

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

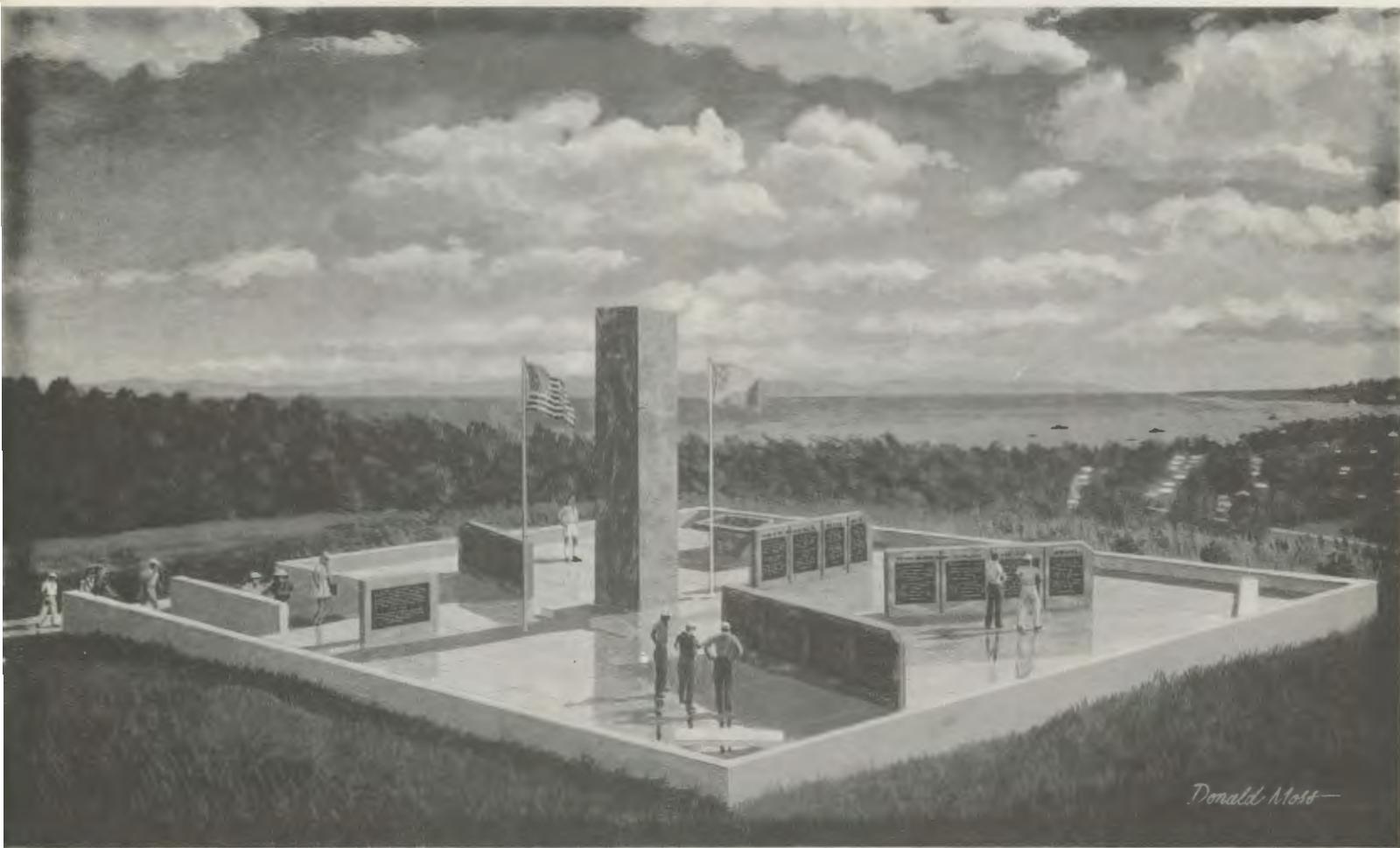
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE
VIETNAM EDITOR: DAVID L. RECOB

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1992

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

AMERICAN WW II MEMORIAL ON GUADALCANAL - SKYLINE DRIVE



Guadalcanal - Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation

The American Battle Monuments Commission

1992

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1993

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

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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

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Anniversary events will be taking place at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial all week thru Veterans Day, November 11th including the reading of 58,183 names on The Wall. This should be a very worth-while trip to make. Ron Ward will have a hospitality room set up. Discounts will be available from American Airlines if flying to Washington, D.C. Phone 800-433-1790 and ask for STAR File No. S02N2GV. Call 800-273-6971 for Amtrak Personalized Travel if going by train. And for discounts at all available hotels you dial 800-554-2220. Be sure you tell them that you are a veteran to receive this special offer.

Shortly after receiving my thank you letter, Mrs Julia Ann Patch Diehl who was the keynote speaker at the San Antonio reunion, sent me a very warm letter expressing what her thoughts were about the Americal Division. I felt you would want to share her thoughts with me and I asked her permission to print the letter in our Newsletter. She graciously agreed and you will find her letter worth reading.

Several years ago I met William "Mac" McCormick and his wife Elizabeth at an ADVA national reunion. After that I saw them at all national and Eastern Regional Chapter reunions. This year I missed them at San Antonio. On return home we received word that "Betty" McCormick had gotten sick, went to the hospital and died quickly on July 2nd. Having gotten to know Betty very well, both Julie and I were saddened by her sudden passing. She was an elegant lady that always exhibited lots of grace. She will be sorely missed by us and all of her friends. Our deepest sympathy to Mac and his family.

The Scholarship Foundation is moving right along. Ron Ward had been elected Chairman at San Antonio. Joe Chin as ADVA Treasurer and myself as the National Commander are officers of the Foundation ex-officio. I have appointed three individuals as Interim Trustees to serve until the election to be held at the next reunion in Topeka. They are: Dr Robert C. Muehrcke who is Chairman of the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation, John "Dutch" DeGroot our Senior Vice Commander, and Roland T. Castronova our Past National Commander. This will make three WWII Veterans and three Vietnam Veterans for a balanced committee. The new By-Laws will be published elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

A few months ago the New Jersey Legislature was debating a bill on Agent Orange and one of our members asked me to phone for support of the legislation. I was happy to do so. From all of the busy signals that I received from that office they must have gotten lots of calls.

Many unfortunate things are happening in the Veterans Administration regarding medical assistance to our veterans and retirees. Recently VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski strongly opposed H.R. 5263, a bill making it possible for non-service connected disabled veterans and retirees who are on Medicare to be eligible to receive medical care at selected VA hospitals. This would have the effect of reducing the cost to Medicare and open the VA hospitals to more veterans. Under this program the VA would be reimbursed by Medicare. The veteran or retiree would have the co-payment waived. It seems to me that this would be profitable to both the VA and Medicare for the VA would receive payment and Medicare would pay less than at civilian hospitals. A good deal for both. We should back this legislation.

I have just finished watching the National Convention of both major political parties. I feel deeply that this is going to be an historic election both for President of the United States and for members of Congress. It behoves every one, especially the Americal family, to go out and vote on November 3rd. Get involved in this election. It is not too late to do so. Weigh the pros and cons very carefully and then let your conscience be your absolute guide. Please vote!

Thanks for your phone calls and congratulatory letters that I have received. I appreciate this very much.

Peter J. Messina
National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

October 10, 1992
Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

November 14, 1992
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Carl W. Beckus 132 Infantry Rockford, IL	James F. Burns 221 FA Cambridge, MA
Francis S. Conaty 21 Recon Chantilly, VA	Leonard S. Graham 221 F.A. A Btry Gloucester, VA
David Himelfarb 101 QM Co B Newton, MA	Peter F. Kane 198 LIB H/17 Cav Arm South Portland, ME #Bernie Chase
Andrew J. Majka 132 Infantry Chicago, IL	Rollen P. Miller 196 LIB A/4/31 Inf Fort Wayne, IN
Robert W. Urban 245 F.A. Btry B Seven Mile, OH	Norma R. Whirlow Associate Odessa, TX

NEW MEMBERS

Ethan D. Allen 132 Avn Bn Clinton, MA #Bernie Chase	Alden J. Bell 196 LIB Hq+Hq Donie, TX #R. Castronova
Eric Bogle 11 LIB E/3/1 Inf Weymouth, MA #Hugh Murnaghan	Michael J. Boles 196 LIB A/12/1 Inf Fort Wayne, IN #R. Castronova
Michael L. Boley 11 LIB B/1/20 Wooster, OH #Peter Messina	Robert T. Brennan 198 LIB H/17 Cav South Portland, ME #R. Castronova
William A. Brown 11 LIB Hdq/4/21 Inf Memphis, TN #R. Castronova	Rudolph H. Buchborn 182 Infantry Co H Ashtabula, OH #Bernie Chase
Richard L. Cohen 164 Infantry Hq/K/I Upper Darby, PA #John Gallagher	Ricardo Collado 198 LIB HHQ San German, PR #R. Castronova
Angel Dela Cruz 21 Infantry B/3/21 Elmhurst, NY #Bernie Chase	Norman Durst 70 CA-AA TF 6814 Cincinnati, OH #Bernie Chase
Dale W. Flickinger 196 LIB C/3/21 Inf Jamesville, OH #Ron Davis	John A. Fulmer 23 Adm A.P.O. AE #F. H. Kolbrener

164NL293897

NEW MEMBERS

Robert E. Galpin 221 FA B Btry + Hdq Chandler, AZ #Joe Feeler	Danny M. Giles 198 LIB A/1/52 Inf Montvale, VA #James Manley
Dennis B. Gordon 11 LIB Btry D 6 Bn Marshall, MI #Ed Marsh	William J. Hanusek 121 Med Co B Alexandria, VA #Joe Micek
Edward A. Hertzing 1 Cav B/1/1 Littleton, CO #DAV Viet Vet Nat	Chester C. Holloway 123 Avn Bn Co B Atlanta, GA #Col Chester Holloway
Simon Isherwood Associate Northants, NN12 8XJ #R. Castronova	Christopher Italian 132 Inf Co A-164 Inf Gloucester, NJ #Ltc. Peter Messina
Peter F. Kane 198 LIB H/17 Cav Arm South Portland, ME #Bernie Chase	John J. Kilburg 11 LIB D/4/3 Inf Bellevue, IA #Linn Hoopes
J.J. Lanthrum Aledo, TX #Bernie Chase	Thomas F. Mayer III 459 Sig Bn HHD Pontiac, MI #Reinstated
James E. Milano 221 FA Melrose, MA #Reinstated	Daniel H. Pittsnogle 164 Infantry Co G Martinsburg, WV #Steve Dennison
David W. Proellocos 196 LIB C/4/3 Inf St. Petersburg, FL #Bernie Chase	Ralph Rogato 182 Infantry Co I Peabody, MA #R. Castronova
Robert R. Sedlmeier 11 LIB B/3/1 Inf Milford, MI #Donald Alsbro	John A. Shaver Associate Salina, KS #R. Castronova
Donald E. Smith 52 Infantry C/E/Rec Dexter, ME #Ltc. Peter Messina	Leo Stern 223 F.A. Btry B Truth or Consequence **Reinstated
William F. Stewart 1 Cav C Trp 1st Sqd Ballston Lake, NY #R. Castronova	John L. Tretter 11 LIB D/4/3 Inf Fenton, MO #Larry Gelnett
Robert Van Hoek 1 Cav A/1 Sqd Medic New York, NY #Bernie Chase	Gary W. Warner 8 Cav Troop F Lawrenceville, GA #Al Fuchs
Norma R. Whirlow Associate Odessa, TX #Gary Noller	#SPONSOR

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

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

*Note: Payments of \$25 in 6 month intervals. Any member who has paid his dues in advance will receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

TAPS

 Howard S. Bliem Joseph F. Cavanagh
 164 Infantry 140 Chem Plt HHC
 Stratham, NH Natick, MA
 #March 20, 1992 #May 14, 1992

Arthur L. Chapman Joseph A.E. Cullen
 164 Infantry 182 Infantry Hq Co
 Eastham, MA Hampton, NH
 #June 3, 1992 #Date Unknown

William P. Falzano James T. Roach
 182 Infantry 182 Infantry Co E
 Newburyport, MA Yarmouth Port, MA
 #Date Unknown #August 3, 1992

Edward B. Stoeckel John M. Sullivan
 Spec Troops 182 Infantry
 Kettering, OH Malden, MA
 #December 7, 1991 #Date Unknown

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Company G 164th Infantry

I deeply regret the necessity of asking you to include my husband, Arthur L. Chapman, 164th Infantry, in the "Taps" Column of the Adjutant's Notes. He died of cancer on June 3, and is buried at the National Cemetery in Bourne, MA. He fought as bravely against disease as he fought in battle, but unfortunately this was not a battle it was possible to win.

