

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

JULY - AUGUST 1988

# 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



OUR LEADERS

Gen. Arthur E. Brown Jr.  
Vice Chief of Staff U. A. Army

Robert N. Thornton  
National Commander

## 1988 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1989

## NATIONAL COMMANDER

Robert Thornton

Melrose, MA 02176

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Bernard Carroll

Boston, MA 02130

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

#Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

## NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard Chase

So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

## NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Hyman [REDACTED]

Randolph, MA 02368

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

\*James C. Buckle

#Roland T. Castranova

William T. Schmidt

Bernard C. Chase

Francis L. Guerriero

Ralph Serino

Kenneth L. Turner

Leo Ciccola

John V. Nightingale

Daniel P. Ramsey Jr.

John A. LeVert

\*Chairman

#Vietnam Veteran

## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

## VIETNAM EDITOR

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

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

## September 14, 1988

National Guard Armory

Victory Road Dorchester, MA  
7:00 P.M. Executive Board meeting  
8:00 P.M. Business Meeting

## October 12, 1988

Americal Museum

Fort Devens, MA

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Afternoon Business Meetings

## November 9, 1988

National Guard Armory  
Victory Road Dorchester, MA  
8:00 P.M. Business Meeting

NO MEETING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE

WOW! What more is there to say? It's all been said many times and it still comes out the same--WOW! We are talking about the National convention held in Carlisle, PA under the auspices of the Eastern Chapter. The weather, the food, and the company were all superb.

The bus trip to the Carlisle Museum and Gettysburg was real interesting and a little extra excitement was added on the return trip when one of the buses blew a front tire. We were stranded there for quite some time, under a hot sun, waiting for repairs, when a man and his family drove up. He had a cooler full of cold soda and beer. Needless to say this was a welcome sight on a hot day.

This gentleman would not accept any money, nor would he allow his children to accept any money, for the goodies. I know that everyone on the bus attempted to obtain his address and in case they did not all succeed his address is:

Bob Klokis

Bendersville, PA  
17306

Thanks again Bob--your kindness will always be remembered.

The banquet Saturday night was well attended (228) and an excellent speech by General Brown was very well received and appreciated. (He spoke highly of the Americal Division as a combat unit and also the A.D.V.A.).

There was a very good representation of our Vietnam members in attendance--about thirty present, (Ron Ward will give a run-down on their names and activities). We were very glad to have them aboard and we encourage them to become more active in our organization and we urge each and everyone of them to bring a buddy into the fold--there is no telling how far we can go with their help.

In closing I would like to give one more big THANKS to Pete Messina, the Eastern Chapter, and their Commander, Bob Hock.

Bob Thornton  
National Commander

RAD DAY RAD DAY RAD DAY RAD DAY

September 9, 1988  
Fort Devens, MA  
10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Will need help to man a table in the Exhibition Hall and at the Museum. No heavy work.

Call Bob Thornton at [REDACTED]

## DATE TO REMEMBER

American Clambake  
September 10, 1988

See inside back page for reservation tear-off strip

## TAPS.

Robert J. Rae  
182 Infantry  
New Port Richey  
June 5, 1988

Robert D. Appell  
Co. B. 182 Infantry  
McKeesport, PA  
May 17, 1988

Robert E. Fuller  
164 Infantry  
Middleton, OH  
July 1986  
(non-member)

## MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

1

\*\*\*\*\*

## REMEMBRANCE

When we hit the beaches  
We piled high the dead  
Our dead

On the briny shores  
Where angels feared to tread  
We tread

Where'er we were needed  
We gave all a hand  
Our hand

Those of us left, herein  
Sifted the time in sand  
Our Sand

E.J. Amirault

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mr. Dunphy:

I want to inform the Americal Division of the death of my husband, Robert D. Appell who passed away May 17, 1988.

He was very proud of the Americal and all his buddies from W.W. 11 days. We had his Americal Pin in his lapel when they played "taps" at the service, it was very moving, and I was honored. He was in Co. B- 182nd Infantry and it was ironic that the write up for the "Million dollar tree on Hill 260" was in it. He got to see it before he went into a coma and told his nurses about it. Our grandchildren- ages 18, 17, and 14 were very proud because they grew up hearing of it - but seeing it in print was historical.

I hope to see the museum someday and I have two Japanese swords I would like to donate in Bob's name, if it is acceptable. Please let me know.

He was a joy, a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Enclosed are Bob's dues for 1989. If someone can't afford theirs, please accept his.

Thank you  
Mrs. Jean Appell

## CONVALSCENT

PNC Henry Morash  
[REDACTED]  
Port Charlotte, FL  
33952

Alexander Diorio  
Woburn Rehabilitation  
Hospital  
Woburn, MA 01801

Michael Doyle  
[REDACTED]  
Haverhill, MA 01830

Paul Donelan  
[REDACTED]  
Plymouth, MA 02360

How about dropping a card to our friends that are under the weather?

## NEW MEMBERS

\*Seabron Bowler  
196 LIB  
Alexandria, VA  
#Ron Ward

\*John Fish  
198 LIB  
West Springfield, MA  
#Robert Thornton

John Hemeic  
132 Infantry  
Clairton, PA  
#Ltc Peter J. Messina

\*John P. Hofer M.D.  
198 LIB  
Hickory Hills, IL  
#Ray Fawkes

Steven Liddle  
11 LIB  
Wkiah, CA  
#Robert Thornton

Frank S. Massisano  
221 Field Artillery  
Wueens, NY  
#Ltc Peter J. Messina

William T. McCowan  
164 Infantry  
Pontiac, MI  
#Self

\*Joseph P. O'Brien  
196 LIB  
Flushings, NY  
#John DeGroot

Neil P. Oricchio  
247 Field Artillery  
Little Falls, NJ  
#Ltc Peter J. Messina

Otter V. Petr  
132 Infantry  
Cicero, IL  
#Bernie Chase

Frank J. Sager  
246 Field Artillery  
Maynard, MA  
#Robert Thornton

\*James R. Waldie  
198 LIB  
Port St. Lucie, FL  
#Ltc Peter J. Messina

Matthew Wannyek  
247 Field Artillery  
St. Clair Shores, MI  
#E.R. Horton

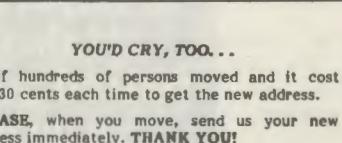
\*Vietnam Veteran  
#Sponsor

If you know of the death of a comrade or a comrad that is ill, please notify the Adjutant as soon as possible. Send notice to;

Bernard Chase

[REDACTED]  
South Yarmouth, MA  
02664

Or call [REDACTED]



## SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

Bernard Chase  
[REDACTED]  
South Yarmouth, MA  
02664

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

John E. Anderson  
101st Medical  
W. Barnstable, Mass.

Harvey Campbell  
182nd Infantry  
Charlestown, Mass.

Joseph J. D'Alessandro  
182nd Infantry  
Wakefield, Mass.

Joseph E. Gaston  
182nd Infantry  
Millersville, MD

Benjamin J. Kelly  
101st Quartermaster  
Simi Valley, CA

Leslie H. Martinson  
125th Quartermaster  
Beverly Hills, CA

Wayne Moore  
198th LIB.  
Woodland Hill, CA

Donald E. Nafis  
\*11th LIB.  
Flushing, NY

Charles E. Nurnberger  
182nd Infantry  
Woburn, Mass.

Silvio J. Rossetti  
182nd Infantry  
Reading, Mass.

John C. Smith  
221st Field Artillery  
Deltona, FL

Joseph Zukerman  
125th Quartermaster  
Skokie, IL

Otto V. Petr  
132nd Infantry  
Cicero, IL

## AMERICAL MUSEUM

We've got a job  
so important,  
it takes a  
retired person  
to do it.

Ken Turner - Museum Director of the Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA invites any member who would like join the list of Curators who open the Museum for the two days a week to join the crowd. This is a good opportunity to meet old friends and renew old times.

