

* GUADALCANAL

* NORTHERN SOLOMONS

* LEYTE

* SOUTHERN PHILLIPINES

* KOREA

* VIETNAM



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1996

Editor in Chief:

James C. Buckle

Vietnam Editor:

Roland T. Castronova

Published Quarterly

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

ADVA National Commander 1996-1997



Gary L. Noller B, 1/46 Inf. 1970-1971

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
1996-1997 DIRECTORY

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[redacted]
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Jr. Vice-Commander
Ronald R. Ellis
[redacted]
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[redacted]
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[redacted]
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[redacted]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Sergeant-At-Arms
Larry Gelnett
[redacted]
Pocasset, MA 02559

Editor-in-Chief
James C. Buckle
[redacted]
Harwich, MA 02645

Vietnam Editor
Roland T. Castronova
[redacted]
Peabody, MA 01960

Chapter Coordinator
Austin Jay Roth
[redacted]
Westlake Village, CA 91362

This is a list of the 1996-1997 elected and appointed officers and committee chairs of the Americal Division Veterans Association*. Phone numbers may be obtained elsewhere in this newsletter or by writing to the individual.

Executive Council Chair
James C. Buckle
[redacted]
Harwich, MA 02645

Exec. Council Member
Austin J. Roth
[redacted]
Westlake Village, CA 91362

Exec. Council Member
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[redacted]
Peabody, MA 01960

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Exec. Council Member
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McKee City, NJ 08232

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[redacted]
Hope, MI 48628

Chaplain
Rev. Perry Woerner
[redacted]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Historian
W. Mark Durley
[redacted]
Sonome, CA 95476

Exec. Council Member
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[redacted]
Pittsburg, PA 15227

Exec. Council Member
Alfred R. Doig
[redacted]
Westwood, MA 02090

Exec. Council Member
Robert N. Thornton
[redacted]
Melrose, MA 02176

Exec. Council Member
John (Dutch) DeGroot
[redacted]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Exec. Council Member
John A. Bowley
[redacted]
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Vietnam Historian
David E. Williams
[redacted]
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Museum Curator
Kenneth B. Turner
[redacted]
Wakefield, MA 01880

Nom. Committee Chair
Joseph B. Chin
[redacted]
Lincoln, MA 01773-0006

Scholarship Chair
Ronald L. Ward
[redacted]
St. Louis, MO 63123

Chapter Commander
South Midwest Region
Ernest B. Carlson
[redacted]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Chapter Commander
Great Lakes Region
Terry Babler
[redacted]
New Glarus, WI 53574

Chapter Commander
Far West Region
Pat Tognoli
[redacted]
Isleton, CA 95641

Chapter Commander
East Region
Robert L. Granoff
[redacted]
Collegeville, PA 19426

Chapter Commander
Central Midwest Region
Ronald L. Ward
[redacted]
St. Louis, MO 63123

Chapter Commander
Northwest Region
Lloyd J. Morrell
[redacted]
Redmond, OR 97756

Chapter Commander
Southeast Region
Bob Kapp
[redacted]
Tampa, FL 33615

Chapter Commander
New England Region
Harold J. Gigli
[redacted]
Carver, MA 02330-1809

* As of July 15, 1996

Commander's Message

If you take a look at the cover of the Americal Newsletter you will see these words: *Dedicated as a living memorial to all veterans of the Americal Division*. These are fitting words to describe the purpose and meaning of our fine organization.

It is an honor for me to assume the position of National Commander. In doing so, I want to dedicate my term of office to the memory of all veterans of the Americal Division. In particular, I want to draw inspiration from the memory of three of these veterans.

I was appointed to the office of Junior Vice-Commander due to the untimely death of David Recob. Dave was Chapter Commander of the Central Midwest Region and Vietnam Editor of the Americal Newsletter. In one of his final letters to me he told of how he wished he could do more for the benefit of the association he loved so much. I will try to fill the shoes that he left.

When I lived in Albuquerque I made the acquaintance of Joe and Esther Feeler. Joe was the Chapter Commander of the Far West Region and spent countless hours building the chapter into one of the finest in the country. Even though he suffered from physical discomforts, he used his keen mind and unending energy to serve his community and veterans. He will be an excellent model to follow.

James Nufer, a home town buddy, was born a few days after me and we were together in the same hospital nursery. He was killed on March 11, 1968, while serving with B, 3/21st. Inf., Americal Division. I was one of the pallbearers that bore him to his grave. We were close friends and spent much time together during our high school years. I wish he was still here to be my friend. I will always miss him.

These three men were all big men in physical size. More importantly, they had strong characters and an undying dedication to their friends and associates. They are among the finest examples of Americal veterans that I know. I will keep their memory alive and dedicate my efforts to them. I will need their help.

History Book Finally Published

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the membership for the long delay in the delivery of the Turner Publishing history book of the Americal Division. I have been informed that they are finally done and and in your hands.

During the past year I personally made several phone calls to Turner Publishing to inquire on the book. Each time I called I was assured that the publication was just a few weeks away.

I received a draft copy of the book in December and I quickly reviewed the copy of the Vietnam section. I was amazed to find that the history of the division in Vietnam ended about June, 1970. That is when I went to Vietnam and I know it wasn't over then.

In my reply to the publisher I asked that a few paragraphs be added to reflect that the Americal did not leave Vietnam until November, 1971. I provided a sample text for him to use. Several corrections to the WWII section were also requested.

In June of this year I contacted Turner Publishing to determine the status of the book. I was very surprised when the Turner representative told me that the delay was caused by the ADVA. I assume that the delay he referred to was due to the request by the ADVA that errors be corrected and the additional text be added.

Please accept my apology for the delay. I hope that the book was worth the wait. If you have any comments or need assistance getting your book or materials I will be happy to hear from you. Thank you for your patience.

1996-1997 Goals and Objectives

In the coming year I would like to work in several areas that I think are important to the ADVA. I have provided the following list of activities to the officers and Executive Council. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or contributions you would like to make to better our association.

- A. Restructure and promote life dues.
- B. Establish a fundraising program for the long term financial stability of the association.
- C. Diversify the investments of the association to capture increased income while minimizing investment risk.
- D. Improve the looks of newsletter by increased use of word processing to ease editing and lay-out requirements.
- E. Promote the acquisition of free computers and the establishment of e-mail communications by ADVA leadership.
- F. Appeal to members (especially Vietnam) for contributions to recently relocated and expanded museum.
- G. Evaluate the production of a video and book on the history of the Americal in Vietnam.
- H. Increase the presence of the ADVA on the internet to include the possible introduction of a chat room or mailing list.
- I. Utilize the Chapter Coordinator to better link chapter leadership to national leadership and services.
- J. Develop a plan to find and market profitable items related to the Americal Division and ADVA.

Reno Reunion Among the Best Ever



Many thanks go to Lloyd Morrell for his efforts to make the 1996 reunion in Reno one of the best I have attended. The weather was excellent and the activities were well planned.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the parade held in conjunction with Rodeo Days. The ADVA entry won first place in its category. The crowd was very receptive and our unit looked sharp. For some of members it was the first parade they ever got. (They appreciated it very much.)

You should start to make plans now for the June 19-22, 1997 reunion in Worcester, MA. Some of the events will take place in the armory that houses the Americal Museum. This reunion promises to be another good one.

A Word of Thanks

I would like to thank Ken McKenzie of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association for publishing an announcement of the ADVA reunion in the 196th LIB newsletter. He also credits the association for assistance in providing a presence for the 196th at the ADVA web site. You can see it at www.americal.org/196.

TAPS

21 INFANTRY A/3/21	182 INFANTRY G CO
John D. Alcaras Vista, CA July 22, 1996	Peter J. Biagioni Stoneham, MA Date Unknown
182 INFANTRY F CO.	121 MEDICAL BN BAND
Haskell W. Cohen Roslindale, MA June 25, 1996	Joseph Drozdal Hampden, MA Date Unknown
101 QUARTERMASTER	57 ENGINEERS
William L. Heady Northampton, MA March 19 1995	Henry B. Morash Concord, NH May 26, 1996
182 INFANTRY C CO.	101 MEDICAL REG.
George F. Robinson Sr. Lowell, MA May 19, 1996	Clifton M. Rogers North Weymouth, MA May 15, 1996
101 QM REGIMENT E CO.	247 FIELD ARTILLERY
Frederick G. Stickney Forestville, NSW May 6, 1996	Lawrence C. Stix Jr. Chicago, IL July 23, 1996

245 F.A. C BATTERY

Howard O. Thompson
Sharon, PA
April 26, 1996

MAY THEY
REST
IN PEACE

182 INFANTRY - IN MEMORIAM

Marvin Shell C Company November 29, 1996
Alberto Vivencio C Company Date Unknown

164 INFANTRY - IN MEMORIAM

Bernard C. Simons.....January 26, 1996
Willard J. Bandow.....March 29, 1996
Marvin Hanson.....January 30, 1996
Howard P. Barton.....April 1966
Stanley Anda.....March 4, 1996
Thomas P. Conlon.....May 8, 1996
William A. Hall.....May 27, 1996

57th ENGINEERS
PNC Henry B. Morash

Henry B. Morash, 77, of Alton Woods, died May 26, 1966 at the Concord Hospital.

Born in Boston, Mass., he was the son of Charles a and Elizabeth (McDougal) Morash.

He served with the 57th Engineers, Americal Division in the South Pacific during World War II.

Mr. Morash had lived in the Concord (NH) area for about a year. He previously lived in Brewster, Mass., and Port Charlotte, Fla. He was a retired Boston police officer and also retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

He was a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Concord, NH. He was a Past National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association, a member of the B.P.O.E. 2153 Charlotte County, Fla., the Retired State, County

and Municipal Employees Association, NARFE-National Association of Retired Federal Employees and the Massachusetts Retired Police & Firefighters Association Inc.



Mr. & Mrs. Morash - 1988 Americal Convention

The family includes his wife Sally (Pechura) Morash of Concord, a son, Henry C. Morash of Ottawa, Canada, a daughter, Sally E. Quinn of Concord; two granddaughters; five great-grandsons; a brother, John F. Morash of Harvest, Ala; nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be sent to his wife Sally at:

Mrs. Henry B. Morash
Concord, NH 03301-5819

Memorial contributions may be made to the:

Father Paul Chaisson Memorial Fund
Marist Missions
Boston, MA 02116-5216

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

My husband, Clifton M. Rogers served with the 101 Medical Regiment, Americal Division on New Caledonia and Guadalcanal, 1942-1943.

He passed away May 15, 1996. He was always very proud of his association with the 101 Medical Regiment and the Americal Division.

Several years ago he submitted an interesting story to the Guadalcanal "Echoes" about a diary taken from an unknown Japanese soldier. A former Japanese soldier, Akio Tani, researched the information and discovered the family of the soldier. This resulted in a delightful correspondence between Cliff and the brother of the Japanese soldier.

Cliff was born February 9, 1920 in Milton, MA. He died of cancer at the age of 76, with myself and his loving family around him. He was a good father and grandfather. We all miss him greatly.

Sincerely,
Virginia S. Rogers

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

Sorry to have to write this note but perhaps your readers would like to know. My father, Larry Stix, passed away on July 23, 1996, after a brave fight with cancer.

We are so very proud of him for what he did not only for our family but for his country. I am sad to say, that he did not say much about his actual experiences in the service. Probably because my Dad--who was such a kind and gentle man--could not deal with recalling the horrors of Guadalcanal that he witnessed. What he did talk about at length however, was the fellowship that he had with those men who served in his battalion on Guadalcanal and those in the armed forces in general. In that sense, I believe that it was one of the best times of his life.

We shall miss him more than I can say here in my note. I hope that his fellow servicemen have as many memories of him as we do. He leaves behind my mother, Mickie, his wife of 51+ years, my sister, Jennifer, and two grandchildren, both names after him--Megan Frances Lawrence Bealer and Andrew Lawrence Muth.

I would be interested to know more about what my Dad did and would enjoy letters at the following address:

Louise A. Stix
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

COMPANY E 101 QUARTERMASTER

One of our brother veterans from Company E passed away on May 6, 1996.

Frederick G. Stickney went overseas with us in January of 1942. Fred did not return to the U.S.A. --he had a R&R in Australia, met his wife (Ruth) to be in Sydney, married her and settled in Forestville, New South Wales. He and his wife were the parents of three daughters.

Marty Lindon never lost touch with Fred. He received an invitation to all of our Reunions and kept in touch with tapes and letters--even one phone call.

Gabriel E. Mongeau

George F. Robinson Sr.

Dear Mr. Buckle:

I just wanted to let you know that my father, George F. Robinson Sr., of Lowell, Massachusetts passed away on May 19, 1996.

Her always enjoyed reading the Americal Division Newsletter. For him and from me, thank you for all the time you put into publishing it.

Sincerely,
George F. Robinson Jr.

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

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. William J. Adams 11 LIB E/1/20 Inf Madison, IN #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Philip Alex 132 Infantry AT Co. Fort Myers, FL #Membership Committee
Mr. Dennis G. Allen 26 Engineers Charlotte, NC #PNC Castronova	Mr. Clyde R. Allen 246 Field Artillery Waynesville, NC #PNC Castronova
Mr. Albert M. Alvarado 11 LIB B/4/3 Inf Rubidoux, CA #Bernie Chase	Mr. Richard D. Anderson 11 LIB Yelm, WA #PNC Castronova
Mr. Arthur F. Andrews 11 LIB 6/11 Arty Savannah, GA #R. Castronova	Mr. Edward Angel 23 Military Police Washington, DC #PNC Castronova
Mr. Robert D. Antuono 23 Military Police Cranston, RI #PNC Castronova	Ltc. Rolfe G. Arnhyms 1 Cavalry Tarzana, CA #PNC Castronova
Mr. Allen R. Bates 82 Arty D/1/82 Olivehurst, CA #R. Castronova	Mr. Howard C. Bayler 97 F.A. XIV Corp. Louisville, IL #Ronald Ward
Mr. Phillip E. Bigham 11 LIB D/4/3 Inf Pleasantville, OH #R. Castronova	Mr. Dennis J. Bourque 11 LIB Marlboro, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. Ernest Jr. Briggs 523 Signal Bn. Brooklyn, NY #R. Castronova	Mr. W. S. Bumgardner 198 LIB 1/6 Inf Laurel, MD #Membership Committee
Mr. Brian Carry 23 Div Lake Ariel, PA #R. Castronova	Mr. David S. Carter 198 LIB C/1/56 Inf Butte, MT #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Albert C. Cerullo Jr 176 Avn Muttontown, NY #Membership Committee	Mr. Santos S. Chalmers 11 LIB A/B/4/21 Inf Whitewood, SD #R. Castronova
Mr. Leonard J. Chase 132 Infantry G Co. Eugene, OR #R. Castronova	Mr. Daniel L. Collins 23 Div North Adams, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. Michael R. Condif 1 Cav Troop A 1/1 Bowling Green, KY #R. Castronova	Mr. Calvin C. Consley Amer Div Arty Hdq Yuma, AZ #Castronova-Hines
Mr. Kevin B. Conway 23 Div Hull, MA #R. Castronova	Mr. George J. Coughlin J 11 LIB Chicopee, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. George L. Dauphine 11 LIB Devon, CT #R. Castronova	Mr. James P. Doherty 11 LIB Derry, NH #R. Castronova
Mr. Allan W. Forde 16 C.A.G. Mabel, MN #Lloyd Morrell	Col. Frederick E. Garman 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Sun City Center, FL #Gary L. Noller

Continues Next Page

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Daniel E. Garren 14 C.A.B. 71 AHC Anamosa, IA #W.F. Smith	Mr. Patrick Gauthier 11 LIB E/3/1 Inf Lafayette, LA #R. Castronova
Mr. John J. Gonzales 11 LIB 4/3 Inf San Pedro, CA #R. Castronova	Ltc. Clinton E. Grenz (R DISDM Bismarck, ND #Les Hines
Mr. Russell V. Gross 11 LIB HHC HHC 4/26 Ocoee, FL #Lloyd Morrell	Mr. George R. Hamer 164 Infantry H Co. Melbourne, FL #Self
Mr. Everette D. Harris 196 LIB E/1/46 INF Burlington Township, NJ #Herb Duvernay	Mr. Robert D. Hull 42 Arty A/5/42 Grant City, MO #R. Castronova
Mr. Ernest E. Hull 11 LIB New Baden, IL #R. Castronova	Col. James F. Humphries 196 LIB Hq/C/D/3/21 83677 Reichersbeuern #Jay Roth
Mr. Peter A. Jewell 23 M.P. Smithfield, ME #R. Castronova	Mr. Paul J. Jones 196 LIB Jersey City, NJ #R. Castronova
Mr. Eddie M. Jones Jr. 11 LIB Springfield, MA #R. Castronova	Mr. Eddie M. Jones Jr. 11 LIB Springfield, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. John T. Kenny Associate Poughkeepsie, NY #Richard Parry	Mr. Daniel A. Kirby 11 LIB C/4/3 Inf Arlington, VA #R. Castronova
Mr. Kenneth E. Kunstman 132 Infantry Hdq/2 Chicago, IL #R. Castronova	Mr. Harold M. Leaver 23 Admin Co. Franklinville, NY #James A. Rains
Mr. Cecil L. Lewis 199 LIB E/2/3 Inf Fairfield, NC #R. Castronova	Mr. Prentiss A. Long 196 LIB B/1/46 Inf Clarksville, TN #Leo W. Tucker
Mr. Ernest R. Marchi 196 LIB West Roxbury, MA #Robert Keenan	Mr. John F. McNulty 182 Infantry A-T Co Holyoke, MA #Castronova & Hines
Mr. Reid K. McQuinn 123 Avn A Co. Lake Placid, NY #R. Castronova	Mr. Tom R. Mead 198 LIB D/1/52 Inf Albany, OR #Lloyd Morrell
Mr. Nieves Medina Jr. 196 LIB H/17 Cav Jackson, MI #W.F. Smith	Mr. Wesley J. Mudgett 26 Engineers Oregon, OH #R. Castronova
Mr. Denver R. Oliver 8 Cav F Troop White City, KS #R. Castronova	Mr. David A. Pearl 23 Div Arty HHB Spencer, IN #Ronald L. Davis
Col. George T. Pitts (Re Americal Div. Hdq. Melbourne, FL #John R. Patterson	Mr. Larry W. Remmart 11 LIB 1/20 Inf Houston, TX #R. Castronova

Mr. Richard Ropele
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Corona, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. William C. Spencer
198 LIB E/1/52 Inf
Coldwater, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. John J. Sweeney
11 LIB
Skaneateles, NY
#R. Castronova

Mr. Allan L. Tucker
Mt. Pleasant, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. Raymond D. Vargo
198 LIB 1/6 Inf
Renfrew, PA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Brandt O. Waterbury
1 Cav B Troop
Balboa, CA
#R. Castronova

#Sponsor

NATIONAL REUNION

THE REUNION WILL BE HELD JUNE 19 TO 22, 1997, AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS. THE HOTEL IS LOCATED JUST ONE BLOCK FROM THE AMERICAL MUSEUM. THE SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER DANCE WILL BE HELD AT THE ARMORY IN WHICH THE AMERICAL MUSEUM IS LOCATED. THERE WILL BE ENTERTAINMENT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE HOTEL. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 1997 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

September 7, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

October 5, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

November 2, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

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 the 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.