He was very proud of his Military Service, and treasured his association with his comrades of the 164th. His fondest wish would have been to be able to return to Guadalcanal for the 50th Anniversary. He also saw action on Bougainville and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry against the enemy there.

Very sincerely yours,
 Katherine H. Chapman

Medical Det. - Special Troops

On December 7, 1991, the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, my husband Edward B. Stoeckel Jr. passed away. He was better known as Bert or "Tiny". He had a heart attack in April 1991 and another the following November, followed by the fatal one on Pearl Harbor Day.

Bert had been with the Medical Detachment Special Troops.

We attended the Americal Reunion in Chicago in 1990 and enjoyed renewing old acquaintances.

Bert was a research scientist. I abided by his wish -es, and donated his body to science. Even in death he is contributing to research.

If I can receive future issues of the newsletter, I'll see that they will be passed on to the patients at the Veterans Hospital in Dayton Ohio. Enclosed is an obituary, also a check for whatever fund you prefer.

Sincerely,
 Virginia Stoeckel

CHAPTERS

ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Regional Commander
 Thomas P. McQuade
 [REDACTED]
 Nalcrest, FL 33856-6345

 SOUTH MID WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER CHAPTER
AR, LA, MS, OK, TX

Regional Commander
 William K. Maddox
 [REDACTED]
 Portland, TX 78374
 Telephone [REDACTED]

 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER
IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

Regional Commander
 Rush G. Propper
 [REDACTED]
 Swartz Creek, MI 48473

 FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, UT, NM

Regional Commander
 Joe D. Feeler
 [REDACTED]
 Albuquerque, NM 87110
 Telephone [REDACTED]

 WILLIAM E. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

Cape Cod Chapter Commander
 William J. McLaughlin
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 Marston Mills, MA 02648

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

Eastern Regional Commander
 Stephen N. Dennison
 3211 Spangler Avenue
 [REDACTED]
 Telephone [REDACTED]

 CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

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

 ARE YOUR DUES PAID
 CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL FOR YOUR DUES DATE.

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
 Lloyd J. Morrell
 [REDACTED]
 Redmond, OR 97756-9612

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
 ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA
 [REDACTED]
 PEABODY, MA 01960

CHAPTER NEWS

ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

PNC THOMAS MCQUADE HAS BEEN ELECTED AS THE NEW CHAPTER COMMANDER OF THE ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER

Chapter Meeting
 October 16, 17, 18, 1992
 Naples, Florida

Business Meeting - October 17, 1992 - 2:00 P.M.

The next Chapter meeting will be held in Naples, Florida at the Vanderbilt Hotel. The Hotel has a special package of three days and two nights for \$79.50 per person. This includes lodging for two nights, one dinner, one lunch, Continental breakfasts, plus a lot more extras.

Contact the Hotel directly, IMMEDIATELY, for reservations.

Vanderbilt Beach Hotel

Naples, Florida 33963

Tel. [REDACTED]

As your new Chapter Commander I would like to say that I am honored and would like every member to give me the support that they gave Ed Heartquist.

I have appointed Elmar Matola as the new Secretary\Treasurer of the Chapter. Please send all dues to him. He is authorized to sign all checks and make all deposits for our Chapter. Send them to:

Mr. Elmar Matola
 [REDACTED]
 Hernando, FL 32642

Also, if you have any questions about our meeting in October, please contact Elmar.

I was indeed sorry to hear of the death of Dave Rossi. He was an asset to our Chapter and did an excellent job as Secretary/Treasurer.

I am looking forward to working for you and working with you, to make our Chapter stronger and more active.

Your Chapter Commander
 Tom McQuade

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
Stephen Dennison
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
Peter J. Messina Sec
[REDACTED]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

I would like to personally thank this year's 1992 reunion chairmen, Harold Stein and George Yates, for taking charge and hosting the 1992 chapter reunion. There has been some talk about the host city for the 1993 chapter reunion. The rumors are that it will be in Buffalo, New York. The final vote will be taken at our chapter reunion.

I was sent a request from James O. Murphy of 979 Dixie Bell Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22602, phone [REDACTED], regarding his father. His dad was Kilby T. Murphy, Serial No. 34827044, Company B, 57th Engineer Combat Battalion and was born in Moultrie, Georgia. He was wounded on March 29, 1945 in Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines and was discharged on September 14, 1945, Fort McPherson, Georgia. If anyone remembers serving with this fellow veteran in World War II, please contact his son or telephone him.

I would like to close by saying that I hope each chapter member will bring one additional member into this association. This will not only add to the chapter's growth but also to National's growth. There are so many Americal veterans out there who do not even know about our association.

Sincerely,

Steve Dennison
Chapter Commander

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, UT, NM

Dear Members & Veterans

Are you interested enough in what we do as the Far West chapter to respond to the letters we send out? So far we have not received a very good response. We will at times be asking for your ideas on different questions and would appreciate your giving us your thoughts. If you do not answer we are wasting our time and money.

We want to make this one of the best chapters, or even the best chapter, in the Americal Division Veterans Association. We need your ideas so please respond.

I myself am very proud to be an Americal Veteran and a citizen of the good old U.S.A.. Though I do not agree on everything that is done, what country would be better?

Lets plan a great reunion in 1993! As soon as you hear of the date, mark it down on your calendar and plan to be a part. We want all of you fellows and your wives to attend.

Commander
Joe Feeler

Reunion Chairman
Lou Turner

Sent in by Herbert Holt----Far West Chapter

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

July 19, 1992

Dear Pete,

I wish I could tell you how much it meant to me to be present at and even have a little part in the Americal Reunion. I've tried to tell my children and a few friends, but their responses tell me they think I'm babbling. I think I'm expressing it poorly! Truly, my response to that wonderful group of people surprised me. I think most of them would understand my feelings and probably share them. I felt a lot of gratitude, not only for their inviting me to come and participate, but for what these men did for our country. It's reassuring to think that our country can produce soldiers like these and do it again and again in our time; from New Caledonia through Desert Shield - It's heart warming to know that some of the Vietnam vets are joining in. If I were a Vietnam vet, I think I'd be deeply alienated.

Perhaps one thing that contributed to the depth of my reaction is the disappointment I've felt lately in what I see happening so much in our country - a seeming breakdown of moral values, with a lot of greed, selfishness, crookedness, lack of patriotism ensuing. That evening reminded me that goodness, courage, patriotism, and caring about comrades and country are still extant; it's deeply reassuring. It also is very comforting to think that people still prize those things which Dad and my brother believed in, sought after, practiced to the best of their ability, and essentially gave their lives for. It means that their lives and those of their comrades then and later are validated.

My son is coming next week & we plan to go through Dad's (and Mother's) letters & papers. I'm sorry I've been so long getting to this.

Please give your Julie my warm regards. What a pleasure it was to meet you two! Chandler and I would love to see you on your next trip to San Antonio. Congratulations again on your "post" for next year, and all good luck to you both. I can imagine how busy you will both be.

My thanks to the wonderful Americal Division Veterans Association for an unforgettable evening. I've always had a warm feeling for Americal from Dad, but now it's special to me.

Cordially,

Julia Ann

(Mrs Chandler Diehl is the daughter of General Alexander M. Patch, Jr the first Division Commander of the Americal. She has graciously given permission to have this letter published in our newsletter. She is donating all of her Dad's and Mother's papers to the Carlisle Barracks Military History Institute.)



Mrs. Chandler (Patch) Diehl
1992 Convention Speaker

RETURN TO THE PACIFIC

USS RACINE (LST-1191)

Providing a United States military presence during commemoration events marking the 50th anniversary of World War II has become a way of life for the officers and sailors aboard USS Racine and her embarked Seabees and Marines. The Long Beach ship traveled more than 17,000 miles, visiting seven South Pacific Island nations during the summer of 1992, assisting host nations with there commemoration events.

By mid August, Racine sailed into Noumea, New Caledonia, her sixth port visit, joining citizens of that vital link in efforts during World War II, in commemoration activities for the actions of many 50 years ago.

Joined by RADM Dennis Conley, Commander of Task Force seven six, the Racine's Western Pacific operational command, Racine personnel became an integral part of five days of ceremonies marking New Caledonia's very important role as the staging and headquarters base for all South Pacific operations for Navy and Army activity during World War II.

Veterans, civic, and the government of New Caledonia co-sponsored the construction of a magnificent and fitting memorial in one of the main parks in this dynamic city. Representing the United States, RADM Conley praised the efforts of New Caledonia and its veterans in there efforts to erect the stirring memorial, a reflection of their common effort 50 years before, a key ingredient in stopping the southward push of an expanding Imperial Empire.

Other major events on Racine's Operation Remembrance deployment included participation in two commemorative events on August 7, honoring their former comrades in arms. Racine visited Homiara in the Solomon Islands, supporting the 50th anniversary of the Solomon Island campaign.

Racine is commanded by Robert Boe James, Commander U.S. Navy. The ship's crew of 230 sailors included both active duty and reserves. Of the crew 50 are reserves, undergoing annual training.

Task Force Guadalcanal, the U.S. Marine unit embarked, is comprised of 150 Marines of the First Marine Division. The same division that made up the bulk of the initial ground forces landed to battle the Japanese Army for the island of Guadalcanal in August of 1942.



USS RACINE (LST-1191)

The task force was an important part of the week long ceremonies in early August on Guadalcanal, the battle ground 50 years ago that became the turning point in Japanese War expansion in the South Pacific



PNC DOIG - DAN RAMSEY - PNC CHASE - LCDR AGOLD

As part of this year's deployment, Marine Combat Engineers, a 13 man detachment of Navy Seabees and sailors from the USS Racine will repair schools and hospitals, improve roads, and provide other civic and humanitarian assistance at five South Pacific Island nations.

The Americal Division Veterans Association wishes to thank the Officers and Sailors of the Racine and all the Marines on board for the exceptional job they did at Guadalcanal and New Caledonia.

Originally the USS Fresno LST 1182 was scheduled to participate in Task Force Guadalcanal. Jim Morrell, son of Lloyd Morrell who served with the 221 Field Artillery on Guadalcanal, was the C.O. of the Fresno until he was transferred to land duty last September.

The Fresno was replaced by the USS Racine because of operational problems. LCDR Donald Agold, who had worked up the plans for the Fresno's participation in the ceremonies taking place in the Pacific, was transferred to the Racine.

LCDR Agold, a good friend of Jim Morrell's, was kind enough to look up the Americal group on Guadalcanal and invite us aboard the Racine. Because of a tight schedule on Guadalcanal we were not able to accept his invitation. However, during the ship's visit to New Caledonia we went aboard for a personal tour of the ship was given to us by Commander Agold. This special attention was certainly appreciated by the Americal members.

An invitation by the Commanding Officer of the Racine, Commander Robert Boe James, to attend a cocktail party aboard ship, was extended to all the Americans present for the ceremonies.

The food was delicious!