PLEASE CONTACT: Ken Turner

Wakefield, MA 01880

Or call [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 6

## CHAPTER NEWS

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

REGIONAL COMMANDER: Robert T. Hock  
Reading, PA, 19601  
Tel. # [REDACTED]

There are no plans to hold a regular chapter reunion this year. Preliminary plans were made to hold the 1989 Chapter reunion in New Jersey. John O'Keefe will be the Chairman. More information in a future Newsletter

WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK CHAPTER - CAPE COD  
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Cape Cod Canal

COMMANDER: Hugh Murnaghan  
West Yarmouth, Mass. 02673  
Tel. # [REDACTED]

Memorial Day services were held on May 29, 1988, at the National Cemetery of Massachusetts. The Americal Color Guard participated in the parade of colors. Dick Gallant 26th Signal, Cape Cod Chapter member, and Commander of the New England Joint Veterans Committee informed all who were there that the President had just signed Public Law 100-322, a bill giving the Massachusetts National Cemetery and exemption from the upright markers. Dick put in over one year lobbying U.S. Senators, and U.S. Congressman in behalf of this bill. We of the Americal want to thank you Dick for all your hard work. This year the Cape Cod Chapter on Memorial Day put small American Flags on all known Americal Members Markers who are buried in this cemetery. Any one who has a loved one buried in the Massachusetts National Cemetery if they will notify the Cape Cod Chapter Commander we will add them to our list of known Americal honored dead, and will decorate their markers on Memorial Day in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*  
CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER  
IA, KS, MO, NE

CONTACTS: Ron L. Ward  
[REDACTED] St Louis, Mo, 03123  
Tel. # [REDACTED]  
Charles "Chuck" P. King  
[REDACTED] Kansas City, MO., 64119  
Tel. # [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER  
AK, LA MS, OK, TX

CONTACT: Charles T. Manchester of 1500 Ridgmar Blvd, Ft Worth, Texas, 76116 wrote to Headquarters that he was interested in starting a Chapter in his area. Please contact Charlie if you are interested. I have forwarded to Charlie the information required to request a Charter.

\*\*\*\*\*  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

COMMANDER: Vacant

Regional Commander Lloyd Morrell reports that he has a member who might take on the task in Southern California in the near future.

## CHAPTER NEWS (cont.)

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

REGIONAL COMMANDER: Lloyd J. Morrell  
Pleasant Hill, CA., 94523  
Tel. # [REDACTED]

## FAR WEST CHAPTER NEWS:

Al Cotta, 121 Med Bn. represented the ADVA in Long Beach, CA as a member of the Tarawa Monument Honor Guard. The monument was displayed from July 1 to July 10 in downtown Long Beach, which was designated as Veterans Pride Week. The monument was financed by the readers of the Press-Telegram newspaper in memory of the men who died in the Battle of Tarawa in 1943. While the Americal was not at Tarawa, many veterans organizations participated in the remembrance and we were honored the Americal was invited. Later this year the monument will be permanently placed on Tarawa.

Vernon Pierce, 147 Infantry Regiment was also present in the Honor Guard, representing the 37 Infantry Division, but wearing his Americal hat.

FAR WEST SPECIAL EVENT: We have arranged our own salmon charter for Sunday October 30, which will wind down the great salmon season this year. Board the sportfisher, Wackie Jackie, at Fishermans Wharf for a great day of salmon fishing and a chance for members to get to know each other better in an informal setting. Limited to the first eighteen members of send me a \$20.00 deposit, with checks made payable to me. Details will be sent you after receipt. Balance of \$20.00 will be paid on board. There will be a drawing for one (1) lucky person to receive a free trip. September 15th is the cutoff date for registration.

Watch the Newsletter for information on a September event for Northern California Chapter, which will be held on a Saturday or a Sunday. A committee will be working on the details. Watch the next Newsletter for more on this.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER: Plans are under way to get this Chapter re-vitalized. We have many members in this area and we had a good start a while back but it got bogged down. Working with the National Headquarters on a new Chapter Commander I think we can find a leader who will get us going again. Watch the next Newsletter for more on this.

WASHINGTON STATE: We are looking for someone in Washington State who would be interested in forming a local Chapter. There are many members available in the Pacific Northwest and all we need is a dynamic, dedicated leader, interested in getting things going. Drop me a line and we will work on the details.

Sorry that I didn't get to the Convention in Pennsylvania. I was looking forward to it but unfortunately personal problems interfered and I was not able to get there. I especially wanted to get together with my old friends from the 221st. A Bn, as I know you were well represented and I'll bet you had a blast(a 155mm blast that is).

LLOYD MORRELL  
Regional Commander

SOUTH EAST CHAPTER  
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

REGIONAL COMMANDER: Ed A. Heartquist  
[REDACTED] Tarpon Springs, Florida, 33589  
Tel. # [REDACTED]

## SOUTHEAST CHAPTER NEWS

Fall meeting of the Southeast Chapter will be held as follows:

Delta Court of Flags  
Orlando, FL  
November 15-16-17-1988  
(mid-week)

The meeting will be for three days and two nights. The room rate is \$52.00 per night, single or double, plus tax.

Deposit of \$52.00 is required by November 1, 1988 and it should be sent to; Delta Court of Flags

Orlando, FL  
32819-7988

Any questions on Hotel  
call Ann Bodnar at [REDACTED]

For additional info contact;  
Arthur Wood  
[REDACTED]  
Homosassa Springs, FL  
32647  
or call [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
GREAT LAKES CHAPTER  
IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

REGIONAL COMMANDER: Herbert L. Murphy  
[REDACTED] Saginaw, MI., 48604  
Tel. # [REDACTED]

The Great Lakes Chapter of the Americal Infantry Division, commanded by Herbert Murphy of Saginaw, MI, held a reunion on May 13-14 1988 in Battle Creek with headquarters at Knights Inn.

The Great Lakes Chapter consists of members in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Richard Ryan of Battle Creek made all the arrangements for the Chapter Reunion. This included a tour of the National Cemetery at Fort Custer, and a banquet that was held at the Family Welcome Inn. Fifty five people were in attendance.

Major Joseph F. Kruczak USA Retired, acting as Chaplain, held a Memorial Service for all Americal Division who have passed away. He also paid homage to Sgt. Robert W. Tombs of Battle Creek, who was killed in action on Cebu. Sgt. Tombs' father, Jacob Tombs, a wounded World War I veteran, his sister Grace Stratton, and his brother Howard Tombs are still living. Sgt. Tombs is buried on the family plot in Hill Cemetery, Plainwell, MI.

Major Kruczak tells of a little known fact that happened on August 28, 1945, after a fierce three months battle, and two weeks after the end of World War II. At this time nearly 10,000 Japanese survivors, including four Generals and an Admiral and twenty nurses began to lay down their arms.

Continues Next Page

## CHAPTER NEWS (cont.)

The spectacular surrender on Cebu attracted little notice at the time. Indeed, the campaign to drive the Japanese from the Central Philippines was one of the best kept secrets of the war. Major Kruczek was on a special mission with the Americal at this time.

The story of the surrender on Cebu was printed in the American Legion Magazine dated September 1981. It was written by Robert C. McGiffert, a professor of journalism at the University of Montana. Also parts of the surrender can be read in the Americal History 'Under the Southern Cross', written by Captain Francis D. Cronin.

Maj. Joseph F. Kruczek (Ret)

Ed Note: The story written by Robert McGiffert, with his permission, was carried in the July-August 1986 issue of the Americal Newsletter

\*\*\*\*\*

## ATTENTION ATTENTION

Past National Commander is now the Chapter Coordinator and all news of the Chapters should be sent to him at his home address;

Mr. Bernard C. Chase  
[REDACTED]  
South Yarmouth, MA  
02664

All Chapter commanders are asked to make a report to him in time to make the deadline for the Newsletter.

Please make a report on all Chapter activities and give the names of your committee men and also the names of new members.

I will see that you get the names of all new members that sign up in the ADVA and are from your respective areas.

Please send me a report every month even though it may be a negative report. I will know then that we are still in touch.

Thanks,  
Bernie

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTICE

Please send all membership dues, changes of address, and death notices to your new Adjutant.

Bernard Chase, Adjutant  
[REDACTED]  
South Yarmouth, MA 02662

\*\*\*\*\*

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER NEWSLETTER  
IS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

\*\*\*\*\*

YOU'D CRY, TOO...

...if hundreds of persons moved and it cost you 30 cents each time to get the new address.

PLEASE, when you move, send us your new address immediately. THANK YOU!



## CONVENTION WRAP-UP

It seems like yesterday that Bernie Chase appointed me Chairman of the 1988 National Reunion. How time does fly. Now it is all over and everyone is back home waiting for the next one. It has been hard work but also a labor of love and I enjoyed every minute. From what everyone I talked to said, they all had a terrific time.

