

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 1996

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE
VIETNAM EDITOR: ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA

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221st FIELD ARTILLERY IN ACTION



GUADALCANAL

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

In just five short months I will be passing the National Commanders position onto a new and incoming commander. My goals have still not been met with membership, but hopefully in the next five months everyone of our members will be signing up that new member and then that new member will sign up another member. The word must spread and we are the only ones that can do that.

Our National Reunion is being planned for Reno, NV for June 20, 21, 22, and 23 of 1996. I hope that everyone is thinking of attending this great Reunion in the old west.

Our Scholarship Chairman, Ronald Ward, will soon be sending our raffle tickets to raise money so that we may again offer scholarships this year.

There are so many of our members working hard within our organization that I wish to thank everyone of the personally for a job well done.

I will close with, "Membership is our growth and with growth we become stronger and better". Please sign up that new member!

Sincerely,
Stephen N. Dennison
National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

March 16, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

April 20, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

May 18, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

June 22, 1996
National Convention
Reno, NV

To reach the AMERICAL MUSEUM from the East take the Mass. Turnpike to Exit 11-A (Rte 495 N.) Travel along 495 N to Exit 25-B, (Rte 290 W.) travel along 290 W to Exit 18 (Rte 9 Leicester-Westboro). Take a right at the end of the ramp\lights. Bear right. Armory is on right.

From the West: Take Mass Pike to Exit 10 (Rte 290 E). Travel along 290 E to Exit 17. At end of ramp take a left. Travel along Rte 9 to lights and take a right. At the next set of lights bear to the left.

The Americal Division Veterans Association makes a generous contribution, annually, to the American Heart Fund and the American Cancer Society, in memory of our departed comrades.

PNC Jerry Martel

Jerry Martel died peacefully, December 30, 1995, at his home, following a short illness.

Mr. Martel was born January 14, 1910, in Lowell, MA, to the late Arthur J. and Stella Martel. He was married in 1947 to the late Constance Caragianes.

Mr. Martel was a veteran of show business and World War II, during which he entertained thousands of Americal troops as a member of its Special Services Unit in the South Pacific.

Formerly of Cambridge, MA, he was a retired employee of the Sheraton Boston. He moved to Odessa, Texas in 1982.



Mr. Martel is survived by his three sons, Jay Martel of Rochester, NY, Bill Martel of Millis, MA, and Bob Martel of Brookline, MA; and a daughter, Helene Martel of Boston, MA. He is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Nita and Maurice Martel of Odessa, TX; a sister, Irene Lueken of Odessa, a sister-in-law Ethel Caragianes; nine grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and close friends.

The Memorial service was held at the Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, January 2, 1996 with interment in Cambridge, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please direct contributions to Family Hospice, Odessa, Texas.

Jerry was a Past National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association. He will be missed by his many friend in the Association and also at the up-coming National Convention.

Michael T. Fox
B Company - 1st Infantry - 196 LIB

It is with deepest of remorse that I write this letter. Michael T. Fox, 46, B/2/1, 196 LIB, 68-69, died December 3, 1995 at 0720 hours after a short battle with lymphomic cancer. A friend and a brother who is sorely missed, by his comrades. Michael is our point man - and still on the job.

Your friend,
Jim Crum (Pigman)

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

TAPS TAPS

182 INFANTRY

Walter L. Banis
Stoughton, MA
November 11, 1995

121 MEDICAL BN.

Edward L. Brusstar
Twain-Harte, CA
March 3, 1995

176 AVN 16 KAG 14

Mario Cenin
Cashton, WI
December 4, 1995

125 QM 3rd PLATOON

Arvid V. Dunkin
Prosser, WA
December 26, 1995

182 INFANTRY

Joseph E. Hatfield
Wakefield, MA
January 27, 1996

132 INFANTRY L Co.

Alphonse Jurawicz
Chicago, IL
January 8, 1996

AMERICAL HDQ. JAGO

Sheldon C. Noyes
Rangeley, ME
May 15, 1995

132 INFANTRY

Otto V. Petr
Cicero, IL
May 6, 1995

182 INFANTRY G Co.

Victor G. Plosinski
Cambridge, MA
November 26, 1995

247 FA SER BTRY

Horace K. Stroud
Kinston, NC
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY H Co.

Elliot Veno
Hudson, MA
January 1, 1996

132 INFANTRY Hq Co

Emil R. Wagner
Hargill, TX
December 4, 1995

Roy A. Carlson
Company B - 125 Quartermaster

Former S/Sgt. B Company, 125 Quartermaster, Americal Division, passed away on January 24, 1996, leaving his loving wife, Evelyn, daughter Gail Turcotte, grandson Christopher, plus several nieces and nephews.

He lived his entire life in North Easton, MA, excepting the 3 1/2 years spent in the Pacific area during WW II, and concluding with a few months in New York City.

Roy was a great sportsman! Never missed a hunting season without putting venison on the table. He had a boat on Cape Cod and constantly raked in clams and scallops while naturally catching any fish within fifty feet of his boat.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Easton Rod and Gun Club, Easton Historical Society, and National Rifle Association.

Roy enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a former New England Bait Casting Champion. Roy put on many Bait Casting Exhibitions at the old Mechanics Building in Boston with Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox.

Roy taught me how to track deer in New Caledonia. (I shot one but it turned out to be a goat). On Guadalcanal we came across a mud-hole and Roy and I caught a couple of Eels. (Joe Bucci ate them). I taught Roy how to drink wine, that was camouflaged in Coco Cola bottle. Was he surprised!

He was the greatest!!!
George Morton

Jerry Martel
H Co. 182 Infantry

I have been going to Tucson for eight years. We always stop in Odessa to visit with Jerry. I called the night before I expected to arrive and was told that Jerry had passed away that morning.

I attended the funeral services in Odessa with a former member of the 164 Infantry.

Jerry's son Jay, from Rochester, NY has been living with Jerry the past three months. He is a Registered Nurse.

The Minister said he had visited with Jerry many time. On one occasion Jerry said, "Some morning I'm going to wake up and find myself dead".

A large funeral service was held here in Odessa.

Regards to all,
Maurice L. Dee

Victor G. Plosinski
G Company - 182 Infantry

It is with deep sorrow that I send this notice of the death of Victor G. Plosinski of Cambridge MA, formerly of Norwood.

He leaves his wife Muriel, a son Victor and a daughter Susan. Also two sisters, Amelia Cassidy of Norwood and Valarie Paulson of Florida.

Victor passed away on November 26, 1995 and was buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

We were BAR buddies in G Company during World War II. A check has been sent to PNC Ronald Ward for the Americal Scholarship Fund in memory of Victor.

Sincerely,
James H. Doherty

NEW MEMBERS

Petronilo Abiera
196 LIB
Finksburg, MD
#Bob Rudolph

Terry L. Baggs
11 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Lima, OH
#PNC R. Castronova

Bryan N. Beisel
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
Bean Station, TN
#Ron Ward

Anthony J. Bernotas
125 QM
South Windsor, CT
#Paul Santogeanis

Paul Blanchette
196 LIB
Sunset, ME
#R. Castronova

Chuck Carlock
14 Avn Bn 71 AHC
Fort Worth, TX
#James McNeil

John S. Cottman
132 Avn Bn
Philadelphia, PA
#Gary L. Noller

Michael R. Dareing
11 Arty B/6/11
Oakdale, CA
#Gene Yeakley

Armand R. Dion
3142 QM MAM Co (101)
Surfside Beach, SC
#Martin O. Lindon

Christopher F. Duirin
196 LIB 1/46 Inf
Manhasset, NY
#Gerald J. O'Conner

Ken Pontecchio
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Kaukauna, WI
#Mario Lenin

Roger B. Fuller
164 Infantry Hq/1
Middleport, NY
Peter Messina

Daniel A. Grant
21 Infantry D/3/21
Baldwin, MO
#Ron Ward

Anthony E. Greene
Associate
Fort Drum, NY
#Gary L. Noller

Harold E. Hansen
296 Ord Co. Ammo
Clay Center, NE
#Richard Smith

Richard L. Allen
23 Div Hdq
Norfolk, NE
#Membership Committee

Allen R. Barfield
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Thorndale, TX
#Ernest A. Garza

Richard Bellrose
196 LIB 1/6 Inf Rec
Holden, MA
#R. Castronova

Chesley G. Black
132 Infantry B Co.
Crouse, NC
#Bernie Chase

Robert H. Brumblay
23 M.P.
Rathdrum, ID
#Brian Mulcrone

Max David Combs
182 Infantry
Bloomfield, IN
#Bernie Chase

Robert Criswell
178 A.S.H.C.
Fankford, DE
#Robert K. Rodweller

Fred G. Della Pietro
132 Infantry Hq/1
Matawan, NJ
#Bernie Chase

Mike Dubrick
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Highland, IN
#Internet

Esther Feeler
Associate
Albuquerque, NM
#Joe Feeler

Mike Ford
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Arlington, VA
#Col. Dennis E. Matthews

Jerry Gouge
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Burnsville, NC
#Membership Committee

Willard L. Gray
82 F.A. Bn
Childress, TX
#Bernie Chase

Paul L. Haggerty
101 QM
Woburn, MA
#Italo B. Galente

Albert J. Hauser
182 Infantry I Co.
Bayville, NY
#Roy E. Poynter

NEW MEMBERS

Edward C. Hill
164 Inf D Co 132 Inf
Castle Shannon, PA
#Harold Stein

Steven W. Hunt
11 LIB D/4/
Enumclaw, WA
#Self

David L. Kendall
196 LIB Hdq Co
Dover, DE
#Ron L. Davis

John LeCates
178 A.S.H.C.
Delmar, MD
#Robert K. Rodweller

Anthony M. Lopes
17 Cav 1/F/1 Cav
Willingboro, NJ
#John M. Crowley

Rollo E. Martin
182 Infantry A Co
Winfield, MO
#Bernie Chase

Claude G. Mook
132 Infantry L Co.
North Bloomfield, OH
#Lloyd Morrell

Michael L. Nicholson
11 LIB
Hull, MA
#Bernie Carroll

Frederick E. Nordt
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
Bridgehampton, NY
#Michael R. Ackerfield

Roger W. Pine
182 Infantry E+Hdq
San Bernardino, CA
#Jim Buckle

Clinton D. Poston
178 Assault Sup Hel
Marion, VA
#Membership Committee

Melissa M. Rehl
Associate
Allentown, NJ
#Stephen Dennison

Kevin M. Sartorius
Associate
Arlington, VA
#Gary L. Noller

William J. Sipavich
132 Infantry D Co.
De Kalb, IL
#Clifford Fennel

Johnny B. Starnes
11 LIB E/51 & L/21
Fayetteville, NC
#Bernie Chase

Albert R. Hoste
198 LIB HHC 5/46
Manhattan, KS
#Lloyd Morrell

Charles J. Irion
23 S+T B Co.
Yorba Linda, CA
#Membership Committee

Robert B. Lane
101 Med Reg B Co.
Strasburg, PA
#Bernie Chase

Marcel Lettre
3 Inf B/C/E/4/3Inf
Fredericksburg, VA
#Nicholas J. Prevas Jr.

Wayne D. Magdalena
23 Adm Co
Port St. Lucie FL
#Joseph G. Micek

Luis A. Mejia
23 Med Bn Hq. + A
Chino, CA
#James F. Collins

Frank E. Muse
182 Infantry M Co.
Wakefield, MA
#R. Castronova

Gregory A. Noller
Associate
Fort Drum, NY
#Gary L. Noller

Emil L. Parker
247 F.A. Hdq Btry
Laurelville, OH
#Melvin K. Sandy

Rejean D. Poisson
123 Avn Bn A Co
Hocksett, NH
#R. Castronova

Mark J. Ranson
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
Lovelock, NV
#N.A. Embry Jr.

Thomas Roache
23 M.P. Co.
Fairless Hills, PA
#Membership Committee

Johnnie C. Settles
101 QM C Co.
North Highlands, CA
#Martin Lindon

Roger A. Sprik
198 LIB 11 LIB
Amado, AZ
#Membership Committee

William J. Symonovitz
164 Infantry H Co.
Silver Springs, MD
#Bernie Chase

NEW MEMBERS

George L. Taylor
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Michigan City, IN
#R. Castronova

John L. Uzendowski
57 Engrs
Ludlow, MA
#R. Castronova

William Vandembush III
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Graham, WA
#Roland Castronova

Ward Weaver
11 LIB
Taamal, CA
#PNC R. Castronova

Raymond C. West
101 QM
Asheville, NC
#Martin O. Lindon

Joseph L. Van Leeuwen
182 Infantry
Twin Falls, ID
#Lew Turner-Lloyd

Forrest C. Washbourne
132 Infantry I Co.
Pampa, TX
#Bernie Chase

#Sponsor

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Habib K. Abd Al-Haqq
11 LIB HHC A/4/21 I
Philadelphia, PA
#James F. Collins

Generino Errichiello
101 Med Reg A Co.
Quincy, MA
#R. Castronova

Frank E. Muse
182 Infantry M Co.
Wakefield, MA
#R. Castronova

Gregory A. Noller
Associate
Fort Drum, NY
#Gary L. Noller

Emil L. Parker
247 F.A. Hdq Btry
Laurelville, OH
#Melvin K. Sandy

Rejean D. Poisson
123 Avn Bn A Co
Hocksett, NH
#R. Castronova

Mark J. Ranson
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
Lovelock, NV
#N.A. Embry Jr.

Thomas Roache
23 M.P. Co.
Fairless Hills, PA
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101 QM C Co.
North Highlands, CA
#Martin Lindon

Roger A. Sprik
198 LIB 11 LIB
Amado, AZ
#Membership Committee

William J. Symonovitz
164 Infantry H Co.
Silver Springs, MD
#Bernie Chase

REINSTATED MEMBERS

John L. Beier
11 LIB
Dwight, IL

Thomas E. Bratten Jr
14 Arty
Swanton, MD

Michael Lazorchak
75 Inf (Rangers) G
Indianapolis, IN

Donald Biel
182 Infantry D Co
Sun Lake, AZ

Joaquin Garcia
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf
Brownsville, TX

Robert Moffatt
196 LIB 3/16 Arty
Southampton, PA

SICK CALL

William Murphy
Concord, MA 01742

James Grant
Lexington, MA 02173

HOW ABOUT A CARD GUYS!

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Charles R. Schleyer
James Taylor
In Memory Of
Paul A. Gavan

William G. Urban
Salvatore Vinciullo

James H. Doherty
In Memory Of
Victor G. Plosinski

Gary L. Noller
In Memory Of
Joe D. Feeler

The Quantum Factor
Gary L. Noller
In Memory Of
30 U.S. KIA FSB Mary Ann
March 28, 1971

The winner of the 1995 raffle for the Americal Scholarship Foundation was:

Stephen A. Chemistruck
Albuquerque, NM

WATCH YOUR MAIL!

The raffle tickets for the 1996 Americal Scholarship Foundation will be in the mail by the end of March. Ron Ward states that the prize will be much larger this year.

This is the only fund raiser that the Foundation is involved with and we ask you to support it. If you do not receive any tickets please contact Ron Ward. If you are not a gambler you can donate ten dollars (\$10.00) of the money you saved when you gave up smoking.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
The Americal Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization and any contributions made to this Fund are tax deductible.

If you have any ideas for a fund raiser to support the Foundation please contact me and we will work out the details.

Remember, this Fund is set up as a memorial to all men that served in the Americal Division.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, complaints, or desire information on the Scholarship Fund, do not hesitate to contact me.

PNC Ronald L. Ward
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63123

If you know of a member that has passed away or that is ill, please notify the Adjutant.

Bernard Chase
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

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

REGIONAL - Elmer E. Matola - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Hernando Beach, FL 34442
 Tel. [REDACTED]

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

REGIONAL - Ernest B. Carlson - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624
 Telephone [REDACTED]

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

REGIONAL - Rush G. Propper - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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

REGIONAL - John A. Bowley - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Joshua Tree, CA 92252-0819
 Telephone [REDACTED]

WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK-NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
 MA, NH, VT, ME, CT, RI

REGIONAL - Harold J. Giali - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Carver, MA 02330-1809

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

REGIONAL - Robert L. Granoff - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Collegeville, PA 19426
 Telephone [REDACTED]

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
 IA KS MO NE ND SD

REGIONAL - Ronald L. Ward - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 St. Louis, MO 63123

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
 AK WA OR ID MT WY

REGIONAL - Lloyd J. Morrell - COMMANDER
 [REDACTED]
 Redmond, OR 97756-9612

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander
 Ernest B. Carlson
 [REDACTED]
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624
 Tel. [REDACTED]

Secretary/Treasurer
 Malcolm P. East
 [REDACTED]
 Lumberton, TX 77656
 Tel. [REDACTED]

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Mobley
 Chaplain: Rev Perry M. Woerner

I received a card from Jerry Martel Jr. telling me that his father Jerry Sr. had been in the hospital for quite some time and that he had moved to Odessa to be with his father and take care of him.