RETURN TO GUADALCANAL

During the afternoon of August 3, 1992 the group of veterans that were about to take a step back in history, slowly began to arrive at the Los Angeles Airport. Old friends were greeted and new acquaintances were formed as they anxiously awaited the departure of the flight that would take them back fifty years--to the days of their youth and the hell that was war. Memories would remind them of the steaming jungles, the mud, the toil, the sweat, the fear, and the horrors of war.

Soon the boarding time arrived and the veterans quietly walked down the ramp, entered the plane and made their way down the aisle looking for their assigned seats. Darkness had settled over the city and a little after 9:00 P.M. the huge Quantas 747 roared down the runway, lifted into the sky and headed west across the Pacific Ocean. Some eight hours later the airplane touched down at Nandi, Viti Levu, Fiji Islands, completing the first leg of the journey down memory lane.

It was now 5:00 A.M. and it was also August 5--a day had been lost as the plane had sped across the International date line. Nandi Airport was as modern as you would expect to see at a medium size city in the United States. The first rays of daylight were creeping over the horizon as the passengers cleared customs and headed for the buses that would take them to the hotel.

These veterans had seen this island before. Upon being relieved on Guadalcanal the Americal was given the responsibility of defending Viti Levu. While performing this task from March until the middle of December 1943, the battle weary units healed their wounds, were given new equipment, received many replacements and trained for the battles to come.

The sunrise had exploded into daylight as the busses arrived at their destination, the Regent of Fiji. Here was a sight to behold to the men that had lived in tents on their last visit here. The Regent is a cluster of buildings overlooking a beautiful bay. There is a putting green, swimming pools, (at one pool it is possible to swim up to a bar), a dining area on an open terrace and huge dining room that is covered over but is open to the ocean breezes. And yes, there is a beautiful ocean beach. This is a far cry from the hotels of fifty years ago--The Mba Hotel at Mba, The Singatoka Hotel at Singatoka, or even the first class hotel of that day, The Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

Most of these arriving guests now headed for the showers and then attempted to make up for the sleep that was lost the night before.

An evening of pleasure had been planned beginning with a fire walking ceremony and then a poolside barbecue for the entire group. The display of food, the way it was arranged, the quantity and the quality was overwhelming. However, not many people lingered long after this enjoyable meal because of a three o'clock wake-up call scheduled for the following morning.

It was four A.M. and the busses were on their way back to the Nandi airport with many sleepy people on board. The charter flight was on its way by 5:00 A.M.--destination--GUADALCANAL.

The Air Pacific Boeing 737 took off and headed north as the sunrise illuminated the sky, for the three hour flight. While approaching Guadalcanal,

the pilot announced that he had been granted permission to circle the island before coming in to land on Henderson Field. A great view of Guadalcanal was afforded the passengers as the plane flew over Iron Bottom Sound, with Tulagi and Savo Island off to the right. Turning left, below, was Cape Esperance and the flight continued more or less down the center of the island. The rugged ridges and deep ravines could be seen. Men aboard this airplane had struggled over this terrain fifty years ago. Mount Austen could be seen as well as those familiar rivers----the Matanikou, the Lunga, and the Tenaru. As the plane descended toward Henderson, one could see Bloody Ridge off to the right. Then the wheels touched down.

Henderson Airfield was named for a Marine pilot who gave his life at the battle of Midway. This airfield was what the battle was all about. Had the Japanese been able to put this field into service their bombers would have been able to strike out at the New Hebrides, Fiji and possibly New Caledonia. Another step in cutting the lifeline to Australia would have been completed. The decision was made to take this airstrip from the Japanese. The task was given to the United States Marines----and take it the Marines did. With the help of the Army they were able to hang onto the airstrip and eventually Guadalcanal was in American hands.

Henderson Field is now the international airport for the Solomon Islands. It consists of one long runway and a small one story terminal building. As the returning veterans walked from the plane to the terminal, they once again felt the heat and the humidity that they had left so long ago.

It took some time for this plane load of visitors to clear customs. This was the only place on the entire trip that the luggage was searched. Vans were waiting to transport this excited and anxious party to the hotel. The road traveled represents most of the paved highway (?) on the island and it extends along the coast for about fifteen miles. (The only other stretch of paved road is several miles long and extends from the coast to the Japanese Memorial on Mt. Austen). The route taken to the hotel is sometimes called the Mendana Highway, and passes by all the many familiar landmarks on historical maps -- Red Beach, Alligator Creek, Lunga Point. It now crosses over the Lunga River on a recently built bridge that was partly funded by the Japanese. Crossing the Matanikou, passing by Point Cruz and through the capital city of Honiara the highway leads to the entrance of the Hotel Mendana.

The past two days have been quite hectic for the veterans and after checking into the hotel and settling into their rooms, most of them ventured outside for a quick look around and then decided to get some much needed rest--the next two days were to be very busy ones.

The next day the veterans will be up early and will be transported to Skyline Ridge. Here the Guadalcanal Solomon Island War Memorial will be dedicated. This Memorial honors all the Allied servicemen that served on, around, or above Guadalcanal during those trying days in 1942--the highlight of the return to Guadalcanal!

The idea for this monument was spawned several years back by a group of ex-servicemen that had returned to Guadalcanal. Robert C. Muehrcke, a former member of the Americal Division's 132nd

RETURN TO GUADALCANAL

Infantry became president of the Memorial Foundation and Joseph Micek, also a former 132nd Infantry member became treasurer and project manager. These two men provided the drive that brought this project to successful fruition.

August 7, 1992--fifty years to the day that the Marines landed, veterans from all branches of service stand at attention as the flags of the United States of America and the Solomon Islands are raised on the poles beside the Monument. Present is a platoon of Marines, and a platoon of Solomon Island Security Police. Officers representing the Army, Navy and Marines and Solomon Islands veterans are present. The Americal Division Veterans Association is also well represented. A holiday has been declared and thousands of the native population cover the hills around Skyline Drive.



Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke was the key note speaker and recognition is given to all men that served in this campaign. PNC James Buckle, PNC Bernard Chase, and PNC Alfred Doig honored the men of the Americal Division that served on Guadalcanal by placing a wreath on the Monument. There were few dry eyes among the veterans and servicemen as Taps was sounded at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Following the services much hand-shaking took place as the veterans make the rounds to greet comrades in arms. There were many native Solomon Islanders here that are wearing medals for service to Great Britain and also to the United States during the struggle in 1942. These men are greeted by the returning veterans and thanks is given for their assistance during the conflict.



The rest of the day was spent visiting or trying to locate familiar places. PNC Al Doig was fortunate in finding some of the native people that he had befriended during the war. Standing on Skyline Drive, which overlooks the Matanikou River, Al could view the area in which his unit, 247th Field Artillery had been, when the push across the Matanikou began. PNC Bernie Chase could recall a time when his unit, the 221 Field Artillery, had moved across the Matanikou and was bombed by a Japanese plane. PNC Jim Buckle was familiar with this area. The 1st Battalion of the 182nd Infantry first saw combat on Point Cruz. Jim was in the 2nd Battalion and his unit, Company E, lost its first men in combat while holding the left flank of this ridge line.

It is quite ironic that the returning veterans are staying at the Hotel Mendana. The hotel is at the base of Point Cruz. Just a short distance on the other side of the hotel is Kokumbuna, near where the Japanese headquarters was located in 1942. The Japanese lost the battle for this area in November of 1942 -- but they now own the Hotel Mendana!

August 8th was the last day of the return visit. In the morning the veterans attended the dedication of the refurbished control tower at Henderson Field. This tower saw service during 1942 and thanks to the efforts of Joe Micek and the Memorial Foundation, it was restored to its original condition. Martin Clemens, a Coastwatcher of World War II fame, was the speaker on this occasion.

This ceremony was followed by a tour of Bloody Ridge. The battle for this ridge was crucial to the defense of Henderson Field. This is hallowed ground to the United States Marines. Also on this ridge, as the vanguard of the Americal Division, the 164th Infantry received its baptism of fire and went down in history -- the first United States Army ground unit to go on the offensive against the Axis powers in World War II.

On their last night on Guadalcanal the veterans gathered in the lounge of the hotel and many toasts were lifted to former and present comrades. All seemed to agree that a worthy tribute had been paid to fallen comrades and all members of the military that served here, by the dedication of the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial.

Tomorrow they would be gone.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE--RETURN TO NEW CALEDONIA

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

164 INFANTRY "JE SUIS PRET" 164 INFANTRY

Veterans of the famed 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota National Guard, will be honored during ceremonies at Camp Grafton in August. Fifty years ago, the 164th landed on Guadalcanal in support of the First Marine Division, and thereby became the first U.S. Army element to take offensive ground action against the Japanese in World War II. "Je Suis Pret" (I Am Ready) was the motto of the 164th Infantry, and as part of the famous Jungle-fighting division, the Americal, won high praise for its fighting at Henderson Field on Guadalcanal and for its continued action during the Americal's "island hopping" offensive to neutralize Japanese ground forces in the Pacific.

The Guard is very proud of the men who served in the 164th Infantry Regiment, and will honor them in a military parade at Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota, on 1 August 1992. This article is a personal invitation to all veterans and their families to attend the ceremonies, which begin at two o'clock at the parade field. Veterans of Guadalcanal are invited to a reception at the Edwards House, Building 4120, starting at one o'clock. In addition to Guadalcanal veterans, the parade will honor all past members of the 164th Infantry, the 188th Field Artillery Regiment, the 957th Field Artillery Battalion as well as all North Dakota veterans of World War II.

Vern Fetsch
Colonel
Personnel Manager

Ed Note: Sorry that this letter did not arrive in time for our July-August issue. However, I thought it newsworthy. It is great to see that North Dakota has not forgotten THEIR Regiment.

I would have liked to attend that ceremony but on August 3, 1992 I was on my way to Guadalcanal. The state of Massachusetts did nothing to honor its Regiment, the 182 Infantry or the Artillery and other support units that served on Guadalcanal.

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1111

Date: October 9-10-11, 1992

International Inn
Bismarck, North Dakota

MORE INFORMATION

Ray Atol
Williston, ND 58801

Call [REDACTED]

BEST OF LUCK WITH YOUR REUNION!

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

Enclosed are a few pictures from "Back When".

On April 14, 1992 I underwent surgery to correct an aneurysm on my aorta. Just as I was getting back on my feet I developed adhesions and intestinal blockage. On May 25th I underwent surgery to correct this problem.

At present everything seems to be coming along okay but it is taking longer to recuperate this time. That's the trouble with being 75.

Jack Folmer

[REDACTED]
Lake Worth, FL 33460-3652



P-38 Guadalcanal Fighter Strip



FIJI ISLANDS -- 1943
JACK FOLMER ARNO PRIEL DON BREBNER GEORGE LLOYD

Ed Note: Nothing wrong with being 75 Jack. Just keep on getting older. Thanks for the pictures. I will turn them over to the Americal Museum after using the ones that will reproduce well.

Hey you guys---How about a card for Jack?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

A VETERANS' DAY PLEA

Asked the G.I. Corpse in his hallowed grave
What have they done for the lives we gave
They said we were dying for we had a world to save
Now what is going on, on Armistice Day --
Nothing for the cause for which we fought.
Our youth and our lives have gone for naught!
A piece of ground is all we bought!
And here we lie -- They just forgot!
They made November the 11th a special day
They called it first Armistice, now Veterans Day.
But instead of the Flag-it's wares they display!
They open their stores on our special day!
They swore by all that's holy they'd never forget--
And they would be forever in our debt --
But the way they show honor is our shame and regret
They have bargain sales to honor the Vet!
If you think we're bitter-you're right all the way
We died for a cause and forgotten we lay --
Just one final plea and no more will I say --
Take it back from the merchants-and give us our day!

Past Commander Ray Barter
9260 John Martin VFW Post

O' Who is that young man in his Army uniform
standing tall and proud? That's my son who is so
willing to serve and give his life for his
country.