This reunion was probably the biggest that we have had in a long time. Altogether we had 239 present at various times over the three day period. Some stayed for one day, some stayed for two days, but the most for three days with some coming even earlier and staying later. The men all received a T-shirt with the Americal logo on it and a souvenir coffee mug having on it the Americal Division Veterans Association, the Division insignia, Carlisle, PA 1988 on one side and the coat of arms of Pennsylvania on the other side. The ladies had an arts and crafts hour where they made a woven hat with ribbons that they got to keep and will now be hanging in their home. Also, each lady in attendance received a corsage of fresh flowers to wear at the dinner-dance with a live band, the Sentimentalists.

There were many memorable moments for me at the reunion. One of them was when I had Ron Ward come on stage and then introduced him, eye ball to eye ball, with a real live General, a member of the Association and Division Commander of the Americal in Vietnam, Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey. Ron had mentioned in the last Newsletter that he had not seen a General close up in Vietnam. Now I know how Ron felt. I had the honor to sit next to General Arthur E. Brown Jr., Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, our Guest Speaker, at the dinner dance and to introduce him and other guests at the head table. Wouldn't you know that everything went fine until it came time to introduce Bernie Chase, our National Commander, and then everything went blank for what seemed an eternity. Of course, I blamed that on the proximity of the four stars shining at me. Not only that, but I forgot to introduce Bob Hock, the Eastern Regional Commander, at the head table. I must tell you that Bob was a tremendous help at the reunion to do the many things that needed to be done and to assist me in the planning during the past two years. His help was immeasurable.

I also had the extreme pleasure of seeing for the first time in 43 years, my Battery Commander, Captain Robert Chew and my Battalion Commander Colonel John F. P. Hill and a fellow lieutenant who did forward observer duties with me, Frank Massimiano.

My wife, Julie, did yeomans work to see that the ladies were taken care of and she was ably assisted by several women. Bob Hock and I were also helped tremendously at different times by different people that just came right up and volunteered. I do want to thank Chaplain (Col) Edmund J. Speitel and Chaplain (Major) Barton D. Berry Jr. who graciously agreed several months ago to come and perform the ecumenical Memorial Service for us and they were ably assisted by our Father Paul A. Chaisson, S.M. Father Chaisson also said Mass on Sunday morning early enough so that those in attendance could get an early start home.

Continues next column

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## CONVENTION WRAP-UP (Continues)

George Yates was in charge of the golfers and they tell me that they found the course at Carlisle Barracks to be very good and they all enjoyed themselves. The support we received from the Army was exemplary. They opened the Military History Institute building for a tour of our group on a Saturday when it would normally be closed and showed a lot of material about the Americal that we had not seen before. This is the place that Bill McLaughlin sends most of the things he gets for the archives. Then the Army busses took our group for the Gettysburg battlefield tour and everyone stated that the instructors knew every inch of the battlefield. It was a tremendous trip enjoyed by all who went.

For many of our members this provided an opportunity to see a four star General. Not just any four star, but a distinguished product of the Americal Division. He told of the quality of the Army today and mentioned several other high ranking officers that were former members of the Americal family. General Brown told me, as the newest member of the Americal Division Veterans Association, that he was going to issue an order that all of the others would join the Association and he took back with him a handful of applications.

We also had the pleasure of having a Marine Colonel, a friend of mine for over 20 years, representing the House of Representatives for the State of Pennsylvania and the 199 District covering Carlisle, the Honorable John H. Broujos. John also gave an inspired speech telling everyone to get involved particularly with the government. He presented the Americal Division Veterans Association with a Legislative Proclamation honoring the units and men of the division and of its war history and their convention here in Carlisle. I turned the proclamation, signed by the sponsor, Representative Broujos, The Speaker of the House and Chief Clerk, over to the Americal Museum Director, Ken Turner, to be exhibited at the Americal Museum at Fort Devens, MA.

Thanks should be given to the different companies that donated items for our many door prizes given away free. American Airlines gave two tickets to Honolulu, Book-of-the-Month gave five books, American Telephone and Telegraph gave a clock-radio telephone and key chains, Bacardi rum gave 15 T-shirts and a dozen pens, Seagrams gave 12 T-shirts, and the Army Commissary at Carlisle Barracks got different vendors to contribute two electric coffee makers with two beach umbrellas and assorted small boxes of cold medicine and alka-seltzer, Canadian Club gave two sets of drinking glasses, the Chapter's bank, Commerce Bank, gave two sets of drinking glasses and the Hill Financial gave a flashlight.

With so much happening I am sure that I forgot something else. However, a thank you all who helped me make this a most successful reunion. And to those who did not get a coffee mug because of the extra large turnout, I am having more made and will mail you one just as soon as I get them. God bless you all and I will be looking forward to seeing all of you at Orlando in Florida during June 1-4 1989. I know that the South-Eastern Chapter will have a terrific program lined up for you.

Peter J. Messina  
Reunion Chairman



The Old and the new -- PNC Chase & Nat Com Thornton



The young ones -- our Vietnam veterans



Our downfall



Our savior -- Bob Klokis and family

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Members;

The recent annual reunion held in Carlisle, PA., could be described as no less than a total success. The reunion organizer, Pete Messina, did a terrific job and we all owe him our thanks for all the effort he put into the event.

I've watched the number of Vietnam vets in attendance grow each year and this one was no different. Nam vets showed up like never before and I'm confident that they all enjoyed themselves. Many of the men mentioned to me that they were impressed with the sincere warm welcome that was conveyed to them by the members who put their time in during WWII and Korea. In the past, some of them have felt less than welcome at their local American Legion and VFW Posts. I can guarantee that it's nothing like that at an Americal reunion. I can't recall shaking so many hands or posing for so many photos before. The older members were truly affording "celebrity" service to all us Nam vets.

The staff of the Embers Hotel were extremely friendly and provided an extra touch to make our reunion one to remember. The lounge even accommodated a large crowd of vets after hours and threw in a few free rounds of drinks. Real nice folks.

Being somewhat of a history buff, I was delighted to be able to visit the Gettysburg Battlefield. It was a short drive from Carlisle. Some of the men and their families viewed the battlefield by buses that had been arranged by Pete Messina. Others, like myself along with a few friends, hired a National Park Service licensed guide to accompany us in our own auto. The guide and the battlefield were nothing short of spectacular. The tour took about three hours and was continuously narrated by our guide who obviously enjoyed his job. One of the men in my group, Joe O'Brien, is famous for never shutting his mouth, but like the rest of us, our attention remained with the guide as he explained the battle to us.

We were fortunate to have Generals Brown and Ramsey at the reunion. I've mentioned in previous newsletters that I used to cross the street if I saw an officer above the rank of Captain approaching. After meeting these men I now know that was a silly effort. The Generals proved to be easily likable men who made extra effort to meet all of us ex-enlisted men. I hope to see them at our future reunions. They're both a couple of "class" guys.

Plans are already underway for the next annual reunion to be held in Orlando, Florida. I see no reasons why the numbers won't grow for that one as the word gets around. Bring your family and send them to Disneyland. There's plenty of attractions in the area to insure that everyone will have a good time.

Sincerely,  
Ron Ward, Vietnam Editor

Ron:  
Let the guys know that we have a member, Charlie Manchester, that is putting together a south mid-west chapter and we need recruits. Contact Charlie at 1500 Ridgemar, Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Lets do it! By the way, where are we going to meet on Veterans Day 88? Let me know something.

Frank Schulgen  
Recon 1/52nd 198th Bde 68-69

Editors note: The ADVA will have a hospitality room in Washington, D.C. for Veterans Day 88. Tentative plans call for it to be at the Hotel Washington, a place that we've used in the past without being thrown out.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Sirs;

I served in Vietnam from 70-71. I was stationed in Chu-Lai and then we took over Danang when the 1st Marine Division pulled out. I was with the 1/46th 196th Brigade. Could you give me more information about the Americal Division. I heard it is not active anymore. Also could you send me a couple of Americal Division insignia. I need one for my field jacket and one for my cap.

Thank you,  
Jose F Garcia

Editors note: Requests such as the above are frequently received by the Association. We do have some Americal insignia, t-shirts, etc., that we have for sale at the museum or at reunions, but these items are not readily available for sale by us through the mail. One of our members, Dave Griege, has established a reputable business in dealing just about any type of Vietnam memorialia that is sold anywhere. Contact Dave for a brochure of his goods. He'll treat you right.

