

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

MAY - JUNE 1990

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

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



Memorial Day, May 28, 1990

1989 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1990

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Boston, MA 02130

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St. Louis, MO 63123

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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Fayetteville, NC 28306

VIETNAM EDITOR

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St. Louis, MO 63123

#Vietnam Veteran

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

June 8, 1990

National Reunion, Oak Brook, IL
9:00 a.m. Business Meeting
10:30 a.m. Executive Council

August 4, 1990

Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA
10:00 a.m. Americal Picnic

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED
YOUR NEWSLETTER GIVE IT TO A
V.A. HOSPITAL

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Being National Commander has been an interesting experience, but it seems just as soon as you feel comfortable your year in office is over.

I will be happy to assist the new Commander, if desired, in any possible way and I wish him the best.

Special thanks to all who have assisted me this year.

Sincerely
Bernard J. Carroll
National Commander

AMERICAL PICNIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1990

FT. DEVENS, AMERICAL MUSEUM, 10:00 A.M.

RAIN OR SHINE!

Last year a great many members were on hand for the Picnic, and a great time was had by all. So it was decided to hold another picnic this year. We supply the coffee and doughnuts in the morning. Bring your own lunch and chairs and tables. Plan to stay from 10:00 a.m. to around 5:00 p.m.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Richard L. Brady
198th BDE
Reading, MAJessica T. Chase
Associate Member
Sutton, MAAlbert J. Conrad
HQ Americal 125 QM
Beavercreek, OHJohn W. Edwards
CO D 1/52 INF 198th BDE
Baltimore, MDGrant Finkbeiner
198th BDE
Maspeth, NYDuane F. Getzmeyer
CO B 2/1 INF 196th BDE
Oxford, MIBernard A. Grady
CO A 101 QM
West Dennis, MAPeter W. Kierbiedz
CO B 283 BN CA FA
Chester, PAPhilip E. Lavoie
CO E 2/1 INF 196th BDE
Falmouth, MAStan Marwil
HQ 247 FA BN
Bartlesville, OKAlfred Sommers
CO C 182 INF
Fulton, MDRonald Walquist
F Troop 196th BDE
Portland, OR

NEW MEMBERS

Paul A. Amati
328th Red. Res Co (ASN)
Stoughton, MA
#Bernie CarrollCol. Ben L. Anderson Jr.
Co A & E 46th INF
Ft. Buchanan, PR
#Fred KolbrenerLarry Guy Barnes
CO E 4/3 INF 11th BDE
Lyman, Maine
#Bernie CarrollJames Henry Bacolo
BTY A 3rd BN 16th ATY
Staten Island, NY
#Michael FoxWilbert W. Benkart
CO K 182nd INF
Zelienople, PA
#Warren RadakerGerald T. Borysiak
CO B 2/1 INF 196th BDE
Hudsonville, MI
#James CrumDennis Botelho
CO C 182nd INF
Fall River, MA
#Bernie CarrollFred L. Brown
1/6 INF 198th BDE
Oak Lawn, IL
#James CrumJessica T. Chase
Associate
Sutton, MA
#Bernie ChaseAlber J. Conrad
HQ Americal 125th QM
Beavercreek, OH
#Bernie ChaseRalph Custer
HQ 3rd BN/Anti Tank 132 Inf
Revere, PA
#Bernie ChaseLarry Dakken
1st Cav
Mayville, ND
#SelfDanny Dingus
2nd BN 1st INF
Columbus City, IN
#James CrumJohn W. Edwards
CO D 1/52 INF 198th BDE
Baltimore, MD
#Bernie CarrollWilliam T. Elliott
HQ BTY 246th FA BN
Hope, MI
#Jim BuckleRoy Fetter
CO C 182nd INF
Covington, OH
#Bernie ChaseCharles Finkbeiner
HHC 4/31 INF 196th BDE
Chambersburg, PA
#Chap. Barton Berry Jr.John E. Geib
CO D 20th INF 11th BDE
Amherst Junction, WI
#Roland T. CastranovaDuane F. Getzmeyer
CO B 2/1 INF 196th BDE
Oxford, MI
#James CrumRobert A. Grens
CO E 132nd INF
Hayward, WI
#Robert ThorntonOrrin A. Grimson
CO L 182nd INF
Vancouver, WA
#Bernie ChaseJerry A. Hayes
CO D 1/20 INF
Spokane, WA
#Lloyd H. MartinJan Allen Heath
CO A 1/52 INF 198th BDE
Norco, CA
#Robert RodriguesCharles F. Holdaway
CO B 1/2 INF 196th BDE
Indianapolis, IN
#James CrumIgnatius J. Imburgia
CO D 121 Medical
Bloomingdale, IL
#John J. HughesGary A. Knudsen
Signal BN
Villa Park, IL
#Ray FawkesDoss Kornegay
CO B 2/1 INF 196th BDE
San Benito, TX
#SelfNoe Mata
CO A 1/52nd 198th BDE
Houston, TX
#Ron WardStan Marwil
HQ BTY 247th FA
Bartlesville, OK
#LTC. Peter MessinaJoseph McCourt
CO A/D 1/46th INF 196th BD
Scotch Plains, NJ
#Roland CastranovaJulius Merola
CO D 4/31 INF
Woodhaven, NY
#Grant FinkbeinerPeter G. Molyneaux
CO C 1st INF 11th BDE
White Haven, PA
#Roland CastranovaCSM John E. Muench
HHC Americal 123rd CAB
Ft. Devens, MA
#Roland CastranovaRonald E. Petitt
CO B 2/1 INF 196th BDE
Sapulpa, OK
#SelfRosolino Pizzillo
CO C 1/20 11th BDE
North Arlington, NJ
#Bernie ChaseAfonso A. "Sonny" Ramirez
5/46 & CO B 6th INF 198th
Los Fresnos, TX
#E.D. KornegayA. Paul Riemann
CO B 716 Tank BN
Putman, CT
#Bernie ChaseGabriel Rafael Robidart
CO B 182nd INF
Bishop, CA
#Bernie ChaseGary W. Rapley
CO C 4/3 INF 11th BDE
Yale, MI
#Roland CastranovaDr. W. Donovan Secrest
HHC 5/46 198th BDE
Lilburn, GA
#Bernie ChaseCarlo Spallucci
CO D 182nd INF
Philadelphia, PA
#Bernie ChaseLarry Speeden
23rd MP 198th BDE
Baltimore, MD
#Bernie CarrollArthur J. Stankey
CO B 26 ENG BN, 555 ENG
Belleville, IL
#Bernie ChaseLeo A. Stern
B BTRY 223 FA
Sun City, AZ
#Joe ZuckermanRobert P. Thomason
23rd Admin
Waterford, NJ
#Bernie CarrollDale A. Tones
Troop B 1/1 CAV
Corning, NY
#P. Earle GleasonWilliam G. Ulbricht
125th QM
Louisville, KY
#Paul SantogeanisJames Franklin Varner
BTY A 247th FA
Monterey, VA
#LTC Peter MessinaGeorge Vieto
CO E 182nd INF
Metairie, LA
#Jim BuckleRaymond Wahl
HHC DIV ARTY
Glendale, NY
#Bernie CarrollJames Earl Watson
182nd INF
Kahoka, MO
#Bernie ChaseHerbert R. Wheeler
CO E & Recon 1/52 INF 198th
Hernando, FL
#Frank Schulgan

#Sponsor

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO SIGNED UP A
NEW MEMBER THIS MONTH

SICK CALL

Louis Voyta
125th QM
Westridge Healthcare Center
Marlboro, MA 01752

TAPS

Thomas S. Gullo Sr.
CO G 164th INF
Port St. Lucie, FL
January 21, 1990Richard Zartarian
121 MED BN
Needham, MAGlenn S. Hamrick
245th FA
Belmont, NC
January 17, 1989Gen. Robert E. Moffett
247th FA
FlordiaTHE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MAKES A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION TO THE AMERICAN
HEART FUND AND THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY,
EACH YEAR, IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED COMRADES.*****
HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO THAT OLD BUDDY TODAY?

YOU COULD CALL HIM TONIGHT!

Sgt. Thomas D. Baker (Ret) Daniel J. Kelleher
 196th LIB 182nd INF
 Phoenix, AZ Newbury Port, MA
 January 24, 1990

Thomas J. Pippin
 Pacific Campaign World War II
 Van, Texas
 October 31, 1989

Each year the Americal Division Veterans Association makes considerable contributions to the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society in memory of those ADVA members who passed away during the year.