What will his country give him for his service?
The gave the Japanese \$20,000. And why? Did they
go into combat for the good old U.S.A.? NO! What
did they do during World War II?

Oh! the Japanese had to be put into camps and
they suffered awful. Who said?

My boy slept in fox holes with mortar shells
bursting all around him. Then there was the burst
of the machine gun from the hill next to us. When
there was silence we would also hear the shells
from the big guns going overhead.

When he awoke the next morning, he found his buddy
lying next to him, dead. Oh that could have been
me. I didn't cause this war. The Japanese caused
all the death and agony.

If you haven't been there, you can never realize
what Hell is like. As Vets we should be given
something as a token of appreciation for what we
gave our lives. Not \$20,000 maybe. But let the
U.S.A. show the Vets that they care.

WORLD WAR II --- KOREAN --- VIETNAM WAR

Herbert Holt

Ed Note: Hey Herb! Somewhere along the line I
heard that you and I were, "Fighting for freedom--
fighting to save the world--fighting to make the
world safe for democracy--and fighting for our
home and loved ones". Now you want to put a
dollar (\$) sign on all that? I think quite a
bit has been
done for the United States veteran. What about
that quote it seems that I have heard--'Ask not'?

If my memory serves me correctly, many of the
Japanese that were put in those camps were
American citizens--and they had not been tried and
convicted of any crime. How about the land that
was taken away from them and never returned?
Twenty thousand dollars would not buy a very large
lot in California these days.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Various times I have been asked how you can receive
medals awarded to you but never issued or were lost. Also
how to get a medal never awarded but you feel you deserve.
For the awarded medal send a copy of your orders to:

Commander, ARPERCEN
Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW
[REDACTED]

St Louis, MO 63132-5200

If you deserve a medal but was never awarded one you must
fill out DD Form 149 and apply to the Army Board of Correction
of Military Records (ABCMR) along with notarized
statements from witnesses or commanding officers. For help
you can go to a Service Officer of the American Legion or
the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They will be happy to help
you and appear for you. i

Peter J. Messina
National Commander

CONVALESCING

182 INFANTRY

Col. Lewis W. Doyle
[REDACTED]
San Antonio, TX 78216

121 Medical Battalion

Santo Ravagno
[REDACTED]
Saugus, MA 01906

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

James F. Burns
[REDACTED]
Cambridge, MA 02138

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

Jack Folmer
[REDACTED]
Lake Worth, FL 33460-3652

11 LIB

PNC Roland Castranova
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960

COMPANY B 57 ENGINEERS COMBAT BATTALION

I am trying to contact any soldier that served
with my Dad in Company B 57th Engineers. He was
Corp. Kilby T. Murphy. He was wounded 29 March 45
in Cebu City, Cebu. My Dad has passed away and
I would like to talk to or write to any of his
buddies of World War II.

Please contact me:

James O. Murphy
[REDACTED]
Winchester, VA 22602

Telephone [REDACTED]

164 INFANTRY 164 INFANTRY

Thank you for sending me a copy of the AMERICAL
NEWSLETTER. I enjoyed reading it and would like
to receive future copies.

My husband was in the 164 Infantry, Americal
Division. He was a surgical technician. I would
be happy to hear from anyone that served with him
during World War II.

Thanking you kindly, I am,

Marie Engle
[REDACTED]
Vancouver, WA 98682

Thank You Father Paul

In June of 1973 when I was first elected National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association I appointed Fr. Paul Chaisson as the National Catholic Chaplain, with the approval of the National Executive Council. Fr. Paul has served in that capacity for 19 years, the longest of any of our Catholic Chaplains. It is only fitting that we recognize Fr. Paul's years of service to our organization in his friendship and also counseling of the sick and dying to the families of our departed comrades. Also the joy of his singing and stories at the many happy functions held by the ADVA.

Marist Fathers

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

March 26, 1992

Roland T. Castronova
National Commander
ADVA

Boston, MA 02104

Dear Commander:

Greetings and best wishes to you and all the members of the Association.

For the past fifteen years and more I have had the privilege of being Catholic Chaplain of the Americal Division Veterans Association. It has been a wonderful experience and I cherish those years very much, the friendliness of the members and their commitment to one another and their families. It was always great to be with all of you.

There comes a time when even enjoyable aspects of life come to an end. So I feel I should resign as Catholic Chaplain of ADVA. It doesn't mean that I'll forget any of you. You and your families will always be in my heart and prayers.

May God bless all of you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Rev. Paul A. Chaisson, S.M.

FATHER PAUL CHAISON, S.M.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts 1920. Ordained a Marist priest in 1947 after completing his studies at the Marist Seminary, Framingham Massachusetts. Following his ordination, he was missioned to the Solomon Islands where he joined other Marists working in the Island.

He first served on Malaita and then Guadalcanal. On Guadalcanal he was first stationed at Ruavatu, the area where two Marist priests and two Marist Missionary Sisters had been killed by the Japanese. One of his pleasures was an occasional visit, on foot, with the American armed forces at Henderson Field. A great group, they came from several parts of the country including South Boston. A little bored, they would search for crocodiles from the air and then come done and hunt for them!

From Ruavatu he was transferred to Tangarare on the other side of the Island. It was there that he came down with Polio for the second time and returned to Boston in June of 1953.

His first contact with the Americal Division Veterans Association was on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal. Dominic Bianculli, past National Commander of ADVA put him in touch with the Association. Many of the members participated in a Memorial Mass commemoration the Battle of Guadalcanal. St. William's Band and the Firemen's Band led a parade of veterans from the Boston Common to our Lady of Victories Church for the Memorial Mass, celebrated by Bishop Thomas Wade, S.M., Bishop of Bougainville. Cardinal Richard J. Cushing of Boston preached, praising the dedication of the armed forces. It was a memorable occasion for all.

Thank you Father Paul for all of your devoted years of service to the ADVA.

Compiled by William L. Dunphy, PNC

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

RE: July-August 1992 Americal Newsletter.

Not like things of old, I received this Newsletter with four pages of Ho-Hum! Letters from the Old Guard. The Vietnam News Network takes over 12 pages plus. (Actually eleven pages George) I always thought the older you get as a veteran the stories get bigger, jollier and fun experiences we recall. I've got more news from my old buddies. I don't get much from the dues I pay except those four pages. How about a change, new life, from the talent we have in the Old Guard.

You can save paper by not including Vietnam News. I never read it or am I interested.

It is tough enough getting older without being bored to death.

Ye olde,
George Lloyd

Ed Note: Thank you for your interesting letter. It did not put me to sleep--it opened my eyes--so I looked back through old issues of the Americal Newsletter but I could not find very much that you had contributed. We have to rely on our members for material to place in the Newsletter.

I am sorry, for you, that you are not interested in our Vietnam members. Right now they represent almost half of our membership and inside of another year they will outnumber the World War II vets. They are the future of the Americal Division Veterans Association. You should be bored if you do not appreciate this fact. They have put the excitement back into our Conventions. You should attend some of these reunions, it allows you to see yourself forty or so years ago.

They are DOING things. Ron Ward, a Past National Commander, has started a Scholarship Fund. This gives our organization a meaning. Ron takes the time to go to Washington, DC on Veterans Day to represent the Americal--plus many other activities concerning veterans. He was also the Vietnam Editor.

We now have another hard working Vietnam Editor in Dave Recob. Dave, Past National Commander Roland Castronova, Senior Vice Commander John DeGroot, Larry Gelnett and Brian Mulcrone to name a few, are some of our best recruiters. (Who was the last member you brought in, George?) The ADVA is healthy and growing thanks to the young blood and the young workers. And let me tell you, they are a pleasure to work with.

They are doing things for the ADVA--mainly bringing in new members! Many World War II vets had sons in Vietnam and some of them were in the Americal and we have these sons in our membership.

When I have to give up because I am no longer able to participate in the activities of the ADVA, I will be happy to know that the organization that I put a lot into, is in good hands.

A person will never get old, or bored, as long as they have some interest in the world around them and join in its activities.

Again, thanks for your letter. A very wise person told me one time -- "the shortest route to failure is trying to please everyone".

F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

WALTHAM'S OWN WW II VETERANS
CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On June 13, 1992, Veterans of Co. F 182nd Infantry held their annual reunion dinner at the Cottage Crest Restaurant in Waltham, MA. The 84 attendees included Co. F WW II members, guests and Co F veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Americal Division Veterans Association officers attending were, National Adjutant Bernard C. Chase, National Finance Officer Joseph Chin, Executive Council Officer Hugh J. Murnaghan, and the Americal Museum Curator Kenneth Turner.

Red and white long stemmed roses, provided by Allan Peirce, were presented to the ladies. Music for dancing and listening pleasure was played by accordionist Tony Stifanelli. A medley of Irish and Italian songs was rendered by Co. F's Si Iannetti.

The traditional moment of silent prayer was given for Robert "Bob" LaRosee, Fred Fabian, Felix Cafferella, Sam Browne III, and Anthony "Tony" Lupo. These deaths occurred since last year's reunion dinner.

The after-dinner Master of Ceremonies, Co-Chairman Joseph Papa, introduced his committee as the "You Have Come A Long Way Baby" Committee. Papa explains, "this committee has come a long way from those stag-only reunions, held in drafty old halls, with cold catered dinners served with a side order of Kaopectate, to an evening of flowers for our ladies, music for our pleasure, and accompanied by our children and grandchildren, to share fifty year old memories, memories that we would not sell for a million dollars nor would we take a million dollars to repeat them".

Committee members Paul Miele, William Vinci, Buddy Lorenz, Hack Cohen, Jack McIsaac, Frank LaValle, Joe Siano, and Co-Chairman John LeVert were introduced.

The main speaker of the evening, Colonel Elmer "Lefty" Mitchell, was introduced by John LeVert.

Colonel Mitchell touched upon his long and illustrious military career which began when he enlisted in F Company, 182nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard at age 17. He rose through the ranks to become Captain of G Company, 182 Infantry in the Guadalcanal campaign in World War II. In 1943 he was assigned to the 42nd Rainbow Division. The 42nd Division is renowned as the first Army unit to free prisoners from the infamous Dachau concentration camp. After World War II Colonel Mitchell saw duty with the U.N. delegation in the Near-East, Japan, and Korea. Lefty concluded by saying that in spite of all the outfits he was with his heart always belonged to Co. F.

At the end of the evening as good-byes were being said, everyone expressed the same sentiment: With the grace of God we will be back next year. Amen

Joseph Papa
Co-Chairman, Reunion Committee

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

COMPANY I 182 INFANTRY

I enjoyed reading the article in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER by Ray Poynter. A few months ago I went to Yate Center, Kansas to see Ken Steele. I asked him if he had any addresses of any of our former buddies. He sent me a picture of the 1st Platoon and also some addresses. Roy Poynter answered my letter and I sent him a picture of the platoon. He also called and he came to visit me. I was certainly glad to see him. The last time I saw him was in Japan in 1945.

As you know, I wrote about Huey Marsh, he was my platoon sergeant and one of the best.

If anyone wishes copies of the pictures I will be glad to send them. Write to:

Odes "Whitey" Smith

Strafford, MO 65757



Front: Demsky - Poynter - Swift
Middle: Steele - Henstay - Staheli - Douglass
Back: Joe - Zindarge - Ribihorde - Sorenson

Well here's something about myself. I left the States and went to New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, Bougainville, the Philippines and then Japan. It was rough going on most of those islands. I remember the night Roy Poynter wrote about. I was assigned to the 1st platoon and as we went up the hill the Japs threw grenades at us. After the attack fourteen men were lying on the ground wounded. I lost my cool and jumped into the trench determined to get a Jap before they got me. Lucky for me they had run out the other end or no doubt they would have killed me.

I came out of the trench and gave first aid to the wounded. One fellow was bleeding from the back and I stuffed gauze in the wound to try and stop the bleeding. I have wondered many times if he that man survived.

