

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 1997

Published Quarterly

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



WINTERFEST 1997

NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
1996-1997 DIRECTORY

Commander
Gary L. Noller
[redacted]
Kansas City, MO 64114

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.

Sr. Vice-Commander
Edward W. Marsh
[redacted]
Jones, MI 49061

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

Exec. Council Member
Stephen N. Dennison
[redacted]
Pittsburg, PA 15227

Jr. Vice-Commander
Ronald R. Ellis
[redacted]
Henderson, TX 75652

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

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

Finance Officer
Rick Olson
[redacted]
St. Paul, MN 55116

Exec. Council Member
Roland T. Castronova
[redacted]
Peabody, MA 01960

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

Adjutant
Bernard C. Chase
[redacted]
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

Exec. Council Member
William K. Maddox
[redacted]
Portland, TX 78374

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

Judge Advocate
Peter J. Messina
[redacted]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Exec. Council Member
Peter J. Messina
[redacted]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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

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

Exec. Council Member
Edward J. den Braven
[redacted]
McKee City, NJ 08232

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

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

Chaplain
Rev. William T. Elliott
[redacted]
Hope, MI 48628

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Memorial Day, 1997

Memorial Day has just past for another year. The Americal Division Veterans Association is dedicated as a **LIVING MEMORIAL** to all veterans of the Americal Division. We must never forget this dedication. We, of all people, must remember those of us who died while in service to our country.

My plans are to be in Washington, D. C. for Memorial Day observances. While I have been there numerous times for Veterans Day this will be the first time for Memorial Day. Senior Vice-Commander Ed Marsh and I also hope to meet Americal Division veterans who are in Washington at this special time.

I will miss the annual observance at the Kansas City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain. For the past ten years local veterans have gathered there for an all-night vigil. Beginning at midnight, the name of each area veteran killed in Vietnam is read. At one a minute, the list is not finished until after 6:00 am.

I hope that you have made plans to remember those who have gone before us. It is an obligation that we must never fail to fulfill.

A Note of Thanks

I would like to extend my thanks to all who were so kind to write or call to express condolences on the death of my father, Walter Scott Noller. He passed away in his sleep on Easter Monday at the age of 91. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Special thanks to SVC Ed Marsh for notifying other officers and council members. I received many cards of sympathy that I shared with my mother and other family members. The South Midwest Region, Ernie Carlson, Commander, sent a very nice floral arrangement. Your thoughts and prayers do help.

While looking for important papers in my dad's closet, my sister found a shoebox that contained letters that I had written home while I was in Vietnam. There were about fifteen letters all neatly folded and tied with a rubber band. I had no idea that dad had kept these letters as he had never mentioned them to me.

My father was not a veteran. He always said that he was too young for WWI and too old for WWII. He did lose his brother Fred in the South Pacific. Uncle Fred was killed in action while serving with the First Marine Division. The loss of a loved one to war was a very real element of my dad's life. Maybe that's why he kept my letters in the shoebox.

I read each of the letters and some of the things that I wrote took me back to the exact time and place of when I wrote them. Several questions that I had about events and times were answered by information contained in the letters.

I am glad that my dad had kept the letters. It is if he had left me a special gift to find when he was gone. Thanks dad, for this gift and for the many others that you have given me. Rest in peace.

ADVA Annual Budget

The by-laws of the ADVA require that the National Commander submit an annual budget to the Executive Council for approval for the fiscal year beginning July 1. With the assistance of Bernie Chase, National Adjutant, the 1997-1998 budget has been prepared and will be submitted for approval.

Revenues and expenses for a balanced budget are set at about \$30,000. The majority of revenue comes from membership dues with supplemental income from investment interest, product sales, and donations.

The major expense item is for publishing and mailing the newsletter. A little over half of the expense budget is related to printing costs and postage. Other major expense items are the national reunion, membership recruitment/events, and office expenses for copying and postage.

Administration of the budget is the responsibility of officers and committee chairs. The expenses for the newsletter, national reunion, membership affairs, and official records are administered by the Newsletter Editor, Reunion Chairman, Membership Chairman, and National Adjutant, respectively. The Finance Officer receives, holds, and issues funds from the association treasury.

(Funds in the Americal Foundation are kept in a separate account and are not used for the operation of the association. The Americal Foundation operates under its own by-laws and its budget is administered by its chairman.)

Expenses which exceed the annual budget guidelines must be submitted to the Executive Council for approval. I am happy to report that it appears that the 1996-1997 operating year is expected to result in a small surplus of a few hundred dollars.

The by-laws state that the Senior Vice-Commander shall also be the Membership Chairman. I would like to ask that those on the membership committee (and any other members) plan and coordinate their requests for funds through SVC Ed Marsh. Please do not send membership related requests for funds directly to the National Finance Officer, Executive Council Chair, or National Commander.

Donations to the ADVA or the Americal Foundation are always welcome. As a not-for-profit veterans organization, any contributions to either may be deductible on state and federal income tax returns.

The ADVA has no paid employees. The success of the association is dependent upon the volunteer efforts of its members. If you would like to be more involved, please contact any officer or committee chair.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments relative to the financial management of your association. I want you to be satisfied that you are receiving the benefits that you deserve as a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Locator Page Revised

The locator pages at <www.americal.org/locator> have recently undergone a major revision. Entries related to the Americal Division are now separated from other entries. Americal Division entries for the Vietnam War are also now further classified by certain major units or individual battalions. Further classifications are expected in the future to assist the user in locating interested parties.

Locator Requests

The following are taken from the web site and edited for the newsletter format. If you would like to contact anyone on this list but you do not have access to e-mail, please contact Gary L. Noller, National Commander, [redacted], Kansas City, MO, 64114 for assistance.

182nd Regiment, Company A: My uncle is interested in hearing anyone from his old unit. He's from New Britain, Connecticut. He was a BAR man with the Americal in New Caledonia, Fiji, New Hebrides, Bougainville, and Guadalcanal. Algirdas Steponaitis, [redacted], New Britain, CT 06051-2419

Family of: Showalter, Jay S. **182d Inf.** -- Died 15 April 1945 - Buried in American Cem., Makati, Philippines. Jerry Cottrell, [redacted], Ogden, UT 84405

John Howell **MP-39th** John was from the Chicago area. George Medeiros [redacted], c/o Santos, [redacted], Somerset, MA 02726

Anyone **C Troop 1st Squadron 1st Cav**, 8/71 to 4/1/72. Camp Faulkner, DaNang. Dave Hill, [redacted], [redacted], Whitehall, PA 18052, U.S. [redacted]

Dad served with the **121st Medical Battalion**. How can he contact you for further information? His name is Celio D. Bongiani, [redacted], Cincinnati, OH 45240. [redacted]

Anyone **E Co. 4/3 Inf. Recon** Duc Pho rear area 69 to 70 Tim Bradley, [redacted], [redacted], Redlands Ca. 92373 [redacted]

Jon Jeno, William Harris **D Co 4/21 11th LIB**, July 68-July 69, Bill Canup, [redacted]

Anyone **LZ CHARLEY BROWN** Nice little place, just out-side of Duc Pho? Great place, back in 1968? **B 4/21 11LIB** AMER.DIV. Donnie L. Garrett [redacted], [redacted], Piedmont, SC 29673 ph; [redacted]

ANYONE **11 L.I.B D/1/20 67-68 LZ BRONCO NORMAN** CERULLI, [redacted], [redacted], ROAD MANHATTEN IL 60452, [redacted]

Anyone, : **B Co. 3/1 Bn, 11th Bde.** 9/70-3/71, Hill 411 and beyond or **Bde T.O.C.** from 3/71-7/71, Duc Pho, LZ Dottie, Dong Ha Bruce E. Rodland, [redacted]

Flight Surgeon Doc Kreutzman, **HHC 123rd AVN BTN** 1968-1969, I was assigned to Whispering pines dispensary then transferred to **F troop 8th Cav** as Blues medic. Also looking for members of Blues Platoon "**Blue Ghost Scouts**", John "DOC" Anderson, [redacted] > Nationwide Pager [redacted], [redacted], PIN# 606-5140, Wait for prompt to leave message.

