

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

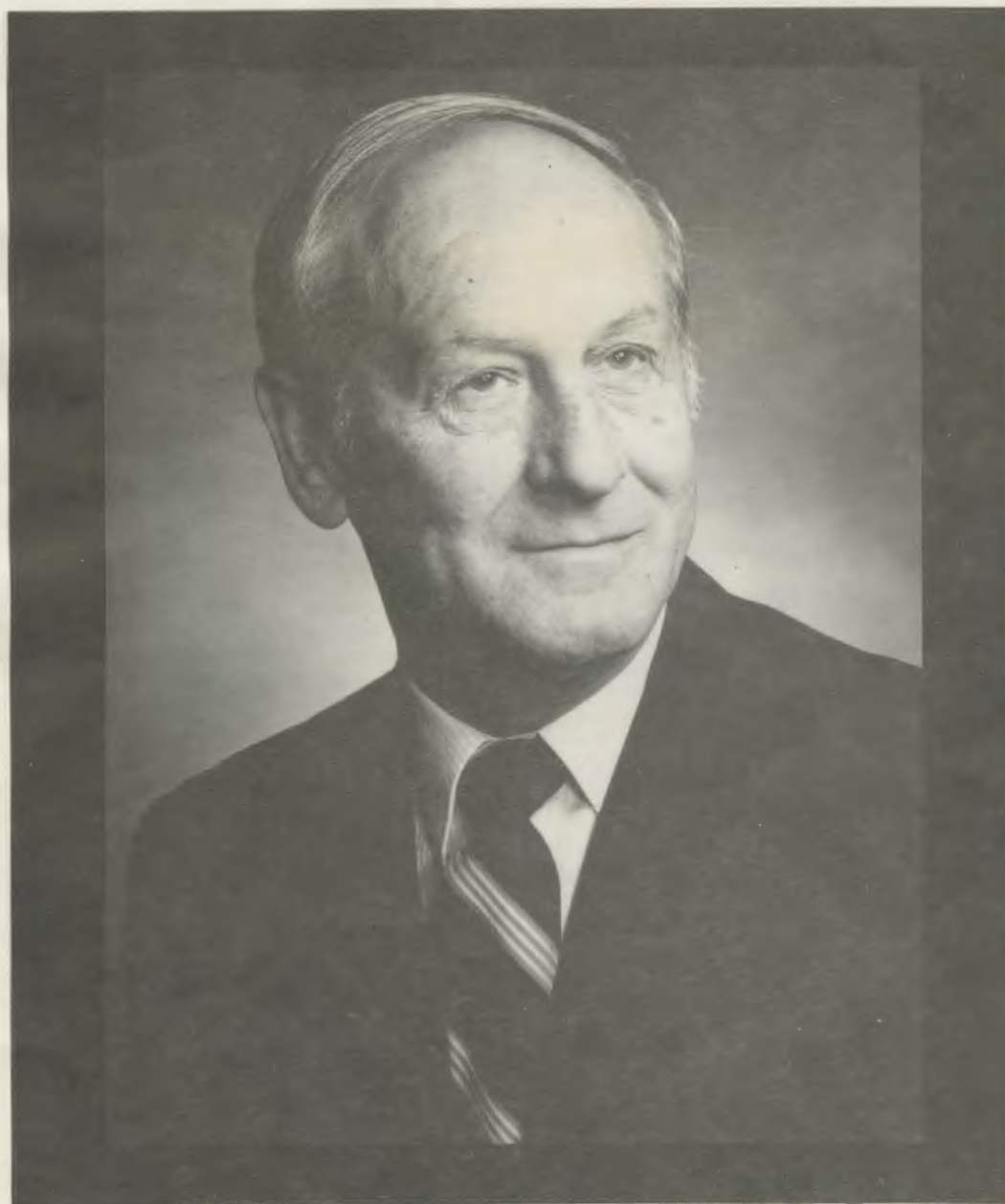
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: RONALD L. WARD

MARCH - APRIL 1992

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MICHAEL R. LOPARDO

NATIONAL COMMANDER 1974 - 1975

1991

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1992

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Roland T. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

John H. DeGroot

Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

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Joseph Chin

Lincoln, MA 01773

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CHAPTER COMMANDERS

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Stephen Dennison Eastern Regional Chapter

Edwin A. Heartquist South-East Chapter

William K. Maddox South Mid-West Chapter

Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter

Joe. W. Feeler Far West Chapter

Ronald L. Ward Central Mid-West Chapter

Lloyd J. Morrell North-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.

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone

VIETNAM EDITOR

Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

I have now passed the half way mark as your commander and I am pleased with the progress our organization has made so far this year.

Our membership has been growing slow but surely and I want to thank the members that have brought another Americal man into the fold.

However, I will never be satisfied until we double or triple our membership. The records show that over forty thousand men served in the Americal during World War II and there must have been at least that many Americal vets from Vietnam. I am open for suggestions as how to contact more of the former members of the Americal. I will put my full support behind any good idea.

Former National Commander Ron Ward is busy putting together a plan for establishing a scholarship fund in the name of the Americal Division. He has several members working with him and he will present his ideas at the National Convention in San Antonio this coming June. If you have any ideas for a fund raiser, to get this program off the ground, please contact Ron Ward. He is also looking for members that are willing to help with this project. This idea has my full support.

Keep looking for those former members to sign up and I will see you all in San Antonio in June.

Roland T. Castronova

National Commander

TAPS

Ronald E. Bart

Co. A 1/3 Inf 11 Bde.

Hermitage, TN

December 26, 1991

Joseph H. Evans

Hq. Btry. Div. Arty

Medford, MA

February 12, 1992

John W. Gallagher

Peep Troops

Eugene, OR

November 17, 1991

Hyman Tillem

Btry A 247th F.A. Bn.

Tuscon, AZ

January 23, 1992

PNC Michael R. Lopardo

101 Medical Reg.

Worcester, MA

February 28, 1992

Lt. Col. Guy J. Beal

101 Medical Regiment

Derry, NH

December 1991

Walter MacLeod

182 Infantry

Lehigh Acres, FL

January 2, 1991

Anthony J. Beyers

Anti-Tank 182nd Inf.

Hopelawn, NJ

March 5, 1991

Roy Fetters

Co. L 182nd Inf

Covington, OH

December 7, 1991

Edward J. Kidawalski

182nd Infantry

Dracut, MA

May 11, 1991

Victor A. Withofsky

Co. D 101 Medical

Worcester, MA

January 28, 1992

George Houghton

101 Medical Reg.

North Andover, MA

January 1992

Norman R. Jacobs Sr.

247 F.A. Bn. Btry C

Chillicothe, MO

December 1991

Robert Sibley

101 Medical Regiment

Florida

February 22, 1992

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

April 11, 1992

Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA

General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

May16, 1992

Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA

Executive Council 10:00 A.M.

General Meeting 10:30 P.M.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Grover C. Clark

Service Co. 101st QM

Clearwater, FL

Wanice R. Walls

26th Engrs. 196 Bde.

Yorktown Hgts., NY

GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL FUND

Joshephine Armandi

John H. Blanchard

Gerald T. Borysiak

Emery J. Boudreau

Malcolm S. Cate Jr.

Ralph G. Custer

Larry Dabhin

Edward J. den Braven

Eunice Fetters in Memory of Roy Fetters

Mrs. Thomas W. Furey

Marvin L. Haar

Jim Hallbauer

James T. Halom

David Himelfarb

Bill Laurie

Russell J. Marceau

*James B. Murphy

M. S. Novinski

*Two separate donations

NEW MEMBERS

Dennis G. Allen

26 Engr Co. C

Fayetteville, NC

#Self

Gary Blackmore

16 Arty A 3/18 Arty

Columbia, MO

#Jimmie Deiter

Clyde C. Card

182 Infantry Co F

Sussex, NJ

#Self

Joe E.M. Cuellar

164 Infantry 2/Hq

Corrales, NM

#Joe Feeler

William V. Derington

11 LIB D/1/3 Inf

Toms River, NJ

#Dwight Fanshaw

Roger D. Ferguson

14 Arty D/1

Redford, MI

#Terry McGuire

Gregory G. Fitch

11 LIB A/4/3 Inf

Moses Lake, WA

#R. Castronova

Perry J. Bergeron

196 LIB D/1/46 Inf

Houma, LA

#Randy Perry

Donald G. Bommer

566 Ambulance Co

Shoreham, NY

#R. Castronova

George L. Cooper

11 Arty 2/Ser Bat

Stockton, CA

#Bernie Chase

Jimmy R. Davis

11 LIB B/4/3 Inf

Las Vegas, NV

#Bill Maddox

Bobby R. Ezzell

Chu Lai, Vietnam

Clarkton, NC

#R. Castronova

Mrs. Roy Fetters

Associate

Covington, OH

#Bernie Chase

Albert B. Harlan

Associate

Kaufman, TX

#S/Sgt. Herman J.

Perry L. Hayes

198 LIB 23 Adm

St. Louis, MO

#Self

John R. Hoff

198 LIB C/1/46 Inf

East Berlin, PA

#Ronald Chronisred

Joel H. Jennings

182 Infantry Co A

Port Neches, TX

#Bill Maddox

Harold Kardonick

23 Med Bn HHC Co A

Hollywood, FL

#Robert Thornton

Park M. Leathers Sr.

132 Infantry Co F

Garden Grove, CA

#Bill Maddox

Joseph E. Lis

3 Infantry A/4/3

Hamburg, NJ

#Pete Del Pome

James B. Lynch

31 Inf C C/3/82 Art

Carteret, NJ

#R. Castronova

Samuel T. Pilkinton

26 Engr Co E

Leesville, LA

#Ron Ward

James R. Rhodes

196 LIB 2/1 Inf

Japan

#Pete Messina

Edward J. Rockowitz

57 Eng Hq Co

Fort Pierce, FL

#Robert Thornton

Moises Roel Jr.

196 LIB B/3/1 Inf

San Antonio, TX

#William Maddox

Patsy P. Smoke

26 Sig

Canonburgh, PA

#R. Thornton

Robert W. Urban

245 F.A. Btry B

Seven Mile, OH

#R. Castronova

Wanice R. Walls

196 LIB 26 Engrs

Yorktown Heights, NY

#Maurice Henson

David Willey

82 Arty B/1/82

Sacramento, CA

#R. Thornton

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Frank Hickman

11 LIB 3/1 Inf

Lakeville, MN

#R. Thornton

Samuel M. Hosmer

182 Infantry Co H

Scottsdale, AZ

#Jim Buckle

Ron Kalendarian

198 LIB C/1/46 Inf

Huntington, NY

#J. Pellegritti

Edward F. LaLone

164 Infantry Co C

Sierra Madre, CA

#Joe Feeler

Paul Lefkowitz

17 Arm Cav H Troop

Great Neck, NY

#Bernie Chase

Warren D. Lucas

26 Engr Co A

Seymour, IN

#Maurice Henson

Buck Pflanz

11 LIB HHC 6 Sup

Philadelphia, PA

#Dwight Fanshaw

Barry J. Rhinehart

3 Infantry A/1/3

Doylestown, PA

#R.T. Castronova

Richard K. Ridgway

23 M.P.

Greencastle, IN

#Larry Gelnet

Fred C. Rodekamp

182 Infantry Co E

Sterling, IL

#William Maddox

Jerry B. Schuster

51 Infantry Co A

Altus, OK

#Bill Maddox

Charles F. Trenkle

82 Arty 1 & 3

Schaumburg, IL

#R. Castronova

David M. Vaughters

196 LIB A/3/21 Inf

Wayne, MI

#William Curtit

Howard J. Wilks

182 Infantry

Joplin, MO

#Bill Maddox

SPONSOR

CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER

I am writing this collective letter to all of you who so faithfully sent me get-well cards while I was confined to the Kansas City Veterans Hospital from Jan 6 thru Jan 27.