Anyway, I really enjoy the Americal Newsletter and many thanks to Ken Turner for sending me the book, "Under the Southern Cross".

Hope to hear from some of the boys soon.

An old Army pal,
Whitey Smith

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



Dave Recob
Named
Vietnam Editor



Dave Recob, a retired Army alumni of the Americal Division, Secretary of the CMWC was appointed as Vietnam Editor to replace Ron Ward PNC as Vietnam Editor. Ron has been elected Chairman of the ADVA Scholarship Fund.

Dave is a Korean war vet, serving in Co E, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div from 1950 to 1951.

Dave saw action at Inchon when the division went ashore with the 1st Marine Division in Sept 1950, and was at the Yalu River on the Chosen Reservoir when the Chinese entered the war in Nov 1950. He fought his way to Hung-Nam, 300 miles South of the Yalu, and was evacuated to the Pusan Perimeter to regroup, rearm, and push back to the North. He participated in all major battles the 7th Inf Div was assigned, including heavy fighting in the Iron Triangle at Heartbreak Ridge, Pork Chop Hill, Old Baldy, and Jane Russell hills. Dave left Korea with 2 Silver Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, the CIB, 2 Frozen Feet, less 1 Lung, 2 Ribs, and several bullet holes from a Chicom Burp Gun.

He was assigned the 23rd M.P. Co at Chu Lai in Nov 1970 and served as Company Operations NCO, 1Sgt, and PMO Sgt Major under Col Verner Pike and Col Nick Pugilese both Life Members of ADVA.

Dave is married to Françoise J. Robert, formally of Nantes, France, who he met and courted while in France 1953-1958. Dave and "Francie" have two children, both grown and gone from the home.

Dave and Francie reside at [REDACTED], Topeka, KS 66611-2132. Tel: [REDACTED]

Wanted
Stories About The Vietnam War
From Those Who Lived It!

In coming editions of the ADVA Newsletter in the Vietnam portion, your Editor would like to hear from Vietnam veterans stories of human interest or stories a veteran feels needs to be told.

We are not interested in grievances held against others for one reason or the other, but rather in those stories that touch the heart, that makes our presence in that land felt to be special. I'd like to publish stories of the ordinary field trooper who found ways to exist better than just living in a sand bagged hole in the ground. I'd like to know what your feelings were when you did your jobs, when you saw death for the first time, how you coped, and handled that situation, not for morbidity sake, but the human sake.

The Vietnam war took many casualties. It not only took lives and parts of men's bodies, it took their minds and mental states as well. It helps to get this information out fellows. How you dealt with your "monkey", might take a monkey off another guys back.

It's time to heal. If you want to share stories for others to read and understand, I'll see to it that they get published.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?



Vietnam Editors Comments

Replacing Ron Ward as Vietnam Editor is like trying to fill a big pair of shoes with a small foot. Ron was very popular as Vietnam Editor and I hope I do as good a job. You have a right to expect the Editor to "look out" for your interests.

Mud slinging is undignified, and I won't put into print, vendettas or articles that are inflammatory, or negative worded in nature. No exceptions will be made for clearly established discriminatory stories meant to be harmful to veterans as a whole or as a minority.

Vietnam vets have been painted in the news and video media as all kinds of things. It's malarkey! Vietnam vets daily braved a lot of odds stacked against them in a brave and meaningful way while in that hot and steamy land, and took punishments no other U.S. soldiers in history endured. It made our Vietnam vets different to other people except ourselves. As far as this G.I. is concerned, you Vietnam vets did a magnificent job, did it well, and sometimes with nothing but your hands and wit. I am proud to represent the Vietnam vet in this newsletter.

Vietnam vets were first, last, and always, real Americans.

We had our differences and ideas, but we were all Americans. We loved our country, and did our jobs as good as we could with what we had to do them with.

I want to build a positive image of the Vietnam vet in these pages, and I hope - to the world who reads these pages.

With this in mind, I sign into the duty book, and enter upon a new adventure with all of you, and the Americal Division Veterans Association as Vietnam Editor.



Correction To Article
Part 2 - "Making Peace With The War."

This story was not that of John Wills of the 198th LIB. It was about four guys who went back to Vietnam to review their past, and to make peace within themselves. It was the story of Ed Thacker, Ed Neiderberger, John Pacheco, and Russ Miles.

Part 2 was published in the July-August edition of the newsletter.

On Tuesday, Aug 4, 1992, Russ Miles called me to discuss the disclaimer part added to Part 2 of the story by the Editor. After discussion of the reasons why the note had been made, Russ accepted Dave's views, but felt they did not apply to the article that was written by Vernon Loeb of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Russ asked that if anyone was offended or had disagreement with what was said in the article he would appreciate them getting into contact with him at the below address:

Russ Miles

Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Tel: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

LZ Bronco Vets

Tony Swindell, 312 W. Scott, Sherman, TX., 75090, Home Tel: [REDACTED], 11th LIB Nov 68-69, has panoramic photo views of LZ Bronco Firebase in Koda-Chrome 35mm Slides and is willing to share them with others who want copies for their photo albums for the costs to reproduce them and postage. Contact Tony himself direct and deal directly with him at the above address and telephone number. If other veterans have similar photographs to share, let me know, and I'll publish that fact.

Attention B-3-1 Veterans

Maria T. McCormick, [REDACTED], Rocky Point, N.Y., 11779, is seeking information from men of this unit who may have knew her cousin, SSG Russell A. Pedersen, KIA Sep 11, 1968 near Quang-Tri.

She plans to be at the Vietnam Wall Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov 11, 1992. Look her up if you can supply any helpful information fellas!

VA Hospital Body Count

At the VA Medical Center in Salem, Virginia, three bodies have been discovered on the grounds of the 240 acre compound. According to the Washington-Post newspaper on March 25, the body of Carl McKenzie was found by a fellow patient at the edge of the woods just 100 yards from the building where he stayed. The autopsy report revealed McKenzie had died of exposure. That same day, a grounds keeper found the body of Vietnam veteran Leonard A. Cunningham, hanging by a rope from the branch of a pine tree.

In early May, during a cleanup prompted by the discovery of McKenzie and Cunningham, workers uncovered a third body of a patient who had been missing for 15 years.

During the week, May 11, 1992, the VA Medical inspectors office acknowledged that the methods of searching for missing patients at the VAMC were "totally inadequate". The investigation determined that after McKenzie was listed as an unauthorized absence, a Nurse had noted on his medical record that the missing patient had "slept through the night, without complaint". In Cunninghams case, a full month after he disappeared, his Doctor had written an order to continue his diet, privilege status and prescriptions.

Needless to say, these discoveries have created a bit of upheaval at the Medical Center which has for some time, been considered one of the VA's leading facilities for psychiatric care.

[Wash D.C. Veteran, May/Jun 1992 Issue].

Will Maurice [Tunnel Rat] Henson, please get into contact with Dave Recob, so Dave can ask you a big favor, and answer your letter to Nat'l HQ in July.

Company B 1/6 Inf. 198 Bde.

Bill "Mac" McMurtry who served with Company B in 1968- 1969 would like to hear from some of his comrades who served with him in those years.

Bill Mac McMurtry

[REDACTED]

Grapevine, TX 76051

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 1992

See Flyer elsewhere in this issue about location of the HQ Hotel in Washington, D.C. Cut-off date for Room reservations is Oct 10th. Call [REDACTED] for room reservation.

Ron Ward advises us that: "We will have a hospitality suite stocked with free beer/pop for the troops. The hospitality room will be compliments of the Hotel if we book 50 rooms. Rates are \$97.00 for a Single and \$115.00 for a Double. They came down from the regular rate of \$149.00 and \$170.00 respectively. Ron said he tried to get the Sheraton in Arlington where the DMZ TO DELTA DANCE is being held but they could not accommodate us. He realizes that some of the guy's will be disappointed that we did not get the Sheraton but the Hotel Washington was only \$10.00 more per unit and it is within walking distance of the Vietnam Memorial. We've used the Hotel Washington in the past and they allow us to supply our own beverages/chow. This will save a tidy sum for guys who usually hang out at the hotel bar. Ron asks men coming to Washington to book rooms at the Hotel Washington so they can get the free hospitality room. If they don't get a free hospitality room they will have to pass the hat for contributions. When you make reservations, identify yourself as members of the Americal Division or any one of the three Brigades, and - send a postcard to Ron so he can keep track of the numbers who attend! His address is located on the flyer elsewhere. Have a drink for Dave Recob on Nov 10. Dave turns 60 that day. TOAST!"

Co. B 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde.

Enclosed is my membership dues for the upcoming year. I would appreciate it if you could include my letter in the next newsletter.

The main reason for making this request is that I am trying to contact former members of my unit. At present I am trying to write some memoirs of my experiences in Nam.

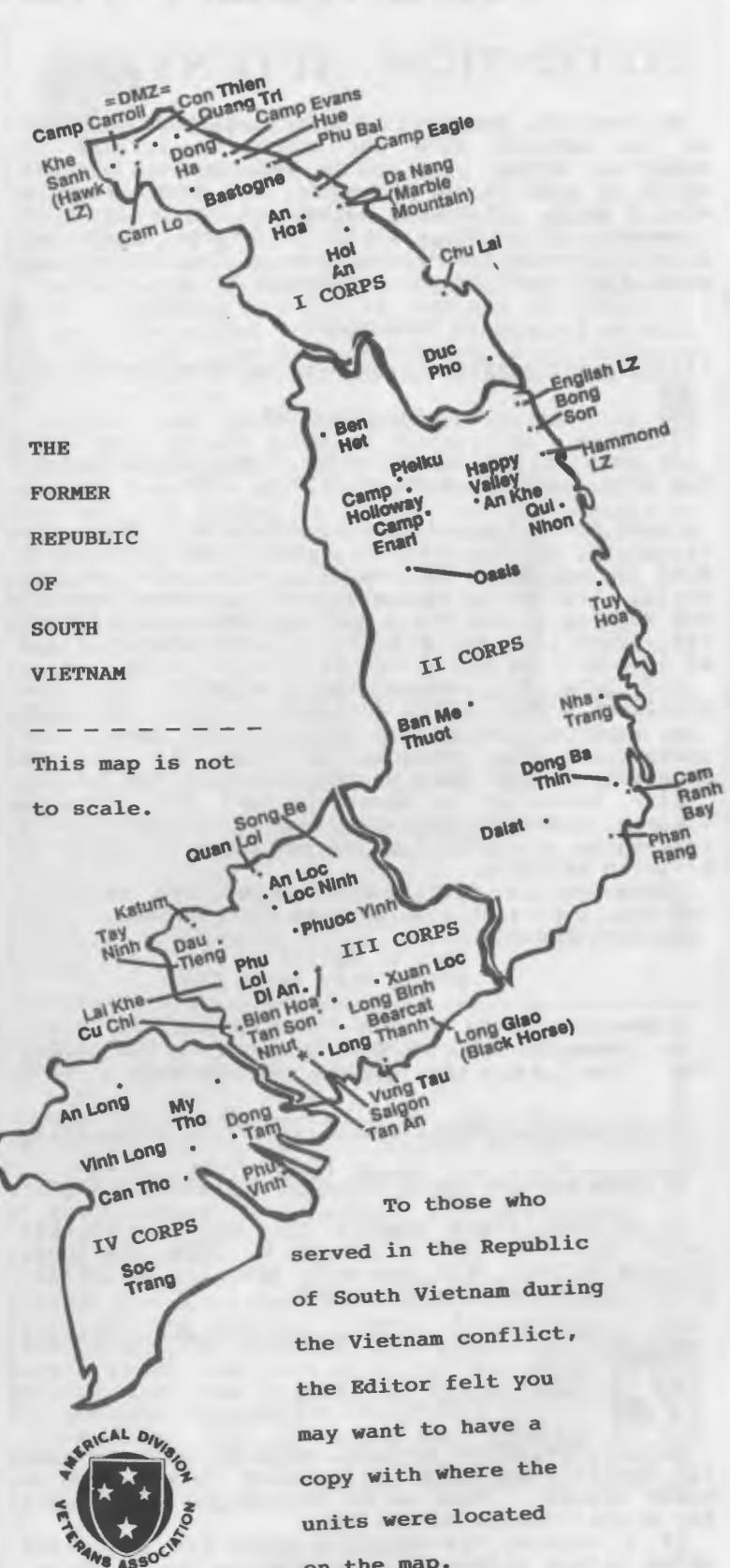
I served in Nam from January 1968 to January 1969. I was with the 3rd platoon, Company B 4th Battalion 3rd Infantry, 11th Lib. Our Company was originally part of Task Force Barker until it dissolved. After that happened we were assigned to various parts of the Americal Division area of operation.