PNC Bill Maddox is recuperating from surgery and is now at home. Dan Maier has been in three hospitals in the past several months and is back home trying out a new medicine.

As you know, both Jerry and Bill are Past National Commanders. Both WW II members of the 182 Infantry. Dan was with G-2 in Vietnam.

Allen Duglosh, A/2/1st Infantry, 196 LIB, works at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. He also has been in and out of the hospital as a patient!!

These men are all members of this Chapter and I bring this up because the future of health and medical care of these veterans, and the rest of us, no matter what our circumstances, or war we served in, are in very dire straits!!!

As everyone knows, the V.A. workers worked for half pay and then they worked for no pay, for an indeterminate amount of time. I did not get the daily edition of my daily paper that told of our great leaders in D.C. going without their pay, and of course they had to go home for the holidays because the plight of the V.A. workers was a very minor matter!!

We have received a nice looking acknowledgment from the Nimitz Foundation for our participation in the V Plus 50 Parade on September 2, 1995. I hope to present this to National in Reno, in June.

Many, many years ago, I made a New Years resolution that I have never broken. I resolved that I would never make a New Years's resolution. I now break that resolution--I resolve that I will do everything (legal) to see that every member of this Chapter will have paid his dues on both the National and Chapter levels. Also, that each and everyone of them will help me in finding new members at both levels. Come on guys--Old Ern needs your help!

Sr. Vice Gary Noller has been a great help to us in the past months and seems to be doing the same all over the country. He has just about convinced me to learn something about computers. It would be nice to join the guys in direct contact.

I am thoroughly disgusted with the Turner Publishers. All the interest on the \$64.95 that I paid them in 1992, for their non-existent book, would buy a lot of postage stamps.

God Bless everyone -- hug somebody -- get a new member -- and the good Lord willing, I will see you in Reno in June.

Ernie Carlson
 Chapter Commander

IN REMEMBRANCE

This issue of the Americal Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of the Americal soldiers that fought so heroically and to those men that gave their lives in the jungles of Bougainville, Northern Solomons.

This was a battle that gained few headlines for the men engaged in a life and death struggle, and even fewer to the Americal Division.

The main purpose of securing this island was to build airfields within bombing range of Rabaul, New Britain, the main Japanese base for operations in the South Pacific.

The 3rd Marine Division landed on November 1, 1943 followed a week later by elements of the 37th Infantry Division. The Marines had established a perimeter five hundred yards wide and four hundred feet deep against light resistance. The duty of the 37th Division was to widen and deepen this area making room for the airfields that were to be built. If this job was to be accomplished, enlarging the perimeter and relieving the Marines, more troops were needed -- enter the Americal, the latter part of December. The Americal, as a full Division, was to face one of its toughest fights of World War II.

Once the required space was secured, the troops dug in and enclosed the perimeter with barbed wire and mines. Ambushes were set, observation posts were manned and patrols routinely crisscrossed the area beyond the wire -- and then the wait began.

Due to the lack of roads, it took the Japanese about three months to move enough men and material, over difficult mountainous and jungle trails, before they could counter attack. In less than a month the battle was over--the Japanese did not know that they were facing over two infantry division--they attacked with too few men, too little supplies and in too many places.

When the battle was over the perimeter was enlarged no further. However, patrols ranged far and wide to assure that no further attacks were pending. Many men died and many more were wounded in keeping the enemy at bay. By the time another year had passed the Australians had taken over the security of Bougainville and the Americal left this stepping stone on the road to Japan.

Prior to World War I Bougainville belonged to Germany and between the two wars it was an governed by the Australians. Following World War II, Bougainville, New Ireland, New Britain, Territory of New Guinea, and dozens of lesser islands became the country of Papua, New Guinea.

It was my good fortune to return to this island a few years ago. The Empress Augusta Bay area has more or less returned to the bush. The airfields are gone--all the steel mats salvaged many years ago. Part of one of the Piva strips is now a grass landing areas for the small planes that service many of the lonely areas in this part of the world. The roads built by the Engineers have mostly disappeared--all that remains are a few 'jeep' trails. On one of the landing beaches there is the rusting hulk a metal pier. This is the only obvious sign that we were there. There is a school here run by the Seventh Day Adventist Church and a Marist Mission. Mount Bagana is still smoking and the Torokina still wends its way to the sea. Peace has returned to Empress Augusta Bay.

JAPANESE UNDERESTIMATE U.S. WILL TO FIGHT
ON BOUGAINVILLE

By the end of 1943, the Japanese had finally decided that the Americal landing at Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville was the real thing, and plans were made for a counterattack.

However, mountainous jungle terrain delayed until March 1944 the deployment of Japan's 17th Army, a force of only one full infantry battalion, plus a few battalions from another, for a total of 15,000 to 19,000 men.

The Japanese felt this put them on equal footing with the Americans, which was all that was needed, since Tokyo still assumed its soldiers were superior.

Tokyo was wrong on all counts.

Instead of one division, the United States had two, and they well dug-in behind minefields and barbed wire. Pillboxes had been constructed, and the American lines had been anchored on high ground.

Americans had invaded the island -- 125 miles long and 30 miles wide -- November 1, 1943. By the end of the year, a firm perimeter was established around Empress Augusta Bay and three airfields.

Wisely, U.S. commanders did not send their troops into the almost impenetrable jungle to find and kill Japanese. Navy ships patrolled the waters around Bougainville to stop enemy reinforcements from coming in by sea.

The Japanese strongholds at Buin on the southern tip of the big island and Buka, a small island just north of Bougainville, were under almost constant attack.

Defending the American perimeter were 27,000 troops under the command of Army Maj. Gen. Oscar Griswold. His 14th Corps included the Americal Division, 37th Infantry Division and a battalion from the Third Marine Division.

"By fortifying the perimeter and letting the enemy attack him, Griswold had a choice of weapons, and terrain, a wide-open sea entrance and exit and superiority in strength at the point of contact," wrote naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison.

For two months, Japanese Lt. Gen. Harukichi Hyakutaka patiently put together a combat force to attack the American perimeter.

He badly underestimated U.S. strength, however, believing that his troops faced only one division. Hyakutaka was so confident of victory that he even designated the spot where he would accept Griswold's surrender.

Captured maps showing the point where Americans were expected to bow down before their conquerors were brought to Griswold's headquarters by a U.S. patrol.

The commander of the Japanese Sixth Division, which, according to Morison, was "commonly regarded as the toughest outfit in the Imperial Army," had his exhortation to his troops printed on leaflets.

"We must fight to the end to avenge the shame of our country's humiliation on Guadalcanal," the commander declared.

skin was not as dark and yellow as us older soldiers. The yellow came from taking our daily dose of Atabrine to ward off malaria.

A fellow church usher, after looking at the picture enclosed, said it looked like I was sitting on lava rock on Bougainville. He told me he was in the 37th Division on Bougainville and remembered the lava rock. We talked about the March '44 battle when the Japs tries to push us off the island. It was one hell of a battle and we remembered the heavy shellings, bombings, and machine gun and rifle fire. These all made one hell of a noise and shook the ground.



The Americal Convention in Chicago was great and Joe Micek and his committee did a great job.

I met Ed Kalet and his lovely wife Alice there. Ed and I served together for about two years -- Bougainville, the Philippines, Japan -- we had a lot to talk about. This was over fifty years ago but some of the events seem to be still clear as a bell and like it was yesterday.

Well fellow members of the ADVA, take care of yourselves and God bless you all.

Leo W. Orfe

Ed Note: Leo, one other function of the steel pot. We used to put a couple of cans of meat and vegetable stew into the 'pot' add a couple of cans of water and, PRESTO, Lunga Stew.

B COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY
HILL 260

B Company, 182nd Infantry was on the defensive line in front of Hill 270, about 80 yards from Hill 260, when the Japs attacked Hill 260 at 0630 on March 10, 1944. We heard the firing and B Company mortar section began giving support to the 2nd Battalion from our location. On March 11th we could still hear the firing but were told everything should be under control by the end of the day.

About the middle of the afternoon we received a surprise -- the 2nd Battalion (E Co.) had been over-run and we would move out in 15 minutes for Hill 260, the 57th Engineers would relieve us on the line. We passed through Company lines and double timed over to the trail leading to Hill 260.

There was mass confusion when we reached the trail leading up the Hill. What remained of E Co. was coming down and the Japanese were shelling the

trail. I will never forget meeting E Company -- wounded helping wounded, wounded carrying wounded and some wounded using their rifles as crutches.

After E Company cleared the trail we moved out and turned off the main trail to take a trail to the North Knob of 260. (The Japs had overrun the South Knob) The Japanese were dropping 90 MM mortars shells on a clearing just off the trail and B Company suffered several casualties. We arrived at the North Knob just before dark. Men from F and G Companies were holding a small perimeter here. The strength of both Companies was depleted. Every time someone moved the Knee mortars would start landing. We did not have foxholes so we just hit the ground until it was decided what we were going to do.

One platoon of B Company moved out with flame-throwers and blanketed the base of the O.P. tree and started a fire near the base of the tree. There was a large log across the ridge and the Japanese were on the south side and the Americans were on the north. The plan seemed to be for us to attack that night. I happened to be on the ground near the hole that Lt. Col. Dexter A. Lowry was in and I could hear him talking on the radio to a general whom I assumed to be General McCullough. (Col. Lowry was a tall man and he was standing upright in the hole, giving orders, without any regard for his personal safety and he was hit by shrapnel several times) I could hear all that Col. Lowry said and some of what General McCullough said. The General seemed to be putting pressure on Col. Lowry to retake the Hill. There was a discussion about attacking at night or waiting until morning. Col. Lowry advised that every time someone moved it drew mortar fire. He told the General that he thought we were up against a reinforced platoon and 2 or 3 machine guns and that we could retake the Hill with one more attack. The decision was made to postpone the attack until morning. I could hear the General tell Lowry that under no conditions should he withdraw from the Hill. We must "fight until the last man" if necessary to hold the Hill! Col. Lowry said "Yes General" several times but I could not hear what the General was saying. We were ordered to dig in and tie into the perimeter with F & G Companies.

In the morning of March 12th, Lt. Col. Mahoney arrived on the Hill to replace Col. Lowry and his C.P. was right beside my foxhole. He went over his plans with the other officers and I heard him say, "I want 4 volunteers, one officer and three enlisted men to go down the East slope to an area near the Torokina River". These men were to go behind the Japanese and check out the possibility of attacking from the East or Northeast and see if they could determine how many Japanese were on the Hill. I was surprised a few minutes later when my Sgt. told me I was going on the patrol -- I sure had not volunteered! Lt. Myers, Avery and Reynolds were the other volunteers. We never knew who volunteered us. We could not use a radio so we took a roll of combat wire and a sound powered telephone. We went down a trail around the bottom of the Hill above the river and went south across the trail the Japanese were using, right below the O.P. tree. Reynolds and I crawled up to within 10 yards of where newly arrived Japanese reinforcements were eating, laughing, and digging in. We could see that the enemy troops were not just on top of the Hill but were spread all over the East side. We couldn't see all of them but I believe there was at least a reinforced battalion in the area. We told Lt. Myers and he and Avery crawled up to look around while Reynolds and I

watched the trail. I walked back North around a curve and saw two Japanese soldiers on the trail leading to the Hill. They had discovered our telephone wire. They were looking at the wire and did not see me. I went back and Motioned to Lt. Myers. He disconnected the phone. We went East and circled around the Japanese, crossed the trail and headed North. We moved rapidly until we felt it was safe to stop, cut the wire, and get out of there.

Arriving back at the C.P. we reported the large number of Japanese we had seen and expressed our belief that there might be more down near the river.

The terrain was steep and rough on the East side and any attack in that direction would meet strong resistance and would be in danger of being surrounded and trapped between two forces. Col. Mahoney decided that B Company would attack from the West side.

The 1st Platoon led the attack across the barbed wire that originally protected the garrison. A few men crossed the wire before we came under heavy fire. The order was to withdraw. However we could not get back across the wire because a machine gun was firing down the wire. I was near Pfc Joseph V. Cormier, a Guadalcanal veteran. He said, "Stick with me and we'll get out of this". Three Japanese raised up out of the trenches at the top of the Hill, about ten yards away, and we fired at them. I do not know if we hit them or just pinned them down. Cormier then said, "Cover me and then I will cover you. Just do as I do". He jumped over the wire and then I followed. When I landed my pant leg got caught on the last strand of wire. Pfc. Cormier cut me loose and pulled me back with the rest of the platoon. I believed he saved my life because I would not have known what to do. Pfc. Joseph V. Cormier was killed later in the afternoon.

The Company withdrew back to the North Knob while the South Knob was hit with a heavy concentration of mortar and artillery fire.

Attacking again from the North and Northwest of the old outpost, we were able to reach the top of the ridge but we were suffering heavy casualties. The 2nd platoon and 3rd platoon led the attack with the 1st platoon filling in where needed. Some of the 1st platoon closed a gap between the 2nd and 3rd and some went with the 3rd on the South end. I was in the 3rd platoon area. We used flame-throwers to knock out several pill boxes and we seized the top of the South Knob. The entire Company was then under heavy counter attack but we were able to hold our ground for at least an hour. Word was passed to hold on that the 1st Battalion of the 132 Infantry was on the way to reinforce us.

I was on the South part of the Hill where the old trail came up the Hill and we heard heavy Japanese fire below us on the trail and we heard return fire which seemed to be right below us. All three platoons were under heavy attack and taking casualties in increasing numbers and ammunition was running low. We had lost all of our officers with the exception of Capt. Moody, the C.O. and also many of our Sgts.

The order was given to withdraw but this was not easy. The Japanese had started to counterattack in force from the East and Southeast spur about the same time. I was one of the last off of the ridge and we could see them coming. The last man

off the ridge was Edward J. Rezny, a BAR man. I believe if he had not given us cover most of us would not have been able to withdraw. We gave him cover from below as he withdrew. He made it back to the ridge near the North Knob, turned and fired one more burst. He was hit in the head and killed. Many of us in B Company owe our lives to the actions of this man. I believe he was awarded the D.S.C. posthumously.

I believe the 132 was very close to linking up with us when they were hit. It is also possible that Japanese that ambushed the 132 could have been trying to flank B Company and we could have been cut off if the 132nd had not started up at that time.

We pulled back to the perimeter on the North Knob with the remnants of F and G Companies. The combined strength of these three companies did make a full company and we were low on ammunition and supplies.

Doc Seversen from the 2nd platoon and I were assigned to a foxhole on the East side of the perimeter to tie in with the 2nd Battalion men. There was 4 or 5 empty foxholes on each side of us. So we had to cover this area. We did not have any grenades and very little ammunition so we gathered up some the casualties had left.

If the Japanese had known how weak the perimeter was and how low we were on ammunition, they probably would have overrun us that night.

On the morning of March 13th the 132nd Infantry arrived with ammunition and supplies and they took over the attacking and we returned to the regular lines.

Tillman J. Cole

31st SURGICAL HOSPITAL

An issue of the Americal Newsletter carried a letter concerning my service with the 31st Surgical Hospital which gave support to the 182nd Infantry.

As a result of that publication I was contacted by a gentleman from Lincoln, NE, whose father served with the 52nd Field Hospital, and I ended up with a lot of information I would never otherwise received. So--I thank you for publishing my letter.

During the battle for Hill 260 we did not have our own kitchen so we ate with the Co. B, Collecting Company, 121 Med. Bn. which was located on Americal Road, about 100 yards from our hospital. It was always an adventure going over there because the Japs frequently managed to drop a few mortar rounds in the area about chow time. The only fresh meat we had was mutton. I can still taste the grease and smell the wool.

