

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

MAY - JUNE 1991

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: RONALD L. WARD

Published Bi-Monthly

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



**GENERAL H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF**



1990

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1991

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Roland T. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Robert N. Thornton

Melrose, MA 02176

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase

So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

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John LeVert

CHAPTER COMMANDERS

Allen D. Cappella Cape Cod Chapter

Stephen Dennison Eastern Regional Chapter

Edwin A. Heartquist South-East Chapter

William K. Maddox South Mid-West Chapter

Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter

Lloyd J. Morrell Far West Chapter

David L. Recob Central Mid-West Chapter

Because of a by-law change that was approved by a National Ballot, the duly elected Chapter Commanders are now automatically members of the Executive Council.

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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

VIETNAM EDITOR

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

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COMMANDERS MESSAGE

With this issue of the newsletter, I end my year as commander of the ADVA. The gavel has been passed to a former combat medic with the 11th. Light Infantry Brigade, Rolly Castronova. I've enjoyed working with Rolly over the past several years to make our association one that we can be proud of. Membership has grown considerably and no doubt that trend will continue as more Vietnam vets join our ranks. I encourage all members to keep up the recruiting. Bringing in someone who may be a stranger could lead to him bringing in a buddy from your old platoon. I believe that one of the primary reasons that men join us is that they hope to find someone that they shared a fox hole with in combat. The ADVA can make that happen. Recently we've recruited three men who earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. They are Finnis McCleery, Nick Bacon, and Kern Dunugan. A special thanks is in order to Lew Doyle for connecting us with McCleery while Rolly Castronova made the effort to locate Bacon and Dunugan. I hope that by the time of our 92' reunion in San Antonio we might have all these distinguished men promise to attend that event. Never in the history of the ADVA have we had three or more men holding the MOH attend a reunion. This is a goal we should work for. I'm continuing my position as Vietnam editor of the newsletter. Let me impress upon the membership the importance of keeping all those news items coming in. If it concerns Vietnam, contact me. If it's WW2 related, send it to Jim Buckle. This will save your newsletter staff considerable time. And don't be afraid to send photos. We like em' and we'll certainly return them after use. For all my friends who I didn't see at the Cape Cod reunion, I hope to run into you sometime this year. Don't forget about the Kokomo reunion. Just look for our flags. We have a new one that we like to show off. I'll see you there!

Best regards,  
Ron Ward

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

May 18, 1991

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA

General Meeting 10.30 A.M.

June 7, 1991

Cape Cod Plaza Hotel Hyannis, MA

General Meeting 9.00 A.M.

Executive Council 10.30 A.M.

September 14, 1991

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA

General Meeting 1.00 P.M.

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SICK CALL

Leo W. Orfe

Btry. C 221 F.A.

Russlyn Mob Home Park

Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

James F. Burns

Btry. C 221 F.A.

Cambridge, MA 02128

Michael Doyle

Co. E 182 Infantry

Kenoza Man Health Cen

Haverhill, MA 01830

Sam Ravagno

121 Med. Bn.

Saugus, MA 01906

TAPS

Joseph L. Doll

Hq. Co. 164 Infantry

Pueblo, CO

August 12, 1990

Helge Lundin

57 Engineers

Quincy, MA

March 15, 1991

Curtis Bennett

125 Quartermaster

Little Rock, CA

April 23, 1991

Alex A. Diorio

101 Quartermaster

Woburn, MA

April 1991

Herbert L. Murphy

245 Field Artillery

Saginaw, MI

March 3, 1991

Thomas Winn

221 Field Artillery

South Dartmouth, MA

Date Unknown

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

\*\*\*\*\*

245 FIELD ARTILLERY

I am sorry to inform you of the death of Herbert Murphy. Herb organized the Great Lakes Chapter and was the Commander for five years.

He was also active in the American Legion, AF & AM, and an avid volunteer with the V.A. Medical Center.

The Americal Division Veterans Association has lost a dedicated servant.

HE WILL BE MISSED!

Paul H. Hastedt

\*\*\*\*\*

K COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

This letter is to advise you of the death of my husband, Emilio Giacobbe, who passed away on January 14, 1991.

He was a rifleman with K Company, 182 Infantry and shipped overseas with Task force 6814. He served with this unit on New Caledonia, New Hebrides, and Fiji. He also saw combat on Guadalcanal and Bougainville as a scout.

Emilio was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, a Bronze Star, and two Service Stars.

I want you to know that my husband was very proud of his duty with the Americal and he enjoyed the Americal Newsletter very much.

He was a great guy!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Joshephine Giacobbe

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of my little family, I would like to thank one and all for the support and love we received from the Americal members in the time of our sorrow.

You all are great guys! You loved Chaplain Franklin and I can assure you that he loved you too. His comrades were his brothers-in-arms and he held you in the biggest part of his heart with all the memories you shared.

You knew him long before I met him and quite often I have envied you that privilege---I have lost, only temporarily, my best friend and I do miss him terribly.

Thank you so much for your cards, letters, phone calls, checks, spiritual bouquets, and flowers. Your thoughtfulness and kindness gave me great comfort and made things much easier for Elisebeth and me.

He would have been so happy to be with us for the celebration of the ending of his earthly life and the beginning of his new life. I have a positive feeling, though, that he was with us, greeting each one of you with his warm smile, a kind word, and that twinkle in his eye.

I plan to write a card of thanks to each and every person who had either called or written or attended the celebration, but in case I do not please forgive me and I hope you will accept this letter as my way to say, "Thank you one and all--thank you forever".

I would like to continue the joy of being with you and be a part of your lives in the A.D.V.A.

He was a wonderful disciple of God, a great lover of his family and an eternal comrade to his war buddies. We will miss him.

Yours in His Holy Name,  
Elisebeth and Frances Franklin

Shalom!

\*\*\*\*\*

SERVICE COMPANY 132 INFANTRY

This is to advise you that my husband Richard, passed away on March 10, 1991 at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, of complications following heart surgery.

I would appreciate a copy of the Americal Newsletter listing his name under "TAPS" to add to our family genealogy. He was proud to be a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Thank you,  
Anita Hintz

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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR, IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES.

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# ADJUTANT'S NOTES

## NEW MEMBERS

Paul E. Bernard  
Co. H 101st Medical  
Palm Harbor, FL  
#Edward J. Smith

Ernest W. Cathers  
Btry D 1/82 H.H. -A 3/18  
Shell Lake, WI  
#Robert Thornton

Clyde R. Collins  
Co. A 57 Engrs.  
Harriman, TN  
#Bernie Chase

Lorn W. Cramer  
16 Avn 14 CBT Avn 534 Med  
Leavenworth, KS  
#William Maddox

John G. Gallagher  
Co. B-Hq 1 Bn. 182 Inf.  
Wyncote, PA  
#William Maddox

Irbe E. Hanson  
247 Field Artillery  
Niles, IL  
#Bernard M. Stellar

James T. Hurd  
Hq. Btry 3/16 Arty.  
Lakewood, Ohio  
#Bill McLaughlin

Michael O. Kelly  
Hq Task Force Oregon  
Chicago, IL  
#Roland Castronova

George K. Mangum  
Americal Hq.  
Asheville, NC  
#Roland Castronova

Jan F. Milles  
Co. D 1/6 Inf. 198 Bde.  
S. Plainfield, NJ  
#Bernie Chase

Evans E. Neumann  
E Troop 1 Cav. 11 Bde.  
Ventura, CA  
#Ferando Vara

Ralph G. Adams Jr.  
Btry. A 1/82 Arty.  
Boynton Beach, FL  
#Joseph H. Reilly

Gary L. Allen  
Co. B 3/21 Inf. 196 Bde.  
Topeka, KS  
#Bernie Chase

Jerry O. Anderson  
Co. C 6th SPT Bn. 11 Bde.  
Decatur, GA  
#Dwight Fanshaw

Col. James V. Bailey  
523 Signal Bn.  
Augusta, GA  
#William Maddox

Art Castillo  
Cos. C-E 5/46 Inf. 198  
Ridgecrest, CA  
#T.C. Wiggins

Gregory Choinski  
Co. A 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Royal Palm Beach, FL  
#Dwight Fanshaw

