

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1989

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

OSCAR PATTERSON III

VIETNAM EDITOR:

RON WARD

Published Bi-Monthly

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



*Mừng Giáng Sinh* MERRY CHRISTMAS



## 1989 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1990

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## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

December 10, 1989Christmas Party, Hanscom Air Force Base  
1:00 p.m.January 13, 1990

Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA

12:30 p.m. Executive Council

1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

2:00 p.m. Curator's Meeting

February 10, 1990

Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA

1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

BECOME A LIFE MEMBER TODAY  
COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I had a surprising and very enjoyable reunion in mid-October with my second Army outfit, the 756th F.A. Bn. Association (155 Howitzers) at Ft. Monroe, Hampton, VA, a National Historic Landmark. We all stayed at The Chamberlin on the Chesapeake Bay which overlooks Hampton Roads where the Monitor and the Merrimac battled to a draw during the Civil War.

It was surprising because I had no idea the Association existed until I received a notice--letter--invitation this past summer. It was enjoyable because among all of the nice people there, there were several men from Service Battery (including two officers) that I had not seen nor heard of since I came home "on points" from Los Banos, Luzon, P.I. in August 1945. One of the men, Doyle Todd, had actually worked with me every day.

The Reunion Committee also gave me a copy of a diary written in military style of our travels and battles from Fort Ord, CA to and through Manila to Los Banos in Batangas with many interesting places and experiences noted. But that's another story to be told at a later date.

Other interesting things to see in the Hampton area were the Casement Museum at the Fort, the Norfolk Naval Base Tour and Lunch, "Dugout Doug's" Museum, Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg, and the Chamberlin's Harbor Cruise on the Miss Mary.

My thanks to Bob Hoffman, Sam Corrado, and Jim McKeever. They really know how to run an interesting, inexpensive, and enjoyable reunion. Well done, fellows!

The 756th also served with distinction in Korea, but someone else will have to write that story.

Best Wishes,  
Bernie Carroll

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ted C. Block  
1st Bn. 6th Inf 196 LIB  
Lehigh Acres, FL

Allan R. Campbell  
Btry A 221 F.A.  
Quincy, MA

James R. Clark  
1st Sq C Trp 1st Reg  
Burkburnett, TX

CW2 Robert E. Gibney  
Co B 123 AVN BN  
APO NY

Fred Matus  
Btry A 246 F.A.  
Toms River, NJ

James E. McCollen  
Hdq Co. 3rd Bn, 182  
Boynton Beach, FL

John M. Wills  
198 LIB  
Lake St. Louis, MO

## NEW MEMBERS

Courtland B. Bacall  
101st - 125th QM  
Boxford, MA  
\*Paul W. Santogeanis

Larry Bourbonnais  
Btry C 1/14 Arty 198  
Riverside, CA  
\*Self

James M. Bates  
Co C 182 Inf  
Albemarle, NC  
\*Edward W. Loeb

Vincent N. Cassano  
178 Assault Helo  
Virginia Beach, VA  
\*Ron Ward

Dennis R. Crouse  
1/46 - 5/46 Inf 198 LIB  
Mathews, IN  
\*Richard Drapczuk

Walter S. Dunn  
Btry C 221 F.A.  
Lowell, MA  
\*Bernie Chase

SFC Kenneth E. Gough Jr  
2/1 Inf, 196 LIB  
APO, NY  
\*Self

Harold Lane Graves  
Co D 2/1 Inf, 196 LIB  
Woodburn, KY  
\*Kenneth Lewis

Paul F. Hill  
Co H, 101st Medical  
Cambridge, MA  
\*Edward J. Smith

Steven T. Hill  
Co D 1st Inf 3 Bn 11 LIB  
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO  
\*Clifton D. Vanderveer

David Himelfarb  
Co B 101st QM  
Newton, MA  
\*Edward J. Smith

Lindley E. Hoopes  
Co D 4/3 Inf 11 LIB  
Dike, Iowa  
\*Robert Thornton

Fred Matus  
Btry A 246 F.A.  
Toms River, NJ  
\*LTC Peter J. Messina

James E. McCollom  
3rd Bn, Hqs 182 Inf  
Boynton Beach, FL  
\*Self

Jesse N. Mendoza  
Co B 2/1 Inf 196 LIB  
Buckholts, TX  
\*Locate-A-Brother

Robert James Mushtare  
Btry A 11 Arty 11 LIB  
Rochester, NY  
\*Robert Thornton

Kirby E. Myers  
Co E 52 Inf 1st Bty 14 Aty  
New Paris, IN  
\*Dan Herald

Robert W. Ozenghar  
125th QM  
Livonia, MI  
\*Paul W. Santogeanis

Peter Rico  
Co D 3rd Inf 11 LIB  
Hammond, IN  
\*James Buckle

COL Frank Raymond  
Co E 2nd Bn 132 Inf  
Oak Park, IL  
\*R.C. Muehrcke, M.D.

Gary Lee Scholten  
Co A 1 Bn 6 Inf 198 LIB  
Zeeland, MI  
\*Craig Singer

Jacob M. Spaid  
Co C 5/46 Inf 198 LIB  
DeFuniak Springs, FL  
\*Bernie Chase

Richard B. Totten  
Co C 5th Inf 46 Inf 196/198 LIB  
Chelsea, MI  
\*Dennis Bush

\*Sponsor

## TAPS

Curtis Clark  
57th Engineers  
Gloucester, MA  
September 14, 1989

Max D. Conyers  
Co D 164th Infantry  
Lexington, KY  
October 14, 1989

Elmer C. Koehler  
Co A 132nd Infantry  
Springvalley, IL

George Morash  
57th Engineers  
North Quincy, MA

John J. Mullen  
Co F 182nd Infantry  
Wakefield, MA

Charles I. Rogers  
164th Infantry  
Bakersfield, CA  
June 14, 1989

John J. Rotella  
Btry A 221st F.A.  
West Yarmouth, MA  
October 6, 1989

John E. Smith  
57th Engineers  
North Andover, MA

James E. Sullivan  
182nd Infantry  
Needham, MA  
October 1989

## SPECIAL OBITUARY

In Loving memory of  
Agnes Mary Mitz  
who passed away  
August 30, 1989

It is with a heavy heart that I write this. After a long illness, Agnes has passed away. She was confined to a skilled nursing care unit. Agnes was in pain for three long years. Remember her in your prayers.

Love,  
Arthur Mitz

## SICK CALL

William E. Davis  
Co. B 57th Engineers  
Piqua, Ohio 45356

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

## DUES NOTIFICATION PROCESS

1st Notice Membership card is mailed in  
ADVANCE of payment of dues.

2nd Notice Overdue notice printed in  
ADVA Newsletter

IMPORTANT  
SEPTEMBER DUES NOTICES

The September Dues Notices were mailed out during September 1989. Please remember that dues are \$12.00 per year. This is your second notice since we mailed your card in advance of payment. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

## SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS

552	593	614	640	678	699	742	762	794
557	594	618	641	683	700	744	765	796
559	601	623	642	684	716	753		803
564	603	628	648		725	752	773	
579	604	629	654	691	732	757	777	
588	610	635	670		739	758	793	

Dear ADVA members,  
A personal note to  
encourage you to (1) pay  
your dues AND (2) become  
a LIFE MEMBER today.  
Oscar



## HAVE YOU MOVED? NEW ADDRESS?

## CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS

Americal Newsletter  
P.O. Box 1381  
Boston, MA 02140

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE. MAIL TODAY!

## THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to the many members of the "AMERICAL FAMILY" who telephoned Bill while I was in the hospital for three weeks plus the many cards and flowers I received in the hospital and at my home. After the heart attack the doctors informed me I had two choices: medication and a restricted life or a by-pass operation for a full normal life. I chose the by-pass (triple) and my recovery has been very good per the doctors. Once again THANK YOU.

Helen Dunphy

## CHAPTER NEWS

## AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

Stephen Dennison - Commander

Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Dear Americal Veterans:

I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Stephen Dennison, a Vietnam Veteran, the new Commander of the Eastern Regional Chapter of the Americal Division Veteran's Association. The other officers are Peter J. Messina, who is again our Secretary-Treasurer, and George Yates, who is the Sergeant at Arms.

Our reunion on September 18, 1989, in Absecon, NJ, was a great success. Fun was had by all who visited historic Smithville with its unique village shops with a colonial theme. It was an experience to visit Atlantic City and the great casinos. Hopefully, not too many of our members donated to the casinos.

I also want to express thanks to John and Honey O'Keefe for all their outstanding work in organizing this reunion. At this time there are two possible locations that are being looked into for next year's reunion. Details will follow in future news letters.

Your Commander,  
Stephen N. Dennison

## AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION

JUNE 7 - 10, 1990



It's time to plan to attend the Americal National Reunion in Oak-brook, Illinois (a Chicago suburb), Marriott Hotel, and celebrate the 48th anniversary of the birth of the Americal Division (1942-1990).

This will be a FUN reunion. Planned events include an active hospitality room, a terrific Chicago sight-seeing tour, a memorial service at the famous Cantigny Way Museum and Gardens, entertainment nightly, a membership meeting, Saturday night banquet with entertainment, socializing & dancing, church services, and more. Our hotel is directly across the street from the world famous Oakbrook shopping center (very deluxe!).