Well, the ordeal for me is over. All that remains is the "healing process". The surgery cleared the right foot of its cancer, but at a huge cost of excising much flesh from the foot itself. It will take about three months before I can really walk without assistance or placing full weight on the foot as I used to do.

The foot itself has been expertly excised by a highly capable doctor from Bombay, India, named Dr. Madhuk Chhatre, a plastic surgeon and a team of equally qualified surgeons. The procedure was presided over by the Chief of Medicine at KC Vets Hospital, Dr. Mary P. McAnaw. I received the best possible care. The procedure took 5 1/2 hours.

I am restricted to where I can go and what I can do. I cannot get out into society and mix socially due pressure that I might put on my foot, and the fact that I might accidentally do that, and thereby destroy the delicate skin graft that covers the flesh on the bottom of my foot. My travels will be restricted to home, the doctors in Kansas City, and to my lodge where I expect to return to work as Lodge Secretary the third week in February. Otherwise, if you want to contact me I will be home most of the time.

Dr. Dan Mahrle, my foot doctor here in Topeka is following the case and I'm in good hands, all the way around.

Again good friends, thank you for caring about me, and for writing such nice cards to me. My morale is high and I shall overcome even this set-back and still be the same old Dave Recob you all know very well.

Always,
Dave Recob

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER	SEC/TREAS
Stephen Dennison	Peter J. Messina Sec
Pittsburgh, PA 15227	Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone [redacted]	Phone [redacted]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

Dear Chapter Members:

The officers of the Eastern Regional Chapter and the reunion committee along with our newly appointed Chapter Chaplain would like to wish all members a very happy and prosperous new year.

The reunion committee of George Yates and Harold Stein are hard at work at this very time planning and making arrangements for our chapter reunion that is going to be held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 10 through 13 at the South Hills Sheraton. details will be announced in later newsletters. Again I want to remind you that our chapter grows only as national grows. I encourage every member to sign up a new member

this year. As Chapter Commander I would like to know some of your suggestions as to what you would like for reunion activities this year. Please forward any suggestions of your Chapter Commander.

By now you have received your dues notice for your 1992 chapter dues. This is a small reminder to please send in your dues.

(Ed Note: the above should have been in the Jan-Feb issue. Sorry about that.)

MARCH-APRIL EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

I would like to express a sincere thank you to all members who have sent in their dues. Also, I want to extend a special thanks to the members who sent in donations along with their dues,

I am still striving to have 100% paid dues this year for our chapter. I know we can do it because already this month we received dues from 100 members. By now everyone has received a dues notice that was sent out in our last mailing. Please fill it out and send it in with your \$3.00 check.

As was stated in the last AMERICAL NEWSLETTER, our chapter reunion for 1992 will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, September 10-13, 1992 at the South Hills Sheraton. Please mark your calendars now so nobody misses this fun filled event.

A lot of details are being worked on for the reunion, but I would like to pass along a few things that I already know. Room rates will be \$60.00 plus tax including breakfast. Anyone traveling by air should contact South Hills Sheraton on their arrival time in Pittsburgh and the Sheraton will make transportation arrangements to and from the airport. This is available any day or night between the 10th and 13th of September.

Also available within walking distance of the Sheraton is the South Hills Village Mall where one can shop till they drop. You may also want to hop the hotel shuttle which will ride you to the subway station which can take you to Station Square or downtown Pittsburgh. Station Square is filled with unique little shops and, of course, downtown Pittsburgh which has two department stores. Plans are being finalized on other arrangements which I should know more about in April. The most important thing though is to mark down September 10-13, 1992 and plan to be there.

Sincerely,
Steve Dennison
Commander

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CHAPTER

ME NH CT MA VT RI

Plans are going forward on the formation of a New England Chapter. The National Commander is working at this project and he is looking for someone to assist him. If you are willing to help or you have any suggestions please contact:

Roland T. Castronova
Peabody, MA 01960

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER YET?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

COMPANY D 182 INFANTRY DECEMBER 7, 1991

Today is the day we remember fifty (50) years ago. All the young men that were 18 or so, at that time and are still alive, should have plenty to say.

The Japanese that had to go to camps think that was awful. I didn't have a choice. I was drafted and sent overseas to fight and be shot at. You were scared all of the time and there was nothing you could do about it. I saw young men sit down and cry, like babies, because they were so scared.

I haven't seen \$20,000 for serving my country. Yet the Japanese complained so long about living in those camps that Congress gave them \$20,000 each. Why isn't Congress that generous with the Vets that are still alive?

Japan seems to be a wealthy so lets go after them as they started the war. The government doesn't want to remember us with a bonus.

I am still happy to be an American. We don't want anyone to take our way of life from us.

I am enclosing a picture of some of my buddies. Will you put it in the Newsletter? If anyone recognizes themselves, or someone in the picture, would they please contact me.

I wish you all the very best for 1992.

Your friend and buddy,
Herb Holt
[redacted]
Selma, CA 93662

L to R Gressler, Dehn, Williams, Moiris, Christan, Michels, Yates. Front Row Siegel Sarrison



CORRECTION ORRECTION CORRECTION

COMPANY H 182 INFANTRY HOW ABOUT A REUNION

If you are a former member of Company H 182 Infantry, would you please drop a note to one of the two men listed below. Please pass the word around because we are planning a Reunion.

John Groppi
[redacted]
Dorchester, MA 02125

Fred Zaino
[redacted]
Everett, MA 02149

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR R. WOOD

I am writing to thank all the members of the Southeast Chapter for voting to rename the Chapter after my father, Arthur R. Wood. It gave me great pleasure to hear the news from my mother in Florida and other members of the Americal, who helped to initiate it.

I've been an avid reader of the Americal Newsletter since I was a child. When my father moved to Florida he used to send me a copy of it, with its interesting historical information. Now when I read the Newsletter I will see my father's name honored in the Chapter name.

My father was proud to be part of the Americal, and was always involved in it when he lived in Massachusetts and later in Florida. He did a lot of work for the National Convention in Orlando in 1989 and died of a heart attack a few days after the Convention.

What a great honor to have the Chapter named after him!

I became an Associate Member of the Americal this past year. I served in the Navy on the USS Mississinewa AO 144 in the late 60's. I plan to contact Mr. Castronova, in hopes that I can become part of the New England Chapter, that is forming.

Again, thank you from the Arthur Woods family for this honor.

Arthur M. Wood

321 TRUCK COMPANY

I saw the notice in the 12/91 VFW News about the Americal Division organization. I write to inquire if there is some way to see if the 321st Truck Company in Cebu, P.I. and then Yokohama, Japan, was part of the Americal Division.

We were told that we would invade Japan as part of the Americal, i.e. before THE BOMB was dropped. Yet we saw no orders to substantiate that at platoon level. At both locations, we were working the docks of each port.

If I was part of the Americal for purposes of membership, I would be proud to join and therefore ask for an application..

I was a Lt. and a platoon leader with the 321st Truck Company. If it were part of the Americal Division would you please let me know the cost of any historical info of the Americal that is available.

Sincerely,
William R. Hunt

De Note: You sure are eligible to become a member of the ADVA. On page 321 of the Americal history book, Under the Southern Cross, it mentions the 321 Truck as being attached to the Americal.

If you desire a copy of 'Under the Southern Cross' it is available from the Americal Museum. There is an ad elsewhere in this Newsletter telling how to acquire a copy. WELCOME TO THE ADVA!

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

During a recent visit to an out-of-state antique shop which deals in silver and gold items, I was a bit disappointed to learn that an Indian head penny I'd found as a boy was worth just that - a penny.

As the proprietor was busily telling me: "There's millions of these things floatin' round the country", something among what seemed hundreds of silver and gold items piled in a wicker basket on the counter, behind him caught my eye. I recognized it immediately as the "C.I.B."

I asked the proprietor if I might see it: and when he handed it to me, I asked him if he knew what it was. This was his answer: "Some guy came in the other day - said he got it when he was in the Army - felt sorry for the guy so I gave him two bucks fer the thing - lucky if I get a half buck's worth or Sterling outta the thing".

There's an old saying in the Army for those who have earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge. As an officer pins this badge of courage on an infantryman's tunic, it is customary for that officer to say, "Soldier, you are bound to go to Heaven because this 'CIB' shows you've served your time in Hell".

Yes - this badge with its Kentucky rifle transposed on a field of Infantry blue, is not easily acquired: for its wearer has seen the lonely, cold stark nakedness of the battlefield. He has seen what the bomber pilot, the artilleryman and those who sit in the comfort of rear echelon headquarters never see. He sees the mud, the blood and the face and eyes of the enemy and watches his friends die close by. And I thought as I held this mark of a man in my hand - how many - how many such badges were in the hands of those who deal in silver and gold - how many were awaiting the smelter's ladle?

I would ask those who have earned this most coveted award to think twice before handing it over to those who see only a small amount of Sterling silver in its composition, and could care less about the story behind it. I would ask them to look back - back to the day when that officer pinned it on their tunic and told them - "you are bound to go to Heaven because this 'CIB' shows that you've served your time in hell..."

By Frank Hailey

(From the Massachusetts Legionnaire - Sent in by Mrs. Gerald Sellers).

101 QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

January 23, 1942 Task Force 6814 January 23, 1942

I would like to wish all members of the Americal Division Veterans Association a Happy January 23, the fiftieth anniversary of that event--Task Force 6814 sailing from Brooklyn, New York.

Grover E. Clark

Ed Note: I liked the Yankee humor in the picture you enclosed, (A picture of a cruise ship with the caption, Great Winter Getaway) and I am sorry that it would not reproduce well.

MOVE OVER JANE FONDA

Move over Jane Fonda, you are being replaced by a person of even lower standards, national pride and patriotism -- Roseanne Barr of ABC

The singing of our National anthem and giving of the proper salute on national television has always been with reverence, humility, and great pride.

Even the burning of our flag does not reach the depth of degradation nor humiliation that Roseanne Barr poured on our national symbol.

Not being able to sing is understandable, but make a lewd joke of what our country and its military men and women have given and continue to give is unforgivable.