Frederick J. Cowburn  
Co. A 1/46 Inf.  
Camillus, NY  
#Ron Ward

Edwin R. Denney  
721 Ord. Co.  
Nashville, TN  
#Bernie Chase

Harold E. Gray  
Co. C 57 Engrs.  
Hubbardston, MN  
#Bernie Chase

Herbert L. Holt  
Co. D 182 Inf.  
Selma, CA  
#Bernie Chase

Michael C. Keena  
E Troop 1 Cav. 11 Bde.  
Hauppauge, NY  
#Roland Castronova

Thompson A. Knott  
Anti Tank 132 Inf.  
Selma, CA  
#Bernie Chase

Gino Arthur Massagli  
Co. I 132 Inf.  
Eureka, CA  
#William Maddox

Carl L. McClafferty  
Co. C 1/20 Inf. 11 Bde.  
El Paso, TX  
#Bernie Chase

Alan E. Owens  
Btry. B 3/16 Arty.  
Peoria, AZ  
#William Maddox

J. B. Akim  
Co. B 1/46 Inf. 196 Bde.  
Pearland, TX  
#Joe Alejandro

Charles R. Anderson  
Co. A 1/46 Inf. 196 Bde.  
Montgomery, AL  
#William Maddox

Harry C. Avant  
Co. C 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Olney, IL  
#Larry A. Baker

Howard P. Barton  
164 Inf. Medical Det.  
Tracy, CA  
#Bernie Chase

## NEW MEMBERS

Charles F. Paulson  
Co. M 132 Inf. 21 Recon  
Glendale Heights, IL  
#Bill McLaughlin

Fred A. Preuss  
Co. B 1/6 Inf. 198 Bde.  
Sanger, CA  
#Bernie Chase

Charles F. Rhodes  
F Troop 17 Cav. 196  
Three Rivers, MI  
#Ed Marsh

Patrick H. Taylor  
Div. HHC Task For. Ore.  
Los Angeles, CA  
#William Maddox

William Tucker  
23 M.P.'S D Troop 1/1  
Rock Island, IL  
#Roland Castronova

Henry Vroom  
Co. A 57 Engrs.  
Holbrook, MA  
#Bernie Chase

Woodrow Walker  
Btry. B 1/82 Arty.  
Wardensville, WV  
#James Buckle

Harold H. Waterman  
HHC 3/1 Inf.  
Dickeyville, WI  
#Bill McLaughlin

#Sponsor

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Paul E. Bernard  
Co. H 101st Medical  
Palm Harbor, FL

Albert Hart  
101st Quartermaster  
Gilmanton, NH

Jack Logsdon  
1/82 Arty.  
Shawneeton, IL

William D. Picardy  
Co. L 182nd Infantry  
Kansas City, MO

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTICE

The following named men will be dropped from membership for non-payment of dues as of this Newsletter. If your name is listed in error please notify Adjutant Bernie chase IMMEDIATELY!

Ltc John B. Allen  
John W. DePuw  
Thomas Gatewood Jr.  
Ronald E. Gleason  
Agostino Manderino  
Albert D. Price  
Clifton D. VanDerveer

John A. Belloste  
Jerry A. Elwell  
Leo J. Gilbert  
Michael D. Harmon  
Theodore A. Patnode  
Jesse A. Rivera  
Richard f. Weidman  
William N. Wright

# CHAPTERS

## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER

Regional Commander  
Edwin A. Heartquist  
Tarpon Springs, FL 33589  
Telephone [REDACTED]

## SOUTH MID WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

Regional Commander  
William K. Maddox  
Portland, TX 78374

## GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

Regional Commander  
Rush G. Propper  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

## FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

Regional Commander  
Lloyd J. Morrell  
Pleasant Hills, CA 94523  
Telephone [REDACTED]

## WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER

Cape Cod Chapter Commander  
Allen D. Cappella  
Plymouth, MA 02360

## EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

Eastern Regional Commander  
Stephen N. Dennison  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
Telephone [REDACTED]

## CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER

IOWA KANSAS MISSOURI NEBRASKA

NOW FORMING CONTACT:  
David L. Recob  
Topeka, KS 66611  
Tel: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET!

# CHAPTER NEWS

## EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

If you did not do it yet, please go to your calendar and mark down these important dates -September 19-20, 1991. This is when we will have our Chapter reunion in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania at the Guest Quarters Suite Hotel. The tours are planned for Friday and Saturday along with a very delicious dinner before our business meeting on Saturday evening.

There are many things to do in Valley Forge if you do not wish to take the tours. Within minutes of driving, there is one of the largest shopping malls in the eastern United States with 7 major department stores including Macy's, Bloomingdales, John Wanamaker, Strawbridges plus 325 specialty shops.

As you can see with the tours and shopping plus our business dinner meeting you will have a very exciting and enjoyable weekend. Maybe not everyone can make the whole weekend. If that is the case try to come in on Friday and stay until Sunday or just come for the business dinner meeting. The hotel room rate also includes breakfast each morning ranging from cold cereal to eggs to order.

Being at Valley Forge is centrally located. Hopefully this will be the biggest turnout for the reunion since it was chartered. If you like being pampered by a hotel staff, enjoy meeting new friends, and renewing old acquaintances, the place to be September 19-22 is our Chapter reunion. As Chapter Commander I would like to extend my personal invitation to you to attend this reunion.

Sincerely,  
Steve Dennison



SITE OF 1991 CHAPTER REUNION

## WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER

Members of the Chapter met on April 8, 1991, at Oliver's Restaurant, a good time was had by all. After the meal a discussion was held on ways that members of the Chapter could help at the National Reunion in June.

There will be a meeting of the Chapter at the VFW in Hyannis, Monday May 12, 1991. No meetings are planned for the months of June, July, or August.



## CHAPTER NEWS

### CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER

The dream to build CMWC of the ADVA came into being, when Ron Ward, the National Commander of the ADVA and Bernie Chase, the National Adjutant, invited newly joined member, David L. Recob, of Topeka, KS, in late Dec. 1990, to attempt to put together 10 names in the four States region, so a Charter could be issued to authorize use of the name and establish a base membership to build upon.

On January 1, 1990 a letter was sent to 62 members of the ADVA who are members of the Association and live in Iowa-Kansas-Missouri-Nebraska.

In January 13 names had been collected and reported to National Headquarters in Boston, MA, and a Charter was approved by the Executive Council.

By March 1991, a total of 34 names have been collected to become members of this new Chapter. A list of these Chapter members has been mailed to all of the Chapter members, so that contacts may be made, old bonds of friendship may be re-established, or making new bonds with nearby association members.

By choice I will remain the Sec/Treas of this new Chapter and Ron Ward will be the Chapter Commander when his term as National Commander expires in June. Robert Crews has been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Dave Recob

Ed Note: Dave has done a fantastic job of getting the Mid-West organized and we are looking forward to a National convention there in 1993. We could certainly use more organizers like Dave!

\*\*\*\*\*

### SOUTH MID-WEST CHAPTER

The members of the committee are still hard at work on the plans for the 1992 National convention that will be held in San Antonio.

We are still seeking Chapter members to help with our plans for the Convention and your ideas and input are most welcome.

Bill Maddox

\*\*\*\*\*

### GREAT LAKES REGION CHAPTER

Our Chapter members were saddened to learn of the death of Past Chapter Commander Herbert Murphy.

Herb founded this Chapter and was the Commander for five years. He was also active in many fraternal and military organizations.

We have lost a dear friend.

Rush Propper

\*\*\*\*\*

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER

## COVER STORY

### GENERAL H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF

Where did this man come from? H. Norman Schwarzkopf was born in Trenton, New Jersey, on August 22, 1934. His father Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf, was the son of German immigrants who spoke no English in the home. (Schwarzkopf senior so hated "Herbert" that he gave his son the initial, but not the name). Schwarzkopf senior graduated from West Point and, at his son's birth, was head of the New Jersey State Police, overseeing the conviction and execution of Bruno Hauptman for the kidnap-murder of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh's baby. He later hosted the old radio show "Gangbusters" before returning to active duty with the Army during World War II. It is hard to know how great an influence the father had on the son.

In 1946, 12-year-old H. Norman Schwarzkopf went to Iran to join his father, who was training that country's police. (In 1953 he was instrumental in the coup that overthrew Iran's Prime Minister Mossadegh and restored the Shah to his throne). The young Schwarzkopf lived in Iran for a year, in Germany for two years, and then in Italy for a year before he was seventeen. At West Point he wrestled and played tennis and football; he conducted the chapel choir and graduated in the top 10 percent of his class. He was a captain, the highest cadet rank one can attain. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant and entered active duty.

The General's first tour of duty in Vietnam was in 1965-66 at which time he was a task force advisor to a South Vietnamese Airborne Battalion. This unit fought for almost every day of every month for thirteen months.

His second tour of duty in Vietnam took place in 1969-70 and at this time he was commander of the Americal Division's 1st Battalion of the 6th Infantry, 198 LIB. He was twice wounded during this tour of duty, the second wound was his ticket home.