As an enlisted man we really knew very little about the over-all picture, but I am sending you a copy of an article from "Yank Down Under" dated September 22, 1944. The article mentions Pfc. Frank J. Donadio of Utica, wounded on the Numa Numa trail. Our Portable Surgical Unit was there and we amputated his forearm, as well as that of another young man.

S.W. Allen Jr.
Watertown, SD

THE SCREWY WAR ON BOUGAINVILLE
by Sgt. Ralph L. Boyce
YANK Staff Correspondent

Bougainville, Northern Solomons--As far as the limelight is concerned, the war on Bougainville has ended. Strategically we have held the island since shortly after the Marines and Army invaded it in November of 1943. Only once since that time has the spotlight refocused on the 3500 square miles of mountainous jungle--during the Second Battle of Bougainville in March of this year. Since that time other more breath-taking and important battles have about wiped the island from public attention.

But the war on Bougainville has not ended by a damn sight.

It has even not nearly ended for a bunch of infantrymen fighting and dying in a miserable kind of hand-to-hand trench warfare some 15 miles beyond our own lines on native trails winding their way over mountain peaks. To men fighting of land that belongs to neither to us nor the Japs, and which neither side gives a hoot about owning, the war on Bougainville is plenty real.

To understand all this, however, you have to understand the screwy setup that makes war on this island entirely different from the war anywhere else in the world. You must know that of the entire island we actually hold only a few square miles. That is the original perimeter that was established by the 37th and Americal division within two months after landing at Empress Augusta Bay. At that time it was decided to dig in and hold this area as an air and naval base rather than pursue and destroy widely dispersed units of the Jap army. Prominent among these units was the blood red shoulder patch of the vaunted Sixth division, infamous participants of the Rape of Nanking.

Against this perimeter the Japs launched their furious, suicide attack last March. Today, fully six months later, visitors can tour this virtually unchanged line in perfect safety and see a battlefield exactly as it was during three weeks of fighting. Only the unexploded mine fields have been reclaimed by the jungle and within those green masses still lie the skeletons and equipment of the Japs that died there.

In a recon car you can drive up a smooth winding road to the top of Hill 700. Here, though pyramidal tents cling crazily to the steep slopes on "our" side of the hill, the men who live in them still man the pillboxes where the main Jap attack was first launched. On March 8, first day of fighting, the Japs effected a slight penetration of the 37th Division lines, but a counterattack two days later regained all but one of the original pillboxes.

For three full days following this the Japs launches a vicious offensive to take the hill so that artillery and mortars could blast our airfields. Cut to ribbons, day and night by artillery, mortars, point-blank ack ack and small arms fire, the Japs were halted on the third day.

Today new wire defenses protect Hill 700, but you can still see the rusted and broken barbed wire where the defenders counted 1,173 Jap bodies.

Or you can drive out past the front lines and right up to Hill 260 where the Americal Division went out and met the enemy before it even reached

their perimeter. Climbing over abandoned pillboxes and along worn communication trenches, you reach the charred and broken stump of the "most expensive tree in the world." Once a large and flourishing banyan tree at the crest of the hill, this tree and its surrounding ground was the scene of a pitched 19 day battle that eventually sent the punch-drunk remnants of the Jap force reeling back into the jungle, their hopes of cracking the Americal perimeter banished.

It was a bloody, costly battle, with the Infantry as usual footing the bill. One company of a veteran infantry regiment--the country's oldest--returned from Hill 260 with 83 percent casualties. But when the battle was over many hundreds of Jap bodies--and parts of bodies--were packed in the little area.

The close range at which this battle was fought is shown in the story of a company approaching the hill for the first time. They called back for the mortars to cease firing because "they're falling only 20 yards from us."

Two days later the same company was dug in on the hill and a few trial rounds were dropped in near them.

"How close are they falling?" asked the mortar officer.

"Within 25 yards," was the answer. "Get some more in right away!"

It was on this Hill that YANK's coverage of the battle came to an abrupt stop when an exploding Jap mortar shell sprayed staff correspondent Sgt. Barrett McGurn.

The final stage of Hill 260 operation consisted of digging out the Japs from a maze of holes and tunnels under the base of the banyan tree. Flame throwers, bazookas, hand grenades, mortar fire and point-blank artillery were aided by weird contraptions such as that rigged by a Navy CPO, John T. Shone of Fairmont, West Virginia, and W/O Robert P. Martin of Columbus, Ohio. They constructed a pump with a 100 foot hose to spray gasoline on the Nips. With Shone at the pump, Martin crawled to the Jap positions with the nozzle of the hose.

"When I stuck my head over the log to squirt the gas," said Martin, "I saw four Japs in one foxhole setting up a 'knee' mortar." The fifth man, on guard, didn't see Martin until the others were covered with gas. Martin tossed three grenades before one went off, setting the gas and Japs on fire. He and Shone were both wounded.

During the actual battle for the hill, the Artillery used more than a million dollars worth of shells, while the Infantry fired over 600,000 rounds of rifle and machine gun ammunition, tossed 10,000 grenades and lobbed in 20,000 rounds of heavy mortar shells.

Today there is a slight haze of green jungle sprouts on Hill 260, but not a tree or bush lives in the whole blasted area, although 1000 years away the jungle is almost impenetrable.

Unable to make any headway at other points, the Japs threw masses of their men in an insane assault against one battalion sector of the 37th Division. Their slaughter can best be imagined by the report stating that Jap bodies were damming up the river which flows through the area.

Despite the butchering, however, they succeeded in penetrating the lines for some three hundred yards, and were stopped just short of a battalion aid station. With this small breach in the 18th day of fighting, the Japs massed all their remaining forces outside the 37th sector for a final all-out assault at the breached point.

A patrol of Fijian troops reported the massing and, in the greatest artillery concentration the Solomons have seen, U.S. guns devastated an area 2,000 by 2,800 yards with more than 5,000 rounds of high explosives. The final attack had been disrupted and broken up before it could get started. U.S. and Fijian troops took up the pursuit of the battered Japanese 17th Army.

While we licked our wounds and rebuilt our perimeter the Jap Army took to the hills on the far side of the island. They had lost some 8,000 men and a vast amount of equipment. They were completely licked, if not for good at least for a long time.

With sea and air blockade the Japs cannot get food in or reinforcements. They took to building community gardens, but became discouraged at this when our planes swooped low over the gardens, sprayed them with oil and then set them afire with incendiaries.

The war here is the past few months has been mostly a war of waiting. The Japs, hungry, ill clothed and short of weapons and ammunition, are waiting for ships that will never come in. We're waiting just to see that they don't escape or to be ready for them should they ever want to make another try like their ill-fated March assault.

Meanwhile we are pecking at them like a bunch of mosquitoes shooting the needle to a guy who is too tired to put up much resistance. Our planes strafe and bomb wherever two or three Japs are foolish enough to get together. Our patrols are constantly nipping at them, while our road blocks, far out beyond our lines, prevent them from moving up toward our perimeter in any force.

Riding smoothly along a good road miles beyond our own perimeter, Lt. James Alsop, a veteran platoon leader from Greenwood, Mississippi, explains the situation.

Most people misunderstand the meaning of a 'road block' as it applies in the jungle. A road block, or better called a 'trail block,' is simply an observation post in force. It is a highly mobile setup and seldom in the same place for very long. From it patrols swing out to harass the Japs and keep an eye on their doings.

"When you get out here a ways," he continued, "you'll begin to see what a miserable business these patrols are. You've always either climbing a mountain or fording a river, and since you can't get through anywhere except on a regular trail, you never know when you'll round a bend and run smack into a Nip ambush."

We were enroute to visit a road block on the Numa-Numa Trail where sharp fighting had been going on for two days. Included in the party were Major Wyche of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lt. Alsop, Sgt. Sigmund Bergmann of South Orange, NJ, Signal Corps photographer and driver, Pvt John Lowrie of San Francisco.

"This trail block," Lt. Alsop continues, "is about 15 miles beyond our perimeter, atop Nip Hill. The

Japs have a force straddling the trail a couple of mountains away. They're playing the same game, you see. We've been nipping at their force for some time, sending out patrols and playing hell with their flanks."

"It looks like we finally got them annoyed a little, because two days ago they actually attacked our position for the first time since March."

By now we had come to the end of the road and reached the banks of the Laruma River. Lowrie geared the recon down to grandmaw and poured the juice to her. In a 6 mile stretch we were to ford that swift current exactly 17 times, sometimes driving straight upstream for a hundred yards or more. Once we strayed a bit from the white caps that indicate the shallowest crossing, and the recon stalled out while water poured in the side until it was over the rear seat.

A half-track loaded with Negro service troops splashed by on the right side. They tossed Lowrie a tow rope and pulled our not-so-amphibious craft ashore. While the water poured out of the recon and Lowrie dried the engine, we watched a security patrol dynamite the river to get fresh fish for their dinner.

Over this trail must come all the supplies for the troops at the block and the artillery that supports them. Later we met two ambulances crawling tortuously back down the trail. Each ambulance was one patient. Both had an arm blown off when a mortar shell landed in their trench.

One of them we learned was a professional ball player from up-state New York, Pfc. Frank J. Donadio of Utica. He'd lost his left arm. His top-kick, Henry McCarten of Boston, reported the Donadio was still cheerful.

"He told me that wouldn't stop him from playing ball". He said, "I'll get an artificial arm. I'll learn to use that".

Our 17th crossing made, we arrived at the base camp below the ridge. The company that had taken the brunt of the attack had been relieved and we could piece together the story.

Came dawn of L Company's second day at the block, and with it came the Nips. Sliding, crawling throughout the night, they had dug in practically under the muzzles of our machine guns.

Pfc. James Pinkston of Clinton, Missouri, on guard, first heard the Nips. He woke his buddies, Sgt. Lorry of Hillsboro, North Dakota, and Pfc. James Scott of Thorsby, Alabama. Then it broke.

A machine gun on the flank was knocked out with a bullet in the jacket and one of the gunners was wounded. Sgt. Julian Jore of Buxton, North Dakota sent his men back to the main positions, took the back plate off the gun, buried it, and made his own way back.

Later he and an ammo carrier crawled back, put the plate on again and fixed the gun. The other GI was hit in the head, but stayed until Jore ordered him back. Again the gun was knocked out and again he got back safely.

Commenting on his luck, Jore cracked, "It's just like a rotation plan. They haven't picked my name yet."

While the men were telling their story another GI came up and was introduced as Pfc. Melvin Rodgers of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, "our BAR man." Asked how he came out, Rodgers grinned and said, "OK, I guess."

The others told just how OK. For two hours after the MG had been knocked out, Rodgers, with two men loading clips, had held the entire right flank with his BAR.

"And he was grinning like a kid all the time," one of the guys added.

Weirdest struggle of the scrap was related by Pfc. Frank McDougall of Saginaw, Michigan. He saw a Jap officer jump into a trench using his saber as a spear. Pvt. Tony Veltre of New York, about to be on the receiving end of the saber, reached up and grabbed the blade with both hands. McDougall shot twice and the Nip officer fell. Seconds later a grenade exploded in the trench, tearing Veltre in the behind.

The attack was driven off by 1000 hours. That night they hit again, but mortar fire and grenades broke up the charge. The next morning our 4.2 mortars located the Jap force and blasted it wide open, ending the battle for the time being.

With a K rations unit sitting like a lump of lead in our stomachs we started up the mountain trail to the defense blocks at the crest of Nip Hill. They told us it would take an hour and a half to go up the 1500 year stretch and 20 minutes to come down. They missed by 15 minutes. We took too many breaks going up.

The trail is tough going now, despite the log steps that have been cut into the muddy sides of the cliffs. They've been put in since the Infantry fought their way up to capture the hill.

After half an hour of steady climbing it seemed as though no hill could be much higher. A patrol sliding down the mud slopes passed us. Hoping for some encouragement we asked them what it was like the rest of the way.

"Confidentially, it's a son of a bitch," one of the answered. That helped a lot.

The lieutenant was leading and once as he rounded a bend he stopped short. "That just scared hell out of me" he said, pointing to a row of steps heading straight up. "It was exactly the same kind of setup as this that caught my patrol in an ambush a while back. The bastards had a heavy machine gun set up at the top and we walked right into it."

Eight native bearing a litter were sighted high above us and for a while we thought the battle had started again. They reached us at the top of a particularly nasty stretch and the GI in the litter signaled the natives to take a break.

His first words to us were, "Got a cigarette for my boys?" Like the "fuzzy wuzzy angels" of New Guinea, these natives were doing the impossible in hauling supplies and bringing out our wounded. The guys appreciate it.

The patient, Cpl. Vincent Correnti of Pasadena, California, hadn't been wounded. He'd been bitten by a centipede four time as he lay in his foxhole. We lit cigarettes for the boys and one for Correnti. He took a couple of drags and rolled off the stretcher to vomit. His boys politely kept their backs turned. We pushed on.

In the pillboxes at the top, GIs were heating C rations and coffee over their Coleman stoves. Others were digging new trenches with better lanes of fire. From the side of the hill came the familiar stink of rotting Jap bodies that no one had yet found time to bury.

Three of those Japs had been wearing GI jungle sweater, while a fourth had his head blasted off while bandaging himself from a GI medical kit. They had picked up the stuff from an American patrol, that had been returning to the block and ran smack into the battle. They had skirted the mountain back to the base camp.

A strange sidelight on the Jap character came out of that. One Nip was found dead a few feet from our guns. In his hand he still clutched a half-eaten K ration biscuit.

By late afternoon as we started back down the trail, observers were keeping their glasses peeled on what might be a group of Nips inching their way up a nearby ridge.

No, The war on Bougainville isn't over by a damn sight.

(From YANK DOWN UNDER - September 22, 1944)
Sent in by S. W. Allen Jr.

Ed Note: If you should recognize any of the names in this story I would appreciate hearing from you. Unit names were left out no doubt because this story was written during the war.

Numa Numa Trail

A truck drivers challenge! Est., 16 miles long to reach troops. Much of the travel time in the river beside the trail. All gears in low, front wheel drive engaged, foot of gas pedal, just let truck do it's thing. Wish we had pictures like Video. Talking about it is nothing, seeing it is something else, but doing it, well that's far out man. When watching rafting down the river on tv, the way that thing bounces, some except the wheels are still on the ground and that truck is bouncing off boulders hidden under water and your sitting in it. Thats right, your sitting in water. Sorry to have to report the loss of two men of the 132 Inf. The rain up in the mountains only gave you twenty minutes to get out of the river. We didn't have a way out at all times! The river banks were just to high. We know the things a river can do, so what chance has a simple little 6x6 two an a half stand. I met the man most responsible for saving the lives of most of the men. Three years ago I talked to the man that was the driver. He said he jumped from on top of the cab into the river and swam for his life. There were people on the banks trying to help, just didn't have the proper equipment. They even drove a cat into the river but couldn't help. And so it goes

Paul (O'Hara) Santogeanis
125th QM WW11
(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

WHEN YOU GO HOME
TELL THEM OF US, AND SAY
"FOR YOUR TOMORROW
WE GAVE OUR TODAY"

Australian War Memorial
Kieta, Rabaul, Port Moresby

A SKETCH HISTORY OF THE 246th FIELD ARTILLERY By Max E. Reynolds

The ravages of time, battle and the point system have made it almost impossible to corner an Americal veteran who was with the division at its formation in 1942. Lest the men miss our on the interesting tales the "old" men used to tell, we record, purely informally, some of these highlights, military and otherwise.

On March 4, 1942 the Nazis were crunching through Europe and Africa, the Japs were conquering the East Indies, the Solomons and other islands on their path to Australia, while on Bataan, outnumbered Americans were still fighting, awaiting relief. On March 4, 1942 the men who would later form the 246th Field Artillery Battalion boarded a ex-luxury liner Uruguay at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. They thought Bataan was their destination, but the Uruguay crossed the Panama Canal and kept her zig-zag course in South Pacific waters. The ride was memorable -- crowded quarters, two hundred nurses on the top deck, fresh water rationed to one canteen daily, ship's engines conking out on a moonlight night in middle of nowhere with Jap subs everywhere. After 40 days she finally made Melbourne, Australia. The one week in Melbourne was always recounted wistfully--the good food, the fresh milk, the beer and Scotch, and those cordial Aussie girls.