Then Roseanne Barr topped that off by saluting our flag--the symbol of freedom, not only to our country but the world, not putting her hand over her heart but putting it to her crotch.

Roseanne Barr seared the very soul of every decent person in America and abused the right and privilege of being called an American.

(Written by Robert Simmons - Richwood, TX and sent in by Bill Maddox.

COMPANY B 164 INFANTRY

Because of requests for actual and personal experiences I have been prompted to write about a couple of happenings.

(1) Company "B" 164th Infantry advanced, (I believe during the battle of the Matanikau) and the 2nd platoon was ordered to go up a draw. They did and the Japs were lying in wait on the hills with their machine guns and they killed most of my buddies, Phil Makros, Art Jones, Herb Langford, Bob Cross and others. The Colonel then said the 1st platoon is to go up there--the same draw. However, the Lt. of the 1st platoon said we will go if you lead us. Result: We never had to go.

(2) I believe it was while we were fighting on Point Cruz that the Army called for the Air Corp to bomb the Japs in front of white cloth markers that were laid on the hill in front of our position. Result: the P-39's came with bombs under their bellies. I thought I would watch the show so I went close to the ocean. I saw the planes come in low from the ocean and I saw the first plane's bomb start to tip under the plane's belly and I ran and dropped when I figured the bomb would hit. Then I got up and ran further in where my fox hole was and before the bomb hit I dropped too -- yes, a SNAFU -- the planes were actually bombing the 164 Infantry troops. They finally stopped. the bombs hit near the white panels and covered them with dirt. The soldiers scrapped the dirt off with their hands hoping the pilots would see the panels and bomb the Japs in front of these markers.

V.R. Powers

(Taken from the 164 Infantry News)

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

★ GUADALCANAL ★
SOLOMON ISLANDS
WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

To: AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Re: DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

The Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation wishes to thank the Americal Division Veterans Association for contributing nearly \$20,000 toward the construction of the beautiful Memorial on Guadalcanal overlooking the Matanikau River. Dedication will take place 7 August 1992.

The Foundation has raised \$400,000 to date with an input by the U.S. Government of \$200,000 giving us a total of \$600,000. Our goal is \$700,000: still need about \$100,000.

We will be erecting smaller obelisks commemorating the Edson's Bloody Ridge battle, Tenaru (Ilu River), Wright Road etc.

Dedication plans are going ahead at full speed. I will be visiting the Canal in April of '92, my fifth trip in 3 1/2 years), and again in August of '92.

Again, thank you for your generosity and if you have any questions about the project on the Canal for Aug '92, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in comradeship,
Joseph G. Micek G/132 Inf.
Treasurer & Project Manager

Ed Note: If you are considering attending the dedication of the Memorial on August 7, 1992, and have not already made reservations, please contact Jim Buckle IMMEDIATELY. Space on Guadalcanal is very limited. We have a Tour going just to the Canal, one just to New Caledonia, or a combination tour that includes both.

B BATTERY 245 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Forty seven years later, I find out all about the Americal Division Veterans Association, thanks to Rolly Castronova. I answered his "Seeking Americal Vet" in the January issue of the VFW Magazine. He sent me the May-June issue of the Americal Newsletter, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Rolly also informed me of the book "Under the Southern Cross". Thanks to Ken Turner for mailing me this super book. It has answered many questions after all these years.

I joined the Americal Division on Leyte, February 1945. I was assigned to Btry. B 235th F.A. Bn. A great group of guys. From Leyte to Cebu to Negros, back to Cebu and then on to Japan.

I would like to hear from any of my old buddies from Battery B.

As of January 27, 1992, I am very proud to be a member of the ADVA.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Urban
Seven Mile, OH 45062

BATTERY B 221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

I've been reading a recently published book entitled "There's A War To Be Won" - The United States Army In World War II" written by Geoffrey Perrett and published by Random House. In it, frequent mention is made to the actions of the Americal and some specific mention is made of the 164th and 182nd Regiments in the different campaigns.

The first reference in the book made to the Americal reveals somewhat tersely how the Division was formed and how it got its name. Incident to this, the author provides a footnote on page 60 which is herewith quoted:

"The Americal was carried on War Department books as the 23rd Infantry Division, but it was rarely referred to by number." Indeed, it was widely assumed the Americal had no number.

In the "NOTES" Section at the end of the book, the author cites his source for this information as "Morton, 'Strategy', 209-212."

I'm forwarding this information because I'm sure that there are many of us, including myself who thought all these years that the Americal was the only unnumbered Army Division in World War II.

Surprised? I was!

Sincerely,
Jack Warkow

Ed Note: I sure am surprised but I don't believe it yet. I am sending your letter along to our Historian, Mark Durley, for his comments.

I have found that a lot of authors do not do their homework. In a recent feature story in a Veterans magazine the author spelled MacArthur's name McArthur three times.

NOW HEAR THIS

Dear Editor:

I am one of the guy's from the Old National Guard outfit selected by President Roosevelt to fight back the Japs with a World War I helmet, sent to the Pacific with a pack of Piedmont cigs and lost Howitzers. So, today, I resent my letter on Brig. Gen. Dunkle being relegated to the back page of the last issue of the Americal Newsletter.

Why are Vietnam letters featured and letters from the OLD GUARD in the rear?

Don't you dare print this letter on the back page! If you are a good Navy man you'll "bleep can" it. (George, the Navy expression is "Deep Six" it).

George Lloyd

180 F.A. 200 F.A. 247 F.A. Div Arty 51 F.A. Bde

Ed Note: No slight meant to General Dunkle. It was just the cut of the cards that put the story on the back page. Perhaps you feel that it should be age before beauty? But at any rate I will mend my ways. From this month forward I will alternate the Vietnam News and the Old Guard in the front of the Newsletter. Thanks for bringing this to my attention George.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

39 MILITARY POLICE

39 MILITARY POLICE

Thank you for forwarding my letter to Joe Collins. He was an apt student of the motorcycle when I was a dispatch rider for the 182 Infantry at Camp Edwards.

As to Joe's remark about the "overweight M.P.", I may have to remind him about the time he made me go "over the hill" in North Carolina and the episode that followed.

Incidentally--my continuing efforts to correct impressions many G.I.s had or have about the Military Police---In 1943, after Guadalcanal, I was stationed in the little town of Mba, Fiji, for a few months. There were four of us and we were the law between Suva and Lautoka.

We lived in a rustic hotel there. I had to share a room with another M.P. (cheap Division, no private rooms) In any event, in addition to our heavy police duties, there was a dance one night a week, we took it upon ourselves to do extensive P.R. work to ensure that the locals didn't defect to the side of the 'cruel Nippons'.

To give credence to this fact I have enclosed a picture of myself engaged in just such work. My happy smile belies the earnestness of the work.

Paul E. Jordan

Signal Hill, CA 90806

Ed Note: I remember the M.P.s in Mba. One fellow's name was Swenson and he was from my home town of Wakefield. He got me out of a scrape at the dance you mentioned. Our Colonel made arrangements for a few of us to go to Mba on a week-end. You complain about not having a private room---we were in tents on the tennis court out back of that hotel!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Even if the rest of the world continues to ignore our cause, we will fight on. For we are fighting not only for ourselves, but for mankind. We are fighting for freedom and human dignity and the right to worship the God of our choice".

George Washington--Valley Forge Sept. 1790

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

ASSOCIATION PATCH (small) 1	\$1.00
ASSOCIATION PATCH (large)	3.00
AMERICAL PATCH (dress blue)	1.00
AMERICAL PATCH (field uniform)	1.50
AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	1.50
AMERICAN FLAG PATCH	1.00
AMERICAL CAR PLATE	6.00
AMERICAL PIN SHIELD (large)	2.50
AMERICAL PIN SHIELD (small)	2.50
AMERICAL DIVISION CREST	3.00
AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	1.50
DECAL CAR WINDOW	1.00
LAPEL PIN (ASSOCIATION)	2.50
TIE BAR W/SHIELD	5.00
HOT PLATE TILE W/DECAL	2.50
MINATURE COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE (lapel)	2.50
MINATURE COMBAT MEDIC BADGE (lapel)	2.50
182 INFANTRY LAPEL PIN (MINATURE)	2.50
UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS (Post Paid)	12.00
(Americal History) (Soft Cover)	
OVERSEAS HAT W/PLASTIC COVER	22.00
(Size 6 1/4 - 6 1/2 Only)	
CAP, BASEBALL TYPE W/PATCH	6.00
CAP, BASEBALL TYPE (Inf Blue (Insig)	6.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS S-M-L (White)	10.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS XL-XXL (White)	12.00
(Specify WW II or Viet on above)	
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS (Viet-black) M-L	10.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS (Viet-Black) EX-XXL	12.00

Send order to: Kenneth Turner
Wakefield, MA 01880
Or call [redacted]

NOTE: Mailing charge will be added to above prices.

PISTOL PETE AKIO TANI PISTOL PETE

No doubt many of our members came under fire from 'Pistol Pete' during our stay on Guadalcanal. The past several years I have had the pleasure of corresponding with the man, and he is an associate member of the Americal, who was responsible for 'Pistol Pete'. He is Major Akio Tani.

I was looking forward to meeting Akio on Guadalcanal this coming August. He was planning on being at the dedication of the Memorial. This week I received a letter from him stating that he had just undergone surgery for cancer and will not be able to make ceremony in August.

Many stories have been written about why men act the way they do on the battlefield--love of country--comradeship for the men they serve with--bravado--heroics--etc. However, I feel, and I think you might agree with me, the deep down reason a soldier kills another soldier on the field of battle is to stay alive. It comes down to a question of killing or being killed.

After the battle is over I have no animosity for the enemy soldier. It is governments that make wars not the soldiers.

So, from one old soldier to another, how about sending Akio a card? His address is:

Akio Tani
Saitama, Japan 350-03

Thanks.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

COMPANY F 182 INFANTRY

A DAY AT THE BEACH

It was a stormy night and Mt. Bagana, our active volcano, about 15 miles inland was steaming more than usual and the earth tremors were very strong. I knew that under those conditions the surf would be very rough.

Myself and another life guard were picked up by Headquarters and with our "No Swimming Signs" with us we were off to the beach. As I suspected, the surf was very high with strong offshore winds and heavy undertow.

There were between 150 and 200 men on the beach and there were two men in the water rescuing a third. The other life guard and I pulled a man another man out of the water. By now we thought that all men we safely ashore but we were informed that one man was missing. We were given the spot that the man was last seen and we surfaced dived but could not see much because of the turbulence.

We then saw what looked like hair just break the surface about ten feet away, then disappear. We moved into that area just as the hair appeared again. I grabbed the his hair and tilted his head upward and he threw up a stream of water plus his last two meals. I knew then that he would be okay.

We were about forty yard out and making slow progress. One of the men on the beach had a cotton mattress cover. He ran into the wind, filled it with air and tied the end. the result--a big water wings! I tried to wave him off. He came out to us very fast and he was about go by us but I caught the end of it. Now four of us were about to be swept out to sea.