General, then an LtC, won his third Silver Star while commanding the 1st Battalion of the 6th Infantry in South Vietnam's Batangan Peninsula. A portion of his battalion's Bravo Company became trapped in a mine field. Bravo's company commander and a lieutenant had both been badly wounded and a med-evac helicopter had been called for. Schwarzkopf, airborne in his Huey helicopter with Captain Bob Trabbert, his artillery liaison officer, reached the stranded unit first and turned over his Huey to get the wounded out. Schwarzkopf and Trabbert then stayed behind.

The remainder of the patrol was still frozen in the mine field. Their commanders had been evacuated; they felt leaderless, abandoned. Schwarzkopf told them calmly that they were going to be alright, to walk out the way they came in and to watch where they put their feet and to keep to their old tracks, stay calm and keep their distance.

As they began to move again one young soldier, a dozen yards from Schwarzkopf stepped on another mine. The soldier's leg was mangled and Schwarzkopf and Trabbert were injured slightly. Schwarzkopf proceeded into the mine field and personally attended the soldier's wounds and got him out of the mine field. While assisting with the wounded soldier, Trabbert was seriously wounded and three other soldiers were killed.

Continues next page

## COVER STORY

In 1984 Schwarzkopf was commanding the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Stewart, Georgia. This is a plum assignment. Only sixteen generals get it. (This is the Division that "Carried the ball" in Desert Storm).

The General was next selected to be the advisor to the Navy, on the proper utilization of the Army, during the invasion of Grenada.

You all know the part he played in Gulf War.

In a recent Washington Post interview Schwarzkopf said, "Every waking and sleeping moment, my nightmare is the fact that I will give an order that will cause countless numbers of human beings to lose their lives. I don't want my troops to die. I don't want my troops to be maimed. It's an intensely personal, emotional thing for me. Any decision you have to make that involves the loss of human life is nothing you do lightly. I agonize over it."

You can believe him.

Ed note: This is a brief of a story, "Operation Desert Norm", written by C.D.B. Bryan, and carried in the magazine, The New Republic. This was in the March 1991 issue and is worth locating to read the entire story. Thanks to William Trubiano, 57th Engineers for sending it in.



TALKING WITH THE BOSS



MAKING A POINT

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

### GENERALS POWELL, SWARZKOPF

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING A HIGHLY VISIBLE POSITIVE LEGACY FOR MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION. WHILE MISTAKES MADE IN VIETNAM WERE OFTEN OBVIOUS, AMERICAL DIVISION BORE THE LIONS SHARE OF PUBLICITY BRUISES. I ALWAYS HAD THE FIRST HAND IMPRESSION A LOT OF AMERICAL MEN WERE DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB, ESPECIALLY GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES.

CURRENTLY, MUCH AMERICAN MEDIA IS ATTEMPTING TO SECURE POLITICAL DEFEAT FROM THE GLOW OF MILITARY VICTORY. I AM CONFIDENT VETERANS WILL NOT ACCEPT SUPERFICIAL MEDIA DIMINUTION OF THE OUTSTANDING JOB BY AMERICAN ENLISTED MEN, NCO'S, AND OFFICERS WITHIN YOUR COMMAND.

J. ALLEN HEATH

### Members

Brotherhood Rally Of All Veterans Organizations (BRAVO) - Colorado, is putting together what we hope to be the world's largest Vietnam Veterans photo collection, and we need your help! We are asking that anyone who has a black and white photo of themselves or photos of groups of Vietnam Veterans, and would like to have it entered, may do so by sending it to the address below. On the back of each photo, please print the name(s) of individual(s), the year the photo was taken and the name of the unit. We will then index all photos and insert them into the album. The album will then be displayed throughout the country at Veterans gatherings. When the album is complete, it will be turned over to a Vietnam Veteran museum. We regret that any photos that are submitted will not be returned. In addition all photos will be entered as a tribute to our participation in the Vietnam War. BRAVO - Colorado thanks you in advance for your assistance.

Howard W. Walker  
VP BRAVO COLORADO  
Aurora, CO 80011

MSG/USA/RET  
VP BRAVO COLORADO  
Vietnam 67-70'  
1/6th 198th LIB

## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a Captain Gonzalez who commanded D Co 4/3 11th LIB from Dec. 67' thru Nov. 68' needs to contact Pete Rico. The Captain also served with the 11th in Hawaii before shipping out for Vietnam. Petes address:  
Peter Rico

Hammond, IN 46323

A new recruit, Pete Holguien, wants to hear from men who served with A Troop 1/1 Cavalry during 69-70. He wants to know more about the units record during that era. His address:  
Pete E. Holguien

Las Cruces, NM 88005



## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Co. C 1/20 Bn. 11 Bde.

I just read about the reunion of the 23rd Infantry Division in an issue of Army Times. I worked my way from Private McClafferty to Sergeant McClafferty while assigned to 1st Platoon C Co., 1/20 Bn., 11 Bde., during 1970-1971.

Shortly after returning home, I heard a friend tell my wife "soldiers that live, laugh, fight and bleed together have a bond that no one else can touch". Frankly I believed that the bond had faded in time, until I read about the reunion. After the immediate rush of memory, faces and feelings, I now know that I will carry that bond to my grave.

I'm presently the Commander of the U.S. Border Patrol's National Tactical Unit. Besides executing our primary mission on the U. S. borders, we also work extensively as trainers and advisors in Central and South America. Unfortunately the unit will have a major mission in progress during the reunion and I can not attend.

Please give my best to the men and woman of the 23rd Infantry Division and my apologies for not attending. Should (then) Captain James Donovan or any one else from the unit attend, please forward my address to them. If a decision on a future reunion is reached please advise immediately, so I may (and will) attend.

Sincerely,

Carl L. McClafferty 111  
[REDACTED]  
El Paso, Texas 79908

I have noticed that many who write are interested in "A0" "GRID" maps. Most all can be obtained from the National Archives. The process is a bit complicated as they have to know the map number. I have most stock numbers from the bottom left on each map and the title for the "L7014" "1:50,000" scale series. The cost is \$4.80 each for a photocopied map.

Dia Loc 6640-IV	Hoi An 6640-I	Tra-Bong 6739-IV
Hiep-Duc 6640-III	Tam-Ky 6640-II	Son-Ha 6739-III
Hau-Duc 6639-IV	Tien-Phuoc 6639-I	Bihn-Son 6739-I
Lac-Trom-Dong 6639-III	Gil-Ang 6639-II	Quang-Ngai 6739-II

To order: Send letter noting which maps (min order is two) by name and stock number and Vietnam L7014 series to:

National Archives Trust Fund  
[REDACTED]  
Atlanta, GA 30384

Joe Kralich  
[REDACTED]  
Ranchos, NM 87557

ARE YOUR DUES PAID

## Members

My husband is a life member of the ADVA, having served with H Troop 17th Cavalry 198th LIB during 1969-1970. I have enclosed a poem that I wrote for him that I thought you all might like. Though it was written for my Michael, I'm sure there are many "Michaels" out there that can relate to what it says. With the crisis in the Gulf there are many emotions and forgotten memories to deal with all over again. I feel it is important for them all to know that even though more than 20 years have past and the nation is saluting those who served in the Gulf, we will continue to salute and support them for all they went through so many years ago.

With greatest respect,  
Vietnam wife  
Kathryn L. Thyne

MICHAEL

There's a place within his heart,  
That most will never know.  
The memories locked within his mind,  
And the pain that won't let go.  
He'll never forget that place,  
The sights, the heat, the smell.  
His nightmares seem so real,  
They bring back a living hell.  
Though the times weren't always bad,  
Of the good he seldom dreams.,  
He's tried to lead a normal life,  
But things aren't as they seem.  
The friends he made are special,  
For they, too, shared it all.  
But the ones that mean the most,  
Have their names upon "THE WALL."  
To most it seems so long ago,  
But for this Vet it never ends.  
To have the years keep going by,  
Still counting POW/MIA friends.  
He just longs to find a peace,  
Be shown respect that he deserves,  
For the time he spent in Vietnam,  
It was the U.S. that he served.

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm pleased to see that the Central Midwest Chapter is becoming a reality. After receiving the list of names from Dave Recob I immediately sent letters off to those who also served in the 11th LIB. Another way to establish friendships with the fellow vets!

I've got a name for you to put in the sick call section of the newsletter, Don Mills. He has been in Walter Reed for the past three weeks undergoing tests for memory lapse and seizures. Both of which are related to Don's being wounded in Vietnam in 1970. he and I were in D Co 4/3 11th LIB together and were/are good friends. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from some of the fellow members and receiving a little encouragement. His address:  
Don Mills  
[REDACTED]

Indianola, IL 61850

Sincerely,  
Linn Hoopes

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
DO IT NOW!