Full details covering hotel and reunion registration will appear in the January/February and March/April 1990 Americal Newsletter.

Reunion Chairman - Joseph G. Micek 132nd Inf.  
Assistant Chair - Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke 132nd  
Secy/Treas - Mitchell Przybycien 132nd  
Adm. Ast. - Fred Hitzman 132nd  
Adm. Ast. - Brian Mulcrone 23 MP, 196th  
Adm. Ast. - John DeGroot 23 MP, 196th

START SAVING THOSE "BUCKS" FOR THE BIG SHOW IN OAKBROOK!

See you in Oakbrook,  
Joseph G. Micek  
Chairman, '90 National Reunion  
Norridge, IL 60656



## 182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

Everett, MA 02146

Greetings and Season's Greetings to all our compatriots in the ADVA. Our annual elections took place on October 19, 1989. The elected officials for our 1989-1990 membership year are

Commander - Douglas F. Tarbox of Everett  
Vice Commander - Charles L. Doyle of Everett  
1st Vice Comm. - James E. Lane of Charlestown  
Finance Off. - Donald E. Estabrooks of Peabody  
Adjutant - Robert A. Cox of Arlington  
Trustee (3 yrs.) - PC Donald E. Tibbetts of

Chelsea

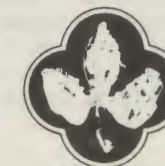
Trustee (2 yrs) - John D. Malenchini of Melrose  
Trustee (1 yr) - Arthur H. Woodland of Stoneham

Recently former 182d Infantry troopers (now ADVA members but not 182d Infantry Association members) received a special "one time" offer to join our Association. The response to our "call to arms" was tremendous, in our opinion. During the September-October period we enlisted 22 of you folks as new members.

Our new executive Council for 1989-90 consists of

PC Ronald V. Gibbons of Chelsea  
PC Herbert E. Watson of Everett  
PC William R. Duke, Chairman, of Melrose

## 43RD INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION SUNBELT CHAPTER



The Sunbelt Chapter of the 43rd Infantry Division Veterans Association will hold its reunion January 25 - 28, 1990 at the Ramada Orlando Central, (Hwy 50) Orlando, FL 32808. For additional information please contact:

William E. Head  
Crystal River, FL 32629

## 132ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

Another successful reunion was held by the 132nd Infantry Regiment, World War II Association. The crowd of ex-132nd Infantrymen was once again in the 400 numbers. The activities started at 12 noon on Friday when Rich Schubert and Barney Stellar, my favorite "Old Style" bartenders were once again the Hospitality Hosts. The members were a little slow arriving, but by 4:00 pm the room was packed. Our hosts and their wives, Irene Stellar and Shirley Schubert, did a great job making sure that the drinks were flowing and the tidbits were distributed to all the tables.

On Friday about 7:30 pm the Ice Breaker started and by 8:00 pm the room was packed. Brian Mulcrone and Dutch DeGroot, two of our Vietnam Americal Veterans who will be on the Committee for the 1990 National Convention at this location, paid a visit and stayed to meet some of the W.W. II veterans.

On Saturday there was a gold tournament. Roco Solto and Ed Ozzie led about 30 players out to the course. On Thursday, Chicago had a very heavy rain and as a result the course was a little wet so no electric carts were allowed on the course. National Commander Bernie Carroll and National Adjutant Bernie Chase played 18 holes and tried to uphold the honor of the rest of the Division, but the men of the 132nd were to good for us. We promised to bring a stronger team next June.

Over 50 people took part in the bus tour of Long Grove. Another great crowd took in a little shopping at the great shopping center just across the street from the hotel. Of course, the Hospitality

Room opened its doors at 12 noon and the members were wall-to-wall there most of the afternoon.

Saturday Night's Dinner Dance started with cocktails at 6:30 pm. Reunion Chairman Mitch Przybycien, who did a super job organizing this Reunion, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Joe Micek gave a report on the progress of the Guadalcanal Memorial. Plans are to have some activities for the next two years with the big dedication in August 1992. Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke presented a gift to Joe Micek and Harold Ashe for their work on the Memorial Committee. Joe Micek and Dr. Muehrcke will be Co-Chairmen of the Americal Convention in Chicago in June 1990. Roco Solto, President of the 132nd Association, introduced his wife, Margaret and she sang the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America. A great job, Margaret. I hope we get a repeat next June at the Americal Convention. Ed Ozzie, Vice President of the Association, gave out prizes to the best golfers. National Commander Bernie Carroll invited all present to come back in June of 1990 and to attend the big 50th Reunion on Cape Cod in June 1991. Father Gorman, the 132nd Chaplain, said a short prayer and the dinner started. After Dinner there was dancing and group picture taking.

On Sunday there was a Farewell Breakfast and all made plans to get together in June 1990 and September 1991. I want to thank all the members of the Committee for their great work. Most of the members of the Reunion Committee will also take part in the American Convention in June. So make you plans to attend.

## A LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADVA IS

## ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS

## YOU CAN MAKE!

## TAKE CARE OF YOURS TODAY!

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

40 or under.....	\$125	5 Payments
41 to 60.....	\$100	4 Payments
61 to 70.....	\$75	3 Payments
71 and over.....	\$50	2 Payments

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO

Bernard C. Chase  
National Adjutant, ADVA  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664



## GUADALCANAL VETERANS REUNION

The Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans, whose 2,700 members are mostly Marines and sailors, will hold their reunion in Fayetteville, NC, in September 1990, the first time they have met in an Army town, the group's president said.

The group's members include people who were in all service branches and "anybody who served on, above, or around Guadalcanal from August 7, 1942 to February 17, 1943" said Gene Keller, president of the group. "The majority are Marines and Navy," Mr. Keller said.

"A lot of our members are Army guys, though," Mr. Keller said. "The past six years, the president has been a Navy man and we sent to Norfolk, VA. I'm a Marine, but I felt sorry for the Army guys. I thought Ft. Bragg was a good place. (THE FAYETTEVILLE TIME, NC, Nov. 6)

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

### WISCONSIN VIET NAM VETERANS

The Wisconsin Viet Nam Veterans, Chapter 3 have scheduled their 4th Annual Viet Nam Veterans gathering for January 12 and 13, 1990. They invite all Viet Nam and other veterans to join them in New Glarus, Wisconsin.

Friday, January 12, 1990

6-9 pm -- Meet at Chapter House, 316 E. Coats Ave. in Monticello for food donated by two organizations. There will be a cash bar for beverages. Many gift ideas to remember your weekend will be available. This is good social time for all veterans.

8 pm -- A 45-minute program on POW/MIA Issues and other issues that face veterans today. Following the program, pictures can be taken of the group. The program will take place upstairs at the Chapter House.

9:30 pm -- Meet at Swiss Lanes back parking lot in New Glarus for parade line-up. We will have plenty of Drill Sergeants to keep you going.

10:00 pm -- Yes, the parade is at 10 pm--We will be escorted to the parade starting point for the 4th year in a row--WE WILL LEAD THE NEW GLARUS WINTERFEST PARADE.

10:15 PM -- or when we are done with the parade--it ends at Flannery's Cup back town where again we will provide hospitality.

Saturday, January 13, 1990

3:30 pm -- The Annual New Glarus Poker Run will take place for us at Swill Lanes. Prizes will be given out for the best poker hands.

There are other events planned including a Traveling Viet Nam Art Exhibit. For additional information call: Terry Babler at [redacted] or Ron Lewis at [redacted]

## 1965: THE 'CONFLICT' BECOMES A 'WAR'

In the 12 months of 1965, that "dirty little war" in Southeast Asia got dirtier--and bigger--as U.S. troop strength climbed in giant steps from a barely noticeable 23,000 to more than 181,000 men.

Keeping pace, South Vietnam's shipping imports rose 800 percent, intercostal shipping doubled and petroleum consumption jumped from 250,000 barrels in January to more than a million per month by December.

These and other facts were released last week in the Pentagon's year-end compilation of the war in Vietnam.

On the grimmer side, the U.S. lost more than 1300 men and South Vietnam 11,000. The enemy fared much worse. The Pentagon says more than 34,000 were killed and almost 6,000 captured during the year.

Massed, and massive, firepower was the campaign keynote. On the ground and in the air the U.S. and Vietnam upped the ante for playing "war of national liberation." Air forces of both countries flew more than 60,000 sorties over South Vietnam and Navy and Marine Corps planes, carrier and land-based, flew 39,000.

North Vietnam also felt the crunching allied air power. The Navy and Marines flew more than 6600 sorties over North Vietnam while the U.S. and Vietnamese Air Forces banged in with almost 12,000.

In carrying out this air escalation, the allies lost more than 160 planes over North Vietnam, including 10 knocked from the sky by Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles (SAMS). The U.S., in return, struck 18 SAM sites.

Terminology for the raids on North Vietnam went from "punishment" (after the VC attack on Pleiku in February) to "supply interdiction" (more than 500 highway bridges hit in the third quarter of the year alone).

The U.S., however, dropped more than bombs on the North. Between poundings, U.S. and South Vietnamese personnel poured more than 77 million leaflets, 340,000 newspapers, and 20,000 gifts into North Vietnam.