Anyone **C/1/6 198TH 7/70-11/70** ROBERT BEHM [redacted]
Otis from Louisiana (Dad was a Sheriff), **Alpha Co. 3/21 196th LIB** June 1969. Last seen down June 13th. Squad leader named Lt Shoemith. Acting Platoon Sgt nicknamed "DJ". George Scherer, [redacted], Red Bank, NJ 07701
ANYONE, **174 AHC 409 THC** 1968-1969, LARRY CRASH MC KENNA, [redacted]
Mike Peters (Pete), Was in Chu-Lai 69-70, **123d Aviation**. When last contacted lived in Seattle WA., Buzz - Royce Strickland, [redacted]
123d Aviation (Warlords), from Jan 1971-Sept 1971, Mark O'Connor, [redacted], [redacted], Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Speedy" Macmahon, Door gunner with the **71st AHC (The Rattlers)** 1st platoon Widow Makers. June 70 to Sometime in 1971. Stationed in Chu Lai then went to Quang Tri in Feb 1971 for Lamsom 719. Steve Mackey [redacted]
Anyone, From **174th Avn.** who flew during operation Lom-Son 719 Feb./Mar.71 I Flew as a doorgunner with the Dolphins and am having difficulty establishing proof for a VA Claim. Bob Myles, [redacted], [redacted], Geneva NY 14456 [redacted]
James Malone, **71st Aviation Co. 14th Combat Aviation Battalion**, Vietnam 1970-1971, Gunner on Firebird huey gunship. Hometown suppose to be Lynchburg, TN, served together in the 3rd platoon. Michelle La Seuer [redacted]
Anyone, **B Co 3/1 11th Bde** Hill 411 and area from 8/70 to 1/71, Mike Rutherford, [redacted], [redacted], Carrollton, TX 75007, [redacted], Home, [redacted], Voice Mail
Anyone, **588th Maintenance Co.** (supported 3/18th Artillery, Vietnam), <no e-mail>, William F. Smith, [redacted], Heavener, OK 74937.
Anyone, **Company A, 1/6th Infantry, 198th**, 4th Platoon, 7/70 To 7/71, Also LZ Dottie Inhabitants, Sam Ferguson, [redacted]
Michael B Smith, From Baltimore, SP4 served in **HHC, Americal Div Support Command**, Chu Lai. 1967 - 1968. Spent some time in the hospital with a collapsed lung in 1969. Dennis Ray, [redacted] > or Roger Lee [redacted]
Infantry division insignia-related items. Do you know of any way I can find a division coin from the **Americal Division**? As you might imagine, it is a lot more difficult tracking down inactive divisions. Mark Chatterji, [redacted]
1lt Casey Koogler, **XO HHC, 11th Bde**, 1970. Evans Neumann, [redacted]
Anyone, **11th LIB, E51st LRRPS, G75th RNGR** from 1968-69, [redacted]
Anyone, **3rd Platoon, Co. A, 11th Infantry**, from Jan. 69-Jan.70. Specifically John Johnson from Pa.; Clint Parsons from Ohio; Robert Swindel from Tx. We served together in the 3rd platoon. Dave Smith, [redacted], [redacted], Loudon, TN 37774
Col. Jack Treadwell, Cmdr., **11th L.I.B. LZ Bronco**, 1968-1969. (or anyone who knows of whereabouts). Tony Swindell, [redacted], Howe TX 75459

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

June 21, 1997
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Worcester, MA
10:30 A.M.

September 6, 1997
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

October 11, 1997
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

SICK CALL

CSM James Meade (Ret) William Murphy Jr.
[redacted] [redacted]
Beaverton, OR 9731 Concord, MA 01742

Jim Meade served with the 5/46 Infantry in Vietnam. Bill Murphy is a WW II and served with H Company, 182nd Infantry.

HOW ABOUT A CARD GUYS!

TAPS TAPS TAPS

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT 26 SIGNAL & 132 INF

John J. Carey William D. Daly
Forestdale, MA Somerville, MA
February 27, 1997 February 6, 1997

109 STATION HOSPITAL 182 INFANTRY C CO.

Henry P. Distelrath Patrick J. Gleason
West Roxbury, MA North Chelmsford, MA
March 31, 1997 February 6, 1997

182 Infantry H Co. 97 FA (Pack) B BTRY

John Hayes Paul V. Henihan
Concord, MA Hull, MA
February 19, 1997 January 19, 1997

132 INFANTRY C CO. 132 INFANTRY C CO.

Peter P. Linkiewicz Anthony A. Martinez
November 1996 Cicero, IL
May 25, 1996

221 FIELD ARTILLERY 245 FIELD ARTILLERY

Jean E. Messier Phillip U. Savage
Barrington, RI Augusta, GA
April 5, 1997 March 21, 1996

196 INFANTRY BRIGADE MAY THEY REST

Terry Sawyer IN
Anacortes, WA
October 3, 1996 PEACE

UNIT UNKNOWN

Stephen C. LaRochelle New Bedford, Massachusetts
February 27, 1997

Leslie C. Little Aurora, Minnesota
March 18, 1997

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

John J. Carey

John J. Carey, a Past National commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association, passed away at the Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, on Thursday February 27, 1997.

John served as National Commander of the A.D.V.A. from 1950 until 1951. He was instrumental in the formation of the Americal Division Veterans Association and contributed much of the information toward the writing of the Division's history, "Under the Southern Cross".

Mr. Carey is survived by his wife, Mary, a brother, and two sisters.

Burial was in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

Donation may be made in his memory to:

Bridge Over Troubled Waters
[redacted]
Boston, MA

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Clyde E. Cogswell

Ronald L. Ward

Charles K. Lee

Scott Gordon Birnie

Roland T. Castronova
in memory of
Frances J. Buckle

PNC Peter J. Messina

Mr. & Mrs. Earl P. Cook
in memory of
Frances J. Buckle

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

If your letter to Ron Ward, for your Scholarship raffle tickets, was returned because of an incorrect address please remail your check to:

PNC Ronald L. Ward
[redacted]
St. Louis, MO 93123-6510

I was responsible for the wrong number that was placed on the return envelope for which I apologize. If your letter was not returned do not worry--after the mistake was realized Ron spoke to the Post Office and the letters were forwarded to him. Sorry about that.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Thomas G. Bawulski
198 LIB
Bloomington, IL
#R. Castronova

Mr. John J. Bezjyen
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf
Campbell Hall, NY
#Sam Mazzola

B.Gen. Philip L. Bolte (1 Cav 1/1
West Union, SC
#Castronova-Terry Babler

Mr. Robert W. Broome
196 LIB 2/1/ Inf
Bluffton, SC
#Jerry Gouge

Mr. Dale Brown
1 Cav C/1/1
Wichita, KS
#Robert C. Cook

Mr. Roger L. Burks
196 LIB
Amherst, VA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Alan J. Cap
196 LIB
Niagra Falls, NY
#R. Castronova

Mr. Bruce M. Christensen
11 Arty 2/11
Siren, WI
#Membership Committee

Mr. Edward F. Cloutier
14 Arty C/1/14
Arundel, ME
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Arthur G. Cole
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Wakefield, MA
#Leonard H. Brown

Col. Delmar L. Corbin
11 LIB
Atlanta, GA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Richard Creel
23 Division
Florence, SC
#Fred Vigeant M.C.

Mr. William P. Dapses
247 F.A. Bn.
Salem, OR
#Castronova-Hines

SGM Hilton T. Douglas
196 LIB
Englewood, FL
#R. Castronova

Mr. Robert R. Dye
125 Quartermaster
Fort Gibson, OK
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Richard C. Bdogna
196 LIB
Buffalo, NY
#R. Castronova

Mr. Scott Gordon Birnie
198 LIB HHSB
AUSTRALIA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John O. Bovard
196 LIB 3/21 Inf
Arlington, VA
#Les Hines

Mr. Ronald F. Brown
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf
Dumfries, VA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Greg Buck
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Studio City, CA
#Kurt McFadden

Mr. John A. Burns
196 LIB
Southgate, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. Bruce E. Carpenter
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf
Santa Rosa, CA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Harris B. Christie
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf
Georgetown, IL
#R. Castronova

Mr. John J. Coflesky
97 F.A. Bn
Athol, MA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Otis Collier
1 Cav D Tr 123 Avn
Edgefield, SC
#Herman Quarles

Mr. Anthony Cowti
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Southington, CT
#Kurt McFadden

Mr. Stanley Cymbrowski
196 LIB
Hamburg, NY
#Memb. Comm.

Mr. Steven DeSutter
1 Cav 1/1
Imlay City, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. James V. Durbin
14 Arty 1/14
Tucson, AZ
#R. Castronova

Mr. Steven L. Elschlager
23 Americal IO
Kirkville, MO
#Memb. Comm.

