

★ 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

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MEMORIAL DAY 1994

1993 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1994

NATIONAL COMMANDER

John DeGroot

Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

William K. Maddox

Portland, TX 78374

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Stephen N. Dennison

Pittsburgh, PA 15227

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Bernard C. Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase

So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

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CHAPTER COMMANDERS

William J. McLaughlin Cape Cod Chapter

Stephen Dennison Eastern Regional Chapter

Elmer E. Matola South-East Chapter

Ernest B. Carlson South Mid-West Chapter

Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter

Lewis C. Turner Far West Chapter

Ronald L. Ward Central Mid-West Chapter

Lloyd J. Morrell North-West Chapter

A by-law change, approved by a National Ballot, now makes Chapter Commanders members of the Executive Council.

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone [redacted] or [redacted]

VIETNAM EDITOR

OPEN

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As I write this last message as Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I am left with good feelings. I now have proof positive that a Commander is only as good as the troops he commands. I must thank in mass the multitudes of unselfish folks who have done so much to better this organization. Believe me when I say there are too many to mention in one message. I had started to write down names and stopped at about one hundred, and then I would have still probably have omitted someone. - Then there is you, the membership, who have responded so well in helping make this organization continue to grow. The work, though, is far from finished, as I hand over the reins to our new Commander, Bill Maddox.

I wish Bill success in continuing the work that so many have had a part in. It is my hope that all the good work continues, with you, the membership, helping him as you have me over the past months. With that support we cannot help but have another great progressive year.

Finally, let me thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Commander. I assure you that I will be keeping active in our organization in my new role as Past Commander.

Of The Troops And For the Troops
John 'Dutch' DeGroot
National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

June 11, 1994
Pines Resort Hotel
South Fallsburg, New York
National Convention

NO MEETING IN JULY

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

CONVALESCING

F CO. 182 INFANTRY

Delmo Ferranti

Wilmington, MA 01887

F CO. 182 INFANTRY

Lewis C. Turner

Oroville, CA 95966

If you know of a Comrade who is sick or has passed away please notify:

Adj. Bernard C. Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

IMMEDIATELY

AMERICAL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

William E. McCormick
In Memory of Major Robert Fate

Robert C. Muehrcke M.D.
In memory of Harold J. Ashe

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

June 11, 1994
Pines Resort Hotel
South Fallsburg, New York
National Convention

NO MEETING IN JULY

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

TAPS TAPS TAPS

James A. Adams
148 M. P. Platoon
Highland Falls, NY
Date Unknown

John Finocchio
26 Signal Company
Danvers, MA
March 18, 1994

Barney Rosen
182 Infantry E Co.
Brookline, MA
April 7, 1994

Charles J. Gheringhelli
125 Quartermaster
Lynn, MA
March 1994

Edward W. Johnson Jr.
Anti-Tank 182 Infantry
Epson, NH
April 1994

John E. Brennan
57 Engineers B Co.
Plymouth, MA
April 9, 1994

Mrs. Melvin C. Ickert
South Mid-West Chapter
Waco, TX
Date Unknown

Joseph Stednitz
245 F.A. Bn. Btry C
Pottstown, PA
March 3, 1994

David L. Recob
23 Military Police
Topeka, KS
May 13, 1994

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Fred H. Chinn Jr.
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Harker Heights, TX

Edward Marchinkoski
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf
Higginum, CT

Louis A. DesRochers
182 Infantry I Co
Hampton, NH

Alfred H. Mobley
182 Infantry D Co
Fredricksburg, TX

NEW MEMBERS

Stanley L. Akers
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf
Mechanicsville, VA
#R. Castronova

John L. Berns
1 Cav 1/1
Little Falls, MN
#Brian Mulcrone

Paul M. Bossoletti
164 Infantry C Co.
Grand Forks, ND
#Memb. Committee

Colen R. Brymer
132 Infantry Can Co
Wyandotte, MI
#John DeGroot

Steven L. Anderson
14 Arty 1/14
Pleasant Grove, UT
#James Winkler

Clarence O. Blecha
164 Infantry C Co.
Grand Forks, ND
#Memb. Committee

Brian Brooks
Associate
Cinnaminson, NJ
#Charles Brooks

John Calla
132 Infantry F Co.
Sarasota, FL
#Memb. Committee

NEW MEMBERS

George Christensen
164 Infantry A-C-E-L
Minot, ND
#Memb. Committee

George H. Dingley
164 Infantry Hq/2
Indianapolis, IN
#Memb. Committee

Michael P. Ebert
MACV TM16
Darlen, IL
#Bernie Chase

James L. Fannon
11 LIB E/1 Cav
Lima, OH
#R. Castronova

Barney R. Fushee
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf
Clanton, AL
#Charles Anderson

Jose L. Garcia
71 Avn F/8 Cav
State Farm, VA
#R. Castronova

Warren C. Griffin
164 Infantry G Co.
Valley City, ND
#Peter Messina

Douglas F. Harkins
11 LIB E/4/3 Inf
Johnson, NY
#Daniel Straight

Carl O. Haukedahl
164 Infantry C Co.
Wildrose, ND
#Peter J. Messina

Eugene H. Hill
164 Infantry D Co.
Grand Forks, ND
#Memb. Committee

Leo H. Hoefler
132 Infantry I Co.
Albion, NE
#John DeGroot

Jimmy L. Houston
1 Air Cav D/1
Denton, TX
#William L. Dunphy

Kenneth E. Kaesebier
132 Infantry Hq/2
Mt Pulaski, IL
#R. Castronova

Joseph T. Kotulak
132 Infantry Med De
Nutley, NJ
#Bernie Chase

Charles Kretchun
164 Infantry L Co.
West Newton, PA
#Memb. Committee

George W. DeGrange
182 Infantry Hq/2
Burlington, IA
#Bernie Chase

Herb Duvernay
23 Adm
Cupertino, CA
#Bernard Earl

Clifford Erbenraut
132 Infantry K Co.
Poplar Grove, IL
#R. Castronova

Victor Frysinger
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf
College Station, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Dewey J. Garceau
164 Infantry M Co.
Grand Forks, ND
#Memb. Committee

Stacy L. Gardner Jr.
11 LIB 52 MI Det
Forest City, PA
#R. Castronova

Joseph J. Haag
164 Infantry K Co.
Richardton, ND
#R. Castronova

Tyler J. Harper
196 LIB C/2/1 Inf
Miami, OK
#Memb. Committee

Richard H. Hern
132 Infantry I Co.
Lombard, IL
#Peter Messina

Alonzo H. Hodgdon
132 Infantry Co E
Bradley, ME
#R. Castronova

Raymond E. Houghton
230 Arty Bn.
Georgetown, IL
#R. Castronova

Lloyd D. Howard
1 Cav A Tr 1st Sqd.
Buffalo, TX
#David M. Withrow

Lynn M. Kloster
164 Infantry Band
Mount Prospect, IL
#Memb. Committee

Raymond J. Kreidkamp
164 Infantry G Co.
Valley City, ND
#Memb. Committee

Robert A. Manning
132 Infantry A,H,F,I
Flossmoor, IL
#R. Castronova

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ADJUTANT'S NOTES
NEW MEMBERS

Edward Marchinkoski
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf
Higganum, CT
#Bob Kapp

Charles H. Mathes
132 Infantry K Co.
Newcastle, IN
#Memb. Committee

Lawrence E. McGurty
132 Infantry Hq&Ser
Hometown, IL
#R. Castronova

Timothy B. Morris
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
Reynoldsburg, OH
#Memb. Committee

Stanley Oshaben
164 Infantry C Co.
Willoughby Hills, OH
#R. Castronova

Mitchell Pillarick
164 Infantry B Co.
Florissant, MO
#Peter J. Messina

William E. Pritchett
132 Infantry E Co.
Las Vegas, NV
#Memb. Committee

Edward R. Puhr
164 Infantry G Co.
Danville, IL
#R. Castronova

William E. Saunders
132 Infantry Reg Hq
Brandon, FL
#R. Castronova

John Sears
11 LIB 4/3 Infantry
Hickory Hills, IL
#Member Comm.

John R. Soloy
132 Infantry Hq Co.
Brighton, MI
#R. Castronova

Michael Sorokoff
101 Med. Bn. E Co.
Lynn, MA
#R. Castronova

Mitchell A. Ulman
132 Infantry 182 In
Valparaiso, IN
#Memb. Committee

Clyde B. Wainwright
11 LIB B/3/46 Inf
Tennessee Colony, TX
#Ronald R. Ellis

Michael H. Wallace
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Rockwall, TX
#R. Castronova

David S. Marshall
164 Infantry 245 FA
Pottsville, PA
#R. Castronova

Joseph J. Matuszyk
132 Infantry E Co.
Pana, IL
#R. Castronova

George P. D. Merrill
182 Infantry D Co.
Newburyport, MA
#Reinstatement

Horace F. Nearhood
164 Infantry B Co.
Toledo, OH
#R. Castronova

Ralph J. Page
149 Avn Helo
Adrian, GA
#Bernie Chase

Albert Postil
132 Infantry F Co.
Plainfield, IL
#Memb Committee

John M. Pryor
1 Arm Div 1sqd/1Cav
Tuscumbia, MO
#Jon L. Graham

Barry J. Quigley
17 Cav LRRP 196 LIB
Shaftsbury, VT
#Richard J. Krueger

Warren H. Scheffner
132 Infantry Co F,I
Manitou Springs, CO
#R. Castronova

Terry L. Sollars
HHC
Chesterfield, IN
#Memb. Committee

Gustave R. Sorenson
1 Cav C/1
Powder Springs, GA
#Memb. Committee

George P. Todd
23 M.P. 11 LIB
Conway, SC
#R. Castronova

Charles Unterberger
11 LIB
Watkins, MN
#Bernie Chase

Thomas B. Waldron
132 Infantry F Co.
Stillwater, PA
#Dutch DeGroot

Timothy T. Walsh
11 LIB 4/3/ Inf
San Clemente, CA
#Bernie Chase

Jerry B. Washizaki
?
Powder Springs, GA
#R. Castronova

Edward J. Wokas
132 Infantry I Co.
Woodridge, IL
#Memb. Committee

James H. Winter
164 Infantry L Co.
Bowie, TX
#Memb. Committee

Andrew W. Zultner
132 Infantry AT
Homewood, IL
#Dutch DeGroot

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Haney A. Ambrose
132 Infantry E Co.
Greenwell Springs,
#R. Castronova