GEN. MOFFETT DIES

Brigadier General Robert Edward Moffett, age 91, passed away on March 24, 1990. Gen. Moffett, a native of Chicago, retired to Florida in 1963. He is survived by his wife Lillian Lea and three children from a previous marriage: Marjorie Bromstedt, Robert Moffett Jr., and Marilyn George. He was also survived by nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Burial was on March 28, 1990, in Arlington National Cemetery. Moffett, then a major, was the first CO of the 247th FA BN on New Caledonia. He was later CO of the 97th FA.

ATTENTION

To all members of the ADVA who are authorized to use American Division Veterans Association Official Stationery. Please use this stationery only when you are involved in official business of the Association, Chapters, Committees, and so forth. This stationery should not be used for personal business.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADVA
 ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS
 YOU CAN MAKE!

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*

*Payments of \$25 at 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

SEND ALL ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO :
 JIM BUCKLE

WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

HAVE YOU MOVED? NEW ADDRESS?

CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS
 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

[REDACTED]
 Boston, MA 02104

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE. MAIL TODAY!

CHAPTER NEWS

MID-WEST CHAPTER Fort Worth, Texas

Members of Americal Division South Mid-West Chapter:

Thank you for responding in forming a chapter in this region. We have over 40 members at last count. I'm sorry to say I have not been able to stay on top of organizing this chapter as I had planned in the beginning. As some of you know, I am in the law enforcement business and business is real good now. That and real estate management have me with too many irons in the fire. I move in and out of the state and even out of the country a few times.

I would like for someone who could spend some time with this chapter to take over and keep this chapter moving. There are several members in the Dallas area, the San Antonio area, and the Houston area that are relatively close together.

Again, I'm sorry I can't continue this as I had wanted to so let me hear from anyone of you who might be able to march on with it.

Sincerely,
 Charles T. Manchester, Jr.

Fort Worth, TX 76116

Dear Bernie:

Unfortunately, I had to send this letter to all members of the South Mid-west Chapter. Last month William K. Maddox, 1007 Espana, Portland, TX 78374, agreed to become the new Regional commander and all correspondence should be sent to him. Maybe I can retire again in a few years and take part again. It was enjoyable getting it together.

Sincerely,
 Charles T. Manchester

NOTE

Oscar Patterson, our Editor, is taking a leave-of-absence and the Newsletter will be written by Jim Buckle until his return.

REUNIONS

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS

National Reunion, October 4, 5, & 6, 1990, Fayetteville, NC.

Contact:
 Don Peltier
 [REDACTED]

Portage
 Michigan 49002
 [REDACTED]



Sure hope to see the Americal in Fayetteville in force in October. Let's have a big turn out of Army members.

Sincerely
 E.L. Keller
 National President

THE NATIONAL ORDER OF CORPSMEN AND COMBAT MEDICS

Medical Corpsmen who have served in combat in the Army or the Navy now have an organization all their own. Known as THE NATIONAL ORDER OF CORPSMEN AND COMBAT MEDICS, the group's purpose is to bring combat care providers together, to help them cope with their unique war experience and to bring greater recognition for their contributions in battle.

This newly-formed fraternity of Army Medics and Navy Corpsmen came into being through the encouragement of author Craig Roberts while editing his latest book, COMBAT MEDIC-VIETNAM, and First Cavalry Division combat medic Bob "Doc" Bosma. The organization publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, and is planning their first convention/reunion for August, 1991, in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information or membership application call TOLL-FREE [REDACTED], or write The National Order of Corpsmen and Combat Medics, [REDACTED], Boonville, MO, 65233-0141.

CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL TURNED OVER TO STATE

The completed California Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be turned over to the State of California on Memorial Day, 1990, in what should be the final official ceremony of the Commission responsible for its construction.

The Memorial Commission invites all interested citizens to the memorial site in Sacramento's Capitol Park on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 1990, at 11:00 a.m., for that ceremony. The memorial is located on the grounds of the State Capitol in downtown Sacramento, not far from the intersection of 15th and L Streets.

Governor Deukmejian has been invited to accept the memorial on behalf of the people of

California, as the culmination of the five-year, \$2.5 million effort by the Memorial Commission.

Michael Norman, formerly a writer with the New York Times, and noted author of the recently released and critically acclaimed THESE GOOD MEN-FRIENDSHIPS FORGED FROM WAR, will be on hand to deliver the keynote address. Mr. Norman's book is a profound and poignant exploration of his Vietnam experience as a Marine rifleman, focusing on the lifelong bond that experience welded between the men of his Company and its affect on their lives some 20 years later.

Stan Atkinson, noted Vietnam War Correspondent and News Anchor for Sacramento's KCRA-TV will preside as Master of Ceremonies.

ATTENTION 182 INFANTRY ATTENTION

A plan proposed by the Pentagon will see National Guard strength across the nation reduced by 76,000 men. This translates into a troop reduction in Massachusetts of 6700 men.

The word here in Massachusetts is that three of the four Infantry Battalions now in the State will be eliminated—one of these Battalions will be the First Battalion of the 182 Infantry—the last remaining unit of the 182 Infantry. This should NEVER happen! The 182 Infantry is the oldest Regiment in the United States. This Regiment was born in 1636 and has fought in every war from the Piquot Indian War in 1640 through World War II.

There is a thin line that can even trace the lineage of the 182 Infantry back to 1621 when Captain Miles Standees formed the first Militia units in Plymouth Colony--this was the beginning--as the colony spread out regiments were formed and the 'Old North Regiment' was born in 1636.

The muskets of this regiment were heard at Concord and Lexington--perhaps the shot heard 'round the world--again they stood at Bunker Hill--from the beginning the Regiment was there when our country called.

This Regiment had many different names and numbers throughout history and now all the glory and honors are gathered under one banner--the 182 Infantry.

The men of this Regiment have fought and died on the battlefields of Europe and the jungles of the Pacific. The Regiment occupied Germany at the end of World War I and it occupied Japan at the end of World War II.

The war the Regiment is about to lose is not a war of firepower but a political war. We urge every former member of the 182 Infantry to write to their state representative and their senator if you live in the state of Massachusetts. If you do not live in Massachusetts please write to your members of Congress in Washington.

Keep your letters brief and to the point--you want the 182 Infantry to survive the cut! Do not use form letters. A personal note is more effective.

DO IT NOW! REPEAT DO IT NOW!

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS



WASHING ON THE TORIKINA RIVER

247TH FA

Dear Jim:

My old buddy Jack Folmer informed me that our Col. Moffet passed away on March 25. He was 91 and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

All of us who served with him from training in New Caledonia to combat on the Canal will always be grateful for his leadership. We lost our howitzers in convoy coming from New York to Australia. We were given new 25 pounders by the Australians. Moffet, being an old mountain drawn artillery man, trained us nine months on these guns only to be changed as we landed on Guadalcanal for battle. We made the best of it including making our own maps of the island. The Colonel brought us from Henderson Field to Cape Esperance. We miss him and honor him.

Sincerely,
George Lloyd

Brewer, ME 04412

247TH F.A.

Dear Jim:

Please run the item below in the next newsletter. I don't know if he was a member of our association, but he was a great guy.

Robert E. Moffett, Brig. Gen. (Ret), passed away in March, 1990. He was the first commanding officer of the 247th FA. Moffett was a sergeant with the Rainbow Division artillery during World War I. After the Guadalcanal campaign, he was assigned to the 97th (I'm not sure of the number) Pack Artillery and then returned to the States. He was also assigned to the Rainbow Division Artillery in Europe. He retired after 32 years of service in lived in North Miami, FL. He was a great man and a wonderful officer. He will be missed but fondly remembered by all who served under him.

Thanks,
Jack Folmer

Lake Worth, FL 33460

BOUGAINVILLE 1944



Dear Jim:

Here are a few pictures from Bougainville. Hope you can use them. Please return them to me.

One is a picture of the cemetery at Bougainville. Another is First Platoon of I Company, 182d Infantry in the company area. I'm on the far right of the middle row. The last picture is of Second Squad, First Platoon, I Company, 182d Infantry in the company area. I'm on the left of the top row. All the pictures were taken in 1944.



Sure would like to hear from anybody in these pictures.

Sincerely,
Jim Thomas

Columbus, OH 43229

1ST BN 182D INF

Dear Mr. Buckle:

I'm writing to report the sudden passing of Daniel J. Kelleher (see TAPS). He passed away on the 24th of January. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 182d Infantry. His outfit was the first to arrive on the Canal.

Dan had a deep feeling for his buddies in the outfit. After receiving the recent newsletter and noting that his name wasn't under TAPS, I thought I would inform you of his passing.