Mr. Charles E. Elste
126 S+S Co.
Acampo, CA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Pablo Flores Jr.
196 LIB
Harlington, TX
#Doss Kornegay

Mr. Zhonzie A. Gering
1 Cav D/1/1
Hastings, NE
#Membership Committee

Mr. Roger J. Grazioplene
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Batavia, NY
#R. Castronova

Mr. Anthony Hagopian
247 F.A. Bn.
Brewster, NY
#Castronova-Hines

SFC. Jack C. Henley
132 Infantry A Co.
Pineville, WV
#Ltc. Peter J. Messina

P/Sgt. Van K. Hunt
196 LIB
Ayer, MA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Michael Iverson
1 Cav 1/1
Waterford, WI
#Terry Babler

Mr. Kenneth K. Kellum
26 Eng Co. A
Bluefield, VA
#Maurice Henson

Mr. Dean L. Kriz
523 Signal C Co.
David City, NE
#Donald Prochaska

Mr. Michael B. Lane
23 Med A Co.
Madison, IN
#R. Castronova

Mr. Charles K. Lee
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Newburg, IN
#R. Castronova

Mr. Larry D. Longworth
196 LIB
Winchester, IN
#R. Castronova

Mr. Warren D. Lucas
26 Eng Co A
Seymour, IN
#Castronova-Hines

Mr. William A. Lupton
123 Avn Bn 1/20 Inf
Palm Springs, FL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John Mathews
14 Arty HHB/1/14
Reading, WI
#Terry Babler

S/Sgt. John L. Fischesse
196 LIB
Gardner, MA
#R. Castronova

Mr. James G. Fuller
198 LIB 5/46 Inf
Salem, OR
#W.E. Smith

Mr. Rayfield Sr. Grant
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Newport News, VA
#R. Castronova

Ltc. Emil C. Gregg
21 Infantry 3/21
Harrisburg, PA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Edward Hayes
Associate
Winthrop, MA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Arlo M. Hintz
23 Div HHC
Watertown, SD
#Membership Committee

Mr. Ken Irving
Associate
Fort Worth, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. John C. Keefe
16 Arty 3/16
East Bridgewater, MA
#Gary Noller

Maj. David R. Kinkaid
196 LIB
Del Ray Beach, FL
#R. Castronova

Mr. Kenneth Lamison Jr.
1 Cav C Troop 68-69
Las Vegas, NV
#R. Castronova

Mr. Richard Lawson
196 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Vernon, NJ
#Norman Gravino

Mr. John N. Loe
196 LIB 4/31 Inf
Hope, AR
#Bernie Chase

Mr. William A. Lovan
11 LIB
Madisonville, KY
#R. Castronova

Mr. David Luck
Associate
Santa Barbara, CA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Paul M. Martinetti
196 LIB
Milwaukee, WI
#R. Castronova

Mr. William H. McGondel
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Reading, MA
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Walter R. Melms
Task Force 6814
Goodels, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. Rex T. Miller Jr.
11 LIB A/3/1 INF
Spring, TX
#R. Castronova

Mr. Mel Moyette
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf
Riverside, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. James D. Myrick
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Hallettsville, TX
#Milton Mika

Mr. Louis N. Pack
164 Infantry E Co.
Killeen, TX
#J. Mortimer

Mr. John Platt
26 Eng. Bn.
Granite Falls, WA
#R. Scott Smith

Mr. Gerald A. Poyerd
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Washington, DC
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Boyd Rader
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Middletown, PA
#Kurt McFadden

Mr. James D. Riesbeck
11 LIB C/20 Inf
St. Clairsville, OH
#R. Castronova

Mr. Thomas Rowe
123 Avn Bn B Co.
Palm Springs, FL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Ronal W. Scites
164 Infantry C Co.
West Branch, MI
#David Corey

Mr. Franklin R. Silas
82 Arty A/3/82
Minto, AK
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Robert T. Spicer
23 Div Arty HHB
Wantagh, NY
#James A. Rains

Mr. Algert Steponaitis
182 Infantry A Co.
New Britain, CT
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Donald H. Sylvester
198 LIB C/1/14 Arty
Everett, PA
#Terry R. Fisher

Mr. Dennis R. Thomson
1 Cav A/1/1
CANADA L8L 2L5
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Henry D. Miller
196 LIB A/3/21 Inf
Woodbridge, VA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Claude C. Morris Jr.
132 Infantry Co E
Viera, FL
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Anthony P. Muscarell
132 Infantry B-125QM
Lancaster, PA
#P.W. Santogeanis

Mr. John R. Nonosky
46 Infantry 5/46
El Paso, TX
#R. Castronova

Mr. Richard R. Penman
164 Infantry L/Hq/3
Irwin, PA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Renzie M. Poe
Armt. M.T. Hq+B Co.
Manhattan, KS
#R. Castronova

Mr. Jack A. Price
11 LIB D/E/4/21 Inf
Dallas, TX
#Don Ballou M.C.

Mr. David L. Reed
20 Infantry C Co.
Middletown, OH
#R. Castronova

Maj. Gen. William Roosma
196 LIB 3/21 Inf
Fairfax, VA
#R. Castronova

Mr. John A. Sabolenko
11 LIB B/4/3 Inf
Brentwood, NY
#R. Castronova

Mr. Ronald L. Scott
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Bonita Springs, FL
#R. Castronova - Pacheco

Mr. James L. Slechta
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Des Moines, IA
#R. Castronova

S/Sgt. Herbert J. Stamin
196 LIB
Gardiner, ME
#R. Castronova

Mr. Al Stigler
196 LIB
New Berlin, WI
#Lawrence Colabucci

Mr. Phillip A. Tatom
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Bedford, IN
#R. Castronova

Mr. Jerry M. Todd
23 Med
Morgantown, WV
#R. Castranova

Mr. Lawrence S. Toppi
11 LIB 4/3 Inf
Wilmington, MA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Robert E. Van Osdol
57 Engineers C Co.
Astoria, OR
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Harold F. Watson
196 LIB HHC/D/F/4/31
Salem, OH
#Dennis Clemens

Mr. George E. Watts
198 LIB E/5/46 Inf
Laurens, SC
#Herman Quarles

Mr. Allen E. Westmark
164 Infantry Co K
Bellevue, WA
#Jim Buckle-164 News

Mr. Alvin P. Willis
196 LIB E/4/31 Inf
Lakeport, CA
#196 Locate-a-Brother

Mr. Hugh M. Winderweedle
182 Infantry Hq Co.
Yuma, AZ
#Membership Committee

Mr. Edward P. Wyncott
132 Infantry HQ/1
Tampa, FL
#Bob Kapp

Mr. Edward C. Van Lennep
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Garber, IA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Lawrence F. Wasser
11 LIB 4/3 Inf
Staten Island, NY
#R. Castronova

Mr. Larry Watson
198 LIB C/1/52 1/6
Wooster, OH
#Gary L. Noller

S/Sgt. Edward P. Wenz
196 LIB
Taunton, MA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Ronnie N. Williams
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Festus, MO
#Ron Davis

Mr. Harold H. Willis
11 LIB
Pwatonna, MN
#R. Castronova

Mr. Terry J. Wright
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Greenbrier, AR
#Jerry Gouge

Mr. Kenneth C. York
198 LIB 1/46 Inf
Madison Heights, VA
#Bernie Chase

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Richard Bellrose
196 LIB 1/6 Inf Rec
Barre, MA

James M. Fenelon
164 Infantry
Marshalltown, IA

George M. Gogas
182 Infantry A Co
Haverhill, MA

Phillip E. Jones
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Conroe, TX

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Charles J. Bertke
18 Arty 3/18
New Weston, OH

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

Warren O. Brodie
164 Infantry Hdq Co
Groveland, MA

Marco A. Capraro
50 Arty
Newtonville, MA

Chuck Carlock
14 Avn Bn 71 AHC
Fort Worth, TX

James A. Ferguson
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf
Hummelstown, PA

Robert Fulton
221 FA A Bat
Natick, MA

Anthony E. Greene
Associate
APO AENY

Jacob J. Gruber
198 LIB A/D/1/14 Art
Easton, PA

Arthur L. Hanley
Amer Hq HHC G-2-TMF
Brewster, NY

John F. Hodgins
182 Infantry H Co.
Ooltewah, TN

Edward L. Kalat
221 F.A. C Btry
Frankenmuth, MI

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Edward W. Marsh 11 LIB Jones, MI	Michael Joe Martin 11 LIB 4/3/ Inf Fort Worth, TX
Robert R. Mitchell 196 LIB Roanoke, VA	Frank A. Mufich 247 F.A. Ser Btry Kansas City, KS
Paul L. Reitchel 8 Cav F Troop Augusta, ME	Jeffrey L. Sanchez 198 LIB C/5/46 Inf Chillicothe, MO
Clive G. Stewart 3142 Ord MM Auto Springfield, MO	Corey C. Thompson 123 Avn Bn-D/1/1 Cav Robbinsdale, MN
William G. Ulbricht 125 QM Bowling Green, FL	

MUSEUM NEWS

Below is a list of ten names, members of the A.D.V.A. who have given willingly of their time and labor to help set up the Americal Museum.

As no doubt you know that our building at Fort Devens had to be vacated. This meant packing and moving the artifacts--a tremendous undertaking!

Those large cartons have now been unloaded, pictures have been hung and the many items have been put on display in our show cases. Artillery shells, both Jap and U.S., are in front of the fireplace. A clock made L.C. Turner, E Company 182 Infantry, and a eagle made and gold leafed by Bob Doucette, L Co. 182nd, can now be seen.

Much labor went into painting the kitchen radiators, and walls in the back rooms.