Seymour D. Dick
132 Infantry D Co.
Brooklyn, NY
#R. Castronova

Paul V. Freiday
26 Engrs C Co.
Cooperas Cove, TX
#Bernie Chase

John J. Kosky
132 Infantry D Co.
Milwaukee, WI
#R. Castronova

Floyd L. Lenard
52 Infantry B/1/52
Falls City, NE
#Memb. Committee

William T. Mansfield
125 Q.M.
West Hartford, CT
#A.Albert Kandarian

Raul N. Meza
18 Infantry B/3/18
Aransas Pass, TX
#Bill Maddox

Peter J. Muraco
132 Infantry Hq/2
Cleveland, OH
#John DeGroot

Joseph Piscopo
57 Engrs
Staten Island, NY
#Bernie Chase

Richard D. Ramirez
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Denver, CO
#Memb. Committee

Ron L. Russell
196 LIB 17 Cav F Tr
Battle Creek, MI
#Ed Marsh

Patrick Tajak
1 Cav 1/1
Dearborn, MI
#Terry Babler

Frank H. Vogel
129 Infantry Servic
Temple City, CA
#R. Castronova

Earl L. Cherrey
164 Inf
Fairview, MT
#R. Castronova

Terry R. Fisher
14 Arty C Btry
Bedford, PA
#Memb. Committee

James B. Hanna
328 RRC
Darlington, MD
#Memb. Committee

Carl R. Lauritsen
164 Infantry 3/ Div
Santa Barbara, CA
#Earl P. Cook

Charles F. Lindquist
23 Vietnam Com Cen
Albuquerque, NM
#Memb Committee

William T.A
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf
Long Beach, NY
#Memb. Committee

Robert Monaghan
52 Inf B + B/123 Avn
Pleasanton, CA
#Robert Thornton

Adelphos Te Paske
164 Infantry
Sioux City, IA
#Memb. Committee

Herman M. Punihaole
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
APO AE
#Self

Jack J. Reid
196 LIB A/D/1/46 In
Phoenixville, PA
#John DeGroot

Jose A. Sanchez
11 LIB Hq/HC/4/3 In
TOABAJA, PR
#Memb. Committee

Sigel S. Varner Jr.
132 Infantry I Co.
Bloomington, MN
#R. Castronova

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ADJUTANT'S NOTES

TAPS TAPS TAPS

PNC Edward N. Haddad
182 Infantry
Worcester, MA
May 26, 1994

James R. Sbraccia
182 Infantry
Malden, MA
May 30, 1994

Kenrick A. Claflin
26 Signal Co.
Northborough, MA
December 25, 1992

Billy W. Garrett
182 Infantry G Co.
Spartanburg, SC
January 8, 1994

Jerry J. Olson
132 Infantry
Montgomery, IL
August 8, 1993

Kenneth Magenton
164 infantry
Britton, SD
May 5, 1991

OFFICERS FOR 1994 - 1995

NATIONAL COMMANDER William K. Maddox
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER Stephen N. Dennison
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER David L. Recob
NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER Joseph Chin

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

James C. Buckle
Roland T. Castronova
Peter J. Messina
Joe D. Feeler
Alfred R. Doig
John DeGroot
James J. Flynn
Leo Ciccolo
Daniel P. Ramsey Jr.
Robert N. Thornton
Ronald R. Ellis

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Michael R. Ackerfeld
23 M.P.
Kings Park, NY
#John DeGroot

Anthony Campbell
8 Cav F troop
Springfield, MA
#Memb. Committee

Robert F. Fisher
11 Arty 6/11
Rockport, MA
#Memb. Committee

Albert C. Labriola
11 LIB 52 I Det
Pittsburgh, PA
#Steve Dennison

Joseph Mullen
182 Infantry A Co.
Eastham, MA
#Richard Gallant

Antoni F. Soares
247 F.A. HQ Btry
North Dartmouth, MA
Reinstated

James W. Zawatski
82 F.A. C/3/82
Ridgeway, PA
#Craig Singer

Stanley W. Allen Jr.
31 Port Surg Hosp
Watertown, SD
#Arthur L. Ford

Tony L. Ceelen
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Oshkosh, WI
#R. Castronova

Harry C. Goodson
Task Force Orange HQ
Albuquerque, NM
#Gary L. Noller

Ernie S. Misa
1 Armd Cav B Tr
San Mateo, CA
#Memb. Committee

William F. Schneider
26 Engineers D Co.
Pt. Pleasant, NJ
#Memb. Committee

Portland Vet Center
475 Stevens Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
#Bernie Chase

#SPONSOR

MORE NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Michael R. Ackerfeld
23 M.P.
Kings Park, NY

Jerry O. Anderson
11 LIB C/6 Sup Bn.
Stone Mountain, GA

Anthony Streitmarter
182 Infantry E Co
Cincinnati, OH

Donald R. Wingo
196 LIB A/4/36 Inf
Austin, TX

EDWARD N. HADDAD SR.
NATIONAL COMMANDER 1967 - 1968

PNC Edward N. Haddad passed away on May 26, 1994 at the University of Massachusetts Hospital in Worcester, MA. He was 74.



Ed is survived by his wife Freda and a son, Edward N. Haddad Jr..

PNC Haddad was a mechanic for the city Department of Public Works for thirty years, retiring in 1976. He was a member of St. George Orthodox Cathedral parish, it Men's Club and the Syrian Brotherhood Society. He was a member of the Montacute Lodge of Masons and was active in many of it's affiliates.

Ed was also active in the Worcester Chapter and he and his wife Freda ran many successful functions for the ADVA.

He served with the 182 Infantry, Americal Division, and was a member of the YD Veterans Association and Post 479, V.F.W..

Funeral services were held at St. George Orthodox Cathedral and burial was in Hope Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

V.N.A. Holy Trinity Nursing Home
Worcester, MA 01608 Worcester, MA 01614

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
30 Anna St.
Worcester, MA 01604

CHAPTERS

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

Regional Commander
Elmer E. Matola
[REDACTED]
Hernando Beach, FL 34442
Tel. [REDACTED]

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

Regional Commander
Ernest B. Carlson
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
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
Lewis C. Turner
[REDACTED]
Telephone [REDACTED]

WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

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

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

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

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

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

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES?

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

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander Secretary/Treasurer
Ernest B. Carlson Malcolm P. East
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel. [REDACTED] Tel. [REDACTED]

Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Mobley

On March 26, 1994, a great Chapter meeting was held in Fredericksburg!

Elections were held and Ernest Carlson was elected Chapter Commander, Malcolm East was re-elected Sec/Treas. and Bruce Mobley became Sgt-at-Arms.

Jack Ledford was the guest speaker. He was taken prisoner in Korea while serving with the 187 RCT, 11 Airborne Division. He was rescued by a member of, (we think) B Co., 8th Cavalry and a couple of Turkish Soldiers. He is Past District-Past State- and several time Past Commander of Chapter 167, Disabled American Veterans.

Fred Chinn, 2/1/196 LIB, Vietnam, broke all common sense rules and volunteered to coordinate a Chapter meeting in Killeen, TX on July 2, 1994.

MEETING TIME--9:30 A.M. at the High Tide Seafood, 1040 Jasper Road, Killeen, TX. Call [REDACTED]. A seafood lunch will be served after the meeting.

Please send \$10.00 per person with your registration so that we will know the approximate number planning to attend. This fee will also cover the cost of the luncheon. Send to:

Ernest B. Carlson
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Fred Chinn is also contacting several retired persons to be guest speakers.

Dues will be coming up soon, so now is the time to catch up!

Ernie Carlson
Commander

ARE YOUR CHAPTER DUES PAID?

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

Regional Commander
Lewis Turner
[REDACTED]
Oroville, CA 95966

Sec/Treas
Gino Massagli
[REDACTED]
Eureka, CA 95501

Sergeant-at-Arms Howard W. Walker
Chaplain Herbert A. Holt

Just a word to say 'Hello' to everyone, and to let you know that our Reunion Chairman, Pat Tognoli is hard at work on the plans for our 1994 Reunion. Four places have been suggested for a choice of where to go. 1. Sacramento, 2. Las Vegas, 3. Reno, 4. Laughlin, Nev. As soon as all the details have been worked out we will let you know.

Our 1993 Reunion was held at the Sands Hotel in Reno, NV. About 64 turned out including the wives. The food was at its best and very delicious. Everyone seemed to have a good time as though they wanted it to go on. We now have 134 members and expect larger turn-outs.

We had two speakers at our banquet dinner. Duster Heath spoke on the history of the Americal Division and Howard Walker spoke about the POW issue. Both speakers were very interesting.

A great big thank you to James Buckle and David Recob for the great job they are doing on the Newsletter. We all appreciate what you are doing.



Commander Lew Turner
Far West Chapter

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

COMMANDER
Elmer E. Matola
[REDACTED]
Hernando, FL 34442

SEC/TREAS
George P. Dakin
[REDACTED]
Deltona, FL 32728

The spring meeting that was held at Perry's Oceanside in Daytona Beach, was as usual, successful and productive. I would like to go on record in saying that you guys that did not attend, missed one of the greatest of times. I hope that many of you hurry and make your reservations for our next Reunion which will be held in the Vanderbilt Beach Motel in Naples. It is bound to be the event of the year.

Don't forget to attend the A.D.V.A. National Convention in June up in New York. It promises to be the best ever.

The Arthur Wood S.E. Chapter of A.D.V.A. would like to wish a belated "Happy Birthday" to our one and only Mrs. Marie (Arthur) Wood, who had her birthday on the 10th of May. May you have many more Marie.

The bench at the Florida National Cemetery has now been installed and we have enough funds to beautify the grounds around the memorial stone by landscaping. Thanks to all of you people who contributed so generously toward the success of this undertaking.

Again, I ask all of you in the S.E. Chapter to contribute a bit of news and ad to the success of this column.

I wish you all a very pleasant and safe summer.

Yours in comradeship,
Commander Elmer Matola
Arthur Wood S.E. Chapter

To: All Americal 23d Infantry Veteran's
Subject: Recruiting New Members

A half century ago in the wild tropical jungles of the South Pacific I made some friendships that has remained and grown through these many years. Many I correspond to on a regular basis.

I am sure many of you have done the same, whether it was in the South Pacific or the mountains or rice paddies of Vietnam. The point I am trying to make is: If you have a buddy or an address of someone who served in or was attached to the Americal 23d Infantry please send me their names and addresses. All names sent to me will be checked to see if they live in the Far West Chapter area. After I check them I will then submit them to the ADVA. We need the names and addresses whether they live in the Far West Chapter or not. The ADVA has a recruiting program going and will appreciate any help we can give them.

I am sure some of you must belong to, or have friends who belong to Company or Battalion Associations. I have the address roster for the 164th Infantry Association. I would very much like to have the same for the 132nd Infantry, 182nd Infantry, 196th LIB, 198th LIB, 11th LIB, the Artillery, Air Groups, Cavalry and any of the support groups who spent time with the Americal in WWII, Canal Zone or in Vietnam.

These addresses will be used for the sole purpose of recruiting members. They will in no way be misused or sold to mailing lists.