NEW CALEDONIA: WAITING AND TRAINING

Late April 1942, they debarked at the great harbor of Noumea, New Caledonia, the last defense against the Jap invasion of the Australian mainland. From infantry regiment from Illinois, Massachusetts, and North Dakota and artillery regiments from Fort Bragg, the Americal Division was activated in May of 1942. The name formed from "American" and "Caledonia", long puzzled editor who thought it was a typographical error. The Americal is the only un-numbered division in the Army. On New Caledonia the men watched from mountain OP's for the Japs who never came, learned a few French phrases, and spent long days whipping themselves into a coordinated Division. Between mountain hikes and field problems, there were occasional rides to Noumea, whose boarded-up shops, food shortage, and lake of palatable wines made its title "Paris of the Pacific" come up a little short.

GUADALCANAL: ROTTING COCONUTS AND ROTTING JAPS

The Marines invaded Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942 and secured a beachhead three miles deep and five miles long. Jap opposition proved stubborn. Selected to drive the Japs from this vital island was the Americal--the first U.S. Army Division to engage the Axis in offensive action. One regiment, the 164th Infantry, landed in October, just in time to help stop a powerful Jap banzai attack against Henderson Field--the prize of all the fighting. The 246th threaded its way through the un-sure waters to the 'Canal in November. Two torpedoes missed their transport as it entered the channel and as they come down the nets they could see the cargo ship Alciba smoking and beached--hit by Jap subs.

Eddie Rickenbacker once called Guadalcanal a "hell-hole"; it was no picnic grounds! The heat was fierce and the daily rain made the roads and battery positions a mass of smelly mud. There were frequent air raids by "Washing Machine Charlie", the Jap planes whose uncoordinated

engines gave them the tell-tale hum. The whine of the first bomb sent men into the coral dugouts in a simultaneous dive, especially the night the the scream of a dropped gas tank was mistaken for a ten ton block buster.

The steamy jungle bred the malarial anopheles mosquito, who showed bitter disdain for the old type mosquito bars. When the anopheles returned to their swamps at day break, the flies came. At Kokumbona, in the midst of rotting coconuts and rotting Japs, the Battalion learned to eat with one hand, brushing aside the ever-thickening flies with the other. Despite these conditions, the Americal gouged the Japs from their coral caves, out-tracked them and out fought them in the jungles and finally drove them completely off the island. February 9, 1943 Guadalcanal was declared secured; the Americal had obtained a base for the come-back drive. For their service on Guadalcanal the 246th, and several other units of the Americal, was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy).

FIJI: MANGOES, BEER AND RSOPS

After Guadalcanal the Fiji's looked good. Cultivated fields lay in green order. Bananas, pineapple, guava, mango and papaya abounded. Although the battalion camped in the hills most of the time, there were friendly native "tra-la" dances to attend, which soon became jive sessions. The climate was fair, even cool, and the potent Australian beer livened Saturday nights. At least two months were spent outside of Suva, the Fiji capital. Suva's paved streets were clean and many stores were open. A half dozen bars served honest drinks a few hours daily; there was ice cream parlors and soft drink stands; and there were three movie houses for those who wished to see five year old grade B movies. But Fiji was also training time again, with numerous RSOP's in the Navutu and Yako hills. Some men went home on a Cadre list, and others with bad malaria records were transferred. Replacements came in and the Americal was ready again.

BOUGAINVILLE: IMPENETRABLE JUNGLES AND BLOODY 260

New Years Eve, 1943 the Battalion embarked for Bougainville, the Jap's Pacific supply center. Two of the Batteries found themselves on a re-fitted Alciba, the same ship they had seen beached at Guadalcanal. The Marines and the 37th Infantry division had carved a small perimeter, 8 by 10 miles off Bougainville's Empress Augusta Bay. For two months the Americal did little but patrol. The Battalion spent its energies cheating the jungle for a place to live. The water level was 18 inches below the ground and a foxhole soon became a well. The underbrush, the banana trees and the interlacing vines were so thick that ten foot was the limit of visibility. Machetes whacked away constantly and trucks brought in sand.

Soon the once formidable jungle began to resemble a young national park, with picturesquely Mt. Bagana pluming white smoke in the background. But the Japs were also busy. Patiently they carried artillery pieces up trailless mountains overlooking the perimeter; patiently they readied more than 20,000 troops for the counter battery fire which our gun crew answered with terrific counter battery fire that saw clerks and cooks ripping open ammunition crates to feed our guns, while enemy shells were exploding 20 feet outside the gun pits. On Hill 260, where Able Battery maintained an OP atop a 100 foot Banyan tree, 800

yards forward of the front lines, a bloody struggle took place for possession of the tree. The Battalion massed its fire on the Jap side of Hill 260 and turned the dense jungle into a treeless patch of churned earth. The Corps' massed artillery fairly shook the island as it decimated some four thousand Japs, ready and waiting to spring at the perimeter defenses. Among the enemy was the Sixth division, which had gained everlasting infamy in the wanton 'Rape of Nanking' in 1937.

After the battle subsided the gun batteries went beyond the front lines to strike at the Japs. During one such mission the Laruma River went on a flood rampage, broke its course, and isolated Charlie Battery on a 35 square yard island. When the excitement died down, the Bougainville months became lonely months. There was not even a native to look at. Movies, pin-ups and three USO shows were the only reminders that the world wasn't made up of males dressed in green fatigues.

THE PHILIPPINE: BEWARE--MINES ON THE BEACH

In January 1945, the Americal made a long boat trip to Leyte, after a few days stopover in Hollandia Harbor, New Guinea. On Leyte the Battalion unloaded lumber barges, happily gave its dirty clothes to the laundrywomen after twelve months of clothes-boiling, and generally prepared for its first beachhead. Some Forward Observer Parties and the Baker Factory guns saw action on Samar, Biri, and Capul islands, whose capture secured the sea passage to Luzon. Late March the Americal boarded LST's and LCI's and slowly headed for Cebu. E Day was the 26th of March; H-Hour 0830. Navy cruisers and destroyers cracked out salvos on the beach, the LST's and LCI's lined up to lash out with a thunderous rocket barrage. At H-Hour the Infantry and the Artillery FO parties went ashore at Talisay. At H-Hour plus 50 the main body of the Battalion landed on the beach, acrid from cordite. The beach and the fields were mined; the combat boots stepped lightly and carefully. Cebu City was taken in a few days as the Japs retired to their well prepared caves in the hills. On Babag Ridge the fighting was bitter. Jap mortars, 20 millimeters and machine guns looked down the throats of the Americal infantry as it slowly took one hill after the other. Artillery FO's were pinned down hours on end as they sought to destroy the Jap strong points. The Japs finally broke and fled into the mountainous interior.

The 246th then galloped across the island and sped up to Tabuculan on paved roads, a new sensation after the roadless Solomons. At every village Filipino crowds gathered, cheering "Veektory" and "Cigarettes Joe". The Americal cut off the escape routes, sought out trapped Nips with constant patrolling, raked them with Cub-directed artillery fire, until 10,000 were killed and Jap fighting effectiveness was reduced to zero.

Cebu completed the third campaign for the Americal Under the Southern Cross. Nearly all the old men were gone. But the Uruguay and Kokumbona and Hill 260 and Talisay will remain, part and fiber of the Division and the Battalion.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
RECEIVE THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

HILL 260

Company F, 182 Infantry
by Lew Turner

There are many stories and memories concerning the battle for a small strategic spot on Bougainville known as Hill 260. The following is what stands out and is vivid in my memory.

My unit was Company F, 2nd Battalion, 182 Infantry. I can remember all too well the morning of March 10, 1944. We were given orders to move out immediately. We didn't take the old trail we normally would have when going up. We had been up many times before and we were sure the Japanese would have it cut off. Instead we went further to the north, if my memory serves me correct, along "C" trail.

Artillery shells had been whistling overhead. There were many craters from artillery where we were. They were most likely made by the Jap artillery and mortars as our guns wouldn't have been firing in that area. We were about half way up the Hill when someone called out, "Come on up, they are all gone." Some of our people stood up and that's when the Japs opened fire.

Knee mortar shells were falling everywhere, I was right between two barbed wire fences. A man from "G" Company, who was on the Hill from the very beginning of the attack yelled for us to come in the dugout with him, that he was all alone. Five of us managed to get through the barbed wire and that is where we took cover.

Most of the Company went to the North Knob of the Hill and that is when we realized we were cut off from the others. We were on the northwest slope alone, Whalen, Perry, Sgt. Vickers, Thomas, Cohen, and myself. The word was to, "Hold at all costs", and if we were forced to withdraw, the Hill would be leveled by artillery fire.

In the dugout we had two BAR men and four riflemen, a lot of firepower for six men. We were holed up there for a total of two night and three days. Every minute seemed like an hour. We were unable to make contact with any of our own troops.

Heavy shelling was going on all around us, at times it seemed like almost on top of us. We didn't know if it were theirs or ours. After listening we could hear our artillery in the background. This all happened so long ago that I cannot remember what happened on what day, but I do remember our dugout was rushed at least once. Sgt. Vickers was killed from a bayonet wound. Our Executive Officer Lt. McDaniel was killed in an attempt to reach us. We were pinned down by machine gun fire coming from the top of the Hill. We tried to tell him but he couldn't hear us.

We were doing everything we could to just survive, at one point we even talked about surrendering but the idea was soon forgotten. Toward the end of the third day we planned to try to get out after dark. The plan was to go one at a time, five minutes apart, and regroup at the bottom of the Hill. As soon as it was dark we started with Whalen going first, I went next. I believe I was followed by Thomas, then Cohen with Perry last.

I was halfway down when a flare went up, lighting the whole area. I could see Jap soldiers everywhere. I didn't move, just froze in my tracks. I could hear them saying, "Over here,

come on over here, we are over here, come on". I'm sure they couldn't see me but they could hear me. To get through the fence I scooted under the wire, not over it.

As soon as the flare burned out I worked my way down toward the bottom of the Hill. After reaching what I thought was a safe distance from the Hill I crawled under some brush and went to sleep. I woke up at the crack of dawn, as the shelling began again.

I worked my way down to the Eagle River and finally made my way back to the base camp in the dry river bed where some of our men were. It wasn't too long before Perry showed up.

Perry and I had something to eat and a Jeep took us back to the rear area, none of the other three had shown up. There were several of our men that were stragglers like us, back in the area. Perry and I went back to our old dugout in the Company's original area. We spent the night there, our Platoon Leader, Lt. Hammitt was back there also. Lt. Hammitt had been wounded and was being treated by the Medics. He was passing blood in his urine which was caused by a knee mortar explosion.

On our second night back in the rear area, Lt. Hammitt came to Perry and me and told us to go over to his tent for the night and that he would stand guard.

The next morning Col. Long came through the area and called us all together. He told us that everyone was badly needed and that we would have to go back on the Hill. To me that was like a death sentence. When we arrived back on the Hill it was like Paradise compared to what it was like before. There were trenches between the dugouts and you could move around, almost at will.

The battle lasted about four more days and finally the Japs withdrew. We went back to where we had been before. The whole end of the Hill was pulverized. The dugout we had stayed in wasn't there anymore, it had been completely blown away.

We didn't hear from Thomas, Cohen, or Whalen until the battle was over. We learned that Cohen and Thomas were in the hospital and that Whalen was ok. Out of the six of us Sgt. Vickers was killed, Cohen and Thomas were wounded and I think Whalen was ok. Perry and I both received shrapnel wounds but not serious enough to go to the Medics.

We lost touch after the war, but Perry and I got together about 25 years later. I went to Boston in 1988 to "F" Company reunion and Cohen was there. That was our first meeting since we left that dugout back in 1944. Thomas and Whalen were from "G" Company and I lost track of them. If anyone knows of their whereabouts please contact me.

Lew Turner
116 Oak Grove Pkwy.
Oroville, CA 95966
916-589-5901

P.S. Lt. Hammitt and I went back and recovered Sgt. Vickers body. We also found the body of the Japanese soldier that bayoneted Sgt. Vickers. He did not live to tell about it. We got his insignia--he was a Captain.

JAPANESE VERSION OF HILL 260

0700 10 March -- 3rd platoon, 17th Inf. have broken into American perimeter on observation hill

followed by 1st Company 3rd Bn. Penetration made on north point of perimeter. 10 enemy killed, our losses one killed and five wounded. 1st Company continuing attack.

0800 10 March -- Observation hill is now occupied by 1st Company except ridge extending N.W. of observation tree. 2nd Company now deployed east from perimeter to Torokina River. 3rd Company in reserve at base of hill. No further casualties.

0900 10 March -- Estimated platoon of enemy seized south portion of perimeter. Estimated two platoons of enemy reinforced ridge N.W. observation tree. Heavy enemy casualties. Enemy platoon on south perimeter attacked to north but were repulsed by 2nd Company and have withdrawn to original positions on south perimeter. Our losses four killed, three wounded.

1100 10 March -- Enemy platoon on south perimeter receiving reinforcements. Enemy dead identified as belonging to 182d Inf., Americal Division.

1200 10 March -- Enemy attack from south perimeter crushed by 1st Company, many enemy casualties. Our own loss one killed, one wounded.

1300 10 March -- Additional enemy attacks from perimeter and NW Ridge defeated. Many enemy casualties and wounded.

1400 10 March -- Enemy attack between Torokina River and perimeter forced back by 2nd Company. Three dead. Our losses two wounded.

1500 10 March -- All quiet on hill. 1st Company improving positions.

1600 10 March -- Heavy mortar bombardment. Our losses 5 killed, 6 wounded.

1700 10 March -- Heavy enemy attack from south perimeter in progress.

1800 10 March -- Enemy forced back to original positions on south perimeter. Our losses 4 killed, 2 missing, 6 wounded. Enemy casualties heavy.

1900 10 March -- 2nd Company attacking south perimeter from east. Heavy fighting in progress.

2000 10 March -- 2nd Company has returned to original position. Enemy too well fortified to be attacked up hill from east. Enemy employed grenades in clusters. Our losses 7 killed, 11 wounded. Enemy casualties estimated heavy.

2100 10 March -- all quiet on hill. 3rd Company into perimeter to prepare attack on south perimeter.

2400 10 March -- Plans completed for 3rd Company to attack at 0600 toward south perimeter. Muisance fire received from NW Ridge with two infiltrating attacks repulsed.

0600 11 March -- One strong point cleared on west portion of perimeter. Enemy communications between south perimeter and NW ridge now cut. 3rd Company now to attack at 0900. 2nd Company to support by fire.

0700 11 March -- Enemy preparing to attack.

0800 11 March -- Enemy team pushed north from south perimeter and are employing new type direct fire shoulder mortar. Grenade discharger. 1st and 2nd Company teams saturating enemy team and south perimeter with heavy blanket of shells. Our

casualties 3 wounded.

0900 11 March -- Enemy team eliminated. Captured new weapon and are sending it back to HQ, 3rd Company attack now set for 1000. enemy casualties one killed, one wounded.

1000 11 March -- 3rd Company attacking -- good progress made.

1100 11 March -- 3rd Company back in original positions. 7 killed, 11 wounded. 1st Company will attack on left. 3rd Company on right 1300 hours.

1400 11 March -- Enemy cleared from south perimeter. 17 killed, 15 wounded. Evidence to show at least one enemy Company wiped out.

(Lt. Hammitt, F Company, lived in Japan for some time at the close of the war. This article is part of the research he conducted while in Japan).

246th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Able Battery of the 246th F.A. maintained the O.P one hundred feet up in the 'One Million Dollar Tree', (the platform built by the 57th Engineers). Among the first casualties on Hill 260 was the O.P. team of the 246th. This team consisted of Lt. Earl E. Excell, T/4 Clarence Fulcher, T/4 Barney O'Neil, Pfc. Hardy Robison and Pfc John J. Zamlen.

(Ltc. James A. Watson Ret., formerly of the 246th writes from his home in Jacksonville, FL, "We found our men on Hill 260 and the Graves Registration gave them a proper burial. My men attended the service".

THANK YOU!

I wish to thank each and every man that took the time to send in an article on the battle for Bougainville. I do hope that our reader will not find these articles too long or boring.

I myself was a participant in the Battle for Hill 260 and I have learned a great deal from reading and typing these articles. To me many stories that I have read about 260 were disconnected so to speak. I now have a much better perspective of the battle and in the future I will attempt to put together a play-by-play as each Company entered the battle thereby, hopefully, clearing up a few issues.