Nancy E. Kelleher
Newburyport, MA

ATABRINE

Dear Jim:

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

So, to the tune of "Tangerine" here are the lyrics which you can print in the Newsletter for anyone interested:

Atabrine for Malaria
It's the pill that keeps the chill
so far away.
Try to grin, don't let it scara ya
If your color starts to change
That's OK.
Look at me--see what it's done for me,
Look--my face is grey, my hands are
turning green.
But we've got the Japs on the run,
And when it's all said and done;
We owe it all to Atabrine--
(I don't mean quinine)
We owe it all to Atabrine.

I'll start saving now for next year at Hyannis-by that time I will be 81 years old.

Sincerely,
PNC Jerry Martel

221ST FA

Dear Fellow ADVA Members:

This is in answer to your Special Request directed to all ADVA Members. Enclosed find a picture of me taken on Bougainville Island, March 1944, and a more recent one at Orlando, Florida, during the reunion. [The photos mentioned did not reach the editor with this letter.]

Bernie Chase and I were on the same gun crew in C Btry, 221st Field Artillery on Bougainville. This is about that crew.

Jap artillery landed in the area blasting the trees in the jungle in front our guns and some going over our heads and landing in swampy ground behind our position. I can still remember the exploding shells, so loud and scaring

the hell out of us. We fired our guns all the time and knocked the Jap artillery out. Some of us soldiers were given permission to go up to that Jap position and brought back Jap artillery fuzes as souvenirs. I remember one soldier getting busted in rank after getting hurt pretty bad after he put a Jap fuze in a vice and tapped on it to try to get it unscrewed and apart. The damn thing exploded in the vice and cut him open in the chest pretty bad.

We could see Mount Bagana, at 6,600 ft and an active volcano, from most of our positions near Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville and I remember clearly the exciting, scary and beautiful sight of the volcano exploding and erupting in a red hot lava flow that was clearly seen at night. All the shaking of the ground from earthquakes was new to me as was the heavy rains and thunderstorms which changed a small stream in front of one of our positions into a raging, terrifying torrent of water, high trees, and boulders. It was the same stream deeper in the jungle where I was an Army Weapons Carrier crossing loaded with the bodies of dead soldiers with their arms and legs sticking out of the truck in all directions. It was not a very pleasant sight to see, but they had to get the bodies back to another area for proper burial.

I helped form our Avenue of Flags in 1983 in the Beverly National Cemetery and am still Chaplain. I am proud to be a part in honoring the dead by putting up over 350 flags at five different times of the year. Many of my boyhood buddies are among the over 40,000 buried in the Beverly, New Jersey National Cemetery where burials started during the Civil War. My dad had a plumbing, roofing, heating & sheet metal business which I continued with since his death in 1957. I am still active and a consultant to my brother who now owns the business.

It sure is great to see some familiar faces at our reunions, thanks mostly to my old Chief of Section, Bernie Chase, who has always been so kind and a great guy. Even many years ago, 35 or more, at a reunion in an Armory in the Boston area, Bernie and his wife were so kind to me and my wife, also recently at Carlisle, PA. When I came along they helped me be at ease and have an enjoyable time. I was greatly saddened to hear of her passing. It was great to see Bernie last year in Orlando, and also in New Jersey. I am looking forward to Chicago already.

I remember so many other people from the 221st such as Bob Icard of Hickory, NC, John Ford, Pete and Julia Messina, John Nightingale.

I am putting together a true story of me, Leo Wm. Orfe on a hill on Bougainville on a forward observation post with sgt. and lt. and we lose radio contact. It will be a true story about Agent 8.

Finally, for any of my buddies of 45 years ago, I would like to hear from you.

Take care and God Bless,
Leo Wm. Orfe
Russlyn M.H.P. #9

[REDACTED] Mount Holly, NJ 08060

101 QM

Dear Dr. Patterson:

As a life member of the Americal Division Veterans Association I would like to tell you of a small reunion just held in Plant City, FL, at the Holiday Inn on I-4.

It was our third one held by members of the 101st QM Company E who went overseas with TF 6814 who now live in Florida fulltime. I believe that I wrote you last year about our second reunion and it was put in the Americal Newsletter. There are about four members who now have joined the Americal and I am working on more of them.

We got together at 12:00 noon and broke up about 4:00 p.m. It was a lot of fun trying to remember all the unusual events that we all had. One of the highlights was two tapes I received from the one member of our outfit who did not return to the USA. He went to Australia in 1945 on R&R and met a girl who now is his wife of 44 years. He was discharged in Brisbane in 1945 and is now retired in a small town near Sydney. He sent photos and rambled on for one hour on the tape. It was fun to listen to. I will list the guys who were there.

Cpt. Arthur Little & Wife
Joe Testa, Tech Sgt
Charles Warden, Sgt
Leo Bartlett & Wife, Sgt
Gabriel Mongeau & Wife, Sgt

As it was Strawberry Festival time, we were all treated with two boxes of lovely strawberries.

Our first reunion was held in New Hampshire in 1988 at Marty Lindon's home in Brentwood. He was company clerk. He and I are planning a large reunion in 1992--our 50th.

I know this is a long letter to put in the Newsletter so I will leave it to you to edit.

Gabe Mongeau

Clermont, FL 34711

11TH BDE

Dear Sir:

A correction in your March/April article on the 11th Brigade (p. 7). The 11th included the 6th Support Battalion. I was with that unit from its activation in Hawaii until November 1968 in RVN.

Sincerely,
Larry F. Henry

Springfield, VA 22153.

NOTE

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO;

JIM BUCKLE

WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



Members:

In the last issue of the newsletter there was a photo alongside a letter submitted by Linn Hoopes, D 4/31 11th LIB. That photo was of Francis Le Blanc, 3/1 11th LIB, and was not related to Hoopes letter. LeBlanc was KIA on August 25, 1968. We printed a story about LeBlanc in a previous issue. Here we correct the error with a photo of the real Linn Hoopes. Our apologies to Linn for the error.

C 2/1 196th LIB

Members:

For the past couple of years I've been trying to find someone who knew my friend Wilfred A. (Bill) Frasier Jr. from Delmar (Albany) New York. He served with C 2/1 of the 196th LIB in Vietnam from Jan '67 through Feb '68 in the area around Chu Lai and Tam Ky. I'm not a veteran, I'm just a friend who has listened for many hours while Bill tried to sort things out. He was gone before I learned what outfit he was with, but thanks to Ron Ward, Jim Crum, and Luke Cole, whose friendship I value more than they know, I finally obtained that information. Now I need to talk with those who knew Bill during the war.

If anyone remembers anything at all about him, it would mean a lot to me to hear of it. I hope to some day be able to give this information to Bill so he can answer some questions to which he still needs answers.

Sincerely,
Fran R. Fierson

Clifton Park, NY 12065

Note: Fran Fierson is carried on our mailing list as a "friend of the association." She's made a couple of donations to us to be used as we saw fit. Ron

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

CHECK THAT CARD

OUTFIT

Dear ADVA Members:

When I was wounded in combat on January 20, 1945, near Bech, Belgium, I was hospitalized in various military units for the next ten months.

During my hospitalization I not only occupied my time by writing down all remembrances of service, drew sketches of specific occurrences, but managed to save all copies of the OUTFIT periodical that came into my possession.

Recently while compiling all data regarding the 75th Infantry Division, for whom I serve as historian, I also did the same for all units in the ETO that were recorded in the issues of OUTFIT. Unfortunately, I do not have all copies of all dates, but I've included all data at my disposal.

Hopefully this data from a little known source will be helpful to your unit historian as we all benefit from our cross-fertilization of material and information.

Sincerely,
Ted J. Breed

EDITOR'S NOTE: OUTFIT was published weekly by members of the US Army and was distributed by the Army Information Branch, Information & Education Division, Army Service Forces. It was distributed without charge to hospitalized US Army personnel and was not obtainable through subscription.

Beginning with this issue of the Newsletter, we will carry information taken from OUTFIT for the period 19 March 1945 to 29 October 1945.

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT IS ON PAGE 12

182 INFANTRY

Dear Jim:

The enclosed picture is of a former Japanese building on Guadalcanal that the Army took over and made into the Post Office.

The most wonderful call was "Mail Call", when we knew we would be hearing from our loved ones.

Sincerely,

Jim McCollom
Sgt. Maj. 3/Hq/182 Infantry



A BTRY 1/82 ARTY

Ron:

I believe I read in a past newsletter you were planning an Americal Hospitality Tent at the Kokomo reunion in 1990. Recently, I spoke with one of the organizers of the reunion, making plans for a few people who served with A Battery, 1/82 Artillery. He said at that time he was not aware of the Americal plans to reserve a tent. I'm hoping you will have a tent so that we old Americal Vets can get out of the sun, rest our feet, and possibly find old friends from years past.