The Far West Chapter is one of the fastest growing Chapters in the Association. We now have 152 members.

It is through efforts such as these that the ADVA and the Regional Chapters are at the level they are today.

I thank you in advance for your help.

Yours in Comradeship

Joe D. Feeler
[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM. 87110-3033

B COMPANY 3/1 INFANTRY 11 L.I.B.

SPIRITS OF YOUTH

The spirits of our youth, kept alive by those of us who returned from those Asian shores, waken each morning before daylight.

Weapons are checked as the scent of coffee floats on the morning air. The coffee is brewed within a can; which earlier housed cookies, over a fire fueled by a pinch of C-4. An unmelted rectangle creamer floats on top refusing to give the coffee color. A breakfast of ham and eggs, chopped, is receiving a dousing of Red Rooster hot sauce and a few individual packets of catsup.

Breakfast over, the spirits begin to move out. The area is cleaned, to remove evidence of their presence. Packs are secured. The order to "saddle up" is passed around the perimeter. The spirit platoon and squad leaders move among the troops inspecting their gear.

"Move em out" goes out the cry, "First platoon take point, Second pull slack, and Third fall to the rear".

Towels go about their necks and New Testaments are inserted between the helmet and the sweatbands, as they trudged wearily, shifting the the pack's weight with the motions of their bodies, trying to balance the load.

The stillness of the morning is broken as the R.T.O.'s (radio telephone operator) converse with each other. The radio crackles with messages of: "Peco's Nephew 4-1, this is 4-2 over." "This is 4-1 go," come the reply. "Request commo check, over." "I read you loud and clear, 4-2, what's your sit-rep?" "Sit-rep negative." Roger that 4-2, leave by the north trail." "Wilco, 4-1, out."

The distant drone of ghost helicopters beat the air, as the song, 'It's a Beautiful Morning', blares from their speakers.

Year after year these spirit soldiers prepare for battle. Endless apparitions played over and over, fueled by our thoughts. They pray for the day they may be laid to rest.

The spirit soldiers pop yellow smoke guiding the ghost choppers to their loading zone. The choppers land in the field, beneath the L.Z.'s (Landing Zone), northern slope. Dust and yellow smoke swirl in the air caused by the helicopter's landing. The soldiers climb aboard, six to a bird.

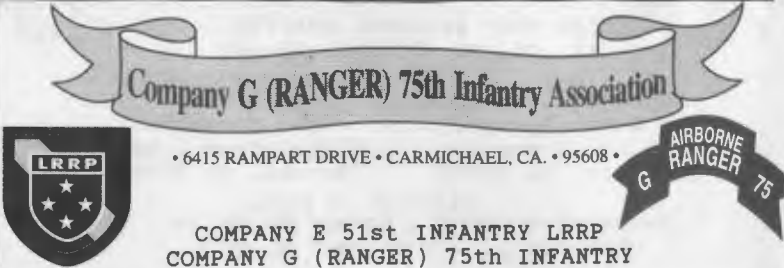
The faces of our youth, stare with a thousand yard stare, as they ponder the battle to come. This day five will die, fourteen will be wounded. Tomorrow it will again be replayed.

The choppers take to the sky, amid a minute hurricane of smoke and debris. The sound track is changed to "Groovin", by the Rascals.

Forever young, these soldiers of our past, doomed to relive each and every battle, unknown to those of us, who keep their battles going.

We need a time of healing, to let go. Not to forget. We shall never forget. We just have to let the spirits of our youth lay down their weapons and rest.

James B. Gideon



COMPANY E 51st INFANTRY LRRP
COMPANY G (RANGER) 75th INFANTRY

The Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association, consisting of the E/51 LRRPs and G/75 Rangers, will be holding their fifth annual reunion from July 1. thru July 4th at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Nashville, TN.

These LRRPs and Rangers were the "eyes and ears" of the Americal Division, serving as the Division's long range recon unit in Vietnam from 1967 - 1972. We are expecting approximately 200+ veterans, spouses and family members. It will be a family oriented event. All former members and friends are invited to attend. Details of the reunion can be obtained by calling Ben "Babysan" Dunham at [REDACTED].

THE NUMBER TO CALL [REDACTED]

COMPANY D D/3/1 1 INFANTRY 11 LIB

My name is Joel (Joey) Lawing and I served with the 1st Platoon, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th LIB, Americal Division from October 1968 until April 1969.

I am attempting to locate anyone who was in my unit during this time. Particularly those that fought at Mo Duc on Dec. 20, 1968. My best friend, Wayne Jarvis from Kansas, was killed that day. Also, my Sgt. Ralph Nethkin from Cleveland, OH was wounded.

Our Captains name was Johnny Walker and other men in my platoon were Crandall (KIA), Elliot, and Balardi, all from New York. also Givens from Alabama and our RTO guy that I only knew as Rocky (KIA) from California.

Brothers, if you have any information concerning my old unit please write or call:

Joel Lawing
[REDACTED]
Charlotte, NC 28216
[REDACTED]

11 LIB RONALD A. LIPSCHITZ 11 LIB

Ron, our POW/MIA Chairman is having a few problems. Without warning he has been discharged from a job he had held for over twenty years.

Ron is a victim of Agent Orange, having served at Duc Pho, and he has two children that were subsequently affected.

He would appreciate hearing from any of his ADVA comrades. Please call or drop him a line.

Contact him at:

Ronald A. Lipschitz
[REDACTED]
Bronx, NY 10467

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

My nane is Jim Lyons. I am an Americal Veteran and have been a member of the ADVA for about four years. Like a lot of other Vietnam vets I am attempting to track down several buddies I served with in the Americal during the '67-'68 time frame. I would like to locate the following men;

Steven H. Reeves, 1st Lt. Military Intel. Branch
RA 198009 (Enlisted) 05340949 (Officer)

John E. Slough, 1st Lt. Military Intel. Branch
RA 11854804 (Enlisted)

Richard Diggs, SP4 or SP5 Military Intel. Branch

All of the above served in the 635th MI Detachment, 198 LIB Americal Division, 1967-69.

Thanks for any help you may be able to give with the above names and thanks for doing a top notch as Editor-in-Chief of the Newsletter.

Best wishes,
James E. Lyons
[REDACTED]
McLean, VA 22101-5225

Ed Note: Jim, sorry that a search of our records came up negative. Hopefully some one out there will know your friends. Thanks for writing. Jim.

1 BATTALION 46 INFANTRY 198 LIB

My name is Nathalie Arens. Twenty five years ago my son, Timothy Arens, was KIA near the Village of Huong Lam, approximately 17 miles southwest of Tam KY City, in Quang Tin Province of South Vietnam.

After all of this time I still find myself wondering what happened to my son. A friend of mine, Mr. Rick School, has agreed to help me in my quest for informatiopn concerning Timothy. Please send any information to Mr. School, his address is at the end of this letter.

The Army told me Timothy was being "Medi-vacked" out when the helicopter came under fire and went down, killing my son and the other eight wounded men on board, along with the helicopter crew.

I am trying to find anyone that knew Timothy while he was in Vietnam. I understand that you will run a locator ad for anyone who served with my son. I would like to ask you to please run one of these ads to try and help me find someone who served with Timothy.

I would like to thank you for all of your help and I truly hope that I can find someone that served with my son. Listed below is the information about my son;

PFC Timothy G. Arens SSAN 399-42-3285
Company D 1st Battalion 46 Infantry 198 LIB
Arrived Vietnam July 20, 1968 KIA October 1, 1968
Hill 69

if you have any information please contact:

Mr. Rick School
[REDACTED]
Kimberly, WI 54136-1246
Phone [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

ATTENTION VIETNAM MEMBERS

Until further notice kindly send all material for the Americal Newsletter to the Editor-in-Chief at the address below:

James C. Buckle
[REDACTED]
Harwich, MA 02645

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER IS SEPTEMBER 1, 1994.

A BATTERY A/3/82 82 ARTILLERY

This is my first letter to the Newsletter and Association Headquarters, but I am sure that it will not be my last.

First, let me say that I enjoy the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER very much and I read every word of it, cover to cover. This may not seem like much of a feat, but I belong to five other veterans organization and I only glance through their newsletter and magazines.

I should tell you that I should be scolded for not joining sooner. I met Ron Ward in D.C. in 1986 as I was there with another veterans group. When he saw the Southern Cross on my jungle fatigues he came over and introduced himself, and all the men with him. He asked if I was a member of the A.D.V. A. and when I said no he promptly handed me an application. Now I wish that I had joined those eight years ago.

I have only one complaint--under new members in the Newsletter my name was spelled wrong. (This has been taken care of Ed. Sorry about that mistake).

I was happy to see two other people listed in the January - February issue that were members of the 3/82 Arty and one was from A Battery. I will try to contact these people.

I am going to shoot a letter off to Rush Propper for info on joining the Great Lakes Chapter.

I'm sorry that I won't be able to make the National Convention but I will be there in spirit. Maybe next year.

I love the stories and articles in the Newsletter--keep up the good work!

I am now going to try to find other members from my unit, thanks to you.

Under The Southern Cross,
Ed (Mick) De Jonghe
L.Z. Baldy - L.Z. Hawk Hill 1969-1970

Ed Note: Thanks for writing. If you need help in locating old friends just drop us a line. The Adj-tant will contact you about Paid Life membership.

NOW HEAR THIS!

The Chapters are financially independent from National Headquarters. Any dues that are requested by a Chapter are up and above your National dues. It is necessary for Chapters to

AMERICAL BROTHERS

I recently received this letter form Representative Steve Buyer (Rep. IN) following my request for information regarding our governments policy regarding UN forces. I have permission from his office to reprint the letter in our Newsletter.

It's important for us to realize that our potential adversaries in the world have intelligence operation, and are well aware of our strengths and weaknesses. According to Senator Bob Dole, speaking on Larry King live, president Bush cut 60 billion from the defense budget. Candidate Clinton threatened another 60 billion cut, but actually cut 127 billion. This has all happened in six short years. Plans are drawn to reduce the Army to 10 operational divisions. 10! If you read the letter closely, you'll note that another tactic being attempted is to divert funds from the already small defense budget to non-military uses. Also, please note that the president wants the right to place our military under foreign control on his authority alone. Remember what happened to the 75th Infantry (Rangers) in Somalia, while waiting for Pakistani and Malaysian armor to arrive. Fortunately he currently lacks support for this. I'm told that morale in our military is at an all time low. We all understand what this means in terms of a unit cohesiveness and fighting spirit.