In reading the Japanese version I could see the action that was taking place in front of my Company and I have a better understanding as to what happened.

I cannot close without paying homage to Lt. Col. Dexter A. Lowry, our Battalion Commander. My Company, "E", led the initial attack up the south slope. Our C.O. Lt. Melvin Carlson was one of the first wounded and evacuated. Col. Lowry took over the Company. I was Commo Sgt. and my place was with the C.O. Col. Lowry is one of the bravest men that I have ever known. He stood tall, over six feet, and never hit the ground.

He gave the orders standing up!

His reward? He was made the scapegoat, reduced to his permanent rank of Captain and sent home.

Jim

HEADQUARTERS 182D INFANTRY AMERICAL DIVISION APO 716

Regiment Honors Bunker Hill Tradition With Program

The 169th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill was celebrated by the members of the Regiment by appropriate military ceremony and recreation.

At 1000 a presentation of awards was held with the Commanding General making the awards. In addition, The Presidential Unit Citation and the Company "E" citation awarded by the Division Commander were read. Immediately following this ceremony, the Regiment formed for the dedication of the road to Hill 260 as "Bunker Hill Road". The text of this ceremony read as follows:

"We are gathered here today to pay tribute to the veterans of the Battle for Hill 260. We are dedicating this road to those men who fought and to those who died on this Hill.

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

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

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

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

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

REUNIONS

AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY
WWII - KOREAN - VIETNAM

WILL BE HELD APRIL 22 - 27, 1996
BIG VALLEY MOTEL

BRANSON, MISSOURI 65616

CONTACT

Elbert R. Horton [REDACTED] Leland M. Cox [REDACTED]

Timberlake, NC 27583-9574 Mentone, AL 35985

H COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY
Saturday, May 25, 1996

CONTACT

John Groppi [REDACTED] Fred Zaino [REDACTED]

Dorchester, MA 02125 Everett, MA 02149

SERVICE BATTERY - 247 FIELD ARTILLERY
Worcester, MA
September 26 - 27 - 28, 1996

CONTACT

Alfred R. Doig [REDACTED] Westwood, MA 02090

L COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY
May 23, 1996

CONTACT

Robert Doucette [REDACTED] Lynn, MA 01904
Telephone [REDACTED]

E COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY
May 29, 1996

CONTACT

James C. Buckle [REDACTED] Harwich, MA 02645
Call - [REDACTED]

YANKEE DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONVENTION
June 10 - 11 - 12 1996

CONTACT

Leslie F. White [REDACTED] Beverly, MA 01915
Call [REDACTED]

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION
5307th, 475th, Infantry & Support Groups
August 30 - September 1, 1996
Washington, DC

CONTACT

Raymond V. Lyons [REDACTED] Phoenix, AZ 85028-2723

MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND A. VEZINA
Presented with Honorary Life Membership

Major General Raymond A. Vezina, the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, was presented a Honorary Life Membership in the Americal Division Veterans Association at a brief ceremony held recently at the Americal Musuem in Worcester.

Making the presentation on behalf of the ADVA was PNC Alfred R. Doig and PNC Kenneth R. Turner.



PNC Doig - General Vezina - PNC Turner

The Americal Division Veterans Association is grateful to General Vezina for providing the facilities to perpetuate the History of the Americal Division in WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

164 INFANTRY

I was very pleased to receive my first AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. It was grand and I especially enjoyed the section, 'Letter from the Old Guard', of which I am one.

However when you printed my name under 'New Member' you placed me in the 154 Regiment instead of the 164th Infnatry.

Alfred J. Gliddon

Ed Note: Sorry about that Al but it is now corrected. You were listed correct in the records but I copied it wrong. I could blame it on the computer but is was more than likely the hour and the candle was burning down. Jim.

FORT DEVENS CLOSING CEREMONY

Fort Devens, Massachusetts--here many thousands of men trained before going off to war. This base was used for training men during World War I, during World War II, the Korean War and also Vietnam.

The closing ceremony will be held on March 31, 1996 at 1300 hours.

If you are interested in attending, CONTACT:

M/Sgt. Charlie Dower
Headquarters Fort Devens
Fort Devens, MA 01433

Call: [REDACTED]

245th FIELD ARTILLERY
DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

Enclosed is a photo, enlarged slightly, from a miniature print taken with a Jap camera. The officer on the left was a Captain. His radioman, on the left was badly wounded when both of them were with me at Abijo on Leyte.



Would like to know if anyone can identify them and if they are still alive and where. Pleas contact:

Charles H. Walker

Pembina, ND 58271

When a mortar shell landed among the three of us, and H Co., 164 Infantry, was killed and the Captain tried to save him. (Leg nearly blown off). The second man in the group, Lt. Paul Clement had a collapsed lung and I was blown about 50-80 feet down the mountain. This was all caused by a man setting his mortar at 87 degrees instead of 78 degrees. These two men were from Col. Jim Taylors's 245 F.A.

We got into the edge of the Jap perimeter above Abijo that day where the 245 had a field day. We lost heavily, but did the job.

Chuck Walker

LT OWEN R. MATTHEWS.

I would like to contact anyone that knew my father. He, Lt. Owen R. Matthews (now deceased) possibly served with HQ Company, 182nd Infantry while on Cebu. If anyone knew my father I would appreciate it very much if they would contact me.

Daniel B. Matthews

Apple Valley, MN 55124

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Looking for a Melvin Kert formerly of Clifford, Texas. Melven is a former member of the 1st Bn. 182 Infantry. If you know his whereabouts please contact:

Jack Hill

Tucson, AZ 85741

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

At a recent surprise party, held at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Jan and Ken Turner were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 24, 1945 in the First Congregational Church, Reading Mass.

Ken went overseas with Task Force 6814 and served with E Company, 182 Infantry through the Guadalcanal campaign. He was returned to the States due to illness and then finished his tour of duty in Europe.



Jan and Ken Turner

Kenneth is a Past National Commander of the ADVA, has served several term on the Executive Council, and has been the Museum Curator for many years. He still holds this office.

Ken and Jan are blessed with two daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren.

COMPANY C - 182 INFANTRY

I just received my first copy of the Americal Newsletter and I have read it over and over. I did not know until October 1995 that here was an Americal Division Veterans Association. When I left the Americal in 1946 I was told I was going home to the states and the Division was to be disbanded. I cant' believe that I have missed all these years.

I served with C Company, 182 Infantry on Cebu and on occupation duty in Japan. I would sure like to hear from some of my old buddies that I served with and especially Lt. Orr.

Rolla E. Martin

Winfield, MO 63389

I will be looking forward to hearing from you and just wish that I could have all these many years.

Rolla Martin

101 QUARTERMASTER REGIMENT - 125 QUARTERMASTER

Leslie H. Martinson celebrated his 81st birthday on January 16, 1996. He sure deserves a telephone call!

THE BOMB- ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

As an American of Japanese descent, I have watched the debate over the need to drop the BOMB with great interest. But my opinion is not what I want to mention. Recently, the weekend before Veteran's Day, I had the opportunity to take my uncle and two aunts to visit the Smithsonian Museum's display on the American Internment Camps for Japanese-Americans during WW II. Since both my aunts and my uncle were locked up there, they were very interested in the depiction of camp life. Toward the end of the exhibit, there is a section devoted to Japanese-Americans who served with Military Intelligence in the US Army. This caught my uncle's eye because he was recruited out of the internment camps to serve with MI and was stationed in the Philippines. One caption reported that members of MacArthur's staff credited Japanese-Americans in MI with saving over a million American casualties and shortening the war by two years in the Pacific campaign. What I found remarkable was my uncle's comment on that. He said "And those bombs saved a lot more!". Another perspective, same conclusion.

Spencer Baba
2/1 196th 68-69

125 QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

Mr. and Mrs. Joeseph Zukerman announce the arrivcal of their FIRST granchild -- it's a baby boy!! The young fellow weighed in at 7 1/2 pounds and was born July 12, 1995.

The Zukermans make their home in Liesure World, Laguna Hills, CA. you might want to call them at [REDACTED] and offer congratulations.

If you are planning a Reunion this coming year please get your notice in to the Newsletter early.

The deadlines for the Americal Newsletter are:

April - May - June Issue ---- April 30, 1996
July - Aug - Sept Issue ---- July 30, 1996
Oct - Nov - Dec Issue ---- Oct 30, 1996

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ballots for the election of officers for the 1996-1997 year were put in the mail February 20, 1996 and the are due to be returned no latter tha April 15, 1996. If you did not receive a ballot contact:

James C. Buckle

Harwich, MA 02645

Call: [REDACTED]

RETURN YOUR BALLOT ---- YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

1/Sgt. Henry P. O'Melia was nineteen (19) years old at the time of his enlistment, November 16, 1925. He joined the 26th Division Quartermaster Train at the Woburn, MA Armory. He now lives in Winchester, Massachusetts.

ADVA establishes site on the Internet**Information now accessible by computer**

The Americal Division Veterans Association now has a presence on the Internet. In the past few weeks, a group of volunteers has established a "home page" for the ADVA. Anyone with a computer and modem can now access selected information about the ADVA and other veteran related topics.

At the present time, the ADVA home page, sometimes also called a web site or web page, consists of about thirty pages of information. It can be thought of as an electronic magazine. Included is relevant information on membership eligibility and application, the annual reunion, products for sale, and the scholarship foundation. Another section gives a brief history of the Americal Division, order of battle, awards and decorations, lineage, and a bibliography of historical resources. Links are provided to quickly connect the user to other sites of interest.

One of the chief reasons for the ADVA presence on the Internet is to tell interested individuals that we exist. With a computer program called a "browser", a user can enter a word into a search. The browser then looks for files on the Internet that contain this word and returns the addresses of the files it finds. Any user can now enter the word "Americal" (or other key words) and be sent to the ADVA home page.

The home page can be accessed directly if the user knows its Internet address. The address for the ADVA home page is:

<http://www.americal.org>

This address is officially registered by the ADVA and cannot be used by any other entity. The registration fee for the address is \$50.00 per year, and to date, this is the only direct cost borne by the association. All other services have been donated.

The project would not have been possible without the dedicated effort of some special volunteers. This is even more notable in that the volunteers are not even members of ADVA. Their interest is to build their technical skills while providing a needed benefit to our organization. They took the idea from "Can it be done?" to "It is done." in just a few weeks.

Those involved are Kevin M. Sartorius, SFC Anthony E. Greene, and SGM Gregory A. Noller. Greene and Noller are on active duty with the 10th Mountain Division at Ft. Drum, NY. Sartorius is a computer technician currently residing in Arlington, VA. All three are long-time computer hobbyists and they provide a wide range of high quality specialty skills.

SFC Greene is a 15 year Army veteran and expects to leave for Europe later this year. SGM Noller is preparing to retire from the Signal Corps after a 25 year career. Sartorius is seeking a position in the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. while his wife pursues a masters program at Georgetown.

Early visitors to the ADVA home page were members of the Americal Prodigy board. They have supplied much needed suggestions for improvements and have provided resources for the page. ADVA member Jay Roth has worked closely with the volunteers to provide materials for the Americal history pages.

Computer space for the home page has been donated by ServiceTech, Inc., a computer services company located in Rochester, NY. The contributions of Mr. David Dewey and Mr. Steve Tisa have been invaluable and are greatly appreciated.

Responses in the guest book have come from as far away as Australia and Ireland. Several requests for assistance are received each week. The requests come from people who would like to contact former members of the Americal Division.

One of the first success stories involved a woman who wanted information on the service of her recently departed husband. Working with information provided by the widow, Jay Roth quickly located the veteran's WWII sergeant.

You are invited to visit the ADVA home page and see what it has to offer. If you do not have a computer, ask someone in your family, business, or neighborhood to assist you. They can have you connected in a matter of minutes.



Mr. Kevin M. Sartorius, computer technician, takes a break while composing the ADVA web page.

Show pride in the Americal and ADVA Specialty products offered for sale

You can show your pride in the Americal Division and the ADVA by displaying the division patch and the association logo. This will let others know that you proudly served in the Americal.

The ADVA offers many quality products for sale to members at economical prices. These items are frequently listed in the **AMERICAL NEWSLETTER**. Orders can be placed with Mr. Ken Turner at [REDACTED]

You can expect that other Americal veterans will approach you when they recognize the unit emblem. Take the opportunity to tell them of the ADVA and invite them to join. Obtain their name and address and forward it to the Adjutant for a membership kit. Help the membership committee build the ADVA into a bigger and better organization.

Publicize the annual reunion

Reunions bring new members to ADVA

In 1986 I was living in Oklahoma when I spotted a small news article in a free paper. It told of an upcoming ADVA reunion in Reno, NV. This was how I first learned of the veterans association of my former division.

I wrote to the reunion chairman and quickly received a return letter. Included in the letter was an invitation to become a part of the association. I immediately responded in the affirmative and I have been a member of ADVA ever since.

The reunion chairman that sponsored my membership was Lloyd Morrell. If it were not for his efforts to publicize the reunion I may still not be a part of the ADVA. This year Lloyd again chairs the annual reunion in Reno. Let's give him a hand.

Most local newspapers will publicize veterans reunions free of charge. A sample text is shown in the box below. Send it to your local papers with a request that they publish it for you.

The Americal Division Veterans Association will hold its annual reunion in Reno, NV on June 20-23, 1996. The ADVA is open to all veterans who were assigned or attached to the division during all eras. For more information contact Mr. Lloyd Morrell, Reunion Chairman, [REDACTED], Redmond, OR, 97756

Gary L. Noller

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

As Chairman of the Membership Committee, I would like to encourage each of you to take an active part in the recruitment of new members into our organization. This important task is something that you can accomplish and it will require only a very small amount of time and effort.

Advertisements in veterans magazines have been successful in attracting new members. However, many new members only hear of ADVA by word of mouth. (At a recent National Reunion, one new member told me that he heard about ADVA from a fellow lying on a golf green. Say what???) In this article and ones to follow, I will outline a few simple methods that you can employ to help spread the word about the existence of the ADVA.

Anyone who has ever served with the Americal Division will always recognize the distinctive blue patch with the four white stars. At every possible opportunity, I ask that you display the Americal insignia. This can be in the form of a lapel pin, cap, T-shirt, window decal, license plate, bumper sticker, and the like. These items are available through ADVA and are reasonably priced.

Should you be approached by Americal veterans, please inquire if they are aware of ADVA and if they are a member. If they are not, you have a great recruiting opportunity. Give them the address of the National Office as was well as your personal address if you like. Get their names, addresses, and phone numbers. Tell them the ADVA needs them to once again be part of the unit.

Send the prospective new member a copy of the Americal Newsletter and a membership application form and send the names and addresses that you obtain to the Membership Committee at the National Office. Make a follow-up contact to the prospects and explain the benefits of ADVA and answer any questions that you can. Let them know that you want them to belong.

Using the above method, you will be successful in recruiting new members. It may not work every time, but it will work some of the time. Give it a try. Your assistance is needed and appreciated.

Gary L. Noller
Senior Vice Commander

Dear Roland,

If possible I would like to get a list of the people who served in my unit in Vietnam. My dates were Oct '68 to Oct '69. I remember alias' names more than my brothers real names and can't even pay my respect at the Wall because of this problem.

If you can be of any assistance I certainly would appreciate it. This would also enable me to possibly re-visit with those of us who were fortunate enough to make it.

Thank you for your consideration. WELCOME HOME BROTHERS!

Mike Wells (alias-John Wayne)

[REDACTED]
St Petersburg, FL 33707

***** HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET? *****

Dear Roland,

I am looking for information of the complement of initial troops into Vietnam. I served aboard the USS Cavalier APA 37, the most decorated ship ever, and rubbed elbows with several hundreds of troops and a UDT group. Specifically, I'd like to know what happened to them. I found one back in the states that had been blinded by a shoreline thorn bush, who I spent many hours talking and playing card, etc., and I looked like a clone of my uncle. It was devastating to see him being led around by his wife in a commissary, and it has discouraged me to find out more about others.

The time has come, though, and I need to know KIA, WIA, MIA, POW facts. Americal, or the 29th Division, must have been involved. All I can remember, now is a Landing Team Echo, and going ashore with them in an M8 'mike' boat at Chu Lai. Upon return, I broke out in huge boils, and eventually was taken to Naha, Okinawa with 'keratitis' in my left eye. A real help would be information on the ops orders or 'plan of the day' standing orders to spray the perimeter of that base with some flavor of Agent Orange. Likewise, in and around DaNang.