I had survived the battle for Hill 260 and was already on the Rotation list and due to leave in a couple of days.

The men on the beach were getting smaller and smaller but finally the wind calmed down and then we were able to hold our own. We then heard the faint sound of a motor and then two men appeared in a small rubber raft. One man got out and we put the victim on the raft. Now we had four men on the outside pushing and with the motor we made good time. When we got back in the Medics were waiting. They took over and they told me the victim would be okay.

The men who rescued us we Aussie pilots and stationed on the fighter strip next to the beach.

The next day I did not go to the beach because I was put on stand-by and, with a big sigh of relief, I left three days later for the States

I was with Company F, 182 Infantry but I am not sure what group was on the beach that day. It was either the 132nd or the 164th Infantry.

I would like to get in touch with anyone that remembers this incident.

Gen Krochmal
Peabody, MA 01960

NATIONAL CONVENTION



CUT AND SAVE

These are the directions from the Airport to the Holiday Inn Riverwalk North, San Antonio, TX.

If you want to make your reservations by credit card call the toll free [redacted].

If you want to take advantage of the special fare that American Airlines has made available call [redacted] and tell them you are going to the Americal National reunion in San Antonio. Ask for STAR # S056270.

If you have any questions about the Convention just call:

Bill Maddox

OR

Malcolm East

SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO!

Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans

It isn't the cost of belonging — it's the price you paid to be eligible

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

All Service Units

Los Vegas, Nevada

SEPTEMBER 15-17 1992

Contact:

Ted Blahnik

Coloma, MI 49038

Call [redacted]

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL REUNION JUNE 18 - 21, 1992 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAL 1942 - 1992

SINGLE OCCUPANCY PACKAGE \$337.24
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY PACKAGE \$454.13

This includes three nights lodging at Hotel, three breakfasts, three dinners, wine and cheese party, and two drinks. This also includes all taxes and gratuities.

For further information contact William K. Maddox, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Portland, TX 78374. Tel. [REDACTED] Or Malcolm East, [REDACTED], Lumberton, TX 77656. Tel [REDACTED].

Mail Hotel Reservations directly to Holiday Inn Riverwalk North, [REDACTED], San Antonio, TX 78205. A 72 hour notice of cancellation required for refund of deposit.

A DEPOSIT OF \$73.45 PER ROOM IS REQUIRED IN ADVANCE
CUT OF DATE MAY 18, 1992

For those that live in the area and wish to attend meals in the evening, the price
for THURSDAY is \$15.00 per person Thurs No() \$
for FRIDAY is \$17.75 per person Fri No() \$
for Saturday is \$20.50 per person Sat No() \$
Wine & Cheese Party \$5.75 per person Fri No() \$

Make all checks payable to AMERICAL REUNION 1992 and mail to;
William K. Maddox, [REDACTED], Portland, TX 78374

We have a contract with American Airlines. They will give us 45% discount on Day Coach and 5% on published fares.

When making reservations tell them your are going to the Americal Division National reunion in San Antonio, TX. Call [REDACTED] and ask for STAR # S056270

HOLIDAY INN RIVERWALK NORTH [REDACTED] SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205	Americal Division Please return a copy of this card with your advance deposit of \$73.45, or credit card guarantee, per room reserved, by May 8, 1992. A 72 hour notice of cancellation is required for refund of individual deposits. Package includes 3 nights accommodations, 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts, 2 drinks, wine and cheese reception. All taxes, gratuities, & service charge. Single Package \$337.24 Double Occupancy \$227.14 per
NAME _____ No. Child _____	
ADDRESS _____	
ARRIVAL DATE _____	
DEPARTURE DATE _____	

CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CALL FREE 1-800-288-3927

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION 1942-1992

NATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 18-21, 1992 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

San Antonio and the surrounding area is noted for it's Reunion facilities. Your 1992 Reunion Committee has planned an active and fun filled National Reunion. Join us by mailing in the Reunion Registration Form shown below. All of your paid tickets will be picked up at the Registration Desk at the Hotel.

The Hotel is located at 110 Lexington Avenue and is about seven miles from the San Antonio International Airport.

There are numerous shopping centers within driving distance of the Hotel and there is the Rivercenter Mall which you can get to by taking the River Barge or the Trolley. The Trolley costs a dime to ride and it picks you up in front of the Hotel and brings you back. The Hotel is only five blocks from downtown and there are shops all along the way.

The Reunion is for ALL Americal Veterans, your spouse, your friends, and all others who care to come. Help celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Americal Division.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION - 92 REUNION RESERVATION

NAME:(Print) _____ UNIT _____ W.W.II _____
VIETNAM _____

GUEST:(Print) _____

ST. ADDRESS: _____ PHONE:() _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

REGISTRATION FEE @ \$10.00 each person (No.) \$

Bus trip through Fort Sam Houston, (No.) \$
to McNay Art Museum, through Brackenridge
Park and to the Institute of Texan
Cultures. @ \$14.25 each person - FRIDAY - 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Bus Trip to the Alamo for a tour of the (No.) \$
Shrine, on through the King William Historic
District, on to a tour of Mission San Jose
and on to the Lone Star brewery for a beer
or root beer served in the Buckhorn Saloon
with a tour of the Hall of Horns.

@\$15.50 each person - Saturday - 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Make all checks payable to AMERICAL REUNION 1992
Mail to William Maddox - [REDACTED] - Portland, TX 78374

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

57 ENGINEERS 57 ENGINEERS 57 ENGINEERS

Venturan Wardien is honored by CFL

Ventura resident Darrell 'Del' Wardien recently returned to his field of dreams to be inducted into the Canadian Football League Saskatchewan Roughriders' Plaza of Honor.

The induction was made September 27, 1991 in Regina, Saskatchewan. This was the fifth annual induction by the Roughriders.

In college Wardien had been a triple threat: a punter, place kicker and a running back. He was recruited out of the University of Montana as a sophomore by the Calgary Stampeders in 1947 and then traded to Saskatchewan where he played for seven years, 1948-1954.

Besides his three offensive positions, Wardien also played on defense on the CFL.

Wardien, at 5-foot-8 and 185 pounds, was such a threat that the trade agreement carried a stipulation that Wardien could not be used by the Roughriders against the Stampeders.

Small in stature, Wardien was tall in talent. In 1953, for example, he finished sixth on the Western Conference list with 47 points: one touchdown, 23 PATs, five field goals and four rouges.

He outscored some good company -- former Chicago Bears' coach Neil Armstrong was 10th on the list and former Minnesota Vikings' Bud Grant was 12th.

The following year, Wardien established a league record with four field goal in one game.

Wardien, now 67 and retired from the D and O Co. restaurant supply business he operated, has lived in Ventura since 1973. He was brought up in Great Falls, Montana and attended the University of Minnesota prior to World War II, and then Montana after the war.

I COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

I am an ex-member of the Americal Division of WW II having joined the unit on Division on Bougainville. I have the history book, "Under the Southern Cross" and I have recently located a dozen of the old gang from I Company that I served with on Bougainville and on until the Division went to Japan and was deactivated in 1945 at Seattle, Washington.

I lost contact with many of the men and recently ran across a photograph of my platoon in front of a tent on Bougainville. I had in my memory one man named Sorensen that was from Orderville, Utah. He was wounded, along with fourteen others on Cebu on the 12th of April 1945 in a bayonet attack on Babag Ridge overlooking Cebu City.

That was a long time ago and I am wondering if there is a gathering anywhere in the United States where veterans of the Americal Division gather for a reunion.

I went on to retire from the Army. I served in Vietnam with two different units. I know the Americal was there also but I wasn't part of it there.

I have rounded up 217 men that I served with in Vietnam that were part of Eighth Cavalry and we have had a reunion the past six years. The last being in Anaheim, California.

Please send me any info about the Americal and a Newsletter if you can.

Honor and courage
Ray E. Poynter
WWII-Korea-Vietnam

Info is on the way. Ed

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

I was deeply saddened when I picked up my Newsletter and read of the death of Jimmy Lam, 101 Medical Regiment. Jimmy (Thue Guy Lam) was one of seventeen Chinese-Americans that joined the 101 Medical Regiment, 26th Div, M.N.G. at Camp Edwards in 1941. He went along with the Regiment when it became 6814-F of a Task Force that sailed to the Pacific area in 1942. This group became part of the Americal Division that took part in combat on Guadalcanal.

On the Canal the Chinese-Americans were kept in their unit areas because of their Oriental features. Jimmy pleaded to go up front and when his wish was granted he took part in the capture of two of the enemy who had been hiding in the jungle.

Jimmy was a proud and loyal soldier that loved this country.

There was another soldier of the 101 Med Regt.-- Frederick J. Bostrom mentioned in the same "Taps" item that mentioned Jimmy. I did not know this person but there are two other members of the 101st that passed away in the past two months. They are Lt. Col. Guy Beal of Derry, NH, passed away December 1991, and George Houghton of North Andover, MA passed away in January of 1992.

Col Beal retired as a member Of A.U.S. and went on to become a Hospital Administrator in New York where he served under another 101st Med. Regt. member, Col. James Collins. Collins was Commanding Officer of the 121 Med Bn when it was formed. Both Col. Beal and Col. Collins served on Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

George Houghton served with the regiment at Camp Edwards. He was a clerk for Col. Roy S. Youmans, the Division veterinarian. Houghton was a member of the baseball team.

After Pearl Harbor, George Houghton was commissioned and served as a Captain in the Infantry.

When World War II ended, Houghton joined the State Police in Massachusetts where he attained the rank of Captain. Prior to retirement he served as Commander of the State Police Troop in Middleboro, MA.

I do not know if all the men mentioned above were members of the ADVA but I believe that their friends should have this information.

Respectfully,
Lt. Col. Joseph McClintock
A.U.S. Ret.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

HEADQUARTERS 182d INFANTRY
AMERICAL DIVISION
APO 716

REGIMENT HONORS BUNKER HILL TRADITION

We are gathered here today to pay tribute to the veterans of the Battle for Hill 260.

This is not just a hill nor was the battle just a battle. This engagement represented a large scale and determined attack by the Japanese forces in an effort to gain control of commanding ground. Possession of this hill would enable the enemy to overlook our positions, our airfield, and to open up an avenue of approach from which the enemy hoped to drive us from this island. Along this very road, which was then but a small trail, our reserves passed to reinforce the garrison of 260 and to stop the Jap assault.

Just 169 years ago today, on June the 17th, 1775, a band of colonial rifleman representing this Regiment were entrenched on a hill at Boston. That day they met the furious and repeated charges of some of the finest troops under the British crown. The regiment fought well and bravely that day and the field was piled high with the English dead. However, their pitifully small force was finally overcome by the sheer weight of numbers. The British fearful at fearful cost won the hill. But the ferocious defense of these colonial troops against overwhelming odds was to be remembered. It was a battle of which Americans will always be proud--The Battle of Bunker Hill. Bunker Hill became a name of historical significance, a name which stood for great courage.