One of many potential military adversaries are the North Koreans who have approximately 1.2 million men in arms. They have 600,000 infantry and are well equipped for chemical and biological warfare. They have 75,000 special operations troops similar in training to our green berets, and are motivated and dedicated to their leadership; the same leadership that started the first Korean war, which we did not win. In Viet Nam I gained a tremendous respect for the Koreans. They are fierce and tenacious fighters. I believe that they are straight forward and as a rule do not bluff. They have threatened to turn the region into a firestorm. They have warned their population to prepare for war, which they see as inevitable. We have 37,000 troops there, and 500,000 South Korean troops. We lack the staging areas in the region that worked to our benefit during Desert Storm. We also would be deprived of the chance to strike first following the many weeks of continuous bombing that we enjoyed in Iraq. We have politically alienated both the Japanese and Chinese. Look at a map to appreciate the proximity to Korea. Could we use nuclear weapons that close to a friendly nation? I can't even imagine the ramifications of radioactive rain falling on Peking on Tokyo.

It has been suggested that should N. Korea cross the 38th parallel, Iran could be simultaneously expected to attack Israel. It is believed that Iran, in all likelihood, has nuclear weapons purchased from bankrupt Soviet satellites desperate for funds. Israel has a substantial number of nuclear weapons.

In short; we have a dove in the White House. He has diverted massive resources from the military to social programs at a point when the world is a very dangerous place. I have no faith in NATO to act in America's best interest, and I don't see it as an adequate deterrent to aggression around the world.

Congressional elections are coming up in November. Find out where your representatives stand. and

have voted regarding defense. Somehow we have to protect what's left of our hemorrhaging military before we pay the price for being defenseless.

Michael Lazorchak
Company G (75) Inf (Ranger)
Americal Division
Jan-68 to Sept-69



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 28, 1994

Dear Dr. Lazorchak:

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns about Presidential Decision Document (PDD) 13 and the Sisisky Amendments to FY 94 Defense Authorization Bill. I appreciate hearing from you on these subjects.

Last year, two amendments to H.R. 2401, the Department of Defense Authorization Bill for FY94, were offered on the House floor by Representative Sisiky of Virginia. The first amendment would have created a Defense Response Fund, a \$30 million dollar account to pay for start up costs for five military operations short of war. This was defeated by a vote of 211-199. The second amendment would have provided \$10 million for the construction of a military command, control and communication center at the United Nations. It would also provide \$23.1 million to teach the military's role in a democracy through military-to-military contacts. This measure was defeated by a vote of 210-199.

In FY 95 the Administration, for the first time ever, wants to directly fund UN peacekeeping using funds from the Department of Defense. Three hundred million dollars are included in the defense budget request to pay the UN for the cost of peacekeeping operations around the world. These costs have been previously borne by the foreign affairs/foreign operations budget that provides funds for the State Department. I strongly disagree with this idea, I see it as another example of using Defense funds for non-defense purposes.

I am also concerned about PDD-13. This document, originally drafted last year deals with U.S. participation in international peacekeeping operations. Originally, candidate Clinton had supported the creation of a standing U.N. force for "...detering aggression and protecting humanitarian operations." Early versions of PDD-13 supported this idea.

The current draft steps away from this concept. It sets guidelines for the U.S. forces' involvement in peacekeeping operations. The document attempts to make clear that the president will never give up the authority to deploy U.S. troops and keep U.S. forces under a U.S. chain of command for administrative purposes. The order would, on "case by case basis" give the president
Concluded on next page

Americal Brothers (Conclusion)

authority to place U.S. forces under operational control of foreign commanders in certain U.N. operations. The executive order would allow the president to withdraw U.S. forces from a commitment at any time.

I have serious reservations about this document. The events of the U.N. operation last summer in Somalia show the weakness of the U.N. system. It is difficult for me to support a commitment of troops to fight under a foreign commander that may or may not be conducting operations that support U.S. national interests. Currently PDD-13 is on hold in executive branch since Congressional support for this new draft is not strong.

Implementing legislation would be required to put many of the provisions of the document into law.

Again, I appreciate hearing from you. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards
Steve Buyer
Member of Congress

William Childs Westmoreland
General, United States Army, Retired
[REDACTED]
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

January 21, 1990

Dear Bob:

Your letter of January 12 has been received and I hasten to reply.

The invitation to attend the American Division Reunion involving both World War II and Vietnam War Veterans is appreciated. To my deep regret, I have a firm commitment during that period and must express my regrets.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

W. C. Westmoreland
W. C. WESTMORELAND

P.S. If the opportunity presents itself, express my disappointment in not being able to attend and remind the group of my decision to reestablish the Division in Vietnam. You may wish to refer to the enclosed in A Soldier Reports. A copy of the pertinent page is enclosed.

Above is the response to a letter sent to General Westmoreland, by Dr. Robert Muehrcke, asking him to be a guest at the June 1994 National Convention.

Below is a quote from the General's book, "A Soldier Reports" (Page 262).

When Army brigades without divisional attachments later arrived in Vietnam, I assigned them to Task Force OREGON and, with Department of Army endorsement, re-designated it the "Americal Division." The designation derived from a division organized by General MacArthur under similar circumstances during World War II on New Caledonia. As in World War II, the new division replaced the 1st Marine Division.

198 LIB MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT 198 LIB

As an Americal Division Veterans Association member and a former lieutenant with the 198 LIB, I'm pleased to tell you that Ballatine Books in New York has just published my book, entitled "Not By the Book: An Army Intelligence Officer In Vietnam."

The book is about my experiences (and misadventures) at Chu Lai and LZ Bayonet in 1968-69 when I was a POW interrogation officer with the division Military Intelligence Detachment and later OIC of MI Team #3 at the 198th base camp off Highway 1.

I am hoping that you will print this letter so that come of the men I served with will hear about my book and enjoy reading about the good work we did together. I also hope that other Americal veterans of the Vietnam era may be interested in reading this account.

Sincerely,
Eric M. Smith
[REDACTED]
Annapolis, MD 21401

A SOLDIERS PRAYER

Dear God, I kneel upon one knee,
My other's wounded as you can see.
I pray O'Lord you hear the sounds,
Of all these crying; It's all around

My friends and I have crossed the sea,
To fight this war, that should not be,
Their cries for loved ones, in the air,
And screams of pain, I can not bear.

To see my buddies, die in pain
Their body parts, lying in the rain,
I know not why, they sent us here,
But we are children, full of fear.

We were not trained for such a task,
I pray O'Lord, how long will it last...
What will we say, if we get home,
About the one's, we left alone.

For some of the bodies, we could not find,
We just can't leave, those left behind.
You have spared, from time to time,
Please leave me here, that I may find,

If not all of them, maybe just a few,
The one's I can't, I'll leave with you.
I'll pray O'Lord, for peace of mind,
And that these bodies, as well as mine,

You will take up there, to our new home,
To sit with you, at your great throne.
Robert Walls

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA INC
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER 227

TOGETHER AGAIN

Northern Virginia Chapter 227 again sponsors the popular Veterans Day fun event --- the DMZ DELTA DANCE. The dance is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 1994, at the Sheraton National Hotel, Washington Boulevard and Columbia Pike in Arlington, Virginia. The ticket price remains at \$20.00 per person.

The 1994 theme is "Together Again", which represents the true meaning and value of the DMZ to Delta Dance...bringing veterans, their friends and families together again for a time of fellowship, remembrance, reflection and fun.

The music starts at 8 P.M. and wraps up at 1 A.M.

For more information contact:

Paul E. Skogland [REDACTED]

198 MEDICAL PLATOON

It was one of the most harrowing experiences I had in the Nam. I had MEDCAP'ed down in the ville of Hai Ninh everyday for a month. Treating mainly skin ulcers, cuts, and other minor stuff. One day the kids that were my perpetual escorts dragged me to a part of the village that I hadn't been before. Inside a hooch I found a young (? who can guess the age of VN women) about mother to be that was obviously having a big problem. She had lost a lot of blood, was going shocky, and nothing was coming. I was a 19 year old Medic and had had one 20 minute training movie on childbirth. This was way over my head, the Army trained us to expect combat wounds but this was something else altogether. I started an IV of Dextran, got back to the LZ and found out I could get a chopper for her. The VN had gotten her into a hammock tied to a long pole and "littered" her up to the LZ. A regular stick picked her up along with her sister (or mother, or somebody, about a dozen wanted to go but we only let one) and flew her up to a hospital in Chu Lai. About a week later young mama and escort showed up back at the ville. She had lost the baby but she would be OK. They just waited too long before sending for me.

A few days after that, in the middle of the night, a whole herd of VN with lanterns and making all kinds of noise as they walked up the path to the front gate (for safety sake) came calling "Bacsi, Bacsi, Doc, Lai Di". Which is "Doctor, Doctor Doc, come here". I had been out on ambushes at night but never down to the ville after sun down and was a little nervous. I got a buddy of mine for shotgun and figured what the hell, they could have nabbed me any number of times and there were some people I knew in this group. So, down the hill we went with an aid bag, M-79, and a grunt with an M-16. I found another mama to be in what appeared to be normal labor. Can anything that gruesome to a 19 year old kid be considered normal? Happens every day so I guess normal is normal. About daylight out pops a little blue faced baby with black hair in its eyes. Ugly little bugger. Then, after clearing his airways, he took his first breath. so small he was cradled in my hands, and all of a sudden he was ALIVE and squalling. Cord tied and clipped, baby cleaned and plugged onto his mama's teat, placenta passed okay and mama not bleeding excessively.

My shotgunner and I went back up the hill well after daylight, tired but happy. The NCOIC about had a hemorrhage. "What the hell are you doing leaving the hill after dark" ETC> ETC> He and I had been crosstreaded for some time and he did his best to chew me up and spit me out. I was tired and tried to ignore him as I headed to my bunker to get some sleep. I'll tell more stories about that boob later.

Later in the day I returned to check on MY babysan. I made sure no infections had started, (eye infections were bad news there) and the little guy got as good a start as any born in that place and time. They named him Doc as that was a common VN name. An old papasan even gave me a chunk of black smoking ope for my fee, which I stashed away for future emergency use.

I found out that after the first complicated birth that the people in my part of the village had started to trust me. I always had a herd of little kids following me. If they had ever disappeared the pucker factor would have gone way up. I felt as safe as anywhere in that ville.

Would love to go back and wonder if little DOC is now a "RED".

I delivered one more baby before being thrown off the hill. So it goes.

Michael "Doc" Moehrke

194 AVIATION HELICOPTER

Thanks for the membership application. I am looking forward to my first Newsletter. Enclosed is a picture of a wonderful homecoming and also a map of the Vietnam. Thanks for your dedication.

Ralph J. Page

Ed. Note: Sorry that the picture and that map would not reproduce well. Would like very much to have an original for a later issue.

Ralph served in Vietnam with the 194 Aviation Bn. and Desert Shield and Desert Storm with the 988th Supply Unit from Dublin, Georgia.