My compliments to you and the entire staff of the newsletter. I look forward to each issue and read it from cover to cover.

Sincerely,
Jack Logsdon
H.J. Logsdon Farms[REDACTED]
Shawneetown, IL 62984

B BTRY 1/82 ARTY

Dear Vietnam Editor:

I've been a member since 1983 and, like so many other vets, seem to have a mental block about fellow vets in Nam. I did a lot of jumping around from unit to unit in Nam and spent most of my tour in Artillery support "jump units," never with a permanent unit.

I arrived in country 6/68 at Chu Lai with B Btry 1/82 Artillery and went to LZ Gator with 155s. Next I was transferred to D Btry 6/11 11th at Duc Pho with 105s and spent 10/68 on LZ Pepper and 11/68 on LZ Cork. From there it was B Btry 6/11 from 1/2/69 to 2/10/69 at which time I was hurt and sent to the 249th Gen Hospital at Camp Drake, Japan until 3/6/69. I came back to 6/11 11th LIB from 4/16/69 till 7/9/69 and spent my last two weeks till separation at H Btry 6/11th. Additionally, I spent time on LZs Debby and Thunder. During my tour I worked up from ammo humper to gun chief.

I've had no contact with any of my fellow vets but would like to make contact with some if at all possible. Some I vaguely remember are "Chief" Al Velasco from Arizona, Sgt. Tom Runnels, PFC Tom Fish, Gonzalez from California and Chris Christopherson. I was pegged with the nickname "Rios" and "the old boy." It's been a long 22 years and I've had my share of problems as has most everyone else. With my life finally getting back into order, I'd like to hear from anyone who may remember me.

Thanks,
Bill Rivers[REDACTED]
Raynham, MA 02767

NOTE

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO;

JIM BUCKLE

[REDACTED]
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

VIETNAM ART
BY VIETNAM VETERANMIKE GOTTSCHALK
LAPEER, MI 48446
CALL [REDACTED]

6/11TH ARTY

Yo Ron,

I served in Nam 69-70 on San Juan Hill with 6/11th Arty and I jointed the Americal Association through Bernie Chase. I also sent him a photo of the back of my camas.

Anyway, I am also a professional illustrator and do my Nam art on the side. I'm sending you some pages from a 6/11th yearbook. It's one of the last things I have from Nam.

So, I thought you would be interested. Hey what's this ### I read in some of the Nam books that we were one of the Worst Divisions over there. I think this remark and others like it were after "My Lai." You guys ever hear anything to this effect? Oh yea, I am also sending you another article about our hill. That too was published around 69-70.

Best wishes,
Mike Gottschalk

6/11TH ARTY

Dear Members:

This letter is in response to a letter written in the November/December issue of the Americal Newsletter. The letter was sent by Tom Petty, a platoon leader for B Company 3/1st Infantry, 11th LIB. In the letter he described himself and talked about an organization known as the Hill 411 Association.

I was talking to myself as I was reading the letter. "Things like Hill 411, hey, I remember that place and, hey, I know that guy." The whole thing seemed unreal. It has been over 20 years and I couldn't get memories of Nam and my buddies out of my mind.

In April of '69, I was assigned to A Battery 6/11th Artillery, but when I reported to my unit at Duc Pho they needed an RTO for B Company 3/1st Infantry. So, for about the first seven months I served in the field as an Arty RTO. The rest of my time in-country was spent up on LZ Debbie where I re-joined my outfit.

I've written to this Hill 411 Association and although I've not yet heard from them, I do know there is a get together planned for July in Nashville, TN. Will keep you posted.

Proud to be a member of the ADVA,

Robert Mushtare
[REDACTED]
Rochester, NY 14607

HOW ABOUT SENDING A STORY INTO THE
NEWSLETTER?

WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR STORY!

D COMPANY 4/3 11TH LIB

Dear Ron,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 23. It was a very pleasant surprise. Jim Sobery and I have been corresponding since I joined the ADVA in September of last year and I have also contacted several other vets through the newsletter.

I served with D Company 4/3 11th LIB from July 69 to Feb 70. I started as a grenadier but in September of '69 I sustained a foot injury and spent a month in two hospitals and wound up at the 6th Convalescent Center at Cam Ranh Bay. Joining D company again in October, I became senior RTO until I left the field in February. The remainder of the time I was a dispatcher in the motor pool and also managed the EM club at HHC 4/3 at FSB Bronco (Duc Pho).

I'm sending you some articles I've kept over the years for your own reading. If you know of anyone who was in the 174th Aviation, please forward the one on the Sharks.

I wrote to Jim Sobery last September relating an account of a week in August 1969. From what I can recall, the dates, numbers, and events are at least 90% accurate. Those few days were by far the most devastating to D Company while I was in the field though, after I found my way to the rear, there may have been several more incidents where losses were heavier. Feel free to use any part or all of the letter. If you do, then maybe a lot of questions will be answered by those involved. The exact location was just west of Hwy 1 around 5 to 7 miles south of Duc Pho in an area called the Rice Bowl.

I would like to contribute more to the newsletter. I'll go through my photo album and see what I come up with.

I submitted a letter & photo to Dr. Patterson back in February but haven't heard whether it will or has been printed. [See page 8 of the March/April 1990 Newsletter for Linn's letter and photo.] From now on I'll write to you since I've got your address. By the way, I haven't received a newsletter since Jan-Feb. Did I miss one or does it come out in April?

Thanks again for contacting me. I hope I can become a regular contributor. If you're ever up this way, let me know.

Regards,
Linn Hoopes
[REDACTED]

Dike, Iowa 50624

Linn: The Newsletter is published every two months--Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun, and so on. The Mar/Apr issue would have arrived in April. Your letter and photo were included. Thanks for the articles about the 174th AHC--Sharks. I will publish them. Below too, is the letter you mention above.

Dear Jim [Sobery],

Thanks so much for your letter and article. I

Continues on next page

must admit that I was like a 4th grader receiving his first letter from a pen pal. I nearly tore the thing in half opening it.

I've enclosed the lower portion of the map I carried as Senior RTO for D Company. You will, no doubt, recognize a lot of places. I don't know how "official" the names for hills, valleys, etc. are. Iron Mountain was just north of San Juan Hill and LZs Max and Liz were to the east just above horizontal grid 41 and just east of vertical grid 75. Booby trap hill was at 42 and 70. The map was printed in 1965 so, needless to say, most of the black dots signifying villages didn't exist in 1969.

Beginning on 27 August 1969 a series of unusual experiences took place. We were just winding up an uneventful mission northwest of Duc Pho and were looking forward to a week on San Juan Hill. During the night we were told our mission was being extended--that we were flying to join E Troop of the 1st Armored Cav. Supposedly, there were two battalion of NVA in the mountains west of Hwy 1. My platoon was on the first lift and after a quick ride things went to hell in a handbasket. The NVA were dug in on the northern most hill waiting for us. It was such a steep hill that only one chopper could land at a time. I was on the second bird and as we waited for the first one to clear out the fighting began. We suffered two KIA and four WIA. We finally secured the hill with help from the door gunners and managed to land the rest of the company without incident.

It was not until we were all on the northern hill that we found out we were to have landed on the southern hill which had a flat top and virtually no where for the enemy to hide. After regrouping and evacuating the dead and wounded, we walked down to the highway and joined E Troop. The Troop had 19 tanks and 33 APCs. From there we went to the Rice Bowl and set up a camp just outside of My Trang.

On the morning of the 28th, my platoon went back to the "twin peaks" and then across the mountains to the southwest on patrol. We made no contact but saw fresh camps and well-traveled trails along the ridge. By afternoon we were descending down into the Rice Bowl. Minutes before we were to radio our approach and enter the rice paddies near the perimeter, a tank commander opened up with his .50 caliber. Fortunately the rounds went over our heads and no one was hurt. It was then we wondered what else could go wrong. Well...at dusk on the 28th, we again prepared for another quiet night (hopefully). We had an FO with us who radioed a destroyer out in the bay to send a couple of air burst navigational rounds to mark our location in case we need help during the night. The first round came roaring in and exploded beautifully over our heads. The second was soon on the way but did not detonate. Instead, it fell in the middle of our perimeter and then burst, cartwheeling through three tents and finally crashing into the rear of a tank. Several troops were burned, but none seriously. Then, shortly after midnight, we were attacked from the village with mortars, Chi-Coms, and small weapon's fire. After an hour of fierce fighting and a lot of support artillery from Bronco and gunships lighting up the sky, it was again quiet though still

chaotic. Second platoon went from 33 to seven. Luckily none were KIA, but all had to be evacuated out. When dawn broke we were amazed that the village went virtually untouched and that all the firepower was directed to the open field between us and the village. We were devastated by our losses and knew that more fighting was in the cards for us.