Escalation also hit the other war in Vietnam--that war for the allegiance of the people. More than 2400 military civic action programs, ranging from bridge and school building to road repair and drainage control, blossomed in 1966. Armed forces medical personnel treated more than 4.5 million Vietnamese under the Medical Civic Action Program. The U.S. distributed some 106,000 tons of foodstuffs and more than \$100,000 worth of other commodities donated by various relief services.

Finally, 1965 was the Year of the War, though not officially called such. For the world, Vietnam moved from the wings to center stage. For some U.S. students facing a doubled draft call, Vietnam suddenly was a target of protest. And for more than 150,000 servicemen, Vietnam was not a name but a destination.

(Army Times, January 19, 1966)

## LETTERS

ADVA Members:

Jim Roach, Americal Division HHC Support Command (Ordinance) wrote in to say that he was unaware of the ADVA until he met Ron Davis in Kokomo. Jim sent

the Newsletter some copies of Stars & Stripes that we were happy to accept and we were also happy to sign him up as a member. He'd like to hear from anyone with service in his unit. His address follows.

Jim Roach

[redacted]  
Fenton, MO 63026  
[redacted]

Dear Ron:

I thought I'd drop a line to anyone who would like to attend a Vietnam vets rally here in New Glarus, WIS., my home town. I know a lot of our members are far away, but everyone is welcome.

The date is Friday, January 12, 1990. The parade starts at 10:00 pm. This is the 4th rally which is small but growing. Besides our activities, there are a lot of events scheduled by the town for the whole weekend. Motel rooms are \$25 to \$35 a night. I know if anyone comes they will have a good time. However, I cannot predict the weather. Better bring your snow shoes.

Terry Babler

Gary Gullickson, a Vietnam vet although I'm not sure what unit he served with, is working on a book about the war and needs help from our members. He asks for a brief summary of your high school days, a complete detailed account of your Vietnam experience, and an up-to-date of your life since leaving the military. This info will be used in his novel, not a historical account of the war. His address follows:

Gary Gullickson

[redacted]  
Kasson, MN 55944

Dear Members:

I've heard that some of the other Divisions are displaying a custom-made flag that shows their Division insignia as well as the attached units. In our case, we would want one with the Americal insignia and also our three light infantry brigades. If anyone knows where these flags are manufactured, contact your Vietnam Editor with the address.

Ron Ward

Dear Members:

Dan Dinklage, 196th LIB, wrote in saying that he has been in contact with a Gold Star Mother in his area. Mrs. Ella Dobrosky's son, John, was KIA in 1971 while serving as a recon trooper with 1/52 of the 198th LIB. He bought the farm from a booby trap. She hasn't been able to locate any men who served with her son. She has tried the Army but received no help. Until "Dink" spoke to her she was unaware of the ADVA. If any of you men served with her son or were even in his Battalion, how about dropping her a few lines. Her address is:

Mrs. Ella Dobrosky

[redacted]  
Houston, TX 77039

VIETNAM EDITOR'S NOTE: We received the following letter from Sgt. Ron Davis, 196th LIB, concerning the annual gathering of Nam vets each year in Kokomo. Your Vietnam Editor has yet to attend this event. In the past, it always took place on a weekend when I had other commitments. I keep hearing from everyone who has been there that it's a grand affair and I hope to be at the next one in 1990. As soon as someone learns the exact date, let you Vietnam Editor know.

Hi Ron:

Just a short letter to tell you that we had a great time in Kokomo. There were a lot of men from the Americal Division there, even met some from St. Louis. I got some of their names but there were just too many to get them all. I've never seen so many guys from the Americal. There was even quite a few guys there on Sunday after everything was over. They came from all over the country. I saw one man from 4/31 of the 196th LIB. I said "Welcome home!" He hugged me and cried. He said that I was the first 196'er he'd seen since doing four tours in Nam--July 67-71.

Next year I want to get a "GP" medium tent set up for the Americal as a base like some of the other units have been doing. They get them from the National Guard units in Kokomo. We have some 196th troopers living in Kokomo that will be checking on this for us.

Ron Davis

Dear Ron:

I wish you would print this in the American Newsletter at your convenience.

For the past couple of years I've been putting a display together for our vet's group. The display is made up of patches of the Americal Division in Vietnam. I've been able to put together some of the units, but I'm still missing the 11th LIB and the Aftmore Cav units. If any of you guys could help me out with these, I'd surely appreciate it. If you don't want to part with one, a picture of yourself wearing the insignia would do.

I'm proud of the Americal Division and what we did over there. I want to make others aware of our history and deeds.

I'm making a list of what I have. If you guys could help me fill in the blanks, it would help. I'm not always sure of all the small units such as recon teams that might have had their own patch. I have 1st issue subdued of the 196th, 198th, and Americal. In Vietnam made I have 196th color, 198th color, 23rd MP, Americal color, and subdued, 176th Aviation, 178th Aviation, Regular tab, Charger tab, E51 LRRP scroll, and 1/46th Recon.

Any help would be appreciated.

Sincerely

Gart Pratt 1/6th, 198th LIB

[redacted]  
Jefferson, OH 44047

VIETNAM EDITOR'S NOTE: We receive many requests for unit insignias. One of our members has the basic ones. Contact Dave Grieger at the address given: D&G, P.O. Box 12105, Columbus, GA 31907



## Members:

Wayne Barksdale, a medic with 3/21st Inf, 196th LIB is looking for friends who served with him. His tour of duty was July 1970-71, patrolling the areas of LZ Hawk Hill, LZ Center, and the ville called Nue Loe Son. Address below:

Wayne Barksdale  
[REDACTED]  
Athens, AL 35611  
[REDACTED]

## Members:

Vince Cassano, who saw service with the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company, is seeking men from his old outfit, the "Box-Cars". His address is at the top of the next page.

Vince Cassano  
[REDACTED]  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

## Members:

Russell Erickson who lost a son KIA while serving with the 59th Scout Dog Platoon of the 11th LIB wrote to the ADVA looking for an 11th LIB shoulder insignia. We were able to fix him up with one of those easily but he also wants to know if the 59th Scout Dog Platoon had an insignia of their own. I know that some specialized units designed their own logos and had them produced locally in Vietnam. If any of our members have knowledge of an insignia for the 59th, contact Mr. Erickson. Address below.

Russell M. Erickson  
[REDACTED]  
Bensenville, IL 60106

## 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPITULATION OF JAPAN



The Associations of Combat Veterans of Indo-China joined together in Paris and have decided to honor their dead in Indo-China each year on the 2nd Sep-

tember which is the anniversary date of the capitulation of Japan in World War II.

It is thus that the numerous members of the Amicale des Anciens Combattants d'Outre-Mer of New Caledonia convened before the Monument to the Dead on the Place Bir-Hakeim in Nomeau this Saturday, September 2nd at 17.00 hours.

These veterans were joined by their other comrades from other associations who had wished to express their homage to their comrades who died for France, victims of the Japanese between 1940 and 1945 and for those victims of the Vietminh between 1946 and 1955. Not only was respect paid to the French veterans but to their allies, the Americans, the British, the Australians, and the New Zealanders killed in combat on land and on sea during the war of the Pacific.



Let us remember on this occasion that among these victims of the Japanese were two Caledonians, Corporal Pierre Dorbritz, 24 September 1940, and Lieutenant Jean Caillard beheaded on 10 March 1945 after the fall of Langson.

Following the call to the dead and the placing of a wreath on the monument a minute of silence was observed in homage to all those French and Allies who gave their lives in defense of liberty.

Let us point out that an important delegation from the club "Friends of the USA" had come to join in this ceremony under the banner of the Stars and Stripes.

## REBELS LAUNCH ATTACK ON BOUGAINVILLE

KIETA: Three Australians were shot and wounded yesterday (14 July 1989) in an ambush by militant landowners on the strife-torn island of Bougainville, security forces here said.

They said the three men, all Bougainville Copper Ltd employees, were shot near the closed-down Panguna mine while driving in a convoy under police escort.

The trio, whose names were not immediately available, were treated for shotgun pellet wounds at the company's medical center and later released.

## Co. D 3/1 Infantry 11 LIB

### Small World:

I'm 1SG Steve Hill from Fort Leonard Wood, MO. I'm sending my application for the Association and this letter to explain how I found out about your organization.

I met Clifton Vanderveer here at Fort Leonard Wood while he was here for his Reserve Annual Training. We started talking about Vietnam and discovered that he had flown my unit on different operations. He was a warrant officer with the 174th Aviation. The topic was the shark teeth on the birds.

Well, he was from NY, the 98th Div. Tng., and said that when he went home he would send me information about the Division. I just received it and I'm sending my application. I am not out of the service yet. I retire December 31, 1989. I do not have the paper work listed at the bottom of the application. I will tell you that I was with Company D, 3/1 Infantry, 11 LIB. I will search through my old papers and see if I can find a set of my orders assigning me to the Americal. If I need anything else, please advise. If I would of known of this Association, I would have been a member a long time ago.

Please keep me informed of the status of my application because I would be proud to belong. I wear my American Patch on my right sleeve with extreme pride.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Gratefully,  
Steve Hill

Steve, we are glad to have you as one of our members.