I do want to thank each and every member that helped in any way and I wish to expressly thank:

Joseph Anderson
Alfred Doig
Malcolm Cate
Leo Ciccola
Nelson Dion
James Flynn
William Mahoney
Daniel Ramsey
John Richardson
Robert Thornton

Kenneth R. Turner
Museum Director

"THANK YOU"

A special "THANK YOU" to Jan Turner, wife of Museum Director Ken Turner, for the many hours of service contributed to getting the Museum in shape for visitors.

A lady of many talents with a warm and friendly way and a happy smile--from coffee making to the handling of a paint brush, hammer, screw driver, and a broom.

Your assistance is very much appreciated.

PNC Al Doig

DUES ASSESSMENTS ARE MODIFIED

The ADVA Executive Council has approved a request by the National Commander to modify the assessment of dues. Effectively immediately, the new dues structure is as follows:

Annual	\$12.00
Three Years	\$30.00
Life (Age under 75)	\$175.00
Life (75 or over)	\$75.00

Annual dues remain the same as in the past. The three year option is established as an attempt to retain new members beyond the first year. The discounted three-year dues will allow a new member more time to learn of the benefits of ADVA membership.

The increased Life dues are intended to better match revenues with the cost of operating the association. Life dues are held in certificates of deposit which lately have been yielding about 5%. The increased Life dues will provide current income to cover most of the current cost of Life membership.

If you are not a Life member and wish to become one, send your Life dues to the National Adjutant, Bernard Chase, 82 P(Phyllis Drive, South Yarmouth, MA 02664.

ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE ADVA

Association Patch (Small)	\$1.00
Association Patch (Large)	3.00
Americal Patch (Dress Blue)	2.75
Americal Patch (Field Uniform)	1.50
Americal Patch Decal	2.25
American Flag Patch	1.00
Americal Car Plate	7.00
Americal Pin Shield (Large)	2.50
Americal Division Crest	2.50
Car Window Decal	1.50
Association Lapel Pin	2.50
Tie Bar with Shield	4.00
Miniature Combat Infantryman Badge (Lapel)	3.50
Miniature Combat Medic Badge (Lapel)	3.50
Miniature 182 Infantry Regimental (Lapel)	3.50
Under the Southern Cross (History soft PPD)	12.00
Cap, Baseball with Patch	6.00
Americal T-Shirt M-L (White WWII or VN)	10.00
Americal T-Shirt XL-XXL (White, WW or VN)	12.00
Americal T-Shirt M-L (Black VN)	10.00
Americal T-Shirt XL-XXL (Black VN)	12.00
'Sappers in the Wire'(Keith Nolan, Hard)	24.95

Postage will be added to above items with the exception of the unit history, 'Under the Southern Cross'. Send orders to:

Kenneth R. Turner
Wakefield, MA 01880
Or call [REDACTED]

Deadline for the Americal Newsletter

July-August-September	-	August 1, 1997
October-November-December	-	Nov. 1, 1997

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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

Regional Commander Terry Babler New Glarus, WI 53574 Tel [REDACTED]	Adj/Finance Officer Gilbert F. Abele [REDACTED] Commerce Township, MI
--	--

I want to thank National Commander Gary Noller, Southeast Regional Commander Bob Kapp, PNC John (Dutch) DeGroot, and some 25 Americal veterans that attended our Winterfest All Veteran Rally held here in New Glarus, WI on January 17-18-19, 1997. We had a good turnout for the parade on Friday night. It was cold but we did a good marching job. John Mathews of the 1/46 Infantry called the cadence and had everyone in step.

NEW GLARUS WINTERFEST



In the Front Row from left to right--Bob Kapp, Tampa, FL--Alex Olson, Monroe, WI--Terry Babler, New Glarus, WI--Ronald Lewis, Madison, WI--John (Dutch) DeGroot. Back Row--Gary Noller, Kansas City, MO--Unknown--Bob Groh, Big Rapids, MI--Dale Belke, Brodhead, WI--Mike Iverson, Woodford, WI--John Mathews, Verona, WI. All Americal Vets!!

Now, I would like to invite all Americal veterans to Washington, DC this November for the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on November 8-9-10-11, 1997. I am planning a dance on Sunday night, November 9th at the Marriott in Crystal City. Britt Small & Festival will be the band. Other guests include: Dianne Carlson Evans -Women's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Chairperson, Troy Evans-25th Infantry and who played 'Sarge' on the China Beach series, John Robb--former Governor of Virginia and son-in-law of LBJ, John Burch--Chairperson of the Vietnam Veterans Coalition, LTG Richard Graves, 1 Squadron / 1st Cavalry Commander in Vietnam in the Americal Division and Sammy L. Davis--Congressional Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War from Flat Rock, IL.

All veterans, friends, and family are invited. I have booked 100 rooms at the Marriott for three nights of November 8-9-10. Rooms are \$79.00 a night for 1-4 persons to a room. Swimming pool, lounge, and across the street from shopping center for the ladies and close to Metro system. For reservations call [REDACTED]. To get a discount tell them its for the LZ/DC All Veterans

Reunion. Activities will be at the hotel all three days. There is a parade on Tuesday the 11th of November 1997.

I hope many of you can make it. If the hotel is full when you call, call 703-413-6549 and ask for Eric Lentine in sales. He will try to book you a room elsewhere. The all military Women's Memorial group have booked 125 rooms at the Marriott so rooms will be getting tight. For more information on this event see the next Newsletter for a flyer.

I will be sending information to all Chapter members as soon as I get mailing labels made up. We need to build this Chapter up and have a couple of scheduled events every year that would be posted in the Newsletter.

I am heading to Florida's Vietnam Veterans REunion on April 18-20, 1997. I hope to meet many of the Americal at the Hospitality Camp "A" site on the 19th, that will be run by Regional Commander Bob Kapp. I look forward to seeing many old friends again. I will be wearing a 'cammie' top with a big Americal patch on my back.

Terry Babler
Commander

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

COMMANDER

Harold J. Gigli

Carver, MA 02330-1809

SEC/TREAS

Carlos A. Pola

Sandwich, MA 02563

At the May meeting to be held at the Americal Museum on Saturday, May 17, 1997, at 10:00 A.M., the New England chapter will elect a new Chapter Commander. We will also discuss how members can help at the National Reunion to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Worcester, MA on June 19-20, 1997. The New England Chapter is the host Chapter.

Try to be there. Refreshments will be served.

All members of the Chapter that have not paid their dues for 1997, are reminded that \$5.00 dues are due May 1997. Make checks payable to the N.E. Chapter and mail to:

Harold J. Gigli

Carver, MA 02330-1809

Members are also reminded that Memorial Day Services at the National Cemetery, Bourne, MA will be held on Sunday, May 25, 1997 at 2:00 P.M. Let make an effort to be there to honor our comrades who are buried in this beautiful cemetery. A collation will be held at the American Legion Post 188, Sandwich, MA at the conclusion of the ceremony.

EACH CHAPTER'S FINANCES ARE SEPARATE FROM NATIONAL FINANCES. CHAPTER SET THEIR OWN DUES AND FUND THEIR OWN REUNIONS.

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

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

Chapter Commander Sec/Treas
Ernest B. Carlson Malcolm P. East
Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Lumberton, TX
Tel. Tel.

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

At the Chapter Commander's meeting in Reno, we brought out the fact that we need a system that will ensure immediate notification of a Chapter members death or major illness. It was suggested that each of us put into effect a notification system where the Chapter Commander receives word in time to take proper steps, such as get well cards and or flowers, to let the veteran, or his family know that we are there for each of them! As an example--when Jerry Martel died, I, his Chapter Commander, found out about it 4 MONTHS later, after the funeral! When Henry Howard passed away I was able to get flowers to the funeral because his daughter let me know in time.

I believe that this is a very important issue but it needs to be put in effect by each individual.

I wish to thank PNC Steve Dennison and his staff for the good work they have done for us. Not just this past year, but over the past several years.

Thanks to Lloyd Morrell and his gang--they did one fine job in Reno! I hope everyone out there had as enjoyable time as I did. We even had time for fun!

I mentioned at the General Meeting, a Special Edition of Time Magazine, that had Olympic Star Michael Johnson, standing on OUR FLAG. I had seen a very brief shot of it on a San Antonio, TX CBS station. I talked to the sportscaster that showed it, with much disgust. He stated that a viewer had sent him a copy of that cover.

Although I was unable to locate a copy in a dozen or so book stores from Fredericksburg, TX to Reno, NV, our ever alert National Commander found one, of all places, in the pocket of the seat in front of him on his return flight home from Reno.

I had to go to another town to get color copies made, but I did so. 99.99 % of the people I showed the picture to, and asked, "What do you see?" The expletives varied, but they said, "I see a S-O-B standing on MY FLAG"

I waited until the games were over because this is not just one incident, As our Chaplain, Reverend Woerner, said in Reno, there have been a bunch of incidents lately. Including those lame brains, (and I give them the benefit of the doubt), in Washington, passing those stupid laws that allow a few brainless idiots to burn, urinate on, or do what they wish to OLD GLORY. (Ernie, Those brainless people you are talking about fund those exhibition with your tax money!) The 1st Amendment says--"Freedom of Speech" NOT freedom to urinate on, stand on, or burn OUR FLAG!!!