If anyone can fill in some blanks on the specifics, I sure would appreciate it. The information about specific units will be added to the logs of the group keeping track of the Cavalier's history. She didn't make it out of the sixties either.....

Sincerely

Michael S Healy (ETR3c, USN)

[REDACTED]
Portland OR 97217-0405

Dear Roland,

I enjoyed a rather unique experience in Vietnam having served for the first part of my tour as a Battalion S-5 in 2/1st at Hawk Hill and then going to the field with A Co. I was able to meet some really wonderful people in the hamlets and villages and was able to make some great friends with the Vietnamese. I then was sent to the field as a platoon leader and saw the other side of the war, but again made some very close friends during that period.

At any rate, a few weeks ago, I was with my wife and friends at a local honky tonk north of San Antonio and met another veteran who sat at our table with us. In our discussion, he said "we had to go down and bail out the Americal." I said in response, "what were you a Marine?" He of course replied that he was, but it just ruined the rest of my evening. I got to Vietnam after the Hiep Duc fight, but I heard a lot about it and heard that a lot of good guys got hurt pretty bad, but I sure don't remember anyone telling me that they had to call in the Marines! Hi diddle! diddle! everyone up the middle!

I sure would like to hear from any of the guys who served in A Co during the Kham Duc '70 operation. I found Pappy who is a retired Command Sergeant Major living in Kennedy, Texas. Please give me a call at work 1-800-829-1194 and leave a message. I am traveling quite a bit and will call you back ASAP.

Thanks for the newsletter!

Sincerely

William S. "Bill" Bacon
HHC & A 2/1st 196th LIB

Dec '69 to Aug '70

[REDACTED]
San Antonio, TX 78250

4/3 INFANTRY 'OLD GUARD'

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" boast of being members of the oldest and one of the most decorated infantry outfits in the Regular Army.

The "Old Guard" received its nickname in the Mexican War when General Winfield K. Scott instructed his staff members to "remove your hats to the Old Guard of the Army" as its soldiers marched triumphantly into Mexico City. They had been given the honor of marching at the head of the American troops because of their gallantry during the Battle of Cerro Gord.

The 4th Battalion of the 3rd Infantry was organized July 1, 1966, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade.

Its soldiers, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alvin E. Adkins, are now based at Landing Zone Sue and are participating in Operation Muscatine in the area near Quang Ngai.

Infantry troops of Task Force Barker cleared an area considered a Viet Cong stronghold for 20 years in a February action involving both Naval and Air Force support for the Army units.

After one rifle company was positioned on the north to block an enemy retreat in that direction, two more rifle companies and a full platoon of armored personnel carriers from the 11th Brigade pushed through the enemy combat outpost line to the village of My Lai and the sea.

The enemy had massed a full battalion, entrenched in fortified positions linked by tunnels and protected by mines and booby traps, in the village and surrounding area.

A total of 78 Viet Cong were killed in the action, and the ground troops detained another 35 suspects.

Task Force Barker a combat element of Operation Muscatine, is composed of companies of the 11th Infantry Brigade.

A BATTERY 6BN. 11 ARTILLERY

The self propelled 8" howitzer was very accurate. It took a few rounds to get the blade settled in but after that you could drop round after round in the same hole. The weight of the 8" round was about 200lb but varied from one lot to the next. The variation in weight was indicated by a series of yellow squares painted on the round. FDC (fire direction control) had to know the number of squares on a round because it affected the data that they gave to the firing battery. The same track that carried the 8" tube was also used for the 175mm (about 6-7/8") tube. It had a much longer tube than the 8" and a range of about 18 miles if I recall it right. Unlike the 8" the 175 was far from accurate. If I remember correctly it was also the only howitzer that was not supposed to be direct fired. It was possible to change the tube from 8" to 175 or back in the field using two wreckers a section and a couple of hours. The 175 also had a couple of other quirks but they don't mean a lot now. Hope you find this a little interesting or of some help. Your pictures are great. "Bill" PS Chinooks were used to move light artillery (105mm) around. All artillery rounds had the weight square on them.

William Bruinsma
A/6/11 ARTY 70-71

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

4 BATTALION - 3rd INFANTRY - (OLD GUARD)
11 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
Schoefield Barracks, Hawaii

As a veteran of the "Old Guard", since leaving Vietnam I have not had a chance to communicate or meet with any of the many comrades who served with me in Hawaii (1966-67) and Vietnam (1967-68) with the 4th Bn/3rd Inf, 11 LIB, except MG Robert (Bob) Menist who at that time was a Captain, and it was indeed a pleasure after these many years.

I am at this time, soliciting all of the "Old Guard" soldiers who were assigned to the 4th Bn/3rd Inf, during the above stated time frame to write to me at the below listed address for the purpose of planning a "First Time Re-Union" of the original Vietnam "Old Guard" soldiers.

Additionally, do you know that there is an "Old Guard Museum" located at Fort Myers, Virginia and they are seeking names and addresses of soldiers with the 4th Bn/3rd Inf in Vietnam.

Write to:
George Bryant III MAJ (Ret)
[REDACTED]

Hampton, VA 23664

E COMPANY - 1st BN - 46th INFANTRY - 196 LIB

I would like to contact anyone that has information on my unit. Names, places, actions, etc., from June 1, 1969 to March 18, 1970. Also, I was first assigned to the 198th LIB for the first week or so when I arrived in Vietnam.

I left Vietnam from a hospital in Cam Rahn Bay, with the Red Cross, after my first wife was killed in a car wreck.

I believe my papers were lost, leaving Vietnam as I did, and I can't find a record of my CIB as it was not on my DD 214. I have about exhausted all avenues of government and VA to find my records.

I am retired on a disability and am seeking help from the VA. Any help will be much appreciated.

Contact: James E. Ellis 11B20
[REDACTED]
Abbeville, SC 29620

P.S. Point man E Company, 1/46 Infantry--just recently started finding some pride in what I did in Vietnam, I had an Americal shield and the name Recon tattooed on my left shoulder 2 months ago.

3rd INFANTRY

I would like to contact anyone that might have known the following soldier:

SP-4 Alan M. Royston
C0D/3rd Inf.
Americal Div. Vietnam
BSM-PH
KIA 2/24/69

He is the brother and son of a family friend and I believe he was stationed at Chu Lai. Write to:

Mark Rowan
[REDACTED]
Shullsburg, WI 53586
Tel. [REDACTED]

52nd INFANTRY

In early 1969, the 1/52nd Infantry was based at LZ Professional which was about 20 miles west of Chu Lai. The area around LZ Professional abutted an active enemy zone known as Base Area 117 which the NVA controlled and freely moved supplies, weapons and munitions. Typically it was a dangerous area where any lone US infantry company was usually outnumbered by the NVA. From a view in a helicopter in the sky, it first appeared to me as a lonely and scary outpost on the southwest edge of the Americal area of operations. Although the winter months tended to see lesser amounts of combat due to wet conditions, LZ Professional had been probed by sapper units in January 1969. In late February and early March 1969, the NVA staged a multi-pronged attack at several ARVN bases particularly at Tien Phouc, about 8 clicks to the north, and line companies of the 1/52nd took some severe losses. On March 7, the battalion commander of the 1/52nd LTC Stinson was killed in action. (Posthumously, LZ Buff was later renamed LZ Stinson in honor of the fallen 1/52nd commander.) At that point, my unit, the 1/46th Inf. was assigned the patrol responsibility of LZ Professional and we were airlifted in from our previous base of operations, LZ Baldy, which was then turned over to the 2/1st Infantry.

During a very dark night with almost no moonlight on May 12, 1969, an enemy sapper unit viciously attacked LZ Professional at 0220 hours from the southwest. The surprise attack (carried out by the V-16th Sapper Bn. and probably at least 100 sappers) was successfully resisted by my company D 1/46th which was providing perimeter security and C Btry 1/14th Arty which manned four 105mm guns on Pro. But we just barely kept them from infiltrating through the perimeter wire and onto the firebase. Bunker 2 took a direct hit from an RPG round or satchel charge. The sapper unit crept up the steep hillside and made it to less than 20 feet from the bunker line. US casualties on that night and the next day were 3 US KIA and 25 US WIA and it was only the start of a month of aggression from a large and well prepared NVA force..

From that day, May 12, some of the 1/46th Inf. line companies were boldly attacked in daylight by large NVA forces of the 3rd Regiment, 2nd NVA Division. LZ Professional was under siege from recoilless, mortars and 12.7mm fire day and night. The NVA operated a 75 mm recoilless from nearby Hill 497 and repeatedly fired accurate shots in and around the 105 mm artillery pits terrorizing everyone on the hill as the pop of the gun could be heard before an incoming round landed.. The attack on May 12 left the tattered corpses of approximately 20 NVA sappers entangled in the perimeter wire in front of Bunkers Two and Three. The bodies progressively ripened into a horrible stench and grisly sight in the searing heat for about one week (and an un-nerving week will never forget in my lifetime.) Incoming rounds were so heavy in that week, we had no hope of safely removing the dead sappers from the perimeter wire. The sight of the corpses could not be avoided and if the wind was southerly, the awful and permeating smell of human flesh blew right back at us.

During the siege, all supply and medevac aircraft approaching LZ Professional required heavy gunship and F4 Phantom support in order to land safely. USAF Puff the Magic Dragon C47 fixed wing gunships were called in to provide continuous and awesome fire throughout the night around LZ Professional for several days. (These ships had

callsigns of Spooky 11, 12, 13 and 14. and Shadow 45.) On May 15, A CH47 Chinook (tail 727) took a direct hit near the rear engine while in landing approach over LZ Professional resulting in flames bursting from the tail section. The pilot luckily landed the bird on the lower pad of the firebase. The Hook burned up completely and the huge front blade remained on the lower pad for several days. Anyone observing LZ Professional at the time, from the air or ground, would not have mistaken the sight of the remains of the destroyed Hook and massive blade along with the rotting NVA bodies entangled in the perimeter wire and other significant destruction in and around the small hilltop. Had reporters or photographers been on the scene (which they were not), the picture would have undoubtedly been an irksome view of the Vietnam War if seen by the American public on television.

In reaction to the siege at LZ Professional and other enemy buildup in the area, a Tactical Emergency was declared by the Americal Division and Operation Lamar Plain was hastily initiated by the 101st Airborne Division on May 15, 1969. Although the 101st was initially dispatched to relieve pressure on LZ Professional, concern also existed at the Americal Division command that some friendly main bases were in danger of being overrun particularly at Tam Ky, Tien Phouc and New Hau Duc. The 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade was airlifted from Phu Bai into Tam Ky and placed under the operational control (OPCON) of the Americal Division. The 1/46th Inf. and C Btry 1/14th Arty were in-turn placed under OPCON of the 1st Bde./101. Various 101st units were placed in the Americal AO, including 2/320th Arty with C Btry at LZ Young and B Btry at Tien Phouc, two Infantry battalions (the 1/501st and 2/501st) at LZ Professional, and the B 2/17th Cav at Tam Ky. Other 101st aviation units were placed at Chu Lai as were USAF forward air controllers needed to oversee considerable air traffic and airstrikes into the area from various aviation units in the Americal, 101st, USAF and USMC.

The scale of the battle that followed the arrival of the 101st units became a substantial one in the history of the Americal Division area of operations, although it seems to have received almost no publicity until recently. In terms of US casualties, after action reports show 125 US KIA, 460 US WIA, 1 US MIA--from May 12 to Aug 14. (Most of the US casualties were sustained from mid-May to mid-June.) The 1/46th units and C Btry 1/14th Arty had been stunned by the much larger NVA force. One of the 1/46th line companies, Alpha, had a field strength of 62 men on May 12th and that was reduced to just 34 men by May 15th. Alpha 1/46ths commanding officer Cpt. Kern Dunagan had been wounded and evacuated to Chu Lai. Cpt. Dunagan was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in this incident and the award, in itself, points to the severity of the overwhelming odds facing Alpha company that month.

By May 15th, all of the 1/46th line companies were engaged in action so heavy that the bodies of twelve 1/46th soldiers could not be recovered from the battlefield and were placed in MIA status. The 101st Airbornes first mission upon arrival was to relieve pressure in the immediate area so that companies of the 1/46th could search and recover MIAs. On May 21, the 1/501st Inf. engaged a large NVA unit in a raging daylong battle near LZ Professional which resulted in 12 US KIA and 45 US WIA by nightfall.. On the next day, May 22, the actions of the 1/501st enabled a

search of the area by all of the 1/46th line companies and C Co. 1/46th located 11 of the unidentifiable MIAs at 0945 hours. (The 12th MIA was recovered later.) At 1020 hours D Co. 1/46th found 12 steel pots and 5 rucksack frames. (As a member of the 1/46th, I can only say that duty of that sort has to be among the worst ever assigned to the Infantry and have no doubt that those ugly days have made lifelong impressions on everyone of us who was involved.)

As the battle raged on the 101st helicopters were taking severe losses from a reported 15 to 20 NVA 12.7mm antiaircraft positions operating around LZ Professional. According to a 101st after action report, the enemy displayed an impressive arsenal of anti-aircraft weapons...and demonstrated a complete willingness to employ them anytime and against any aircraft. The NVAs guns were placed in strategic positions where two or more could fire at a US aircraft at any time, and as the aircraft moved out of range, another NVA gun would begin firing...and so on. The NVA would move 12.7mm weapons at night to new positions making neutralization difficult. Eventually the 101st reported that 11 of the 12.7 mm positions had been eliminated in the first 22 days of action but the 101st took some very severe losses. A crew chief from the B 2/17th Cav told me recently that on one day, only one out of 28 aircraft in his unit was flyable (An article Recon Zone Alpha appeared in the August 1993 issue of Vietnam magazine which describes the aircraft losses of the 101st in more detail.)

The overall outcome of Operation Lamar Plain and the attack on LZ Professional seems to have been one of the more significant events in the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam. After reading a fair amount of declassified reports about the 101sts aircraft losses, the discovery of such facts leads me to believe that this may have been one of the most intense aviation incidents ever in the Americal AO. Grunts of the 1/501st Infantry have recently told me that this also was the most severe Vietnam combat action faced by those units during their tour. To some extent the men of the 101st seemed to have blamed their losses on the Americal and the 1/46th and I am well aware that those same feelings and inter-unit hostility exist to this very day. Unfortunately the men who participated in these events from all units appear to have received very little publicity or recognition. It has been alleged to me by a member of the 101st (but not positively confirmed) that the 101st Airborne intentionally suppressed the news about Operation Lamar Plain due to the large amount of bad press coming out about Hamburger Hill which was happening concurrently. At some point the whole story will be told. Personally, for those of us who participated in it, I believe we owe the telling of the story to ourselves and even more to the surviving families of those who were KIAed--should they ever wish to know what happened. If you were an eyewitness to any of these events, I welcome any help you can give me in this documentation effort

Rick Olson [REDACTED] St. Paul MN 55116
h.) XJWN22A@PRODIGY.COM
D/1/46 68-69

FIVE FINGERED DISCOUNT

Heard this story from one of the old timers when I first came in country. Don't know if it's true or not but it was amusing. When my unit was

temporarily in Chu Lai, prior to reassignment, one of the things they passed their time doing was renovating the Battalion EM club. (Such as it was). To this end one day, several men and a NCO rode of in a five ton to scrounge some wood for the bar. (Hopefully that no one was watching). After searching around Chu Lai for some time, (It was a big place), their hearts leaped with joy at the sight of an apparently unattended stack of 2X6 planks in an area near the Marine Air base. After a quick recon, they backed up the five ton and proceeded to load up their prize. They had finished and were about to drive off when from around a nearby corner appeared a jeep with two Marine MP's on board. The NCO, thinking fast, told his men not to say a word and to throw the wood off the truck. They did as he said. The jeep pulled up and one of the Marines growled "And just what do you dogfaces think you're doing"?"Why", said our resourceful NCO, "we're just dumping this old wood". "Not here, you ain't. Get that S**t out of here now". The hardest part of the job, as the story went, was keeping a straight face until they were out of sight. Needless to say, our men avoided that area for some time thereafter, since MP's (especially Marines) are not noted for their sense of humor. The wood made a great bar and old Sarge got many a free beer from the grateful troops for his valor and resourcefulness under great duress. We got a lot of grief and didn't make much money, but sometimes we did have some fun. Peace, Big Ed

James Eddington
C/39 Eng 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

THE WALL

I have been to The Wall at least a half dozen times. No matter how often you go it is still overwhelming. You don't realize how many 58,000 is until you see name after name after name listed there. The first time I saw the wall was at night soon after it was erected. There were no lights at that time, but there were a group of Vietnam vets holding a vigil there for the MIAs. They gave us a kerosene lantern to use for light as we walked along the wall. It was quite a moving experience--all the names, the darkness, the shadowy lantern -- something I will never forget. I have been back since and each time there are Vietnam vets who offer their assistance in finding a name on the wall. It does get quite crowded during the daylight hours so if anyone plans on going I would suggest going quite early in the day. Like Spencer, I also would try to be available if some of the "104" ever make it to D.C. It is definitely a worthwhile trip.