## 125 Quartermaster

### Dear Bernie:

Sorry I'm late on my dues. Caught in the middle of moving and just now able to get caught up on my correspondence and bills.

Really wanted to go to the Florida Bash. Saw Paul Santogeanis and Ben Kelly on their way to the V.F.W. Convention in Las Vegas last month. They looked great.

Glad to hear Harry Corliss is getting well. We were in the same platoon, 125th Quartermaster, on Cebu Island.

Best of health and regards to all,  
Curt Bennett

Curt, thanks for the dues. Try and make the Chicago Convention in June 1990.

### Dear Mr. Carroll:

I am interested in obtaining the following publications:

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Yearbook that covers from 1965 to July 1967

Copies of the Brigade's After Action Reports that cover:

Two were hit in the head and neck and the third was wounded in the neck.

A security forces spokesman said police returned the fire but apparently did not hit any of the attackers.

The attack was the second in three days on Australians working on this troubled Papua New Guinea island where a state of emergency is in force.

## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

### HHC 1/3 Infantry 196th LIB

### Dear Mr. Chase:

Please excuse me for being late with my yearly dues. I was waiting to pay you for a Life Membership. I hope the amount is correct.

You will also find enclosed a piece of a document to show just one small fire fight of my old unit with the 196th LIB and hope this will help others to come forward with some documents.

I have enjoyed my newsletter and keep hoping to make some contacts through it.

I do have some old photos, one in particular of my old friend Terrance (Terry) O'Neil. Terry was killed about two weeks after the action of the 8th of May. I only know of a sister and his mother back home in PA, but have no way to contact them to forward his picture and a small message to his survivors. Maybe some other Americal Division Member could help find them.

Again, thanks for a great Newsletter. If I can help anyone interested in the old 196th, please give them my address.

Ted C. Block  
[REDACTED]  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Thanks for the letter, Ted, you are all paid up in your Life Membership.

### Sir:

I am Belgian and very interested in the U.S. Army. I saw the Association address in a magazine and I am taking the liberty to write to you to say how much I admire the Veterans of the American Division. I wish to all the members of the Association the Best of Luck.

The Americal Division has a very high reputation in Belgium and I hope you will appreciate this short message of respect from a country which was liberated by the U.S. Army in 1918 and 1944.

Respectfully,  
Kenneth J. Heselwood  
[REDACTED]  
Belgium (Europe)

Thank you Kenneth for your kind words. They are appreciated by our members.



Battle of Attleboro--Oct-Nov 1966  
Operation Cedar Falls--Jan 1967  
Operation Junction City--Feb-Mar 1967

Copy of a publication written by General  
Bernard Rogers titled "Cedar Falls -  
Junction city, A Turning Point,"  
Washington, DC: Dept. of Army 1974

I am a former member of the Brigade and served in  
the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry and the 3rd  
Battalion, 21st Infantry.

I would greatly appreciate any information you can  
give on how I can obtain copies of these  
publications. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Lewis L. Cole  
CSM, USA Retired  
[REDACTED]  
Millston, WI 54643

Members: Can any of you help CSM Cole in his  
search? Your editor is not familiar with any of the  
works noted.

Dearest Jim and all you Wonderful Friends:

I am sorry to miss so many Americal affairs. I'm  
so glad the convention went so well and I thank you  
all for thinking of your old Chaplain if the lovely  
cards I have received. The years are taking their  
tool. Our continuing sympathy for the loved ones  
gone and our constant prayers for your every need.

Fran has translated the French newspapers sent by  
you, Jim. She has to type it now, but has been  
delayed by surgery at the New England Baptist Hospi-  
tal. Now that she is better, her typewriter broke  
down...

Keep happy and well and may God Bless You All.

Rev. John S. Franklin  
Masonic Home  
[REDACTED]  
Charlton, MA 01507-1000

### 26th Signal Company

Dear Jim:

As a teletype operator in the 26th Signal Company,  
I received the following message on the teletype the  
day Guadalcanal was secured. This message was sent  
to Major General Alexander Patch.

"When we sent a tailor to patch  
the enemy's pants, we never  
thought he would do it so  
quickly." Halsey.

Harold Stein  
26th Signal  
5/46 198th LIB

Dr. Patterson:

I'm writing this short letter to let you know that  
I'm interested in your Americal history project.  
After reading many books on military history I must  
agree with you that the Americal Division is hardly  
ever mentioned. Even when it is mentioned, it is

always in a bad light. This situation needs to be  
corrected and I'm glad somebody cares enough to  
initiate such an undertaking. Although I'm no writ-  
er by any means, I'm going to attempt a short his-  
tory of my tour and send it to you. If any of it  
is a help to you, feel free to use it.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Spearing  
[REDACTED]  
Bangor, Maine

Matthew: I will be looking forward to receiving  
your history. I really think that we need a book  
about the Americal in Vietnam that tells in a posi-  
tive light what we accomplished there.  
Please encourage any of your friends who served with  
the division to help with this project.

### 132nd Infantry

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is a photo taken on Bougainville in 1944  
that may prove interesting to your readers. Co.  
McQuarrie, CO of the 132nd along with Capt. Mulchay  
selected me, Cpl. Frank J. Kreisel, to peruse the  
personnel records of the 132nd to see if we had  
enough instrumental talent to form a regimental  
"combat band." Well, much to everyone's surprise,  
the 132nd not only had talent, but much of it was  
exceptional. With just my accordion and civilian  
musical experience, I formed the "132nd Inf. Jungle  
Cats." All 15 talented members of the "Jungle Cats"  
were line combat soldiers and since there was not  
a TO for this kind of organization, all the members  
of the band returned to their line companies when  
the 132nd went into combat.



The "Jungle Cats" broadcasted on the American Forces  
Radio Network, played for USO shows, and did numero-  
us shows for the troops on Bougainville, Leyte, and  
Cebu in the Philippines.

Thanks to a good friend and an excellent musician,  
Fred Homann, information regarding the "Jungle Cats"  
reached the pages of Robert Muehrcke's book about  
the 132nd Inf. entitled "Orchids in the Mud" (page  
231).

After my WWII experiences, my life has been full as  
a band leader, record producer, booking agent, song  
writer, and publisher. I am currently president of  
Local 373 American Federation of Musicians in New  
Jersey. With all that musical experience behind me,  
I must admit nothing matches the thrill of organiz-  
ing and leading the "132nd Inf. Jungle Cats."

Sincerely,  
Cpl. Frank J. Kreisel  
132nd Inf.

Dear Mr. Patterson:

I was sorry to read about your recent illness. I  
sincerely hope your recovery is going well and that  
you are fully recovered quickly. It is important  
to have people with your dedication, commitment and  
drive affiliated with our great association.

I am a Vietnam Veteran, however, I believe I know  
only the older generation of ADVA members because  
my association with the ADVA began in 1975 when we  
(the US Army) were preparing to retire the Americal  
Division colors at Fort Devens. Although a life  
member, I have not been very active since we first  
established the museum at Fort Devens.

I read, very thoroughly, the ADVA Newsletter as I  
am very interested in the content, in particular the  
concerns of the veteran. I believe the newsletter  
is an important opportunity for people to express  
themselves to a group who will certainly understand  
their point of view, even if they don't agree.

A mistake my generation of veteran made, that our  
World War II comrades didn't, is failing to recog-  
nize the importance of building a strong delegation  
of veterans in the United States Congress and at all  
levels of government. Veterans have concerns and  
issues that can best be understood by other vet-  
erans. It is time we started building that strong  
delegation of veterans within the United States Con-  
gress.

As a candidate for Congress and a member of ADVA I  
would be honored to hear the concerns of the vet-  
erans that are member of the ADVA. Their concerns  
will be an important part of my message to the dis-  
trict as I campaign during the next year.

Sincerely,  
Gregory L. Morgan  
2nd Congressional District  
[REDACTED]  
Leominster, Mass 01453-3121

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request in the  
Americal Newsletter. About one year ago I was  
"found" by an organization called the "Hill 411  
Association." They found me through one of the  
Viet-Vet locator services I had plugged myself into.  
Hill 411 was a F.S.B. in Quang Nghai province es-  
tablished the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11 LIB  
in mid-69.

This Hill 411 association prints a newsletter and  
has a mailing list of 250+ Americal Vietnam vets.  
They just had an annual convention (July) in New  
York and another is planned for July 1990 in Nash-  
ville, TN.

The 411 Association is headed by Terry Weeks, 23 Oak  
Parkway, Burleson, TX 76028. You might contact  
Terry about acquiring his mailing list or published  
a request for help in subsequent 411 newsletters.

I was a OCS Lt. platoon leader with B Company, 3/1  
Infantry, 11 LIB through calendar year '69. Due to  
my disabled vet status (10%) and some help from the  
Vet Center here in OKC, am now a letter carrier for  
the U.S. Postal Service. Good job for an old grunt.  
Hump a 30lb mail satchel 11 miles per day in all  
kinds of weather while always on the alert for  
"booby traps" like dogs and children's toys,  
and...sound familiar.