Dave Griege  
[REDACTED]  
Columbus, GA. 31907  
[REDACTED]

Nobody paid much attention recently when the leader of a group that believes U.S. soldiers are being held captive in SE Asia announced that they were posting a \$1 billion reward for the return of any prisoner left over from the Vietnam war.

One billion. The declaration was greeted with a polite but yet understandable yawn.

The POW controversy may be old stuff, but the people who keep the faith claim that 50 to 200 prisoners are still being held.

The claim today is embodied in the group that is offering the reward. The American Defense Institute is a small organization that has become the most imaginative advocate of the POW matter.

One of its co-founders is Billy Hendon, a former U.S. representative from North Carolina who has made nine visits to SE Asia. He says that he made the trips in the first half of the 1980's under special orders of President Reagan.

Communist leaders in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos had said for years that no Americans were being held against their will. Yet intelligence reports had it different.

Hendon says that he was authorized to offer cash assistance in return for POW's. And he says pointedly that the Laotians accepted. They were willing, in effect, to sell them for the right price.

Hendon thinks that the price could have been paid as early as 1984, but the negotiations were abruptly aborted. The operation was leaked to the news media, and the Reagan administration, fearing political repercussions in an election year, withdrew.

Hendon now works out of a small office where he has helped fashion the plan to give \$1 billion. They want someone in Laos or Vietnam to defect and bring a POW along. The money would be collected publicly. ADI has taken a poll that suggests that 40 million people would donate \$25 apiece towards the effort.

Hendon says that the reward offer has been relayed to the designated countries by radio and by other means. Hendon thinks that if one man is brought out, the nation will take notice and more POW's will follow.

c Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Editors note: Thanks to Jim Crum for the above

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Jim:

In the March-April issue of the Americal Newsletter, a letter from me regarding my father was printed. My Dad's name was SFC Marshall Robertson.

I have received a wonderful response to that letter. I found out that my father's death was chronicled in a book by Keith Nolan titled "Death Valley", published by Presidio Press, 1987. The book deals with the NVA offensive in the Que Son Valley in the summer of 1969.

Through this book I was able to contact a Col., two Lieutenants, two Captains, and a couple of grunts, all of whom knew my Dad. I spent hours on the phone with these men, listening to stories about my father.

It's been 19 years since my father's death. My family and I are thrilled to finally talk to his comrades.

Please make note of the book. The author has written 3 books in all. He has interviewed about 500 men per book and has a tremendous wealth of information. The publisher is Presidio Press, 31 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA. 94947

Keith Nolan's other books include an account of the battle of Hue, and the 1971 Laos incursion. These books are excellent historical accounts as well as beautifully written. Please tell others about them.

Thanks,  
Patricia Mulliken

Editors note: ADVA member Jim Crum of 196th Locate-A-Brother fame, sent the above letter to us. Ms.

Mulliken had previously written to the newsletter requesting information about her father who was KIA while serving with the Americal. It looks like she obtained the circumstances of her father's death, thanks to our members.

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
Alumni of THE FIRST TEAM

Matt Brennan has written two books about Vietnam. "Brennan's War" and "Headhunters". The first was a personal narrative of his experiences with the 1st Cavalry Division. "Headhunters" is a collection of stories from the men who served in the 1/9th Cav., a reconnaissance squadron.

Brennan has expressed an interest in editing another collection of stories by scout pilots, gunners, and observers from all scout units that served in Vietnam. Matt served for 26 months with the 1/9th Cav and had the opportunity to observe the scout crews in action on a daily basis. He thinks that their bravery and heavy casualties make them some of the unsung heroes of the war, and men whose stories should be told.

This book would tell America about the aeroscouts and give as many veterans as possible the chance to tell their own stories. Americal vets with service in our own aviation units are encouraged to contact Brennan if you'd like to describe your own experiences.

Matt Brennan

[REDACTED]  
Perry, Kansas 66073

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

REUNION  
14th AVIATION  
BATTALION (COMBAT)

The reunion of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion has been scheduled for August 17-20 1989 at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Their components included the below named units.

71st Aviation Company-AML/AHC  
132nd Aviation Company-MH  
174th Aviation Company-AML/AHC  
176th Aviation Company-AML/AHC  
178th Aviation Company-MH  
411th TC Detachment  
HHD 14th Aviation Battalion

The reunion organizers are Drew T. Boudrieau, (Minuteman 14) and Wayne P. Wilson (Minuteman 14A). For more info, contact them at PO Box 751, Jaffrey, New Hampshire 03452

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., announces the third annual reunion of their post # 41. On Friday, August 19 there will be a dance at the Eagles Club, 22 E Main, Waynesboro, PA. On Saturday, August 20, the reunion will be held at the Owls Club Picnic Grounds, Waynesboro, PA. All veterans groups and individual vets are encouraged to attend. For more information contact:

Jerry Lehman

Chambersburg, PA. 17201

Gentlemen:

Help! Help! The past four years I have attempted to organize a reunion of A Battery, 1/82 Artillery, Americal Division. I have not had enough response to do so at this time, but with your help perhaps we can contact other men we served with. Would you please print an intent of reunion notice?

Very truly yours,  
H.J. Logsdon  
RR # 1  
Shawneetown, Illinois 62984  
James Baird 82 FA 1/82  
James Blaylock 82 FA  
James Carver 82 FA  
John Derwort 82 FA  
Raymond Fawkes 82 FA  
Donald Lloyd 82 FA 1/82  
Jack Logsdon 82 FA 1/82  
Raymond Morin Jr. 82 FA  
Douglas Remley 82 FA 1/82  
William Rivers Sr. 82 FA  
H. Charles Wanko 82 FA 1/82

Sorry that you have not had much luck in organizing a reunion. Above are the names of our members that are listed as serving in the 82FA.

Because of our rules I cannot list their addresses but if you will send me a notice I will forward it to them.

Jim Buckle

HAVE YOU BROUGHT IN A NEW MEMBER?

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Hi Ron;

Received the latest Americal newsletter which is well worth the price. Although I dislike parting with bucks. A healthy grunt is one who complains.

Concerning Larry W. Heimann's letter. Shelby Stanton has over looked several items in his research. Stanton, to my knowledge, was never at Kham Duc. He states Americal troops panicked. Yet Col. Ladd's report calls for 1/46th to be withdrawn first. Col. Ladd was the Special Forces officer in command. Col. Ladd mentions poor radio contact. Hey Shelby, any comment on the commo tower being abandoned. Americal troops were not in charge of that. I wrote Stanton once, no reply. I called a radio talk show he was on. He didn't answer. His Americal allegations anger me. Yes, some are true. We sure could have used up to a year training like SEAL's and Green Berets had. Ever hump the Americal booby-trap area of operations Shelby. See 20 men go up in an hour from booby-traps? This grunt learned rage and pain. Tell me about mis-treatment. Tell me about "clean" extraction of info from NVA prisoners at isolated Special Forces A-Team camps. Any comments on "Phoenix"?

Stantons "Order Of Battle" is great. The job the Berets did along the border helped many of us grunts beyond what we'll probaly ever know. Thanks much guys. Shelby,,, find another unit to bad-mouth, we don't need it.

Greg Cook C-2/1st 196th

Tempe, AZ. 85281

Don't feel too bad Greg. Stanton didn't single out the Americal in Vietnam to abuse--he didn't say kind words for the World War II Americal either. He wouldn't take space to tell of our good points but he took space to make snide remarks.

Perhaps we will have to overlook his remarks because he was "Airborne". Members of the 'Elite' force are always reluctant to give credit to another branch of the service

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Members:

I would like to hear from anyone who I may have served with in the 5/46th Infantry HHC or D Company, Chu Lai. I served from December 1969 till November 1970. Contact:

Donald M Feliciano (Cooky)

Redding, CA. 96002

## NEW ADDRESS WHEN YOU MOVE

Don't keep it a SECRET - Let us know

## CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS

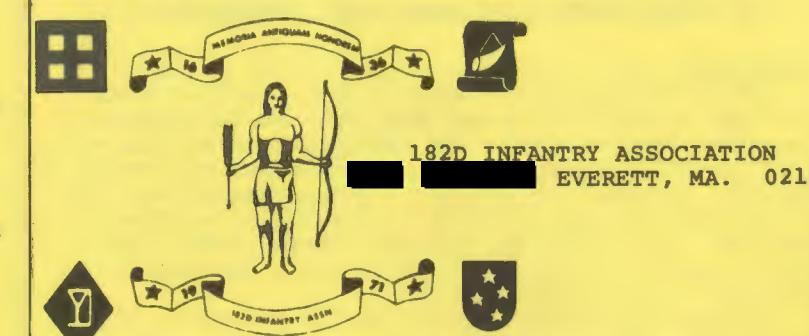
Americal News Letter  
P.O. Box 1381  
Boston, MA., 02104

ADDRESS  
CHANGE?  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



## A HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL OUR COMPATRIOTS OF THE ADVA

On May 22, 1988 we held our 15th Annual Memorial breakfast and Memorial Services at Camp Curtis Guild, Reading, MA. Over sixty (60) of our supporters attended to honor our members who have gone before us.