The picture shows Ralph receiving a welcome home kiss from his wife Sue with his 4 year old son Lenon and 6 year old son Kanon, looking on. Ralph had just returned home after serving nearly eight months in the Persian Gulf.

He retired from the USAR on May 23, 1993

AMERICAL MUSEUM

The "move" is under way. Members who attended the April meeting at Fort Devens helped to load two trucks, that were supplied by the Massachusetts National Guard, with the first echelon of operations "MOVE".

The facilities at the Worcester Armory are not fully prepared as yet but progress is being made.

The Museum at Fort Devens is now CLOSED and the anticipated date of the reopening at Worcester is September 1, 1994.

The Museum Committee wishes to thank all the many members that turned out to help load the trucks on April 9, 1994. PNC Al Doig, PNC Bernie Chase, and PNC Ken Turner were in charge of the details.

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

D COMPANY 46 INFANTRY 198 LIB

My name is Leo Pillow and I served in Delta Company, 5th Battalion of the 46th Infantry, from Jan '69 to Jan '70. I am trying to locate member of my platoon and plan a 25th year platoon reunion. I have located nine former members and hope you will run the following names in your Newsletter and perhaps someone will know of them.

George McMillion	Vaituuiipi L. Tuitele
Eli R. Ring	James C. Daniels
Waldo J. Pierce	Phillip P. Miller
Raymond Escamilla	Michael W. Schlafer
Danne Chaffin	Randy E. Hockenberry
James E. Gamble	Williw A. Gayten
Paul D. Hadden	Johnnie B. Pratt
George T. Crawley	

I have just received my first issue of the Americal Newsletter. I found it very interesting and I am sending copies to friends.

Write or call:

Leo A. Pillow Jr.
[REDACTED]
Ontario, CA 91761

Phone [REDACTED]

Ed Note: A cross check of our files did not turn up any of the above named. I hope our members will be able to help you out. Thanks of all of the names. The will be entered in our data base.

Jim

FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE ADVA

I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you about how a group of Americal veterans, that had never met before, got together for one of the best first reunions ever.

In November of 1992, I noticed that a Prodigy On-Line service had started a Veteran's Bulletin Board. This allows people with a common interest to exchange messages. I had never used a computer bulletin board before but decided to browse to see what was there. I quickly found a new friend - Jay Roth, that was posting stories about the Americal Division in WW II. Several others joined in and the family of Americal vets on board grew to well in excess of 110 members, from both WW II and Vietnam. This is where I found out about the ADVA and was given the opportunity to join. All the branches that served in the Division are well represented - Infantry, Artillery, Engineers, Medical, Aviation, Cavalry, etc.

Stories of experiences in Southeast Asia have given us a greater appreciation of the "Big Picture". It has become obvious that we knew but a small part of what was happening. And much of the information that we had received had been edited for an intended effect. Several members have commented that this has been the first opportunity they have had where they felt comfortable "opening up and telling it like it was".

During the early part of 1993, Prodigy announced a price increase that would make the service unaffordable, with many members on limited incomes. We began a search for an alternative service, first settling on GENIE until they too instituted a price increase. Since last Fall we

have made a home with National Videotex, NVN for short. On this service, most of us have bills for around \$9.00 per month.

Getting back to my storyline, last summer, one member, Doc Merk, HHC 23rd Med 68-69, (CBM and a general hero) expressed interest in attending the dedication of the Women's Memorial in Washington on Veteran's Day 1993. After kicking around the idea of meeting him in DC, the plan for a mini-reunion came together. As it turned out, 17 members of the NVN Bulletin Board came to DC to attend the ceremonies and socialize with their new found friends. And came they did - from California, Washington State, Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and points in between. Of course we even had the National Commander of the ADVA, Dutch DeGroot, with us.

We have planned another mini-reunion for board members in Las Vegas this Summer. (June 21 -26). Anyone interested in joining us in this new form of communication, let us know. We will be happy to help you get started. It will be rewarding.

Spencer Baba 2/1 Infantry 196 LIB 68-69
[REDACTED] (Home) [REDACTED] (Work)

Jay Roth G Company 164 Infantry WW II
[REDACTED] (Home) [REDACTED]

Charlie Mankin B/3/1 Infantry 11 LIB
[REDACTED] (Home)

LZ MARYANN

In DC last fall we were talking about LZ Maryann a bit and I think you might remember Andy Olints who was one of my delayed replacements in the 1/46th who was near LZ Maryann when it was overrun. Andy spent six hours with Keith Nolan giving him info for his new book which is supposed to be published this year. The ADVA Newsletter has an interesting article on LZ Maryann which I just finished reading. Fortunately, I had left the 1/46th some 18 months before this disaster.

The story is pretty much the same as Andy told us, as he was there the morning after and heard much of the confusion that night on his radio where he night-logged nearby Maryann with D Company. I found a few comments about the 1/46th combat AO to be quite accurate. One noted that the 1/46th Companies conducted long, grueling patrols on foot and would sleep in the bush at night and not return to base for 2 weeks or more. Well, no doubt about it. That is the same battalion and the same AO, although I was based not far away at LZ Professional which Andy's platoon tore down after the 1/46th moved to Maryann.

I did note a lot similarity about the AO's of Maryann and Professional. They were both in the same type of terrain. I suspect also that the NVA sapper unit that hit Maryann in Mar of 71 was the same unit that hit Professional in May of 69, the 2nd of the 409th Sapper Battalion. We had more success in repelling them but took a lot of casualties as well. They did not break through the bunker line at Professional although a few did get through the wire.

Anyway, I think you will want to read it. Lots of history yet to be written by somebody.

Richard Olson

SPEAKING OF LZ MARYANN

Like you, I found the article to be a fairly good representation of what happened. I was out there the next morning flying AO in a LOH looking for some of the bad guys. We did find a couple.

During the next day my unit took over an IOS from the Marines on Firebase Linda. It was north and just south of Danang. The infantry on the hill with us was from the 1/46th and we talked about what happened. The error of command focused on the lack of a secondary warning signal. The siren was hit by an RPG early in the attack and most stayed in their bunkers thinking it was one of the numerous mortar attacks.

I know most of us were suprised when Gen. Baldwin was relieved and the article in the Americal Newsletter was the first time that I knew that Col. Sadler, my old boss, was reprimanded. It frosts me that he was burnt. I found him to be an excellent commander, worried about his men, and not all tied up in the BS of upper command.

The Arty on the hill, LZ Maryann, while losing guns to RPG's, was out of their bunkers to return fire and the casualties they took were while they were fighting to repel invaders. A friend of mine, the Battery XO, was medivaced to Japan after the attack.

I think it was a typical Westmoreland screw job. He found somebody to blame other than the incompetence of Saigon Command or the actual ability of our enemy.

William Wood
HQ Div Arty 70-71

LAST WEEK, THE VIETNAM WAR KILLED THIS MAN

Lt. Lewis Puller Jr. may have pulled the trigger of the gun that took his life on that fateful day in May, but, that gun was cocked back in 1968.

Lt. Puller had been in Vietnam for less than three months. He was leading a Marine platoon when he stepped on a booby-trapped 105-mm howitzer shell. The explosion took off his right leg at the trunk and his left leg 10 inches below that, shredded both his hands and opened a gaping wound in his side. He returned with a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts to a country that hated his war and turned its back on those who fought it.

Lewis Puller Jr. fought many tougher battles as he recovered, somewhat, from his wounds but he was never able to find peace within himself.

Any man that has seen combat, no matter in what branch of the service can understand the anguish Puller must have felt upon returning home to a people that would turn their backs to him and spit upon him. He fought the good fight.

Maybe we should all read his book, "Fortunate Son"

In a television interview in 1992, he was asked what he would say to God when he arrived in Heaven. He responded: "Lt. Lewis B. Puller Jr. reporting for duty, Sir! I've already served my time in Hell."

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

196 LIB ASSOCIATION OHIO CHAPTER

August 12 - 14, 1994
Marriott North - Columbus, Ohio
Registration: 1:00 P.M.

CONTACT

Dale Flickinger	Steve Tanner
Jeromesville, OH 44840	Tiffin, OH 44883
Tel. [REDACTED]	Tel. [REDACTED]

THE AMERICAN FOREIGN CONFLICTS ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

Is Pleased To Announce The Grand Opening Of

THE AMERICAL DIVISION HISTORICAL WING

The establishment of this honored wing celebrates and memorializes the enormous contribution of an American fighting unit whose service, above and beyond the call of duty, helped to earn America's military respect and the cause of peace and freedom throughout the world.

Every member of this esteemed division are role models to future generations of American youth.

THE LIBRARY IS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO JAY ROTH
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS WING.

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Phil Coleman
Senior Librarian

AN ARTICLE YOU SHOULD READ

On page 126 of the May 1994 issue of the Reader's Digest, is a story that everyone should read. It's title -- "True Face of the Vietnam Vet" by Malcolm McConnell.

I intend to write to the Reader's Digest and request permission to print this truthful article.

Another interesting story appears in the April 1994 issue of the Reader's Digest. The title is "Vietnam: Conquered by Capitalism".

I would like to hear comments from any Vietnam veteran that has read either or both of these articles.

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

DAVID L. RECOB

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of the Vietnam Editor, David L. Recob.

Dave has been ill for some time with a serious illness and although he put up a tough fight it was in vain.

Dave and I had a great working relationship, putting the Americal Newsletter together. He handled his part of the job as Vietnam Editor with expertise. He always made the deadline with his copy and was always asking for ways, and listening to advice on how to make the Vietnam News Network better and more interesting for our members.

He will be missed.

Jim

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VIETNAM VET FINALLY RECEIVES PURPLE HEART

January 11, 1994 Citrus County Chronicle
By John Bowman

March 5, 1969, is a day Aime A. Thomas will never forget.

His infantry platoon was sitting on a beach in Vietnam, supporting a tank division of the 1st Cavalry. As nightfall came, rockets and mortar shells began exploding around them.

One of the shells hit close enough that a piece of metal wounded Thomas in the right side.

And now, almost 20 years after the incident, Thomas has received the Purple Heart. It was presented last week, along with the Combat Infantryman's Badge, by U.S. Rep. Karen Thurman. Aime Thomas also holds the Bronze Star.

Thomas had retired from the Army in 1966 after 20 years. However, he was recalled to active duty nine months later and served three years in Germany before being sent to Vietnam.

At 40, he was the oldest soldier in his battalion. Most of his superiors were in their 20's.

During a 12 month tour, Thomas saw a lot of pain and misery. Usually it was his duty to stay behind, handling administrative duties and making sure the soldiers had the proper equipment.

One of his duties was to identify bodies before they were sent home.

"I thought I was a good soldier, thought I could take a lot," Thomas said. "But when you see kids getting put in bags, it's something you never forget."

When his division decided to put some first sergeants in the field, he went - and stayed.