Mr. Bert Silness
? Infantry
Mabel, MN
#Allan W. Forde

Mr. David J. Stockwell
11 LIB
East Longmeadow, MA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Richard E. Timberlak
23 M.P.
Leland, NC
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Charles E. Van Drune
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Wayland, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. Paul D. Wandt
198 LIB 1/14 Arty
Petersburg, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. David A. Wolfe
182 Infantry D Co.
Labadie, MO
#Ronald Ward

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

REINSTATED

Mr. Donald G. Bommer Jr. Maj. Raphael P. Parry
566 Ambulance Co 33 Infantry M+L Co.
Hauppauge, NY Corpus Christi, TX

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Paul L. Haggerty Mr. Denver R. Oliver
101 Quartermaster 8 Cav F Troop
Woburn, MA White City, KS
#Italo B. Galente #R. Castronova

Mr. William J. Symonovic Mr. Robert P. Thomason
164 Infantry H Co. 23 Administration Co.
Silver Springs, MD Cedarbrook, NJ
#Bernie Chase #Bernie Carroll

#Sponsor

180 FIELD ARTILLERY B BATTERY

Do you know this man?
William Johnathan Milne

If you have any information as to the whereabouts of this man please notify the Editor of the Americal Newsletter.

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?
Thomas M. Gauvin

My father passed away recently and I am seeking information about his military service. I am also trying to locate any man that served with him. He saw service in the Philippines and was awarded a Bronze Star. His name was Thomas M. Gauvin--now spelled Garvin. He was discharged on 11/11/46 at Fort Dix, NJ. Please reply to:

Louis M. Garvin
Springfield, MA 01104

COMPANY G 132 INFANTRY

I am looking for buddies that I served with in G Company 132nd Infantry. I served under Frank Millago and Milton Elberg. Contact me:

Marvin Radlow
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

NOTICE

If you know of a member that has passed away or one that is sick, please notify:

Adj. Bernard Chase
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

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

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

It was nice to be able to invite into our Chapter a brother from the Marines, one from the Korean era, and even a couple of those very elusive guys from the good 'ld 164th Infantry.

Let us not forget our Vietnam brothers--in case you World War II vets haven't notices, they have a lot more energy than we do!

Lew Turner has presented to the South Pacific Nimitz Museum of the South Pacific two 'Los Angeles Times' dated October 19, 1944 and August 15, 1945. Also, a 'Corpus Christi Caller' dated August 15, 1945--this was headlined "World Again At Peace". Didn't last long did it??

Everybody--pay your National and Chapter DUES.

Wear a smile, your C.I.B., and hug somebody,

Ernie Carlson

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

REGIONAL - Terry Babler - COMMANDER

New Glarus, Wisconsin 53574
Telephone: [REDACTED]

I have been appointed Commander of the Great Lakes Chapter, due to the death of Rush Propper.

This year, I want to invite all Chapter members as well as the Americal Association to New Glarus, Wisconsin for our eleventh (11) Annual winterfest R&R All Veterans Rally on January 17-19, 1997. The Americal will have a platoon in the parade. Some thirty (30) plus Americal Vets attended last year. A flyer is elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I will send all ADVA members in the Chapter a newsletter, set up a meeting, elect a board of directors and establish a chain of command, so in the event I have for any reason, the next person in line would take over.

As of right now this is my only way of contacting members. According to ADVA there are about 600 eligible members in this Chapter area.

In 1997, I am the Chairman of the LZ/DC all Veterans Reunion slated for November 8-11, 1997 in Washington, DC. This is the fifteenth (15) Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Plan for a dance, hospitality parties, etc. Anyone wanting information can write to me. I hope to have the Americal as one of the sponsors. I will be posting an article in a future issue of the Americal Newsletter.

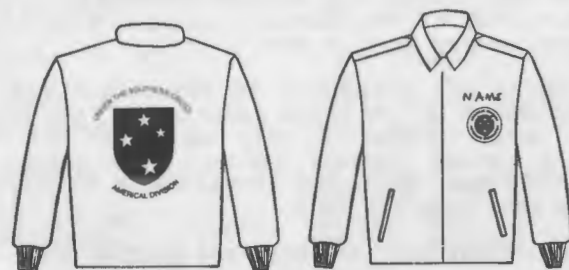
I look forward to serving as your Commander.

Terry Babler

AMERICAL DIVISION JACKETS/WINDBREAKERS

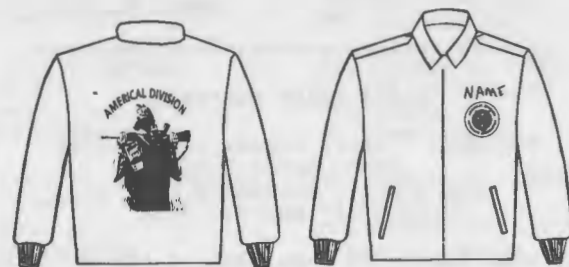
Are you proud to be an Americal veteran? Of course you are! Here's a way to show the colors to all fellow vets and draft dodgers alike. A deluxe, high quality jacket displaying our logo, that will certainly stand out in a crowd. Going to the Vietnam Memorial to pay respects to our fallen comrades? You'll certainly want one of these jackets to show that your served with the best! These babies are top quality, made in USA products. Additionally, you'll be assisting the ADVA Scholarship Fund, as all profits are going to that source. Below are prices and specs:

ADVA COAT ADS



BACK VIEW

FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW

FRONT VIEW

Satin Jacket/quilted liner	Size s-xxl	\$50.00
Satin Jacket/flannel liner	"	\$46.00
Satin Windbreaker/no liner	"	\$34.50

The prices include First Class shipping and handling. If you buy one from me at any of the Reunions, I can knock \$3.00 off of the total price. We will personalize your jacket with your name over the breast pocket at no charge. Some of the troops have gained a lot of weight since their days of mountain climbing with 75 pounds of ammo/food on their backs and we will of course have jackets available in their size. If your require a XXXL add \$2.00. If you really like your chow and need a XXXXL, add \$4.00. The colors we're using on these jackets are silver or white. Let us know your preference.

Your Scholarship Fund Chairman has these jackets. Send your requests to my home address and they should arrive at you door in three days after I receive your order. Sent your order to:

PNC Ronald Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

An award of \$3,000 was made to Bethanie Beschle of Clayton, New York. She will be attending Herkimer Community College in Herkimer, New York.



Bethanie Beschle

In her letter to the ADVA she states: I would like to thank the ADVA Scholarship Fund for this wonderful award. My Grandfather, Robert N. Beschle, of Danbury, Connecticut inspired my Americal story. I hope he is as proud of me as I have always been of his accomplishments. It is with great reverence and gratitude that I accept this ADVA Scholarship on behalf of all of those who made the opportunities in this country possible for all of us in my generation. Thank-you.

Robert M. Beschle, her grandfather, served in the 121 Medical Battalion during World War II.

Sincerely,
Bethanie L. Beschle

An award of \$2,000 was made to Thomas Bestpitch of Hamburg, New York. He will be attending the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.



Thomas Bestpitch

Tom was Captain of his high school football team for three years and he was chosen All-Catholic, All-WNY, All-State in football. He will be playing football at Holy Cross.

Tom is also a National Honor Society member.

His father, George B. Bestpitch, served with the 23rd Military Police in Vietnam.

THE AMERICAL DIVISION--FIRST TO FIGHT
ONE OF THE FIRST TO ENTER JAP HOMELAND

THE AMERICAL

Published Americal I&E Section - September 8, 1945

The Americal Infantry Division--the first Army unit to take the offensive against the Japanese when they invaded Guadalcanal in October 1942, and the first Army division to arrive on the Pacific battlefield--added another first to its brilliant record this morning by being one of the first infantry divisions to reach their objective--JAPAN.

The first Americal units started for the Pacific in January of 1942, arriving first at Australia and then proceeding to New Caledonia. A short time later, when all units had arrived, they were activated on May 27, 1942 as the Americal Division.

The 164th Infantry hit Guadalcanal on 13 Oct 42, later, being followed by the rest of the Division for nearly four months of that battle that was the "turning point of the war".

Then came the eleven month Bougainville Campaign followed by a seven month Philippine Campaign--and now a shotless entrance and landing on the Japanese homeland.

The men of the Americal looked at the Japanese shores this morning and deservedly felt that their work was "Well Done" and were thankful that they could express silently, "Mission Accomplished".

(Thanks to Mitch Pillarick for sending in this news item and the copies of 'The Americal'.

AMERICAL TROOPS MARCH THROUGH TOKYO
18 COMBAT DIVISIONS TO OCCUPY JAPAN

A three mile long parade, led by Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur, swept through the ruins of this defeated Japanese capital this morning, the first time in history that occupation forces have entered this subdued metropolis.

More than 15,000 men of the 1st Cavalry Division will parade behind General MacArthur before the historic march will finish this morning.

Last night and this morning this city was put under tight curfew, although no trouble was anticipated during the march.

Scout patrols of the 1st Cavalry Division entered the capital yesterday and ran up the historic, globe-flying American flag over General MacArthur's Tokyo Headquarters in the former American Embassy building. This same flag has flown over American headquarters in Casablanca, Rome, Paris, and Berlin. It was flown to General MacArthur's Headquarters shortly after the Japanese surrender became official.

So far not one American casualty has been reported, indicating that the Japanese are giving complete cooperation in the Allied occupation.

General MacArthur disclosed yesterday that 18 combat divisions, totaling more than 300,000 men with other units, will compromise the occupation forces for Japan and Southern Korea.

OCCUPATION MEMORIES
A Co. 182 Infantry

This is a story of an incident that when told to friends has always received many laughs.

It happened early in the occupation of Japan. About twenty of us were sent to secure and guard a Tokyo arsenal. There were about twenty Japanese soldiers living in the guard house, by the gate, and a group of officers in the administration building. The officers made us feel welcome--much bowing and smiling--and showed us to a large room where we set up our cots. We soon became friendly with the guards at the gate with the exception of the sergeant who always looked at us with a scowl.

The Japanese soldiers had a large room, with a charcoal fire in the middle for cooking, and sleeping quarters in the rear. We would sit on benches around this fire, five or six of us and five or six of them, comparing items such as cigarette lighters, fountain pens, etc. Their smoking materials were made up of hand rolled cigarettes held together with rice paste and little pipes with a stem about three inches long with a funnel shaped bowl about 1/2 inch high.

We had a man with us that had the largest pipe I have ever seen. When the Japanese took out their little pipes to have a smoke--two little puffs and it was all over--he would make a big show of lighting up this huge pipe. The Japanese mouths would fall open and their eyes grew wide with amazement at all the smoke curling up to the ceiling. One evening he suddenly offered the pipe to one of the Japanese guards. The guard eagerly took the pipe in both hands and inhaled deeply. He started to lean back and continued on until he fell flat on his back on the floor. We all burst out laughing and much to our surprise the one that laughed the most was the scowling sergeant--the scowl was gone forever! He got up from his desk, went into the sleeping quarters, and returned with a large bottle of liquor and some small bowls. He put some water in each of the bowls, filled them with liquor and passed them around.

That turned out to be one of the wildest night I ever had!

Joe Mullen

THE LANDING AND OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

Pfc. Leo W. Orfe

C Battery 221 Field Artillery

C Battery, 221 Field Artillery was among the first troops to land from the sea when the Japs surrendered.

As our landing craft passed off the bow of the huge battleship Missouri, the sailors aboard looked down and waved to us. Moving closer to shore we could see the white sheets hanging from the gun barrels of the many coastal guns. This time the Japs were not shooting at us, yet.

Stepping ashore we were greeted by one (1) Jap, dressed in a suit, wearing a hat and, carrying a suitcase.

Captain Fred Williams formed us up in ranks and marched us down the main street of Yokohama. We were at half strength, wearing steel helmets, full field packs on our back, and carrying loaded

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THE LANDING AND OCCUPATION OF JAPAN (Conclusion)

rifles. We were small in numbers but we were not afraid. It was hard to believe that the Japs were not shooting at us! Myself, and most of the other men were going onto their third year overseas--with much of that time spent in combat.

As we approached the center of town, people came out of their wood and tin shacks, not many buildings had been left standing, and lined the curb, staring at us. At this time Captain Williams gave the command, "By the left flank, MARCH" followed by "In Cadence, COUNT". Well, the Japs jumped back and ran, afraid of us as we marched toward them. It was very plain to see what the Captain was up to--if we could not shoot the Japs we could at least scare HELL out of them!

It was a surprise to see a trolley car coming through the center of town with no one on it, and stopping next to us. It appeared that the trolley was for us to ride on but the Captain would have no part of that. We continued on marching and scaring the HELL out of the Japs, every time Captain Williams gave the command, "In Cadence, COUNT". We may have been small number of troops but we sure made a lot of noise--kind of like letting of steam, or rage, against the Japs for starting the war and causing a lot of hardships and horror. Many of our troops had been fighting the Japs for a long time. We occupied Kamakura, a resort and shrine town. We were kept very busy with the occupation. Much of it was police work, searching out and arresting Japanese war criminals. The Army was on the ball and supplied us with many interpreters--mostly young men from the Tokyo University.

Our Command Post was in a Japanese police station. I can clearly remember capturing a top Jap war criminal as he got off the train at Kamakura and hurrying him back to the police station. My interest in police work led me to become a career police officer, and a court officer, when I returned home. (My Chief Gun Sgt. on Bougainville, Barney Chase also became a police officer on his return home).

My top Jap interpreter asked me to his home to meet his mother. She was a small woman and cried when her son told of the many battles we had fought. His mother then took me to her bedroom closet and told me to take all I wanted. I chose a pink silk robe for my mother. Following this a gave her an American dollar bill with my name on it. In return they gave me a Japanese silver dollar, which, believe it or not, I still carry in my left pocket, along with a .50 caliber shiny brass bullet that was taken from a Jap soldier.

When it came time to return home, my Jap girl friend, who was very sad and did not want me to leave her, suggested that we embrace and then jump off the high cliff where we were standing, so the Tokyo newspaper would say, "American soldier and his Japanese sweetheart die together".

Boy am I glad I didn't take her up on that!

Well friends, that was a long time ago. It was interesting remembering and writing it all down.

Your Americal friend,
Leo W. Orfe

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

SURRENDER AND THEN JAPAN
G Company - 182nd Infantry Regiment

Toward the end of August 1945, I volunteered to go north in a convoy of trucks to take in a few prisoners who wanted to surrender. We had a jeep with a Colonel in charge and six trucks with about 30 Americal veterans from 182nd Infantry units. We were armed with M-1's and dressed in combat fatigues. After a ride of some miles we found the spot where we were to take the surrender of a FEW Japanese, only to find more than our small force could handled. The Japanese force was assembled in groups with an officer in charge in charge of each group. To my surprise they even had some women included with the groups. Later we were told they were nurses. In one group the men were all over six feet tall!

Realizing that a General was in charge of the Japanese force, the Colonel quickly called for a General to be in attendance, as no General would ever surrender to a Colonel.

Later that morning about 25 more trucks arrived with GI's all smartly dressed in sun-tans. These guys even had helmets with the Americal patch on the front of them! I knew right away that these GI's had to be rear headquarters personnel. Our group, dressed in fatigues, took a back seat to the dressed up troops--even the Japanese looked better than we did.

I remember that as one American officer stepped forward through the tall grass, a Japanese soldier moved forward and pulled up some of the grass so that the officer would not get his pants wet from the early morning dew.

All went well according to the best in military surrenders. The enemy troops loaded on our trucks and headed south to Cebu City. Our group left shortly after that. We never did learn as to where the Japanese prisoners were taken.

After the BOMB was dropped and our celebration on the island was brought under control, we were informed that we would be going to Japan. We assembled on the beach ready to board the ships going north.

While waiting on shore, the Red Cross set up a table and was serving coffee and doughnuts. While I was in the hospital on Leyte I had helped the Red Cross personnel by making coffee and also operating their movie projector. I had got to know a Red Cross girl on Leyte named Faye Anderson. She was from Minnesota and had long red hair. I said to the fellows around me that I was going to go up and kiss that red-headed Red Cross girl. They all said, "No way, Red Cross girls are off limits". So, I left the ranks and went over to Faye and said that I wanted to kiss her while all the other guys were watching and wishing they were me. She obliged with a kiss right on the lips, plus a big bear hug. My face got as red as her hair but I never let on to the guys in my outfit that I knew Faye Anderson. After boarding the ship for Japan the guys were making bets that I would kiss the first Jap girl I saw.

The 182nd Infantry Regiment boarded the USS Bland APA-134 and headed north. Our ship anchored in Tokyo harbor at 11:29 on 8 September 1945. The next day a small craft moored alongside, we boarded, and the Jap pilot brought us into the dock area. On 9 September 1945, at 2:48 P.M. we

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SURRENDER AND THEN JAPAN (Conclusion)

tied up at dock side, stepped ashore on Japan, and never even go our feet wet. The rest is history.

(My thanks to Gil Dempsey, ("E" 182nd) for the dates and names of ships in this account.

Kenneth Vander Molen

P.S. I noticed in the last issue an article written by my brother entitled, CEBU-HILL 21. I was also on the same Hill. As I was going up I saw my brother sliding down with his arm in a sling. Then I saw them bringing Sgt. Kelly down. He had been shot through both elbows, and next came Vandenberg. A little later that morning, a Medic named "Trippy", made a special trip to our position to tell me how my brother, Gordon, was doing. He said the bullet had gone right through the shoulder and no bones were broken--just a clean passage.

We finally took Hill 21 and "G" Company and then we were ordered to cross over the mountains and head for the city of Toledo on the west coast. After several days we went back over the same mountain toward Cebu City. That's another story.

Gordan was my twin brother. He rejoined "G" Company just in time to go to Japan.

WW II HOLDOUT TO RETURN

Tokyo (AP) - A Japanese soldier who refused to accept Japan's surrender and remained on a tiny Philippine island for 29 years after World War II ended is planning to revisit his jungle hide-out for the first time.

Former army Lt. Hiroo Onoda decided to make the trip after repeated invitations by the local governor, said Ichiro Suetsugu, a World War II veteran who went to the Philippines in the early 1970's to try to persuade Onoda to leave.

The trip is scheduled for May 20 thru May 25, Suetsugu said yesterday. Onoda, 74, who directs a children's nature camp in northern Japan, was not immediately available for comment.

Trained as an intelligence officer, Onoda was sent in December 1944 to Lubang, a tiny island 90 miles southwest of Manila, with orders to spy on the U.S. military.

He refused to believe Japan had surrendered when American forces landed on Lubang in 1945 and remained in hiding in the jungle until 1974.

After the war ended, Onoda and two other soldiers who remained with him occasionally skirmished with local villagers and Philippine troops.

One companion was killed by Philippine soldiers searching their island in 1945, and the other died in a gunfight with local farmers in 1972. That set of a series of search missions by Japan, but Onoda, believing it was an enemy ploy, refused to come out.

Finally, on March 20, 1974, Onoda, dressed in his Imperial Army uniform, stepped out of the jungle to receive orders to stop fighting from his former superior, who had traveled to the Philippines.

The next day, Onoda turned over his sword to then Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.

During his visit to the Philippines, Onoda is to meet with President Fidel Ramos in Manila and visit a children's camp on Mindoro island, Suetsugu said.

As Mindoro provincial official, David Colarina, said Onoda had expressed concern about local sentiment against him, but accepted the invitation when he was told most of Lubang residents wanted him to come back.