We members of this Infantry Regiment assembled here today are especially mindful of that early battle. The brave men who fought there in 1775 were members of this same Regiment to which we belong. It was called First Regiment of Middlesex, in those days, and even then it had a long and proud tradition. Actually the Regiment was 139 years old when in fought on Bunker Hill.

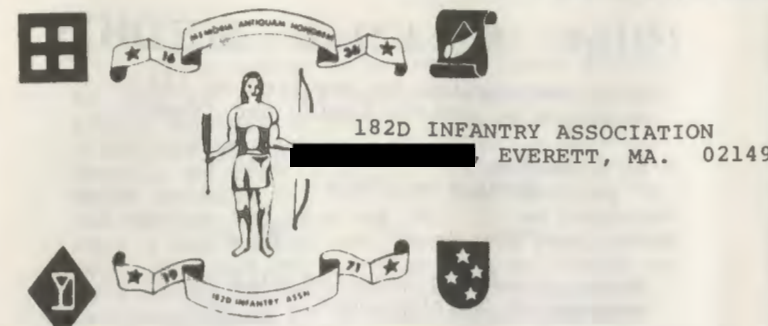
In particular, a company of Charlestown men, commanded by Captain Josiah Harris, distinguished itself on that notable day. Posted at a rail fence, it contributed greatly to repulsing the British attack against the extreme left of the American positions. Later it started the only American offensive of the day by counterattacking a British force that was moving to cut off the retreat of the men defending Bunker Hill.

Many years have passed since that battle, many changes in warfare have been developed, but the same fighting spirit, the same gallant heroes, the same type of great American soldier still carry on.

In the years that followed the American Revolution War, the Regiment became known as the Fifth Regiment. As such it served in the Civil War during the first battle of Bull Run and in expeditions into North Carolina; in the Spanish American; and in World War I in the British Muese-Argonne offensive.

After the Fifth returned from France it was given a new number, the number it bears today.

I need not tell you what this Regiment has done in this War, for its accomplishments were your accomplishments. You have already become part of its continuing tradition. CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



Greetings to all our friends in the ADVA.

A Special Past Commander's Award was awarded by our Association to Past Commander Joseph J. Cirino (our first Association Commander), for meritorious service for and to the 182d Infantry Association. All future awards in this category will be known as The Joseph J. Cirino Past Commander's Award. The award was presented by PC Ronald V. Gibbons, followed by a Special citation award made by Commander Charles L. Doyle.

Membership in The 182d Infantry Association is open to all people now serving, or have served in The 182 Infantry; or in any US military service; or any citizen of the US with no military service. If not now a member of our Association, and you would like some literature on what we are all about, and how you may join our Association, drop us a note or postcard. ATTN: Commander, 182d Infantry Association, PO. BOX 278, Everett, MA 02149. By return mail I will see you get information of The Association. Why not do it? Give us a try!

On Saturday evening, February 15th, 1992, we held an annual dinner dance (Valentine Motif), at American Legion Hall, Post 61, Revere, MA 02151. Our annual raffle was also consummated. Lucky winners have all been notified, and their prizes delivered. A great night was had by all, despite the heavy rains.

CHARLES L. DOYLE

Revere, MA 02151
Commander

CO. F 182 INFANTRY CO. G 164 INFANTRY

I was very happy to receive my first issue of the Americal Newsletter and am looking forward to attending the National Reunion in San Antonio. I am really excited about this gathering and will be there come Hell or high water. I just hope my overseas buddies will also be there. What a joyous occasion that would be!

The first outfit I was with was Company G, 164 Infantry Regiment. After the Leyte campaign I was transferred to Company F, 182 Infantry and stayed with them through the Cebu campaign and on to Japan. I came home on the Gen. Robert Kuntz and then to Fort Lewis, Washington. Here I stayed for about a week and then was shipped to Camp Chaffee in Arkansas for separation.

If anyone reading this Newsletter was in my outfit please write or call me. Better still I will be looking for you at the Reunion in San Antonio.

Call [REDACTED]

Park M. Leathers Sr.
Garden Grove, CA 92641

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

BUNKER HILL-182 INFANTRY (Continues)

Hill 260 will not be remembered among Americans as long as Bunker Hill. Yet those of us who fought there will never forget it. We paid a heavy price for this Hill, but we won a notable victory. This victory was gained by great courage and by supreme sacrifice of your comrades who did not return. It is fitting, we think, to join the names of these two hills in the glorious history of our Regiment--Bunker Hill and Hill 260.

This Hill which shadows us today is a long way from our homeland. Yet in a way it is just as American as Bunker Hill. The Americans who fought here believed in exactly those same things which characterized the members of the First Regiment of Middlesex. We shall surely carry on as they did until our war is won.

And so we dedicate this road which leads to the top of Hill 260 as "Bunker Hill Road" in respectful memory of the men of this Regiment who died, not for two hills alone but for America, and on this 169th Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill we pay tribute to the veterans of the battle for Hill 260. May God bless those who died on this Hill and all of you that survived the battle".

(This speech was given by the Commanding General of the Americal Division, General McClure, at the Dedication of a road that had been built to the top of Hill 260. The dedication was made, and the speech was given on June 17, 1944. June 17th is the day we people from Massachusetts call "Bunker Hill Day. Preceding this dedication an awards ceremony was held with Gen. McClure making the awards. In addition, The Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to Company "E", 182 Infantry).

This article sent in by Albert B. Harlan

ATTENTION ATTENTION

The following named members will be dropped from membership for non-payment of dues. If you disagree please contact Adjutant Bernie Chase IMMEDIATELY.

Danny L. Banfield	Ltc. James C. Broadus
Nicholas Caprio	John P. Chopelas
James S. Davis	Vance J. DeBilzan
Edward T. Deverell Jr.	Carl S. Deallas
Lawrence E. Donovan	Mark E. Gajewski
Patrick J. Gleason	Jerry A. Hayes
Ralph F. Howe	Kevin D. Kavanaugh
Dess Kermegay	Leonard Mejia
James A. McQueen	Ronald E. Pettitt
Robert S. Pue	Clayton V. Shelton
Michael T. Snidecar	Lawrence E. Whalen
Linda J. Wilson	

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

2:00 P.M. MAY 24, 1992

BOURNE NATIONAL CEMETERY

CAMP EDWARD BOURNE, MASSACHUSETTS

101st & 121st MEDICS

Your cooperation is required so that we may plan the following two items.

1. Are you interested in a Spring Luncheon?

YES ☒ NO ☐

Date, time and location will be announced at a later date.

2. 3RD ANNUAL REUNION
October 18, 19, 20 - 1992

Number of interested members required for room reservation.

YES ☒ NO ☐

At the present time we are surveying several locations.

PLEASE contact either Co-Chairman by mail or telephone.

Bill S. Coronella	Bill L. Dunphy
Somerville, MA	West Roxbury, MA
02114	02132

You will be contacted at a later date by mail with the details of location, cost etc.

221 FIELD ARTILLERY BN.

Happy to report that three of us Americal vets got together for A Good Time dinner the week before Christmas. Jack Warkow, from the 221 F.A. was present and the third man was Warner Huck from the 132 Infantry.

It was really nice to hear from so many of my friends over the Holidays and I certainly appreciated the cards that I received after surgery. Thanks to you all!

I am still putting together the Agent 8, Agent 8, story of a miracle on top of a hill on the forward observation post on Bougainville. The story includes myself a Lt. and a Sgt. I was calling in a fire mission on a Jap when my phone went dead. My Agent 8, Agent 8 plea was not answered for many hours till the miracle happened.

I have been in touch with Bill Maddox and he tells me that we will have a great Convention in San Antonio this coming June. Hope to see you all there.

Take care and God Bless
Leo W. Orfe
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

P.S. I would like to hear from my old buddies.

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION? DO IT NOW!

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

6 SUPPORT BATTALION 11 LIB
(Conclusion of story by Larry Henry)

As long as I'm off telling stories let me get in another or two. In the advance briefings we received while still in Hawaii, we were told that water would be a major problem for us; not just getting it but moving and storing it. It so happened that I had signed out, from the Post motor pool, and old fire engine pumper, which we were using to wash vehicles (It couldn't be transferred to us because we had to remain as envisioned by the army planners with respect to the table of organization and equipment (TO&E) That's the list of items and people that 'they' say we needed to do our job.

I had my maintenance guys repaint it in camouflage motif and we shipped it to RVN with the rest of our trucks. I had thought that when some one figured out that I had taken it to RVN we could do a property transfer, in lieu of my going to jail, but no one ever came looking for it! Once in RVN we obtained tanks from old water trailers out of the salvage yards, mounted them on tall stands, and had instant showers which we resupplied with the pumper! When it died, we remounted the pump and tank on a new multifuel frame and its life continued.

I had seen an advertisement in a Honolulu paper giving "a cash bonus for your old refrigerator when you buy a new one". I called him and ask what he was going to do with all of the old refrigerators. He decided he could help us and solve a problem at the same time. He gave us all that we could haul away. When we finished cannibalizing and repairing, we had about 20 operational refrigerators which we hid on our trucks for the trip to RVN. We had cold cokes and beer. (My company had over 100 vehicles and all were shipped loaded and covered!). The Battalion commander, LTC Rusche made me give the HHD some of the refrigerators.

After Tet cooled a bit, I was transferred to the Battalion staff and sent to Qui Nhon to be a material readiness expediter (MRE). That turned out to be a code name for lobbyist, con artist, or even thief. The MRE's job was to get the things his unit needed - by whatever means it took. The depots were overwhelmed with the amount of material being shipped in from the states and under staffed to deal with the mountain of paperwork resulting from the flow of requisitions, etc. Automation was just beginning and mainly amounted to punched card processing. Things were so bad in inventory control that the managers set a finders fee on depot items. It worked like this; I need a quantity of item XYZ. The depot records said they had none. If I found some in the yards, I could get my existing requisitions filled for up to 25-50% or more of the 'found' stock - depending on the 'market' price of that item that day. As a result of this the MRE's, every unit had them on site, toured the yards after every ship was unloaded - or watched the unloading if possible.

The 11th always had a team on site which consisted of an officer and two NCO's, one white and one black, while the names changed over the year I was in the Brigade the basic set up never did. When we needed to persuade an action person to fill our requisitions first or to give the use of some trucks, we always used the team member most likely to succeed. We felt our success rate was better than other units and one reason was this "division of labor".

Another Story:

When I was still the CO of B company we needed cement pads for our maintenance area in the worst way. The guys were trying to support a unit in combat while working under very bad conditions - one of which was mud. We had brought with us all company property we owned - that is property which is bought with PX profits not tax dollars. In that stuff was a power lawn mower - we didn't have grass within miles of LZ Bronco. One one of my early visits to the depot I arranged to trade the mower to a transportation truck company for some help in hijacking a load of cement (I also arranged the loan of a mixer from the depot). Here's how it went down.