John Boyer
F/8 CAV 123 Avn 70-71

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ballots for the election of officers for the 1996-1997 year were put in the mail February 20, 1996 and the are due to be returned no latter than April 15, 1996. If you did not receive a ballot contact:

James C. Buckle

Harwich, MA 02645
Call: [REDACTED]

RETURN YOUR BALLOT ---- YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
SOUTH MID-WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

ERNEST B CARLSON-COMMANDER

[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

VIETNAM VETERANS IN THE REGIONAL CHAPTERS OF THE
A.D.V.A.

The ratio of Vietnam Vets to Korean & WW11 Vets, in the chapter now has passed the two to one mark!!!! However, it has been surmised that even though the A.D.V.A. is getting a few more of them all along, they (Vietnam Vets), are sticking to those organizations that are only connected with Vietnam!! We know that everyone cannot belong to every group they are eligible for! I, myself carry ten cards and have a few more Vets' groups I'd like to join, but just cannot afford!! In order for the A.D.V.A. to survive the next couple of generations, we need to gather every veteran we can, now, into our groups!

We have about 65 chapter members in Texas, as of today. That's one member for each 4,031 square miles!!!! We know that there are lots more of our brothers out there that are eligible to join both the A.D.V.A., & it's chapters! Boy, we could use a few more!!!

Although I think that the more members you have at a meeting, the better it is, you do not have to have a large group! A meeting can take place between just a couple of people!! It can occur at any time or place!! Nothing compares to having someone see your Americal patch, or pin, & say "hey, that's my old outfit!!!

Since we are not what is known as a "service" organization, such as the D.A.V., V.F.W., etc., I think we are members because we all are concerned our buddies, that maybe we have lost track of years ago!! Also, we feel the need to be with our buddies, if only for a few minutes at a time!!!

Just as if to prove my point, as I was writing this, up drove Bill Bacon, A/2/1st Inf-196th LIB., and his lovely wife!! They were on their way back home to San Antonio, from a business trip further north. They had been here for the Fourth of July festivities!! You could call it a "meeting", I guess!

Once more, I call upon the different organizations, 196th-198th-11th-132, etc. To furnish the rest of us, with their rosters, as I will do. I feel it is a great way to allow our brothers to locate each other!!!

Please remember, we old farts from WW11, love and respect you, our brothers of all the wars!!!

Hug somebody, pay your dues, and may God bless all of us!!

Your Buddy,

Ernie Carlson

Dear Roland,

Again I would like to thank you for placing a couple letters in the newsletter. I am still getting calls & letters from professionals who have read these and responded with interest & information. Please thank everyone in the next issue for me, and to direct new information to: 3303 Islandview Drive, Rock Falls, IL 61071.

Recently Commander Dennison appointed me to the Asst. Natl. Historian-Vietnam Position. I would like to thank you for your support in this matter, and request, at your convenience, any historical information that you may gather, like old Americal Newsletters, former researchers who may have

assisted you, etc. Gary Noller has provided me with a copy of Milloy's Americal History through 1970. It will form the basic outline of my system. I have a letter to W. Mark Durley, Jr. asking for his guidance and would take the same from you. A comprehensive Division history would be quite the team effort.

I have enclosed a few copies of materials at my location for your reference. If you have additions or deletions, please make the needed changes on a copy of same & send it my way. I feel as Mark and others that determination of a format for the history is the priority No.1. Delegation of sections and coordinators would be 2#. Readers and editors for each period of time/section 3#. The 4/31st has a chapter #8 in their regt. history, Vietnam section, this would be a good start.

I feel good about the newsletter being a great source of manpower and resource material. It also provides a sounding board for verification, and allows us a "fix" on what type of information would be marketable.

Relative to information needed about the professionals, large gaps are absent in the following areas.

- 5/46th Inf in and around Quang Ngai & Duc Pho; OP Iron Mt
- The final days of the 1/46th Inf in and around Da Nang 1971
- 5/46th Inf in support of Bold Pursuit, Nantucket Beach
- Any reference or personnel on OP's Menu & Ho Chi Minh trail Recon efforts-70-71
- OP Manassas-Professional Involvement
- OP Muscatine & the 5/46th Inf involvement
- OP Geneva Park & the 5/46th Inf involvement
- Stats & ref points-days/mo/yr units involving Pro's at LZ East, Center & The Nui Chom Mountain/Ridge Line.
- Lam Son 719-who-what-where?
- Units on and around LZ Bowman-67-68; OP B. T.
- OP Trexler, coordinates, mission, units, etc.
- Tien Phuoc 68-tet; Feb 69; the Pineapple Forest.
- Coordinates and actions around the "Great Pumpkin"
- The siege of Professional 1969-May
- Actions at An Tan Bridge tet -68; Sam Base, Cigar Island.
- Hiep Duc-Aug 69; Hau Duc May-June 69
- FB Moude (SP?) Freedom Hill; Elk Canyon I & II Dewey Canyon I & II
- AK Valley-Death Valley-Coord.
- The building of LZ Professional Hill 185/105.
- FSB Linda; Westmoreland's visit to 196th BGD

Naturally the most important are facts concerning the 1/46th Inf actions and interactions with other companies and battalions. As in Tien Phuoc, Hau Duc, Hiep Duc, OP Burlington Trail etc. The Siege of LZ Professional being one of the most important. May 69, as the FSB stood as a landmark in the history of the unit, FSB named after itself, and stood watch over a major route that fed men & material both south to Quang Ngai & Duc Pho, but east to Tamky and north to Anhoe, Hiep Duc & Da Nang. Once Highway 1 and then the Burlington Trail was controlled supply routes were west into less manageable supply routes.

"Doc" Williams

TROOP F - 8th CAVALRY

Would like to hear from anyone that served in the Aerorifle Platoon, Troop F, 8th Cavalry. Write:

Andrew Teague

Taylorsville, NC 28681

On 23 June '69 at 8:30 AM I was critically wounded on the Batangan Peninsula while serving with B Co. 26th Engr. Bn. We were returning to LZ Minuteman after helping a Marine Cap Team at a re-pacification village 3 clicks south of LZ Minuteman.

One of my best friends was killed (Richard Danniels) along with a new crute (David Savage) who was spending his first day in the field. He came in on the re-supply chopper the night before. Ike Marlett was also wounded along with the platoon sergeant.

I was air lifted to the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai. On 30 June '69 I was evacuated to the 106th General Hospital in Japan. I arrived back in the States on 1 Aug '69 spending what seemed like a lifetime at Walter Reed General Hospital. 10 months 20 days later I was placed on the temporary disability retired list. Then after several re-evaluations I was given a disability retirement on 1 June '72.

I know it has been 26 years and long overdue. Thanks to all the people who helped in saving my life.

Sincerely

Richard I Allen

Lewiston MI 49756

P.S. I would like to hear from anyone with B Co. 26th Engrs. 1968-69

VIET VETS: WE NEED YOUR ACCOUNTS IF:

You were actual participants in any of the following engagement:

- Firebase Henderson: May 6, 1970. A & C companies, 2nd Bn., 501st Inf., 101st. Ammo explosion. U.S.: 32 KIA
- Battle of Firebase Ripcord: July 1-23, 1970. 2nd Bn., 506th Infantry, 3rd Bde. 101st Airborne Division. U.S. 61 KIA.
- Laos Operation (Dewey Canyon II / Lam Son 719): Feb 1-April 6, 1971. 1st Bde., 5th Mech. ID: Americal Division; and 101st Airborne Div. Especially interested in Khe Sanh, March 15 & 23 during sapper attacks. Total U.S. KIA 257.
- Firebase Mary Ann: March 22, 1971. 1st Bn., 46th Inf., 196th Bde., Americal Div.. One-hour sapper attack. U.S.: 33 KIA. (Thanks to all who responded last spring.)
- Firebase Charlie 11: May 22, 1971. 1st Bn., 61st Inf., 1st Bde., 5th ID. One rocket round killed 29 GI's in a single bunker.

Send your accounts and photos, which will be used in forthcoming articles, to Richard K Kolb, Editor, VFW Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111

Dear Rollie,

Perhaps because of our service and sacrifice, veterans, more than anyone else, are concerned about the future of America. I believe that an inspirational American patriot and hero stands ready to revive America should duty call. It is with admiration and respect for him that I have volunteered to help elect General Colin Powell, President and Commander in Chief of the United States of America.

I hope you share my enthusiasm and will join the upstart, non partisan "Veterans for General Powell" movement in Massachusetts. At this early state, our concentration is in garnering the support of distinguished, veteran activists, such as yourself. You are being personally solicited because of your proven commitment to service, which should no jeopardize your veterans' affiliation impartiality.

Since time is of the essence, the future of America is depending on our action now. Please call me at home, leave a message if necessary, or drop me a line as soon as possible and I will get right back to you.

I look forward to hearing from and working with you.

Kindest Regards

Owen McNamara

Shirley Ma 01464

PS: The General as you know is an "Americal Vet."

Dear Roland,

I'm just dropping you a line to tell you it's nice to finally start receiving the ADVA Newsletter after all this time of membership. I also got to see my name show up in this same issue. Only I can't figure out my unit association. It is listed as 14 Arty 1/B/HHS/14 ??

My unit of assignment was 198th LIB 1/14th Field Artillery in both HHS and C batteries. I was assigned for duty as the artillery liaison to HQ, 5/46th Inf. For 8 months of my tour. So it can be listed as:

198th LIB or C/1/14 FA

198th LIB or HHS/1/14 FA

198th LIB or HQ/5/46 Inf

It really doesn't matter to me how I get listed, as long as it is correct. Another thing I have a question about is the small lapel pin I have seen so many of ADVA members wear. When I asked about them I was told I should have received one when I first became a member. Could you check into that for me?

I do want to say thought, that of the several ADVA Newsletters I have seen they were all enjoyable to read. Keep up the good work!

David Laukat

Oklahoma City, OK 73135-2123
No J 0190

A COMPANY - 4th BN - 21 INFANTRY - 11 LIB

Roland: I am enclosing copies of medal awards and promotion lists as you requested. One page is not quite clear but I wrote in names that I remembered. If you can locate Thomas Bottolfsen I would appreciate hearing from you. He stepped on a mine in 1970 and lost both legs and an arm. He was also A/1/21 Infantry.

Terry A. Bird

Phillipsburgh, NJ 08865

AMERICAL

This letter was initiated some months ago, has been frequently edited along with additions, deletions. I admit mixed emotions on this topic. War is a very personal, complex event. To me, the Vietnam War, like all wars, is a situation where two people can express opposite viewpoints and seemingly contradictory versions of the same event or circumstances.

I feel strongly that military service in general should, at minimum form a common link, through the experience 'culture shock' of basic training, the ever present "hurry-and-wait" syndrome, constant alerts and stand downs, among numerous other shared difficulties. "Service" in the military was often more like servitude, very demanding, especially troublesome for families.

And then,...there is war: Anyone who has experienced the abrupt realization that other humans beings deliberately want them injured or dead and that other humans are actively pursuing that objective, whether by bullets, mortars, rockets, glass in Coke bottles or a hundred other methods, shares a common link beyond most. While direct combat greatly strengthens that bond, each soldiers perspective is unique.

This leads into prime motivation for this article: "forward" versus "rear" or "support" echelons. I applaud all who have contributed to this debate and to the editors for including so many opinions on the interesting, hot topic. I suggest, in view of every individuals right to a unique perspective, -- you may ALL be correct. That may seem an indecisive response, but read on, then decide.

The "straight-leg", ground-pounder", "grunt", "boonie-rat", "infantryman"...definitely lived a lifestyle far different, probably inconceivable to most others. Fortunately or unfortunately, it would be very difficult, probably impossible, with the exception of KIA's, POW's and WIA's, to tell who had tougher tours-of-duty even among combatant, regardless of their personal testimonies or numerous factors. As a friend often paraphrased: "It's all relative". [to an individual's personality and character].

Perhaps one additional source of combat irritation lies in the fact that heroic acts become commonplace, and, if you are lucky, someone will write and submit the act for commendation. Thousands of acts of courage "above and beyond the call of duty" never received such minimal distinction. Therefore, rather than question the validity of those who have commendations, I suggest that truth would usually be better served if we take it for granted that combatants who do not display medals simply never were written up for the ones they deserved. Also, those who do display medals, in many cases deserved additional ones.

Although my tour emotionally draws me toward the Infantry, I would like to locate the 'brother', a file clerk in Company A, 1/52 infantry, 198 LIB, in June 1968 who went the extra mile to do his job above what duty required. Granted, he had a lot 'nicer' tour than I, but his devotion to duty may well have saved my life and I would like to personally thank him for it. I also thank the rear echelon personnel, especially medical, who worked thankless hours to secure better support for those in the field.

Also, let us not forget, the American public made no echelon distinctions when expressing condemnation, falsely blaming all soldiers for the course of the Vietnam war.

The echelon debate should retain the flavor of a good-natured dispute. Otherwise it may diminish the political and social influence of all veterans, become a derisive luxury at the expense of deserving veterans and their families.

I believe THE 'Mission-One', socio-political issue all veterans agree on is to see that our military brothers and sisters received the best available care, benefits and support they EARNED long ago. When 'front-liners' and 'rear-echeloners' become embroiled in the "battle-of-echelons", we must nonetheless continue to pull together to support all veterans, as we have through the years.

Submitted with respect,
"Duster"

VETERANS DAY 1995

We had one of our better showings of Vietnam Veterans in Washington for Veterans Day this year. The HQ for our Hospitality Room was the hotel Washington. We got a cut on the room rates this year due to the large number of our troops staying there.



L to R: Mike Giles, Dan Wilhite, Ron Ward, Mike Heddrich, Warren Reed, David McBeth

Rich Drapczuk did a good job of rounding up his old platoon from the 198th LIB. It's always a pleasure to see so many men from one platoon get together. The "Magnificent Bastards" of the 2/1 Infantry, 196th LIB were also renewing old comradships. Special thanks to Neal Hannan for committing the men of the 2/1 to our host hotel. When we acquire the right numbers, we always can save a few dollars.

Our annual gatherings on Veterans Day is an informal affair. We don't hold any meetings or guided tours of the Capitol, just good old fashioned partying and paying respects at the Vietnam Memorial. I have yet to hear anyone say that they didn't enjoy themselves.

We will be doing it again next year, (November 11, 1996) and I hope to see even a better crowd.

Ron Ward
Past National Commander

A COMPANY - 26 ENGINEERS

VET BEATS ODDS IN A CELEBRATION OF SPIRIT

There are some, in this Christmas season, who do not believe in miracles -- and there are some who do. Count me this year as one who does. Let me tell you why.

Twenty-five years ago, in March of 1970 as a reporter in Vietnam, I received a cable from the home office asking me to track down an American soldier from Miami, who had been wounded.

His name was Ted Bridis, a combat engineer attached to the Americal Division in the northern part of Vietnam. I found him in a military hospital on the outskirts of Saigon.

I still remember the shocking sense when I entered his hospital room. Bridis had lost both legs and an arm in a mortar attack on Feb. 22. He was swathed in bandages, barely able to speak. He was slowly lifting his left arm, clenching his fist, sweat dripping from his face, exercising. He knew that one day -- if he lived -- his left arm would be all-important.

The dimensions of the tragedy were obvious. Bridis had been a star football player in both high school and college. A Herald writer had called him a "superstar."

His doctor called me aside and said something like this, "I think I'd be careful with whatever I wrote. His chances of survival are less than 1 in 10." But the doctor added words that now seem prophetic: "He just might make it. He's got motivation. He wants to live."