On the morning of the 29th, it was decided that E Troop was going into the village to "do a job" on it. As D Company waited for a resupply chopper to come down from Bronco, a Vietnamese came walking into our perimeter with hands held high. He told us that there was an NVA hospital dug in back up in the mountains where we had patrolled the day before. We were leery of his story but our CO said to saddle up...we were going to go in and destroy the hospital. We said quiet vehemently that we weren't going, that it was a trap, but after 15 minutes of arguing, we moved out. I and the other six remaining in 2nd Platoon walked "drag" as Company D moved back toward the mountains.

After moving less than a "klic" we caught hell from the front and both flanks. Naturally, we drew up to the front platoons and then started receiving fire from the rear, leaving us virtually surrounded. We radioed E Troop which was still in the village, but they hit a mine field and had to clear a path on the way to us. By 5:00 that evening it was all over--D Company suffered one KIA, 27 WIA. E Troop lost two tanks but I can't recall their casualties. So, in three days, D Company went from 110 full strength to 50 weary, confused, and scared soldiers. On the 30th, we were replaced by Company C which later reported 185 NVA KIAs and evidence of several being dragged off. As for the NVA who set us up--word has it that he was KIA trying to escape from the detention center at Bronco.

I could go on and on and probably will, next time around. I hope we can continue our correspondence and hopefully meet someday.

Sincerely,
Linn Hoopes

6TH SUPPORT BN

Dear Vietnam Editor:

In April 1967 I was assigned to the 6th Support Battalion, 11th LIB at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. In December 1967 the 11th LIB was assigned to duty in Vietnam. Exact dates are forgotten, but in December 1967 the Brigade was transported to Pearl Harbor, pier 26, where we boarded the U.S.N.S. General Wiegel for our ocean cruise to Vietnam. I believe the General Wiegel was a Merchant Marine ship.

Enclosed with my dues are copies of two newspapers which were printed aboard the Wiegel and given to the troops. The name of the paper was the Trident. If it's possible to print any of the Trident in the Newsletter, I'm sure many would find the material interesting reading. In the event the papers can't be printed, I can make copies for anyone who would like to write to me.

Continues on next page

While in Vietnam I was a REMF on LZ Bronco at Duc Pho. After leaving country in August 1968, I left many friends whom I would enjoy hearing from. CW2 Carl Rhodes, Jimmy Young, Jerry Cooper, and Joe Pekella are just a few of them. If anyone knows any of these men and how I might contact them please let me know.

To all those involved with the Americal Newsletter I say "Keep up the good work," you're doing a great job.

Again, I'm looking forward to hearing from anyone stationed with me during my tour in Vietnam--December 1967 through August 1968.

Dan T. Bates

Florissant, MO 63031
(formerly from Brighton, IL)

From the TRIDENT 13 December 1967

Volume 4 Voyage 10, USNS General Weigel--A sudden switch in plans has changed the 11th Brigade's port of embarkation from Da Nang to Qui Nhon.

This change was made not because of any danger from enemy action, but to accommodate the seasonal monsoon weather.

According to Maj. James F. Henrionnet, executive officer of troops aboard the USNS Weigel, Vietnam has two distinct monsoon seasons, a northern and a southern season. Da Nang lies within the northern monsoon area and is plagued by continuous, heavy tropical rainfall at this time of year.

Our new port of entry is located south of our base side at Duc Pho. It is 75 miles from base camp and as yet no information is available as to the mode of transportation from Qui Nhon to Duc Pho.

3/1 11TH LIB

ADVA Members:

I am a recently signed-up member and enjoy reading the newsletter. I've always been proud to have served in Vietnam in the Americal Division.

I arrived in Vietnam on April 1, 1968. I ended up in I Corps assigned to Co B 3/1 11th BDE Americal Division. This unit was based at Duc Pho. At that time Co. B was operating from firebase Liz. I found out that the 11th BDE had only been in RVN since December '67.

The next four months were full of the same type of hell all of you are very familiar with. We operated in the mountains to the west and along the coastal area and about everywhere inbetween. The enemy in this area was mostly local VC and no so much NVA. Land mined and booby trapped arty shells were very common and were the number one source of our casualties.

On August 23, 1968, I was wounded by a mine NW of Quang Ngai City. It blew my right shoulder apart and cut off my right thumb and part of my

right ring finger. I spend the rest of my time in the Army in various hospitals (9 months). At Walter Reed in Washington, DC, they removed what remained of my ring finger over to where my thumb had been.

After lots of PT this was very successful and my right hand is nearly as useful as before. My shoulder healed OK also but hurts at times.

I'd like to hear from anyone in my old unit. I would specially like to find the medic for the 2nd platoon. His name was Hickman and he was from Alexandria, VA. He ran into the area where I would wounded and got me out for dustoff. That took real guts because you can bet there were a lot more mines there.

All the Best,
Marvin L. Haar

A CO 26TH ENG BN

Dear Ron:

I promised a friend that I would someday write a story for the newsletter, and having just got my March-April 1990 issue and so far not having written a thing for the newsletter, I best begin.

I was assigned to A Company 26th Engineer Battalion along with 11 friends from AIT and nine of us were assigned to the 1st Platoon.

It didn't take long (about 20 days) when three of us were made Demomen for the platoon because of our training with explosives--one full week in AIT. The morning I heard the platoon demoman call my name I went to see what he wanted and as he handed me his demo bag he said "You're my replacement!"

"Oh Great!" I thought. A demoman OJT in Vietnam and I didn't really want the job, besides. I had the one week course in AID, however, and just like my friends, after a few demo missions I was beginning to get use to the idea that I was a demoman regardless of the amount of formal training.

One thing I wasn't prepared for was the tunnels, though. I soon found myself looking into one, however, and I also knew that, no way was I going in there. It wasn't long, though, before, .45 in hand, I was borrowing my way down.

Now that flashlight, it had a mind of its own and kept going off--weak batteries, I think. I soon decided to check the floor of the tunnel and the sides real good and then shut the light off to save batteries. I let me eyes adjust to the dark, then, and moved into the top of the tunnel.

This worked real fine for a while. Then, though, after checking the floor and sides of a tunnel and shutting my eyes, I started to move out. I stopped, however--something told me to slowly open my eyes and look up. Right above me, on the tunnel roof, was the biggest spider I ever saw. I backed out of the tunnel in a hurry, lit a cigarette, and told my friends

about the spider.

When asked "How big was it?" I took my jungle hat off, threw it on the ground, and said "A little bigger than that, not counting legs!"

It wasn't long before I had to go back into that tunnel to set my charges. I put a cratering charge as near to that spider as possible. Soon the tunnel and that spider were history and over the months to come and many more tunnels, I never did see such a large spider--not like the one in my very first tunnel.

Thanks,
Maurice W. Henson
[REDACTED]

Capay, CA 95607

OUTFIT

19 MARCH 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...The Army tries to keep twins together. But it hardly guarantees they'll snag medals together. That's up to the twins. The Parnins, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., delivered--and collected. Pfc Robert W. and Richard A. Parnin, each won a Bronze Star fighting with their mortar squad on Hill 260 on Bougainville.

16 APRIL 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...Three veteran Army engineers, serving with one of the oldest engineering battalions of the war, won the Silver Star for gallantry during an assault landing on Biri Island. One was killed, the others wounded. They were:

Pfc Harry Pomeroy, Toms River, NJ, killed in action returning MG fire under heavy attack.

S/Sgt Ralph W. Chambers, Rensserville, NJ, who, though seriously wounded, took over an MG from his dead gunner and later aided a seriously wounded coxswain to handle his landing craft.

Sgt Franklin N. Mackie, Brooklyn, who, badly injured before reaching the beach, stuck to his post. Every man except the seamen were killed or wounded. Mackie was hit again, but soon came to, took the helm, helped get the craft off the coral, and didn't give the helm over to seamen until the ship was out to sea again.

14 MAY 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...Japs fleeing northward on Cebu Island were cut off by units led by L/Cpl Louis F. Franco, Chicago. Other units, operating near Cebu City, and led by Capts Robert F. Pence, Gary, Ind., and Keith D. Stewart, Aldrich, MO, killed nearly 200 Japs. In securing the island, the Americal Division has more than 5000 Japs to its credit.

23 APRIL 1945

WESTERN PACIFIC...Invasions continue to be the order of the day as the campaign in the Western Pacific gathered speed.