(Ernie, I am sorry that I could not run a picture of that cover of Time Magazine, but the way the name of the magazine was wrapped around the Star???s head, I am afraid it would lead to trouble with the magazine. Jim).

If anyone has an address or a telephone number of

Max Loffgren, who, along with his lovely wife, had that beautiful POW-MIA automobile in Reno, I think it would be nice to let the membership have it so that could express their gratitude for what Max and his wife are doing.

For those who weren't in Reno, it was a black '65 Chevie, hand lettered with something like twenty four thousand, (24,000) names of POW's and MIA's from Vietnam. They travel all over with this WONDERFUL display. Really, you have to see this car--there is no way to describe this car.

If anyone out there has any information on the 199 LIB I would appreciate it if you would give me a call or drop me a letter.

EVERYBODY -- DUES -- DUES -- DUES are now due!

Wear your CIB, an Americal Patch and a smile. I waved at a stranger yesterday and I bet he is still scratching his head.

Ernest B. Carlson
Commander

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER SEC/TREAS
Robert L. Granoff Michael D. Hart
Collegeville, PA 19426 Richmond, VA 23228
Phone Phone

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

The Eastern Regional Chapter will hold its annual Reunion on september 18th through the 20th at the Holiday Inn, Exton, PA.

A bus trip on Friday will include a tour of the Brandywine Battlefield and Museum, a visit to the Brandywine River Museum--Wyeth's World--the site of Andrew Wyeth's famous studio. We will stop for lunch at the famous Longwood Gardens. A dinner and show, at Lily Langtry's Follies Parisienne in King of Prussia, is also planned.

Exton is near the King of Prussia area and its nationally known Mall, Valley Forge Park. Philadelphia is just twenty five (25) miles away, with its many historic sites.

Make Plans to join with us for an interesting and eventful weekend.

Robert L. Granoff
Commander

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The ADVA discontinued the policy of sending flowers several years ago, mainly because of the time element. In its place the ADVA now makes a substantial contribution, one a year, to the Americal Cancer Society and the Americal Heart Fund in memory of departed members.

Many times we do not know of the death of a member for months and sometimes years after the death. Many times the notification comes from mail returned and simply marked 'Deceased' sometimes 'He's dead'.

The following is reprinted from AMERICAL, Fall, 1970. If you have copies of AMERICAL and would like for an article to be reprinted in the Americal Newsletter, please send a copy of the item to the Newsletter Editor. Appreciation is extended to Les Hines for providing several editions of AMERICAL.

The AMERICAL is an authorized quarterly publication of the Americal Division. It is published to provide factual and in-depth information of interest to all division units in Vietnam. Articles, photographs and art work of general interest may be submitted for consideration to AMERICAL, Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

AMERICAL LOG

Prologue
Action in Southern First Military Region decreased slightly in the second quarter of the year as soldiers of the Americal collected a long overdue debt from the NVA at Kham Duc. Over two years since the Kham Duc operation was lost to the 2nd NVA Division, the remote Special forces advised CIDG camp was retaken by the same Division units that played a central role in the harrowing evacuation of allied forces in May of 1968.

During June, July and August units of the Division accounted for more than 1,700 enemy killed and denied the enemy of his much needed food supply by capturing over 122 tons of rice. The enemy also lost 534 weapons, of which 32 were crew served.

The month of June saw Division soldiers quell a major NVA offensive in the secluded Hiep Duc Valley. In heavy company-sized contacts, the Americans defeated elements of the 1st NVA Regiment, killing 590 of the enemy soldiers.

The month of July saw a decrease in action throughout the area of operations. The Division soldiers accounted for 481 enemy killed in numerous sporadic contacts.

The month of August saw a rise in activity resulting in the deaths of 593 of the enemy in many small vicious firefights.

By SP4 Gary Jensen
JUNE

The heaviest action of the quarter took place in the first two weeks of June as "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade were stopping the last efforts of the NVA's drive into the Hiep Duc Valley.

Early in the month elements of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry had a very successful and profitable day as the infantryman killed 12 enemy soldiers and suffered no friendly casualties. Bravo Company accounted for 11 of the enemy in three

separate firefights. The heaviest contact of the three resulted in six of the enemy being killed.

During his next to the last week in Vietnam, Sergeant Richard Anderson, Tacoma, Wash., was much too busy to count days. Within a seventy-two hour period the soldier was instrumental in killing 17 enemy soldiers. Sergeant Anderson, a FO, was stationed with a PF outpost nine miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The first night while on a evening patrol Sergeant Anderson and the PF spotted 35 VC. He immediately called in mortar fire, killing seven of the enemy. Two nights later the unit spotted a VC company and called in gunships which accounted for three killed. Not more than twenty minutes later the PF patrol discovered 11 VC in a clearing and in the firefight that followed seven of the enemy were killed.

Action flared on June 13 as Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry killed 33 NVA in close fighting for eight hours.

Company B began taking fire as they neared an enemy basecamp in the Hiep Duc area. The infantrymen retaliated with organic weapons fire killing six NVA. The Americans received a barrage of 82 mm mortar rounds. The men of Company B dug in and called in an air strike. Gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company strafed the NVA positions as the enemy tried to encircle the Americans. Blue Ghost gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry spotted another large group of NVA moving towards the company. The choppers raked the area killing three more enemy as another airstrike silenced the enemy mortars. When the fire subsided Company B swept the area finding 23 enemy killed by small arms fire.

On the 19th of June in ceremonies at Duc Pho the Recon Platoon of E Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was presented the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism by General Creighton W. Abrams. General Abrams decorated the unit for valorous action against a far greater size enemy force near the village of Phou Loc on September 6-7, 1968. The Recon Platoon is credited with averting and enemy attack on the city of Quang Ngai in the action.

"This award is significant because so much of war depends on teamwork, on each member of the team on each individual bearing his full share," stated General Abrams. "What this award means in the eyes of the U.S. Army is the same as it should for the individual receiving it, the second highest individual award for bravery," concluded the general.

To be continued in a future issue of the Americal Newsletter.

The following is reprinted from AMERICAL, Fall, 1970. If you have copies of AMERICAL and would like for an article to be reprinted in the Americal Newsletter, please send a copy of the item to the Newsletter Editor. Appreciation is extended to Les Hines for providing several editions of AMERICAL.

The AMERICAL is an authorized quarterly publication of the Americal Division. It is published to provide factual and in-depth information of interest to all division units in Vietnam. Articles, photographs and art work of general interest may be submitted for consideration to AMERICAL, Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

AMERICAL LOG

Prologue

Action in Southern First Military Region decreased slightly in the second quarter of the year as soldiers of the Americal collected a long overdue debt from the NVA at Kham Duc. Over two years since the Kham Duc operation was lost to the 2nd NVA Division, the remote Special Forces advised CIDG camp was retaken by the same Division units that played a central role in the harrowing evacuation of allied forces in May of 1968.

During June, July and August units of the Division accounted for more than 1,700 enemy killed and denied the enemy of his much needed food supply by capturing over 122 tons of rice. The enemy also lost 534 weapons, of which 32 were crew served.

The month of June saw Division soldiers quell a major NVA offensive in the secluded Hiep Duc Valley. In heavy company-sized contacts, the Americans defeated elements of the 1st NVA Regiment, killing 590 of the enemy soldiers.

The month of July saw a decrease in action throughout the area of operations. The Division soldiers accounted for 481 enemy killed in numerous sporadic contacts.

The month of August saw a rise in activity resulting in the deaths of 593 of the enemy in many small vicious firefights.

By SP4 Gary Jensen

JUNE

The heaviest action of the quarter took place in the first two weeks of June as "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade were stopping the last efforts of the NVA's drive into the Hiep Duc Valley.

Early in the month elements of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry had a very successful and profitable day as the infantryman killed 12 enemy soldiers and suffered no friendly casualties. Bravo Company accounted for 11 of the enemy in three separate firefights. The heaviest contact of the three resulted in six of the enemy being killed.

During his next to the last week in Vietnam, Sergeant Richard Anderson, Tacoma, Wash., was much too busy to count days. Within a seventy-two hour period the soldier was instrumental in killing 17 enemy soldiers. Sergeant Anderson, a FO, was stationed with a PF outpost nine miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The first night while on an evening patrol Sergeant Anderson and the PF spotted 35 VC. He immediately called in mortar fire, killing seven of the enemy. Two nights later the unit spotted a VC company and called in gunships which accounted for three killed. Not more than twenty minutes later the PF patrol discovered 11 VC in a clearing and in the firefight that followed seven of the enemy were killed.

Action flared on June 13 as Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry killed 33 NVA in close fighting for eight hours.