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

" THE WOUNDS OF VIETNAM HAVE NOT HEALED"

By the time this letter appears in the Americal Newsletter, it may be old news or then again it may still be fresh in our minds. I am referring to the war in the Gulf. I have watched the news daily from the start in January until well after President Bush proclaimed victory. This past weekend I listened to the news and I heard the commentators say how the troops would be coming home soon and there were going to be parades for all these heros. They said that they were going to make these troops feel welcome unlike what they had done for the Vietnam veterans. One of the commentators even suggested that they allow the Vietnam veterans to walk in this parade and make it their parade too. I thought to myself when they come home I'll be there, but I'll be standing on street curb. Perhaps I'll be wearing my old Vietnam shirt, waving the flag and cheering them on, but not walking in their parade. Because it is their parade, not mine. As Vietnam Veterans we never had a welcome home parade we never asked for one, and it would never have taken place back then, so we never knew what we missed. Now almost 23 years since my return home, I see the American news media and public wanting to give these men and women a tremendous welcome home celebration, and deep inside me to hear so much of this, it hurts.

I think back to 1969 when we came home and as we walked through the airport we encountered a large group of young people who looked at our uniforms and asked if those purple and white ribbons on our chest reflected the fact that we were wounded in Viet Nam. When we answered yes, their reply was "It's a shame they didn't kill you". We weren't called heros, we were called baby killers. The American news media's probably feeling guilty for their unscrupulous reporting of the Viet Nam war which turned large numbers of the American public against the veterans of that era. Now they have changed their tactics, but only after finding the U.S. Government was not going to allow them TO MAKE THE NEWS, that is to write and create their own version of sensationalism. The American public also changed, it was going to pull the plug on those stations that keep giving treble air time to the war protesters. Now the media is playing up the patriotic side, in their search for news they now proclaim that everyone who served in the gulf as a hero. I wonder why members of the media could not find a honorable professional such as sanitation collector, at least they would be in a related field.... garbage. I hope that the reader does not misunderstand what I am trying to say. They want these men and women to return home to know how much the American public appreciates each and every one for all the sacrifices they endured while in the Persian Gulf. I feel that every pilot that participated in the bombing, being fired upon and putting his and her life on the line daily, and many of the ground troops are heros. I am sure there were many sacrifices that the soldiers and love ones back home had to suffer. I am sure that life was difficult in the gulf and I take satisfaction in saying that I am proud of everyone that was called and reported to do his and her job and performed their duty. However again I can't help but think back to my 14 month Vietnam experience and try to count the number of times that we were mortared, or made hostile contact, or the horrible living conditions that we had to face. I hear them talk about the heavy rains that the troops had to meet with the last few days of the ground war in the Persian Gulf, and then I remember weeks of bone cold rainy

nights of the monsoons. I try to recall the number of times we had to police up the dead enemy bodies and body parts after contact, and the many times I saw body bags loaded on the choppers.

Tears still form in my eyes as I recall seeing convoys of flat bed trucks with American flag draped coffins stacked two and three high moving down the road in route to the airport. I'm glad the American news media and public have wised up and are giving these troops a welcome home like they truly deserve. As I watch the news today I don't think I would stand alone when I say that as an American Vietnam Veteran "The wounds of Vietnam have not healed and deep down inside it still hurts.

John M. Wills  
1st Bn. 52nd Inf. 198th Inf. Bde.  
Americal Div. June 68 - Sept 69

## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

26th Engineer Battalion

As director of an outreach center for Vietnam Veterans, I come in contact with many veterans and those related to the activities that took place during the Vietnam War.

I recently came in contact with a Vietnamese gentleman that was an interpreter for the Americal Division during the war and he needs to prove that he worked with your division in activities that took place there. He was given an accommodation medal in 1969 signed by General Abrams but that has been lost, he no longer has that. He has absolutely nothing to prove at this time that he is or was an interpreter. He needs to prove that to our government and to the government of Vietnam at this time, because he would like to come to our country but has to prove that he indeed worked with the United States during the war.

All that I have is his name and the names of two of the people that he worked with. His name was Staff Sergeant Ngyen Van Hung. He served with H.H.C. S2, 26th Engineer Battalion.

The only names he recalls of those people that he worked with are Spec. 4, James Kerr from Ohio, also a Lt. Russell C. Meek, and Spec 4 Thomas J. Clein from Minnesota.

If any of these men belong to your Association or if there is any way that you can pass this information on to them and ask them to contact me or if you have any record or any method of helping in this matter, I would appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lee Craig  
[REDACTED]  
Redding, CA 96099  
Tel. [REDACTED]

Any members who can help contact above person.

\*\*\*\*\*

CHECK TO THE RIGHT OF YOU NAME  
ON THE ADDRESS LABEL  
FOR YOU DUES DUE DATE

\*\*\*\*\*



## REUNIONS

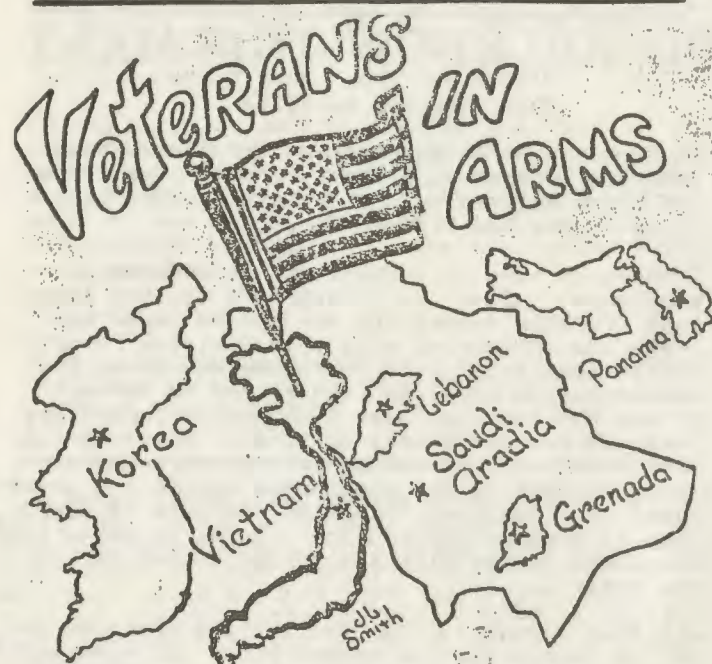
The 196th  
Light Infantry Brigade

Contact:

William H. Knight  
[REDACTED]  
Winslow, IN 4759  
[REDACTED]

196 Light Infantry Brigade Association Reunion

The 196 Light Infantry Brigade Association will hold its 6th Bi-Annual Reunion at the Holiday Inn O'Hare Chicago, Illinois July 18-19-20, 1991.



9th Annual Indiana Vietnam Vets Reunion  
Sept 13-15, 1991

On the grounds of the Howard Johnsons and  
Ramada Inn, Kokomo, IN

Featuring

"The Moving Wall"

Special tribute to the troops of Desert Storm  
Also

Britt Small & Festival Sammy L. Davis MOH  
Rev. John Steer Col. James "Bo" Gritz  
Col. Hopper & Patty Skelly - Task force Omega  
Paul Sutton - N.J. Agent Orange Commission  
Music with Big Radar & Risky Business  
Ron Jones Freedom Flight

Unit Reunions  
All Veterans Welcome

For information call: [REDACTED]  
Sponsored by Howard County Vietnam Veterans  
Assisted by Veterans For Veterans, Indianapolis, IN

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE SEND THE NOTICES OF YOUR REUNIONS AT  
LEAST THREE MONTHS AHEAD OF THE DATE SO THAT  
WE MAY GET THEM INTO THE NEWSLETTER IN TIME.

\*\*\*\*\*

## REUNIONS

## 132ND INFANTRY REGIMENT WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION



CICERO, IL 60650-8327

Phone 7 [REDACTED]

*Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary  
1941-1991*



MEN, THIS IS IT--THE BIG ONE

THE 132ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION

PLEASE SET THESE DATES ASIDE RIGHT NOW

August 29, 30, 31, &amp; SEPTEMBER 1, 1991

TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

VIETNAM VETERANS  
REUNION

## FIREBASE INDY II

(IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM 1959 - 1975)

MEDALLION TO BE PRESENTED

JUNE 14, 15, and 16, 1991

MARION COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

(OFF I-465 &amp; I-74)

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

PUBLIC IS INVITED

PICNIC AREA

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 295, P. O. Box 449004,  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, (317) 738-6524

\*\*\*\*\*

EMPIRE STATE VIETNAM VETERANS ENCAMPMENT

JULY 12 -14 1991

The third annual Empire State Vietnam Veteran's Encampment will take place during the weekend of July 12-14, 1991 at Camp Smith, Peekskill, New York. For info write;

Frank Lauria

Hawthorne, NY 10532

Telephone [REDACTED]

## REUNIONS

## REUNIONS

## REUNIONS

30th ANNUAL

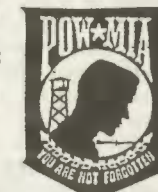


GODREAU-McMAHON AMERICAN LEGION POST 91  
PRESENTS AMERICA'S ONLY

## VJ DAY PARADE

SUNDAY AUGUST 11th 1991 at 1:01 pm

DEDICATED TO:  
POWS & MIAS



THEME:



Any military or fraternal organizations, businesses, etc.  
who wish to submit floats, marching units or other, please  
fill out the form below and mail to:

American Legion Post 91  
Prospect Street  
Moosup, CT 06354



## ENTRY FORM

We wish to participate in the Annual VJ Day Parade  
on Sunday, August 11, 1991

Name of Organization  
or Business:

Nature

Of Entry:

Phone:

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 21 JULY 1991

Bill Poprosky, Chairman - Roy Pierce, Treasurer



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
CALL (203) 564-8005



THIS AUGUST WILL MARK THE 46th  
ANNIVERSARY OF V.J. DAY BRINGING WORLD  
WAR II TO AN END.