I visited Ted two or three times before I returned to Washington, and he seemed to be hanging on. I was delighted a couple of months later when his wife Sallie called from Miami to say that Ted was being flown to Walter Reed hospital in Washington for rehabilitation. Sallie came up to welcome him and stayed with us. We never saw her cry.

But after he left Walter Reed for Miami for discharge, I lost track of him.

I got my Christmas present a few days ago. A long time friend called out of the blue and said: "I've just met the most remarkable person of my lifetime, and he says he knows you. Does the name Ted Bridis mean anything to you?"

Not really, I said. My friend said, "Think Vietnam. Think hospital. Think Walter Reed." It all came flooding back. Ted Bridis. The brave man in the Saigon hospital. My friend had encountered him at a party and somehow the connection was made.

I Called Bridis. He told me his story.

Starting Over

After returning home, he went back to school and obtained a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Miami. For 15 years, he worked as an engineer for the Coast Guard and is now a supervisor of six other engineers. They design and rehabilitate Coast Guard facilities from South Carolina to Texas.

Bridis used artificial legs for several years after discharge but found it easier to get around in a wheelchair. He has an artificial arm equipped with a hook. He drives himself to work in a car equipped with hand controls.

He has been an avid fisherman, a scuba diver, a canoeist and a white-water rafter. A few years ago he became interested in wheelchair racing and entered national championship competition in 1992 and '93, once winning a silver medal. Last summer he was invited to Olympic time trials in the wheelchair racing.

One of his pleasures today, he says, is his family. Before he went to Vietnam, he and Sallie had one son, Ted Jr., who is now a newspaperman in Evansville, Ind. Their daughter Tracy was born two years after his discharge. Recently married, she lives in Fort Lauderdale and is learning to make artificial arms. "I guess it was my influence," he says.

A Rich Life

Bridis says he has had a rich and rewarding life to a point where he would have to "think twice" about how to adjust were he to get his limbs back.

"I have found that there is a lot in life to do," he says. "There is always something else to take the place of things you can't do....I tend to jump into things and take them farther."

His enthusiasm for life is infectious. "I just had my 50th birthday," he says, "and I guess it's time to slow down, but I'm having too much fun."

In talking to Ted Bridis today, there is no hint of a sense of tragedy, no hint of a lost life.

Maybe a miracle is the wrong word. Maybe Ted Bridis' story is a triumph of the human spirit. Either way, to me at least, it carries a powerful message, a message of hope, a fitting message for Christmas.

(This article was written by James McCartney and appeared in the Miami Herald on December 25, 1995. Many thanks to Jack Warkow for sending it to the Americal Newsletter).

COMPANY A - 1st BN - 20th INFANTRY - 11 LIB

Looking for help in awarding the Silver Star posthumously to Manuel Hernandez Jr., A/1/20 Inf.

Need to find an officer who was there.

Would also like to contact Scooter from South Carolina, Woody from Virginia, Don Bright, Ray Channel, Benuides, Joe Garza from Texas, Doc Mullins, Sgt. Ishmael, Ted McCann, K.P. Russ Donovan, Billy Byrd and Lieutenant Steve Myron.

Any suggestions or help from you other Grunts greatly appreciated. Contact:

Whitman Alvin (Sgt)

Osterville, MA 02601 2015

COMPANY D - 26th ENGINEER BATTALION

I am interested in contacting anyone that served with the 26 Engineer Battalion in Chu Lai, South Viet Nam -- era 1969-1970. Contact:

Luther C. Fransen

Medford, OR 97504

Dear Roland,

I want to compliment you on the fine job you are doing as ADVA's Vietnam Editor. It really adds a lot to an already interesting newsletter.

I request that you place in the next newsletter a notice for the Vietnam Veterans of America's Veterans Initiative program:

The Veterans Initiative

What is the Veterans Initiative?

A humanitarian, veteran-to-veteran effort to help gain more information about American POW/MIA's still unaccounted for by providing information about Vietnam's missing in action to the Vietnamese Veterans Association.

An opportunity to help American veterans let go of painful Vietnam War memories by turning over any tangible reminders of the war they may have in their possession.

What kind of information is needed?

Letters, diaries, photos, other personal gear taken from dead or captured Vietcong or NVA regulars, or topographic or hand-drawn maps of burial sites.

How can I help?

Please send this and any other information you may have to VVA, c/o Veterans Initiative. Please provide as much detail as possible. Originals or readable copies are acceptable, as are anonymous submissions. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

If you know other Vietnam Veterans who may have information, please ask them to participate in this effort. Send all Veterans Initiative Information to VVA by registered mail, FedEx or UPS.

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc
c/o Veterans Initiative

Washington DC 20005-5183
Phone: [REDACTED]

Thanks in advance for publishing this. James Lyons

11th BRIGADE 'JUNGLE WARRIORS'

The 11th Infantry Brigade's "Jungle Warriors" sailed into Qui Nhon in mid-December of 1967 after extensive training at the Army's Jungle and Guerrilla Warfare Center in Hawaii to become the newest fighting force in the Americal Division.

The brigade dates back to World War I, where it served as a part of the 6th Infantry Division in France.

Though the 11th is the newest arrival of Americal's three combat brigades, it is entrusted with two areas of operations, including one major named search and destroy operation. The Jungle Warriors are responsible for fighting in both the Duc Pho and the Operation Muscatine areas.

Task Force Barker, formed in mid-January as a combat element of Operation Muscatine, has been in increasingly heavy contact in the area near Quang Ngai. The task force is made up of one company from each of the three infantry battalions in the 11th.

The brigade commander is Colonel Oran K. Henderson.

Hi Roland,

I just returned from Fort Myers, Virginia, where I attended the memorial service at Fort Myers. The following men were lost over Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam, on June 13, 1968. They were identified as Ltc Frank A Barker, Capt Earl R Michles. Those two I know were from the 11th LIB. Some of the others may have been with the 11th. One family I talked with said his son was from the 174th Air Assault Company. I did not get a chance to talk with the others. I am enclosing the newspaper article with those names. As I did know Ltc Barker and Capt Michles I talked with both families, Mrs Barker and Mrs Jan Walker. Both ladies said they would like to hear from anybody who knew their husbands. If you would place their addresses in the next ADVA newsletter and ask anyone who knew them to please write to them. Ltc Barker has two sons and one daughter and Capt Michles has one daughter, who by the way he never got to see.

Mrs Dorothy Barker

Hollywood FL 33021

Mrs Jan Walker

Clarksville TN 37043

I am also enclosing a brief history of 4/3 Infantry Old Guard at Fort Myers, VA. I am sure that families will answer any letters that are received. My wife and I enjoyed the reunion in Chicago. I told Mrs Barker about it, thought it was nice that we all kept in contact with each other.

As ever a comrade,
Warren G H Reed MSG (Ret)

Newport News, VA 23601-1701

DID YOU KNOW?

Last week I received my copy of the VVA Veteran that had an order blank for Vietnam Historical footage on video. Among the titles were tapes of the Americal, 23rd Infantry Division, and the Army Signal Corps, 1st Signal Brigade.

The address to write for info is:

C.I.B. Media

Novato, CA 94945
Tel: [REDACTED]

My late husband, Ronald Lawrence, was in the 459th and 523rd Signal Bn. in Nha Trang and Chu Lai.

Linda Lawrence

A COMPANY - 4th BN - 31 INFANTRY - 196 LIB

I was with A/4/31/196 LIB from November '70 thru October '71. We operated around Chu Lai and Da Nang. I was a grunt and carried the pig.

I'm now in prison until November 1996 and I would like to hear from anyone I served with. WRITE:

Richard Phillips 91BO196

Sonyea, NY 14556

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

FIREBIRDS

Firebirds is being targeted to be a "National Best Seller". In March 1996 there will be a national television coverage and promotions on the book. Chuck Carlock is a successful business man and proceeds from the book are being donated to the 71st Assault Helicopter Company Association. In doing the research for the book Carlock has helped the 71st AHC Association contact nearly 800 former members of this Americal Division Company. As a result there were 178 members attending their 1995 Reunion in Dallas, Texas.

The hardcopy book will be available in local bookstores in the latter part of March, 1996 for \$22.95. But if you can't wait, you can get a special deal through the 71st Assault Helicopter Company Association. Identify yourself as a Americal Division Veterans Association member and you can have a personally autographed finely bound copy of \$18.00 postpaid. Here's where to write for your copy:

71st AHC Association
Ron Seabolt
[REDACTED]

Garland, TX 75043-5921

Firebirds describes the capture of Carlock's best friend and mentor, Frank Anton. If you want to read more details about Frank Anton's experience as a POW, read **The Survivors** by Zalin Grant. This book deals with the brutal treatment of the Americal Division prisoner of war by the NVA. If the book is not in your library you may order it for \$14.95 by calling [REDACTED]

71st ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

I have just written a book called "Firebirds" We supported the 198 LIB and the 196 LIB.

The book will be in the bookstores about March 30th. Barnes & Nobles and Walden Books are going to stock "Firebirds" as well as the Army-Air Force Exchanges.

Start out by looking at the pictures. I believe them to be the best pictures in any book on Vietnam.

You may buy the book, by identifying yourself as being a member of the ADVA, for \$18.00 by contacting:

71st AHC Association
Ron Seabolt
[REDACTED]

Garland, TX 75043-5921

Liz Trotta, New York Bureau Chief, The Washington Times, wrote in her review:

"If you ever wondered what the war in Vietnam was really like, let the 'FIREBIRDS' take you on a wild and wooly ride -- this is a raw account of men who lived in helicopters, ordinary men transformed by courage, unbowed by the nearness of death -- even as voices in their own country cheered a determined enemy -- Mr. Carlock is unsparing in recollecting the horrific and often hilarious detail. It is a great war story".

All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the 71st Assault Helicopter Company Association.

Our Association would appreciate any help you could give.

Chuck Carlock

**2nd SQUADRON - 1st ARMORED CAVALRY
"BLACKHAWKS"**

I served with the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry in Vietnam from July 1969 to June 1970. During that time I was Platoon Leader of the Third Platoon of B Troop, Platoon Leader of HHT Support Platoon, and finally XO of B Troop.

During the last year, several of us have made contact via Prodigy and America-on-line with about 10 former 2/1 Cav members from the Vietnam era. We also were able to obtain 10 names from the 4th Infantry Division Association and 30 names from Mike O'Reilly of the 7/1 Cav Association.

As far as we can determine there is no 2/1 Association. Several of us are trying to find/retrieve more 2/1 names. This is not an easy process. I have recently put my name out on the Internet (<http://www.army.mil/vetinfo/vetloc.htm>) under the Army alumni section as a point of contact.

If any readers know of a 2/1 Cav Association would they contact me. Also if you have any ideas as to how we can locate 2/1 Cav members. CONTACT:

Robert C. Sparks
[REDACTED]

Troy, MI 48084

Tel: [REDACTED] Email Roberts 618@aol.com

5th CAVALRY

I am conducting research on the activities of the Fifth Cavalry in and around Quang Tri prior to, and immediately after the Tet Offensive of 1968. Finding your association address on the Internet, I hoped you would be able to provide some information.

While I am concerned with all aspects of operations, I am most concerned with action 30 March 1968, resulting in the death of Sgt. Bert Austin Keeler, (Troop 3, 3 Squad). I realize this is a very general description, but it all I have to go on at this point.

I would appreciate any information or suggestions you might have. With thanks. CONTACT:

B. Lee March Ph.D
Young Harris College
[REDACTED]

Young Harris, GA 30582

Tel: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

PATCH

In this book series "The Viet Nam Experience", I found a patch for the 23rd Infantry Division which I had never seen before. It has a sword in the center, pointed up. Behind this is a big X with a star in each of the four bars. On the back is a shield shaped outline with some flutes on the top. Under all this is a banner with the word Americal on it. Did you ever hear or see such a patch? Certainly different from the blue with Southern Cross.

Spencer Baba
2/1 196th 68-69

**AMERICAL DIVISION CONVENTION
RENO, NEVADA**

JUNE 20 - 21 - 22 - 23, 1996

SEE CENTER FOLD OF THIS ISSUE

Any questions CONTACT:

Lloyd J. Morrell
[REDACTED]
Redmond, OR 97756
Tel: [REDACTED]

**11th ARMORED CAVALRY VETERANS
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA**

August 1 - 2 - 3 - 4, 1996

The 11th Armored Cavalry veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, the Blackhorse Regiment, will host a Reunion in Louisville, KY on August 1 thru 4, 1996. This Reunion will commemorate the 30th anniversary of its arrival in Vietnam and the 95th anniversary of its formation in 1901.

Open to all personnel, military and civilian, assigned to the Blackhorse in Vietnam or to the 11th United States Cavalry from 1901 to present. This includes any other service branch or unit that was assigned or attached. A special invitation is extended to the families of veterans that were lost while serving with the BLACKHORSE.

CONTACT

Eric Newton
[REDACTED]
Grapevine, TX 76099
Fax: [REDACTED]

1901 TOGETHER THEN - TOGETHER AGAIN 1996

1st SQUADRON - 1st CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association had a great time in Chicago at the Americal Convention in June of 1995. Some of the members are looking forward to Reno, NV on June 20-21-22-23, 1996.

As President of the 1st/1st Cavalry Association I want to welcome any former 1st/1st Cav veterans to contact me.

We will be having our 2nd Reunion in Washington, DC in 1997 on Veterans Day weekend, November 8-11, for the 15th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This Reunion as of right now has 8 Veterans organizations working together to have a hospitality set-up and a big dance. If other organizations are interested in joining us in DC for LZ/DC All Veterans Reunion please contact me.

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53575
Tel: [REDACTED] After 4:00 P.M. CST

EACH CHAPTER IS FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT FROM NATIONAL. THEY COLLECT CHAPTER DUES AND FINANCE THEIR OWN FUNCTIONS

**FIELD ARTILLERY REUNION
AMERICAL DIVISION**

WII - KOREA - VIETNAM

APRIL 22 - 23 - 24 - 25 - 26 - 27, 1996
Big Valley Motel, Branson Missouri

CONTACT

E.R. Horton
[REDACTED]
Timberlake, NC 37585-9574

Leland M. Cox
[REDACTED]
Mentone, AL 35985

**HILL 411 ASSOCIATION
3rd BN - 1st INFANTRY - 11th LIB**

July 18 - 19 - 20 - 21, 1996
Marysville, WA

For additional information please contact:

Michael Dankert
[REDACTED]
Lansing, MI 48911-5054

E COMPANY - 4th BN - 3rd INFANTRY - 11 LIB

I am seeking info on E/4/3 Infantry when it was stationed on LZ San Juan. The picture in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter was not of the men that I knew in E Co. Are these all new men? Was the original Company wiped out? Please send any info you have to:

Kurt W. Johnson
[REDACTED]
Huntington Station, NY 11746

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

The old saw, "history repeats itself" was never more true than in the case of the Americal Division. First organized during World War II in an overseas theater, from a task force, it is reactivated overseas and from a task force. During World War II it entered combat under Marine command with the 1st Marine Division. In Vietnam it is with a Marine command that includes the 1st Marine Division and another old friend the 3rd Marine Division. Upon its reactivation and assignment to the Regular Army in 1954 the Americal swapped its name for a number - "23". There is some tendency on the part of some today to refer to the Americal as the "23rd" Division. During World War II the name "Americal" confused the press. In some news reports it became the "American" Division or the "Miracle Division". Just recently there was a reference in one news account to the "America 1" Division. Could have been a misprint, on the other hand--who knows. So it goes, and the Americal, the largest division in the U.S. Army today, (Vietnam era) the only one of our present divisions never to have served in the States, goes on to add new pages to an already illustrious history

MAIL THAT BALLOT BACK TODAY

THE DEADLINE FOR THE BALLOT IS APRIL 20, 1996

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!



James C. Buckle

Harwich, MA 02645

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harwich, MA 02645
PERMIT NO. 62

Address Correction Requested

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

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel 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	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam War	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.

AMERICAN DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1381
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amrical Unit Rgt/Bde _____ **Bn** _____ **Co** _____ **Other** _____ **Associate** _____

Dates of Service _____ **Serial/SSN No.** _____

Occupation _____ **Name of Spouse** _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Please enclose initial dues of \$12.00. Include phone number with correspondence.