The property guards at the ship unloading, I noticed, were checking loads out by reading the bumper markings on the tractor not those on the trailer. The Trans accomplice arranged for one of his tractors to put one of my trailers in the loading sequence, haul it through the checker and out of sight, unhook and go about his business. We hooked up our tractor and headed north. We had the entire load mixed and poured within two days so that if caught - we couldn't give it back. We were never caught by the depot. The Battalion commander caught me when we were almost finished and took away the last few bags for his hooch.

Following a few weeks at Qui Nhon, I was moved back to Duc Pho as the Brigade Supply Officer. The war heated up considerably during the summer for the 11th Brigade. We had lost several officers from the staff and I was moved to the Brigade Operations Staff to be the primary Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Duty Officer. In other words I was in charge of the war for the 11th Brigade on a minute by minute basis. The TOC was in a hole in the small mountain which was the center of LZ Bronco, my shift was the primary combat period for at least 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Two captains split the other, less intense 12 hours, but they had part time jobs in another office too.

I spent my time talking on the radio to units in active contact, LRPS, Fighter Pilots, and Americal Division Operations. My job was to keep track of what was going

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

STORY OF THE 6 SUPPORT BN. (Continues)

on in the area of operations (AO), keep the situation map posted up to date, keep my log up to date, control convoys passing along our section of Highway 1, control the artillery support, order B-52 strikes, and allocate the other resources we had such as gun ships and infantry reserves. In my spare time I would be harassing Division for allocations from their Artillery and air support. The times when I was out of touch with the CO, XO and S3, I just went ahead and made decisions on my own - that's why I was there.

TO BE CONTINUED - Maybe!

It's The Creepy Crawler

Chu Lai, The Loch Ness Monster has nothing on the Song Chang Creepy Crawler, but it does know better than to tangle with a group of infantrymen on patrol. Creepy's troubles began when a six-man patrol from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry disturbed its abode in the forest primeval along the banks of the Song Chang (Chang River) leading into Hiep Duc Valley some thirty miles northwest of Chu Lai. First Lieutenant James F. Dowling of Honolulu was leading the patrol in search of a suitable crossing point for the company along the north bank of the river. Tall elephant grass, tangled bushes and overhanging bamboo made for slow movement by the troops. "We were heading up a little hill, moving low because of the bamboo hanging over the top of us," related Dowling. "I was third man in the patrol and when I heard shots up ahead I went to check it out." What he found was his normally steady pointman, Private First Class Larry Flurry, of East Tallahassee, Ala., visibly shaken after being attacked by a large, hideous creature which had charged from out of a clump of bushes in front of him. "At first I thought it was a crocodile," mused the young platoon leader, "but I didn't think they had crocodiles in Vietnam. In any event, it had scurried back into the bushes so fast that we couldn't get a really good look at it." "To make sure we did away with whatever it was, we pumped ten more rounds into the bushes," he continued. "While in its death throes it made a low grunting noise. When that stopped I moved the bushes apart and pulled out a seven foot long lizard weighing about sixty pounds with dry skin and yellow and orange markings on its body. "We all just stood there looking at it in amazement. PFC Flurry wasn't too thrilled about the whole thing, though, especially when we examined its claws, inch-and-a-half long teeth and forked tongue," remarked the lieutenant. "Some men on their second tours over here said they had never seen anything like it. The largest lizard they had ever seen in Vietnam was a little under four feet long. "We figured there must be more of them around because it was typical reptile country, with a sandy river bank where they could lay their eggs, but we didn't continue our safari because we had to get on with our mission." Bad weather, which prevented helicopter resupply to the unit, made it impossible for the 196th Brigade troops to get their prize catch back to a rear area and after a day and a half of toting it around they had to abandon it. As Dowling put it, "Curious as we all were about the lizard, the smell just got too much for anyone to handle."

The "Gimlets" prize catch turned out to be an "unusually large" Asian Monitor Lizard. The fact became known when a photo of the reptile was shown to Specialist 5 Ronald G. Dalbeck, head animal technician at the 175th Veterinary Detachment in Chu Lai. Dabec, of Worcester, Mass., knows whereof he speaks, having worked at an aquarium specializing in the sale of exotic animals and fish for nearly eight years before being drafted. "The lizard's actions were purley defensive," he noted, "but it could have easily broken a man's leg with its tail or town his arm to shreads with a swipe of its claw. "Presuming anyone wanted to buy one that size back in the United States they would probably have to pay a minimum of around \$175."

Southern Cross article sent in by Larry Flurry
Tallahassee, Ala 36078

Dear Mr. Ward,

I am searching for someone who may have known my brother. He was with the 1/46th 198th L.I.B. 68-69. He was a medic, Spec.5. He was wounded at Quang Tin, I think. He died of those wounds three days later on December 8, 1969. He was wounded when he ran to help someone calling for a medic. I am very proud of him but I would like to know someone who may have been with him out in the field or in the hospital. I have written my Congressman for his help in getting Floyd's complete medical records and personnel records from St. Louis. He has written me back and stayed in close contact with me too. I know I'll hear something soon.

Floyd's complete name and unit is:

Floyd G. Talley (no name for G)

Americal Div. 1/46 198 L.I.B.

1968-1969 (Medic) Sp.5

KIA December 8, 1969

Mr. Wayne Wilson sent me an Americal Newsletter November-December issue 1991. In this I saw a picture sent to you by Aimee "Top" Thomas of Sgt. Landon, Gen. Clement, Cpt. Dunagan, and Col. Underhill. I believe I read it correctly that Mr. Thomas said he was with 1/46 198th L.I.B.? 68-69. Is this photo of his officers? If so, I would love to meet Mr. Thomas or at least talk with him and get a copy of that picture. I believe Floyd may be in the background of that photo! It sure looks like him. Could you help? It is on pg.10 of the November-December 1991 issue. You or Mr. Thomas may write me, Regina Talley, 923 14th Street Bowling Green, KY 42101. Also, I have a work phone at [redacted] or [redacted]. I'm there from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. central time. I can talk better from 9:00-9:30 a.m. or from 11:00-12:00 on my lunch break. I don't have a home phone, that is why I gave you these times. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon. Please place an article in your newsletter about my search from Floyd's buddies. His nickname of course was "Doc". I've just returned from the Wall on Veterans Day. What an uplifting experience that was! Everyone wanted to help so much! Thank you all so much for everything.

Regina Talley

Members,

I'm trying to find Greg Pardington and any other Recon 1/52 198th members. Please print my address. If anybody knows where they are, I sure would like to find them.

Thanks,

Frank L. Schulgen

[redacted]
Magnolia TX 77355

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VIETNAM EDITORS COMMO

I hope all you combat daddy's have your rucks loaded for the reunion which is quickly approaching. Comrade Bill Maddox promises us all the best one so far and I suspect he'll be right. The Vietnam vets will be there in force this time. Our co-horts with the 196th Locate-A-Brother are scheduling their activities along with the Division. The "Chargers" are a proud outfit that likes to show their colors. I hear we will be reinforced by some new faces from the 23rd MP's. Dutch DeGroot has been making a special effort to find some of the old head busters and we should see some new faces from that group. Make your dinner reservations now if you haven't already done so. We'd like to avoid all the usual late arrivals if possible. If you expect to pay at the door, you may be disappointed.

Men who are interested in participating in our scholarship committee, contact me as soon as you get to the hotel. I have a few men signed up already but would welcome some more. It's subject to change, but we'll probably be meeting on Friday morning after breakfast. Any of you that have copies of a scholarship plan currently in effect, bring them with you. We can use an existing plan as a guide to build ours on. I'll be attending the Army Divisions Association annual conference in Albuquerque March 6-9 and hope to get some info from the other units. The bigger divisions like the 1st Cavalry and 82nd Airborne have been running a scholarship plan for many years.

My thanks to the guys who have been sending me the newsletters from their individual units. Dutch has started one up for the 23rd MP's and "Buffalo" Gentry has a real gem going for the 75th Rangers G Company. The 196th LIB Association, headed by Bill Knight is doing an excellent job with their own publication. I understand that Terry Babler is preparing one for the 17th Cav. Hope you put me on that list Terry!

In parting, don't forget our POW-MIA's. Tell someone else every day that our men remain in captivity and you'll feel like a better man.

Yours in comradeship, Ron Ward

Dear Mr. Ward:

I have read the proposed Americal Scholarship plan and would like to offer the following suggestion. As we know, the children of those men and women who served during the Vietnam War and exposed to Agent Orange have developed learning disabilities. Therefore, may I recommend that a separate category be set up so that these individuals will be judged unto themselves and not in comparison to those children in main stream. These students may not be able to take standard SAT or equivalent tests but may have develop a potential that can not be measured by "normal" tests such as technical or service related area. Our legacy deserves the same chance as a "normal" child.

With reference to the regulations section to determine when a change of school or course is appropriate is improper. I am a member of other veteran groups who award scholarships and none of them have this as part of their guide lines. That goes for the transmitting of grades at the end of each year.

I would like to offer my help on the committee. In closing, I would like to say to you my brother welcome home.

Yours in Comradeship
Ronald A. Lipschitz, Vietnam 68-69 11th L.I.B.

Sloppy Housekeeping
Betrays Enemy Force

LZ BALDY--Numerous "Ho Chi Minh-sandal" tracks and field packs hanging on a fence betrayed eight enemy soldiers trying to evade division elements.

Units of C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., entered "Happy Valley" 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky and apparently surprised a group of VC/NVA soldiers. A platoon-sized force of C Co. proceeded cautiously down a winding jungle where they observed sandal tracks, hootches, and tunnel complexes.

A Kit Carson Scout, accompanied SP4 William Rozier (St. Paul, NC) the point man. Suddenly the alert scout detected movement in the thicket ahead.

Three NVA and one VC were killed by the platoon's small arms fire as they attempted to evade. A detailed search of the area yielded a hidden tunnel entrance.

Meanwhile, helicopter gunships supported another platoon-sized element. As the platoon moved in to investigate the enemy routed by gunships, three more VC were killed as they tried to flee from the infantrymen.

Minutes later, SGT Albert Gentry (Bumtass VA) observed several enemy packs hanging on a fence directly in front of his position. Advancing slowly, he located three VC in a bunker beneath a hootch. The enemy attempted to evade, but died under a hail of fire. (196th IO)

THE ARMY REPORTER Submitted by:
Gene Yeakley 6/11 ARTY

Dear Bro' Ron,

The book Vietnam..Our Story..One on One has now been published. It is a book of healing for anyone who served in the Armed Forces of this country during the Vietnam War period.

The book was the work of 68 Veterans who simply answered the call to help their brothers. With not a promise of anything. The 68 brothers and sisters relived the darkest time in their lives, wrote it down in hope that would help another Veteran.

We, the authors, and compiler are keeping the copyrights to the book. It will be distributed by the authors (Veterans) only. In that way it helps us. We have also decided to take a small share and donate it in ways we see fit within the Veteran community.