Colarina said Mindoro officials hope the visit will spur interest in investment and tourism, so it invited two dozen Japanese businessmen to accompany Onoda.

(This story was printed in the N.J. Star Ledger on May 4, 1996 and was sent in by Tony Percoskie, a Vietnam vet and a 178th Door Gunner. The name of the book by Onoda is "No Surrender" My Thirty Year War. Tony asks the question, "Was the Americal ever on Lubang Island"?

M COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY
On to Cebu--then home

I was Squad Sgt. in charge of the 4th squad, 81 MM Mortar Platoon, of M Company, 182nd Infantry.

We left Bougainville the end of December 1944 and landed on Leyte in January of 1945 and camped here awaiting orders. After a week in camp we were ordered to Ormac. The Japanese were still active here and were being by mopped by the Americans. The city of Ormac was pretty much destroyed by our bombers and heavy fighting. The Japs left Ormac and we were no longer needed and we returned to our base camp.

At the end of January we were shipped out once again to support a rifle company that had the mission of driving the Japs off of the island of Camote. We spent the entire month of February here. Most of the Japs had left and were no real threat to us any longer. Then--back to Leyte.

Once on Leyte were began reorganizing and filling our ranks with replacements. In one bad incident on Camote a soldier had picked up a parachute bomb that hadn't exploded and he thought it was a dud. It exploded killing him and several other men near him, plus wounding many more. We also lost a Squad Sgt. while here on Leyte. A man who had just been issued a .45 pistol, not knowing it was loaded, pointed the gun and pulled the trigger. The bullet struck a Sgt. friend in the head and he was killed instantly. The poor fellow that fired the pistol went out of his head and was taken away. We never saw him again.

Soon we were leaving this temporary camp. We were loaded on trucks and taken to the beach where we had originally landed and boarded a LST. Nothing was said as to our destination.

This LST was fully loaded, not leaving very much room for men. So we felt we were in for a short voyage. Below decks were stowed amphibious landing craft called 'Alligators'--they could go on water and also land. We knew we were in for an amphibious landing!

On board ship we were given a critique about where we were going--little did we know about the beach we were about to land on. We spent a day practice landing and a few days getting to our destination.

The morning of the landing was a truly a beautiful day. It was hard to believe there was a war on. This all changed when the warships opened fire and the planes came in to bomb and strafe. This "softening up" of the beach where we were to land lasted about an hour. To our surprise the beach had not been touched. There was plenty of smoke inland from fires that the shells and bombs had started.

We were ordered to board our assigned amphibious craft. The bow doors of the LST opened and the first Alligator went down the ramp into the water. It was kind of scary to watch--the bow of the craft nosed into the water and it looked like it was headed for the bottom. However, the bow came up, the craft leveled off and it was on its way toward the beach--now it was our turn--we went down the ramp and on our way.

We were in the second wave and we could watch as the first wave hit the beach. The Alligators were ashore. We could not see any sign of Japanese resistance but we could see puffs of black smoke as the Alligators moved ahead, they stopped, but we didn't know why--we didn't know that they were being knocked out by land mines!

We were now heading for shore FAST and as we closed on the beach we could see why the first wave had halted--land mines had blown off the tracks of the Alligators. Everything a mess. Many men jumped out of their vehicle and headed inland--many didn't make it. Other men huddled around the Alligators. Afraid to move.

We were soon in the same predicament. Our craft hit the beach and we unloaded. The craft started to move forward again, hit a mine losing a track, and stopped. Everybody went on their own looking for cover. There were a few bodies around--the first and second wave did not get off the beach and the third and fourth wave were reaching shore. It was near chaos!

An officer with a swagger stick was pacing the beach and making the men go forward. I was watching this from a mine hole and soon decided to get out and trust to God that I would arrive safely on the high ground.

It was a scary time as another Sgt. and I walked off the beach. We had lost contact with our men and our machine guns and mortars were no where to be seen. We reached inland where the trees had been blown down and fires burning. The smoke was making our eyes burn. After getting away from the burning mess we arrived at a clearing where the men who were lucky to get off the beach alive were gathered. I found my whole crew here. Truly this was a miracle. I did not lose a man and they had the three mortars. Lucky they weren't needed on the beach.

The operation was set back a few hours and the objective for the day had not been taken. We were lucky the Japanese did not do any shelling of the beach. At first it was thought we were being shelled but it was the exploding mine that caused all the confusion.

Up until now I did not know the name of this island. My maps showed the area where we were going and our objective. The island was CEBU and it was a very important Japanese base. The intelligence report claimed there were 40,000 Japanese troops on the island.

The day ended with a foot hold on the island. We moved forward and never saw the beach head again. The main effort now was to destroy the Japanese and free the entire island.

The troops of the Americal took Cebu City, however the retreating Japs had destroyed a large part of the city. My outfit never went into the city but remained on the outskirts.

The history books do not give the Americal very much credit for the clearing of the Japanese from Cebu. The men who fought there didn't feel the Japs gave up too easy--it was a tough nut to crack. There was plenty of action in the hills and areas where the Japs had dug in and we suffered many casualties. There were quite a few Purple Hearts, Silver Stars, and Bronze Stars awarded for action here.

The action on the island lasted until June and it seemed that we were on the go all the time. I spent a couple of times as O.P. with different companies. There were quite a few casualties in the rifle companies, some caused by our own fire.

For some reason the Japanese never did make an all out attempt to drive us off the island. We did control the Air and perhaps this had something to do with it. the Filipinos were very helpful by giving us much information on where the Japs were holed up.

At the end of the fighting on Cebu we set up a base camp and began training for the BIG ONE. Much of our training was for amphibious landings. Our Company by now had become almost a new Company. The old National Guardsmen had been returned home by the rotation system which had been increased since the end of the war in Europe. There was about ten of us draftees left in the Company and we all had enough points to be sent home. S/Sgt. Strempeck had been made 1/Sgt. replacing 1/Sgt. (Bucky) Lord who had replaced 1/Sgt. White. The mortar platoon had been taken over by Sgt. Loronti and I became section Sgt. of the 3rd and 4th squads.

Soon after the change in command we old timers received our orders to pack up--we were going HOME! We boarded a troop ship that took us to Leyte for processing. We were heading back to a civilian life we had left 4 1/2 years before. We started out by being drafted for one year and that was extended to two years by one vote in Congress. Of course this changed when Pearl Harbor was bombed.

After spending a week on Leyte we finally boarded a ship and were bound for home. I do not remember the name of the ship but it was a real rust bucket--a Liberty ship. However, a lot can be said for the Liberty ships. They were made of prefabricated pieces that were assembled in the water at a ship yard. They were SLOW, making only 10 to 12 knots but they were mass produced, stayed afloat, and delivered the goods to the fighting man. They certainly did their part toward winning the war.

We were put into the cargo holds and like other transports we did not enjoy any comforts. However there was little complaining for we were headed HOME. As we left Leyte and proceeded to the open sea, we picked up and escort--it was not safe for this slow ship to travel unprotected. Our first stop was Ulithi and here we had to wait five days for another Navy escort to pick us up. After waiting patiently the ship again began to move.

The next stop was Eniwetok and here another week of waiting began. One morning we could hear the anchor being raised and a cheer went up from the GI's on board. We had been waiting for our escort to come from Pearl Harbor. The war was still on and there was a chance of being torpedoed and our slow moving ship would have been an easy mark. Now it was the first of August.

One morning the P.A. System told about the dropping of the Atomic Bomb. We couldn't believe it--were thought they were all nuts. Two days later we heard about the second bomb and we still couldn't believe what they were telling us. That night as we approached Hawaii we could see tracer fire and flare shells exploding in the sky. It looked like Hawaii was being attacked again. It was quite a display of gun fire. We did not know what was going on.

As dawn appeared we could see the outline of the Hawaiian Islands. We had been sailing in circles during the night waiting for daylight before entering Pearl Harbor. This was the morning of August 14, 1945. We were soon docked and at noon time President Truman came on the radio and announced that the war was over--Japan had surrendered unconditionally! Now we understood the "fireworks" display of the night before.

By late afternoon our ship had pulled away from the dock and cleared Pearl harbor before the nets were drawn across the entrance for the night. On to California and HOME!

It was another five day trip to the West Coast and war time security was still in effect. That meant total blackout at night and a Navy escort was still with us. For this we were thankful. On the third day out a floating mine was seen. Gun fire from our Destroyer escort dispatched the mine in a huge geyser of water.

As we approached the California coast we ran into a thick blanket of fog and had to slow down. As we drew closer to land the fog gradually disappeared and the sun came shining through. At last--a beautiful sight for sore eyes--the Golden Gate Bridge!

After our ship berthed in San Francisco we were taken by small boat to Angel Island. This Island was all set up to handle returning servicemen. Here we were billeted for the night and the next morning we boarded an small ship and sailed across the harbor to Oakland and the railhead. There were trains waiting and we climbed aboard. The next morning we crossed the Rockies, then it was by the Great Salt Lake into Ogden, across Colorado to Denver, into Canada, back into New York, near Buffalo, a day later, Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

It took a whole week, with no passes to be processed at Fort Devens. Then once again we were home and CIVILIANS!

That's how it was,
Fred R. Wonson

CEBU INVASION AS I REMEMBER IT
Joseph L. Jackson - C Company, 182nd Infantry

As we boarded the ships for the invasion of Cebu we were a tired bunch of soldiers--Leyte, Samar, Biri, Macarite, and now another island.

Once on board ships the card games began. One of the old veterans, John Prezeozza, ran low on money and borrowed \$20.00 from T/Sgt. Randall Kelley.

He wrote a note stating, "I owe Randall Kelley \$20.00", and put it in his own shirt pocket. When we landed he was told not to leave the beach, as he was being rotated home.

As we neared the Cebu, the battlewagons opened up on the shoreline. Every time the Navy guns fired our ship seemed to jump right out of the water, and the noise was deafening. We prepared to go ashore. Five of the first landing craft were destroyed before our eyes. There were underwater mines as well as land mines. Had the Japs defended the beach, we would have been slaughtered. Kelley and I waited for a half track to go by and we got off the beach by following in its tracks.

We began to hit Japanese resistance at the edge of Cebu City. Being in the kitchen didn't mean you were excused from the lines when needed. I joined my platoon, and Kelley took his squad up into the hills behind the Capital building. They dug their fox holes and cleaned their weapons.

J.B. Massey was asleep in his fox hole when a Jap soldier walked up on him and ran his bayonet through his lung. Massey grabbed the gun as the Jap tried to pull the trigger. They fought for the gun. Kelley, hearing Massey scream, raised his carbine to fire, but pushed the clip release and the magazine fell out. Carroll Smith threw his helmet and hit the Jap in the head, stunning him. As he staggered both Kelley and Smith opened up on the Jap, killing him. Massey had a bad wound and Kelley and Smith stayed in the fox hole with him, taking turns plugging his wound with their thumbs, until the Medics got him out the next morning.

I was ordered to get the kitchen crew together and to report to Sgt. Luomarsky. We were assigned to a building behind some stores. This building had steel beam supports, no sides, and a corrugated steel roof. All the 1st Battalion kitchens were setting up in this building. After the kitchens were set up most of the troops stood around talking. One cook, Pfc Pete Hamilton, decided to dig a fox hole. All the guys laughed at him. Later that day a Jap Zero spotted us and made a pass at the building, shooting holes in the corrugated roof. There were fifty guys trying to get into Pete's fox hole and he was trying to get them out as he called them all the old Army names.

About this time Randall Kelley was asked to report to Graves Registration, to help identify a body. In a shirt pocket they had found a note that read, "I owe Randall Kelley \$20.00" John Prezeozza had gone for a walk on the beach and had stepped on a land mine.

I, and another buddy were assigned to guard duty. We went on at two o'clock in the morning. Our post was in the doorway of a store front. We could see up and down the street. Across the street were some Filipino homes. About a half hour later we were about half asleep when there was a loud explosion. The house across the street went straight up in the air like a rocket. It was demolished. The Jap thought it was our Command Post and they blew it up. There were officers all over the place. We were two wide awake G.I.'s the rest of the night.

By this time we had lost so many men that "C" Company was hard to recognize. The dead and wounded were being brought down out of the hills and placed in a building next to us. We had very young twin brothers assigned to "C" Company and

one of them had been killed. His twin brother helped to bring his body back to the building. As he stood looking at his brother's body he said to me. "This is going to kill my mother and father." He then returned to the fighting and about an hour later they brought his body down and laid him next to his brother. I have never forgotten that and this is the first time I have ever written about it. It still brings tears to my eyes.

We were ordered to move about two mile up toward the lines. We found a house that stood all by itself. It was on a corner, two floors tall, with a flat roof, painted white, and was well made. It apparently had belonged to someone with money. The windows were blown out so we posted guards on he second floor at each corner. I made my bunk in the bathroom, which didn't work, but the walls were all tiled. A Jap sneaked up and set some explosives against the house. He was spotted and shot, but not before he set off the charge. It blew a hole in the house. No one was hurt. But, all the tile fell and I looked like a Zombie.

The next day we were ordered into the lines. As we approached the hill were "C" Company was located, the next hill to us blew up. That hill was called Go Shan. Captain Martin Herpolzheimer and many men of Company "A" were buried alive. What was left of "A" Company was used to fill the ranks of "C" Company, and we, the kitchen crew, were sent to the rear.

A few days later "C" Company took another beating and we were ordered up to the lines to fill in again. It was late in the day and as we arrived near the top of the hill a buddy met us, and said we would have to run, one at a time, around to the front of the hill and dig a fox hole. A Jap attack was expected. A Jap sniper was in the area and had already picked of several of our men. The airplanes had bombed the area but he was still there. I ran around the hill and found there were not many places left to dig a fox hole. I picked out a spot and started digging--Lucky Joe Jackson had dug his fox hole on top of table rock! It did slope down however--the front was 2 1/2 inches deep and the other end was about 18 inches deep. We repelled several attacks that night but in the morning the sniper was back and everyone was below ground. I was curled up like a baby in the deep end of my fox hole but when my legs cramped I had to straightened them out and then the sniper would shoot at my feet. I would wave my feet back and forth until the circulation returned and then curl up again. (I can still see that dirt kicking up at the end of my fox hole).

One day my buddy called over and said, "Pass the word, President Roosevelt has died". Another buddy had fallen.

The kitchen crew was ordered to the rear and that was my last fox hole and combat. The war was soon over.

Joseph J. Jackson

P.S. Randall Kelley believed all through the years that J.B. Massey had died, but a few weeks ago J.B. joined the South Pacific Buddies Association --what a telephone reunion they had!

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER
PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER
GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL
PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

CEBU OPERATION I Company - 182nd Infantry

Talasey Beach-March 1945: I Company, 182nd Infantry was in the first wave to land on Talasey Beach. When we hit the beach we were immediately aware that the beach had been very heavily mined. There were about 15 LVY's in the first wave and most of them were halted by mines.

The LVT that my platoon was on made it through the mine field and was in the lead across a rice paddy. I remember that I had to memorize all the coded names of places because I was the RTO for my platoon leader. Code names were given all the places that we were to go through. We had a mission to contact the guerrillas and maintain contact with them. They were to attack and capture the reservoir and distribution tank at Busian, five thousand yards west of Cebu City. I remember the shooting that went on and later learned that the guerrillas would shoot at anything to keep a noisy situation going. They felt more secure that way.

After advancing forward from the beach area we made contact with a communication platoon of Japs that were late in leaving the area. However, we were heavily armed with the LVT's .50 caliber machine gun and two .30 caliber machine guns so the Japs were wiped out immediately. It was at this time we discovered that we were the only unit to have advanced that far inland. Also we discovered that Japanese units, that had occupied the beach area, had withdrawn and were heading for the higher ground of Babag Ridge to set up a defensive position. We called for artillery fire but due to the fact artillery ammo was rationed, there was none available.

It took from March 27 until April 12 to actually take and hold Babag Ridge. I was wounded in the night bayonet attack up Babag Ridge.

Going back to our original mission, to make contact with the guerrillas, we learned that they had falsely reported, to Division, that they had taken and were holding the reservoir and the distribution tank when they were actually holding the high ground over looking these installations. I and K Company, 182 Infantry, later took these two points and turned them over to the guerrillas for control as directed by Division Headquarters.

The night of 26 March 1945, was a sleepless night, for there were many Japanese soldiers, stragglers, that tried to move at night but did not know that we were between them and their units. Many of them met death as they tried to pass through our area that night.

The days to follow were really rough. The Japs had planted many mines, made from mortar shells, and they had covered every route we tried to take. We advanced toward what we called the "Race Track", where we discovered some heavily reinforced bunkers. The walls were four feet thick and in each position there was an American heavy .30 caliber machine gun. We were fortunate that the Japs had not decided to occupy these positions.

Well, we were ashore--the battle for Babag Ridge is another story.

Roy E. Poynter
1/Sgt. (Ret)

SURRENDER ON CEBU Robert C. McGiffert

It was a ceremonial day, a day made for generals. Seven were on hand: three winners and four losers. The victors and the vanquished faced one another on a wide, grassy, field under high summer clouds. Behind the generals, their lieutenants stood in rows. Some distance off, where the ground fell away from the knoll where the generals stood, the ranks of troops stirred restlessly in the heat. Many were bored, in a hurry to get on with it and on to other things. Many having been disarmed, were disconsolate and fearful.

From the cluster of victorious officers, the senior general stepped forward, and aide at his side. The first of his defeated adversaries unbuckled his sword and handed it to his conqueror, who handed it to his aide. Then one by one, in turn, the generals and an admiral gave up their swords in token of surrender.

Thus, with time worn symbolism, another battle receded into history, another vanquished army shuffled forward to captivity.

The date was August 28, 1945, two weeks after the end of World War II. This was the Japanese surrender on Cebu Island, the cigar-shaped, verdant centerpiece of the Visayan Islands of the Central Philippines. With these formalities at the village of Ilihan, a cluster of houses near Cebu's northern tip, nearly 10,000 Japanese survivors of the fierce three-month battle began laying down their arms.

To some observers of the gentlemanly proceedings, the time was out of joint. Like other battles of the Pacific war, the battle for Cebu had been savagely fought. In 96 days of combat the Japanese had lost more than 9300 soldiers. The U.S. Army's Americal Division--formed three years earlier in New Caledonia from units of the Massachusetts, Illinois, and North Dakota National Guards--suffered 2400 casualties: 458 dead and missing, 1969 wounded.

A U. S. soldier who faced capture during this campaign could expect no quarter. Fresh in my own memory that day at Ilihan was the sight of an American infantryman seized by the enemy during an unexpected firefight. When the Japanese withdrew after the skirmish, they left behind his body, decapitated and gored by bayonets. I could not reconcile the courtesies of Ilihan with such barbarity.

The spectacular surrender on Cebu and the artful means by which it was arranged attracted little notice at the time. Indeed, the campaign to drive the Japanese from the Central Philippines was one of the better kept secrets of the war. After General MacArthur's finely orchestrated return to Leyte and the subsequent liberation of Manila and Luzon, the attention of the public was focused farther north, on Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the islands of Japan itself. August 28, the day of commotion at Ilihan, Emperor Hirohito's capitulation was two weeks old: U.S. troops and ships were hustling north to occupy the enemy's home islands, and the surrender for which the world had waited--in Tokyo Bay, aboard the battleship Missouri--still lay ahead.