On July 1, 1988 we "kicked-off" the second half of our 1988 Membership Drive (July-December). Our goal is five (5) new members each month. To all you folks of the ADVA who served, at any time with the 182 Infantry, if you desire to again become associated with the "182" we invite you to come and join our organization. Send us a Post Card with your name and full address to:

182 Infantry Association

Everett, MA 02149

By return mail you will receive information on our organization and a Membership Application.

To you folks that may not have heard! The 352nd Anniversary Ball of the 182 Infantry will be held at the Holiday Inn in Somerville on October 22, 1988. For more information and ticket purchases please contact Company D, 182 Infantry Battalion at [REDACTED]

Charles L. Doyle, Commander

Everett, MA 02149

\*\*\*\*\*  
REUNION

43d Infantry "Winged Victory" Division  
September 9, 10 & 11, 1988  
The Centre of Vermont  
Holiday Inn  
Rte 7, So. Main St.  
Rutland, VT 05701

For details contact: Lou Calarco,  
So. Burlington, VT 05401

\*\*\*\*\*  
VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR INC.  
August 19, 20, 1988  
Waynesboro, PA

Write to:

Jerry Lehman	Charles & Shirley Hall
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chambersburg, PA 17201	Chambersburg, PA 17201
Call [REDACTED]	Call [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

CHECK THAT CARD -- NOW!

## AMERICAL CLAM BAKE

## UPLAND SPORTSMAN CLUB

## UPLAND ROAD, PLYMPTON, MASS.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1988

## Clambake Program

Coffee and doughnuts available between 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon.

12 noon to 4:00 p.m. cash bar provided by Upland Sportsman Club.

1:00 p.m. New England Clam Chowder with crackers.

2:00 p.m. Whole lobster or sirloin steak, with steamers, and mussels, corn on the cob, cole slaw, fresh baked rolls, watermelon, beverage.

You have your choice of either lobster, or sirloin steak, please mark on your return how many lobster or steaks for your party.

There is no need to bring any equipment or alcholic beverage.

The Sportsman Club is a license establishment, and will provide drinks at a reasonable price.

The Clam Bake will go rain or shine, you will be under cover.

Directions to Upland Sportsman Club. From Boston route 3 south, to Exit 9, turn of at Exit 9, turn left coming of exit 9. Go about 300 yards to Route 80 west, turn left on Route 80, follow this 4 and 3/10 mile to Upland Road, turn right Sportsman Club is 1/2 mile up the street on left.

Nearest Motel Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Kingston. Tel. [REDACTED]

Note Deadline for reservation August 27, 1988. No tickets will be mailed.

The Committee will be at the door to give out tickets as you arrive.

Make checks payable to A.D.V.A. and mail to Bernard Chase 82 Phyllis Drive, South Yarmouth, Mass. 02664. Price \$ 20.00 per person.

-----  
Detach Here

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lobster \_\_\_\_\_ Steak \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

No. of people \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW CALEDONIA

Dear Mr. Buckle;

On behalf of Paul Demene I wish to thank you for the Americal Newsletter. Although I was not a veteran of the Americal Division I have enjoyed articles in your Newsletter--particularly those articles concerning New Caledonia. It is especially gratifying to see articles that spell out the facts as they are rather than the preconceived distortions of the self appointed evangelists of the left who wear the cloak of syndicated journalists. However, I would like to make a correction to the article entitled "New Caledonia" in the Nov-Dec 1987 issue. Towards the end of the account it mentions that the people that wanted to remain part of France "won by a small majority". Actually it was a large majority and that included the natives as well. These independent natives (Kanaks) under the label FLNKS constitute perhaps 15% of the population and they abstained from the vote.

To bring you up to date on the events, prior to election the FLNKS made known that they would employ any means to disrupt the vote. Their means to scare their fellow natives from the voting booths were partially successful. They butchered four (4) gendarmes to death with axes and bullets and kidnaped 27 others on the off shore island of Duvea. On the main island, in certain areas, they have isolated towns by cutting off utilities, burning homes, beating people and violating women. And particularly they have zeroed in on their own people with every Mafia trick in the book to scare them into their camp. Aside from a military effort in Duvea to secure the release of the hostages, the law enforcement agencies on the main island of New Caledonia have been as effective as a wet toilet paper, in controlling the violence. Oh yes, like good street sweepers they clean out the roadblocks while the terrorists carry hatchets, swords, and guns and threaten them with shot. Like cub scouts, clothed in combat uniforms, they are kidnaped, wounded and constantly ambushed.

It is incredible how such a small minority can run rough shod over the mass of law abiding citizens. There are enough police and soldiers on hand to crush this terrorist ploy in short order.

Yes, we had a 2 or 3 year respite under the conservative government in France. The spirit of peace was in the air and there was a resurgence of confidence for the future. But the socio-communists in France were giving support and comfort to the terrorists or FLNKS all the while.

Now the overworked cliche' of today "Rights of Man" has become an obsession with the Metropolitan French. For the socialist and communists the rights of man is exclusively for themselves. For the other they are caught in a web of sophism with this cliche' or principle. They are in a dilemma - do the terrorists have their rights as well as the complacent citizen? Hence, when the terrorists wing of the FLNKS took to the field before the election the government was unable to act decisively. It was only after the mutilation and kidnaping of their personnel that any spark of strength was exhibited.

But now, as of this date we have the socialists back in the saddle. There is no longer the vacillation of meek management but instead the cold calculated plan to turn New Caledonia over to the Marxist minority. They have always had the ear of President Mitterrand. (Con't Next Column)

## NEW CALEDONIA (Continues)

Once again, Independence Kanak Socialist Marxist style is in the wind. The question now is whether the majority will submit to this ruthless faction. The FLNKS appear to be fairly well armed and have shown substantial acumen in the recent skirmish with the French military. Their Libyan training is paying off.

As these storm clouds gather the people once again turn to the United States for support, whether tactically or openly. Naturally support is a two way street. Only a negative alternative is offered -- would the U.S. be content with a possible Russian base in the South Pacific? As for help from the Australians the New Caledonians can say "who needs enemies when one has neighbors like them"? Their Prime Minister, a socialist too, is reported to have once said that he would prefer the Russians in New Caledonia than the French. Yes, the terrorists received lot of support from the Australians, including a radio station to peddle their propaganda. In recent weeks there appears to be a flirtation between Mitterrand and Bob Hawk but the old adage can very well apply, "you can't change the old horseflies". And I hardly need to comment on the New Zealanders with their phobia on nukes and a left wing government.

And so the birthplace of the Americal Division, once an unknown spot on the map, is making its way into the news media. Who knows, and I hope it will not become front page news in the future. Unfortunately all lovely and/or strategic spots become a prize for the taking when cast adrift.

Sincerely,  
Emery C. La Dallies

\*\*\*\*\*  
Paris - Prime Minister Michael Record signed an accord yesterday with leaders of the Melanesian separatist and European loyalist factions seeking to end insurrection in the French South Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

The agreement capped two weeks of intense negotiations by Record, separatist leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou and French National Assembly member Jacques Lafleur, head of the loyalist faction in the islands.

New Caledonia has been torn by violence since 1984, when Melanesians demanded the creation of an independent state.

At least 30 Melanesians, Europeans and French policemen have died in a recent wave of violence that began in April on the eve of the presidential elections.

The talks began after a governmental "mission of reconciliation" spent 19 days in the territory meeting with the opposing factions and hundreds of ordinary New Caledonians.

Record said he would ask President Francois Mitterrand to submit the pact to the approval of French voters in the national referendum that most likely will be held in the fall.

The Prime Minister said the agreement provides for the Paris government to assume direct administrative control of New Caledonia in the coming year. The accord also calls for a local referendum on independence in 1998.