I have decided to donate \$1.00 of every book I sell to the Americal Division Veterans Association Scholarship Fund. The book may be ordered thru me. The price of the book is \$16.95 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to Al Fuchs.

Al Fuchs, [redacted]
Atlanta GA 30340-4164

Please allow a few weeks for ordering and shipping. Welcome home brothers and sisters. God Bless you all.

From the Brotherhood in the South,
Al (Big Al) Fuchs, Co-Author, One on One
1/14 Arty 198th
Chu Lai 67-68

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

To all Viet Nam Vets, Wives and Surviving Spouses and families:

I pray that all of you Viet Nam Vets take the time to read this, if it is published. First of all, here is a short story of my life since I married a View Nam Vet. I married Harvey W. Sexton, Jr. in April, 1970. We knew each other as friends before he went to Viet Nam. He was in Viet Nam from June, 1968 to June, 1969. He was in the 196th LIB, 17th Cav., F-Troop Infantry. His nickname was "Kansas City," at first, then when his fiancée wrote him a "Dear John" letter, his nickname was "Sexton." I had two children from a previous marriage and when Harv and I got married, he adopted them, then we later had two of our own. The oldest is a boy, 28, then a girl, 25, both married now. A girl 13 and a girl 12, both at home. We were very happy and very much in love. In July, 1989, we found out he had cancer of the colon that had spread to the lungs and later spread to the liver. He went through two surgeries, radiation, and all the different kinds of chemotherapy they could try and he died on January 5, 1991. A "very special person" who was in Nam with my husband and a close buddy helped us find God before Harv died and he keeps my spirits up and prays for us all the time now. He and his family come and visit or call all the time. I am convinced agent orange killed my husband, but the cancer he had wasn't one the laws count. (There are only two kinds of cancer at this time). There is a law in waiting to be voted on to allow more kinds of cancer and what else, I don't know. I have been fighting for my husband's rights and have been since he died, trying to get a purple heart he should have had and I know there are many of you out there that should have gotten lots of medals you didn't get, and many of you who are sick, disabled or have PTSD and aren't getting what you deserve. The reason I am writing this article is to get all of you to wake up and smell the roses! Help me to help all of you! I've written letters to over 200 Viet Nam Vets trying to find someone who knew him or was with him when he received shell fragment wound and have discovered so many in this process who are disabled, sick or have PTSD. I've written Senators, Congressmen, Representatives and the President and lots of other Washington addresses and put ads in 7 or 8 magazines. I'm not giving up and I hope this letter will help all of you want to do the same. Don't give up, don't let them forget who you are, or what you did for your Country or the hell you went through and the hell you are still going through.

The construction and building monuments for the Viet Nam Vets 20 years after the fact doesn't make all of the others go away. It doesn't give jobs to the ones who don't have them or can't get one or put food on the table, or put a roof over your heads or help the medical problems. I pray that you will all write your Senators, Congressmen Representatives and the President! Try to get them all to vote this law in. Please don't quit! No one knows what you are going through except someone else that was there, but I have somewhat of a feeling what the flashbacks may be like. I went through quite a few of these with Harv in our 20 1/2 years of marriage and now that he is gone, there are times that the 20 1/2 years flash before my eyes. The last 2 years were the worst and are most painful to deal with because of the pain and suffering he went through. Believe me, it was hell, maybe not the same kind of hell as Nam, but just the same, it was hell and not a pretty picture. I don't know if I will ever understand why he had to go through hell twice or not. I

guess I am trying to help all of you, if I can in any way, because I know Harv would want me to and it makes me feel closer to him and I enjoy it, the more I hear about Nam and it makes me feel good if I can help someone. I was married to Harv long enough and have talked to enough of you to know that all Viet Nam Vets feel, "if you were there, we're brothers." (family and their families too.) It's been over 20 years and I know it's hard to remember and a lot of it you don't want to remember, but believe me, if you keep it inside it will drive you nuts and you would be at peace with yourself and your family if you could talk about it and get it all out and God will help you. Talk to someone, anyone who will listen and if you can't find anyone else who will listen, I will. My heart goes out to each and every one of you and I love all of you like family, even though I don't personally know all of you. I pray for all of you every day and ask God to Bless all of you and your families. I wrote the following poem for all of the View Nam Vets in memory of my husband and if any of you would like to correspond with me or if I can help in any way, (except money) my address is attached.

REMEMBER THE VIET NAM VETS

I think we need to remember and praise the Viet Nam Vets. They all came home from over there, most of them, their whole lives upset. Their Country won't even stand behind them at all, but when Desert Storm came along, some of them went back again, standing tall. Some couldn't go because they are disabled and sick, but the government and nation just wish they all would go away quick. They all just fought for their Country the way they were told. Some died, but the rest stayed and stood up big and bold. But when all was over and they came home, it seemed to them they were all alone. Everyone spit on them from the Country they fought for, in the senseless fight that was called the Viet Nam War. They all went through enough hell over there. Why should they be treated like this? It's just not fair. They all saw things over there no one should ever have to see. So let's just love them all and let it be. No one can imagine, who wasn't there, we should at least show them all we do care. Why didn't they get the parades, parties and kissed instead of being treated like they don't exist.

My husband, now deceased, was a Viet Nam Vet and very proud of it and others that survived have health problems and agent orange, or the whole bit. They would all do it again if they were told to. But stop and think about all they've had to survive. Would you? They are all alike, each one that was there is their brother and they really care about each others families and look out for one another. They did what they did to protect all of us. So why did everyone make such a big fuss? Some fled the country and dodged the draft then they were granted amnesty and the Viet Nam Vets got the shaft. Some came from other countries and were helped to start a living but our own guys, the country isn't even giving. I will always remember all of those who did their best and I pray for each of them, and that, by God, they will all be blessed. This is my sincerest thanks to all of you who have helped or cared about me. I pray that someday I can find the right key for the right door. Dedicated to all the Viet Nam Vets everywhere. God bless each and every one of you forever more!

So after reading all of this, you should have guessed, I'm praying that we can all remember the Viet Nam Vets!

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Written By: Dee Sexton
303 Prospect Street
Stanton IA 51573
C 27 June 91 (712) 829-2173

In Loving Memory of my husband,
Harvey W. Sexton, Jr.
Viet Nam, 1968-1969
196th LIB F-Troop
17th Cav., Americal Division
Infantry

Dear Comrades:

I just received my Christmas edition of the ADVA newsletter. I have read it at least twice and some parts more than that. I have been searching for some clues or leads to find some of my fellow comrades, but so far I have not found anyone I know. I traveled to Hyannis, Mass. this past June for the 50th anniversary of the Americal. The hospitality by the WWII's was unbelievable. I don't think they could have treated my wife, Donna, and I any better. I would also like to thank Ron Ward, 198th Bde and past national commander of the ADVA for helping me feel right at home. He has become a real good friend in such a short time. In July, I visited Chicago for the 196 LIB reunion. I would like to thank Bill Knight for a good job organizing that event. In September, my wife and I went to Las Vegas for the Gimlets and Polar Bears reunion. I was not a member, but received a warm welcome and really had a good time. Thanks goes to Tony May for organizing this one. Since being from Texas, I will be looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in San Antonio. Especially my good friends Mike and Irene Egirous and Matthew & Renee Wannye.

If anyone knows me or anyone in my company, please write me at any time. Some of the guys I'm looking for are: Sudweeks-Utah, Bryant-NC, Cahill-NY, Logan, Kroeger.

Ronald R. Ellis HHC 1/146th 198th LIB
Henderson Texas 75652

Hello Ron,

My name is Lynn Hart and I'm a life member of the ADVA. I would like to tell you how much I look forward to receiving my newsletter. I served with the Americal between October 1967 and September 1968. I was with HHC/198th at LZ Bayonet and in the boonies with 2nd Squad/H Troop/17th Cav./198th. I was a medic on Track 2-4. My TC was Sgt. Vega, "Crazy Al Loomis" was our driver. I would like to have contact with someone from the artillery battery that remembers the mine incident on forward firebase called Hill 69 in which two arty jeeps hit mines. Both jeeps had two men in them and all four men were severely injured. I was the medic that did what I could for the men. When we abandoned Hill 69 one of the tracks hit a mine crossing a creek with two men killed and three badly wounded. If anyone remembers any of this I would like to hear from you, or anyone that I served with. I hope this coming year of 1992 will be a great year for all of the members of the ADVA.

Lynn Hart
Benton AK 72015

Dear Ron,

I thought I would drop you a line and tell you thanks for the card. I felt like you would like the open letter Mrs. Weaver had wrote. She wanted as many Viet Nam veterans as possible to read the letter. She will be excited when it appears in the newsletter. I told her I will send her my copy when I get through reading it about 5 times. I find myself picking it up and reading the Viet Nam section over and over. You and the others that do the work are to be commended with a big tip of the hat.

You said you were with 1/6th and saw H Tp. often. You were right about that because we worked many times with 1/16th. We might have been on the same hilltop together in 1968. I came home in September. I remember a medic from 1/16th named Smith, I think. He was sandy haired and real thin and quite tall. Of course we were all real thin in those days. He was on Hill 69 with us a number of times. Do you remember Hill 69? It was west of Tam Ky. We would usually go out to the hill about a week before the arty boys were choppered in with their big guns. The 1/16th would patrol and set ambushes with us. After the artillery arrived we set up perimeter for the duration of the fire mission. You would have not been there when a 1/6th ambush was ambushed as soon as they were off the hill. I remember that so well because the rto dropped his Prc 25 as they ran back to safety. I really don't recall what platoon it was. I know the small ambush walked into a very large ambush. They were very lucky they all weren't killed. They would have been if they hadn't been so close to the tracks. Two of our tracks sent Charlie on the run when the 50's opened up. We received sniper fire as we looked for the dropped radio. We never did find the radio. I will always remember some Col. chewing out the poor RTO in front of most of us the next day. Of course he flew out after sleeping comfortably in his air-conditioned hootch back at Chu Lai. I wondered then as I do now how he would have reacted if he'd been in the middle of the ambush?

My track was called..The HELLCAT..I do remember the track called..HARD ON..I had forgotten about it until you jogged my feeble memory. I can't recall THE HELPING HAND. Each squad had 10 APC's and there were three squads plus headquarters tracks. In April, 1989, the medics had a reunion in St. Louis. We stayed at the Marriott at the airport. It was a great weekend that I will always cherish. We plan to try and get together again in 1993, hopefully at Washington, DC so we can go to the Wall. Wish I had known about you then, I would have given you a call. It's amazing how talking to someone can rekindle many memories that hadn't crossed your mind in years. We come to St. Louis sometimes to watch the Cardinals play. The next time there, I'll give you a call if it's no problem.

Well, let me say again thanks for your work with the Association and I hope this coming year will be a great year for you. Take Care!!

Sincerely,

Lynn Hart 17th Cav.