WE AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 91 WILL  
BE COMMEMORATING THIS EVENT WITH OUR  
30th ANNUAL PARADE, THE ONLY ONE IN  
THE NATION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THOSE  
WHO FOUGHT TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END.

THE THEME OF THIS YEARS PARADE  
WILL BE "OLD GLORY" AND WILL BE DEDICATED  
TO ALL POW/MIA'S.

THIS IS AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL  
VETERAN, NON VETERAN, OR INDIVIDUALS  
TO BE PART OF THIS CELEBRATION.

THE 1991 PARADE WILL BE HELD ON  
AUGUST 11th AND WILL STEP OFF AT 1:01.

ANYONE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE  
SHOULD BE AT THE ASSEMBLY AREA BY  
12:00.

\*\*\*\*\*

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

OMAHA, NE AUGUST 21024, 1991 OMAHA, NE

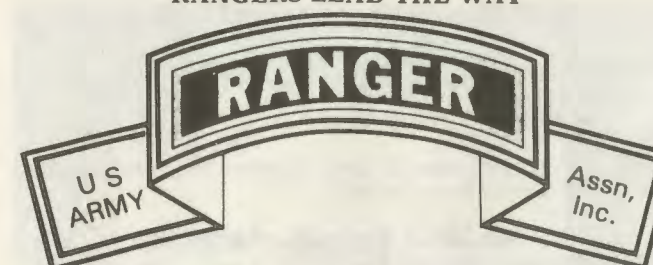
DETAILS WRITE;

GENE KELLER

KALAMAZOO, MI 49008

TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY"



Founded in 1973 to foster Ranger ideal and  
activities, the United States Army Ranger  
Association is the only national Ranger  
organization that offers full membership to  
all who are Ranger qualified, and those who  
served or are serving in LRSU/LRP/LRRP units.  
We offer a full range of activities and  
programs from local to national level. USARA  
is an association of Rangers from all units,  
eras, and conflicts working together toward  
common goals and purposes, for the benefit of  
all.

## ANNUAL RANGER MUSTER (ARMS)

Sheraton Airport Hotel  
Columbus, GA  
October 1 1-13, 1991

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the  
modern military Ranger. There will be a  
celebration in Columbus/Ft. Benning, Georgia  
area to mark this historic occasion.

For further information please contact;

Richard O. Stewart Jr. Adj.  
U.S. Ranger Association Inc.

Columbus, GA 31902-0669

\*\*\*\*\*

SUMMER TIME IS REUNION TIME AND THE AMERICAL  
NEWSLETTER IS ALWAYS WILLING TO PRINT THE  
NOTICE FOR YOUR REUNION.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE YOUR SECRETARY, OR ADJUTANT  
TO WRITE A FOLLOW UP STORY AND TELL US ABOUT  
THE REUNION. PICTURES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND  
THEY WILL BE RETURNED AFTER PUBLICATION.

IF THE PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T ATTEND FIND OUT  
WHAT A GOOD TIME WAS HAD, THEY MIGHT MAKE  
SURE TO ATTEND THE NEXT ONE.

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be two special Reunions held next  
year. One will be held on New Caledonia, our  
namesake, on March 12, 1992 commemorating the  
landing of Americans there (US) fifty years  
ago. The other will be held on Guadalcanal  
on August 7, 1992 commemorating the landing  
of the Marines on that date and also the  
dedication of the American Guadalcanal  
Memorial.

I have been receiving inquires, due to a  
notice in the March-April issue of the  
AMERICAL NEWSLETTER, and hopefully by the  
next issue we will have some facts and  
figures on cost etc. I will answer all  
inquires personally just as soon as the  
information is received.



## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

### PATRIOTISM

Patriotism is a child standing at its school desk with hand over its heart, pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag with fellow school mates.

Patriotism is three men from the Heroes of '76 of National Sojourners, Inc., dressed in colonial uniforms going from school to school, veterans, civil, or fraternal orders, building the U.S. flag and telling its story from inception in 1776 to the present date, and of the lives, fortunes, and liberties given in the defense of our nation and its ideals.

Patriotism is a Mother or Father, or Both, putting on a uniform and leaving family behind in care of others, to go and make the world free from those who would suppress freedoms.

Patriotism is a career military person or one time enlistee who puts on a uniform and fights for the causes of liberty and the ideals one believes in, at the sacrifice of their lives if necessary.

Patriotism is the blending together of the voices of the crowd as they sing the national anthem at a public event, as their hearts swell with pride, to see old glory float majestically in the breezes above them.

Patriotism is the last look and faint smile of a dying soldier who sees the charge mount the objective, destroy the enemy, and plant the U.S. flag, as darkness closes their eyes forever.

Patriotism is the many faces of society making daily sacrifice for things needed by the military to fight a war without complaint, knowing all will be well in the end.

Patriotism is voting at the polls to enact laws we may not all agree with, but know they are best for the majority, in order to live in a free and democratic society.

More than anything else - Patriotism is love of country, above love of ourselves.

David L. Recob  
23rd M.P.'s

Dedicated to all Veterans, especially those of Desert storm.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW YORK STATE VETERANS

I am a member of the ADVA and in your acceptance letter to me you encouraged sending articles that might be of interest to fellow members.

I am currently a member of the New York Senate District Veterans Advisory Council and attend all meetings in my District.

If a member of the ADVA is also a New York State resident, I will gladly, at his request, send a booklet telling him of his rights and privileges under the laws of the State of New York.

Kindly request booklet entitled, "Veterans Legislative Highlights 1980-1989."

Fraternally yours,  
J.W. Vanderbeck  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

### 723 MAINTENANCE BN. 196 LIB

Enclosed are two pictures that were taken between March 71 and August 71, just before I was transferred to Da Nang.

I was on the Forward Area Support Team-Small Arms and Artillery repair.

I was also assigned to training ARVNS in the assembly of the M16A1-M203 over and under grenade launcher.

I was also part of Task force Americal and Keystone Chu Lai Division stand-down.

Best regards to all of my comrades of the 726 Maintenance, A and D Company, 196 LIB.

Ervin Russell



\*\*\*\*\*

### B/2/1 196 LIB

Sure enjoy the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER and I certainly appreciate Jim Talley for informing me about the Association and the 196th Locator. Made contact with several "friendlies"--first since the war.

Darryl Ogle

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

### ALPHA COMPANY 2/1 INFANTRY 196 LIB

### VIETNAM: The Black Eagle

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the dedication of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. during the month of November 1982. As I looked upon the seemingly endless "Wall" of names I immediately had an impulse to respond in obvious ways. First---tears, lots of tears. Secondly, I felt that the many inscriptions on the huge black granite wall were not dead at all. The monument gave the vibes of communication, as if to say, "they will always live, here, on the "Wall." There was too much of a message for this Vietnam veteran to hold his composure. I broke down in strong tears. In fact, the entire grounds around the memorial was covered with embrace as many vets from that war seem to be, for the first time, COMING HOME. Thirdly, and probably the most important of all, I realized that God had confirmed a prophetic message to me that I had received some years prior.

As I was in prayer on this particular occasion I strongly sensed God's Spirit conveying a message to my mind. I had beheld a huge bird soaring through the heavens. As the great bird became more clearly visible I realized it to be an eagle, but it was entirely black. A Black Eagle. Suddenly it became clear. This great Black Eagle was soaring over our homeland. Vietnam had been a warning. The symbol of America, the Bald Eagle, had flown into a place far far away, and there engaged unfamiliar enemy. Because of Governmental procedure and political fears the hand picked warriors of Southeast Asia had to return home short of total victory. Through international eyes, the greatest freedom fighting soldier in all the world had fought with handcuffs on, and the keys were not held in Hanoi, but in Washington.