I found the ADVA through "Vietnam" magazine and sent  
off for information. Don't plan to join up. My  
feelings about the ADVA are the way I feel about the  
VFW, DAV, American Legion, and so forth. When I  
DEROSed in '70, I remember how those people treated  
us and I'm unable to forget or forgive the way they  
turned their back on us.

Maybe Terry can help you with your research.

Tom Petty  
[REDACTED]  
OC, OK 73112-8364

Tom: Hope you reconsider. The ADVA is an  
organization for Vietnam vets. Our next national  
commander will be one as is the current American  
Legion Commander, several DAV national commanders,  
and, I think, VFW national commanders, as well.

## 26th Signal

The following listed person would like to get in  
touch with former members of the 26th Signal.

Leamon Parrish  
[REDACTED]  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

### THANK YOU

To All Members of the ADVA:

I wish to thank all of the members of the ADVA for  
the lovely cards and flowers that were sent to my  
family and me. Also all those members who visited  
the funeral home. We are deeply grateful to all of  
you.

Thank you,  
Mrs. George G. Morash

NOTE: George was a Life Member of ADVA and  
passed away on August 29, 1989. He served  
with the National Guard and saw  
duty on Guadalcanal as a rigger and  
heavy equipment operator. He helped  
build roads and bridges.

## DePALMA CONFRONTS VIETNAM

NEW YORK--"What the hell are we doing there? That's  
always been the question in my mind about Vietnam,"  
says Brian DePalma. It's a question he asked in one  
of his early films, "Greetings" (1968), starring a  
young unknown named Robert De Niro. He asked it



again, far more trenchantly in "Casualties of War," his new film opening in Boston on Friday. Starring Sean Penn and Michael J. Fox, it's based on Daniel Lang's 1969 New Yorker story of four GIs who kidnapped, raped and murdered a Vietnamese woman and a fifth who blew the whistle on them. "I thought it was a particularly telling story that encapsulated the Vietnam experience," he adds.

"Obviously, the woman was a victim. Her family were victims, too. Her mother and sister were later kidnapped by Vietcong and never heard from again. But those GIs were victims, too. We took a group of boys and put them into an alien universe under incredible psychological and physical rigors, and in their anger and frustration they did things that are never done. We are all responsible for subjecting them to this cruel and unusual punishment. In Vietnam, you didn't know who the enemy was. There were no boundaries. There was a sense that the war had no strong moral purpose. It was a twisted, upside-down world in which the normal things you can believe in didn't apply any more. What I find in that situation was a lot of people put through hell."

At 48, the burly, spade-bearded DePalma acknowledges he doesn't bring to Vietnam the same reactions he brought to it in his 20s, when he moved from Columbia University to Sarah Lawrence University to learn film making and induced an asthmatic attack before his draft board exam so he wouldn't be inducted. In retrospect, does he wish he had been there? "No. Being there might have scarred me horribly. You can't always be part of the experience you're filming." He says he basically relies on Vietnam veteran and playwright David Rabe's insights into the material.

"As you get older and absorb more of the material, you have more of a measured judgment. We did all the agonizing back home, but these kids who were over there fighting did all the real suffering."

## HOWARD FAMILY, SERVING AMERICA SINCE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

William Howard of Lynn remembers coming home from World War II when almost every family displayed a blue flag with a star for each son who was in the war. A white star with a red border represented a returning son, and a gold star with a red border meant someone had given their life for their country.

"I remember seeing two flags in front our window and all the stars were white," Howard said.

All six Howard brothers had survived World War II. Veteran's Day, a time to reflect on the sacrifices that many made to keep this country free has a special meaning for the Howards of Lynn, a family which has been fighting for this nation since the American Revolution.

William Howard traces his family genealogy back to America's first fight for freedom up through the Korean Conflict where his brother was killed in action.

During an interview, William Howard told of his family's extensive--and at times, painful--service

to their country.

Howard is one of seven brothers. All served in the military; at one time six were in combat areas in the Pacific and European theatres during World War II.

The name of the second youngest brother, Walter R. Howard, will be engraved in the Korean War Memorial when it is unveiled during Tuesday's ceremonies on the island across from Lynn's city hall.

Walter Howard is buried in the World War II veteran's lot in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Prior to the Korean Conflict Walter and the Howard family had been no stranger to war; six brothers, including Walter and William, served with the armed forces during World War II.

William Howard was assigned to the Detached Enlisted Men's List in the Pacific theatre. Men in such units were not attached to permanent companies--they were kept in reserve until they were ordered to combat divisions that were low in strength.

"Wherever they needed you, they just threw you in and you went, whether you wanted to or not," Howard said.

By 1945, six of seven Howard brothers were overseas. Elmer L. Howard was with the U.S. Army, Company G, 306th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division, and George F. Howard was in a U.S. Navy construction battalion, both stationed in the Pacific.

This kind of fighting spirit had its genesis in family ancestor Ezekiel Howard who enlisted in Capt. Ezra Newhall's Company of Col. Israel Hutchinson's regiment in 1776.

Ezekiel Howard was stationed at Fort Washington and Fort Lee and he crossed into New Jersey with George Washington's army. When the year was up, he re-enlisted for six-months and was honorably discharged when that time expired.

Ezekiel's younger brother, Joshua Howard, also fought in the Revolution. He enlisted at 17 in Capt. Brown's company of Col. Gerrish's Regiment of the Guards in 1778.

## WORLD WAR II STATISTICS

Department of Defense figures reveal that 16,353,659 men and women served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II. The figure includes 11,260,000 in the Army and Army Air Corps, 4,183,466 in the Navy, 669,100 in the Marines, and 241,093 in the Coast Guard. The Pentagon report indicates 234,874 soldiers killed in action, while 83,400 died of "other causes" for a total of 318,274. There were 39,950 sailors killed in battle and 25,664 who died of other causes for a total of 62,614. The Marines counted 19,733 battle deaths and 4,778 due to other causes for a total of 24,511. And 574 members of the Coast Guard were killed in action and 1,343 died of other causes for a total of 1,917. Battle deaths thus totaled 292,131, other 115,185, for a total casualty figure of 407,316.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

### SPECIAL EDITOR'S NOTE

"A Brief History of the American Division" as published in the September/October 1989 Newsletter was taken directly from an eight-page publication prepared and distributed by the Americal Division Information Office, Chu Lai, Vietnam. We regret any error or omissions, but the document as distributed over 20 years ago was copied faithfully into the Newsletter.

## SPECIAL REQUEST DIRECTED TO ALL ADVA MEMBERS

### FROM THE EDITOR:

Fellow members, I am now at about page 12 of the Newsletter. I have six more to go but I regret to report to you that insufficient materials have been submitted this month to fill the remaining pages. The Newsletter will not publish blank pages nor will we reduce the number of pages, but we must have your help.

This is your newsletter. Please help us keep it full and healthy. Write letters to the editor; send us clippings, articles, photos, and so forth. The Americal was one of the largest divisions in World War II and in Vietnam, yet we have only a handful of letters to publish in this issue. Help us out, please. There is only so much you Editor, Managing Editor, and Vietnam Editor can do. We don't want this to become our newsletter, WE WANT IT TO BE YOUR NEWSLETTER.

Please, if you see an interesting newspaper or magazine article, clip it and send it to us. If you hear an interesting story, write it down for us. We may, even, be able to help you locate that friend you haven't heard from in 20 or 30 or 40 or, even, 50 years. But you have to write us if we are to do so.

**PLEASE, THEN, SEND US ANYTHING YOU THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER ADVA MEMBERS. IT IS FAR BETTER TO HAVE MATERIAL SUFFICIENT TO FILL 40 PAGES A MONTH THAN TO HAVE ENOUGH TO FILL ONLY 12 OR 13.**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

### CONTINUED FROM SEPT/OCT NEWSLETTER

On the same day that Operation Norfolk Victory began, another operation was begun by the 198th Infantry Brigade north of Chu Lai. Operation Burlington Trail had the goal of opening a road from Tam Ky to Tien Phuc, a Special Forces outpost and district headquarters in Quang Tri Province. The mission of constructing the road was given to elements of the 39th Engineer Battalion who were provided security by units from the 198th.

Under the operational control of the Third Amphibious Force in Da Nang, the Americal Division has been summoned to distant areas outside the Divi-

sion's AO on several occasions.

During April, the 196th Infantry Brigade was sent to the northern portion of Quang Tri Province and participated in fighting near the DMZ.

Shortly after the Brigade was released from the 3rd Marine Division, one battalion (2/1) was deployed to the aid of the besieged Special Forces camp at Kham Duc. One company from the 198th Infantry Brigade (A Co., 1/46) also was sent to Kham Duc where a successful extraction was later performed with the assistance of Army, Marine, and Air Force aviators.

On May 24, 1968, General Koster was appointed by President Johnson as the new Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. He left his command of the Americal Division after eight months' service.

On June 23, 1968, Major General Charles M. Gettys assumed command of the Americal Division following interim commander Brigadier George H. Young, Jr.

After a midsummer "lull," activity picked up when the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry teamed up with elements of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 11th Bde., and 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Bde. to engage regulars of the 2nd NVA Div. seven kilometers west of Tam Ky, August 24-27. 548 NVA soldiers were killed while 29 individual and 18 crew-served weapons were captured.