Some of the areas include "Pinkville", O P Black, North of Chu Lai, Cigar Island, Hiep Duc Valley, West of Tam Ky, Hill 54, West of Quang Ngai, Duc Pho to name a few. As you can see we covered quite a bit of territory and when I left our company was in the area around LZ Charlie Brown.

Some of the nicknames of the guys were Animal, Uncle Mickey, Smokey, Topcat, Tex, Hump, Amazon to name a few. Most of the guys knew me as Chief, although some knew me by my real name. I would appreciate any type of correspondence.

Sincerely,
Leroy Tecube

Dulce, NM 87528



To those who served in the Republic of South Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict, the Editor felt you may want to have a copy with where the units were located on the map.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

MR. DAVID L. RECOB
TOPEKA, KS 66611-2132
THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS
1866 TO 1952

On Saturday, July 25th, 1992, General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C., an African American and former Americal Division veteran, spoke at the dedication of an enormous almost 13 foot high statue of a Buffalo Soldier riding a rearing Horse, grasping the reigns in one hand, and holding a Rifle in the other, on top of a beautiful water filled monument dedicated to the memory and history of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments.

General Powell said that: "this monument is dedicated to all Americans, and that they should keep struggling until all Americans have an equal seat at the national table with an opportunity to excel and achieve any dream possible. The spirit of the Buffalo Soldier will only be satisfied when the day comes that there will be no more firsts for blacks to achieve".

He further said: "because of the Buffalo Soldier and their record in battle, he could become the first black African American to be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff", as the four stars on each shoulder of his uniform, and service cap, gleamed in the fading sunlight of a 93 degree day with 80% humidity, engulfing an estimated crowd of about 12,000 or more people.

In attendance was Gov. Joan Finney, Governor of Kansas, U.S. Senators Nancy Kassebaum and Bob Dole, and Rep. Jim Slattery, of the 2nd congressional district, the Under Secretary of the Army, John W. Shannon, as well as hosts of national dignitaries looked on. Actor Charlton Heston, told an earlier luncheon in downtown Leavenworth, of about 800 people, that this was a proud day for Black Americans.

The ceremonies were highlighted by a fly over from the 302nd Fighter Squadron based at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

The saga of the Buffalo Soldier has been ignored in large part by historians of western history. But reasonable research will enlighten any person inclined to do so.

Before I came to this beautiful ceremony, I dug into history books and looked up the Buffalo Soldier lore and his exploits, and was fascinated at what I discovered.

The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments, among others, were created by an act of Congress in July 1866, and these soldiers gave the plains Indians plenty of grief and battle on the Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and South Dakota plains, and fought more than 125 campaigns against Cheyennes, Apaches, Kiowas, Comanches and Sioux. They even faced Billy the Kid and other outlaws on the run.

Western Artist Frederick Remington who spent time with these famous troops, had this comment about them: "they may be tired, and hungry, but they do not see fit to augment their misery by finding fault with everybody or everything. In this particular, they are charming men with whom we serve. Officers have long confessed to me that when they are on long marches and monotonous field service, and are troubled with a depression of spirits, they have only to go about the camp fires

of the Negro soldier in order to be amused and cheered by the clever sayings of the men... As to their bravery: "Will they fight?... That was answered by their bravery in battle"... He had great admiration for these colored soldiers and enshrined them in artistic paintings of the era.

The Buffalo Soldiers won 24 Medals of Honor between 1867 and 1898 despite being issued the worse horses, food, and equipment the Army could provide, and humiliated by segregation policies separating them from white troops. They were ignored by the very people they were assigned to protect, and suffered worse treatment at the hands of white military officers and units, and towns people around the various posts they were assigned to, than they did at the hands of the Indians in battle, who had great respect for these black soldiers who were as brave as the great buffalo who the Indian hunted on the plains. The Indians gave these troops the name "Buffalo Soldier" for their fierce courage, and for how they looked in their great coats during winter, bundled against the cold winds that swept the plains. These troops won the deep respect of General William Sherman, the Commander of the Military District of Missouri, from 1866 to 1869.

They won the respect of the white officers who commanded them, and established life long bonds between many a Regimental Commander and his troops.

The first white commander of the 10th Cavalry was Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, who commanded the regiment from 1866 to 1888, and on his departure from his regiment told the troops: "And rest assured that hard work undergone in the accomplishment of such important and valuable service to their country...cannot fail, sooner or later, to meet with due recognition and reward".... Those words rang true 104 years later when this monument was accepted by the Hon. John Shannon, the Under Secretary of the Army.

When not engaged in Indian campaigns, the duties assigned these troops was protecting settlers, guarding mail and stage routes, stringing telegraph wires, chasing rustlers and outlaws, and protecting trains across hostile territories.

The press back East was always on the lookout for negative stories to print about these brave troops, but they failed to find any, as these troops kept to themselves and were disciplined well by their officers, NCO's and own wills to survive.

After the Indian wars, and as the century turned into the 1900's, these troops served in the Spanish American War, and at Kettle Hill, saved Colonel Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders from almost certain death by brave battle to rescue him. One thrilled white officer remarked he was so glad to see these black troops that he would kiss them if he could, and was told by one of the Buffalo Soldier officers to start with him!

They also served with distinction in the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition, in WW I and WW II, and in Korea. They were integrated into the Regular Army by Executive Order in 1952. It was during that additional long period of time that they picked up another 77 Medals of Honor and a big hat full of meritorious citations.

Brig. General John J. Pershing, commanded Black troops in the Mexican Expedition, and picked up his nickname of "Black Jack" from that stint of service. He was so proud of, awarded him by jealous

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



Lets Start a Cause Celebre'

All around the world are hundreds if not thousands of Vietnam veterans who served in the U.S. military who were not citizens of the U.S.

These folks, both him & hers, are not eligible to join the American Legion or the VFW on the little technicality they are non-citizens.

Congress granted Charters to the Legion and VFW and are the only people who can amend the law to allow non U.S. citizens to join the Legion or VFW.

Write your Senators and Congressmen and ask them to amend the law to allow these faithful people the right to join the Legion and VFW posts in their countries, so they can file for service connected disabilities, or to just enjoy the atmosphere such membership provides.

Such an example is our Canadian brothers and Mexican brothers North and South of our borders here in North America, in Europe, England, and other lands.

These men and women joined our military forces to help defeat communism in its tracks. But, because they loved their nationalities as we do ours, they chose to remain citizens of their own countries, thereby making them ineligible to join the Legion or the VFW.

I bet we could swell the ranks of the Legion and VFW and the ADVA if we could help pass a law in Congress to allow non-citizen veterans who served in the U.S. forces during any war by substituting service for citizenship, which is probably a fluke of wording to begin with.

What'scha got to say about all this Legion and VFW leaders and members?

You guy's game? You write the letters, send me a copy, and I'll keep the scoreboard for you.

Looking For Dad

I am writing in hopes you will publish this letter in your magazine.

My name is Christini R. Taylor Thacker. I'm 21 years old. I've been searching for my father for 12 years.

His name is Charles [Chuck] Richard Taylor and he disappeared 21 years ago in August. Due to the circumstance of his disappearance I believe he was suffering from P.T.S.D...

He was a Sgt in the Army. He did 2 tours in 'Nam in the early 1960's with the 101st Airborne. When he returned home he was stationed at Fort Campbell, KY., as a drill sergeant. His date of birth is July 20, 1943.

I have hopes that anyone who knew him, or knows him, can give me a clue to where he might be, or perhaps let me hear from or about him.

I have a lot of pain and unanswered questions. I desperately wish to find him. We have 21 years to catch-up on... or to say, "I love you, daddy and I understand".

Thank-you for your understanding.

Christini R. Thacker

Ed Note: Address unavailable. Reprinted from BRAVO Veterans Outlook June/July 1992. Perhaps you know him. If so, encourage him to get in contact with his daughter.

Send the name of sick comrades to Dave Recob and he will send them a card of best wishes.

white officers. Historians have shamefully ignored these brave troops in the history books, until a young Deputy Commanding General of Ft. Leavenworth, discovered two alleys named 9th and 10th Cavalry, back in 1982, while on an early morning jog around the fort.

It is to General Colin Powell and his determination to set history right after 104 years of neglect by history, to implement the words of Colonel Grierson to "sooner or later, be met with due recognition"...

As this old veteran left that impressive ceremony, I could not help but feel that thousands of deceased Buffalo Soldiers must have "winked" at each other, and displayed a faint smile on their lips, and settled better in their graves, at peace, at last, while the survivors representing them this day, left Fort Leavenworth with a "song in their hearts", knowing justice and recognition came at last, after Colonel Grierson spoke of it, 104 years earlier.

It has been long over due.



BUFFALO SOLDIER MONUMENT
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

MR. EDDIE DIXON
LUBBOCK, TX
SCULPTOR

"Lest We Forget...
This Was The Lord's Doing,
And It Was Marvelous In Our Eyes"

Mark 12:11

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



11th Armored Cav Association [Blackhorse]

Here is a story ADVA troops ought to copy to bring our membership quotas up to par.

In a Membership Update letter, this report unfolded for Blackhorse troops:

"Another Quarter has come to a close and the tally is 160 new members for this quarter [November 5-January 15].

We would like to welcome all those new members who are listed in this issue. We're glad you're part of this organization. Welcome back! Its good to be TOGETHER AGAIN!

I was looking over the 1st quarter newsletter from 1991 and I was amazed at how much our membership has increased in just one year. The progress we've made in locating our Blackhorse troops is phenomenal to say the least.

To give you an idea, we have now located over 6,000 Blackhorse troops. Over 4,000 of them have been found in the last 12 months alone. That's a 200% increase or triple the number of people we had just one year ago!

In May of last year I set a goal of locating another 3,000 people by May 1992. This goal may have seemed almost impossible, but I had faith in the members of this organization. I knew what they could do; I knew the talents and innovative ideas they had for spreading the word; and most of all I knew they believed in this organization.

Well - its mid January and we've already met that goal a full four months ahead of time! That's an incredible feat, especially considering we are spread all over the United States. My hat is off to everyone for their help; for everyone who took the time to write down names and addresses and sending them in; for making phone calls to try find someone; for sending in those old orders; for posting fliers; for contacting local newspapers. It all helps. As you can see it definitely makes the difference.

It is very possible at this rate that in the next few years we could locate nearly all of the 24,000 who served in the Regiment in Vietnam. Consider that as something to shoot for by 1996. That would be the year for the 11th Reunion and would also mark the 30th anniversary of the 11th ACR's arrival in Vietnam. Think about it and keep up the good work!!

The letter gets better....

"Our request for old orders and rosters has certainly brought some pleasant surprises. We heard from Al Brennan [1SG, K Troops] who sent us rosters for all units in 3/11 dated Nov 1969 and May 1970. John Sorich [A Troop Representative, 69-70] who contacted John Tillson [CO, A Troop, 68-69]; Anthony DeCaprio [CO, D Company, 67-68], Jerry Hudson [Air Troop, 68-70] and Bill Abbey, [CO, Air Troop, 69-70]. They were all interested in locating and reuniting people in their troops. We are happy to say that in the last few weeks we have located many of the people listed on those rosters. This has special significance since all of them served together at the same time. So...

if you have any orders or rosters you haven't already sent in, please make it a point to do so. We appreciate the contribution everyone has made. Keep up the good work"....