But those who witnessed it, the denouement at Ilihan was bizarre. To begin with, the surrender was difficult to arrange because the Japanese on Cebu didn't know the war was over. They were

isolated in a corner of the island, without working radios. When Hirohito called upon his troops to end the fighting, his message did not reach Cebu.

The Americal Division's commander, Maj. Gen William H. Arnold, tried to get it through by air drop. On August 26, thousands of leaflets rained down on the Japanese sanctuaries. The message was both a news bulletin and an invitation to surrender.

"Japanese forces throughout the world have surrendered by order of his August Majesty, the Emperor of Japan," it stated. "On August 14, 1945, it was officially proclaimed that Japanese wherever they might be would lay down their arms, having realized that peace was the only solution to a hopeless cause".

"Now that your Emperor has come to an honorable agreement, we feel that you on Cebu should come to us as we have always wanted you to. In the past some of you have taken advantage of our guarantees of fair and kind treatment. Now that hostilities have ceased, lay down your arms and come to us. You will be treated fairly according to the rules of the Hague and Geneva Conventions. There is one point where you can assemble and be collected: Sacsac. Come to the above point unarmed during daylight hours waving this leaflet."

The Japanese, lacking aircraft, used a tree for their reply. On August 17, they nailed a message to it: "We do not believe your propaganda."

Again General Arnold struck from the air. His new leaflets expressed hurt that his integrity was doubted. Then he invited the Japanese commander, Lt. Gen Sadishi Kataoka, to send an emissary to U.S. headquarters to determine whether U.S. victory claims were true.

Again Kataoka replied by tree. His message, nailed at the roadside where it would be found by American patrols, set a time and a place for a meeting. And so at noon on August 20, a Japanese lieutenant named Hosaka and four enlisted men, followed a band of about 40 curious Filipinos, clumped around a bend in the road near the village of Sacsac and advanced under the Rising Sun flag to meet a party of a half a dozen Americans. With the help of a Nisei interpreter, Hosaka and U.S. Maj. Raymond Chesley exchanged greetings and agreed on details of Hosaka's imminent trip. Then the lieutenant bade his comrades goodbye and got into a jeep for a 30 mile ride to get the bad news. During his overnight stay at Division Headquarters, Hosaka talked to interpreters and listened to broadcasts from Japan. He reported back to General Kataoka that the war was over.

Kataoka sent another message to Arnold, "I received your kind message from First Lieutenant Hosaka." it said. "I have faith in your veracity and am positively convinced that Japan has surrendered. I wish to express my sincere thanks for the kind treatment accorded my lieutenant."

Over the next few days the surrender at Ilihan was arranged.

The formalities of surrender were scheduled at 10 a.m., but for hours before that the road from the north was clogged with Japanese. In they marched to the assembly area, armed with rifles, mortars, grenades and machine guns. On command, they stacked their weapons, then spread out in ranks

across the field. Many soldiers carried small white boxes containing ashes of friends. Despite the ordeal of isolation and siege, the Japanese troops were neatly dressed. So were the Japanese army nurses who marched in with them and whose appearance sent a wave of surprise through the Americans at the scene. We had not known that women were among the enemy on Cebu.

With all the enemy troops disarmed and in the field, facing American detachments, General Kataoka led three other generals and an admiral to the knoll between the massed soldiers. There they stood in line while a dozen unit commanders and staff officers formed a double rank behind them. Then, from the road edge, General Arnold strode forward, followed by three files of unit commanders, staff officers and interpreters.

On the knoll he faced his former adversaries. Within moments, their swords were his.

General Kataoka then went to a house in Ilihan and signed the surrender instrument that formally turned over 2,667 officers and men to American control. In the course of the next three days, an additional 7,200 Japanese were disarmed at other assembly points in northern Cebu.

These troops had not marched to Ilihan, though there commanders had been there. Those commanders had stood on the knoll with General Kataoka and like him, had unbuckled their sabers and turned them in.

Thus did a genteel silence settle on the bloody battlefields of Cebu.

(Ed Note: The above article was sent in by Eldridge Roddy several years ago. Eldridge passed away in 1992 and I may have run this article before. However, since the news media chooses to ignore, or take note of, some of the dates in history that are important to us, I felt this story would be worth reading again. WE must never forget what our generation contributed to making this world a better place to live in. Jim

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

We, acting by command of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, China and Great Britain on 26 July 1945, at Potsdam and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are hereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.

We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated.

We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage to all ships, aircraft, and military and civil property and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers or by agencies of the Japanese Government of his direction.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to issue at once orders to all

commanders of all Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.

We hereby command all civil, military and naval officials to obey and enforce all proclamations, orders and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper to effectuate this surrender and issues by him or under his authority and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically relieved by him or under his authority.

We hereby undertake for the Emperor, the Japanese Government and their successors to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith, and to issue whatever orders and take whatever action may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by any other designated representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that Declaration.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at once to liberate all allied prisoners of war and civilians internees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to places as directed.

The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Forces who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate these terms of surrender.

Signed at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 09047
on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945
By Command and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan
and the Japanese Government.
By Command and in behalf of the Japanese
Imperial General Headquarters.

Accepted at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 09087
on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945
for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in
the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan.

United States Representative
United Kingdom Representative
Commonwealth of Australia Representative
Provisional Government of the French Republic Representative
Dominion of New Zealand Representative
Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers
Republic of China Representative
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Representative
Dominion of Canada Representative
Kingdom of the Netherlands Representative

D COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY - C COMPANY

I would like to contact any of my former buddies that served with me in either D or C Company.

I was platoon leader in Company D and attached to C Company (.30 caliber machine guns) in most combat missions.

I was in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines before going to Japan with the occupation force.

Please contact:
William R. Hampton

Fayetteville, AR 72703-2106

Ed Note: I hope you enjoy this issue of the Americal Newsletter for there are stories about Company D here. I will send your name on to Joe Jackson. He is the man that keeps the 1st Battalion vets together. You will find an application for membership on the back cover of tshi Newsletter if you are interested.

BOUGAINVILLE

All is loneliness and fear
and darkness in the jungle's depth
Night has come
but peace is not its fellow,
All is mystery and pain
while someone in the blackness lurks
And spies,
His eyes on me, with earth as my pillow.

There is no rest
while ev'ry crackling sound seems muffles Death
come close to me,
arrived before its season.
All is bravery and fear and silence
in the pounding pulse.

Death is here, I sense him near
and struggle to maintain my reason.
A harsh, cold breeze ruffles the night,
Cold? Here in the dank, primal slime?
Is that his frigid hand along my spine
Or has he passed me by again?

SOUTH PACIFIC DIARY 1942 - 1943

The above is the name of a new book out written about he war in the South Pacific.

This is an intensely personal account, reporting the war from a ridge known as Galloping Horse on Guadalcanal, from the bars and dance halls of Auckland, from a B-17 flying through the moonlit night to bomb the Japanese installations on Bougainville--the sordidness and heroism, the competence and ineptitude of leaders, the strange mixture of constant complaint and steady courage of GI's and the friendships formed under stress.

Write to--Check or money order \$24.95 payable to:

University Press of Kentucky
& CUP Services Order Dept.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Order by phone and credit card--
(Thanks to Marshal Chaney for the info)

132 INFANTRY REGIMENT

The issue on the Jap and American plans to deal with the "final assault" was terrific. I also enjoyed the recent issue about the Canal and Bougainville. It brought the whole scene back in a flash.

In that regard I have enclosed a couple of short poems inspired by that jungle war we went through. Maybe some of the other guys, besides myself, felt the same way about jungle warfare. I copyrighted them for use in a book I hope to publish before I get to be an old man. I'm only 79 now and just don't feel old enough to quit yet.

I was Dental Surgeon of the 132 Infantry Regiment from the tail end of the Canal campaign, through Fiji, Bougainville, the Philippines and Japan. I told my kids when they were little that I had won the war single handed in hand-to-hand combat, but they only laughed (as do my grandchildren now!) They know a Dentist doesn't fight. Bur what they don't know is a Dentist can get scared, too.

For awhile, when we landed on Leyte, I was the Division Dental Surgeon for the Americal. I retired as a dentist three years ago.

I also remember Col. Franco (I forget which Battalion of the 132nd he commanded) conducting the assault on Hill 260. I had asked Major Tom Cogswell, chief physician at HQ for 132nd Infantry Regiment, if I could take my jeep to Hill 260 to do some auxiliary medical work to help out a bit. (After all, with a battle going on, who needed a dentist?) When I got to the base of the Hill our men were about half way up and Franco was calling for artillery support. Being a good dentist I offered Col. Franco a suggestion, for which I received a withering look that would have shrunk a lesser ego. He was right of course.

For those who may not think well of the Red Cross men who served our division, I wonder how many guys remember Howard Rehm, who passed away a few years back. He put a pack on his back and climbed up and down Hill 260 several times during the fighting, to distribute cigarettes, chewing tobacco, mail, and comforting fatherly advice to the kids who were trying move up a few feet at a time, and stay alive. Howard was a man over fifty (50) at the time and no one told him to do that. It was just his war as well as the grunts who were crawling in the dirt. We had a treasure in old Howard. The men in Col. Franco's battalion remember him. It takes more than just guns to win a war.

(Dr.) Ed Goldenthal

Ed Note: Ed started his letter with: Dear Jim, Guess you're the guy I have to send this correspondence to since you have the title of Editor. I have to tell you you're doing a mighty fine job of editing. It is particularly difficult for you since all your materiel is "ex post facto" and you have to inspire veterans to use their memories, long hidden notes, and pictures to provide enough data for a decent issue each quarter. You have been successful in doing that. Anyhow, keep up the good work with our Newsletter, and thanks. (Thanks Doctor, I needed that!

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER
IT NEEDS YOU!

From all reports it was a good reunion and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Everything fell into place well, with only a couple of glitches in scheduling, which couldn't be helped.

In my opinion the Reno Rodeo Parade was the highlight of the reunion. I had more that one Vietnam veteran tell me it felt good to receive the tremendous ovation we got along the parade route. There were thousands of people lining the streets. Not the "old guard" or the "new guard", but the combined veterans of the 23rd Americal Division did themselves proud. They all looked good, marched well and enjoyed themselves. TO TOP IT OFF, WE WON THE FIRST PLACE TROPHY IN OUR PARADE DIVISION. We had the largest unit in the parade. The trophy has been received. It is a beautiful wall plaque, suitably inscribed to the Americal Division Veterans Association. The trophy will be forwarded to the Americal Museum to go on permanent display. Look for it at next year's reunion. So, for you marchers, you deserved it.

Sergeant-of-the-Guard Victor Lopez (1st Inf.) did an excellent job both in the parade and in posting the colors at the banquet. He had those members looking like West Pointers. Vic Lopez, Frank Markovich (721st Ord. Co. in a WWII uniform that still fits him), Ed (Top Gun) Marsh (11th LIB), Tom Knott (132nd Inf), Pat Tognoli (182nd Inf), Don Shebesta (182nd Inf), comprised the color guard. Many thanks to them for volunteering and doing such a good job. Thanks also to the volunteers who carried the flags of the countries where the Americal has served. They were very colorful and added a special flair in the parade.

Command Sergeant Major of the Americal (Vietnam) Jim Meade presented an excellent speech that captured everyone's attention. When you don't hear anyone coughing or see anyone squirming around in their chairs you know they are interested and listening. Afterwards, CSM Meade had a lineup of fans congratulating him for a fine job. We were very fortunate to have him accept our invitation to speak to us. He reached out to all Americal veterans.

Rev. Perry Woerner, Americal Special Services (WWII), current South Mid-West Chaplain, and a newly named National Chaplain, conducted an excellent Sunday morning service that was well received by everyone who attended. It was truly non-denominational and on a very timely subject. We all thank him for a splendid presentation. He drove about 4,000 miles round trip from Fredericksburg, TX to be with us in Reno.

Friday evening entertainment was enjoyed by all in attendance. The caricature artist was very popular and the table hopping magician was well received. On Saturday evening we had an excellent vocalist, with piano accompaniment during the banquet. This was followed by Golden Jazz, a very talented orchestra, who played danceable music throughout the evening.

Members who want a commercially prepared video tape of the entire reunion may contact Nancy Merklin, Merklin Viedo Productions, P.O. Box 446, Weed, CA, 96094. The video will be a nice keepsake for members who were present and for those members who were unable to attend the reunion. The price is \$25. And don't forget the Memories Book that is being prepared by Reunion, Inc., 2098 Sprint Blvd, Apopka, FL, 32703. These books are great for recalling your friends and events of the reunion. They are inexpensively priced at \$15 (including postage and handling). Mention contract number 96-0120, Americal Division.

We had over 120 members and wives go on tours to either Lake Tahoe, Ponderosa Ranch (of TV fame), or Virginia City/ Carson City. The buses were clean and comfortable. The tour guides on each bus kept everyone well informed. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the trips and I heard no adverse comments. (Not one bus ran out of gas or got lost as at West Point.)

Mark Durley (164th Inf.) did very well in having all the flags on display and his brief talk on each one. They were also a parade feature. Max Loffgren (198th LIB) had his MIA-POW drag racer on display at the hotel and with us in the parade. There are over 2,400 names of MIAs and POWs inscribed on the car and it proved to be quite an attraction.

Mitch and Phyllis Pillarick celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary with us on Friday. The old timers were very surprised and pleased that Jerry Martel, Jr. came all the way from Texas to be with us. For those who don't know, Jerry Martel, Sr., who was in show business and the 182nd Inf., entertained the Americal troops while we were overseas and he was also a Past National Commander. I had invited Jerry to be our MC for the reunion. Unfortunately, he passed away last December.

Everything considered, I feel the reunion was a success and from all comments received. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was my privilege to arrange the reunion for all Americal members. I enjoyed it and maybe someday we will do it again. I want to thank all the members who traveled long distances for being present and participating in the reunion.

The Far West Chapter showed up on force and contributed a great deal in making the reunion a success. There was hardly an Irishman left in Boston (also my home town)- they were all here at the reunion.

I had a number of requests for a roster of attendees to be published in the Newsletter. If I have missed anyone I apologize. There were so many last minute walk-ins-ins that I didn't get all the names. Yours in comradeship, Lloyd Morrell.



Veterans and vehicles that made up a part of the ADVA parade entry.

Attendees at the 1996 ADVA Reunion in Reno, NV:			
Americal Headquarters WWII			
Woerner, Perry and Johanna	Fredericksburg, TX	Sp Services	
1st Cavalry			
Clark, James and Sonia	Iowa Park, TX	C/1/1	
Gibney, Bob	Little Rock, LA	A/1/1, 1/123 Av	
Horton, Chuck	Manor, TX	A/1/1, 14 CAB	
Misa, Ernie and Aurora	Daly City, CA	B/1/1	
1st Infantry			
Lopez, Vic and Martha	Colorado Spgs, CO	,3/4/3	
11th Light Infantry Brigade			
Bourcier, Denis	Kirkland, WA	D/E 3/1	
Bruinsma, William and Rose	Alto, MI	A, 6/11 Arty	
Close, Don	Lynwood, WA		
Dareing, Michael and Barb	Oakdale, CA	B, 6/11	
Flowers, Richard (Doc)	Albuquerque, NM	,4/21	
Gross, Russell	Orlando, FL	E, 1/1; 4/21	
Herald, Dan	St. Johns, MI	,3/1	
Marsh, Ed (Top Gun)	Jones, MI	D/4/21	
McNown, John and Dola	Overland Park, KS	A/1/20	
Meridieth, Bill	Vancouver, WA	HQ	
Miles, Russ	Clinton Twp, MI	C/1/20	
Pacheco, John	Menlo Park, CA	C/1/20	
Vanden Bos, Greg and Vicki	Highland, CA	C/3/1	
Yeakley, Gene and Ta	Ceres, CA	D/6 Arty	
18th Artillery			
Albers, Dale	Kennewick, WA.	SVC; B 3/18	
21st Recon			
Schnell, Harry and Virgie	Crystal Lake, IL		
23rd Military Police			
DeGroot, Dutch and Jan	Mt. Prospect, IL		
Pike, Vern	Vienna, VA		
39th Military Police			
Kiwak, Joe and Dot	Oxford, MA		
57th Engineer Battalion			
August, John and Margaret	Cambridge, MA		
Pola, Carlo and Peggy	Sandwich, MA		
71st AHC (Firebirds)			
Klosterman, Ed	San Jose, CA		
97th Field Artillery			
Cofleky, John and Adele	Athol, MA		
Humphries, Bill and Agnes	Fallen, NV	also 99th FA	
101st Quartermaster Reg 125 QM Co.			
Kelly, Ben	Simi Valley, CA		
Mehner, Gerhart and Marty	San Diego, CA		
Santogeanis, Paul	San Dimas, CA		
121st Medical			
Abele, Gilbert and June	Commerce Twp., MI		
Ballou, Don and Verna	Cherry Hill, NJ		
Cotta, Al	Gulfport, MS		

Reno Attendees (Continued from previous page.)