Action again flared in the second week of September when a combined effort of the 2nd ARVN Div. and the 11th Bde. spoiled enemy plans to attack Quang Ngai City. The operation accounted for 422 enemy killed and 93 small arms captured.

Also in September, Operation Champaign Grove successfully relieved pressure on Ha Thanh CIDG Camp as 11th Bde. 1st. Sqdn. 1st Cav. and 2nd ARVN soldiers killed 323 NVA. Late in the month in the Operation Burlington Trail area, units of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.; F Trp., 8th Cav.; and the 11th Bde's 4th Bn. 21st Inf joined forces to kill 92 NVA on Sept. 24 and 300 more on Sept. 25-26.

Operation Golden Fleece in which the 196th Bde. helped Vietnamese harvest more than one million pounds of rice in the Que Son Valley, also during September, ended two months later.

In November, the two longest running American operations, Wheeler/Wallowa and Burlington Trail, ended. The former, which was primarily conducted by the 196th Bde., accounted for 10,020 enemy dead and 2,053 captured weapons in its one year existence. Burlington Trail, in which the 198th Bde. with help from the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.; 26th and 39 Engr. Bns succeeded in opening the road from Tam Ky to Tien Phouc, recorded 1,948 enemy dead and 545 weapons captured.

Both operations ended on Nov. 11.

Also in November, Operation Vernon Lake II began in the mountainous region southwest of Quang Ngai City. During its four month existence, 11th Bde. "Jungle Warriors" uncovered 81 NVA base camps and three surgical hospitals. The 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. and 4th Bn., 21st Inf. soldiers also killed 455 enemy soldiers. The operation terminated on Feb. 28, 1969.

On Dec. 2, a major pacification effort was begun by



the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.; 1st Bn. 46th Inf. 198th; and the 26th Engr. Bn. in Thang Binh District. Operation Hardin Falls had as its main purpose providing assistance to GVN forces so they could pacify six hamlets in the district. It also ended on Feb. 28, 1969.

In mid-December, Operation Fayette Canyon was started in the mountains 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Conducted by the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., and 4th Bn., 31st Inf., of the 196th Bde., and the 198th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 327 enemy were killed, large bunker and hospital complexes were destroyed, and 65 weapons were captured by the time the operation ended on Feb. 28.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This ends this short history of the Americal division as provided by the Americal Division Information Office. If any of you have such an "official" short history for the remaining years of the Vietnam war, we would like to publish it.

## BURNING THE FLAG

Until last month, when Congress restored its cachet by making it a criminal offense, flag burning had virtually gone out of style as a means of radical protest. Now desecrating the Stars and Stripes has become a bit of a fad. Last week four demonstrators staged a torching on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Among the participants: Gregory Lee Johnson, whose conviction for setting fire to a flag at the 1984 Republican Convention led to a Supreme Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of the practice. Said Johnson: "We're back."

The burning was designed to produce a quick challenge to the Flag Protection Act of 1989, passed by Congress last month amid an orgy of jingoistic rhetoric. If the Supreme Court strikes down the law on constitutional grounds, as seems likely, Congress might be stampeded into approving an anti-flag burning amendment urged by President Bush. It might be wiser to turn down the heat. (TIME magazine)

## NOVEMBER 11, 1989

WASHINGTON--Virginia Senator John Warner led thousands of people at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Saturday in a solemn tribute to the 58,175 Americans whose names are inscribed on its black granite and a spontaneous celebration of another wall crumbling in Berlin.

"This memorial is one of incalculable majesty and mystique," said Sen. Warner in a Veterans Day ceremony marking the recent addition of 19 names to the dark mirror of America's Vietnam toll. A soldier from Fayetteville, NC, was included on that roster of names.

Said Sen. Warner: "It conveys the message that victory is ours--not the traditional military victory, but a nation approaching victory with itself--a nation healing."

The gathering of more than 6,500 people, including families of those whose names were newly inscribed, greeted with a booming cheer Sen. Warner's observation that: "There is another wall. And that wall, as we speak, is crumbling down. It falls because its foundation of communist suppression is being exposed to truth and to democracy."

But Sen. Warner cautioned that despite the dramatic openings between East and West, "We cannot let our euphoria erode our will to provide America with the defense that we need."

"We must remind ourselves that (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev has not become a pacifist," he said. "The Soviet Union still maintains the largest army in the world, and its navy continues to grow...It remains a potent military threat to the security of the United States."

The ceremony, beneath sparkling sunshine, was moderated by Jan C. Scruggs, the Vietnam war veteran who led the long and difficult fight to build the memorial, since visited by millions of Americans who daily leave wreaths, love letters, ribbons and medals, countless flags and other remembrances on the sidewalk beneath the names.

"In one way or another, we are all related to the names on that wall," said Vietnam veteran Ronald F. Gibbs.

Maria Eldredge, of Mills, Wyo., read aloud the names of the 19 men whose deaths were overlooked in years past or who have since died of wounds or disease incurred in Vietnam. Among them was her brother, Army Spec. 4 Jose Leopoldo Lujan, of Natrons, Wyo., who recently died at a Veterans Administration hospital.

After a bugler from the Army's 82nd Airborne played taps, hundreds of people surged to the wall to find, touch, and trace the names most special to them. It was a common scene at the wall; there, every day is Veterans Day. (Fayetteville, NC, OBSERVER/TIMES)

## ISA LEI

Some six hundred miles east of Efate in the New Hebrides lie the western limits of the Fiji Islands, long considered a paradise of the Pacific. More than two hundred islands of all sizes and descriptions comprise this 7,000-square-mile British Crown colony which lies scattered a distance of three hundred miles across the 180th meridian from Viti Levu, the group's largest and most important island. Half of the population of 200,000 are husky, dark-skinned, fuzzy-haired natives, while nearly 100,000 are Indians, descendants of the indentured laborers brought from India many years before to work in the canefields. The colony is governed from the city of Suva, in south-eastern Viti Levu, noted as a port of call for peacetime travelers.

At the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, New Zealand Army forces were assigned the task of protecting the Fiji Islands from invasion by the Japanese, thereby safeguarding a vital link in the communications chain between the United States and Australia. On June 10, 1942, the 37th Infantry Division arrived from the United States to assume control of the defenses of the Fiji group.

Thoroughly trained in the United States prior to departure for overseas duty, the 37th still lacked an indoctrination in the intricacies of jungle warfare. During their ten-month stay on Viti Levu the Ohio National Guardsmen became proficient in this "new" style of fighting. In time, the 37th Division

was to play an important part in future offensives against the Japanese.

On March 6, 1943, the first echelon of the Americal Division sailed into Suva Harbor after a quite trip from Guadalcanal, scene of its first successes against the enemy. Without delay, the 164th Infantry and the 245th Field Artillery debarked and began relieving troops of the 37th Division in the Suva area. On the same day, the 246th Field Artillery unloaded at Lautoka, key port in western Viti Levu, and made initial arrangements for the relief of 37th Division units in this general area.

After splitting at sea, the second echelon of the Americal steamed into Suva and Laukota on March 29 to continue taking over tactical missions from the Ohio men. At the Fiji capital the 182d Infantry and the Mobile Combat Reconnaissance Squadron came ashore while forward echelons of other Division units landed at Lautoka. By April 10 all units of the Americal had reached the Fijis as the 37th carried on with a movement to Guadalcanal which had been undertaken on April 2.

As the Americal Division slipped out of sight of Guadalcanal it brought with it citations from Major General Alexander M. Patch, commanding general of XIV Corps. In commending the officers and enlisted men of the Division for their actions between October 13, 1942, to January 4, 1943, he said in part: "The success of these operations was achieved due to the aggressive leadership, thorough training, courage, and high morale displayed by the officers and men of the Division."

In an additional commendation for its part in the final drive against the Japanese, General Patch wrote: "I am proud for the second time in the Guadalcanal campaign to cite the Americal Division for its outstanding performance of duty in action, again attributable to its determination, fighting spirit, and splendid morale."

Upon arrival on Viti Levu, Brig. Gen. Edmund B. Sebree, Commanding General of the Americal, established his command post at Vunayasi, near Nandi, some fifteen miles south of Lautoka. The Americal Division Artillery commander, Brig. Gen. William R. Woodward, also set up his headquarters in the same vicinity. At this time, too, the Americal Division came under the control of the II Island Command, headed by Maj. Gen. Charles F. Thompson, whose headquarters were located in Suva.

Completing the relief of troops of the 37th Division shortly after arrival, the 164th Infantry, supported by the 245th Field Artillery, was charged with the protection of the Fiji capital and the strategic ground surrounding it. Elsewhere on the island, the 182d Infantry was assigned control of a sector from Momi Bay south and east to Sovi Harbor, with the 246th Field Artillery in direct support. The 132d Infantry, assigned the protection of the western sector, guarded the coastline from Yako, southeast of Nandi, to Korovunitoto, near Nathilau Point, eight miles northeast of Lautoka. From a base camp near Lawaki, a short distance southwest of Lautoka, the 247th Field Artillery offered support for the 132d.

This deployment of the main combat elements of the Division was the forerunner of an almost hard-and-fast regimental combat team organization within the Americal, one which was to become characteristic of

future training and combat action.