ARE YOUR RESERVATION IN FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

AN OPEN LETTER TO ANYONE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM

Dear Hero,

I was in my twenties during the Vietnam era. I was probably one of the most self-centered people on this planet. To be perfectly honest..painfully honest..I didn't care one way or the other about the war. All I cared about was ME--how I looked, what I wore, and where I was going. I worked and I played. I was never politically involved with anything, and I allowed my opinions to be formed by the media. I happened without my ever being aware. I listened to the protest songs and I watched the six o'clock news and I listened to all the people who were doing all of the talking. After awhile, I began to repeat their words and if you were to ask me, I'd have told you I was against the war. It was very popular. Everyone was doing it, and we never saw what it was doing to our men. All we were shown was what they were doing to the people of Vietnam.

My brother joined the Navy and then he was sent to Vietnam. When he came home, I repeated the words to him. It surprised me at how angry he became. I hurt him very deeply and there were years of separation--not only of miles, but also of character. I still didn't understand.

In fact, I didn't understand anything..until one day I opened my newspaper and saw the anguished face of a Vietnam veteran. The picture was taken at the opening of the Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C. His countenance revealed the terrible burden of his soul. As I looked at his picture and his tears, I finally understood a tiny portion of what you had given for us and what we had done to you. I understood that I had been manipulated, but I also knew that I had failed to think for myself. It was like waking up out of a nightmare, except that the nightmare was real. I didn't know what to do.

One day about three years ago, I went to a member of the church I attended at that time, because he had served in Vietnam. I asked him if he had been in Vietnam and he got a look on his face and said "Yes." Then, I took his hand, looked him square in the face, and said "Thank you for going." His jaw dropped, he got an amazed look on his face and then he said, "No one has ever said that to me." He hugged me and I could see that he was about to get tears in his eyes. It gave me an idea, because there is much more that needs to be said. How do we put into words..all the regret of so many years? I don't know, but when I have an opportunity, I take it..so here goes.

Have YOU been to Vietnam? If so, I have something I want to say to you. THANK YOU FOR GOING! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please forgive me for my insensitivity. I don't know how I could have been so blind, but I was. When I woke up, you were wounded and the damage was done and I don't know how to fix it. I will never stop regretting my actions and I will never let it happen again.

Please understand that I am speaking for the general public also. We know we blew it and we don't know how to make it up to you. We wish we had been there for you when you came home from Vietnam because you were a hero and you deserved better. Inside of you there is a pain that will never completely go away..and you know what? It's inside of us too because we let you down, we hurt ourselves too. And we all know it..and we suffer guilt and we don't know what to do.. so we cheer for our troops and write letters to "any soldier" and we hang out the yellow ribbons and fly the

flag and we love America. We love you too, even if it doesn't feel like it to you. I know in my heart that when we cheer wildly for our troops, part of the reason is trying to make up for Vietnam. And while it may work for us, it does nothing for you. We failed you. You didn't fail us, but we failed you and we lost our only chance to be grateful to you at the time when you needed and deserved it. We have disgraced ourselves and brought shame to our country. We did not and we need your forgiveness. Please say you will forgive us and please take your rightful places as heroes of our country. We have learned a terribly painful lesson at your expense and we don't know how to fix it.

From the heart,
Julie Weaver

Burleson TX 76028

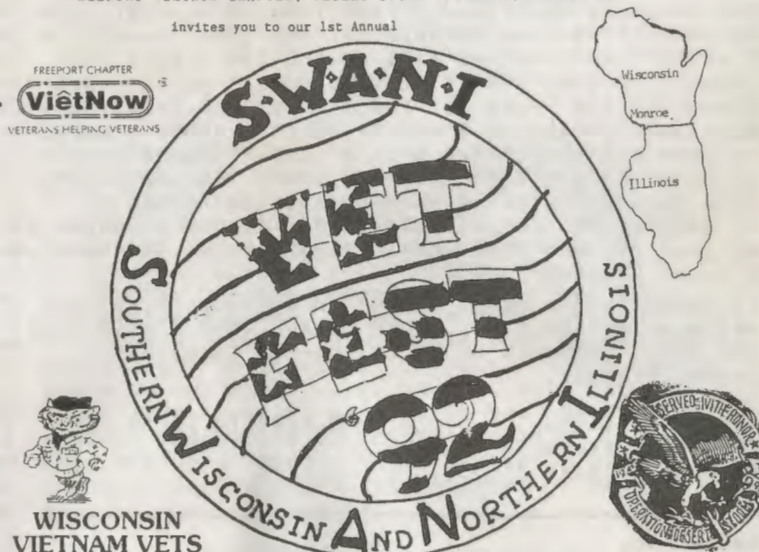
FOOD, BEER TENTS, CAMPING, VENDORS, HOTELS, BANDS ALL WEEKEND LONG DIFFERENT STAGES
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, JUNE 26-27-28, 1992, Green County Fairgrounds, Monroe, WI

WISCONSIN VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER 3,

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Invites you to our 1st Annual

FREEPORT CHAPTER
VietNow
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



Featuring: Friday night, June 26 - Welcome address 7PM, Max Voltage & the Resistors 7:30
Saturday, June 27 - Cactus Club 10 AM, Curt Lewis 10 AM, Open Ceremonies 12 Noon, Incoming 1 PM, Lee Gander 5 PM, Sammy L Davis Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient 6:30 PM, Britt Small & Festival 6:30 PM, Speakers 8:00 PM, Britt Small & Festival 8:30 PM, Open Sights 10 PM
Sunday, June 28 - Ecumenical Service

For more information call: Jim Bartelt, President WV Chapter 3 608/325-7905
Gary Eisenhower, President Vietnow Chapter 815/232-7954
Lonnie Goecks, President Desert Storm Veterans 608/527-2932

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
NORTHWEST INDIANA CHAPTER 285

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 285, Northwest Indiana, is sponsoring a "Vet Fest" at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, Indiana on June 12, 13, 14, 1992.

Friday 5 P.M. until 11:P.M.
Saturday and Sunday 11:A.M. until 11:00 P.M.

Try to set up a Reunion with some of your old unit. See you there!

Call

Marylyn Brown
Public Relations

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

ROLLING THUNDER V[®]

RIDE FOR FREEDOM

POW MIA

"We Will Never Forget"

Washington, D.C.
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24, 1992

PAST RUNS
RT-I 3,500
RT-II 12,000
RT-III 17,000
RT-IV 23,000
RT-NYC-I 3,000
RT-NYC-II 6,000
RT-NYC-III 9,000
RT-PA-I 10,000
RT-PA-II 12,000

WWI 3,350
WWII 78,000
KOREA 8,172
Vietnam 2,273

Assemble Area: North Pentagon Parking Lot 9 am.

Leaving: 12 noon for the ride through Washington, D.C. to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay our respects to our brothers and sisters.

Reflecting Pool: Speeches and music at the Reflecting Pool. For the return of our POW-MIA's that our government has abandoned!! This is a demonstration for our POW-MIA's. If you love your freedom fight for theirs.

All Veterans organizations and citizens are welcome. If you don't ride be at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 12 noon.

No Attitudes: Confirmed

Artie (NJ) Ray (NJ) Jake (PA)
Greasy (KY) Don (NJ) Smoke (VA)
Eugene (GA) Jack (MD) Gil (Canada)
Charlie (NJ)

PLEASE COPY AND REDISTRIBUTE

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

CO. D 2nd BATTALION 1 INFANTRY 196 LIB

I am the sister of a man KIA in Vietnam and have been seeking information concerning my brother and the incident he was involved in, with little success. I am enclosing the information that I have and if any one remembers my brother I would appreciate them contacting me. This incident took place on January 9, 1968 -- Quang Tin.

My brother is Sgt. Harry Lee Watkins Jr.

Other personnel KIA in the same incident:

Lt. Edward J. Harris Jr. PFC Paul H. Oliver
SP/4 Dennis L. Prescott PFC John L. Williams

A witness to the incident (unsure of correct spelling) PFC Hidabol, Manuel Hidaglo L., Manuel or Hildago Lozado. Also a SP/4 Westeen helped in gathering the remains.

I would like to hear from anyone who has information on 2nd Lt. Richard Seibert KIA Quang Tin January 10, 1968. Co. D 21 Inf. 196 LIB

Thank You,
Connie Watkins Shingleton
Mechincsburg, VA 23111
Call 804-730-7924

LZ-ELKO

Minnesota State Vietnam Veterans Reunion
Memorial Day Weekend
May 22, 23 & 24
Elko Speedway - Elko, MN
THIRD ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS
Featuring
Britt Small and Festival
Special Appearance By
Sammy Davis
Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient -
Vietnam - 1967
and
Minnesota Won't Forget's POW/MIA Flag Unit
plus
2 Big Nights of NASCAR Stock Car Racing
Sponsored By
Vietnam Veterans of America
Dakota County Chapter 492

HOTELS AVAILABLE:

Friendly Host Inn Range from \$30-\$51 I-35 & Co. Rd. 50	Super 8 Motel Range from \$42-\$62 Specify Lakeville I-35 & Co. Rd. 70	Day Stop Motel \$32.00 I-35 & Co. Rd. 70
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Must mention you are a veteran and are attending the reunion to receive room rate discounts.
CAMPING is free at the Speedway. All camping is self-contained. No hook-ups. Showers available at Mega-Stop, next to the Day Stop Motel, for \$3.
PRE-REGISTRATION is \$15 per person until April 15. April 16-May 1 is \$20 per person. No pre-registrations will be accepted after May 1. Confirmation of your registration and schedule of events will be mailed to you. NO REFUNDS.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____
Payable to: V.V.A. Chapter 192
CAMPING: YES RV CAMPER OTHER Mail to

Please include the name, branch of service, unit, and dates served for all who are coming. L-Z ELKO
Rosemont, MN 55068

Members;

To Peter G Molyneaux, Terry C McGuire, Jackie Catron and other members of C 3/1 Infantry. I recently joined the ADVA and in my first issue of the newsletter I was happy to read Peter Molyneaux's letter. Colonel James A Franklin and I went over this issue together and Peter's letter brought back many old memories. I stay in touch with Doug Walsch, Vern Shumway, Joe Guth, and Roger O'Dell. I can't locate Buford Inman although he is from Atlanta and I'm living and working here. I would love to hear from the other members of the Company. Those of you who started with C 3/1 in Hawaii will remember 1SGT Alan T Shields. I'm sorry to report that he has been dead about six years. He died of a strange respiratory problem.

Joe Rhinehart C 3/1 Infantry 11th LIB
Marietta, GA 30066

Members,

I was thinking, if you are getting a lot of poems from the ADVA members, maybe they could get in touch with me. If we have enough for a book I could get it published and the authors and the ADVA could benefit from it. Each author could hold press conferences and autograph sessions and then either keep the proceeds after cost and then kick back some to ADVA or the scholarship fund. If you want to pass my name and address and phone number on to them, please do so. My line is open to any ADVA member 24 hours a day.

Al (Big Al) Fuchs
1/14th 198th 67/68
Americal Division



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MARCH - APRIL 1992

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

Eligibility for Membership

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