Company B began taking fire as they neared an enemy basecamp in the Hiep Duc area. The infantrymen retaliated with organic weapons fire killing six NVA. The Americans received a barrage of 82 mm mortar rounds. The men of Company B dug in and called in an air strike. Gunships from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company strafed the NVA positions as the enemy tried to encircle the Americans. Blue Ghost gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry spotted another large group of NVA moving towards the company. The choppers raked the area killing three more enemy as another airstrike silenced the enemy mortars. When the fire subsided Company B swept the area finding 23 enemy killed by small arms fire.

On the 19th of June in ceremonies at Duc Pho the Recon Platoon of E Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was presented the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism by General Creighton W. Abrams. General Abrams decorated the unit for valorous action against a far greater size enemy force near the village of Phou Loc on September 6-7, 1968. The Recon Platoon is credited with averting and enemy attack on the city of Quang Ngai in the action.

"This award is significant because so much of war depends on teamwork, on each member of the team on each individual bearing his full share," stated General Abrams. "What this award means in the eyes of the U.S. Army is the same as it should for the individual receiving it, the second highest individual award for bravery," concluded the general.

JULY

July was marked by light sporadic contacts with the enemy, resulting in the quietest month of the quarter, despite the mass Allied assault into the Kham Duc area.

Stepped up psychological operations payed off in numerous ways in the first couple weeks of July for the 198th Infantry Brigade. The results being Vietnamese children turning over 220 mortar rounds, 12 artillery rounds and 22 anti-personnel mines to H Troop, 17th Cavalry among other smaller amounts of arms and munitions.

July was also marked as rice month for the 11th Infantry Brigades "Gimlets" for capturing 100,000 pounds of rice in several days of hard back-breaking work.

The initial find came when Company D and Recon Platoon were combat assaulted into the 'rice bowl' four miles south of Duc Pho. "After two days of looking and digging we found and bagged 7,300 pounds of rice well concealed and buried several inches below the ground," said Sergeant Bob Davidson, Kansas City, Mo.

Next, Company B moved into the 'bowl' to try their hand at the game. "After a day of tapping floors and walls of huts," commented Specialist Four William Scanlon, Los Banos, Calif., "we found ourselves with 23,000 pounds of rice."

When Company A's turn came, a special method was developed to discover the rice. "The majority of the caches are sealed in plastic and buried several inches below the ground," said Specialist Four Bruce West, Fairburn, Ga., "so we drop a heavy wooden pole and listen for a hollow sound." Using this method Company A found and bagged over 70,000 pounds of rice.

"Finding caches is fairly easy," stated Staff Sergeant Marty Kristo, De Pue, Ill., "the time consuming job is digging them up, bagging and hauling them away."

The 12th of July saw a mass Allied combat assault into Kham Duc to reclaim the Kham Duc Special Forces advised CIDG camp only 14 miles from the Laotian border.

The camp was overrun in the culmination of a siege by some 5,000 troops of the NVA's Second Division, and hundreds of South Vietnamese soldiers and their dependents were rescued in one of the most dramatic evacuation efforts of the Vietnam war.

The object of the operation was the destruction of rear base area and interdiction on supply routes of the Second NVA Division. The operation's success brought an enormous slow down in the pre-monsoon supply build-up of the NVA forward elements further in the interior of Vietnam. This should bring a welcome relief to such exposed locations as Hiep Duc and other population centers to the northeast of Kham Duc.

The Americans involved in the operations were the same units which were instrumental in the evacuation. The units, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry played a supporting role for the over 6,000 ARVN's put into the region.

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry was inserted in one of the initial lifts to the airstrip where they quickly cleared the lowland area. Cannoneers from Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82d Artillery and Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery were next, and within twenty minutes of their arrival the two batteries were ready to deliver their devastating support.

AUGUST

Action started out slow for the month of August, the heaviest action in the first few days came when "Gimlets" of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry killed seven of the enemy in three separate incidents. Three were killed in the biggest action of the day by Delta company when they discovered a hootch complex northwest of Tam Ky.

Action flared on the 5th of the month as 16 VC were killed by the 174th Aviation Company while they were covering a combat assault in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

The 4th ARVN Regiment's first test of the newly opened Kham Duc came the next day as sappers were spotted in the wire and inside the perimeter. The artillerymen opened up on the sappers with everything they had. During the firefight the Americal soldiers were receiving an attack of an estimated 60 mortar rounds and unknown amount of B-40 rocket fire.

At day break a sweep of the area was made, 18 sappers were found killed by the artillerymen's fire. All of the sappers were wearing black shorts. Fifty CHICOM grenades, nine RPG rounds, five RPG launchers and 32 satchel charges were found on the bodies.

Later in the morning Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry swept the suspected area of the enemy mortar location and found six bunkers, nineteen 82 mm mortar rounds and four cases of charges.

Allied forces working in the Kham Duc area also found an NVA hospital, complete with operating facilities. Also found in the same area was a half a ton of medical supplies, large quantities of rice and NVA rations. While in the process of searching the area, five VC were spotted.

Later in the week while conducting a search and clear mission in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, discovered a rice and potatoe cache near two huts. The rice was in eleven 55 gallon drums. These finds launched the infantrymen on an intense search of the area which turned up more than eight tons of rice.

Gunships were busy on the 12th of the month when the Nighthawk ships from the 71st Aviation company were engaged by a undetermined enemy force as they flew along a river. Braving small arms and .30 caliber machine-gun fire, the gunships accounted for seven NVA killed.

While flying over a heavily vegetated area west of Quang Ngai, gun-ships from F Troop, 8th cavalry received small arms and .30 caliber fire from the ground below. The pilots saturated the area with automatic weapons fire, killing 33 NVA in the ensuing five hour ground to air battle.

As the end of August drew near the Americal support units at Kham Duc were evacuated after successfully supporting the ARVNs and getting them settled into the job of stopping the enemy's supplies.

GRUNT

Excerpts from the writings of Ernie Pyle

Editor's Note: Ernie Pyle was a correspondent during World War II. He probably never heard the term "grunt." But much of what he wrote about the infantryman of World War II, still holds true about the grunt of today. The following quotes are excerpts of his writing.

I've been around war long enough to know that nine-tenths of morale is pride in your outfit and confidence in your leaders and fellow fighters. A lot of people have morale confused with the desire to fight. I don't know one soldier out of ten thousand who wants to fight. The old-timers were sick to death of battle, and the new replacements were scared to death of it. And yet the company went on into battle, and it was a proud company.

A dozen times I overheard this same remark: "Well, I don't worry about it because I look at it this way. If your number's up then it's up, and if it isn't you'll come through no matter what." Every single person who expressed himself that way was a liar and knew it, but, hell, a guy has to say something.

AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Worcester, MA
June 19-20-21-22, 1997

\$75.00 - 1-4 Person
Reservations Call [REDACTED]

Any questions contact:

Adj. Bernard Chase
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

REUNION REUNION

OPERATION LZ/DC ALL VWTERANS REUNION
Washington, DC
November 8-9-10, 1997

Headquarters
Marriott Hotel in Crystal City, VA.
\$79.00 1-4 Persons in Room

Any Questions Contact:

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574

Or Call

Ron Lewis [REDACTED]
John Murphy [REDACTED]
Jim Bartlett [REDACTED]

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

If you mailed your contribution to the Scholarship Fund and it was returned because I had the wrong street number printed on the return envelope, please get me off the hook and remail it to:

PNC Ronald L. Ward
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

Thanks,
Jim

D COMPANY 3/1 INFANTRY 11 LIB

I am a new member of the ADVA. I found the Newsletter very informative and interesting. I personally am seeking help trying to contact members of my platoon in Vietnam. Any help would be appreciated.

I worked with D/3/1 Infantry during April, May, and June of 1969 and I believe I was located on Firebase Charlie. I would like to hear from anyone that served with this unit. Contact:

R. Gary Lehman
[REDACTED]
So. Kingston, RI 02879

COMMAND INFORMATION

In February, 1967, COMUSMACV, General William C. Westmoreland, formed a planning group to organize an Army task force to send to the troubled I Corps area in South Vietnam.

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

The task force became operational on April 20, 1967, under control of III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF), with the 196th beginning operations near Chu Lai, in Quang Tin Province, and the 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry conducting search and destroy operations in Quang Ngai Province. In May, 1967, the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne arrived at Duc Pho and began operations in the jungles west of there.

Early offensive operations conducted by Task Force Oregon included; Malheur I and Malheur II, Hood River, Benton and Cook. On Sept. 11, 1967, Operation Wheeler was launched against elements of the 2nd NVA Division in the area west of Chu Lai.

On Sept. 22, 1967, Brigadier General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the task force, succeeding Major General Richard T. Knowles, who had commanded the task force during the period June 25 to Aug. 20, 1967.

On Sept. 25, 1967, Task Force Oregon was re-constituted and designated as the Americal Division with a proposed organization to consist of the 196th, 198th, and 11th Light Infantry Brigades.