Continued next column

In the top headlines for days was the invasion of Okinawa, principal island of the Ryukyu Islands, 325 miles from Japan itself. The Yank jump-off was made by the newly formed 10th Army, including the XXIV Army Corps (which on Leyte included the 7th, 77th, and 96th Inf Divs) and a Marine Amphibious Corps. Before the main operation, elements of the 77th Division, in a series of eight small-scale operations, invaded the Kerama Islands, part of the Ryukyu chain. The Keramas were secured quickly and during the first week of the Okinawa campaign, little resistance developed.

The 41st Inf Div, which recently invaded the Zamboanga peninsula on Mindanao, made another hop and landed on Tawitawi in the Sulu Islands, a chain between the Philippines and Borneo. The 40th Inf Div, hardly resting from its recent conquest of Panay, surged ashore on Negros and captured an important airfield.

The campaign on Luzon was brought nearer an end when the 158th Regt. Combat Team (the Bushmasters) landed at Legaspi, one of the original enemy invasion points, and pushed up the peninsula to wedge the Japs between the invaders and other XIV Corps units, especially the 1st Cav Div. The troopers were advancing so rapidly that surrender leaflets intended for the enemy were being dropped by American planes in territory already held by the Cav.

The Americal Div continued its campaign on Cebu; the 32d Div beat off banzai attacks in northern Luzon in the Balete Pass sector; the XI Corps (11th Airborne, 24th and 38th Divs) pushed toward the upper Marikina River through the Santa Maria River valley; and units of the I Corps (6th, 25th, 32d, 43d Divs) mopped up pockets in the Villa Verde trail and continued their push against Jap northern headquarters defenses.

Fighters and light bombers of the 5th, 7th, and 13th Air Forces closely supported ground operations.

28 MAY 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...Four veteran Chicago infantrymen, who fought together in the same regiment on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and the Philippines, are now Stateside after 38 months overseas. They are Pfc Edward W. Garnecki, T/5 John Kotowski, Cpl Benny W. Onisk, and M/Sgt L.P. Granacki.

4 JUNE 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...Since January, when it pulled out of Bougainville after more than a year of jungle fighting, the Americal has been in combat on 13 Philippine islands. It has mopped up on Leyte and Samar; invaded the major islands of Cebu, Bohol, and Negros, and seized the pinpoint islands of Ticaco, Burias, Biri, Capul, Poro, Mactan, Cauit and Olongapo. According to these veteran jungle fighters, the Cebu battle was about as tough as any they had.

WHAM! Pfc Harvey Short, Nokomis, Ill., was asleep in his foxhole when three Nips crept up a ravine, attacked the soldier on guard, and started dragging him away, a prisoner. Short

Continues on next page

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bounded out of his hole and almost bumped into a Jap left behind to cover the others. Short pulled the trigger of his tommygun, but nothing happened. He then took a full swing at the Nip with his gun, bashing in his forehead. The others saw the fracas, dropped their prisoner and fled.

11 JUNE 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...The outfit has a namesake, Americal Williams, first baby born in a Yank military hospital after the Cebu Landing. Her father is William L. Williams, from Clinton, Ill., who came out of the hills and into Americal lines after three years of dodging Japs. He came to the Philippines 17 years ago and married a Filipino girl.

HOW THEY HIT: First troops into Cebu City were from the 132d Inf Regt. The 182d Regt pushed through the city's northern outskirts to capture Lahug airfield. To the south, the 164th Regt secured Bohol Island.

18 JUNE 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...While Pfc Wilmer Swift, Dillington, Pa., of the 182d Inf, was dragging a wounded buddy to safety, he was literally undressed by Jap rifle and MG fire. One bullet tore off part of his pants. Two more went through his jacket, carrying a large share of it away with them. For good measure, just as he reached cover, a final shot clipped the heel off his shoe. Said Swift: "I feel just like Gypsy Rose Lee."

25 JUNE 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...A patrol from the 132d Regt caught 35 Japs napping, killed 'em all in a few minutes. S/Sgt James K. Worland, Hinkley, Calif., got four although his jammed rifle forced him to fire single shots. Pfc Walter M. Zellar, Fruitport, Mich., also got four to tie for top honors.

But Fast: A nameless shavetail fresh from the States, watched every detail as his platoon of the 164th Inf went along on the Bohol Island invasion. Came twilight; he saw some Jap currency at the bottom of a hole. Although his men knew Jap invasion currency could be had by the bushel, the louey felt G-2 would be interested in knowing about how freely the Nips were throwing their dough around. So he jumped into the hole.

A split second passed. Then, "Get me the hell out of here," he roared. Without the money the lieutenant came out of the hole. It was a Jap latrine.

2 JULY 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...Silver Stars won in action in the Cebu-Bohol-Negros area include: Pfc Leon H. Barden, Chula, Va.; Pfc Edmund J. Dawidowicz, Hamtramck, Mich.; S/Sgt Henry A. Kaylor, Cave-in-Rock, Ill.; T/S Roy W. Kuljo, Anaconda, Mont.; Lt. Harry B. Mile, Turtle Creek, Pa.; Pfc Elize L. Robinson, Greenwood, Fla.; T/S C.A. Taylor, Mineral Wells, Texas.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER LATELY?

NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SO

30 JULY 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION..M/Sgt Donald Van Slyke, St. Paul, Minn, three-fourths Irish despite his name, is president of the Americal's "Post-War Irishmen's Club"....When Pfc Pat Queen, Del Monte, Calif., strolled into his tent on Negros wearing the full-dress uniform of a Japanese captain, he nearly caused a stampede. The officer had patronized a native laundry, and when the management of the island changed, Queen's laundress gave him the Nip uniform... A Jap soldier used plenty of cuss words as he struggled to get the bipod of a 20mm gun out of the ground. S/Sgt Emil R. Johnson, Urbana, Ohio, watching from the 50-yard line, let the Jap sweat and cuss until the bipod was free. Then Johnson killed the Jap with four rifle shots.

6 AUGUST 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION..S/Sgt Delton O. Peterson, Wahpeton, ND, has been wounded three times in three campaigns, and in each case he was his company's first casualty. He was stopped by a sniper's bullet at Guadalcanal; at Bougainville a booby trap sent him to the hospital for the second time. Peterson was wounded for the third time at Leyte, and for the third time his wounds were on the right side of his body. "They keep hitting me on the right side," he grinned, when he rejoined his unit at Cebu, "but never in the right places."

13 AUGUST 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...Everybody was surprised, but the Yanks recovered first, and their mortar section accounted for 24 dead Japs. According to Sgt Jasper B. Valentine, Taft, Texas, and Pfc James H. Albritton, Murray, Ky., mortarmen of the 132d Regt, their company moved out early to surprise the Nips, but were surprised themselves. The Japs were moving to begin a banzai charge. The mortarmen caught on fast when they saw the fixed bayonets and acted quickly.

And with the 164th Regt...As American and Filipino troops staged a victory parade through the streets of Dumaguete, Negros, Cpl William Connor, Chicago, heard an old lady sniff: "Yes, a nice parade. But the Japanese parade was much longer."

20 AUGUST 1945

AMERICAL DIVISION...The Jap sniper who scared a Filipino carrier into dropping a mortar base plate down a steep hillside probably thought he'd silenced the mortar. But the three mortarmen, Sgt Howard C. Davis, Nauvoo, Ala.; Pfc Denis L. Bays, Bloomfield, Ind., and Francis S. Pyzanowski, Coatesville, Pa., couldn't be stopped that easily. They put their helmets on the ground, set the mortar on the improvised plate and knocked out two positions in five minutes.

FISH STORY...Cpl Paul W. Ewell, Rockland, Mass., in an outrigger canoe, fished with rod and reel for two hours without results. Then he started for shore, went through a school of flying fish and counted 18 fish which had jumped aboard.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

CHECK THAT CARD NOW!

BORN ON THE 4TH

What's prevalent in Oliver Stone's film, BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, (and many points are way off base) is that Stone attempts and very sadly possibly succeeds in showing that what Ron Kovic (Tom Cruise) sacrificed, along with hundreds of thousands of other combat veterans in Vietnam, was in vain. He makes clear that the experience perhaps should be forgotten because nothing was gained. It should be pushed aside

and tucked away.

He puts forth the idea that the experience should be pitied. He attempts to take away any and all honor, praise, sense of commitment, etc. What bothers me the most is that Stone is a combat veteran of Vietnam, as I am. As is Kovic, also.

I, along with the majority of Vietnam combat veterans, have had it and are boiling and infuriated when it comes to the Stones, Kovics, Kerrys, Fondas, and Haydens. Stone has made millions from PLATOON and BORN. Not a penny has gone to any of the festering concerns and issues of the Vietnam veteran--the homeless vet; the POW/MIA issue; Agent Orange, and so on.