America's reputation as "conquerors of evil" had suddenly become more evaluated within the homeland. The soldier had become a symbol of evil, or failure. The soldier was awarded the blame. Putting it very plainly, our country had faced a time of SHAME. Thus, the great Bald Eagle had become stained with shame and national confusion. Our selfishness and corruption had finally caught up with us on the battlefield. Vietnam was, and is, a warning from the very hands of God Himself. Radical thinking you say. Radical or not my American friend, its Biblical.

As I beheld the vast outstretched wings of the "Wall" I was astonished. There it was, embedded in a mountainous wall of earth, the Black Eagle. Some years prior to this dedication I had dubbed the term, but with no knowledge of any memorial whatsoever. My vision had certainly been confirmed. Now...what must we do to prevent the Black Eagle from flying again? Think about it.... And if you're ever in D.C. and have the honor of seeing the Vietnam Memorial, as you stand close and look deep into the sea of names, between the lines, you'll see....YOURSELF.

Paul Hughes



The picture above shows the sign at the entrance of the Americal Division at Chu Lai.

Tom Kreidler sent the above photo in. Tom was with the 1/14 Artillery and he saw service with A Company, 1/6 Infantry as a F.O.

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RON,

I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU AND THE AMERICAL STAFF FOR YOUR FINE WORK TOWARD AMERICAL VETS AND THE NEWSLETTER. I BELIEVE THE RECENT ISSUE WITH INFORMATION ON GENERALS POWELL AND SCHWARTZKOPF WAS A GREAT BOOST TO AMERICAL MORALE. OBSERVATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED IN THE 'NAM BY THESE TWO AMERICAL VETS GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE MILITARY SUCCESS OF DESERT STORM.

I ENJOY ALL ASPECTS OF THE INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER. OUR MEMBERS HAVE INTERESTING COMMENTS AND GREAT STORIES. I SALUTE THE "WATCH-WHO-YOU'RE-CALLING-OLD GUARD" (GUESS THAT MAKES ME A MID-LIFE YOUNGSTER - HA), AND CHALLENGE THEM TO STAY IN TOUCH THROUGH THE LETTER.

PERHAPS THE DAY WILL SOON ARRIVE WHEN YOU CAN PUBLISH THE LETTER MORE OFTEN AS A.D.V.A. GROWS.

THANKS AGAIN. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK,

"DUSTER"

\*\*\*\*\*

COMING COMING COMING

Great stories by Larry Babbitts, Russ Miles, and Larry Henry. Also pictures by Woodrow Walker.



## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

### DOOR GUNNERS

"It looked as if the ground was coming up to meet us," began the chubby, bespectacled door gunner, "and for a couple of seconds there I thought it was all over."

SP4 Roger d. Morley (Denver), a one-time medic and former liberal arts major at Casper Jr. College, Casper, Wyoming, was relating one of the more exciting moments in what many consider the Americal Division's most glamorous job.

"Then the voice on the intercom said that we had lost tail-rotor power, and I was certain that was it," he continued, "but I noticed that the pilot hadn't lost his cool. I just hung in there, hoping and praying for the best."

The best was good enough as the "Firebird" gunship from 71st Avn. Co 14th Combat Avn. Bn. landed with "a hell of a jolt," but landed safely with no one seriously injured. They had once again bailed the Infantry out of a tight spot by their superior firepower and maneuverability.

This was by no means the first time in Morley's 28 months as an aerial gunner Vietnam that his ship was hit by hostile fire. "We've been hit often, but each time the skippers brought us back home with only a minimum difficulty. You've got to trust the chopper pilots....they're good."

And the confidence was mutual. WO1 Alfred Adamitis(Birmingham, Ala.), a veteran pilot who has flown "Firebird" gunships for more than eight months, said, "Before coming over here it was impossible to imagine how good those gunners are. It's a nice feeling to know that your right and left flanks, as well as your rear, are protected by men who are competent in their trade. As soon as the action begins, they jump into the fight with guns blazing."

Volunteers come from all branches of the Army to serve as aerial gunner; many from non-combat jobs such as bakers, truck drivers, clerks and machine repairmen. They have got to be tough, quick, sharp-witted. It is not a job that can be done by the easily shaken or those with queasy stomachs.

They must learn the complex weaponry of the gunships, which carries as a minimum 14 rockets and 6,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition for its two miniguns. It is not because he can fire them, since that's the pilot's or co-pilot's task, however the care, maintenance, and arming if the gunner's responsibility.

The M-16 machine guns, one on the left and one on the right side, which are used for pinpoint firing, are his "babies." The "Firebird" gunners do not fire from fixed post assemblies as is done on other ships, rather they shoot free-hand or from a strap hanging in the doorway in order to increase their mobility and effectiveness.

"It is more difficult to fire this way," said WO2 James (Tampa, FL) "but the greater

freedom of motion allows the gunner to cover more territory quickly. "Timing is the greatest factor in success."

Besides using his skills as a gunner to protect the chopper in support of ground troops, the gunner are responsible for refueling the ship and giving the pilots oral guidance during take-off and landing.

Although he is obliged to assist the other enlisted members of the ship, the crew chief, in the maintenance of the helicopter, the assistance is reciprocal. While in flight, the crew chief acts as one of the gunners, and together they form a team capable of devastating an area the size of a football field on a single pass.

Regardless of how good a shot he is or how vast his knowledge of the chopper's ordinance, the man at the trigger must display some mechanical ability to keep his guns firing and help keep the ship in the air.

"It would be impossible for the crew chief to maintain the chopper in such a state of combat readiness without the cooperation of these enthusiastic workers. Every hour in the air requires at least one hour of ground maintenance," stated one of the pilots.

Though these tedious hours are essential, the core of the job is the few minutes when he is at his gun, making life miserable for the enemy.

The love of flying and the excitement of the chase is shared by SP4 David L Winter (Superior, Wis.). He has been with the 74 Avn. Co. for more than two years and has logged nearly 750 combat hours. During this time, along with glamour, there was plenty of danger, and close calls were a common occurrence

"During a mission about 18 months ago," Winter recalled, "our ship was receiving pretty heavy ground fire, yet in spite of it the situation seemed pretty routine. Then a group of my M-60 shattering it. It was a real eerie feeling having the weapon shot out of my hands. Except for temporarily putting my weapon out of action, no harm was done."

Five months later, while flying a contact mission over Que Son Valley, the tall, sandy-haired ex-mechanic was shot down and had to "hump all the way back" through hostile territory. "I never realized how hard the 'grunties' had it until then. They sure have a tough case going," noted Winters, who is the holder of two purple hearts and two dozen Air Medals.

"There's no hiding up there," added a former company clerk, SP5 Michael J. Murphy (Missoula, Mont.) "You're vulnerable and present one hell of a target." "The enemy knows the amount of damage we can do, and they'll willing expend beaucoup ammunition trying to get us. Often, he'll even give his position away in the attempt, and that's when we can really sock it to him.

Murphy, who was a graduate student at the Continues on next page

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

### DOOR GUNNER (Concluded)

University of Montana prior to being drafted, holds degrees in psychology and sociology. He has been in Vietnam more than 20 months, 15 of which have been served with gunships.

He, too, has had his hairy experiences as an aerial gunner, the most memorable of which occurred last July near Antenna Valley. "We were low-level flying near LZ O'Connor," the twice-wounded soldier reminisced, "when a .50 cal hit us with a thunk. It traveled through the seat and demolished the handle of my .38 pistol...which I was wearing at the time."

This was particularly harrowing since three previous choppers on which Murphy had served as door gunner had been shot down. Two of them one month before this incident.

Why so they keep flying? What makes them extend over here in Vietnam? Murphy replied, "It's really hard to say. I know it isn't for the extra pay we get (\$55 monthly), so it's got to be partly for the excitement of flying, and for a new scene every day."

"But mostly we stay for the satisfaction we get from doing an important job. It's hard to explain," Murphy continues., "the nice feeling you get when we come in to pull the ground troops out of a tight spot, and they call just after your guns have taken the pressure of and say "Thanks a lot, guys."

From the Americal Magazine 1969

Written by SFC Larry Babitts

\*\*\*\*\*

C CO. 4TH BATTALION 3RD INFANTRY

I am attempting to research my military history with little or no help from the Department of the Army. I served with C/4/3 Infantry from June of '69 to June of '70, RVN. Then attached to the Americal, the 4/3 was a line unit operating in the highlands of West and North Duc Pho.

My kids and their friends are very interested in 'Nam - probably because of the upcoming incoming in the Persian Gulf. I'm at a point where I just can't tell them just what operation I was on or just what I did.

Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

I am also interested in getting a roster of my Company for the purpose of writing a book. Any ideas?

Dan Danetra

\*\*\*\*\*  
ATTENTION!

