 retirees, their family members and friend would visit Fort Devens.

The following members of the ADVA who spent a wonderful day at the Sports Area greeting the many retirees who visited the Americal table plus meeting many old friends - had a great day.

Al Doig Sam Ravagno  
Bill Dunphy Bob Thornton  
Jerry Gueriero

The committee signed up many new members, passed out applications and hand outs and talked to 200 to 300 of the retirees. at the same time directed many to the Americal Museum who were greeted by Frank Diorio and Ken Turner.



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

It is now that time of the year we are planning for the 1987-1988 slate of National Officers. The Nominating Committee will present its recommendations to the assembly and any member who would like to be a candidate for elective office may do so by the following rules.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE VNOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONSSection 26: National Officers

- d. Further nomination for elective office may be submitted to the National Adjutant not later than the third General Meeting prior to the Annual Reunion. Nomination of candidates must be endorsed by 15 members in good standing. (No individual may endorse for the four top elective officers, Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander and Finance Officer, more than one Nominee per office.)

Third General Meeting will be April 1987.

\*\*\*\*\*

DUES AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

As the National Adjutant of the ADVA I am requesting that ALL Dues payments and change of address be sent to the adjutant. From time to time a member will give his dues or change of address to another officer and then a mix up happens. I don't appreciate those nasty letters from time to time. I am not paid help and I give my time freely. Also I do want to thank all members who send in their dues and new address to Headquarters on time (you are the MAJORITY) but for the few who don't - well what can I say.

William L. Dunphy  
National Adjutant

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

John L. Arria  
182nd Infantry  
Belmont, MA

Charles Cavanna  
182nd Infantry  
Dorchester, MA.

\* Major Richard J. Decker  
198th LIB  
Manchester, NH.

Louis A. Drusinskas  
182nd Infantry  
Brockton, MA.

Charles L. Gerrans  
182nd Infantry  
Muskegon, MI.

Stephen Kowal  
245th Field Artillery  
Pelham, NY.

John F. Sustar  
182nd Infantry  
Cleveland, OH.

Charles J. Budreau  
182nd Infantry  
Winthrop, MA.

\* Vietnam Veteran

SUMMARY

553 Life Members (Sept-Oct)  
-1 Deceased  
+ 8 Life Members  
560 Life Members (Nov-Dec)

481 WWII      71 Vietnam  
8 Associates

ADJUTANT'S NOTE: Looks like the 182nd Infantry knows a good buy.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

40 or under.....	\$100	Payment	4*
41 to 60 .....	75		3*
61 to 70 .....	50		2*
71 or over .....	25		1

\* Note: Payments of \$25 in 6 month intervals.  
Any member who has paid his dues in advance will receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.



## CHAPTER NEWS

### EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC, DE, KY, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV  
EASTERN REGIONAL COMMANDER

Robert T. Hock

Reading PA., 19601

Tel # [REDACTED]

Commander Bob Hock would like to thank Harold Stein and George Yates for the chairing the biggest and best convention held by the Chapter at The Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA

The following officers were elected:  
Bob Hock-Commander, Peter Messina-Secretary Treasurer, Gus Obuchowski-Sergeant-at-Arms for a period of one year.

It was suggested that the Baltimore - Washington, DC area be check as the next location of our next annual reunion for the chapter to be held towards the end of September 1987

It was announced that the Eastern Regional Chapter will be the host for the 1988 National Convention. Tentatively the Convention will be held at the Embers Convention Motel, Carlisle, PA From June 9 - 12, 1988. The Americal Newsletter will be used to keep all informed as plans are made.

George Yates will Chair a project to place a Plaque at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, Arlington National Cemetery, Wash, DC., Details at a later date.

### GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COMMANDER

Herbert L. Murphy

802 Schust St, Saginaw, MI., 48604

Tel # [REDACTED]

On October 11, 1986 at the Sandpiper Room of the Quality Inn, Pontiac, MI

the Great Lakes Chapter held their meeting and the first order of Business was the election of Officers for the coming year.

The following Officers were elected  
Commander - Herbert Murphy, Chaplain Gilbert Abele, Sergeant-at-Arms Rush Propper

After much discussion it was voted to hold the next meeting in Toledo, Ohio. Commander Murphy said he would appoint a committee and additional information would follow at a later date as plans are completed. This would be the May 1987 meeting.

Also Larry Parkins and his wife volunteered to check out the possibility of a fall meeting at Mackinaw City, MI and would report at the May meeting.

### WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER

Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Cape  
Cod Canal

CAPE COD CHAPTER COMMANDER

Carlo A. Pola

[REDACTED], RFD #3, Sandwich, MA  
02563

Tel # [REDACTED]

The elected Officers for the coming year are as follows: Commander Carlo A. Pola, Treasurer Joseph F. Marotta, Vice Commander Hugh Mughnerini.

A Christmas Party was held at the Elks in Hyannis and every one attending had a great time. Commander Pola reports that the membership will be notified of the future coming events - Please watch your Newsletter.

HAVE YOU JOINED A LOCAL CHAPTER

IN YOUR AREA?? THIS IS ONE WAY TO

MEET SOME OF THOSE OLD BUDDIES.



## CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER REGIONAL COMMANDER  
Ed A. Heartquist  
200 Royal Palm Drive, Tarpon Springs  
Florida, 33589  
Tel # [REDACTED]

The following Officers were elected  
for the coming year Ed A. Heartquist -  
Regional Commander, Arthur Wood -  
Secretary-Treasurer.

Commander Heartquist reports that a  
very fine Convention was attended by  
a large group of the Chapter member-  
ship which was held at Daytona Beach,  
Perry's Edge Motel, Florida. This was  
one of the finest locations the Chapter  
has held their Conventions and no one  
had a problem. The rooms, beach, food,  
Happy Hour Room were just great. NO  
PROBLEMS THIS IS A FIRST. Every one  
went home happy and are looking for  
the next Reunion.

At the meeting it was discussed that  
the Chapter would Host the National  
Convention in 1989. Commander Heart-  
quist reported he would check out  
locations and would report back to the  
body at the next meeting.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER COMMANDER

Norman Mullen  
[REDACTED], Perris, CA 94523  
Tel # [REDACTED]

No activities at this time. Fellows  
contact Norman and help him get some-  
thing going IN SUNNY SOUTHERN CA.

LETS GET WITH IT FELLOWS.

---

*Membership Is Everybody's Business*  
*— Get Involved —*

*We Are Winning — Get That Membership In*

FAR WEST CHAPTER

AK, AZ, N CA, CO, HI ID, MT, NV, OR  
ND, SD, UT, WA, WY  
REGIONAL COMMANDER FAR WEST CHAPTER

Lloyd J. Morrell  
47 Collins Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA.,  
94523 Tel # [REDACTED]

SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER  
FOR DETAIL INFORMATION

To become a member of a Chapter the  
member has be in gooding standing  
with National. Plus if a Chapter votes  
to collect Dues from the Chapter  
membership this has no bearing on the  
Dues paid to National. This applies  
to regular and Life Membership of  
National.

The above statement has been asked  
from time to time and I hope this will  
answer the many requests. Remember  
National Dues is only \$6.00 if you  
are not a Life Member so please help  
your Chapter and pay the Chapter Dues.

---

HAVE YOU JOINED THE LOCAL CHAPTER  
IN YOUR AREA?????????

THIS IS ONE WAY TO MEET SOME OF  
THOSE OLD BUDDIES

---

**DON'T BREAK  
FAITH WITH  
OUR**

**POW-MIA**



## FAR WEST CHAPTER NEWS

Unfortunately, circumstances forced cancellation of the (2) two events I had recently planned for the Far West Chapter. The reunion in August in Washington State was very centrally located and should have had a good attendance. No one should have had to drive very far. Only (8) eight members responded!

In November the reunion scheduled for Santa Maria was also a bust and had to be cancelled. Santa Maria was also centrally located to Northern and Southern California and should have done quite well -- (11) eleven members responded. In both cases I had a few calls of interest the week of the meeting.

Come on guys, you don't really think things work that way in the real world, do you? I have had many years experience setting up meetings and I can assure you it takes a lot of pre-planning and preparation. Most hotels in desirable locations are booked a year ahead of the desired meeting dates. It is my understanding that the Eastern Chapter in Pennsylvania has the bid for the 1988 reunion and they already have the hotel booked. That is an example of how far in advance plans have to be made for a successful gathering. I need your co-operation to give you a program. I twisted arms with the National Headquarters in order to have the NATIONAL CONVENTION hosted by us in 1987 and I hope I haven't made a mistake.

So that you may plan ahead, here is the schedule for our 1987 event at Reno, Nevada --- June 14 to June 23 is Western Days celebration and is a rip roaring time with all kinds of activities taking place. June 22 to June 27 is the dates the famed Reno Rodeo takes place. Our CONVENTION dates will be right in the middle, June 19, 20, 21, 1987. Plan your vacation to take in as much as you can of the gala events. It will be memorable.

Please cut off the bottom portion and send it to me as soon as possible so I can get an idea of interest. As soon as I get the packets of information ready I will mail them to you.

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY MAILING YOUR DECLARATION OF INTEREST

.....  
I am interested in attending the NATIONAL CONVENTION in Reno, Nevada sponsored by the Far West Chapter on June 19, 20, 21, 1987. My tentative plans may include dates of;

June \_\_\_\_\_ to June \_\_\_\_\_ inclusive.

Please send information when available to:

Clip on dotted line and mail to;

NAME (Please print)

Mr. Lloyd J. Morrell

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

Pleasant Hill, CA  
94523

STATE

ZIP CODE

DO IT NOW!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP  
A NEW MEMBER,  
THIS MONTH?

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP  
IN YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER





## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 1381  
BOSTON, MASS. 02104

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M-V-86

John DeGroot

██████████  
Mt Prospect, ILL., 60056

### Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

### Dedication

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

## AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:		Telephone:	
Address — Street:		City:	State: Zip:
Americal Unit:			
Dates of Service — From:		To:	Serial No.:
Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Religion:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Annual Dues)	
Date Received:		Date Processed:	Expiration Date:
Membership Identity Number:		Lapel Pin	Decal Other