"Actually, I'd rather be out there lying down in the sand somewhere than in the rear," he said. "The rear was getting zapped all the time." It got ugly at times, however. On a single day, Thomas can remember 17 soldiers dying.

On the night the shell first hit him, Thomas encouraged medics to tend other troops who had worse injuries. However, the next day he found himself being flown back to the rear.

Many of the people Thomas knew in Vietnam never made it home. For that reason, he seldom attends reunions of company members.

"It's a tough thing," he said. "I saw my company officers in 1991, and a few of the guys. But so many of them don't even want to talk about it. I doubt I'll do it again."

Aime moved to Citrus County in 1980 from Pompano Beach, where he worked as a bank security guard. It was after a shoot-out at the bank that he decided to look for a safer place to live.

"I said, 'That's enough for me,' Thomas, 65, said. "I bought five acres near Floral City and I enjoy it here.

(Aime served with the 198 LIB and the 196 LIB 2/1 Infantry.)



U.S. Rep. Karen Thurman, D-Dunnellon, pins a Purple Heart on Aime A. Thomas.

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

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS?

Dear Civilians, Friends, Draft Dodgers, Etc.:

In the very near future the undersigned will once more be in your midst, dehydrated and demoralized, to take his place again as a human being with the well known forms of freedom and justice for all; engage in Life, Liberty, and the somewhat delayed, Pursuit of happiness. In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into organized society, you might take certain steps to make allowances for the crude environment which has been his miserable lot for the past twelve months, give or take a little. In other words he might be a little Asiatic from Vietnamesitis and Overseasitis, and should be handled with care. Don't be alarmed if he is infected with all forms of rare tropical diseases. A little time in the "Land of the Big PX" will cure this malady,

Therefore, show no alarm if he insists on carrying a weapon to the dinner table, looks around for his steel pot when offered a chair, or wakes you up in the middle of the night for guard duty. Keep cool when he pours gravy on his dessert at dinner time or mixes peaches with his Seagram's V O. Pretend not to notice if he eats with his fingers instead of silverware and prefers C-rations to steak. Take it with a smile when he insists on digging up the garden to fill sandbags for the bunker he is building. Be tolerant when he takes his blanket and sheets off the bed and puts them on the floor to sleep.

Abstain from saying anything about powdered eggs, dehydrated potatoes, fried rice, fresh milk, or ice cream. Do not be alarmed if he should jump up from the dinner table and rush to the garbage can to wash his dish with a toilet brush. After all, this has been his standard. Also, if it should start raining, pay no attention to him if he pulls off his clothes, grabs a bar of soap and a towel, and rushes outdoors for a shower.

When in his daily conversations he utters such things as "Xin Loi" and "Choi Hoi" just be patient; simply leave quickly if by some chance he utters "Di Di" with an irritated look on his face, because it means "Get the H---out of here." Do not let it shake you if he picks up the phone and yells "Timberwolf Roar, Sir" or says "Roger Out" for goodbye or simply shouts "Working" for no reason at all.

Never ask why the Jones' son held a higher rank than he did, and by no means mention the word "Extend". Pretend not to notice if at a restaurant he calls the waitress "Number One Girl" and uses hi hat as an ashtray. He will probably keep listening for "Homeward Bound" to sound off over AFRS. If he does, comfort him for he is still reminiscing. Be especially watchful when he is in the presence of a woman---especially a beautiful woman.

Above all, keep in mind that beneath that tanned and rugged exterior there is a heart of gold (the only thing of value he has left). Treat him with kindness, tolerance, and an occasional fifth of good liquor and you will be able to rehabilitate that which was once (and is now a hollow shell of) the happy go lucky guy you knew and loved.

Last, but by no means least, fill the ice box with beer, get the civvies out of mothballs, fill the car with gas and the women and children off the street.....BECAUSE THIS MAN IS COMING HOME!!!

(sent in by Leo Pillon -- D/5/46 Inf 198 LIB)

KEYSTONE COPS MOVIE IN VIETNAM

Wild, when the VN found out there was free soap being handed out. When we made it to Son Tra I saw some old friends (a couple of months removed) and we gave out beau coup bars of soap and headed back for chow.

All together the operation was a total success. The soap was gone (except for a personal stash), the PIO got his publicity pictures, Moore got away from the rut of basecamp for a day, I had a good time and thought the whole thing was over.

The next day I was back out with the tracks looking for trouble and sometimes finding it. The soap kept coming. My cousin had a soap drive at her school in Kenosha, my uncle set soap from Denver! Let me tell you boys, compared to a Hershey Tropical Bar as a ballistic dessert, a big bar of Irish Spring was heavy artillery. In no time at all every roadside hawker had an unusual assortment of stateside soap for sale. I hadn't thought of Spencer Baba's idea of cutting them in two but I don't think it would make much of a difference. Family size Ivory, Lux, Camay, and Motel miniature soap, it was all there. And kept coming.

I got hit 11 Mar 69 and spent some time in the hospital and was eventually pulled from the boonies. Moore replaced me and was blown away the next day, and I was sick of the whole dam thing. When I got back from the hospital I gave three (3) foot lockers of soap to the Catholic orphanage. The sisters could use it anyway they wanted. I just didn't care anymore. my last couple of months I was in the rear in Chu Lai. Real SHORT with an attitude.

This whole episode started with the best intentions, to help some poor kids. Then it got real screwed up because my attitude changed. Kind of an microism of the whole Vietnam war. The premise on paper was laudable, but in practice it ended up not so noble.

Mom has never heard this story and i don't think I'm going to tell her either. She had her worries when I was over there, probably more than me, but for sure, different. She did an unbelievable amount of work and thought she was doing her poart to win the hearts and minds, and towards the end of my tour I just didn't care. Mom anmd Dad got a letter from some REMF big brass type, and some pictures. And that's the way I want Mom to remember the Great Soap Caper.

So it goes,
Doc Moehrke

ROLLING THUNDER VII

The sponsors of Rolling Thunder planned a Memorial Day Weekend starting on May 21, 1994.

A "Run for the Wall" left Ontario, CA on May 14, and another unit left Owingsville, KY on May 26.

The entire entourage was due to step off at noon on May 29th for a ride through Washington, DC. that would end at the Vietnam Memorial.

Sorry this notice was not our on time but it arriverd too late for the last Newsletter.

COMPANY I 132 INFANTRY

I read Jack Polmer's story in the Americal Newsletter (Jan-Feb 93) about the day we invaded Cebu.

We saw a lot of ships firing that day and also Rocket ships firing loads of rockets toward the beachhead but I'm afraid the missed our landing area.

On March 26, 1945 I Company of the 132nd Infantry was in the first wave aboard Amtracks. We hit the beach and all hell broke loose---mines all along the beach. Our Amtrack stopped at the waters edge and the crew told us--"This is the end of the line!" The Amtracks were supposed to take us 2000 yards inland to the settlement of Pardo.



Invasion South of Cebu City Sig C 186-1
INVASION SOUTH OF CEBU CITY

I and my buddy, Elmer Pennington, jumped out of the right side of the Amtrack. He stayed close to and and i was about two feet from him when he stepped on a mine. The explosion blew me about fifteen feet. I thought it was mortar fire and was trying to catch my helmet in mid air. I tried to bet back to Elmer but some sergeant said, "Keep moving, someone will take care of him."

We made the jungle edge and found a swamp about a block wide. After wading it we came upon a rice paddy extending for about a quarter mile to the road. We proceeded on top of the rice paddies until we came across mines sown on the dikes. This forced us to wallow in the rice paddies, helping each other until we finally reached dry land and the road. And then the real adventure begins---but that is another story.

We really respect the fighting and suffering that the Old Guard suffered during the battles for Guadalcanal. But there were also other battles



3rd Bn Americal Wades Ashore, Cebu 186-6



Beachhead South of Cebu City Sig C 137-3
BEACHHEAD SOUTH OF CEBU CITY

after that---Bougainville, the Philippines, which consisted of Leyte, Cebu, and many other islands. The taking of these islands took time, life, and a lot of suffering.

The war did not end on Guadalcanal. Many of my buddies were killed or wounded on Cebu. The last month of the campaign I was evacuated to Leyte. I came down with yellow jaundice and dengue fever.

I never returned to the regiment. If anybody from I Company, 132nd Infantry remembers me, please write to:

Gino Massagli

Eureka, CA 95501

While on Cebu, I remember guarding an artillery unit near a big creek and there we had our first bath in two months. I don't remember which unit of the 746th Anti-Aircraft Artillery it was that we were called to protect but they were subjected to mortar and 20 mm fire. We helped them dig in, under fire. Problem solved.

After the war my buddy, his friend, and I, were night fishing for smelts, with nets. While standing around a fire waiting for the fish to come in, our conversation went back to the war and what scared us the most. Billy Cowden said he was on one of the L.S.T.'s that brought my unit to Cebu and L.J. Saunderson said he was with the Anti-Aircraft Unit. Small world, right.

Gino Massagli

Ed Note: Hey Gino, you are considered one of the Old Guard! Thanks for the pictures. I am running several of them. They are the ones that would reproduce the best. Jim

CORRECTION CORRECTION CORRECTION

On page 12 of the March-April 94 issue of the Newsletter under "Cover Story", in the first paragraph, the date is listed as March 1942. This date should be March 1944.

My good friend Ted Blahnik, Editor of the Guadalcanal Echoes picked up my error. I could say that I made the mistake on purpose just to see if anyone was reading the Newsletter---but that would not be true. I guess the hour was late and the candle was burning low.

Thanks Ted.

31 PORTABLE SURGICAL HOSPITAL

One of my good friends, a former patient, who served with the Americal Division on Guadalcanal, gave me a copy of your Newsletter, because he knew I served on Bougainville and was involved with the battle for Hill 260. After reading the Newsletter I thought you might be interested in hearing from someone who served in the Medics during the second battle of Bougainville.

I served as a T/5 surgical technician with the 31st Portable Surgical Hospital. We were attached to the 182nd Infantry Regiment. Although we operated independently, we received our casualties via B Company - collecting company - 121st Medical Battalion. Our outfit consisted of four medical officers (3 surgeons and 1 anesthesiologist) and 33 enlisted men. As you no doubt know, portable surgicals were the forerunner of the MASH units of Korean War fame.

We arrived on Bougainville in early February 1944, worked briefly with the 52nd Field Hospital, and then moved up to the forward area in anticipation of the Japanese offensive. We set up our hospital between the East-West trail and the Americal Road. I believe about 600 yard from Hill 260. My records indicate that we came under shell fire first on March 8th and received our first casualty that day, a lieutenant of Infantry, with a penetrating chest wound who subsequently died at the 21st Evacuation Hospital. Only the most severely wounded were brought to us because we were close up and could do major surgery.