We are still looking for someone to reform the lower California Chapter and also someone to take over the Far-West Chapter. As you know, Lloyd Morrell, who founded the Far-West Chapter is moving to Oregon in May and he feels he can not run the Chapter successfully from there.

## ☆ GUADALCANAL ☆ SOLOMON ISLANDS

WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAL DIVISION  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Guadalcanal-Solomon Island War Memorial Foundation, please accept our heart felt thanks for the generous contribution of \$12,941 toward the construction of the Guadalcanal WW II Memorial on Skyline Drive near Honiara, Guadalcanal.

Your contribution plus donations from hundreds of other Veterans and organizations not totals over \$250,000. Adding the U.S. congress appropriation of \$150,000 gives us \$400,000. Our branch locations in Australia and New Zealand have added another \$50,000. With an estimated budget of \$600,000 we are still looking for \$150,000. A fund raising campaign has been launched through the 1st & 2nd Marine Divisions and related Marine Raider Battalions.

The Sir Jacob Vouza has been erected in Honiara.

During my visit to the 'Canal in February '91 construction commitments will be made for the main memorial and a few peripheral obelisks.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION!

Sincerely,  
Joseph G. Micek  
Treas. & Project Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

THE NORTH REGIMENT  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION  
182 INFANTRY

On behalf of the Officers Association of the 1st Bn. 182 Infantry, please accept this check in support of the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund.

We in the Battalion take the heritage of our organization very much to heart and is fitting that the active Officer Corps of the present Battalion help support the efforts to establish a proper memorial to those from the old 182 Regiment who fought and died on the 'Canal.

If there is some other way that we can help in this effort, please do not hesitate to contact me. We wish you much success in your efforts.

Sincerely,  
David J. Barisano  
MAJ, IN ARNGUS  
Executive Officer

\*\*\*\*\*

Please accept this contribution to honor the service of my father, Pfc. Dennis Botelho, during World War II. He served in the 182 Infantry.

Paul Botelho

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?



## GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL

Please accept this donation toward the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund in honor of my husband James W. Congdon.

He and I both remember the time he spent, at the tender age of 18, under fire with Company I of the 132 Infantry. I, of course, learned little about the details until he returned to the states.

He can speak of these experiences much easier 50 years after the fact!

We were childhood sweethearts and married immediately after his discharge on August 23, 1945.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. James W. Congdon

\*\*\*\*\*

Please forgive me for being so late in sending this donation to the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund.

It comes, not only in memory of your Americal men, but also in memory of my late husband, Paul, who was a Coast Watcher and later a guerilla fighter on Bougainville.

My husband was Lieut. Commander Paul Mason RANVR and he was holder of the D.S.C., and the D.S.C. from the United States Government. That was his formal position but just the quiet "Paul" is more in character.

Yours sincerely,  
Noelle Mason

\*\*\*\*\*

### SOLOMON ISLAND GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & PRIVATE INDUSTRIES

I am writing to find out if the Guadalcanal Veterans publish a newspaper or magazine for members and if possible to advertise in the publication.

The Ministry has assisted a local group to start the first coffee processing business in the country and we feel some of the veterans might be interested in helping this new industry by purchasing the ground coffee.

Current production is small so we are looking for a specialty markets where we can sell small quantities of the processed, packaged coffee.

The coffee sells for US\$2.50 for a 200 gram pack, but the postage is an additional US\$2.00 making the cost of one gram package US\$4.50.

I am enclosing a sample of coffee for you.

Sincerely,  
Richard Pezzulo  
UNIDO Business Adviser


Ed Note: This letter, and the sample, was sent to Joe Micek. If you are interested please contact Joe.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP THAT NEW MEMBER YET?

NOW IS THE TIME!

## GUADALCANAL

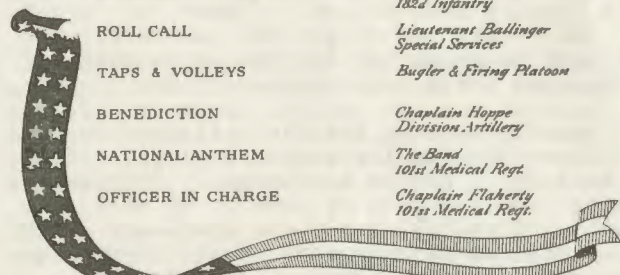


**THE  
AMERICAL DIVISION**  
U. S. A.

# MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR  
**OUR HONORED DEAD**

INVOCATION	Chaplain Rothschild Division Headquarters
NEARER MY GOD TO THEE	The Band 101st Medical Regt.
MILITARY REQUIEM MASS	Chaplain Dunford Division Chaplain
MEMORIAL ADDRESS	Chaplain Franklin 182d Infantry
ROLL CALL	Lieutenant Ballinger Special Services
TAPS & VOLLEYS	Bagler & Firing Platoon
BENEDICTION	Chaplain Hoppe Division Artillery
NATIONAL ANTHEM	The Band 101st Medical Regt.
OFFICER IN CHARGE	Chaplain Flaherty 101st Medical Regt.



**GUADALCANAL MILITARY CEMETERY**  
9 MARCH, 1943

ABOVE IS A COPY OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD ON GUADALCANAL JUST BEFORE THE AMERICAL LEFT THE ISLAND.

Sent in by Leonard Forecki and James McCollom

\*\*\*\*\*

### "ORCHIDS IN THE MUD" GIVEN TO NATIONAL LIBRARY

Guadalcanal War Memorial Foundation representative Joseph Micek and Robert Reynolds, last Friday, presented the book, 'Orchids in the Mud' to the Director of the National Library. The book is about the 132 Infantry Regiment that served on this island, Guadalcanal, during World War II.

The director of the National Library, Walter Hubert-Rhein, said the book has been added to the Pacific Collection.

Mr. Micek and Mr. Reynolds were in Honiara to make final arrangements for the two monuments that are to be erected here.

Mr. Micek fought in the war on Guadalcanal when he was 17 years old and a member of the 132 Infantry Regiment.

He has visited the Solomon Islands several times.

From the Solomon Star February 22, 1991

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

### COMPANY F 2ND BATTALION 132 INFANTRY

I've been recently pleased to recognize the "Southern Cross" shoulder patch on the uniform of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Colin Powell. I'm extremely proud of that patch and that MAN.

I was a member of the Americal division during World War II in the capacity of an infantry machine gunner. My service history overseas began with the mosquitoes of New Caledonia in 1942 (Where the Division was conceived from Americans in New Caledonia) throughout the Pacific theater of War, to the honey carts of Japan in 1945.



I would like to renew contact with former buddies from Company 'F' of the 2nd Battalion, 132 Infantry Regiment, if at all possible. It is probably too much to ask or expect former buddies to remember me by name after 46 years but I thought perhaps you might publish the enclosed picture (I am on the right without glasses) along with this letter, hoping that any one of those cherished friends might communicate.

Respectively,  
Robert Groh, Village Mayor  
[Redacted]  
Amelia, OH 45102

Hey you guys from F/2/132 Infantry-get those pens going. NOW!

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The following dates are the deadlines for the 1991 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

July - August	July 1, 1991
September - October	September 1, 1991
November - December	November 1, 1991

To have that important message out on time please observe these deadlines.

The Staff

\*\*\*\*\*

We would like to have your story to print in the Americal Newsletter. Pictures would be great! Please put your name on the back of the picture and it will be returned as soon as the Newsletter is mailed.

\*\*\*\*\*

### UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND OPERATIONS DESERT STORM, APO NY 09852

Dear Sergeant First Class McCormick;

General Schwarzkopf greatly appreciates your kind invitation to attend the Americal Division Veterans Association Reunion.

Turning down fellow soldiers, especially those who have served honorably in the same unit, is hard for the General, and deeply regrets that other commitments will prevent him from being with you. As I am sure you will appreciate, General Schwarzkopf's schedule in not his own these days.

While the General will not be able to meet with old friends, he conveys his best wishes for a successful reunion. Veterans such as yourself, and those in your group, provided key support to the men and women of Desert Shield.

Sincerely,  
R.E. Wildermuth  
Captain USN

Ed note: Above is the answer Bill McCormack received from his invitation to General Schwarzkopf to attend our June Reunion.

Bill also suggested in a note to the Americal that we make General Schwarzkopf an Honorary Member of the ADVA. I believe this has already been taken care of.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL

A new book dealing with personal of the Medical units of the Americal Division, during World War II, has been written by Arthur G. King M.D.. Dr. King was the Americal Division Surgeon. Here is what he has to say in a recent letter:

"Vignettes of the South Pacific: The Lighter Side of World War II," it is a series of 28 short stories of the episodes which occurred on New Caledonia for the most part, beginning with the third day after we landed there. A few of the stories are about events in Vanuatu where I went with General Williamson a few months after the Americal departed New Caledonia.

those of us who were out there between March 12, 1942 and June 1, 1944 will recognize many of the places and people but may know nothing of some of the inside going-on (which some would term "shenanigans")

The publisher is charging \$15, which includes postage and handling (130 pages, 14 illustrations and three maps) Order from:  
Kinko's Copy Center  
2712-D Vine St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45219

I plan to attend the Reunion and will have a few books to display.