Placed in general support of tactical missions was the 221st Field Artillery, the Division's medium battalion. From bivouacs in the Nandi area the battalion prepared to move at a moment's notice, either as single batteries or as a complete battalion, to any threatened part of the island.

Early in April plans were completed in Washington for the reorganization of the Americal Division by means of a series of redesignations, disbandments, and activations. Orders to this effect were forwarded to the headquarters of the United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area in a secret letter from the Adjutant General's Office and, in turn, these orders were passed on to the Division. Subsequently, in general orders published by Division headquarters on April 30, it was ordered that the desired changes be made, effective May 1, 1943.

As a result, the 21st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was activated to replace the now concurrently disbanded Mobile Combat Reconnaissance Squadron. Excess personnel and equipment were transferred from the unusual, colorful squadron as Capt. Peter J. Petite took command of the new unit. At the time of its activation the new 21st Reconnaissance Troop was in bivouac near Momi after its predecessor had moved there from Singatoka, changing from its first Viti Levu bivouac.

The Division ordnance situation had long been confused by the presence of a trio of units, none of which met the requirements for a triangular infantry division ordnance company. On Guadalcanal, in an attempt to iron out some of the attendant difficulties, the 22d Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company, the 51st Ordnance Ammunition Company and the 3465th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company (Q) were formed into a provisional ordnance company as a tentative Divisional ordnance company as a tentative Division unit. In accordance with the new reorganization orders, the provisional ordnance company was activated as the Americal's organic ordnance unit. Capt. James R. Bright became the company's first commander.

Under these same orders the Military Police Platoon of the Americal Division was activated to take the place of a provisional platoon previously formed with Maj. John D. Townsend in command. The provisional platoon had been set up on Guadalcanal in preparation for its activation as the 39th Military Police Company faded from the picture as an Americal Division unit. On arrival at Fiji the headquarters of the 39th was transferred to II Island Command headquarters. On March 23 advance information had been received from USAFISPA headquarters that the reorganization of the Division would soon be brought about. The USAFISPA letter orders directed the personnel and equipment of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 51st Infantry Brigade, be transferred to the 831st Signal Service Company on March 25 in preparation for a subsequent redesignation of the brigade headquarter.

On May 1, in accordance with the reorganization orders, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and Finance Detachment of Task Force 6814 were ordered disbanded concurrent with the redesignation of 51st Brigade Headquarters as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Americal Division. Personnel and equipment were transferred from the disbanded detachments to the new Division headquarters as the



redesignation resulted in the perpetuation of the past history of the old brigade headquarters.

At this time, too, the Americal picked up the new 125th Quartermaster Company, activated as a substitute for a provisional company formed on Guadalcanal from personnel and equipment of the old 101st Quartermaster Regiment. Capt. Cortland B. Bacall became the first commander of this new company, taking the reigns of the unit bivouac at Namaka.

Under the command of Major James F. Collins, a provisional medical battalion made up of troops of the bulky 101st Medical Regiment had been formed on Guadalcanal. Excess personnel had been transferred to form a cadre for the 52d Field Hospital. As the reorganization of the Americal went forward now on Viti Levu, the provisional battalion was activated as the 121st Medical Battalion. The new unit, with headquarters in Sambeto Valley, spread its companies out over the island. Company A, working with the 164th Infantry, organized a bivouac at Samambula, outside Suva; Companies B and D established themselves in Singatoka; Company C set up aid stations and dispensaries in Mba and Lautoka.

By virtue of this one general order the Americal Division now became a standard triangular infantry division, although, for some reason the name, Americal Infantry Division, was never applied to it until late in the war. Each of the Division units was to retain its present designation throughout the remainder of its wartime existence, despite the fact that minor changes in tables of organizations were to affect them.

As of May 1, therefore, the Americal Division was composed of the following units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
Military Police Platoon  
21st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop  
26th Signal Company  
57th Engineer Combat Battalion  
121st Medical Battalion  
125 Quartermaster Company  
132d Infantry Regiment (less Cannon Co.)  
164th Infantry Regiment (less Cannon Co.)  
182d Infantry Regiment (less Cannon Co.)  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery  
221st Field Artillery Battalion (155)  
245th Field Artillery Battalion (105)  
246th Field Artillery Battalion (105)  
247th Field Artillery Battalion (105)  
721st Ordnance Light Maintenance Co.  
Band, Americal Division

The year ahead, 1944, was to offer combat and more combat for the Americal under some of the most difficult conditions yet encountered in the Pacific. The rugged days of Guadalcanal were gone. The United States drives in the Pacific were gaining momentum on an ever-widening scale. The Americal Division was now stepping back into the fight.  
(UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS, 1978)

## OUTNUMBERED, 196TH INF PLATOON STOPS VC ATTACH

CHU LAI, JUNE 24, 1967--Twenty-seven men beat back odds of more than seven to one when 200 Viet Cong tried to overrun a platoon from the 196th Light

Infantry Brigade recently.

Involved were the 2nd Platoon, Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the 48th Viet Cong Battalion, and the 95th Local Company. The battle lasted for almost an hour before gunships ran the attackers off.

The platoon had been in Van Toung village for a week providing security for Medical Civic Action Programs and civic action projects the battalion was conducting.

"Some of the men seemed a little more restless than usual and couldn't sleep," said 1st Lt. James L. Williams, the platoon leader. One of these men was PFC Frank Jones. He told Williams that he kept hearing noises to his front.

"I told him to check it with a night detection scope. When he didn't come back I figured he hadn't seen anything," Williams said. In the meantime, Jones had checked, but was not convinced and had leaned against his bunker to continue his watch.

"I kept hearing noises myself with I thought might be like signals you read the Indians used to use," Williams said. "But the PF (Vietnamese Popular Forces) soldier next to me assured me it was nothing, so I didn't think any more of it."

Williams dozed off and was awakened by incoming grenades at 3:45 a.m.

"The first explosions sounded like mortars to my left read," Jones said. "So I rolled quickly into my bunker. All I could see were flashes and quick movements. I kept firing to the left and my buddy kept the right side covered."

Private First Class James Haskell jumped into a bunker. When he looked out the firing slots he saw three VC rushing him. "Two of them were reaching for grenades and the other was firing his M-1 rifle. There wasn't time to think, so I put my M-16 on automatic and thrust it through the first slot on my left and killed the VC coming from that direction."

The VC were also attacking with two 75mm recoilless rifles, one .50 caliber machine gun, one .30 caliber machine gun, and automatic weapons.

"As I looked around, I could see Viet Cong everywhere," Williams said. "They were wearing gray shirts, black shorts with black belts, and silver buckles with a star scratched into them. All of them had about six or seven grenades strapped to them."

When the attack first began, Williams ran toward a trench line. His men kept calling because one thought he was hit. Williams was reluctant to answer because he did not want to give away his position.

When he finally did answer, a grenade bounded off his back and exploded three feet away. It contained "glass and junk" and scratched Williams arm.

"By this time the VC had knocked out five of my nine positions. The last plan of defense was to pull back to the pagoda in the center of the perimeter."

A grenade landed in Jones' bunker when he was out-

side it and destroyed his ammunition. When Williams gave the command to pull back, Jones could not move because bullets and hand grenades riddled the ground around him.

Then, just as Williams gave the order to pull back, a barrage of grenades hit the pagoda, forcing the men to stay put.

"Things were looking pretty grim when we looked up and there they were--the gunships. They were beautiful to see."

Williams praised his men for doing what they had to do. "They did an outstanding job. I could see the VC leader motioning his men to overrun us, but they couldn't do it. That shows you what kind of job my men were doing."

(THE ARMY REPORTER, Tan Son Nhut, RVN, 1967)

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

19 HAPPY NEW YEAR 70

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 1970 on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Vietnam. I sincerely extend to all our Allied comrades-in-arms my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The people of the R.V.N. are deeply moved by our supreme sacrifice for you have had to leave your loved ones and Fatherland to help the R.V.N. in its fight against Communist aggression and to preserve its freedom and independence. I believe that the joint efforts of the Allies and the R.V.N. will soon bring peace to Vietnam.

Signed

Nguyen Van Thieu

## CARBRAYS PICK CHARLOTTE

Most people come to Charlotte County (FL) because it's too cold up north. Bob Carbray and his wife relocated because "It was too hot in Arizona."

That was just a little while ago and he says, "I love it here."

The retired colonel spent 33 years in the Army. He began his long army career as a 19-year-old private fighting the Japanese in Guadalcanal.

After WWII, Carbray was discharged from the regular army and immediately joined the Army Reserves. He also joined the Chicago Police Department.

"Our job was to go out and get (criminals). We didn't wait for a call, we were out on the streets all the time," Carbray said.

During his 25 years with the department, he became a homicide detective. He proudly shows us his "golden star."

In 1950 he was commissioned a second lieutenant. Then came Korea. The Inchon landing and the Yalu River.

In 1965 Carbray was graduated as top student from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth.

He received a bachelor of Laws degree from LaSalle Extension University. The Chicago Police Star ways as his feat, "Carbray earned the degree in eight months instead of the usual three years because he studied at least ten hours a night." "How about this for a story?", he asks. When the ship he was on in 1944, the S.S. Thompson, sunk off Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, his wallet went with the waves. "Would you believe that wallet showed up years later," he says.