I worked in our receiving tent doing triage, treating shock, and generally preparing patients for surgery.

On March 9th things really broke loose, and over the next several days of the battle for Hill 260 we treated 75 casualties. My records state, but I can't vouch for the accuracy of the figure, that Co. E of the 182nd suffered 83% casualties. I know we worked non-stop for several of those first days.

After the battle subsided we moved to an area next to the 121st Clearing Co. Hospital and I worked in the laboratory there. The head tech in the lab was Al Garrant who came from the Boston area. During the next few months we went out to road blocks, several at a time, where there were skirmishes, on both the Americal perimeter and the 37th Division perimeter.

In late August of '44 I transferred to the 52nd Field Hospital. The 31st Portable was transferred to the 37th Division for the invasion of Luzon. I finished my army service as a wardmaster with the 1st platoon of the 52nd Field Hospital on Emirau.

As a result of my army experience I pursued a career in medicine. I graduated from Northwestern University in 1952, and did family practice for the next 35 years here in Watertown, SD.

I am enclosing a couple of photos of the Portable Surgical personnel and our hospital area during the 2nd battle of Bougainville. Our CO was Major Ralph Traver, a fine surgeon and a fine gentleman as well.

It seems the older I get, the more I treasure the memory of those times. They were stressful times, but perhaps for that reason those memories are as fresh as yesterday. The sad part of the whole story is the fact that still today, fifty years

later, the senseless slaughter of human life in war and civil strife goes on, and probably always will.

I hope these words from an old "non-combatant" will be of some interest. I know we were proud of what we accomplished, and I hope there are a few men of the 182nd walking around today who might not have made it if we had not been there.



PERSONNEL OF THE 31st PORTABLE SURGICAL UNIT
Late March 1944



RECEIVING TENT ON LEFT. - DARK RECTANGULAR OPENING
LEFT CENTER IS ENTRANCE TO SURGERY DUGOUT

I am enclosing my application for membership in the ADVA, my check and copies of my service record and honorable discharge. I have no idea what a DD 214 form is - perhaps you can enlighten me.

Sincerely,
Stanley W. Allen Jr. M.D.

Ed. Note: Thank you so much for writing. This gives our membership a good insight of the support the front line units had. As an old Infantryman I might add that it was always a comfort to the Infantryman to know that if the worst happened the best medical care, of any army in the world, was there to take care of him.

The DD 214 form is basically a service record.

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?
182 INFANTRY

As an Americal Division veteran and member of the association, I am asking your help in determining the Company with which I served, in the 182 Infantry.

Following 17 weeks of basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas, I was sent to Ft. Meade, MD, then on to Fort Ord, CA, where we sailed for the Philippines. On arrival, I was on Leyte at the Thaikoben (spelling?) replacement center. Soldiers White and Wilson, from Tennessee or Alabama, were with me there. They went on to Luzon and both were killed, while with the 182 Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, I then went to Ormok (spelling?) and waited for the Company to which I was assigned. It was on duty on three islands that were in eyesight. When they returned, I joined them, and we went by convoy to Cebu. Our mission was to take an airport there. This was about March 26, 1945. On March 31, 1945, I was wounded (an explosive type bullet in my left shoulder), on a high hill. The medic who administered morphine shots, and probably saved my life, was from Burlington, Iowa. I was flown back to a hospital on Leyte and lost all of my personal belongings which were in my duffle bag. From there to the Letterman General Hospital in California and then to Fort Carson, CO, where I stayed until my discharge on September 28, 1945.

If anyone can tell me the Company to which I was assigned, I will be most grateful. Write to:

James E. Watson

Kahoka, MO 63445

F COMPANY 132 INFANTRY

Below is a picture of the F Company picnic held at La Grange, IL in 1993. How many do you remember?

For more information on this years picnic that will be held on September 4, 1994 call or write:

Earl Smith

Bonify, FL 32425
Tel. [redacted]

Marshall Prange

Three Rivers, MI 49093



TO THE EDITOR

I received the March-April Newsletter the other day and I enjoyed reading it, from cover to cover.

The article on Bougainville was outstanding but I am sure that many units involved in that battle were not mentioned.

We have a good Newsletter but it seems that some of the editorials are to condemn one political party and blame them for all slights to the veteran. I remember when the first V.A. Hospitals cuts were made another political party was in charge. So my comments to the Editor--our Newsletter should not print stories black-listing one party and white wash the mistakes the other party made.

Maybe I am not able to understand why most of the editorials are one sided but I do support the comments made by Comrade Douglas Fay. His third paragraph--these are wise statements.

Although I am not an officer in the ADVA my comments may not carry much weight but I do feel that we members should state our feelings.

Best wishes to all,
Robert R. Crews
182 Infantry

Ed. Note: Thanks for writing Bob. I would like to clarify a few points however: 1. You say there were other units involved in the battle for Hill 260. That is true. If you will notice that in my closing statement, following the article, I state this fact. I was telling what my unit did--everyone is free to write of their unit--which I encourage. 2. The article with which you are finding fault was NOT AN EDITORIAL. This article was sent in by Arthur Guarente--and is his personal feelings on the subject--not the feeling of the Editor or the ADVA. This is Arthur's privilege since the Americal Newsletter is a sounding board for all of our members. To quote Voltaire -- "I do not agree with what you say, but I will defend to death your right to say it". Isn't that what we were fighting for? The free speech that is guaranteed by the Constitution.

Please try to make the distinction between an editorial and the letters sent in by members. As your Editor I try to be apolitical. Thanks for hearing me out.

Jim

125 QUARTERMASTER

Would like to let all the former members of the 125 QM that one of our buddies is ailing:

Randolph J. Gerard
Edgewater, FL 32032

Randy moved to Florida because of his health and would like to hear from of his old comrades.

Randy, Ernie Loungo and myself were like peas in a pod--find one you got the other two. I'll miss Ernie. we had one hell of a time together. Now we are only two.

Paul Santogeanis

721 ORDINANCE COMPANY

It's hard to express the delight I felt when I spotted the Americal Division Veterans Association notice in the American Legion Magazine. I've scrutinized the Reunion pages for years looking and hoping to find news of the 721st Ordinance Co. I'm sure I don't have to explain here about the feeling of family many of us had when we finally joined our first permanent assignment after going through the dehumanizing Basic-Training/Rep-Dep chain. Even though I stayed behind in Japan when the division was rotated home and was recalled to active duty in Korea, the 721st remains my outfit, and the Americal my Division.

Maybe I should explain the "dehumanization" remark. As an 18 year old country boy, I liked the guys I trained with, never felt hard-done-by, and never felt challenged by the physical demands of basic training. The one thing that did bother me was the loss of individual identity. I was born and grew up in small town (of that era) Salinas, California and knew just about everybody in town. Consequently I resented the impersonal and often hostile attitude exhibited by many training officers, cadre, transient-mess personal and medics. the last staging depot enroute to he 721st Ordinance, Americal Division in Bougainville put the point on the prong.

I don't remember the designation of the replacement depot on Guadalcanal and it really doesn't matter. It was just a collection of rag-tag pyramidal and squad tents dropped somewhere in a jungle clearing. I had been there about two weeks when about 3 AM one morning we were rolled out, assembled with all gear in those *#!^ double C bags, handed a sealed envelope containing our orders and papers. With one bag banging us in the ass and the other the knees, we were marched about 2 miles down a cleared beach with a log loading dock, there to behold the stately Victory ship, "Norma C. Hawk." I'll never forget that rust bucket's name. We stood in formation, although we were allowed to drop our bags, until the transient mess crew arrived with breakfast ... corn flakes delivered-in and eaten-out of the box with a ladle of reconstituted milk. Hey! no real sweat, no big hardship, just a little lack of effort and concern by our people. About 4 in the afternoon we were finally allowed on board and distributed to our cargo hatch accommodations with the usual pipe-rack bunks.

I'm sure you remember the drill ... try to grab the rack of your choice, get your bunk made-up, and stow your gear. In the middle of this I was startled by a loud bang ... two guys wearing side arms had dropped the grated hatch cover and were locking it. While a little bewildered, I didn't give much thought to the incident and continued stowing gear. Shortly after revving engine and ship movement became noticeable as we were moving out, and then the hatch opened. The two guys with the side arms were back accompanied by a couple of others carrying gunny sacks. Three of these were thrown into the hatch and burst on hitting the deck, scattering the contents, and the hatch cover slammed shut and locked again. I stood for a moment stunned and the the gut wrenching started as guys scrambled for the spilled C rations trying to get the good stuff, the corned beef, Spam, and scrambled eggs first.

I don't know if anyone reading this might have been on that cruise or experienced he same treatment later but I, for one, will never forget the Norma C. Hawk and I hope I never meet the troop commander. Any wonder then why I found a

home with the 721st? Hell! our cooks used to save the pork sausage drippings and scramble the powdered eggs in individual servings.

Thanks for keeping the memory of a great division alive and giving us a place to communicate.

Sincerely,
Jack Shapiro

F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY
From Lew Turner

DeWayne George of Magna, UT and I made it back to the F Company Reunion way back in 1988 I think. At this age one loses track of time, it passes so fast. I saw a few fellows that I remembered, Danny Ramsey, Leo Dano and Hack Cohen.

I sure would like to hear from anyone that was in F Co. of the 182 Infantry. If any of you guys are ever out this way, please give me a call. The home phone is 1-916-589-5801. I would also like to hear from any one that was in the Americal as we were all buddies. If you can I would like you to come by for a few days.

Sincerely,
Lew Turner

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

ASSOCIATION PATCH (small)	\$1.00
ASSOCIATION PATCH (large)	3.00
AMERICAL PATCH (dress blue)	1.00
AMERICAL PATCH (field uniform)	1.50
AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	1.50
AMERICAN FLAG PATCH	1.00
AMERICAL CAR PLATE	6.00
AMERICAL PIN SHIELD (large)	2.50
AMERICAL DIVISION CREST	3.00
AMERICAL PATCH DECAL	1.50
DECAL CAR WINDOW	1.00
LAPEL PIN (ASSOCIATION)	2.50
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(Specify WW II or Viet on above)	
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS (Viet-Black) M-L	10.00
AMERICAL T-SHIRTS (Viet-Black) EX-XXL	12.00

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

NOTE: Mailing charge will be added to above prices.

WHY NOT PASS YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTER ALONG
TO A FRIEND OR PLACE IT IN A V.A. HOSPITAL

REUNIONS REUNIONS

5th ANNUAL REUNION
101 MEDICS AND 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

WHEN: October 2, 3, 4th & 5th 1994

WHERE: Beacon Motel
Route 3, Lincoln New Hampshire

COST: Doubles \$518.00
Singles \$334.00
(Tax and Tips Included)

INCLUDES: 3 Breakfasts
2 Lunches
3 Dinners
2 Side Trips

PLUS: Evening Entertainment

PLEASE NOTE: If you attended last year you will be automatically be mailed detailed information. If you did not attend last year and would like to attend this year please contact either of the names below. REMEMBER - If we do not hear from you, you will not hear from us.