Operation Wheeler continued and on Oct. 4, 1967, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was placed under operational control of the Americal Division to launch Operation Wallowa.

On Oct. 22, 1967, the 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam to become part of the Americal Division.

On Dec. 21, 1967, the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Andy A. Lipscomb, arrived in Vietnam.

The above is taken from the 11th LIB, 'TRIDENT'. Newsletter I received while on LZ Liz with "A" battery 6/11 Arty (105 Howitzer), in early 1968. All of us on "Liz" trained at Schofield Barrack, Hawaii. Shipped over on the USS Gordon, disembarked at Qui Nhon, convoyed to Duc Pho, then to LZ Liz.

Roger A. Sprik

A COMPANY 5/46 INFANTRY 198 LIB

Roland: I hope that the ARCOM orders and discharges I sent are of some use to you.

You are certainly doing a great job recruiting members. If possible please print this so that anyone on LZ Gator, Aug 68 to Aug 69, can contact me:

Richard Mazzarella
[REDACTED]
Andover, MA 01810

VIETNAM WARRIORS: A STATISCAL PROFILE

In uniform and in Country

Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (Aug 5, 1964-May 7, 1975)

8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-Mar. 28, 1973).

3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Camdodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).

2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan 1, 1965-March 28, 1973).

Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.

Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

7.484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.

Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

Casualties

Hostile deaths: 47,378

Non-hostile deaths: 10,800

Total: 58,202 (includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for changing total.

8 nurses died--1 was KIA

Married Men killed: 17,539.

61% of the men killed were 21 or younger.

Highest state death rate: West Virginia-84.1 (National average 58.9 for every 100,000 males in 1970).

Wounded: 303,704--153,329 hospitalized---150,375 injured requiring no hospital care.

Severly disabled: 75,000---23,214 100% disabled; 5283 lost limbs; 1081 sustained multiple amputations.

Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than WW11 and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WW11.

Missing in Action: 2,338

POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity).

Draftees vs. Volunteers

25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U S armed forces members were drafted during WW11).

Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.

Reservists killed: 5,977.

National Guard: 6,140 served; 101 died.

Total Draftees (1965-73) 1,728,344.

Actually served in Vietnam: 39%

Marine Corps draft: 42,633

Last man drafted June 30, 1973.

Race and Ethnic Background

88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian: 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.

86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.

170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.

70% of enlisted men killed were of Northwest European descent.

86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.

14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks.

34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.

Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.

Religion of Dead: Protestant--64.4%
Catholic---28%
Other-----none--6.7%

Socio-Economic Status

76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.

Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds.

Some 23% of Vietnam Vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.

79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. (63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WW11 Vets had completed high school upon separation).

Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South--31; West--29.9; Midwest--28.4; Northeast--23.5.

Winning or Losing

82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.

Nearly 75% of the public agree it was a failure of political will, not arms.

(Concluded on next page)

Honorable Service

97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.

91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.

66% of Vietnam Veterans say they would serve again if called upon.

87% of the public now holds Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.

196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
James C. Trepoy CSM (RET) US ARMY

20 April 1996

I was interested in the article titled "The Luck of the Draw" by David Rabadan in the November '95 issue of the 196th LIB Association news letter. I was the CSM of the 3/21st Infantry on LZ Center from June '68 to June '69 and know what he was referring to. I will say Dave, it didn't take me long to get to LZ Center. I reported in to the Americal Division Headquarters dressed in a Class A uniform, which was what I wore leaving the States, for a direct assignment to the 3/31st Infantry. After signing in at Division, a Jeep took me to the Gimlet's rear area, where the Supply Sgt. was waiting for me. He issued me my jungle fatigues, a CAR 15, pistol, field gear and transported me to the helicopter pad for a Huey to take me to LZ Center. The CSM who I was to replace had already rotated so the Bn CO, LTC Snyder, was waiting for me.

The Bn CO and I visited our companies in the field every day and I tried to visit with as many men as possible. The most question of me was "please find me a job in the rear". I will say this for our battalion, new personnel coming in served in the bush first and those personnel working in the rear supply bases were those wounded several times and short timers. Who knows better than these people, how important it is to keep us supplied. Unit First Sergeants had been instructed to follow this policy for personnel serving in the rear, however, there just wasn't enough slots to fill. There are times that specific MOS personnel were utilized in their trained MOS. There were several occasions when I furnished men for assignment to Brigade and Division. These men were recommended by their first sergeant. Although it was much safer to be in the rear areas, we did have casualties in these areas. Some of you may remember the rocket attacks on the resupply base at LZ Baldy, the Delta company resupply chopper flipping over at LZ Center and killing a short-timer due to rotate. The RTO from Co C that joined our command group and was killed with all on board when the command chopper was shot down. We all agree that any job that took the grunt out of the bush was much safer.

I never liked the policy of the six months rotation of officers as just when they got to be an effective leader, he was gone and a new leader came in. In my last year with the Gimlets, we had three battalion commanders. One of the purposes of the 6 months rotation was to give more officers command time and experience. The Charger Brigade was very fortunate to have had a Commander who requested to stay with the Brigade for the full year. It was an honor and a privilege for me to serve under that Commander, COL. Frederick J.

Kroesen, now General Kroesen, US Army Retired.

When I was drafted in 1942 it was for the duration of World War II plus 6 months, and served 33 months in the Pacific from Australia up to Japan 1945. My tour in Korea was 16 months, and Vietnam was 1 year.

I am always reminding my retired Army friends how the "Chargers" spent the full year in the bush and no rear area to return to after so many days searching for Charlie. I was honored to be the Gimlets Command Sergeant Major and still have memories after 27 years.

I would like to hear from former Gimlets and any other trooper that may have served with me during my military service.

James C. Trepoy CSM (RET) US Army

Salina, Kansas 67401-6663

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

How it all began...

The design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was selected in 1981 from entries submitted in a nationwide competition conducted by VVMF. As each entry was received-and there were a total of 1,421-it was assigned a number.

Eight individuals, internationally recognized in the fields of architecture, were chosen as jurors. After five days of judging, their unanimous choice was entry Number 1026. One juror described it as "the finest and most appropriate."

The designer, Maya Lin, was a 21-year-old poarchitecture student at Yale University. The memorial was assigned as a design problem in one of her classes. With fellow students, Lin visited the site on the Mall and tried to visualize an appropriate structure.

"I thought about what death is, what a loss is," she remembered. "A sharp pain that lessens with time, but never quite heals over. The idea occurred to me there on the site. Take a knife and cut open the earth, and with time, the grass would heal it."

She designed the black granite wall, 493 feet long, rising from the ground to 10.1 feet in height, and bending at the center in a 125:12degree angle. On its polished panels would be engraved the names of more than 58,000 members of the U. S. armed forces who died or remain missing in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most visited monuments in our nation's capital. In the words of the jury who selected the design, it is "a place of quiet reflection, and a tribute to those who served their nation in difficult times. All who come here can find it a place of healing."

CHECK THAT ADDRESS LABEL!

Many Americal Newsletters are being returned by the Post Office as 'Undeliverable' because just one number may be out of the way. Sometimes it is an address that we have been using for years. Consequently we lose contact with a member and find it very hard to locate that member again.

OPERATIONS CEDAR FALLS AND JUNCTION CITY

1967 -- 30 YEARS AGO

by E. Jonathan Holmes, Assist. Editor, BSVV

After the New Year' truce on January 2, 1967, the U.S. geared up for a greater war effort in Vietnam, which began with the arrival of the 9th Infantry Division on January 1, This brought the troop strength in-country to approximately 380,000 men. U.S. Commanders were determined to take the ground war into a new phase in 1967, since the threats from secure Communists strongholds in an area known as the "Iron Triangle", had reached an unacceptable level.

THE IRON TRIANGLE

Only 35 miles to the southeast of Saigon, the "Iron Triangle" was an area of some 60 square miles. It was defined by the Saigon River to the southwest, the Thi Tinh River to the east, and the Than Dien forestry reserve to the north. The corners of the triangle were marked by the villages of Ben Cat, Phu Hoa Dong, and Ben Suc.

The "Iron Triangle" was cut by marshes, swamps, and open rice paddies in addition to the densely packed secondary forest with only a few ox-cart roads and foot trails. Ever since World War II the area had been a refuge for anti-government forces. By 1965 it was the Headquarters of the Viet Cong Military Region IV and used as a staging area for assaults on Saigon.

One of the most notable aspects of the "Iron Triangle" was that it was riddled with tunnel and bunker complexes, including concealed storage rooms, underground first-aid stations, kitchens, ammunition dumps, dormitories, and fresh water wells. The tunnel systems were started during the anti-colonial war against France from 1945 to 1954, but were rapidly expanded when Americans started arriving in Vietnam.

OPERATION CEDAR FALLS

Operation Cedar Falls was to be the first large scale, multi-divisional offensive in 1967, designed to challenge the Viet Cong in their territory.