At the '72 Miami Convention, Kovic hurt more than he helped. He found himself with the greatest allies the North Vietnamese ever had--the protest movement. Kovic's actions brought hate from the "grunts" in-country and at home at that time, almost equaling the hate towards Fonda.

Many, many of us came back from Southeast Asia and re-established our lives. We gained a pure and loving respect of all life and of most values. Many suffered as much and many much more than Kovic. They didn't behave as he did. For the most part we became better individuals because of our experience. Our experience was not in vain. It must be respected, honored, admired, given the highest praise and, most importantly, never forgotten.

BORN has been nominated for all sorts of awards and "Oscars." I'm sure Stone and Kovic will carry many offstage. It will not be the only weight they'll have to carry and will continue to carry forever.

James M. McQueen
Americal Division '69-'70
printed in the Quincy, Mass.
PATRIOT LEDGER, 3/23/90

MORE ON KOVIC

Ron Kovic, the paralyzed Vietnam War veteran and anti-war activist, whose life is the subject of "Born on the Fourth of July," has been asked by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to consider a future in politics. The Democrats want Kovic, 44, to be their man in the battle against Rep. Robert K. Dornan, R-Garden Grove, California.

At this time, Kovic has not reached a decision. His opponent, however, concerned about his po

tential opponent's access to Hollywood money, came out firing. Rep. Dornan sent out 20,000 fund-raising letters emphasizing the negative side of Kovic. And he had plenty of ammunition. Newspaper reports say the mailer included a picture of Kovic burning a draft card. The letter said the former Marine was a favorite of the "ultra-liberal...Hollywood left." It also mentioned Kovic's accidental shooting of a fellow Marine, his encounters with prostitutes, abuse of drugs and alcohol, and "cruelly insulting his parents." Dornan, who earlier said he wouldn't give Kovic any special treatment, had kept his promise.

Kovic shot back that the incumbent from the 38th Congressional District, known as "B-1 Bob" for his strong support of defense projects, was conducting a "hated campaign" and that he was "desperate."

VIETNAM WAR NEWSLETTER
March 19, 1990
Thomas W. Hebert, Editor

REBELS USE VIET CONG TACTICS

Booby traps made from discarded World War II weapons have been discovered by Papua New Guinea security forces hunting elusive rebel leader Francis Ona. Ona, military officers say, is employing the same tactics used by the Viet Cong.

His strongholds are protected by an elaborate network of tunnels, bunkers, and underground fortresses. His battle tactics are purely guerrilla, comprising selected areas of sabotage and random sniper fire from deep within the dense tropical rainforest.

The officers say the militants' crude weaponry includes hand-made guns, bows, arrows, spear-guns, and World War II Japanese and American hand grenades and bombs.

Yet this rag-tag revolutionary group calling itself the Bougainville Republican Army, has forced the closure of the Australian-controlled Panguna copper mine, which so far has lost more than \$150 million in revenue. Panguna, the largest open cut copper mine in the world, also contributes 40 percent of PNG's foreign exchange and 17 percent of its revenue.

The financial strain is already being felt in Government circles anxious to flush Ona out of the jungle and get the mine back into full production. Three Australian Iroquois helicopters are expected to arrive in Bougainville soon and within hours will begin taking troops to the island's hot spots. Meantime, defence forces have been evacuating areas around the giant Panguna mine, in particular Guava village which was once Ona's main stronghold.

That village was flattened about a month ago, the tunnels dug up and bunkers filled in, leaving only the burnt-out shells of trucks and several buildings. On an escort visit to Guava yesterday, PNG troops were still wary of sniper fire despite army intelligence reports that the area had been cleared of rebels.

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A steep, winding track leads to Guava and is accessible only by four-wheel-drive vehicles. Ona's bunkers overlook the entire Panguna mine site, more than 1 km deep, with sweeping views of the more than \$3 billion in mining equipment that now stands idle.

FIRST INFANTRY

The First Infantry was constituted as the 2d Infantry Regiment on 3 March 1791. The new regiment was recruited in the New England states with the exception of a company recruited in Delaware and a company recruited in South Carolina. During the years 1792-1795 the regiment took part in subduing the Federated Indian Tribes and the Miami Indian Nation.

In July, 1796, during the War of Independence, the regiment received the surrender of Detroit from the British.

In 1806 the regiment was detailed to explore the mysteries of the West and as a result two officers of the regiment, Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lieutenant Zebulon Pike became famous.

The war of 1812 found the regiment on duty in the south as well as the north and all elements of the regiment participated in the war. In the north the regiment won distinction at the Battle of Niagara and the Siege of Fort Erie. In the south the regiment won distinction by crushing the Creek Indians of Florida, and under General Andrew Jackson captured Pensacola and defended New Orleans and the Mississippi River.

The reorganization of the United States Army after the War of 1812 found the 2d, 3d, 7th, and 44th Infantry Regiments combined into the 1st Infantry Regiment, and it has been the 1st Infantry ever since.

Following the War of 1812 and the reorganization the 1st Infantry was stationed in the southwest territory until 1827 when it was brought north again to garrison forts in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. Here the regiment took part in the Black Hawk War in 1832 in which that renegade and his band were destroyed. The regiment then saw service in the Seminole War in 1837.

The 1st Infantry was guarding the frontier from Minnesota to Kansas at the outbreak of the war with Mexico. Four companies of the regiment were ordered to that theatre for duty with the army commanded by General Zachary Taylor, whose executive officer happened to be Jefferson Davis. Captains U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee served with the 1st Infantry during this war. These four companies saw service at Monterey, Buena Vista, and participated in the first modern amphibious landing at Vera Cruz.

At the outbreak of the Civil War elements of the 1st Infantry were on duty from Washington, DC to Texas. Elements of the regiment participated in the action at Liberty; Springfield; Wilson's Creek, where 1Lt Clay Wood won

the first Congressional Medal of Honor awarded; New Madrid; Tiptonville; Harrisburg; Corinth; Memphis; and Vicksburg. The war's end found the regiment in New Orleans.

After the war the regiment was ordered to the Lakes Department of New York and Michigan where it remained until 1874 when it was ordered to Dakota; then to Texas in 1880; Arizona in 1882; and California in 1886. All of these moves found the regiment engaged in the various Indian Campaigns.

In 1898 the regiment moved to Florida and shortly after took part in the first fight of the Spanish-American War.

In 1900 the regiment was ordered to the Philippines where it participated in the Philippine Insurrection, which involved 109 engagements for the regiment. In 1902 the regiment returned to the United States, and after four short years returned to the Philippines until 1908, when it was ordered back to the US to garrison Vancouver Barracks in Washington state.

1912 saw the regiment ordered to Hawaii. Due to the possibility of the German threat in the Pacific area the 1st Infantry spent the First World War guarding plants, utilities, and interned enemy vessels in Hawaii.

The years 1919 to 1921 found the regiment on duty at Ft. Lewis, Washington. In 1921 the regiment moved to Camp Travis, Texas, for assignment with the 2d Division. 1921 also found the regiment performing heroic duty in the San Antonio Flood.

With the declaration of a State of National Emergency in 1939, the 1st Infantry was assigned to the 6th Division on 16 October 1939. Following extensive training in Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Arizona, and California, the 1st Infantry, part of the sightseeing 6th Division, was on its way to Hawaii again. In the latter part of January 1944, following extensive jungle training, the 1st Infantry sailed to New Guinea. At Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, the 1st Infantry received its baptism of fire in World War II. It was here that the 3d Battalion earned the Distinguished Unit Citation.

On 9 January 1945 the First assaulted the beaches at Lingayen Gulf in Northern Luzon, then drove across the central plains and on to the liberation of Bataan. The end of the war found the First engaged near Banove.

During the Luzon campaign the regiment participated in a record 219 consecutive days of combat and was credited with killing 5,433 enemy and taking another 265 prisoners. The regiment suffered 212 KIA, 650 WIA, 238 IIA, and 3 MIA. For their action in Luzon the regiment was awarded the Philippine Presidential Citation.

The 1st Infantry, as part of the 6th Division, arrived in South Korea in the latter part of October 1945 and commenced occupational duties. The 1st Infantry maintained this posture until 20 January 1949, when it and the 6th Division were deactivated.

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10. If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.
11. Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, 20 yards on each flank and 20 yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.
16. Don't cross a river by a regular ford..
17. If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks and ambush the folds that aim to ambush you.
18. Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you, keel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him with your hatchet.

Maj. Robert Rogers
1759

HOLLYWOOD'S WAR ON VIETNAM VETS

Hollywood is at it again, treating Vietnam veterans to another cinematic decimation of their collective character.

"Casualties of War" is Tinseltown's latest round in a sustained assault against the men who simply answered their nation's call to duty in Vietnam.