William S. Coronella
Somerville, MA 02144

William L. Dunphy
West Roxbury, MA 02132

F COMPANY 132 INFANTRY PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 4, 1994

For more information, call or write:

Earl Smith
Bonifay, FL 32425

Marshall Prange
Three Rivers, MI 49093
Telephone [redacted]

164 INFANTRY REUNION AND MEMORIAL DEDICATION

This reunion and dedication will take place in September 24, 1994 at Bismarck, North Dakota.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

164th Infantry Association
Bismarck, ND 58501

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS

ANNUAL REUNION
Hyatt Richmond Hotel Richmond, VA
September 15th to the 18th, 1994
For more information and application write:

Joseph L. Kiwak
Oxford, MA 01540-2142

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

COVER STORY - MEMORIAL DAY 1994

The picture on the cover is that of a monument in the National Cemetery at Bourne, MA. (Camp Edwards to all you former YD men). it is dedicated to the men from Massachusetts that have served their country during the many conflicts.

Ever since this National Cemetery was dedicated there has always been a delegation of Americal members present at the services on Memorial Day and also on Veteran's Day. They were not there to honor just the men from Massachusetts, but to pay homage to all deceased members of the Americal. For many years the Americal Colors were in the parade into the cemetery, followed by many members. However, our ranks have thinned and the passing years have taken their toll on our able bodied men.

One member of the Americal, Dick Gallant has committed unlimited time to the cause. First, he was instrumental in getting the Cemetery up and running. Second, he spear-headed many drives to raise funds to provide such things a the new modern PA system. Third, he was MC for many a year and consequently had a lot to do with arranging the program. These are just some of the "noticeable" things. He was always behind the scenes organizing the event.

PNC Bernard Chase has always been faithful in attendance. He is always there the day before, placing flags on the graves of the Americal members. Jim Flynn, Hugh Murnaghan, and Jim Buckle are still in attendance to pay tribute to those member who have passed on. Ervin Russell, a Vietnam veteran marches every year with a local VFW Post. And we must not forget the women-- Lorraine Murnaghan, Marg Flynn, and Fran Buckle who have weathered the heat, the cold, the rain and the snow, through the years. Doris Chase was always faithful until her untimely death several years ago. She is now one of our members that we remember as we pay our respect on those solemn occasions.

In the past years when the ADVA was small, and you might say a Massachusetts organization, upon the death of a member it was usually arranged to have our Colors at the funeral home, flowers were sent, and notices were put in the newspapers. Or perhaps I should say, sometimes this happened.

Now, that we are truly a national organization, this has become totally impractical. Our members are spread all over the fifty states and even overseas. Most of the time it is weeks, many times months, and all too often years before we learn of the passing of a comrade. Now, ADVA makes a generous donation to American Cancer Society and the American Heart Fund in memory of our departed. The National Commander and the National Chaplain will write a letter of condolence and our departed comrades are remembered in our prayer at all Americal meetings. And, when the delegation of Americal veterans, no matter how small, stand with heads bowed at the National Cemetery at Bourne, MA, we pay homage to all fallen members from coast to coast and beyond the sea.

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

AMERICAL PICNIC FORT DEVENS

On Saturday May 24, 1994 a picnic was held at the site of the Americal Museum, Fort Devens. MA.

This was also the day to count the ballots and determine our officers for the coming year. It was also a fond 'farewell' to the Americal Museum at it's present location. The Museum is now closed and the exhibits are being moved to the new location in Worcester.

The weather was ideal and it was wonderful to see so many ladies in attendance--the ladies certainly spruce up any of our meetings!

Below are three pictures that were taken that day.



THE LADIES



LEO CICCOLO AND HIS ARMY OVERCOAT
(It seemed to fit very well but Leo would not accept the challenge to try to button it).



THE GENTLEMEN

G COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

Thanks again for an interesting Newsletter. I have been a member for only a short time, but have already talked with a couple of former Americal buddies.

I read with much interest the article that was written by Ray E. Poynter from I/182 Infantry. I was also on the same ship and landed on Japanese soil with Poynter. I was a member of G/182 Infantry. I remember as if it were yesterday, going into Tokyo Harbor and seeing that small boat approach our troop ship. I was standing and watching this small Jap as he climbed up on the ladder and then saluted as he went up to the bridge. I remarked to the GI next to me that we were in real trouble, because all this Jap had to do was to steer our ship into a mine and he would be a real hero. But of course, he guided our ship right up to the dock. We never got our feet wet.

In early April, I had the privilege of meeting Gil Dempsey, E/182 Infantry, as he was returning home to Massachusetts from Arizona. He called me from Chicago and I met him and his wife in Kalamazoo. We had a very interesting meeting. He was on the General Butner with me and we both went ashore on Cebu together. He is a very well informed buddy.

It might be of interest for your readers to know that my brother was in the Americal Division at the same time that I was. You see, we are twins. We were both assigned to "G". My brother Gordon received a bullet wound through his shoulder, so that put him out of action shortly after we were assigned. Maybe somebody out there will remember that the Americal had twins in G/182 Infantry.

I have asked Gil Dempsey for the answer to a question that has been bothering me. I will put the question to the whole membership---Why did we not have a J Company in any army regiments?

Once again, I enjoy hearing and reading about what used to be and I am looking forward to the next issue of the Americal Newsletter.

Kenneth Vander-Molen

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?
CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL FOR DUES DATE

A COMPANY 57 COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

I was with A Company, 57th Combat Engineer Battalion. We were in the Ormac valley on Leyte trying to keep the road open so that the truck convoys could bring up supplies. The Japanese were in the hills around us but they did not have many arms, equipment or supplies and were just trying to get to the coast, hoping to be picked up by their navy.

There was one bad gully, in the road going up the valley, that we had trouble keeping the water from washing it out, all the time. So, we took the 12 Japanese two man tanks that had been destroyed near here, pushed them into the gully, stacked them up and put dirt over them. This made a very good bridge and solved our problem.

We used the Filipinos for digging out the drainage ditch and keeping it open. However, the ditch was a favorite spot for the Japs to bury their dead. When ever the Filipinos would find one of these corpses they would take of running and wouldn't come back until we had disposed of the corpse.

We would come up in the morning and find tracks, lots of tracks, where the Japs had crossed during the night.

I was standing by the road one day and two Japs came out of the trees, running and carrying a white flag, tied to a stick. One of them could speak english and said that the other one was his cousin. He said he learned english before the war, while attending San Diego State University. He said there were more men up in the hills that wanted to surrender but were afraid to come down. I told him that if he wanted to go and get them that I would take them all to safety. He declined to do this because he was safe and decided it was best to leave well enough alone.

Other came out later. One tried to get a drink in the creek, fell in, and almost drowned before I found him. I carried him to a jeep and took him to a hospital.

One day the little Filipino girl that used to come up to camp and do my laundry, asked me if I would go with her, her uncle, and her cousin up toward the mountains to bring back some lumber they had hidden, so they could build a house. So, on my day off, me and my sub-machine, the little girl, her cousin, and her uncle took off and walked about two miles into the lower hills. When they found the lumber they tied five boards, twelve feet long together, they then placed a towel, wrapped doughnut shaped, on their heads, on which they would carry the lumber the two miles back.

Before leaving she asked me if they could go and pick some bananas. I said yes and sat down to wait. Pretty soon she came running back, all excited and asked me to come quick because there was a Jap in a grass shack that wanted to surrender, only to an American, not a Filipino. I followed her up the hill. At the top there was a small valley and on the other ridge there was a grass shack in which she said the was a Jap. I called over saying I was an American and that if he wanted to surrender to come out with his hands up and walk toward me. Before doing this I had told the cousin, who had a Jap rifle, to sneak around to the left and come up on the other side.

The Jap yelled back that he had a buddy that was sick and couldn't come out. I told him to come

out and I would get his buddy and take them both back. He came out with his hands up but then started running back up the mountain. I then heard a shot and he dropped.

I then crawled up to the shack and looked in the door. There was the other Jap sitting down leaning against the wall. When I stepped in the door he tried to reach a rifle leaning against the wall. I pointed my gun at him he put his hands over his face for protection. How useless I thought that was. I lowered my tommy gun and again he tried to reach the rifle. The cousin fired a shot through the window and the Jap was dead. The cousin had also shot the other Jap for running away. I took the rifle, set fire to the shack, and left.

When I returned to my Company I reported to the Captain on what had happened. "Boy", he said, "I made the right decision that time. The artillery had spotted the smoke and asked me if I wanted them to shell the area. I said no because I felt it might not be the Japanese".

Thank goodness for his decision. Doing a good can be dangerous. But, I got free laundry service for a while and they built their new home.

That's called survival!

Darrell Wardien

USED STAMPS NEEDED

Bernie Elmore and the Senior Citizenss Volunteers of the Buffalo, NY Chapter, Americal Lung Association, collect and donate stamps to VA Hospitals. At present 90% of the stamps go to the Veterans Stamp and Coin Club in Tucson, AZ.

Individuals are asked to send stmps to:

Stamps for Veterans
%Ernie Belmore
Depew, NY 14043-0398

CONVALESCING

121 MEDICAL BN.

125 QUARTERMASTER

William S. Coronella
Somerville, MA 02144

Randolph J. Gerard
Edgewater, FL 32032

HEY GUYS! HOW ABOUT A CARD?

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The following dates are the deadlines for the

1994 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

August-September-October	Sept 1, 1994
November - December	Nov. 1, 1994

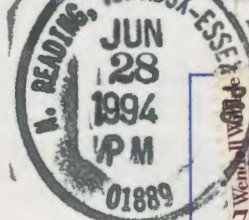
To have that important message out on time please observe these deadlines.

PLEASE--Include your telephone number with all correspondence. Many times a question comes up and it and a phone call can solve the problem quickly.

Thanks.



JAMES C. BUCKLE
4 WILSON AVENUE
WAKEFIELD, MA
01880



FORWARDING AND
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MAY - JUNE - JULY 1994

First CLASS

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

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted men now serving with or who have served with the Americal (23d INF) Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods:

World War II (South Pacific)	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam	1967-1973

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 and Task Force Oregon. Branch of service is immaterial.

Dedication

ADVA is dedicated as a *LIVING MEMORIAL* to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:		Telephone:	
Address — Street:		City:	State: Zip:
Americal Unit:	Rgt. Bn.	Co/Bty.	Other
Dates of Service — From:		To:	Serial No.:
Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Social Security #:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$12.00	

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH ALL CORRESPONDENCE