Man o' Man - talk about people recruiting members!

That's embarrassing to the ADVA to see us out maneuvered by a Regiment of Cavalry men who are determined to stay together!

Our Senior Vice Commander John "Dutch" DeGroot is at present trying to develop plans to spring a big membership drive for new members in the ADVA and I'd like to suggest we "copy cat" our friends and our associates in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and do as Past National Commander Rollie Castranova has suggested in his letter elsewhere in this newsletter and find all those old orders we have stuck away in duffle bags, suitcases, personal 201 files, briefcases, and envelopes that contain the DD Form 214's we all received when we were separated from the Army when we returned from those Vietnam tours 1967 through 1972. Right now, we have approximately 2,500 members in our association.

That includes our WW II members who make up the bulk of the membership. We Vietnam Vets have just recently started to pick up in membership, and do something about being the future stewards of this very fine organization.

Its time fellows that we Vietnam vets stop this procrastinating we are engulfed in, and wake up to the fact that if we are going to start growing in membership, we are each going to have to do our fair share!

When I got bit by the bug to start a new Chapter here in the Central Mid West by Dutch DeGroot and Brian Mulcrone my Chicago area buddies and ex-MP associates, I got bitten by the desire to do the impossible thing... I was told that an attempt had been made to establish a chapter and that no one had any success. Despite all that, I reached down deep in my pocket, took out some cash and bought lots of paper and envelopes, and licked stamps until I was blue in the face. I wrote over 3,000 letters in six months to as many people as I could find in this area from names and lists supplied to me by Dutch DeGroot and Jim Buckle and Bernie Chase. I started in January 1991. By February, I had 10 signed, March I had 20, and by June over 60 were signed up. We were chartered in mid June 1991, and have been active ever since. Names have slowed down, but the interest is still there.

DeGroot, Mulcrone, Me, and Larry Gelnett who lives back East in Massachusetts, dug and dug for information to rebuild the 23rd MP Co, and to date have about 25 signed up in this unit alone. Each month a new name is found and a letter wrote. Dutch and Larry have identified their entire platoons, and have been in contact with them. We have to keep pounding, and pounding out those letters. That's what each of you guy's in ADVA need to do also. If every one of the 2,500 members in this association could find 1 or 2 guys and sign them up this year, we could triple our membership just like the Blackhorse guys did. Its not impossible guy's.... "It just takes a little work!" Dutch DeGroot has sat in his basement at home and has

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

came up with a roster of hundreds of names of former 23rd MP Company members 1967 through 1972, and have succeeded in signing people up. I'm one of them they located and signed up.

I'm issuing a special plea to every ADVA member, and to anyone in the Pentagon who has access to Americal records to PLEASE send us the names and SSAN's, and if known, addresses of former members of the Americal Division. To our General Officers who have some political pull, if you can help open doors for us, we'd appreciate all the help you could get for us, so we could at least give just one guy the opportunity to join this great association, that he may not know even exists. Not until Brian Mulcrone pulled my chain, did I know the ADVA existed. Lets get busy and help someone else climb aboard this great outfit. Let's do it fella's. Let's do it now!

Letter From PNC Rollie Castronova

Dear Dave:

I'm asking everyone to please "look through" your old duffle bags, and sacks that contain your Vietnam papers, and try to find any old orders such as R&R, award of CIB or CMB, Promotions, etc., and if possible - a copy of the company roster with names of the guys you served with. I recently read an article from the 11th Armored Cav where they found 3,000 new members in 12 months! That's more in one month, than our entire membership of the ADVA.

We have over 100,000 who served in the 3 Brigades in Vietnam alone!

If you guys send me the names you find with the SSAN, and if you know, their addresses, I'll get with Jim Buckle and send them a complimentary copy of the Americal Newsletter. If they sign-up, the name of the guy who provided the name, gets the credit for the new member.

I know that Officers, 1Sgt's and Sgt Majors, must have kept personal copies of orders of this kind, and if they look, they could possibly help secure new members for the Americal Association.

Recently, 1Sgt Roy Poynter signed up 12 members from his WW II outfit.

I have some large posters with our patch and the other associations on it. Anyone who would like one to hang up in their local VFW or American Legion Post, etc., contact me, and I will send one to you.

Instead of us having 2,500 members, we ought to have 25,000 members!

Lets all work together and do the job right. We belong to the best Vietnam outfit ever, the Americal. As Dave said - "We were the baddest of the bad!"

Yours in Comradeship,

PNC Roland Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 1992
HQ HOTEL
HOTEL WASHINGTON
PENNSYLVANIA & 15th
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044

TEL: 202-638-5900
MAKE OWN RESERVATION
QUESTIONS? WRITE
RON WARD
9619 DANA ST
ST. LOUIS, MO 63123



Note To A Sweet Boston Lady!

When Ed [Top Gun] Marsh, and Dave Recob were sitting in the Van, waiting to proceed to the Hotel, a sweet elderly couple from Boston came to the Van for a ride also. On entering the Van door, our Americal brother hit his head on the Van door, and injured his head badly, causing the skin to break and bleed. Throughout the Reunion, I wise-cracked with this sweet Lady and her Husband and they were a delightful couple.

You promised to come to Topeka, Hon. I hope you guy's make it. I promise to introduce you to another sweet lady named "Francie!".

I hope my brothers head healed okay.

Would someone have an extra 31st Inf [Polar Bear] crest to spare? Will swap an Americal metal patch for it or will pay cash. Contact: Dave Recob, Vietnam Editor, [REDACTED] Topeka, KS 66611-2132. I served in 31st Inf in Korean war 1950-1951. Thanks.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER YET?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



1993 Reunion Topeka, Kansas



Chairman Of The Joint Chiefs Of Staff
Washington, D.C. 20318-9999

3 August 1992

Mr. David L. Recob
Reunion Chairman
Americal Division Veterans
Association

Topeka, Kansas 66611-2132

Dear Mr. Recob,

Thank-you for your kind invitation to join you at the 1993 Reunion of the Americal Division in Topeka, Kansas, and to speak at the banquet on June 26, 1993. I appreciate your including me in your plans.

It would be a pleasure to visit with old friends and to be part of the reunion. Regrettably, I must decline. Even though your event is almost a year away, I already have commitments on my calendar for those dates that will preclude my attending.

Again, I appreciate your interest and your invitation. Best wishes to you and to the veterans of the Americal Division for an outstanding reunion.

Sincerely,

s/Colin L. Powell
t/Colin L. Powell
Chairman
of the
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Reproduced by Dave Recob as written by Gen. Powell in answer to his invitation to attend the Reunion.

Editors Comments: "Thanks General!" We appreciate your interest, know you are proud of your wartime unit, and would come if you could.

DAVE RECOB
VIETNAM
EDITOR

Your 1993
host for the
Reunion to
be held in
Topeka.

Address:

Topeka, KS
66611-2132.

Tel: [REDACTED]



Ed [Top Gun] Marsh, D-4-21st Inf, 11th LIB.

Note to Ed: "Remember the big guy you sat next to in the Van, on the way to the Hotel?" Well, Ed. it's yours truly, Dave Recob.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

LOVE

Love is a many faced emotion. What one person may call love is different in another persons view.

Man has love for his parents his wife and children, his sister, brother or relatives. He has a love for life, passion, hobby, sport or challenge. In each of these items love is a degree or two higher or lower as priorities go.

A Woman has love for her child, for her home, for her church, and for her activities that fill her lonely hours. She also has room for all the other loves above.

A Child has faith before love. A child reveres its father and mother and things it cannot understand, as it learns to distinguish love versus faith or dependence.

A father and mother have love for each other, for their children, their possessions, for their friends, neighbors, and mankind.

All men and women have love for their country, for their nation or particular place where they may live. Patriotism is a strong emotion that wraps men in glory and dedication to sacrificing their lives if it be necessary to prove their love for country and beliefs in what they believe worthwhile commitments. We love music, food, automobiles, airplanes, boats, parks, recreation areas, and the list could go on and on. We next to our loved ones, love time off the job, time for ourselves, freedom to do what we want, go where we choose, talk for or against politics and politicians.

How many countries allow their citizens to be so brave and to love so many of these many loves described above? I am sure each of you reading this article could add measurably to this list that could go on and on forever for things mankind loves.

We love a good cup of coffee, a warm bowl of soup on a cold winters day, a cup of hot tea as an afternoon break, a cookie, piece of cake, dish of ice cream, candy bar, soda, cracker, and a long drag on a cigarette, or chomp on a chew!

Some, even love their JOB and find satisfaction in doing what they do to earn a living.

In the world today, in third country nations, the undeveloped peoples hidden from the eye of man, can never have these loves we Americans cherish so much. They will always be victims of hate, torture, murder, starvation, despotism, anarchy, isolationism, and will go to bed hungry, sick, and blind to what loves they could have if they were but free. Death in many cases is the only freedom some people in this world will ever achieve.

We watch our great cities burn and be destroyed by hate, greed, and our prejudice of a mans color of skin, and for keeping him depressed and not able to lift himself from bondage to his past. Mans inhumanities to each other is legend in books and fact. Yet there is hope for a better tomorrow as man learns to accept each other for what we are and learn to live next to each other peacefully.

At his last meeting with his disciples on earth, Jesus said, I give you a last commandment: "Love One Another!" Love is indeed, a many faced emotion. We only get out of life, what we put into it. Love is indeed, a powerful weapon!

James Connolly
G/75th Ranger LRRP
[REDACTED]

Woonsocket, RI 02895
08-17-'92

Dear Dave:

I just returned from Hamilton, Canada. The Moving Wall was in Canada for the first time the week of 08-9-16-'92. It was an experience I will never forget. Yes, I have been to Washington, D.C. to our wall, and it also was an experience. But - you have to understand we were Americans, and had to put up with a lot of crap when we came home. The moving wall in Hamilton, Canada, the first time out of the United States, was a moving experience for our Canadian brothers who for the first time, came "out of the woods" and let the Canadian people know that they were Vietnam vets, who served in the U.S. forces and who were proud of their service. Many of our brothers in Canada could not get jobs if they admitted Vietnam service to Canadian employers. Canadian Vietnam veterans were called "TRAITORS!" by the Canadian government for going over the border and joining the U.S. forces to fight in Vietnam. Canadian vets were never given credit for their service by their government or people. It has been estimated that 50 to 60 thousand men/women of Canada served in Vietnam and thousands still hide that fact from their countrymen. Just in the past 2 or 3 years, Canada has recognized veterans who served during the Korean war. How long will it take to recognize those who served in Vietnam? There is in my possession, 86 names of Canadians who gave their lives in defense of the U.S.

At this time, I'd like to express personal appreciation to the below Canadians who helped bring the moving wall to Confederation Park in Hamilton, Canada:

Richard G. [the Walrus] Pillage, 75-113 Dunlop St, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, L9CZM7; Bob Winder, 122 Bronte #1102B, Milton, Ontario, L9T1Y9; and Gary Befus, P.O. Box 8574, Dundas, Ontario, L9H6M1. It would be great if all ADVA vets would drop these fellows a line and let them know we did not forget them. Could these men become "friends of the Americal Division?" Thank-You very much.

James L. Connolly
G/75th LRRP
[REDACTED]

Woonsocket, RI 02895

Ed note: To You Canadian Brothers/Sisters up North of the U.S. border the Americal Vietnam Vets salute you! I was proud to serve in Korea with the Princess Pat Brigade of Canadian volunteers in 1950-1951, and again in Germany 1966-1969 with the Canadian Air Force personnel at Lahr and Black Forest. You Canadians always come through for your American brothers and neighbors, and for that we will be forever thankful.