132nd Infantry Regiment		
Crnkovich, John and Betty	Granada, Hills, CA	A Co.
Dirago, Nicholas and Dorris	Des Plaines, IL	E Co.
Heller, Frank and Connie	Vancouver, WA	HQ, I&R
Knott, Thomas and Patricia	Selma, CA	AT
Kueker, Edmund and Violet	Waterloo, IL	A Co.
Massagli, Gino and Evelyn	Eureka, CA	I Co.
Micek, Joseph and Marie	Norridge, IL	G Co.
Mook, Claude and Joan	N. Bloomfield, OH	L. Co.
Muehrcke, Dr. Robert and JoAnn	Oakbrook, IL	R HQ, G Co.
Noice, Verl and Evelyn	Phoenix, AZ	
Przybycien, Mitch and Lillian	New Lenox, IL	I Co.
Rameriz, Henry and Lupe	Pasadena, CA	Hq Co 3d Bn
Squire, Don	Hurricane, UT	Hq Co I&R
164th Infantry Regiment		
Carr, Bob and Janet	Oakland, CA	B Co.
Durley, Mark	Sonoma, CA	Hq Co.
Freeman, Wm. Warren	Simpsonville, SC	G Co.
Jacobs, Zane and Gloria	Seaside, CA	E Co 2nd Bn
Johnson, Earl	Grand Coulee, WA	H Co.
Mastrorio, Peter	Hollywood, FL	
McKean, Verd and Eloise	Alameda, CA	Band
Pillarick, Mitch and Phyllis	St. Louis, MO.	B Co.
Roth, Jay and Chessa	Westlake Vil., CA	G Co.
Weston, Jack	Solvang, CA	G Co.
182nd Infantry Regiment		
Agrimson, Orrin and June	Vancouver, WA	L Co.
Bowley, John and ruby	Joshua Tree, CA	D /co.
Buckle, Jim and Frances	Harwich, MA	E Co.
Carlson, Ernie	Fredericksburg, TX	R Hq, D Co
Chin, Joe and Barbara	Lincoln, MA	M Co.
Cole, Tillman and Velma	Tyler, TX	B Co.
Copeland, Tom and Florence	Athol, MA	I Co.
Crowhurst, John and Lauretta	Santa Rosa, CA	2 Bn Medics
D'Entremont, Phil	Allen, TX	Reg Hq
George, DeWayne and Bette	Magna, UT	F Co.
Groppi, John	Dorchester, MA	H Co.
Hernandez, Joseph and Vickie	Fountain Valley, CA	
Holt, Herb and Neva and Gayle	Selma, CA	D Co.
Lefebure, Joseph and Anita	Tewksbury, MA	Reg Hq
Leuthard, Hal	S. Lake Tahoe, CA	A Co.
Lombardo, Michael	Waltham, MA.	H Co.
McQuade, Tom and Helen	Weymouth, MA	Reg Hq
Mullen, Joe and Evelyn	N. Eastham, MA	A Co.
Murphy, William	Concord, MA	H Co.
O'Boyle, Larry and Gloria	Rancho S Marg, CA	AT
Perry, Lloyd and Wanda	Lubbock, TX	F Co.
Scott, Dave	Sunnyvale, CA	Reg Hq
Shebesta, Don and Desiree	Saratoga, CA	
Tognoli, Paris and Jennie	Isleton, CA	Hq Co 2 Bn
Turner, Ken and Jan	Wakefield, MA	E Co.
Turner, Lewis and Jeanette	Oroville, CA	F Co.
Vera, Fernando	Oxnard, CA	L Co.
221st Field Artillery Battalion		
Carroll, Bernard (Barbara)	Boston. MA	
Chase, Bernard	S. Yarmouth, MA	
Dworkin, Irvin and Maxine	Columbus, OH	
Morrell, Lloyd and Ann	Redmond, OR (Boston)	
Petsche, Al and Irene	San Bruno, CA	
Tuttle, George and Gertrude	Pelham, NH	
245th Field Artillery Battalion		
Vitale, Frank and Irene	Maspeth, NY	
247th Field Artillery Battalion		
Marwil, Stan and Wilma	Bartlesville, OK	
Richardo, Joseph	Burbank, IL	

196th Light Infantry Brigade		
Bell, Harvey	Hayward, CA	A/26 Eng
Borysiak, Gerry	Grand Rapids, MI	B/2/1
Ellis, Ronald and Donna	Henderson, Tx	C/1/46
Espinosa, Dennis and Cindy	Richmond, CA	A/2/1
Gallagher, Peter	Los Gatos, CA	B/1/46
Gorsuch, Leslie	Aurora, Co	B/8 SPT BN
Harper, Ty	Miami, OK	C/2/1
Henson, Maurice	Capay, CA	A/26 Eng
Holdaway, Chuck	Fountaintown, IN	B/2/1
Laird, Dennis	Moline, IL	D/26 Eng
Meade, James and Sue	Beaverton, OR	5/46,CSM Hq
Mendoza, Reynaldo	Sacramento, CA	26 Eng
Noller, Gary	Kansas City, MO	B/1/46
Petitt, Ron and Linda	Sapulpa, OK	B/2/1
Rodriguez, Ernie and Rae	Union City, CA	B/2/1
Mantey, Gary	Mission Viejo, CA	0.02173913
198th Light Infantry Brigade		
Bales, John	Glendale, CA.	C/5/46
Brown, Jim (Barbara)	Austin, TX	1/6 E Recon
Colligan, Mike	Wild Rose, WI	C/5/46
Dawson, Thomas	Scotts Valley, CA	10/C/9 Spt
Dingus, Danny	Columbia City, IN	B/2/1
Donovan, Joseph	Carbondale, CO	,5/46
Fridley, Joseph and Mae	Fountain, CO.	C/1/14 Arty
Hammond, Dave	Beaverton, OR	,5/46
Heroux, Rich and Marie	Indianapolis, IN	B/2/1
Hughes, Jerry (Mary Jo)	Westfield, NJ	B/2/1
Kapp, Robert and Carol	Tampa, FL	C/5/46&4/21
Ladak, Andy	Warren, MI	,5/46
Lippincott, Dennis and Susan	Seabeck, WA	,1/6
Loffgren, Max (Sandy)	Napa, CA	B/1/52
Longhurst, Scott	Ogden, UT	C/5/46
Mistrot, Mike	Vista, CA	C/1/46
Moehrke, Mike	Tijeras, NM	23 Med, H/17
Nadolski, Robert and Patricia	Crown Point, IN	C/1/46
O'Connor, Dennis and Mary Jo	Trenton, OH	D/1/2
Sanchez, Jeffery	N. Las Vegas, NV	C/5/46
Sowers, Errol and Meredith	Walpole, NH	C/1/46
Walker, Howard and Thelwyn	Loveland, CO	,1/46
Ward, Ron and Linda	St. Louis, MO.	A/1/6
Zacher, Dave and Dianne	Houston, TX	C/1/14 Arty
721st Ordnance Co. (LM)		
Denney, Edwin	Nashville, MN.	Also 57 Eng.
Markovich, Frank	Napa, CA	
Salini, Joe and Dolores	San Diego, CA	
723rd Maintenance Battalion		
Dennison, Steve and Bobbie	Pittsburg, PA	
East, Malcolm	Lumberton, TX	
Associate		
Yablonski, Peter and Katherine	Lancaster, CA	
Guests		
DeGroot, Jeff	Mt. Prospect, IL	D DeGroot
Hughes, Jerry Jr.	Westfield, NJ	JHughes, Sr.
Hughes, Jeff	Westfield, NJ	JHughes, Sr.
Meade, James Jr.	Beaverton, OR	CSM Meade
Meade, Leon and Gail	Beaverton, OR	CSM Meade
Meade, Kim and Janet	Beaverton, OR	CSM Meade
Muehrcke, John	Oak Brook, IL.	Dr Muehrcke
Murphy, James and Alice	Newtonville, Ma	Wm Murphy
Pendleton, James and Pat	Sapulpa, OK	Ron Petitt
Samuels, John and Patrice	Pittsburg, PA	S Dennison
Santacrocce, Alice	San Diego, CA	B Carroll
Simons, Mike (USN)	Miami, OK	Ty Harper

BATTERY C - 246 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Hill 260

I had just returned from a recon patrol across the river, with some unit of the 182nd Infantry, and was resting up with my Battery "C", 246th FABN, while discussing the results of the patrol with S/Sgt. Fred Squires. He was called to report to our C.O. and when he returned, he told me that he and I were ordered to join a 182nd Infantry Company that was going up to Hill 260. We were to be their forward observers for artillery support. We knew something was up because we had been receiving heavy artillery fire from the Japs since early morning.

Our Battery "C" had been returning their fire with the rest of the battalion. I remember seeing a truck full of men passing our Battery location when a Jap shell hit a tree near the road. Shrapnel sprayed all over that truck--I don't no how many men were wounded.

Fred and I loaded up our radio, picked up some grenades, and our carbines, and took off to meet up with the 182nd Infantry unit. By this time we had started to receive heavy artillery and mortar fire as we advanced up Hill 260, not knowing who controlled the Hill--us or the Japs. Rifle fire and grenade explosions became more intense as we reached the top of Hill 260.

We were pleased to see that our guys occupied the top of the Hill. All that day, the battle continued. I remember seeing one of our machine gun men get hit badly. A young GI (I later found out in the hospital in the New Hebrides that his name was Gordon) jumped right on that machine gun and did a real "John Wayne", spraying lead into the Japs advancing up the Hill. All this time Fred Squires and I were sending back requests to fire Direction Center for fire on specific targets as requested by the Infantry. Toward late afternoon we were ordered to leave the Hill as our artillery would saturate the Hill with Divisional artillery fire. I put a thermite grenade on top of my radio and code sticks, so that the Japs would not get them if we were killed.

We backed down the Hill under heavy fire. As we reached the bottom I felt a terrible pain in my back and right hip. I was thrown up into the air and landed in a large puddle. My right hand hurt like hell and was slippery with mud so I thought I was hit in the hand (there was no pain in my back or hip). I tried to get up and run and fell flat on my face. That is when I realized that my right hip was badly wounded. The shrapnel (probably from a mortar shell) had entered my back on the right side and exited through my right hip. It smashed the hip bone on the way, hitting the butt of my carbine and shattering the stock. That's why my right hand hurt.

Not realizing how badly I was hit, I tried to get up and catch up to the other guys, and again fell flat on my face. S/Sgt. Fred Squires saw me as he looked back and returned immediately. Seeing my condition, he went in search of a Medic. I saw a Jeep nearby and crawled under it for shelter from mortar fire. Shortly after I saw some Japs coming down Hill 260 and going toward our front lines. They must have thought I was dead, and kept going. After a while, I heard Fred calling my name. When I answered, he came up to me with two or three stretcher bearers. They carried me to a dugout clearing station nearby. The doctor bandaged me up temporarily to stop the bleeding until they

could get me to a better facilities. I told them about the Japs I had seen. We all loaded into the ambulance and took off.

We arrived at a larger medical unit where they operated on my back and right hip,. About three days later they took some of the wounded to the airfield and we were flown to Guadalcanal. Fred Squires came down to see me off and that was the last time I was to see him.

Guadalcanal was only a temporary stop and from there I was flown to the General Hospital on the New Hebrides where I underwent a few more operations. On 4 July 44, I was loaded on board a ship, U.S.S. Rochambeau, with other wounded and I arrived back in San Francisco 16 days later.

I was in different hospitals from August 1944 until January 1945. Then I was reassigned to the Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, VA the to Bellwood Depot near Richmond, Virginia. I was medically discharged on September 19, 1945.

Frank J. Sager

B COMPANY 182nd INFANTRY
My version of the battle for Hill 260

I have been laid up for the past few months with a broken hip and didn't feel like doing anything. I meant to give my version as to what happened on Hill 260 earlier than this but time slipped away. In my opinion, most of the articles that have appeared about Hill 260 were pretty accurate with the exception of the last paragraph stated by Tillman J. Cole

On the morning of March 11, 1944, Company B, 182nd Infantry lined up at the bottom of the north knob of the Hill, to the right of the Banyan tree. We were given orders to move up the Hill. I was a squad leader in the third platoon. My men climbed over the first line of barbed wire, but, as we did all HELL broke loose--machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. We were pinned down and taking casualties, and forced to withdraw to regroup and tend our wounded.

In the afternoon we were told once again to move up the Hill. We crossed over the wire once again. At that time I made up my mind that "do or die", I was going to reach the top of that Hill.

My men and a few from other squads climbed over the next barbed wire and reached the top of the west side of the Hill. At this time the Japs were firing at us with rifle and knee mortars. A few more of the men were wounded. Pfc Lawrence Redmond was shot in the stomach. I went to him but there wasn't much I could do--he died soon after. At that point I was so mad that I asked some of the men for their grenades. I put some of then in my cartridge belt and carried one in each hand. I told the men to cover me as I ran down the line of bunkers dropping a grenade in each of the three bunkers.

I made it back to my men who were firing on some Japs who were lucky enough to survive the grenades. I reached for my canteen to get a drink and found a bullet hole and no water. There were bullet hole in my fatigues--someone must have been watching over me!

Some of the men found a container of ammunition in an unoccupied bunker near us. We wasted no time

in opening it with our bayonets. I had two BAR men with us so I told two men to to load the empty BAR magazines as fast as they could. The BAR men then laid down a field of fire all around our perimeter on the south side of the bunkers. It kept the Japs pinned down for quite a while.

One of the Japs threw a grenade and it landed right in front of us. One of my BAR men was hit in the arm and myself and another man were slightly wounded. I sent the wounded down the Hill. Another man took over the BAR.

It was then that one of my friends from the 1st Platoon came across the top of the Hill toward us--a few minutes earlier and he would have been killed. A sergeant from the 1st Platoon then came across and asked what he could do. I told him to go back down the Hill and ask Col. Young to send more men, ammunition and water.

Time went by and it was getting dark. No help came and we were running out of ammunition. We didn't feel like staying up there all night so I told Pfc Edward Rezny to start down the Hill with his BAR and cover us as we withdrew. As I passed Rezny I noticed that he wasn't moving--he had been shot in the head and killed. I was so mad then, I picked up his body and carried him back over the last barbed wire. I laid down next to him and cried my eyes out. He was one of my bravest men.

We pulled back on the north knob with some men from other companies. After two more days my left hand and arm were swollen so bad that I had to seek aid and was sent to the evacuation hospital. A doctor removed a small piece of a grenade from my left wrist. It was none too soon for blood poisoning was setting in.

On March 16th our company was relieved at last and sent back to the original perimeter defense line. For the next few days units of the 182nd Infantry and the 132nd Infantry continued the attack. On March 25th Hill 260 was finally recaptured. We lost a lot of brave men.

I was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. It is my opinion that every man that went up that Hill on Bougainville, should have received a medal for bravery.

Respectively submitted,
Sgt. Mulloy

IF YOU WERE BORN BEFORE 1945
YOU ARE A SURVIVOR!

Consider these changes we have witnessed--We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees and the Pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes--and before man walked on the moon.

We married first, then lived together--how quaint can you be? In our time closets were for clothes, not for COMING OUT OF. Rabbits were furry mammals, not Volkswagons. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having meaningful relationships meant getting along well with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Riviera Theatre. We were born before house-husbands, gay

rights, computer dating, dual careers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing ear rings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness--not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940 "made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonald's and instant coffee were unheard of. We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 cent stores, where you bought things for a nickel or a dime. Sanders and Wilsons sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime and for a nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi, or enough stamps to mail one letter and two post cards. You could buy a Chevy coupe for \$600.00, but who could afford one? (A pity, too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.)

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, "grass" was mowed, "Coke was a cold drink, and "Pot" was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between sexes was discovered but, we surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had, and we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap!

BUT WE SURVIVED! WHAT BETTER REASON TO CELEBRATE!

(Thanks to Ernie Carlson for the words of wisdom)

IN CADENCE - COUNT
Marching - Marching - Marching

Call out your numbers loud and strong. The method used to move military units and to maneuver in precise formation, is wondrous to watch and hear. The rhythmic marching to one cadence with vim and vigor shows their pride and respect. They are the quick, the alert and the fit.

In a Veterans Administration Medical Center waiting room, decades later, the cadence has changed. The precision becomes unsteady, the quickness has slowed and the marchers are not in formation. The once proud marchers now come to the Medical Centers in wheelchairs, using canes, crutches, and mechanical walkers, and often needing assistance. Some come with stiff joints, limps, artificial limbs, shuffling steps. Some without sight, some without hearing...some have lost the ability to speak and to care for for their personal needs. They come marching in their own way proudly and respectfully--none come for pity--none come for charity--HATS OFF--THE BOYS ARE PASSING BY.

(Recently I was waiting in the Des Moines, Iowa VA Med Center and my thoughts were about the problems of the other people waiting there. Our numbers are decreasing and my thoughts stuck on the quote:

"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE"

Everett Arnold

(Everett served with the 132 Infantry Regiment in Headquarters, Intelligence and Recon Platoon)

182nd INFANTRY - FLAME THROWER PLATOON

I just returned home from the Convention in Reno and I certainly enjoyed it.

I am still trying to locate some of my old buddies that I served with in the 182nd Flame Thrower Platoon. I am searching for a fellow by the name of Weaver from Georgia, a Pearson from Delaware, a Rust Browning and Lt. Trager from F Co. 182 Inf.

The Flame Throwers were attached to 2nd. Battalion Headquarters and the picture was taken on Bougainville. I sure would like to find them.



L to R: Weaver - Pearson - Lloyd Perry

Please contact:

Lloyd Perry

Lubbock, TX 79404

C COMPANY - 57TH ENGINEERS
Bougainville - Cebu - Japan

I landed on Bougainville on Christmas Day in 1943 with Company "C", 57th Engineers.

I was classified as a heavy equipment operator and I vividly remember the flooding of the Laruma River and the Battery of artillerymen stranded on a small island in the middle of the river.

At that time I was in the area operating a Caterpillar D-7 Bulldozer. I was ordered to attempt a rescue of those men. The Dozer at that time was equipped with a square framework in front and an A frame structure on the rear with a steel tube connecting both structures. The cable that raised and lowered the blade went through this tube.

I made several crossings that morning and ferried those stranded men to safety. The water was up to my chest and I had to hold tight to the controls to avoid being washed away. The Dozer, except the exhaust pipe and air intake was under water. The men stood on the hood of the Dozer and held onto the overhead tube. Those men were plenty scared and so was I. I have praised Caterpillar equipment ever since.

I experienced many other trials and tribulations during my stay on Bougainville but that day will

not soon be forgotten!

I am not quite sure of the date that I landed on Cebu but I do remember the Navy shelling and the rocket barrage as we were waiting to go ashore. I was waiting on LST 922. When the doors of that LST opened, myself and my Bulldozer headed for the beach. My Bulldozer, (The same one I operated on Bougainville and Leyte), was the first one to hit the beach. I had MISS MASSACHUSETTS on its sides.

Only organized chaos awaited me on the beach. After the beach was cleared my Lt. told me to park and await further orders. Along with my assistant, William Bennett of Detroit, I waited on the beach for three days. After the third day the Lt. came back and was surprised to see me there. It seems that a fellow operator, same name 'Gray', from A Company, hit a land mine the first day and was evacuated on the same LST he had arrived on. The mix-up was caused by everyone thinking that it me, 'Gray' from C Company.

The Lt. ordered me to proceed to Cebu City and he told me my unit was camped at St. Recollectors Monastery. He took William Bennett with him. He also told me it would be dark before I arrived there and to keep the lights off so that any remaining Japs would not see me coming. Imagine the noise a bulldozer makes on a concrete highway would make! Obviously I made it to Cebu City. Also, the Lt. did not give me the pass word. I almost got shot by a sentry who thought, in the dark, I was perhaps a tank.

Later I was asked (ordered?) if I could gouge a trail up a steep grassy slope so that the tanks could fire point blank into the Japs dug in on the ridge. The hill was so slippery that the rubber treads on the tanks could not make it up the hill. The hill was so steep that I could not start at the bottom and work up--I had to start near the top and work down.

As soon as I reached the position from where I was to start down, I came under mortar fire. I crawled under the dozer--the only cover I had. There aim was bad--no direct hits. After a while the shelling let up and I was able to complete my mission.

For my efforts I was awarded a Bronze Star Medal.

A few weeks later the island was secured. We older veterans had it easy after that--the replacements did most of the work. We received new equipment and sailed for Japan.

We were on board the Northern Victory Ship waiting to sail, when word came the A Bomb had been dropped. Thank the Lord for that.

We then sailed for Yokohama. When we arrived outside the harbor a Jap Navy officer came aboard and steered the ship through the mine field, and into the harbor.

After a few weeks of occupation duty I was rotated home on th point system. I was discharged at Fort Devens, MA on December 20, 1945.

Harold E. Gray

P.S. My company had several cracker jack heavy equipment operators. Most of them never went above Pfc. I made T/5 and one made buck sergeant. I could never figure why there were not more stripes given out. General Douglas MacArthur once said that the Jeep and the Bulldozer were deciding factors in the war in the Pacific.

245th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION 246th

Due to the loss of one of our fellow Cub (L-4) pilots of the 245th F.A. Bn. on Bougainville, I was on detached service from the 246th F.A. Bn. to help "Ace" Lynn in the 'mop-up' of the Ormac Corridor, Leyte, an assignment of the 164th Infantry and the 245th F.A..

As the campaign came to a close, the Cebu invasion was next in line.

Four of five or we L-4 pilots departed Leyte three days before D-Day, flew to Cebu, hedge-hopped across the island, and landed on a strip prepared by the guerrillas in western Cebu. Prior to the invasion below Cebu City, we were over the landing area directing naval gunfire on D-Day. That evening we landed on the beach, using it as our base of operations until the City was secured. A field hospital was set up on the left side of Capitol Boulevard and then we moved our landing operations to the Boulevard. Although a tall monument was located at the end of the Boulevard from the Capitol building, we were able to slip over it and land safely.