(UPI - Boston Globe June 27 1988)

## NEW CALEDONIA

La-Foa

July 4th

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is not by accident that we chose La Foa to celebrate American Independence Day and to remember thousands of US soldiers that died with the Allied armies to help keep the world free, but it is for precise reasons.

From 1942 to 1945 our town and our island was one of the largest bases of operation for the American forces with 18,000 men at Ouatou Airport, 6000, Peep Troops in Pierrat and 3,000 more in the Military Hospital at Sarramea plus thousands more of combat troops stationed to prevent an invasion.

Our Pacific Battalion was dependent on the American 5th Army in the Italian campaign. We were trained by the Americans, equipped by the Americans, and fed by the Americans. On August 17, 1944 when we detrained in Provence we wore American uniforms.

These are good things to be remembered. We should not fall victim to amnesia when we do not need help for sometime we may not wish to stand alone.

On July 4, 1776, at nine in the morning, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was born as a nation. 211 years later the race, skin-color, political opinion, and religious credo, and, enhanced with an unconquerable spirit and perseverance, led this former English colony to the role of the most powerful nation in the world. What a lesson for us!

Indisputably, without the United States, the world would be quite different today. A few examples to demonstrate;

In 1917, after the Lusitania was torpedoed, America went to war aside the Allies that were close to bleeding to death after four years pitiless butchery. Without this massive intervention of men and equipment, who can tell how World War I might have ended. Lafayette's debt was repaid by Pershing and the Samies who died with the Allied soldiers on the battlefields of Europe.

1942--After the disaster at Pearl Harbor and the destruction of the American Pacific fleet, the Americans took up arms once again. If they had concentrated all of their resources on the Pacific the war with Japan would have ended much sooner. But what would have happened to Europe--the USSR included? It would have been crushed by the Axis since the Axis power was at this time at its zenith. You may agree with it or not but it was the American intervention that determined the happy ending of World War II.

And what about New Caledonians? Our destiny was being determined, just a few cable lengths away, during the battle of the Coral Sea. An American victory in this titanic air and sea battle saved us from a very rough occupation.

What counterpart can America expect from the rest of the world? Nothing of great importance. In the many crisis that America has had to face she generally has had to face them alone. The countries would send their regrets or sympathy but none ever rushed to her aid. Should we be amazed to discover a very strong isolationist movement in the United States?

Continued next column

America is our most powerful friend! Do we think we can drop them from this stand when we imagine that we do not need them, because of a temporary lull period, and then shout "HELP" when we are faced with danger? This is more than a mistake, more than an error -- it is INFANTILISM!

Vive la France - Vive la New Caledonia, and

GOD BLESS AMERICA

R. Ludeau President  
America Party

\*\*\*\*\*  
Paris - Until just the other day, France's biggest political star appeared to be a frog named "Kermit Mitterrand" - a cross between Kermit of the Muppets and President Francois Mitterrand, who has the lead in the televised puppet show that savages French politics.

The frog spent a great deal of time making his chief minister, a crow puppet named "Rococouard," for Prime Minister Michael Rocard, feel insecure by constantly addressing him with a succession of synonyms for "temporary" - "provisional", "interim," "passing".

Now Rococouard is challenging Kermit Mitterrand for top billing in the show.

The political puppet show, "Bebetes," which means "dummies," regularly drew six times the night viewership as the party spokesmen during the official TV campaign time.

For years Mitterrand had stood in the way of Rocard's publicly stated ambition to become the president's successor, and they have always had an uneasy relationship.

Rocard, a moderate Socialist and for years the most popular politician in opinion polls, nosedived a record 15 percent just as he was reconfirmed in office by Mitterrand after last month's legislative elections, in which the Socialists emerged with a plurality of seats in Parliament.

So it was none too soon last Sunday when Record achieved what had eluded a long succession of French governments of all stripes: a discreetly negotiated, unexpected agreement between the native independent movement and the French settlers in the strife-torn Pacific island territory of New Caledonia.

(Ronald Koven - Boston Globe July 3, 1988)

Ed Note: One can see from the difference between the press reports and a letter from a friend in New Caledonia that all is not well in 'Paradise'. Just a brief look at a map shows that New Caledonia is still as important as it was in 1942. The Japanese never succeeded in getting that far south in the Pacific after four years of war. Will 'peace' cost us a valuable friend in the Pacific?

\*\*\*\*\*  
DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

## 101 MEDICS

Jim;

The following is a story in answer to your request for stories of the islands;

During the last phases of fighting on Guadalcanal it was decided to send six LCT's of troops and equipment around Cape Esperance and beyond to Verahue and make a beach head so as to sandwich the Japanese from two sides. Along with the Infantry was an assortment of detached troops of which included parts of our Company, 101 Medics, I was one of them.

After several weeks of action in that area, my commander appointed two of us medics to accompany several casualties back to our clearing hospital, in a small barge. After traveling several hours, going back around the Cape, we got within a mile of the shore and our destination, and the barge ran out of fuel. By this time the sun had already set and it was dusk.

To attract some attention from shore of our plight we removed our shirts and waved them frantically. After that it was decided to fire some spare tracer bullets that the wounded soldiers with them. All to no avail. By this time it was getting pretty dark.

Luck was with us later when we spotted a squadron of fighter planes coming in over the ocean with their running lights on. We immediately started waving our shirts. As the four planes circled before landing on the air strip, the first three hadn't noticed us even though they flew over our heads. The fourth plane circled again and made a low pass over us. He circled again and made another low pass over us to let us know that he would get us help. By the time he landed on the air strip it was so dark we could only make out the coast line of the island.

After roughly an hour or more passed we could hear the sound of a barge coming our way, although we couldn't see him until he was almost upon us but we made contact and were towed into shore.

Maynard B. Crouse  
Nazareth, PA

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Dunphy;  
Thank you sincerely for your assistance in response to my letter submitted last year. I have received a copy of Dr. Paul Ashton's graphic book "Bataan Diary". I have found his work to be most enthralling and informative. His book has given me a deeper appreciation of the efforts of the defenders and a better understanding of the period.

"Bataan Diary" awakens a sense of pride in the achievements and the efforts of the brave to overcome a cruel imbalance that was hopeless from the start.

I have had contact with Mr. Mark Durley and we have exchanged letters.

Sincerely,  
Graham Mills  
N.S.W. Australia

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS (continues)

## 39 MILITARY POLICE

I have just finished reading the March-April issue of the Americal Newsletter and, must say I have enjoyed it very much. Each issue seems to add more zest and interesting subjects written by the "front troops" that went Island hopping from the States to Australia, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, the Philippines, and finally Japan.

The book, Under the Southern Cross by Captain D. Cronin, was very well written as a history, and did an excellent job as a chronicle of events. It was written by an Officer, with an Officer's point of view, with some input by the "nuts and bolts" of any Army; the Enlisted Man.

I was a member of the 39th Military Police company formed in New Caledonia. The Table of Organization only called for seventy-seven (77) enlisted men, one Staff Sgt., 7 Sgts., 10 Corporals and the rest PFC's and Privates. However, due to the many duties and assignments, we were mostly at Company strength, anywhere from 200-250 complement. We reached this strength in New Caledonia with duties ranging from Town Patrol, road patrol, American Prison camp, Hq guards and various other duties. When we were sent to Guadalcanal we reverted back to 77 men and again expanded to Company strength on Guadalcanal. The same procedure applied when we left The 'Canal for Fiji and, again when shipped out for Bougainville, with only 77 men. The highest ranking Non-Com was a Staff Sergeant. As a result of this rise and fall in personnel, we had many men from all units of the Division assigned as Combat MP's; from 182, 132, 164, Artillery and Quartermaster to mention a few.

We were constantly on detached service from P.O.W. camps to road patrol, Hqtrs general guard, straggle control points, supply dump guards, only a few of the duties assigned to us.

In Suva, on Fiji. I was assigned with 26 other men to form an M.P. Co, under II Island command. We relieved a Co. of 37 Infantry Division M.P.'s and again had to build up to Company strength to handle all the duties assigned to us. The Provost Marshal, an Artillery Major from II Island Command also had a company of infantry assigned for exterior guard duty around various Quartermaster dumps, hospitals, etc. The Major informed me, a three stripe Sgt. that I was acting 1st Sgt. I was to run the Military Police Company, again reinforced to company strength, and to handle all Town Patrols, road patrols, maintain law and order in all barrooms, and other individual duties connected with the Military Police.

Needless to say, we had many incidents take place the would make "Best Sellers".