Dr. King--I enjoyed the book very much. It was humorous and enlightening. Jim



## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## 9th STATION HOSPITAL

Conclusion: story by Doris (Whitman) Lucas

The flag ship was our ship for the complete voyage. It was too large to go dock-side, so we were told that wooden barges would safely take us ashore.

No dress uniforms! What to do? White ones were too visible from the air, our officers finally came up from storage with enlisted men's uniforms (summer) and their high shoes (stiff). That was our uniform for many months.

We went off the ship with one boiled egg and a can of stew (no can opener or mess geared now issued).

The 109th station Hospital was to remain in Noumea, our hospital was to be at Païta. This was short duration and we moved to St. Vincent's. Then the rains came, our tents without floors were sinking, so were our Army cots. Hospital beds and latrines were a mess, our patient's crutches were sinking. Needless to say, we moved from there to Dumbea Valley - beautiful, mountainous area with a wonderful mountain stream that became our bath tub. A rope divided the enlisted men's area from our (how silly)!

Our drinking water was brought to us in a truck and put up a lister bag from which we could drink and "wash-up" in the area. We washed our clothes in the stream and when they needed scrubbing we rubbed them on nearby rocks. Finally we hired natives to help wash our clothes. they also helped in loading and unloading equipment. Our enlisted men were trained to put up and take down our four-bed tents and also the hospital tents very quickly. We remained in tents without floors the entire stay in Caledonia.

Our biggest scare came when our doctor operated on a native with the wrong diagnosis. He was diagnosed as I remember, by a patient from Guadalcanal. it was Bubonic Plague. Not one minute was wasted until all personnel and patients were inoculated. No one died. My only battle scar is on my left, upper arm where the shot gave me a draining wound and a 104 fever.

Denque Fever was a non-fatal disease but that too, made us ill.

There was no Malaria mosquitoes on Caledonia due to the Eucalyptus tree. We had many patients with malaria from other areas. It was quoted as many as 700/1000 per year. Atabrine was faithfully taken as were salt tablets for the heat.

As there were no Navy hospitals around, we began receiving patients from the Marines, Navy and Army. The Army still had not begun to fight. One outfit, I think it was the 164 Infantry, had received contaminated yellow fever shots and they were very ill. Too ill to relieve the Marines in the Solomons. When they were being ordered into battle and before they sailed, we broke out grapefruit juice and G.I Alcohol for a wonderful send-off. We received them back as patients. We

were never quite sure of our fate until the battle of the Coral sea was fought and we had a victory.

Our operating room was a large green tent with mosquito netting. It was made solid around by native wood.

We bathed the patients in pans of water heated over Australian stoves. Our medical cabinets and equipment were make-shift boxes. We made rounds with a corpsmen, especially at night, two at our side.

Our area was many tents scattered due to possible attacks. We walked a lot between wards and latrines.

I think our burned patients were the most difficult to care for alongside the mentally disturbed patients for whom we had no treatment. The area on one end had been fenced to guard the N.P. section. The other end was for Japanese prisoners with the same set up.

I brought my G.I. shoes home with me even with the soles cut off, remembering the rugged mountain terrain that we traveled on.

One managed to acquire horses from the Calvary and boots to ride when we could. We got dogs, chickens, goats and above all our victory pig with a "V" on his back.

We were one big family without transportation. We didn't even see other hospital personnel.

The sad day came when we knew the unit was going to be separated. The doctors to go to Guadalcanal and the nurses to Esperito Santos. Some of us older nurses went into command begging to go home. We ended up not receiving our 1st Lt. bars with the other nurses.

We transferred the patients and nurses who were too ill to make the voyage. They went by ambulance to the hospital across the mountain stream.

We went by way of Fiji where we met a very unhappy medical unit - they were never very busy and wanted to be transferred but told they served medical insurance to be sent anywhere needed.

Some of our doctors went to Guadalcanal and our nurses had duty on Navy Hospital Ships.

We naughty nurses proved to be correct. At the end of six months, most had malaria or other diseases. I had Tropical Skin dermatitis for which I was sent to New Zealand to a Yale Medical Unit.

When I was cured, I had a chance of going back (which I knew couldn't be for too long) or staying and nursing there. I wished to return to my unit. However, when I reported for duty, I learned my unit was already on their way home and I was to return by the first available transportation. What a feeling!

Continues on next page

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## D COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

I was a replacement and joined the Americal Division approximately February 1945. I was in Company D, 182 Infantry. I started as an ammo carrier and was soon put up to assistant gunner.

We were soon ready for the beachhead on Cebu. As Robert Crews wrote in the Jan/Feb issue of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER, casualties were many. I saw buddies get their foot blown off just above the boot.

Robert wrote of a hill exploding. I saw that hill blow up. There were snipers picking off fellows as they looked for their buddies. Each buddy that was out there could tell a lot of stories.

Our Squad Sgt. carried a one burner stove and in the evenings, when possible, 3 or 4 of us would get together and have hot chocolate. This included the Lt. or captain, whoever was with us.

Something to laugh or smile about----Before we hit Cebu, and waiting for that day, I was out on the side of the street walking with some other soldiers. A one star General came down the center of the street. He was catching all that he could that didn't salute. Well--we all had to salute a post for one hour. I hope he reads this and gets a laugh.

I only recently heard of the Americal through the VFW Magazine. I would hope that a big reunion would be planned in a year or so to be held somewhere in the mid states.

Tom Knott, a neighbor here in the Mobile Park, in which I live, also belonged to the Americal.

Herb Holt

Selma, CA 93662

Ed note: You will get your wish on the reunion. In 1992 it will be held in San Antonio and in 1993 it will be in Topeka, KS.

Tom Knott is now a member--Thanks.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 26 SIGNAL COMPANY

Have just received the March-April Newsletter and as usual enjoyed reading it. Thank you for all you do in getting it together. I am especially interested in news from the 26th Signal Company.

In 1986 we were able to travel to the South Pacific and visited Fiji, along with Australia, New Zealand, etc. However we were unable to get to New Caledonia.

Please keep me informed about any plans for a trip there next year. We can make no commitments at the present, but surely would like to see Noumea again.

Thanks again for your good work.

Sincerely,  
Earl Cook

## 9th Station Hospital (continues)

I sailed on a Liberty Ship to San Francisco. I worked while aboard specializing a Red Cross worker.

We landed in San Francisco after seeing the Golden Gate and U.S.A. soil again about 9 a.m.. We transferred patient to the Letterman General and then wanted a place to put our bodies safely in U.S.A. That wasn't to be for no places were available - Army - Navy - Civilian. At about 4 a.m., the Driscoll Hotel gave us a room with Gardenias to welcome us home.

After spending enough days to get proper uniforms (for the first time), riding cable cars, watching women almost fight over nylons, we got our pay and boarded a train for Fort Devens, Mass.

A WAC met us in an ambulance and told us if we hadn't had basic training, we would spend six weeks there. As it was near midnight, we went to the Quartermaster and got bedding and slept. Early a.m. we went to the mess hall to hear more rumors. The head nurse met us and said the first nurses home from overseas would get orders to go home as soon as she could get them.

Home in Berwick for one month, then on to Utica, New York. The battles still raging, my assignment was N.P. wards. We again had the same set-up as in Camp Shelby. Only this time, the boys had gone to battle and were suffering the results of the war.

Finally discharged as a Captain, after five years in this man's Army and a member of the Americal Division located in Camp Devens, Massachusetts.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMPANY L 182 INFANTRY

I would like very much to meet up for an old fashioned get-to-gether with the living members of Co. L, 182 Infantry who made the original passage on the ARGENTINA (T.F. 6814-A - January 23, 1943).

I am aware that most of the old gang came from the general area of Malden, etc. and I presently live in Framingham - not the easiest to make a serious communication.

May I impose on your good nature and the office to somehow publish a small piece in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER inviting those who would be interested in a reunion after fifty (50) years or nearly fifty year to make themselves known.

Such an action on your part would be most appreciative by me, and I am sure that some of the others would also add their thanks and appreciation.

Theodore Milgroom

Framingham, MA 01701

Telephone

There you are Ted. I hope you heard from the three men to whom I forwarded your letter. ED





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WAKEFIELD, MA  
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Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

#### Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted men now serving with or who have served with the 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)