A day or two after we began operating from our new landing strip, the Japs started peppering the area with 20mm fire from the hills behind the City. These were cracking and banging around us to such an extent that we vacated the strip and flew to the small island of Mactan, off shore from Cebu City. The Japs on the ridge observed our activities and lobbed a few artillery rounds at us to no avail. When things quieted down we searched the wooded area on the island and found a large monument commemorating Magellan--he had met his demise there while siding with a warring faction--seems he chose the wrong side and met a similar fate as Ponce de Leon in the Punta Gordo area of Florida. Later that day we returned to the Boulevard and carried on our usual operations.

Marion (Junior) Parks and I did considerable flying and firing to the north and west of Cebu City.

My Battalion C.O., Lt. Col. Chester Holloway, flew on a few missions with me. (He retired a General). I had the pleasure of visiting with him at his retirement home in Florida the past two winters. Great Guy!

Enjoyed all the articles in the Jan-Feb-Maar issue of the Newsletter about Bougainville. I had been on Hill 260 prior to the attack and flew over it many times.

Boyd W. Vokes Sr
L-4 Pilot 246 F.A. Bn

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".

H COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY



L-R Manny Sousa, Fred McPhillips, Bill Murphy, Walter Emerson, Mike Lombardo, Ed Mason, John Groppi, Ed Chisholm, Fred Zaino.

The above picture was taken on February 10, 1996 to honor Jack Algeo on his 80th birthday. It was taken in the Concord, MA Armory where H Company entered Federal service back in January 1941.

Leo Algeo, Jack's brother called Bill Murphy and Ed Chisholm, asking them to meet him at the Armory to take some pictures to send his brother on his 80th birthday. Leo was surprised to find nine members of H Company awaiting him.

Jack's two daughters, Donna and Sue, made a Video to send their Dad. The old vets performed like the great guys they are and it is said that Jack plays that Video every day, down in Florida.

These old vets had a big "Thank You" for Headquarters Troop, 110th Cavalry, who were training at the Armory that day and voluntarily fed nine hungry vets.

Jack Algeo was a Lieutenant when H Company left the Armory in 1941. His men say of him, "during the battle for Guadalcanal he always stood by his men and helped the boys that were wounded or exhausted--he pitched right in with the rest of us". (Jack retired a Major).

Ed Note: H Company owes a big 'vote of thanks' to John Groppi. He has kept the old gang together. They have a Reunion every year. Jack Algeo visits with his daughter on the Cape and the last to summers they held a luncheon to honor Jack on Cape Cod. Keep up the good work John.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I certainly appreciate all the stories that have been sent to the Newsletter. If your letter has not been printed as yet--do not despair. At present the Newsletter is limited to 34 pages of print so I run out of space. I try to use a first in first out policy.

Have you noticed how the news media ignores the historic dates of World War II? How about some letters to your local newspapers?

Don't forget to support the American Legion in the fight to protect our FLAG.

VETERANS DAY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Many Americal veterans and ADVA members go to Washington, DC for Veterans Day activities. In past years a hospitality room has been arranged at a local hotel. This year we may try a different approach. A room may be reserved at a lounge or a restaurant instead of a hotel. This would be more economical for the Association as well as provide a place for food, drink, and conversation.

If you plan to be in Washington on the night of November 10th (Sunday) or November 11th (Monday) and would like to meet with other members please contact Gary Noller for further information:

National Commander Gary Noller

Kansas City, MO 64114
Telephone [REDACTED]



WINTERFEST ALL VETERANS RALLY JAN. 17-19, 1997
NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN - 11TH ANNUAL RALLY
TOGETHER THEN - TOGETHER NOW

Friday Evening-Hospitality-Free Beer-Snacks
Burning Of Winter Ceremony-Parade-Banners Welcome
Dance- Music-by Summer Haze Band

Saturday-Hobby Show-Social Fun-Group Pictures

Sunday-Breakfast Get Together-Church Services

INFORMATION

Winterfest 97

New Glarus, WI 53574

CALL: Doug Oppliger [REDACTED]
Jim Bartelt [REDACTED]
Ronald Lewis [REDACTED] Days

DMZ TO DELTA DANCE

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1996

WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT HILTON

CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA

CONTACT:

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 227

ARLINGTON, VA 22205

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

WWW.americal.com Web Site News

The ADVA web site continues to provide a link for Americal Veterans in search of information about the Association, the Americal division, and former buddies. If you have not browsed the web for this site you are encouraged to do so.

One of the benefits of the web site is that of an electronic locator board. Several Americal veterans have reported successes in their quests to contact former buddies through the locator page. While this service is presently only in its infancy, it will get bigger and better as time goes by. Take a look at the locator and see if a former buddy is looking for you. Be sure to register in the guest book.

B BATTERY - 6TH BATTALION - 11th ARTILLERY

Looking forward to being a member and the Newsletter. As far as my memory ("HA") serves me I served with B/6/11 Arty--a 105 unit.

Do you have any past info on them? I have not seen any articles in the VFW or American Legion magazines about this unit. (Am I dreaming?)

I burnt all letter from 'in country' so maybe you can help me. Can you tell me what insignias or hat pins of the 6/11 or the 1/8 are like.

I managed to live through Tet and the monsoon season but lost a lot of my memory. My cousin served with the 26th Engineers in a different area than I--he did not have any good memories of Nam--but it wasn't a vacation--Right?

Please write to:

Edwin C. Feldhaus
[REDACTED]
Clearwater, FL 34519

Drafted G I Joe
"Ed"

Ed Note: You weren't dreaming Ed. We have quite a few member that served in the 11 Arty. HEY GUYS, how about writing to Ed?

23 MEDICAL BATTALION - HDQ & A COMPANY

I would like to hear from anyone who served in Chu Lai with the 23rd Medical Battalion, HHC and Company A, between March and December of 1969. Contact:

SFC Mess Sgt.
Harold Kardonick

Tamarac, FL 33321

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I was assigned to the Americal Division in 1970-71 and we operated out of Chu Lai. I would like to locate some of the people that were there at that time. This is the first time I have tried to recall those days. Please writ to:

J.D. Guy
[REDACTED]
Midwest City, OK 73110

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Center

Veteran's Stamp and Coin Club #135

Tucson, Arizona 85723

Dear Roland,

The Board of Directors, VA Medical Center Stamp and Coin Club, Tucson Arizona wishes to acknowledge receipt of your donation of stamps and/or, coins or, other philatelic or numismatic materials in support of disabled, handicapped or wounded veterans.

On behalf of our veteran's stamp and coin club members, we offer a special thanks for your thoughtfulness, generosity and support of "Operation Outreach". The materials donated by you will be sorted and made ready for distribution to those disabled, handicapped or wounded veterans undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. The Hobbies of Stamp and Coin collecting have long been recognized as an effective therapy vehicle in rehabilitating handicapped, wounded and hospitalized veterans.

Commemorative, Express and Priority United States and Foreign stamps, both Mint and Used, are especially needed.

Your donation is most welcome and appreciated. Again, many thanks for your support.

Sincerely

Maurice A Storck, Sr.
President

P.S. Please use Commemorative of Hi-Value Priority Mail or Express stamps on all mailings whenever possible. ALSO, request the postal clerk to use Commemorative or other Hi-Value stamps on parcels INSTEAD of meters as there is no demand for meters.

Dear Roland,

Could you please include the following request in the next edition of the Newsletter? After all these years, I thought it was about time to track down some of the guys I served with. Thanks!

F Troop-8th Air Cavalry-Americal Division

I am trying to put together a database of anyone serving with, or associated with, F Troop, 8th Air Cavalry. If you are interested in finding out what happened to other troop members, or would like your old friends to be able to contact you, drop me a line with your name, dates of "Blue Ghost" service, whether you were Reds, Whites, or Blues, and other information you'd like to share.

Judging from the letters I've seen in the Americal Newsletter, there must be a lot of "Blue Ghost's" in the Americal Association, and I thought it might be nice to try and make up a list. Drop me a line, too, if you know of other F Troopers, and I'll try to contact them to see if they'd like to be included.

Send your info (and a note, too, if you have time), to:

Vern Schleyer
[REDACTED]
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Thanks, Roland - I'll let you know how many responses I get!

A NOTE TO BOB GRANOFF

Congratulations on your new appointment as the ERC, ADVA Commander. I just recently (Memorial Day weekend) was down to DC and was a participant in "Rolling Thunder IX". This was my third year down to DC for this event, which honors veterans and remembers our fallen comrades. Each time at the wall I have been greatly impressed by the displays/shows of unity by the 1st Inf. Div, 1st Cav (as usual), and the good old USMC.

On the hill facing the wall, every year, a GP small tent is erected and the 1st Cav banner and the USMC flag is flown in front of a huge banner stating "MASSACHUSETTS REMEMBERS". While I am greatly impressed by the Cav/USMC Esprit de Corps, I can't help but think of AMERICAL'S roots, and feel that we should be represented at this prestigious event!! So, in spite of all I have learned in my 25 years of service, (still ongoing) I do hereby volunteer to do whatever the ADVA wishes to establish a presence at the Wall on Memorial Day activities.

At the staging area (Pentagon parking lot) on Sunday morning, I like to walk around and look for fellow "Southern Cross" wearers. Everyone that I ran into, and there are a lot, was not aware of the Association. I firmly believe that the ADVA membership roles would be greatly enhanced by a conspicuous presence at the staging area and/or the Wall. I know who to talk to for permits, etc., and once again I am offering my services.

I am fully aware that the 1997 ADVA reunion is probably all "locked & cocked" but someone should seriously consider having a future reunion at Washington DC during this weekend. I feel that participation would be significantly enhanced, plus it is a great place with countless places to visit and see.

Please publish this letter in the newsletter under the Vietnam News Network. I am also forwarding copies to the National Commander: the Vietnam editor; and my fellow 26th Engineer comrades, the publishers of the renowned "SITREP" (They are always looking for material).

I further volunteer to acquire a "Rubbing" from the Wall for any ADVA member who desires one, and just can't get to the Wall themselves.

Hope to see you all Under the Cross, at the Wall, for the Rolling Thunder X, on Memorial Day 1997.

Joe Krisanits
[REDACTED]
Rahway NJ 07065

My name is Ted Lamar Heath, I served in Vietnam from Sept 1969 to Sept 1970.

I served with 1st Div. With 1st Battalion 2nd Inf. Div. We wore black scarves. I also served about 5 or 6 months with the Americal Division. I went in at Chu Lin, I believe this is right. I was referred to you by 2nd Inf. Regt.. Association V N, 6106 Ashley Place, Springfield, Va.

I need all the information I can get. I don't have any information on me being in the Americal Division. I have been diagnosed with ptsd, I have been in the hospital about all year. I really got bad about 1992-1993. Help me if you can.

Yours in comradeship

Ted Heath
[REDACTED]
Alapaha GA 31622

Dear Mr Castronova

Enclosed are some extra copies and some extra originals of material I have that relate to the 11th Brigade and to the Americal Division.

I've sent this to you as Vietnam Editor so you could use what you want and pass it on to the museum.

As a Captain, I was with the 11th in Hawaii from activation (6th Sept Bn/Co A) thru its deployment (Dec 67) and travel to Vietnam on the Gen Weigel. As Chief, Admin.. Services Division, I was selected to print and be editor of the "Trident", the brigade's newspaper on board, having published all orders in HI.

Later in Chu Lai, I was C,ASD, 23d Admin.. Co and in charge of the Special Orders Section, Top Secret Control Officer and Printing Officer. Didn't mean to ramble on, but because of the above, I have a lot of knowledge of what went on in the print and over the teletype. I never hear from or meet anyone I knew during that period, so maybe the association can find them by publishing what info you find is appropriate or fitting at the museum.

Is there an 11th Brigade association? If so, please send me its address for membership. A unit history? Also, would like a list and the addresses of all 11th Bde people in the ADVA if available. Willing to pay for it and postage if you let me know.

Francis A Patsy

Sterling VA 20164-1216

PS. Under new members in the newsletter, why not give their street address and zip code and forget who the sponsor was. Really help some guy out there who recognizes & wants to unite an old buddy directly. Also, if I can assist you or the ADVA in anyway to contact new members or with information on the unit, please let me know. Finally, an idea popped in my mind. Why not put out membership applications at the VA Medical Centers? I'd be glad to stock the one here in D.C. I go to.

LOCATORS

Les was with the 123rd Aviation in Chu-Lai. Les has a computer base that has information concerning AO grids, Americal Magazine articles, Southern Cross articles, Americal member locator, and daily operation report information. I told him that I was in the 11th LIB 3/1 Infantry, and after conducting a search, he found some interesting info concerning my unit, location and read a few operation reports that involved my outfit. He stated that he is too busy to join NVN as yet, but wanted me to post his name and address if anyone wanted to contact him for information. He has invested quite a lot of money into his computer files and can't afford to mail out a lot of requested information. In other words, he would be glad to mail normal amounts. Contact:

Les Hines

Des Moines, Iowa 50312
Phone: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
Charlie Mankin
B/3/1 11th 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

Roland

I received my first copy of the Americal Newsletter today. I am impressed with the newsletter and am glad to see there is a whole section for and about Nam Vets.

I read "Dusters" article with interest. What a lot of "forward" people do not realize is not all support units were easy duty. I was in a unit that supported division artillery. Without us arty support would have been a lot less effective. Also we traveled to and from fire support bases by road-usually as part of a resupply convoy but sometimes just our 3 vehicles. A road trip from Chu Lai to LZ Ross with two 5 ton wreckers and a 30ft flat bed loaded with 175 tubes wasn't exactly a Sunday drive. Yes, we used live ammo too.

We were at LZ Young with 3/18 arty in "68" when they first went in and shot out two 175mm tubes in less than 18 hours, firing in support of grunts. We put on new tubes one afternoon and the next morning we changed them again. 175's were good for 350 rounds between tube changes.

Bill Bruinssma mentioned that 8" rounds were about 200 lbs., 175 rounds were about 190 lbs, 175mm tubes were 38 feet long and had a range of about 20 miles or so. 8" tubes were 20 feet long and a range a lot less than 175mm but a lot more accurate. I remember one 8" crew bragged that they could drop a round in a 5 gallon bucket at 10 miles, if the F.O. gave them the correct co-ordinates. After spending a year with different batteries of Div. Arty I do not doubt that an 8" gun is that accurate. Also 8" guns could fire 3-4 times as many rounds between tube changes.

I am a 100% disabled vet, who spends a lot of time writing to brother vets who are in prison, hospitals, etc., or just need a pen pal. I would like to hear from former members of the 588th Maint Co or Division Arty. I was there March '68-March '69'.

William Smith

Heavener OK 74937-9501

174th ATTACK HELICOPTER COMPANY

On my first tour in Vietnam LZ Siberia was not there but had been established by my return in '71. There was a dead BOXCAR on the hillside just below Siberia at that time. It wasn't worth hooking out.

I was on a short final into Siberia in '71 when a call came in from Maryanne stating that a BOXCAR had just gone in. I immediately diverted to Maryanne and was the first Huey on the scene. There were 54 ARVNs on board and an American crew. I hovered above the burning Chinook with small arms and grenades cooking off inside as we got the U.S. Flight Engineer off the Hook. He survived, but we flew out bodies the rest of the day.

Not a good day.

Jim McDaniels
67-80

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

SLICKS

I remember flying into Professional. It was the first time I'd been on a slick. We were way up there and the door gunner points down to this scar on the landscape. (To the WWII guys our Hueys didn't have doors, just open all the way across). I was sitting on the floor with mucho Med gear I thought I'd need and later was glad I'd brought as much as I did. All of a sudden the pilot kicked the slick over and spiraled down. Only the G force kept us all in, but I wasn't ready for this maneuver and was looking straight down out the door at my new home. I was holding on for dear life. White knuckles and G force were the only things between me and Professional, 2000 feet below. I all of a sudden, started to question the wisdom of volunteering to go to a nice cushy Arty battery. I mean this place even looked bad. Until another 1/14th regular Medic relieved me I had more reasons to question this decision. I learned the business real quick which helped me later, and as I think back now, I am glad I went. But at the time it was high puckerfactor the whole time. It was like doing a series of 720's around a point with no doors and nothing holding you in, looking straight down at this desolate outpost.

Another incident at Pro I remember: The counter mortar radar was set up in a well sandbagged little trailer right on the top of the hill. There were plenty of sandbags around it but none on top. There were a couple of guys working in it and all of a sudden something crashed through the roof. Holed it through the roof and floor and buried itself in the dirt under this trailer. They said it was an illumination canister as we were under constant illum at the time, but no one really knew.

It may have been one of Charles' duds and I stayed away after that.

Michael (Doc Merk) Moehrke
23 Med HHC 198th 68-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

GRUNTS

Along the coast northeast of Quang Ngai, naval guns fired on an undetermined number of Viet Cong. Aerial observers from Division Artillery later flew over the area to confirm eight VC had been killed by the fire originating from the ships in the South China Sea. The next day, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, picked up a trailer and killed two VC in two separate incidents. The "Ready Rifles" engaged several VC evading southwest of Chu Lai and brought down one as another rallied. About thirty minutes later, Recon killed another VC and captured an AK-47, two banana clips, two Chicom grenades and a poncho.

Later in the week while working northwest of Quang Ngai, Delta Company killed one VC and later found a hooch that contained 350 pounds of rice and 350 pounds of potatoes.

Delta Company of the 1st Bn, 6th Infantry also found a small cache of 1000 pounds of rice hidden in crocks and metal containers, southeast of Chu Lai.

John Boyer
F/8 CAV 123rd AVN 70-71

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

The Viet Nam Experience - What's in a Name

The 23d Infantry Division took pride in referring to itself as "the only named division in Viet Nam." But while MACV and Divisional documents labelled it simply the "Americal Division," the Army insisted on referring to the unit's numerical designation, unwilling to exhibit any favoritism by using the name.

Virtually every one of the other American Divisions had at least one nickname, although unlike the Americal, they were not authorized for use in official documents. Monikers such as the "Big Red One" (1st Infantry Division), the "First Team" (1st Cavalry Division), and the "Screaming Eagles" (101st Airborne Division) signified a pride and, it was hoped, instilled ferocity in each of the members of those units. These and other names- "Tropic Lightning" (25th Infantry Division) and the "Old Reliables" (9th Infantry Division)-harked back to the units service in two World Wars.

Appellations of smaller units dated back ever further. Prior to World War I, when the Army consisted of regiments lacking divisional ties, most units had names born in noted battles or campaigns of the previous hundred years. The 7th Infantry Regiment, for example, became known as the "Cottonbalers" after its men fired from behind bales at the advancing British troops during the battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812. The men of the 35th Infantry called themselves the "Cacti" for their service in the western desert against the Indians in the nineteenth century.

Some nicknames had more obscure origins. Service in the China Relief Expedition during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 gave names to the 9th Infantry ("Manchus") and the 14th Infantry ("Golden Dragons"). The "Wolfhounds" of the 27th Infantry and "Polar Bears" of the 31st Infantry traced their names back to their participation in an abortive American expedition into Siberia in 1918-19, after the Bolshevik revolution.