Those of you that had leave in Suva remember the barrooms, jammed packed with sailors, soldiers, Marine and Merchant Marines. The bars opened from noon to 5 P.M. or whenever the ration of booze ran out. By 3 P.M. the places were jumping with fights breaking out between Army and Navy, Army and Marines, and the Merchant Marine with everybody. We were kept busy breaking up these brawls, hauling off the passed-out drunks and finally getting them all back to their units, boats, and camps. Even my extra M.P.'s assigned from the Infantry units got into the act. some also got more inebriated than the troops they were supposed to maintain order over.

Continues next page

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

## BATTERY C 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Dear Bill;

Enclosed is my check for Life Membership. Regards to all. You're doing a fine job.

Joe Nolan

\*\*\*\*\*

## A COMPANY 4/31 INFANTRY LIB

I'm enclosing my dues for the coming year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the Americal Newsletter and I have learned a lot about the Americal Division and old unit the 196 LIB. Keep up the good work.

Jimmy Dancy

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANTI TANK 182 INFANTRY

Dear Bill;

Enclosed is a check for a replacement Americal lapel pin. Any money left over you can use as you see fit.

I have made a few casual friends from people that recognized the pin. Besides some old Army buddies I was pleasantly surprised that two Marines and one sailor also recognized it.

It is a good looking pin and I am very proud to wear it.

Anthony J. Beyers

The extra money was put in the Museum Fund. Bill

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Dunphy;

Just a note to thank you for giving me the book "Under the Southern Cross". I've just finished reading it and found it to be both extremely detailed and accurate.

The Americal Division has turned out to be part of an Army whose exploits will forever live in history. The distances traveled, obstacles overcome time in the field and a truly fanatical enemy subdued, most likely, has never, nor ever will be equaled again. As a student of military history, 'Southern Cross' will make a valued addition to my library. Thanks again for remembering me.

Peter Maguire

\*\*\*\*\*

## 164 INFANTRY

Could you please send me an Americal decal for the window of my car?

I would appreciate hearing from anyone connected with the Anti-tank Company, 164 Infantry.

Joe R. Barbero

Tolland, CT 06084

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

## COMPANY B - 101 MEDICS

Enclosed is a check for Life Membership and also a check for New Caledonia. Glad to lend a helping hand. I'm also sending a check to the Guadalcanal Memorial Foundation in Illinois.

Thanks for the memories.

Ben Kelly

## COMPANY E 101 QUARTERMASTER

Upon returning from an extended six week vacation, that ended in Brentwood, NH I was saddened to read the article on the passing of Colonel Connelly. He was my C.O. when I was in E Company.

The reason for the Brentwood location was to attend a planned reunion of E Company. It was the first reunion of the gang and of course the death of Col. Connelly was a sad note.

Our company clerk, Marty Lindon, has worked for the last two years trying to organize this affair. I told Marty that I would write the following report of the reunion to the Americal Newsletter;

On Friday June 10th, the day set for the reunion, I arrived in Brentwood and during the day nine former members of E Company and the tenth member arrived the following day. Their names follow;

Captain Arthur Little  
James J. Foley Jr.

Walter Knapp  
Kenneth Knapp

Marty Lindon  
Frank Paris Jr.

Joseph Rakiey  
Max Tader

George Weshneusky  
Gabriel E. Mongeau

I keep forgetting to pay my dues so I want to sign up for a Life Membership. I'm very pleased to receive the Newsletter but I don't see much news about the 57th Engineers. I hope most of the old gang are still living and enjoying life to the fullest. I've been reading the interesting news about Hill 260 on Bougainville. It was my group, B Company, that built the 315 foot long bridge over the Torokina River just below that hill. I hope there are a lot more out there that remember that bridge.

Capt. Clint Zimlich

Hey! Anybody out there from the 57 Engineers?

## \*\*\*\*\*

## RECON PLATOON 4/21 11 LIB

Dear Sir;

Please enroll Jeff Chapman in the Americal Division Veterans Association. 'Doc' Chapman tracked me down after a 19 year separation. He didn't know there was an Americal Division organization. So, the checks on me. I cannot remember the annual dues but I am enclosing a check. If there is any remainder ship it over to the Museum.

Since leaving my old outfit 'Doc' is the first and only guy whom I have heard from. We both served together in the Recon Plt 4/21 11 LIB '69. Doc patched me up one night outside of LZ JEFF (9 June '69). Purple Hearts are like marching, some things about them you never forget. Anyway, a few weeks later when he was shot in the foot, I carried him piggyback up a mountain for a medivac. So, 19 years later, here we are again. Isn't life wonderful!

Paul Woerner

Adjutant note; He is all signed up Paul. Thanks for your interest and letter.

## \*\*\*\*\*

## 164 INFANTRY

Dear Bill;

After waiting six months for a record of my discharge my papers finally came in. But that's the Army for you--hurry up and wait--it will never change. Thanks for being patient.

Since I joined the Americal Association I have really got letters and photos from old buddies of mine that I haven't heard from or seen in over forty-three years.

I'll be up to Boston sometime this fall and I hope to meet you in the flesh.

Walter A. Hickey

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

## 132 INFANTRY

Gentlemen;

This letter to you is long past due. My first impulse to write was after I received the October 1984 Newsletter with the picture of the "Million Dollar Tree" on the front page, then again after receiving the January-February 1986 Newsletter with the plot of Hill 260, Bougainville on the front page, and since I received the March-April 1988 Newsletter with a picture of that famous tree on the cover again. You indicated that the picture was taken March 10, 1944 which is wrong. I was within 50 feet of this tree on March 15, 1944 when a Japanese mortar and hand grenade barrage was launched against us in which I was wounded and when I was carried off of the hill the tree was still standing intact. I was in Company A, 1st Battalion, 132 Infantry under the command of Fred A. Kaps, who took command after Capt. Nehls was killed on March 12, 1944 on the west slope of Hill 260.

You might be interested in the enclosed newspaper article that I have carried with me since the war. I'm not sure where I got the article but I would guess my family had saved it for me after they learned that I was on Bougainville.

The organization members would surely be interested in book written by Dr. Robert G. Muehrcke, formerly with the 132 Infantry. The name of the book is "Orchids in the Mud:" and it gives a very good account of all the campaigns in which the 132 Infantry participated in, including the battle for Hill 260. This book can be ordered from;

132 Infantry Regiment  
[REDACTED]

Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0189

I would like to contact my squad leader Sgt. Robert Hite. He was from the Chicago area. Sgt. Hite probably helped save my life when I was wounded. I hope it isn't too late to say "Thank you". If anyone reading this letter knows of his whereabouts, I would like to hear from him.

I look forward to receiving my Newsletter and I thank you for it.

Sincerely,  
Jay L. Swenson

[REDACTED]  
Kearney, NE 68848

Ed Note; Good to hear from you know matter how long it took. I do not recall saying that the picture on the cover of the March-April 1988 issue was taken on March 10. If I did I stand corrected. The picture came from the Signal Corp file after the war.

I am sorry to say that we do not have anyone by the name of Hite in our files. I will check some other sources and let you know if I come up with anything. Wish you luck.

Thank you for the clipping. I will put it with my file on Hill 260.

## \*\*\*\*\*

## COMPANY E 182 INFANTRY

Enclose is a check for my Life Membership in the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Joseph J. D'Alessandro Sr.

## CAMP STONEMAN

During an upcoming reunion at Camp Stoneman Army post, World War II veterans plan to march to the waterfront, where they had been shipped to battlefields around the globe. "They'll be re-living that moment in much happier circumstances," said Bob Jones of Pittsburg, one of the organizers of the 'party'.

Invitations to the four day salute to U. S. soldiers have been issued to 2.5 million servicemen who spent time at Camp Stoneman Army post before leaving to defend their country.

Organizers of the September 8-11 reunion plan a parade, concert, military ball and memorial Mass at the sprawling 1000 acre base about 40 miles east of San Francisco.

Plans call for the veterans to march down the city's Harbor Street to the waterfront as they did in the 1940's.

Jones and others said that reunions of Camp Stoneman servicemen have been held in other parts of the country, but never at the Army post. Last year World War II veteran Joseph Won of Chicago told Marti Aiello about such gatherings in Chicago and other cities, and suggested they stage a similar reunion.

Jones said that "if we wait much longer, we might not have very many people to come back to the reunion".

After the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Camp Stoneman was set up as a processing center that would ship soldiers into the Pacific theater as quickly as possible. Two thirds of all who fought against the Japanese came through the camp, their numbers serving to transform Pittsburg from a quiet fishing village to a bustling boom town.