The Colonel grins and said, "I was lucky!"

Retired from two honorable professions, the U.S. Army and the Chicago Police force, Colonel Carbray can stand up and be counted, "among the finest of America's best."

## TASK FORCE OREGON WRECKS NVA PLANS

DUC PHO -- Eighty-one North Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed by airstrikes, naval gunfire, and units of Task Force Oregon in lower Quang Ngai Province last week.

The battle was one of the largest for Task Force Oregon. The crack NVA unit was tenaciously holding ground between two hills and fighting from prepared bunkers, tunnels, caves, and complexes of trenches.

Artillery, gunships, and air strikes were immediately called in to pound the entrenched enemy. In 103-degree heat two infantry companies assaulted and overran enemy positions by mid-morning of the engagement.

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
Bob Carbray  
Editor*



# THE DEATH OF A SHIP SANTA ELENA

A communique is a report, especially of military news, communicated to the media. That statement leads to the inevitable -- red tape versus reality -- the official and the unofficial side of things, and that leads to the old bromide: "There are two sides to every story."

This was true of an Allied convoy in the Second World War and, in particular, of the former Matson Line vessel, the Monterey, and the Grace Line vessel, Santa Elena. On Saturday, February 12, 1944, the Canadian Army newspaper, The Maple Leaf, published in Italy, for the Canadian Armed Forces, carried the following story.

"Washington, Feb 11 -- Members of the crew of the former passenger liner, the Monterey, were credited yesterday by the War Shipping Administration with saving the lives of 1875 passengers of a troop ship some time ago."

The announcement stated only four of the 1997 persons aboard the troopship were lost.

Here it is pointed out that the official Canadian record stated that there were no losses; the rest, including nurses, soldiers, crewman and a navy guard, were rescued by other craft. No date was mentioned.

The announcement continues:

"The Monterey was part of a convoy attacked by torpedo-carrying planes, one of which successfully torpedoed a troopship. The Monterey, ordered to drop out of the convoy for rescue work, took survivors aboard over nets, ropes and ladders. Wounded were brought up from lifeboats by tackle."

The commander of the destroyers escorting the convoy congratulated the master of the Monterey, Captain E.R. Johnson of San Francisco, and his crew for their courage and efficiency.

End of the announcement

As was the case with a number of wartime stories, much was left out:

The Monterey and the Santa Elena left Liverpool on October 23, 1943 bound for Naples Italy. On board the Monterey was the Irish Regiment of Canada from Toronto and two units from Nova Scotia -- the Princess Louise Fusiliers of Halifax, and the Cape Breton Highlanders, drawn mostly from Cape Breton Island, along with men from other parts of Nova Scotia.

The Santa Elena carried reinforcements for the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade. This brigade was made of the Perth and Irish Regiments and part of the Cape Breton Highlanders whose units were scattered throughout the convoy. Also aboard the Santa Elena was the 24 General Hospital.

On Saturday November 6, 1943 passed by Gibraltar, heading into the Mediterranean. Early that evening the convoy was attacked by German torpedo-bombers and the Santa Elena was torpedoed in the stern, causing her to list to starboard.

Continued next column

## Death of a Ship Continues

Many heroic rescues were made and the Santa Elena was taken under tow by American destroyed and towed into the harbor at Phillipville, Algeria.

Many of her survivors were standing on the decks of the Monterey watching the Elena being brought into Port. Just as the destroyers cast off the tow lines and steamed clear, the Santa Elena put her bow in the air and went down in eleven minutes. It was a sad sight to as the former proud cruise ship went to her end.

Ed Note:

This story was appeared in the September 9, 1989 issue of the 'Novascotian' published in Halifax, Nova Scotia and written by Russ Lownds. Many thanks to Ed Smith for sending it into the Americal Newsletter.

I had heard many stories as to what happened to the Santa Elena but this is the first factual account I have seen.

Jim

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Dear Jim: 754 TANK BATTALION

As a long time member of the ADVA and a charter member of Task Force 6814 from January 1942, I am always angry when a story tells the composition of the Americal and omits to mention the 754 Tank Battalion. (See Page 15 Sept-Oct Americal Newsletter)

On pages 17, 136, 137, 138, 160 and other places in "Under the Southern Cross" the 754 Tank Battalion is mentioned and many of the men of the Infantry regiments mentioned were damn glad to crawl behind the cover of our tanks.

The 754 Tank Battalion went all the way from the Canal to Bougainville to the Philippines. As a matter of fact one of our tanks was the first to land on Leyte!

It seems from the Newsletters that the boys from Massachusetts think their outfits were the only ones in the Solomon Campaign.

I hope that as "old-dog" soldier like myself you correct the history of the Americal Division on Page 15.

Also, I believe that Patch was a Major General when he formed the Americal. It was he who promoted me from a high ranking Staff Sergeant to a lowly Second Lieutenant. Can you remember when a S/Sgt. was a high ranking soldier?

I think you owe the correction to the dead of the 754 Tank Battalion.

Yours from 6814 and APO 502,

Alfred Guttag

Al: My humblest apologies for not seeing that the 754 Tank Battalion was listed as being as a unit in Task Force 6814. It was indeed and oversight.

Continued next page

## 754 Tank Battalion (Continued)

The brief history of the Americal, that was printed on Page 15 of the Sep-Oct Americal Newsletter, was printed during the Vietnam War. It was put out by the Division Public Information Officer in March of 1970 in Vietnam. I was negligent in not catching these errors before The Newsletter went to press.

The reason that there may be more stories about the Infantry in the Americal Newsletters is that they are the ones that write into the Newsletter. As a matter of fact your letter is the first that I have received from a member of your unit.

If you will put together some facts and figures and send them along we will be glad to run a story on the 754th. We depend on the members of the Americal for materiel so that we can put together a Newsletter that will be of interest to all our readers.

You are correct in saying that Patch was a Major General when he took over the Americal. The article on Page 15 states that Gen. Patch was in command of Task Force 6814 -- that is not true. General Patch turned over command of 6815 to Brig. Gen. Rose, former commander of the 51st Brigade. General Patch remained in Washington and later flew to New Caledonia, arriving five days before the Task force.

I certainly do remember when a S/Sgt. was of high rank in the Army. Our Company had only one S/Sgt. for about the first two years of active duty. He was the Mess Sergeant.

Good to hear from you and please write again.

Jim Buckle

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## "MOVING WALL" BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

The "Moving Wall" is a half-size replica of the memorial in the nation's capitol. The "Wall" is made of aluminum panels and has the 58,000 plus, names of the men that died in Vietnam.

This memorial to the Vietnam dead was at the Beverly High School from August 4 thru August 10 and then it moved to the Beverly Municipal Airport where it was on display the 12th and 13, during the Beverly Vietnam Veterans Air and Auto Show. Like many war buddies, friends and family of the dead soldiers, Ann and Margaret Magee brought their prayers and a bouquet of carnations to the "Wall" Sunday. Ann and her mother placed the flowers and white vase against the shiny black panel, whose rows and rows of names include her brother John. He was killed in Vietnam in February 1968, four days after his 21st birthday. John Magee was a soldier in the 51 Infantry, 198 Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division.

In front of the panel that held John Magee's name, was a large blue and white floral piece, a replica of the shoulder patch of the Americal Division.

Visitors leave mementos for the war dead because they want a name to stand out or because it's part of a healing process for them.

## The Moving Wall (Continues)

The was a poem left there by R.A. Ritter of Georgetown to Paul F. Doyson of Ipswich, who was killed in 1967:

I survived another winter,  
and spring is in the air.  
I think back 20 years ago, when  
a friend of mine was alive.  
We were both in Viet Nam then,  
he to fight, I to survive.  
Now 20 years have come and  
gone, plus 20 more for me.  
And 20 springs have and come and  
gone, but not for Paul to see.  
I'd like to dedicate this spring,  
to Paul Doyon's memory.

There was another letter, wrapped in plastic and placed against the shiny wall. It read:

Bill:

I'm sorry it's taken me 20 years to write. Every time I try I cry. We were both so young when we left for Vietnam (boy do I hate that word). But I remember the good times we had together. Like when we were so tired that we would fall asleep and use each other for a pillow.

Here I go again crying. I'm sorry that we got separated that day. You know I would have been there for you.

I'll always remember your smile. You were such a good person. I have to stop now because it hurts so much.

Cpl. Chimny

While the U.S. Park Service removes the items from the Washington DC memorial everyday, the remembrances left at the "Moving Wall" are allowed to accumulate.

They will be recorded at the end of each showing and then stored in San Jose, CA. This is the home base of the California Combat Vietnam Veterans Ltd., the sponsors of the "Moving Wall". Eventually they will be transferred to the Museum Archaeological Regional Storage facility in Glenn Dale, MD, where the mementos from the Washington memorial are also placed.

Editor's Note

National Commander Bernard Carroll, PNC Bob Thornton, PNC Jim Buckle, Roly Castranova and other members attended the ceremony on Friday night. Roly Castranova made the necessary calls to get a delegation together and he also made the arrangements for the floral tribute.







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#### 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

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Date:		Signature:		
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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)