Many other regiments obtained their designations during Twentieth Century wars. The "Ready Rifles" of the 52nd Infantry and the "Lions of Cantigny" of the 28th Infantry gained fame for gallantry in France during World War I. In World War II the 75th Infantry, an elite ranger unit led by General Frank D. Merrill, called itself "Merrill's Marauders." For its staunch defense, under siege, during the Battle of the Bulge, the 327th Infantry (Airborne) became known as the "Bastogne Bulldogs". Though reorganization before Viet Nam broke up the old regiments into independent and sometimes scattered battalions, each battalion in the parent regiment retained its old nickname. Some even added new ones. After operations in the mud of the Rung Sat Zone east of Saigon in the fall of 1966, the "Vanguards" of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, took on a new name: the "Swamp Rats."

Spencer Baba
2/1 196 68-69

Ed Note: You forgot to mention the 182nd Infantry Regiment--The oldest Regiment in the U.S. Army.

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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

ARTILLERY

I arrived in 'C' Battery, 3/82 on LZ West on July '69 and I remember several names of guys that were old-timers when I arrived. 'Ski' was Chief of Smoke. I had a Section Chief named Robideau. There was an immense blond Sgt. named "Tex" from Texas.

One FO whose name I don't know was said to have been the only American to score a chopper. He walked into the rotor blade just enough to break or bend it. Didn't hurt him. This was in the nature of myth or legend by the time I arrived. Sound familiar?

It was very quiet the few weeks I was on West before moving to Siberia. I do remember two great notes on the mess hall bulletin board: 1. 'Thank you, God, for Charlie Battery' - an Infantryman's prayer. 2. Artillery lends dignity to that which without it would be but a vulgar brawl. West was not a bad place to me, sometimes.

Barry Kelly
C/3/82 Arty 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

WANNABEES

Boy, do you know how to get me excited. I guess nothing gets me more upset than the phony veterans. I am always afraid of how I will react with some of those guys. People that knew me did notice one change that did occur from Vietnam and that was my explosive temper. There are times I go off at the drop of a pin, with no real explanation of why. Most people I deal with on a regular basis have kind of gotten used to it and just treat it as no big thing. Several people have just said it's the agent orange acting up. Other times people can treat me like ca ca and I turn my back and walk away.

RPGs and mortars at night were quite common but they rarely hit anyone. Biggest fear I think I had was walking into an ambush. We were usually Choppered in some place to get someone else out of trouble and we never knew what we were walking into.

Bill Gerber
C/3/21 11th & 196th 67-68

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

LZ PROFESSIONAL JUNE 69-MARCH 70 ECHO COMPANY 1/46TH 196TH RECON

I am seeking any information on members and operations of this unit for above listed dates.

I served as pointman for the platoon, but am having trouble remembering names of the men I served with. I would like to get in touch with these men. Enclosed is a picture of my patch and a picture of some of the guys in my unit. If anyone recognizes the men, please get in touch with me.

James E Ellis
[REDACTED]
Abbeville, SC 29620
[REDACTED]

MINES

If you were wondering how long I lasted driving the "Back-up" truck--I lasted a while driving the back-up truck for three good reasons. 1). Local area was heavily traveled and patrolled by 196th and assorted RF/PF's, so not too many mines out there. 2). Our sweep team was one of the best and usually found them all before I got near them. 3). Good, old fashioned, dumb luck. No vehicle I either drove or road in ever hit a mine. Had them go off in front of me, behind, and so on, but never under. I'm sure my guardian angel has a severe ulcer problem. How does an Engineer Officer become a grunt, anyway?? Peace.

James Eddington
C/39 Eng 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

Help in Locating

Are you interested in contacting other vets who you served with during the war? We have a couple of things you can do that might make your search quicker and easier.

Fill out and mail in the form that is show at the side of this newsletter to get your company records. They will provide the names and social security numbers you can run a name search thought the Credit Bureau of Sweetwater, Texas. This agency will provide you with an address for any name accompanied with a Social Security number at a cost of \$2.50 per name. The address is:

Sweetwater Credit Bureau
[REDACTED]
Sweetwater, Texas 79556
Phone No. [REDACTED]

MAPS

On the maps Rick Olson sent: the map I have is the one I used in 1971 to fly into the LZ's, and I think they are correct. Rick's location for LZ East agrees with mine exactly, but not West and Center. I remember West and Center sort of facing each other across a wide valley, and my map shows LZ West at AT 980 285 and LZ Center at BT 040 275, both on hilltops. They are generally north and west of where Rick shows them. I was flying Shark gunships during Tet of 68 and for four months afterward until I DEROS'ed and seem to remember opening up one of the LZ's about that time that had been closed down. Seems to me it was LZ East, for I'm not sure LZ Center and West were there then. I know Siberia and Maryann were not there yet, and West and Center were not there when we put in some of the really big 101st combat assaults in that area in late summer of 67. Just don't remember when West and Center were put in. That's one of the problems of flying two tours in the same AO, three years apart. After 25 years plus I have a hard time remembering just when we did what to whom. I know when we opened LZ East back up we had some tough times with some '51 Cal's they had on the ridgelines around that valley and the old pucker factor stayed high.

James McDaniel
174th AHC 67-68

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

PHILOSOPHER

Some of us were uglier than others. I really like the phrase "beamed with a ballistic dessert". I'm going to use that one. Like you, I've spent much of the last 20 or so years trying to figure the whole thing out. I've read much, but it seems as if it's only begun to make any sense to me now that I've begun to look at things through the telescope of time. H#ll, I was a punk 19 year old kid and all of a sudden I found myself in the middle of something that was incomprehensibly, but real enough. We all did our best, and different people reacted differently. I could only rationalize what I was doing as being what I was trained and ordered to do and be thankful that I was not in a command position. The whole "free fire zone" concept was insane like so many other strategies that were forced on us. Just doesn't make sense, like so many other actions that I've seen OUR government do in the intervening years. They just don't seem to learn. Now that I've started to think about it, I remember one shot done by my buddy Young (KIA 12 mar 69) who was the machine gunner who rode directly behind me. As with all things single shot tropical bar flings were followed by multiple bursts of flying candy bars. For that "shotgun effect". Young tossed two bars at once at a wagon train of old mamasans. You remember the ones with them all in trail with their loadsticks (?) over the shoulder and baskets balanced on each end. They carried incredible loads while doing their shuffle walk. This happened right in front of me. I watched as they arced out, in slow motion, and landed, one each, right in old mamasans baskets. Now that doesn't sound like much now I write it down 23 years later, but at the time it seemed like a Michael Jordan slam dunk, never to be repeated with such grace and accuracy. Within two months I was in the hospital and Young and Moore were dead. So it goes.

Our tracks did make big fat targets that did no sneaking up on anything. We traveled in trail, one track in the tracks of the one ahead. We were coming back from a sweep behind one of the firebases and came to this huge expanse of carefully terraced rice paddies between us and Hwy 1. We could have gone around and through the woodline but I'm sure you all know that it's just not healthy to be beating woodlines when it isn't necessary. We drove, 6 tracks in trail, right down the middle of this huge, hand tilled garden. I don't think I have to describe the damage we did to the carefully arranged dykes not to mention to the crop of healthy growing rice. I was pretty insensitive and hard at the time but I still remember thinking that we won no hearts and minds among those poor farmers that day. We were all in one piece though and I also remember that our LT was an OK guy to take us through the safer route than that woodline. Many officers would rather have looked and found trouble, not me. Those farmers were a lot more prosperous and lucky than other poor buggers that, through no fault of their own, found their land in a free fire zone, getting sniped, arty thrown at them at all hours, and sprayed with all kinds of stuff from the sky, and all they were trying to do was survive as we were. They could give a s#!t less what government was in Saigon OR Hanoi. Many of our actions can be justified and explained by the now famous phrase "we had to destroy it to save it". It makes as much sense as anything. Maybe that Rush Limbaugh guy can explain it to me. (Doc Merk)

Michael Moehrke
23Rd Med 198TH 68-69

RATS

I hope this rat story meets with official Patrol Approval. I think this happened before you came out to Siberia: I was on guard or just up late and one of the guards from another gun pit told me the cooks had put a vat of tea out for us. I didn't want any, but it was a place to go talk with another guard for a while. Sort of like the office water cooler. I went over and shot the bull. It was a really dark night, and you could hardly see where you were going. Back in my pit, I watched the dark figures of other guards going over, and heard the dull clink as the dipped out some tea. One of the guards was a very obnoxious, belligerent, and fairly new guy. I suddenly heard him yelling, from near the vat of tea, very angry and indignant. Thinking there was a real problem, I rushed over. He was shouting, actually almost chanting, 'Damn! Damn! There is a f***** RAT in the tea!' Finally he began to shout that he was going to sue the U.S. Army for this. He was going to sue them for having a rat in U.S. Army tea. Then, with an audience gathering in the dark he began to demand someone go get the medic, because there was a damn rat in the Army tea. One of the older guys said, 'Hell, its too late for the medic! The rat's already dead.' And that was the end of the outcry. We fished the rat out, and it was one big, fat, swollen rat. I could hardly believe it was not able to climb out. Have always been glad that at the time I felt it was sinful to drink anything non-alcoholic. If you had been there, you might have had to start your law career right there on the spot. For all I know, he may still be preparing a suit. (I wonder if Doc could have saved it?)

Barry Kelly
C/3/82 Arty 69-70
(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

NFG

My experiences with NFG's was the same as RO. You basically had to earn the trust and respect. Until you did you got all the sh**. OP's and ambushes were the norm for the NFG. They made it sound like an honor to carry machine gun ammo. I don't know if I posted the story before but our platoon had a grenade with no blasting cap for fun with the NFG. Every one got initiated including green Lt's. Pin was pulled and grenade handed to you and pin was thrown away. Half the guys threw it and half held on to it. Made the day exciting for a few minutes. RO is also right on about the reaction under fire. I don't know if it was the norm but I think you react different each time. It almost seemed to have something to do with your state of mind. I remember running toward and away from the gunfire. The mortaring would bother you most because you didn't know which way to go. Down was my most successful reaction to all. Unfortunately my rear didn't get low enough on one occasion. Do you remember in basic the DI telling you that you would someday try to crawl in the steel pot on top of your head? I tried like heck a couple of times. We took some incoming artillery at the DMZ. I did not like that experience at all. Even the foxhole didn't seem adequate. I wish I could remember and write better. Some of the reaction experiences were as funny as they were scary.

Bill Gerber
C/3/21 11 LIB 67-68
(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

MEDICS

23rd Med Bn had at least 2 companies that I know of. I was assigned to D Co. on Chu Lai, on the wire over from the main PX. We looked a lot like the MASH set. Standard REMF hooches, 2, H shaped wards, tents on lumber frame and plywood floors. 55 gal drums full of sand around wards. Sandbags around most hooches, sometimes a combination. We had patients that weren't bad enough to be in the Surg or Evac hospitals, but weren't well enough to be sent back to their units. Malaria fevers, Jungle rot, minor wounds, etc. We had about 80 beds but were never full. I think it was B Co 23 Med was towards the beach and they had the Head Shrinker and small nut ward, optitions, eyeglass shop, Dentest, labs, etc. Other companys of the 23rd Med on Baldy or Duc Pho?

E- refers to enlisted pay grade E-1 Pvt E-2 Pvt 1 stripe like old PFC SP/ refers to specialist, E-3 PFC, 1 stripe w/rocker same pay but no command E-4 SP/4 or Corpral responsibility. E-5 SP/5 or Buck Sargent E-6 SP/6 or Staff Sargent

Michael (Doc) Moehrke
23rd Med HHC 198th 68-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

"C" COMPANY - 3rd BATTALION - 82nd ARTILLERY

I remember the guys from D Company, 46th Infantry, being on Siberia in Aug '69. We fired a lot of 105 MM ammo during that period. Hope some of it helped you fellows out.

Toward the end, our Chief of Firing Battery returned from R&R and said the level of activity around Hiep Duc was being talked about even in Cam Ranh Bay. I thought it was a typical pep talk at that time.

I do remember the heat. I would often wake up from a nap with the poncho liner, not just damp with sweat, but with pools of sweat in it. After a fire mission I would go back and lay down in it to cool off, and wonder, how I could be so gross and care so little about it.

Barry Kelly
69-70

ATTENTION

I am a research assisant with the (Federal) Library of the Joint Services Agency, which supports the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape training community.

The Joint Services SERE Library is seeking to contact former internees, POW's or veterans with wartime evasion experience. We are a POW research library supporting SERE training community, and want to include your memories and memorabilia in the National Archives. Please write to:

HO JSSA/TN

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Telephone

Sincerely,
Anne Dawson

ODE TO JOHN MAGEE
Thoughts never before spoken

More than a guy like you and I,
A hero forever to me,
I may never know,
Why we had to go,
On that mission,
[Chance or destiny]?

It's been many years,
Since he fought back his fears,
Mades a choice, supreme agony,
Though he could have stayed "home",
and no one would have known,
He forced death to reap him,
.....John saved me.

Thoughts so sacred, so deep,
Mostly wept through my sleep,
When a smile for his humor broke through,
Chance meeting the past,
Lingering grief, holding fast,
Surpressing, my sub-conscious always knew,
Circumstance, *circum-chance*,
Met a warrior sage,
Helped release unspent rage,
To this trembling page....

Wall, Twenty-fourth row/Section 41-E
Granite reflecting solemnly,
Supreme sacrifice, he made for me,
And I love the life he has given me:

Kindred spirit, fellow-friend,
Blood brother to the end,
Until death too sets me free,
I salute you, *JOHN MAGEE*

1Duster1

Dear Roland,

The name Michael Mace from Washington State appeared in the July-August-September newsletter as a new member. I've been trying to locate him with no success. Although I don't know you Mike; I do know some people you do, such as Tom Petty, Brian Biedel, Gary Terhoar and Paul Gallagher. If you'd like to know more call or write to me at the following:

Robert Mushtare
Rochester NY 14607

BASEPLATES

When I joined B 1/14 on Pro in August '69 the 4 tubes were the M102 box trails. They were great. We could rotate them 3200 in a few seconds, put the data on the guns and shoot pretty quickly. We had trouble with the extended stakes pulling out of the baseplates in the rainy season so we cemented 1 in so that no matter what, we had at least 1 tube up. Higher-higher caught wind of it and was not happy because we supposedly had to be able to march order in a moments notice. When we were lifted to Hiep Duc in June '70 it took us about 10 minutes with the sledge hammer to free up the base plate. No problem.

Frank Fortuna
B/1/46 14 Arty 69-70

AMERICAL DIVISION HISTORY

In 1942 a task force was formed to defend the island of New Caledonia. Task Force 6814 was composed of the 132nd and the 182nd Infantry Regiments, a Battalion of the 180th Field Artillery and 123rd Field Artillery, a Battalion of the 101st Quartermaster, 101st Engineers, and the 101st Medical, plus many small support units. Forty-five per cent of the strength came from the 26th Infantry Division, Massachusetts National Guard. Much of the remainder came from the 33rd Division, Illinois National Guard. (See troop list Page 422-423 'Under the Southern Cross'.

Task Force 6814 left New York on January 23, 1942 and arrived on New Caledonia on March 12, 1942 traveling by way of the Panama Canal and Australia.

The 164th Infantry Regiment, relieved from duty with the 34th National Guard Division, arrived on New Caledonia on April 9, 1942. A new division was to be built around these three infantry regiments. (Troop list Page 423 'Under the Southern Cross'.

On May 27, 1942, The Americal Division was activated. Without a ceremony, World War II's second United States Army division to bear a name instead of a number, was quietly born. It was also the only division to be activated on foreign soil during World War II.

Pfc. David Fonesca, 26th Signal Co., suggested the name "Americal"--Americans on New Caledonia--and it was accepted. Sgt. Granacki of Chicago designed the shoulder patch, four white stars on a field of blue. The stars form the Southern Cross indicating the organization of the Americal south of the Equator.

The 164th Infantry Regiment was given the honor of being the first United States Army ground unit to take the offensive against the Axis powers in World War II. On October 13, 1942 this Regiment landed on Guadalcanal to reinforce the 1st Marine Division. Soon the entire Americal was ashore to assist in the capture of this island from the Japanese and start on the long road to Japan. (Some units of the Americal were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) for action on Guadalcanal. See Page 411-412 'Under the Southern Cross'.

In the closing days of the battle for Guadalcanal the 25th Infantry Division joined the Americal in the final 'mop-up'.

Following this campaign the Americal rested, reorganized, received replacements while on the Fiji Islands. In December of 1944 the Division was again in action on the island of Bougainville, relieving the 3rd Marine Division. As the Americal gradually took over most action took place in front of the established lines in the form of minor patrol class, ambushes and shelling. This all changed in early March when a full scale attack was launched by the Japanese. By the first of April 1944 the Japanese gave up on trying to push the Americal into the seas. Again it was back to patrol clashes as the Japanese withdrew across the mountain range to the eastern side of the island. The front lines were pushed out across the Torokina River. The objective of taking Bougainville had been accomplished--to build and secure airfields that would bring the bastion of New Britain within aircraft range.

The battle for Bougainville brought the only Medal of Honor that was to be awarded to the Americal during World War II. S/Sgt. Jesse R. Drowley, "B" Company, 132nd Infantry, received this award for "gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty". Also, it brought the only Distinguished Unit Citation to the Americal. "E" Company, 182nd Infantry was cited for gallantry in action. (Both of these awards may be found in 'Under the Southern Cross'.

The 6th Rangers gained the honor of being the first troops to open the battle for the Philippines, when they landed on two small islands to control Leyte Gulf on October 17, 1945. Soon the 1st Cavalry Division was ashore and moved forward to take a needed airfield and also the capital city of Leyte. The 7th, 77th, 24th, and 96th Infantry Divisions swept across the island to capture important points.

A decision had been made to destroy all Japanese troops possible thus preventing them from fighting on other islands.

Once again the 164th Infantry led the Americal into battle when they landed on Leyte on January 21, 1945 soon to be followed by the remainder of the Division. The mission of the Americal was to relieve the XXIV Corps of tactical missions on Leyte northwest of a line from Jaro through Valencia to Palompon and conduct extensive mopping up operations throughout the area. The 164th Infantry led the way and soon all unit of the Division were engaged as the enemy was pressed in isolated pockets. Heavy fighting occurred from time to time but by the end of March all organized resistance had ended. "Mopping-Up" is a dirty business but the Americal had more of this type of fighting to face.

Now began a series of operation that were designed to clear the Japanese out of a group of island called the Visayas surrounding San Juanico Strait. Included in this group was Biri, Capual, Burias, and Samar. The action in these island was mostly infantry battalion affairs, supported by artillery and small support units. (The 7th and 8th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division had secured the island of Samar prior to relief by an Americal unit).

By the middle of March 1945 the Americal was relieved of duties in the Visayas and was staging for it next mission--Cebu, Bohol, and the Oriental Province of Negros.

On March 26, 1945, the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 182nd Infantry hit the beach on Cebu with the 1st Battalion 132nd Infantry on the right. At first the beach was a scene of chaos as the LVT's hit a mine field but soon leadership took over and the infantry moved rapidly inland. As darkness fell over Cebu it was found that all units had secured the E-Day objectives.

Cebu City was soon cleared of enemy as well as several small island guarding the harbor. Now the job of clearing the surrounding hills fell to the 132nd and 182nd Infantry Regiments. The gallant 164th Infantry had been left on Leyte as Division reserve. Names like 'Go Chan Hill', 'Bolo Ridge', 'Babag Ridge, and Horseshoe Ridge,' will always be remembered by the men that fought there.

By April 9th it was time to bring up the reserves. The 164th Infantry was alerted and by the 14th the 1st and 2nd Battalions were in combat again. These two units helped to crack the final Japanese strongholds in the hills north and northwest of Cebu City.