"It was like one big family," Betty Battaglia recalled about growing up on the Army base with her father. "You didn't have to worry about baby sitters because everybody knew where all the kids were". Besides the steel mill, Camp Stoneman flourished during the Korean War too, it closed in August 1954.

"Many people are in Pittsburg today because of Camp Stoneman. Now is the time to invite people back to renew old acquaintances," said Jones.

## \*\*\*\*\*

## 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Gentlemen;

I am a new member of the ADVA and I wish to advise you that you have the incorrect spelling of my name.

The mailman can handle it but it might confuse some of the old gang from the 221st.

Enjoy the Newsletter and it is great to be back in touch.

Sincerely,

Jack Hagerty

Ed note; Thanks for writing Jack. All is corrected now.

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dear Peter;

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to the National Reunion that has been scheduled for the weekend of June 9-12. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter, but I was unsure as to what my schedule would be for that time until recently.

I am afraid that I will be unable to be there due to a personal commitment. If, however there is any change in my schedule, I will be sure to get in touch with you and let you know immediately.

Also, I have forwarded my application for the National Association and Chapter, which was previously sent to me by Robert Hock, to the main office in Boston.

Peter, again, thank you for thinking of me. Please keep me informed of future events planned by the organization. With best personal regard, I am

Yours very truly,  
Tom Ridge  
Member of Congress

Ed Note; Tom Ridge is an Americal Vietnam veteran and he is in the House of Representatives, serving the 21st District, Pennsylvania.

\*\*\*\*\*

246 FIELD ARTILLERY

Sirs;

Forty-three years after World War II, my father could still not speak of the events or the friends of those years.

The subject was so painful to my father that even now I only know a fraction of the places he went or the battles he fought.

I managed to find out, after he passed away, that he had served with the Americal Division starting on November 6, 1941. His name was Daniel D. Myers Sr.

If any of you knew my father I would certainly appreciate hearing from you.

Thank you,  
David L. Myers  
[REDACTED]  
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

\*\*\*\*\*

AUSTRALIA

Dear Bill;

Just checked my card and note that it expires shortly. Enclosing money to renew my membership in the Association. Don't forget to send me my card for '89. Real proud of my card!

All the best to you,  
Geoff Tierney  
Queensland, Australia

Adjutant Note; Thanks Geoff. I wish some of the members in the States were as prompt in sending in their dues as you are from Down Under.

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

REMEMBER ME?

Hello, remember me? Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Stars and Stripes: also I have been referred to as the Star Spangled Banner. But whatever they call me, I am your flag, or as I proudly state, the flag of the United States of America. There is something that has been bothering me, so I thought that I might talk it over with you. Because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago, I think it was Memorial Day. People were lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade. The town's high school band was in back of me and naturally I was leading the parade. When your daddy saw me coming along waving in the breeze, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart. Remember?

And you, I remember you. Standing there as straight as a soldier, you didn't have any hat but you were giving the right salute. They taught you in school to place your hand over your heart. Remember little sister, not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you. I was very proud as I came down the street. There was some soldiers home on leave and they were standing at attention giving the military salute. Ladies as well as men all paying me the reverence that I deserve.

Now I may sound as if I am conceited. Well I am. I have a right to be. Because I represent the finest country in the world, the United States of America. More than one aggressive nation has tried to haul me down but they all felt the fury of this freedom loving country. You know, you had to go and defend me. And a mighty job you did too.

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh I have a couple of more stars added since you were a boy. A lot more blood has been shed since that Memorial Day so long ago. It is gone now. The old home town has a new look. The last time I came down your street I saw some of the old landmarks were gone, but in their place shining majestically in the sun were a number of new buildings, beautiful new homes. Yes sir, the old town sure has changed.

But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you glance and look the other way. When I think of all the places I have been, Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, and Vietnam. Who knows where I'll be next. Then I see the children running and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take off his hat and then look around. He didn't see anybody else with theirs off so he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for? Have you forgotten all the battlefields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free? When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Take a look at the Memorial Honor Roll sometime. Look at the names of those who never came back. Some of them were friends of relatives of yours. Probably went to the same school with some of them. That's what you are saluting. Not me.

Well it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again.

So when you see me, stand up straight, place your hand over your heart and you'll see me waving back. My salute to you. And I'll know that ... YOU REMEMBERED!

## DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Gentleman;

Since my father died in 1984 I have been trying to piece together his military record, including what units he served with, where he was located, ranks, commendations, etc.

Although I have spent a significant amount of time on this project and have learned a great deal, there is still much to cover.

During the years my father was living we occasionally discussed his war time service but he did not go into details and back then I never really asked about them.

I do know that he served in the Americal and that he was an Infantry officer and was on Leyte and Cebu and also in Yokohama, Japan with the occupation forces. He was also in the 11 Airborne at one time.

I have written to the Records but they say his records were destroyed in the fire.

My father's name was Owen R. Matthews and he was a Lieutenant. His serial number was 01329497.

If you might be able to give me any guidance in this matter I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Matthews  
[REDACTED]  
Miami, FL 33178

\*\*\*\*\*

101 QUARTERMASTER

Dear Jim;

Had a great time at the Convention. Pete Messina and his committee did a tremendous job! Right down to the smallest detail.

I am writing to make sure that the membership knows of an incident that happened at the Convention. One of the busses that took a group to the Gettysburg battlefield had a flat tire on the way back to Carlisle. While we were waiting in the hot sun a young man and his family came by. After seeing our predicament they left and returned with a cooler full of cold beer and soda. They would not take any money for this kind deed. I have sent them a thank you note and I hope everyone on the bus will. His name and address;

Bob Klokitis  
[REDACTED]

Bendersville, PA 17306

I would also like to suggest that the ADVA send them a copy of "Under the Southern Cross" to show our appreciation for their kindness to our members.

My brother Alex had had a setback and I know that he would like to hear from his friends. His address;

Alexander Diorio  
[REDACTED]

Woburn, MA 01801

Thanks,  
Fran Diorio

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I hope that I have not stretched the stories on Hill 260 out for too long a period of time. It seems that one story seems to generate another but that is not unusual because quite a few units from the Americal were involved in this action and it was one of the Americal's maximum efforts on Bougainville.

I had begun research on this battle quite some time ago because the unit I was in, E Company, 182 Infantry, was deeply involved. My original plan was to put together a plan of E Company action showing the part they played and the casualties suffered. However, since first writing of this battle in the Newsletter, because of the response I have received, I have decided to gather the fact and figures on the other units involved. So far I have records of B, E, F, G, Companies, 182 Infantry, A and B Company, 132 Infantry, and I have learned that Company B, 57 Engineers was involved, and the part that the 246 Field Artillery played. I know there were many other supporting units involved and I would like to hear from the men that participated in these units.

Many years ago I heard an unofficial tally on the number of casualties suffered on Hill 260 by the Americal. It stated that there were eight-eight (88) killed and five hundred wounded (500). At that time this figure seemed to be inflated. However, as I add up the figures from the individual units the count is rapidly approaching that amount.

I am including in this Newsletter a copy of a Japanese version of the battle for Hill 260. This document was acquired by Lt. Hammitt, F Company, 182 Infantry, after the war. It was given to Lew Turner of F who was good enough to send me a copy.

Any information, documents, or photos that you have and are willing to share will be gratefully accepted.

The Newsletter is interested in printing stories of anyone personal experiences of World War II.

Lets hear from you!

Jim Buckle

\*\*\*\*\*

SOUTH BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1939

Sir;

Would you be so kind as to run this notice in the Americal Newsletter. We are searching for long lost members and thought, since many of them should be veterans, there is a possibility there may be class members in your files.

Please contact; E.M. Murray

[REDACTED]  
Wrentham, MA 02093

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you,  
Ethel M. Murray

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?



JAMES C. BUCKLE  
4 WILSON AVENUE  
WAKEFIELD, MA  
01880

U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOSTON, MASS. 02104  
PERMIT NO. 58746

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mr. John DeGroot  
[REDACTED]  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

#### Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted men now serving with or who have served with the American (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 American Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the American Division of the United States Army.

### AMERICAN DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Telephone:

Address — Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

American Unit: Rgt.

Bn.

Co/Bty.

Other

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 Initial Dues) \$16.00

PLEASE: Attach a copy of the following information to your application.

1. DD 214 Form.

2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.  
(All copies of records will be returned)