Recounting the details of this flick would serve only to profit the producer. Suffice it to say that it is based on an actual incident in which an Army squad--excepting one soldier--committed inexcusable crimes. For those crimes they will surely answer to a higher authority.

Grunts are portrayed as morons bent on rape and as homicidal maniacs who gleefully butcher the enemy as well as murder innocent civilians on the sidelines. This is the same caricature foisted on the American public by the anti-war crowd for two decades.

But because this isolated incident occurred, we are told, Hollywood's anti-veteran types feel totally justified in maligning all 2.6 million Americans who served in Vietnam.

As Joe Fegan, a former grunt in the 4th In

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fantry Division wrote: "The impressions reinforced by this film will be those of the early post-Vietnam War years."

"Vietnam veterans again are being typecasts as outlaw dope-smoking rapists and murderers and now, betraying turncoats, haunted by memories of traumatic events. Perpetuating this image is the worst atrocity I can imagine."

Draw your own conclusions from producer Brian DePalma's words as to his motivation for making this movie.

"Our picture is very telling about our whole involvement in the war... It was a war we shouldn't have fought and it remains an enigma... for the first time we seem to be wrong... it was an unjust and indefensible war."

Of course, "Casualties of War" has garnered rave reviews from those in the know. NEWSWEEK'S David Ansen wrote, "It's the story of the price of keeping one's moral sanity in a war in which indecency, paranoia and murder have become the norm. The thinnest line separates bravery from depravity, the courageous from the craven."

There you have it! Indecency and murder are the norm for all 2.6 million of us. Valor, common decency, and sacrifice were not even distinguishable in Vietnam, according to Ansen.

Vets should not be surprised by that thinking, after all, as TIME, critic Richard Schickel wrote, "The ideas advanced by the film are, in any case, not significantly different from the ones put forward by opponents of the war while it was going on."

That the war has been over for 16 years matters little to those who insist on justifying their morally bankrupt stances during the war on the backs of Vietnam vets.

"What is disturbing is that a film-maker should regard it as perfectly reasonable to take a sorbid crime as encapsulating our involvement in Vietnam," wrote George Szamuely in INSIGHT.

"Men in uniform committed crimes during the Second World War also, and they were court-martialed and punished. But would anyone dare to take one such episode and claim that it should be a symbol of the American struggle against Hitler?"

Most thinking Americans would not dare--but Hollywood does on a regular basis. Apparently, the season has opened again on Vietnam veterans.

As a preparatory strike for "Casualties of War," TV dutifully dredged up the anti-war crowd's all-time favorite--My Lai.

Unable to resist a 20th anniversary rehashing of the event's revelation in 1969, PBS's "Frontline" ran an hourlong program in May (1989) to remind us all of the incident.

And NBC's new show, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," in its first episode, interviewed several participants in the tragedy.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER LATELY?

NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SO

Denials aside, virtually every production about Vietnam has been politically motivated. The only notable exception to date was "Hamburger Hill." It was written by Vietnam combat veteran Jim Carabatos who "wanted to write the real story of what it was like to be 19 years old and in Vietnam."

He did, and the film which dared to be pro-GI was routinely dismissed by establishment critics.

Perhaps the reason for Hollywood's psychological warfare against Vietnam vets was best summed up by veteran William J. Vogt.

"Arrayed against us are people, some famous and influential, who have profited at our expense and can't afford to see us portrayed in a positive light. They are to thoroughly caught up in their self-created body of anti-war mythology to have it any other way."

"We will wait a long time to see the truth about ourselves on the screen or the tube. The people who manufacture movies and TV programs are not capable of understanding what really happened to us, much less portraying it. Keep in mind that this will not prevent them from declaring their version to be reality. In Hollywood, anything is possible."

During my 13 months in Vietnam, I never met nor knew anyone who raped or murdered a civilian there. I knew many men who served in Vietnam, men of conviction who had compassion for the women and children of that war-torn country.

I was not a hero, I simply served. But I do know some heroes--some living and some not--who gave their lives trying to save others.

Their sacrifice should not be demeaned because of the wrongdoing of a few. They deserve a far better legacy than "Casualties of War" has to offer.

Stan Horton
VFW MAGAZINE, Nov. 1989

KOVIC UPDATE

"Born on the Fourth of July" is advertised as the "true" story of Ron Kovic. Yet:

There is no evidence that Kovic accidentally killed a "fellow" Marine during a firefight. Kovic did report the incident but an investigation concluded it didn't happen.

Kovic never went to confess to the family of the Marine he supposedly killed.

Says Oliver Stone: "I'm not screwing with facts... I took creative license to make my point, and sometimes sacrificed smaller truths for larger ones."

VIETNAM WAR NEWSLETTER, April 25, 1990

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

CHECK THAT CARD NOW!

COVER STORY

The picture on the cover of this issue is a Memorial standing on the Common in Wakefield, Massachusetts to commemorate the men of Wakefield that served their country in WW II.

Wakefield has a military tradition that dates back to 1644, this was a year before the General Court of Mass. decreed that a military guard should be kept in every town, and four years after the birth of the oldest Regiment in the United States--the 182nd Infantry.

The military unit from Wakefield, under various company and regimental designations, has answered the call to service in every war up through World War II. Wakefield's Company E, 182 Infantry served in the Americal Division during World War II and was the only Company in the Americal Division to win a Distinguished Unit Citation.

Wakefield was always well represented in all branches of the service, in all conflicts. Her sons served throughout the world--on the land, on and beneath the sea and in the skies.

In World War I, twenty nine men from Wakefield made the supreme sacrifice. World War II snuffed out the lives of sixty eight young men. The Korean War cost Wakefield three more lives and the Vietnam War took six more.

I am telling this story of Wakefield because I believe it is the story of a typical small town in the United States.

The old burial ground beside the Congregational Church is a memorial to Revolutionary soldiers. We have our monument to the Spanish War Veterans at the head of the square. The Civil War monument dominates the upper common and the World War I and World War II memorials are also on the common. The Junior High School was named in memory of the Korean War veterans. As yet there is not a monument to the Vietnam veteran. This will come in time.

We have our Memorial Day programs in our schools. A parade is held on Memorial Day and on Veterans Day--this ends up at the common where speeches are made and remembrances are placed at the monuments.

Not to be forgotten--in the center of the common stands a tall flag pole with Old Glory flying twenty four hours a day. Our Flag can be seen from the far end of the square. It can be seen from the far side of the lake. It can be seen from the top of a hill a mile away--what a beautiful sight!

Beneath Old Glory flies the black POW flag. This is a reminder that the job is not finished. Many of our sons, dead or alive, are still to be brought home.

The parades are getting shorter, the crowds are smaller, and we the generation that supplies the majority of the veterans, is slowly disappearing.

However, let us never forget Memorial Day and for what it stands. As individuals let us always remember this day and pay homage to our deceased comrades.

"I WAS JUST THINKING"

I was just thinking; What if this upcoming weekend, when everyone goes and opens their camps, or goes away, they decided to stay in town and take part in the Memorial Day Service.

I was just thinking; What if the school systems in this country taught the youth the importance of this most solemn of holidays, in all areas good and bad.

I was just thinking; If the word "Peace" was non-existent, then this holiday might stand for something other than the weekend that starts summer.

I was just thinking; What if next week we had a revolution in the United States, would we then get the message?

I was just thinking; We have a whole generation of people, who haven't gone through or understood the fight for freedom that goes on in areas around the world. We are becoming the "Me First" generation.

I was just thinking; You don't really know what you've got until you lose it all.

I was just thinking; Even the convicted criminals don't really understand, because they still have some of their freedoms.

I was just thinking; I have the freedom to think and write these thoughts of mine.

I was just thinking; I wish I didn't have to write this article.

I was just thinking; I love my country.

I was just thinking; I've got to end this and get involved.

Norman Dingle Jr.
Wakefield, MA

NATIONAL CEMETERY -- BOURNE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sunday May 27, 1990 -- The 94 year old World War I veteran did not forget his fallen comrades nor the words to the poem that conjures up their voices from the grave.

In Flanders Field the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row
Benjamin Dexter recited the lines to hundreds of veterans and family members who gathered for the annual Memorial Day service at the Massachusetts National Cemetery.

Wearing a helmet and Army uniform, Dexter continued from memory:

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep though poppies grow
In Flanders Field

In addition to poetry, the men, women and children who gathered here remembered fallen veterans with a parade, music, prayer, wreaths, speeches, and a missing man flyover by Air National Guard jets.

Some disabled veterans attended in wheelchairs and "Taps" moved some people to tears.



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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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:	Telephone:		
Address — Street:	City:	State:	Zip:
Americal 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)