While the battle for Cebu continued the 3rd Battalion of the 164th assaulted the island of Bohol and within short time the island was liberated. The 1st and 2nd Battalions assaulted Negros Oriental. Heavy fighting was encountered here but by June 22nd the 164th Infantry was relieved of its duties.

Following these campaigns the Americal was once again assembled as a unit, to rest, refit, and prepared for the final campaign--Japan.

During the campaigns of World War II the Americal had suffered over fifty-seven hundred (5700) casualties. Over three thousand (3000) of these casualties took place in the liberation of the Philippines.

The infantry regiments have been mentioned frequently but we must never forget the close in support given by the batteries of the 245th, 246th, 247th Artillery and the backup support of the 221 Artillery. The Signal Co., the Quartermaster, Engineers, Reconnaissance Troop, and the Medical units--success would have not been possible without their support--and how about those guys flying the L-4's?

Now it was more training--amphibious training for the landing in November--on Kyushu--southern most of the Japanese home islands. Amphibious training came to a close on July 23rd. Then the land training began. By August the training week had been stepped up to 39 hours. Then--THE BOMB! It was all over.

On September 1, 1945, the Americal took its last look of Cebu and set sail for Japan. On September 8th the Americal was going ashore on the docks in Yokohama.

On October 22, units of the 1st Cavalry Division began relief of the infantry units in the Americal's sector. The Americal was going HOME!

On November 10, 1945, the *Sea Witch* eased up to a dock in the Seattle area bringing the first troops home and the remainder of the Division followed in echelon. Finally, on December 12, 1945 the last units of the Division were retired to the lists of inactive United States Army units. At the age of three years six months and seventeen days, the Americal Division, war-born child and successor to Task Force 6814, passed into history quietly and without ceremony at this instant at Fort Lewis, Washington.

AMERICAL DIVISION HISTORY - PART II 1967 in Review

In February 1967, MACV, considered the increased pressure being placed upon the U.S. Marine Corps elements and ARVN Forces in the northern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone and a decision was made to form a U.S. Army task force to permit readjustment of the Marine Forces. General William C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, formed a planning group to organize the Army task force.

This group, Major General William B. Rosson (later Lieutenant General), then MACV Chief of Staff, formed a multi-brigade force comprised of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade; 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (later designated 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division).

Known as Task Force Oregon, it was deployed to Chu Lai and became operational on April 20, 1967,

under control of III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF), headquartered in Da Nang.

The 196th began operations near Chu Lai, in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces, and the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry conducting search and destroy operations in the Mo Duc - Duc Pho areas of Quang Ngai Province.

In early May, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne joined the Task Force began operations in the mountainous jungles west of Duc Pho.

Immediately upon deployment, the elements of the Task Force adopted an offensive-minded posture, relentlessly pursuing the enemy and driving him out of the lowlands. During the first part of the year, the enemy would not commit his forces to a full-scale battle, and generally attempted to avoid contact.

Task Force Oregon utilized air mobile search and destroy tactics throughout its area of operation, thus extending its influence over a large land area along a 116 miles of coastline. Consequently, the people were offered a greater measure of security and became increasingly disposed to report attempts at VC terrorism and intimidation.

The 196th Brigade was initially assigned the mission of defending the Chu Lai complex. Emphasis was placed on saturation patrolling and multiple, recurring small unit search and destroy operations throughout the Chu Lai TAOR. By the end of June the 196th had drastically reduced the enemy's freedom of movement. Four hundred and six enemy were killed by the Brigade and 50 weapons were captured by June 30.

The 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy in the Duc Pho area, denying freedom of movement and reducing the functioning infrastructure government. Some 1,057 enemy were killed and 262 individual and 18 crew-served weapons were captured by the end of June.

As the Duc Pho area came under friendly control and the VC were increasingly removed and destroyed by Task Force units, a story of progress was told by a minister of a small church in Duc Pho. He and his family lived in Quang Ngai City under government protection from the VC. The Communists had threatened to kill him if he dared to return to Mo Duc and Duc Pho to spread the Gospel. In July, the commander of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, met the minister in Quang Ngai and offered to transport him to his church by helicopter. The ride was accepted and the church revisited for the first time in many months. Most of the church members hardly knew the minister. The following week, with the opening of Highway 1, the minister rode by bus to Duc Pho to conduct services. This time many members of his old congregation were present and since that time services have been held without threat or interference by the enemy.

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, serving as a mobile "strike force," operated in the area adjacent to the Task Force positions at Chu Lai and Duc Pho. Upon arrival in the AO, it was immediately committed to Operation Malheur I, May 11 to June 8, and Malheur II, June 8 to August 2. The paratroopers sought out the enemy in his base camps, rest and staging areas, forcing him north and west. Some 880 of the enemy were killed, 309 weapons were captured and two base areas were neutralized during the Malheur operations.

Operations Hood River, August 2-13, employed the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, elements of the 196th Brigade, 2nd ARVN Division, CIDG from two SF camps and the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade in a coordinated search and destroy operation. Light contact was made, 78 enemy killed - but this operation established a basis for subsequent coordinated Allied operations.

During military operations in the Hood River area near Tra Bong, an economic miracle occurred in the early days of August. Tra Bong Valley is famous for its cinnamon which is produced from the bark of the cinnamon tree. For several years, the valley residents were denied markets for their product by enemy forces with no taste or use for cinnamon spices grown in the area. With the help of the Task Force, ARVN forces cleared the highway of mines and guided a large convoy of trucks to Tra Bong to transport truckloads of cinnamon bark to Quang Ngai for further marketing. The result was a new found prosperity for the Tra Bong citizens who are jointly protected by Americal Division forces, ARVN units, and Special Forces units who operate a camp in that area.

Operations Benton, August 13-31, employing the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne and elements of the 196th Brigade was conducted in cooperation with the 1st Marine Division's Operation's Cochise. Heavy contact was made, and severe damage inflicted upon the 2nd NVA Division. During the 18 day operation, 397 of the enemy were killed, 158 weapons captured and another base neutralized.

Operation Cook, September 2-10, was conducted in the high ground west of Quang Ngai City in conjunction with U. S. measures to safeguard the Vietnamese elections. Captured enemy documents and prisoner interrogations indicated that the enemy had made extensive plans to disrupt the national elections. The operation was successful and the elections held without incident.

On September 11, 1967, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, launched Operation Wheeler in the high ground west of Tam Ky in conjunction with Marine Operation Swift. The 196th Brigade assumed the 1st Brigades, 101st Airborne Division's mission on November 19 and the Airborne Brigade returned to a new area of operations in the II Corps Zone.

Operation Wallowa began in Quang Tin and Quang Nam Province southwest of Hoi An with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) on October 4.

At least seven base areas have been denied the enemy, and each time he has attempted to reopen these areas he has met with a military defeat at the hands of Task Force Oregon. The large toll of troops lost from combat and defection have denied the enemy leadership, population control and continuity in organization. He has been forced to adopt desperation tactics, which include murdering innocent civilians, sniping from hidden places, with the intent to injure noncombatants, and suicidal attacks fortified government positions. None of these methods have regained support for the enemy or re-established his control over the populace.

On September 22, 1967, Brigadier General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the Task Force, succeeding Major General Richard T. Knowles.

On September 25, 1967, Task Force Oregon was reconstituted and redesignated as the Americal Division with an organization to consist of the 196th, 198th, and 11th Light Infantry Brigades.

During the eight months combat, the area of heaviest contact shifted northward from Quang Ngai to its present center along the Quang Tin - Quang Nam Province.

The new site of intense combat is the Operation Wheeler/Wallowa area in Que Son - Hiep Duc Valley. The 2nd North Vietnam Division made this region its breadbasket for so long that troops of that northern force have adopted the area as a second home. As the enemy increasingly was denied the food and shelter of Que Son Valley, he turned to reckless attacks to achieve a hoped-for victory. This tactic has not been successful and had cost the enemy hundreds of well trained, highly indoctrinated troops as well as valuable weapons.

Operation Wheeler continued on October 4, 1967, The 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was placed under operational control of the Americal Division. The "Gary Owen" brigade immediately launched Operation Wallowa in the northern sector of the Americal's operation.

On October 23, the 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam to become part of the Americal Division. The 198th deployed initially to Suc Pho for combat training. Upon completion of the training, the Brigade moved to the Chu Lai area and relieved the 196th in place. The 196th then assumed responsibility for the operational area of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which departed the Americal Division for II Corps Tactical Zone on November 26, 1967.

An official change of colors ceremony was held on October 26, 1967 and the Americal Division became the seventh Army Division fighting in Vietnam. General S.W. Koster, Commanding General, Americal Division, was promoted to Major General on the same day.

Concurrent with formal ceremonies, the 196th and 198th Light Infantry Brigades were assigned to the Americal Division.

To provide with the orderly transition of records and personnel, four division base elements were organized on November 7, under a provisional concept, including the 23rd Administration Company; Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Band, Support Command; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 23rd Division Artillery; and the 23rd Military Police.

Operation Wheeler/Wallowa entered its third phase on November 11, when the two separate operations were merged. The 196th Brigade assumed the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's mission on November 19 and the Airborne Brigade returned to a new area of operations in the II Corps Zone. 1st Cavalry and the 196th Brigade now set the pace for the Americal action in Quang Nam Provinces.

When the two operations had merged into Wheeler/Wallowa in November, 1888 enemy had been killed. By the end of the year the enemy had lost 3,189 soldiers and 740 weapons to the Americal Division forces.

The "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade arrived on December 20, and were deployed initially to Duc Pho, and underwent combat training in that area. Combat operations were later begun in the Duc Pho area of operations.

Operations Muscatine began on December 21, in Binh Son and Son Tinh Districts of Quang Ngai Province, with Americal elements of the 198th

Brigade, coordinated with 2nd ARVN Division units. The 2nd ROK Marine Force in that area were moved to a new area of operation in Quang Nam Province. Enemy killed in the last nine days of 1967 were 58 with 2 U.S. losses. The operation continued into the new year, with the purpose of extending Government control into that area. ARVN operations accounted for some 60 enemy dead and light casualties to their own forces.

The following figures are indictative of how badly the enemy was hurt militarily during the year of 1967 in the Americal's area of operations. Enemy forces lost 8,477 confirmed dead. Seven hundred and ten Americal troopers died in the last year of fighting, for a kill ratio of 11.93 to 1. The enemy lost 2,217 individual weapons and 209 crew served weapons.

The end of 1967 saw the organization of the Americal Division as follows: 196th Brigade; 198th Brigade; 11th Brigade; 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry; and the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry (Airmobile); E Company, 51st Infantry (LRRP) Assigned Dec. 20

HHB 23 Divivision Artillery
HHC Band, Support Command
23rd Administration Company
26th Engineer Battalion
23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion
Headquarters and Company A, 23rd Medical Battalion
23rd Military Police
123rd Aviation Battalion
Headquarters & Main Support, 723rd Maintenance

One unit was returned to the control of its parent division; Company C, 25th Medical Battalion returned to 25th Infantry Division contro less personnel and equipment which remained with the new organization, Company A, 23rd Medical Bn.

Units inactivated by the reorganization included the 221st Supply and Service Company; 163rd Transportation Company (Light Truck); Headquarters and Main Support, 188th Maintenance Battalion; 554th Engineer Company; 161 Aviation Company (Helicopter); Company A, 8th Support Battalion; Company A 9th Support Battalion; 544th Military Police; 265th Military Police Platoon; 175th Engineer Company; 555th Engineer Company; and the 15th Support Brigade.

Three Commanders led Task Force Oregon:

Major General William B. Koster (April - June)
Major General Richard T. Knowles (June - August)
Brigadier General S.H. Matheson (August - Sept.)

Major General Koster assumed command of the Division three days before it was redesignated the Americal Division on September 25, 1967

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, JANUARY 1968
Summation of 1967

The Army's newest, largest, and only named division - THE AMERICAL DIVISION - made historic strides in 1967 to help win the struggle for peace, and to help win the hearts of the South Vietnamese people to support their new infant democratic government.

In 1967, the Americal Division conducted a balanced program of both aggressive military operations against the enemy and pacification activities among the populace.

Viet Cong domination of the area was reduced from an organized and functioning Communist shadow

government, to a situation in which the VC influenced the people through acts of terrorism. The Communist infrastructure has been attacked, and high a percentage of its members killed, captured, or driven into hiding.

The severe defeats suffered by the enemy, the reduction of his capabilities, and the disruption of his military units have served to reduce, and in some cases, eliminate the power base which backed the VC government. Concurrently, the GVN control has been extended to the point where it exercises political and economic influence over the population as a whole. With the spread of GVN control, economic progress has spread to the village, and many areas have been reopened to commerce.

With the departure of the Marine Forces from Chu Lai area, the U.S. Army assumed the support of Marine Combined Action Platoons (CAP) in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin. By this concept a squad of Marines and a platoon of Popular Force (PF) soldiers teamed up to provide security to largely pacified communities within the Americal Division AO. The CAPs extend their activities to supervising MEDCAPs, sanitation, soil erosion control, farming methods, construction of market places, national registration of citizens and English language conversation instruction.

By assuming the offensive, the Americal Division has wrested away the VC control of waterways, highways, rice markets, and enemy resupply channels, and has extended freedom of movement in an area dominated by the Viet Minh or Viet Cong and North Vietnam troops for more than 20 years. The United States Army and the Government of Vietnam have restored essential services and improved economic conditions for the people.

The opening of Highway 1 is indicative of the progress made by the Americal Division. During the first three months of 1967, Highway 1 was closed to vehicular traffic. In most area, even bicycles could not travel on some sections of the highway. The highway was cut and bridges destroyed in more than 90 places in 60 kilometers of road from Tam Ky to Duc Pho. The enemy destroyed the roadbed to deny normal transit to commerce and marketing and to prevent foodstuffs from leaving his control. He had restricted the people to limited areas of social and economic functions in order to control their lives. When the road was opened from Tam Ky to Duc Pho in June and then south to Sa Huynh in July, some bridges had been restored, the roadbed restored, mines cleared and cuts filled and leveled.

As an example of the engineers to upgrade Highway 1 is shown in these figures for the Quang Ngai area alone. The 39 miles of highway from Quang Ngai City to Sa Huynh area alone required 34 new bridges 2631 feet long; 14 multiple culverts 1710 feet long; three railroad bridges were reconstructed and converted to highway bridges 175 feet long; 35 additional culvert of varying sizes were added to improve roadbed drainage. More than one half million cubic yards of dirt fill was used to construct 70 by-passes to enemy destroyed areas.

Following the early July road opening, the VC made several attempts to blow up culverts and bridges. On July 13 he attacked a Government force guarding the Song Ve Bridge and damaged the southern span sufficiently to require the entire bridge to be rebuilt.

In a joint effort, ARVN and U.S. Army Engineers teamed up to build the longest single lane Bailey Bridge in the country. The new bridge, 610 feet long with five piers adn footers was opened to traffic less than two months later.

The economic life of the people has shown a marked improvement. With the reopening of Highway 1 in July 1967, bus and commercial traffic of all sorts was restored. Small traffic jams occurred and military and national were introduced to restore order and to enforce appropriate priorities

Cattle, pedestrians, carts, vegetable vendors, clergmen, Lambretta buses, military tanks and trucks all share the road which winds from As Huynh in the south to Quang Ngai City in the north.

Since fishing is one of the main occupations of the area, certain restrictions were placed on fishing operations during the early days of Task Force Oregon to prevent VC taxation and resupply of food to the enemy by way of sea. Boats and owners were registered and inspected to insure that no military supplies were being moved by water.

Since the time of early restrictions, the enemy efforts to restore this means of resupply have been numerous and unsuccessful. The success of the Americal Division operations since early days has permitted considerable relaxation of the restrictions. River and coastline controls are still present, but not as strongly enforced or inspected. The fishermen have earned the right to increased freedom of operations. By observing earlier restrictions and reporting intimidation by guerrillas and enemy main force units, taxation of their catches have been decreased.

The VC have been denied freedom of movement, re-supply of munitions and personnel. Recruitment has fallen off and the enemy has been forced to look to younger men and females to keep its organization functioning.

Tons of ammunition and various kinds of explosive materials are being turned in by civilians of the two provinces on a regular basis. Mines and mortar shell are being pointed out by young people who earn monetary rewards for information.

Americal Division forces have improved the efforts of ARVN combat forces and CORDS, as well as those RD teams and Popular and Regional Forces in the Americal area of influence. With the growth and increased capabilities of PF/RF units, Americal Division units have been able to rely on the steadfastness and willingness of the Government Forces to provide increased security and protection of these areas cleared of VC/NVA by combat units. Mutual support is provided ARVN, RF and PF forces on the same basis that Americal Division units are supported. This support extends to fire support, aviation support, some resupply, transportation and joint ground operations in contested areas.

For years the people of Tuyet Diem, a small fishing village located southeast of Chu Lai in Quang Ngai Province, were subjected to VC taxation, forced labor and intimidation.

A resettlement project was begun by the Americal Division in September to move the families to an area offering government protection. About 5000 people were moved by the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine vehicles in a week-long operation. The

villagers were asked to take anything and everything they wanted to the new village of Son Tra, about 6 miles away, including their houses, personal belongings, fishing boats, furniture and food. Wells and buildings awaited them in Son Tra. A nearby CAP Team provided security from VC attacks.

The Civil Affairs program in the first part of the year was concerned with refugee relocation, psychological warfare and distribution of captured rice. However, by the end of August, the enemy had been driven from the low lands back into the mountains. The amount of cleared and secured territory had almost doubled, and the tactical situation permitted more extensive Civil Affairs operations.

A sugar factory was moved by Navy ships in July to an area near Quang Ngai City. The refinery has been opened and is producing sugar from cane with workers from the scored of refugees living in that part of the province.

A brick factory has been constructed in Duc Pho and produces much of the needs for schools, wells and other local requirements.

At the time when small rock was needed to restore Highway 1, refugees in Duc Pho area were hired to produce the needed rock by hand with small hammers. By the time the rock crusher arrived, some 2500 cubic yards of rock had already been reduced to usefulness on the highway. Young and old alike joined to "make little ones out of big ones".

More than one million pounds of captured rice and 100,000 pounds of salt were redistributed to refugees. One thousand four hundred and forty four head of cattle were moved form Song Ve Valley to their owners relocated to the Nghia Hanh Refugee Center in Quang Ngai. Other supplies distributed:

Food	381,756 Pounds
Cement	11,235 Sacks
Roofing Metal	23,435 Sheets
Clothing	8,872 Pounds
Lumber	143,339 Board Feet
Soap	56,144 Bars

MEDCAP's completed 3126 visits during the year and treated 263,324 patients. There were 1114 Hoi Chanh who rallied to the Government in the Americal Division area of influence.

Psychological Warfare Operations Teams dropped 280 million leaflets and broadcast 2980 hour of recorded messages to the enemy.

The Americal Division has demonstrated to the Vietnamese people that the VC/NVA can and will be destroyed. At the same time the Division continues to emphasize the advantages of allegiance to the Republic of Vietnam.

The year 1967 was a successful one for American Forces in southern I Corps. There is still much to do. The VC infrastructure is still functioning, despite operational successes against it, but the people tend to be less submissive to VC influence and are more helpful to the American forces by providing information about the VC/NVA forces.

Progress is evident.

Information Office
Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96374
Telephone: Americal 541



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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.

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