Dave Recob

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

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



Vietnam Booth Worthwhile

Topeka Chapter #604, Vietnam Veterans helped the healing process this past July 4th in Topeka, Kansas, when they erected a simple booth and manned it with volunteers to "talk" to any veteran who cared to stop and talk.

For two days the Vietnam vets worked the booth. The out pouring of support and enthusiasm for fellow veterans of all wars was clearly evident for all to see.

Each year a local TV station, KSNT-TV, Channel 27, hosts a giant 4th of July spectacular at Washburn University, a local College. Various groups come and sell arts and crafts, amusement rides, food, and other miscellaneous items to attract and hold the crowd for a fun filled two days, capped with a giant fireworks the evening of July 4th. It is a very popular event.

I noticed several men and women, obviously veterans, who would walk by the booth slowly, and observe what was "going on", but not stop, until one or more of the workers would call out "Army, Navy, Marines"? As soon as the ice was broken, the veterans seemed to become "instant friends" and shed their hesitations quickly, while sharing stories of their military service with each other.

The Vietnam Booth seemed to be a real healing point for many of the people who stopped to chat or buy a patch or pin that represented something very special to them.

These Topeka veterans with their simple presence in a booth, at a municipal event such as this to celebrate the birthday of this nation, did more good to help others, than perhaps medicine dispensed by a Doctor to treat the heartbreak or frustrations of war memories suffered by veterans of all wars. It sure worked wonders on the Topeka crowd.

Perhaps on patriotic days in YOUR town, you veterans can erect a simple booth, stock it with love and compassion, and help other veterans unload their burdens and leave them once and for all out of their minds and bodies, and help heal the wounds other veterans carry around.

It sure sounds like a good idea to me!



Why Belong To The ADVA?

Why should an eligible veteran belong to the ADVA?

Perhaps they ought to be told: "Because We Are Family!"

"We served in one of the most elite and famous Infantry Divisions in the history of the U.S. Army!" Our division started as an unnumbered division in an Army full of numbers and distinct unit identifications. It earned its name in blood.

"The Americal Division" was created Jan 14, 1942 as Task Force 6814 in California and later combined with Task Force 6812 on March 12, 1942, and became legend in Army circles.

It saw heavy combat in WW II and won impressive battle honors in the Pacific campaigns. In 1954 to 1956 it protected national interests in the Caribbean area during the Korean war.

In Feb 1967, this great fighting unit was "recalled to active duty" by a Pentagon planning

group, to give General Westmoreland the MACV Commander in Vietnam, more "muscle" in fighting the war in Vietnam, and was assigned to the heaviest fighting during the entire Vietnam period it was assigned to that country.

On Apr 20, 1967, Task Force Oregon stepped off smartly from huge air transports at Chu Lai, and the 196th LIB became the nucleus of the 23rd Inf Division [Americal]. The division served with great distinction from 1967 until disbanded in August 1972 at DaNang. The Americal Division had the distinct duty of performing the absolutely last patrol of that war and the honor fell to the men of D Co, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf, 196th LIB on Aug 5, 1972. [See pg 32, Aug 1992 Edition, VFW Magazine for a complete story on that fact].

We all have memories of buddies that will live forever in our hearts and in our thoughts of the times we shared tough wartime conditions in WW II or Vietnam, and of the hardships we all shared in combat. We walked together in WW II as in Vietnam, in knee deep water, mud, slime, tall grass, rice paddies, and steamy jungles, flushing out "Japs", "Cong" or "Charlie" as we did our jobs to the best of our abilities.

Our thoughts were always of home, family, friends, and our loved ones, as we "ducked" whizzing bullets, or dodged incoming rounds, while rain drops fell on our heads and mixed with our blood and mud that covered our bodies.

We were grunts, cooks, bakers, MP's, mechanics, engineers, signalmen, artillery crews, chopper crews, medics, clerks, and doctors, nurses, of all ranks, who were bound together in a common bond. We wrote history in blood, sweat, and tears, grew up, and become mature in a hostile environment. We wrote a common message to our foe: "Don't Mess With The Americal Division!"

That's why, when we come across eligible veterans or friends who served in this illustrious unit, we should ask them to join our ranks, help and support our association as dues paying members.

The Americal Division did its best work where others feared to tread! Americal carried its share in battle, could be counted on to do its job, and was indeed the baddest of the bad in the whole damn valley!

Use the Membership coupon on the backside of this newsletter to sign up an eligible veteran. You will be glad you did, and you'll be doing the association a favor by perpetuating our ranks.

WHY NOT PASS YOUR AMERICAL NEWS LETTER ALONG TO A FELLOW VET OR PLACE IT IN A LOCAL V.A. HOSPITAL?

Chapter #569, Vietnam Vets of America, Inc.

Has been established at 3005 Berea Rd, Richmond, KY. Write them at: [REDACTED], Richmond, KY., 40475. Tel: [REDACTED].

They want to serve all Kentucky vets and families. Write or call them for help.

To give yourself and your time to a budgie or sick hearted veteran is worth more than money. It shows you care!

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Equal Access To Justice Sought For Veterans
Solomon J. Jamerston, LTC U.S. Army, Ret
Reprinted from Jun-Jul 1992 BRAVO Veterans Outlook

After having returned from Memorial day services, I was reflecting on some of the lofty comments made concerning our fallen brethren. One of the comments that touched me deeply, was "we pay greatest homage to those fallen, when we insure that the living veterans are never slighted".

My thoughts then moved to an area of United States law that definitely "slights" the living veterans.

There is a national law "on the books", that purports to give "equal access to justice" but veterans aren't allowed to use it! More specifically, the Court of Veterans Appeals, the only judicial review open to veterans, cannot operate under the provisions of the Equal Access to Justice Act [28 U.S.C. 2412].

When Congress established the Court of Veterans Appeals, it failed to give, or perhaps decided not to give the Court, authority to use the equal access statute.

WHAT DOES THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT PERMIT? Essentially, it can require Federal Agencies to pay an appellant's costs for legal representation if the Federal Court rules in favor of the appellant. The lofty sounding name was given to this statute, I suppose, because its creators envisioned that an individual wouldn't have to be wealthy in order to attempt to "right a wrong".

Unfortunately, the Court of Veterans Appeals doesn't feel it has the authority to utilize this statute in its proceedings. It points out that courts utilizing this statute are not established under the same portion of the Constitution as is the Court of Veterans Appeals. It also points out that similarly established courts, which operate under the statute, have all been given specific authority by Congress to utilize the statute in their proceedings.

Therefore, equal access to justice is effectively being denied those veterans who feel they want to try to "right a wrong" in respect to obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

CONGRESS CAN CORRECT THIS "SLIGHT" OF THE LIVING VETERANS! Whether it will make such a correction, however, depends equally on its will to do so, and how forcefully such a "slight" is brought to its attention.

COULD A LITTLE "SLEDGE HAMMER MAINTENANCE BE IN ORDER? The sledge hammer of course, would be all the veterans in a sudden, unified, and continuous demand for correction of the "SLIGHT".

Following is a sample resolution that ADVA members could submit to Congress to support this problem. DLRL.

WHEREAS, this Organization has as its chief purpose, the assistance to veterans in submitting and pursuing benefits claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has established as a Class I Court, the United States Court of Veterans Appeals, and

WHEREAS, veterans are placed in the sometimes untenable position of outlaying substantial sums of money in order to pursue their claims into Court, and

WHEREAS, a sizeable number of claims, which might otherwise have merit for judicial review, are not pursued simply because the veteran cannot afford to pay the legal payments required, and

WHEREAS, the United States Courts of Veterans Appeals has acknowledged that approximately 65% of its cases are "pro se", which is an indication of the determination of some veterans to pursue judicial review, and

WHEREAS, the Court acknowledges that due to the adversarial nature of the Courts proceedings, "pro se" appellants come to the Court "at their own peril", and

WHEREAS, the Court could assist appellants more if the Court would be authorized to function under the Equal Access to Justice Act established under Title 28, U.S.C. Section 2412, and

WHEREAS, the Court would be permitted to function under that Act if specifically empowered by Congress to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Organization hereby goes on record to call for the United States Congress to extend the provisions of Title 28, U.S.C. Section 2412 to specifically direct the applicability of that statute to the United States Court of Veterans Appeals.

Ed Note: A simple letter to the National Commander or Adjutant from members who feel this would be an important tool of assistance to members to pursue their veteran benefits on appeal, are encouraged to write our National Commander their feelings on this subject. Please take it from a guy who has been fighting the system for over a year.

4 April 1992. [BRAVO Vet Outlook Jun/Jul '92].

To every Vietnam soldier and veteran, living and dead.

I owe you this letter for nearly twenty-seven years spent in regret due to misguided '60s idealism.

Who's sorry now? I am. I'm sorry...

-For parading in self-righteous smugness, unharmed; while you marched tired and scared, in fear for your life.

-For raising a sign against you, when you were dodging bullets.

-For saying you didn't have to go; when you had no choice, other than that given to the rich or draft dodger.

-For putting you between a governmental rock and a conscientious hard place, while you were bogged down in cong-infested jungles.

-For shouting at you that 'war kills' while you lay dead and silent.

-For standing by voiceless in your defense, while you defended what I didn't say, with your life.

-For not supporting you, while you held up a wounded brother or carried a dead body, under fire, to a waiting 'chopper'.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



Vietnam Women's Memorial Project

My thanks to Spence Wolfe, who served both in HHC, 4/31st Inf [my Korean war regiment] and in C Btry, 3/82nd Arty for this information, for which I am most proud to print. He resides in Flint, MI. I grew up in Muskegon, MI., and still am a Wolverine at heart!

265,000 women served in Vietnam during that awful and horrible war as volunteers! Not one was drafted.

They were sisters, daughters, wives, and mothers. No law made them leave the comfort of their homes, or the safety America provided. Yet - as volunteers, they risked their lives, lived under stress, forgot the cosmetics and beauticians, and worked their tails off to help us the front line guy survive and carry the fight to the enemy. These courageous ladies served right up on the front, and history is repeat with how many gave their lives to save one of our own. Many GI's who are Vietnam vets owe their lives to one of these ladies who so courageously served in her own way, to prosecute the war against communism.

YOUR help, aid, and assistance is needed to help find, locate, and identify, every one of these ladies if we can, so they can be recognized with a proper war memorial such as the Vietnam memorial to our fighting men. They need your dollars to help pay the costs of the memorial which is scheduled to be dedicated Memorial Day, 1993.

Please send the name and address of any woman you know who served in Vietnam, and a contribution of any amount to:

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc.

Washington, D.C. 20009



Award Of The Silver Star

SP4 Edward W. Marsh, D-4-21st Inf, 11th LIB, was awarded the Silver Star for valor in battle on Jun 10, 1969.

The Citation reads as follows:

"For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Marsh distinguished himself by intrepid actions on Jun 10, 1969 while serving as a machine gunner with D-4-21st Inf, 11th LIB. On that date, the company was conducting search and clear operations near Lang Dong Ban when the point element came under intense hostile machine gun and automatic weapons fire from a well concealed enemy force. Realizing the urgency of the situation, Specialist Marsh unhesitatingly rushed through heavy volumes of hostile fire and assumed an exposed position where he could effectively engage the insurgents. He then began placing accurate suppressive fire on strategic enemy positions. Without waiting for the remainder of his unit to join him, Specialist Marsh assaulted a key hostile emplacement, killing three North Vietnamese Army soldiers, and completely silenced their position. His courageous actions were directly responsible for minimizing casualties among his comrades and resulted in the capture of four valuable enemy weapons. Specialist Marsh's devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army".

[GO #8036, Aug 20, 1969, HQ, Americal Division, APO SF 96374].

Ed Note: Now you guy's know how Ed [Top Gun] Marsh got his "nickname!".

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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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

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Americal Unit Rgt.

Bn.

Co/Bty.

Other

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To:

Serial No.:

Date of Birth:

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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)