On January 5, 1967, the U.S. 2nd Brigade and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, reinforced by ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) units, were positioned along the Saigon River at the edge of the triangle to block escape of enemy forces.

Beginning on January 8, 1967, units of the 1st Aviation Battalion with 60 UH-1 helicopters--the greatest number that had flown on one mission to date--flew into the village of Ben Suc and deposited 420 soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade, kicking off Operation Cedar Falls, and began a massive search and destroy effort.

The following day, the 1st Infantry's 3rd Brigade began a massive air mobile assault through the Than Dien forest to the east. Meanwhile, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 11th Armored Cavalry swept west from Ben Cat. In addition, blocking positions were provided on the southeast side of the triangle by 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry and the 35th Rangers Battalion. A combination of air and ground assaults and jungle clearing operations made sure that there was nowhere for the Viet Cong to hide.

Although there were occasional fire-fights with

squads of Viet Cong, there were no major battles fought by large enemy forces during the 19 days of operation. However, the success of the operation came from what was found underneath the jungle floor.

Elements of the 1st Engineer Battalion, whose job it was to bulldoze the area around Ben Suc, and elements of the 1st Infantry's 242nd Chemical Detachment, whose job it was to flush out the VC from their tunnels, found that they had discovered massive caches of underground VC supplies.

In all, over 7,500 enemy uniforms, 60,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 800,000 vials of penicillin, together with 3,700 tons of rice--enough to feed an Army of 13,000 VC for a year--confiscated. What was considered the most important find came on January 18th, when men referred to as 'tunnel rats' from the 1/5th Infantry discovered an important tunnel complex west of the Saigon River. In the complex they found thousands of VC secret document, which revealed plans for the future terrorist assaults, lists of sympathizers and detailed maps of Saigon and the Tan Son Nhut airbase. They discovered the VC's underground Headquarters for the Cu Chi district. After clearing it out, they blew it up.

Operations Cedar Falls was officially terminated on January 26, 1967. The results left over 2,700 acres of cleared jungle, over 1,100 bunkers and 525 tunnels destroyed, and 750 'confirmed enemy' dead. In addition, there were 72 Americans that lost their lives during the operation. Unfortunately, by the Tet Offensive in January 1968, only a year later, vegetation had grown back, tunnels re-used and the Iron Triangle was again in Communist control.

OPERATIONS JUNCTION CITY

The largest operation of the war to date, Operation Junction City was designed to penetrate War Zone C; engage the Viet Cong's 9th Division; and destroy the VC central command center known as (Central Office of South Vietnam) in addition to other bases west of An Loc. In an effort to return to "conventional war:", after the frustrations caused by hit-and-run "counter-insurgency war", General Westmoreland and the U.S. forces would use airborne troops and tanks reminiscent of the operations in the European Theatre during World War II, to get the job done,

Deception operations began on February 2, 1967 when elements of the 25th Infantry Division were placed around Lo Go to the west of the operational area until February 20th. In addition, from February 14, through the 17th, two brigades of the 1st Infantry Division were placed to the east around Binh Long.

Phase one of Operation Junction City began with B-52 strikes on February 22, 1967 followed by the first and only parachute assault in Vietnam by 845 members of 2nd Battalion, 503rd Airborne at a drop zone near the village of Suoi Tre. Once the paratroopers secured their defensive positions on the ground, the armored divisions swept in.

Elements of the 25th Infantry Division, and the 1st Infantry Division, along with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, created a horseshoe-blocking position. The next day, the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry, and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment drove in from the south.

(Concluded On Next Page)

(Conclusioin of ('Operations'))

The first two major assaults by the Viet Cong during the operation came on February 28th and March 10th near the village of Prek Klok, and were both successfully repulsed.

Phase two began on March 18th as the 1st Infantry Division shifted eastward, m with support from the 11th Armored Cavalry regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division. During this time, three major assaults would challenge the U.S. troops at Ap Bau Bang on March 19th; at Suoi Tre on March 21th; and at Ap Go on April 1st. The Viet Cong assaults would be successfully repulsed also.

An unplanned Phase Three followed on April 16, 1967 with units under the control of the 25th Infantry Division. These units continued to search for VC until Operation Junction City officially ended on May 14th. When the cold statistics were compared, it showed that an estimated 2,728 VC were killed, 34 were captured and 139 defected. conversely, U.S. Troops suffered 282 killed and 1,576 wounded.

Although the materials confiscated from the Viet Cong included some 600 weapons, 810 tons of rice, and over 500,000 pages of documents, the VC 9th Division was not destroyed and COSVN was never found. Although deploying 22 U.S. Battalions for the operation achieved a "military success", it proved impossible to keep that many units in the area on a permanent basis, with the exception of Special Forces units.

Of the many lessons learned during Operation Junction City, one stood out among the rest. The 366,000 artillery rounds and 3,235 tons of bombs expended during the operation worked out to several tons of ordnance for each Viet Cong killed. Without question, this led to the conclusion that this would be an "expensive war".

Taken from the 'Bay State Vietnam Veteran'.

VETERANS

I sent out a couple thank you notes to the schools that made the little flowers given out on Vet's Day. One was Blatchley Middle School in Sitka, Alaska and the other was Homewood-Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor, IL. The note stated the following:

Dear Students and Faculty,

I'm a Vietnam War veteran who served from 1969-1970. I was an infantryman for 9 months. I was walking a point man when the third guy behind me hit a booby trap and was killed instantly. I was seriously wounded and sent home.

I'm now 60% disabled and currently live in Fairfax, VA. This past Veteran's Day I was host and guide to a group of World II and Vietnam vets who lived throughout the United States. Initially I came to know these men by communicating via electronic mail from my home computer. During the last couple of year's we've exchanged many stories about our combat experiences and shared many personal emotions. Our sentiments are not easily understood by the American public, or anyone for that manner, that has never had to experience combat first-hand. After 20 plus years some vets are just beginning to talk about their experiences and express their feelings. We have become very

good friends and there is a very special bond between us. It's unfortunate that it's taken so many years for the American public to acknowledge and recognize the men and women who fought and/or served during the Vietnam War. For many, as in all other wars, it was the "ultimate sacrifice"...they gave their lives.

Most of us actually met for the first time this past Veterans' holiday weekend. What an experience! We spent time at the Wall and participated in as many of the activities as possible during the week. One evening we shared slides and photos that had been taken during the war. It was during this time that two of us realized we had walked the same trails, bathed in the same stream, and fought in the same area. Two of us were wounded on the same hill during different battles.

One member of our group, George AKA Doug Idlett, was taken prisoner by the Japanese for three years during World War II. After the U.S. surrendered he had to walk for 9 days and covered about 78 miles, without one bite of food. Our history books refer to this march as "The Death March". Many did not survive. We discovered during his "show and tell" -- he had numerous 50-year-old newspapers w/articles and photos about him -- that he was held prisoner during the same time as the father of one of the Vietnam vets in our group. The other prisoner had escaped captivity and also lived to talk about it. Needless to say, son immediately called father and relayed the infoemation. Well, I could go on and on sharing stories with you but this really was not my purpose in writing the letter. My intentions were to write and thank you for participating in the holiday activities. I can speak for all of us when I say it was heartwarming to receive the flowers made by your school. Thank you for caring. Be proud of your soldiers and loyal to your country!

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

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

INDIANA VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION 15th Annual

September 19, 20, 21, 1997
Evans Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, Indiana

For Information Contact

Derek Oldham
Al Tookolo
Jim Brown

A COMPANY 5/46 INFANTRY 198 LIB

Roland: I hope that the ARCOM orders and discharges I sent are of some use to you.

You are certainly doing a great job recruiting members. If possible please print this so that anyone on LZ Gator, Aug 68 to Aug 69, can contact me:

Richard Mazzarella
24 Granli Drive
Andover, MA 01810

MEMORIAL

There is a memorial that has been erected in Washington, D.C. that will forever stand as a memorial to every American and the entire world to see; engraved on that memorial wall are the names of those who gave their lives answering their country's call.

And that call was the call for freedom in another land; it was the call for freedom by the people of South Vietnam. And many of the names engraved upon that memorial wall are of young men who died who answered that call--before they were old enough to understand the politics of war involving the people of South Vietnam.

But they understood freedom and the responsibility that freedom brings, as they remembered in their young hearts their country's song about letting freedom ring; and they gave their lives so that the people of South Vietnam could sing with hope in their hearts that the love of freedom brings.

Yes, their young lives ended before they had a chance to live, as we now try to forget and forgive--but never forgetting their love of freedom and their courage so true, but only trying to forget and forgive all the hurt feeling that every American went through, as we did what we thought we had a right to do; but always with love in our hearts for those brave young men who knew that they were sacrificing their lives for the love of freedom felt in their young hearts so true.

And when we remember the many tears that were shed by Americans all, may we always remember with honor those brave young men, who will forever stand so tall above all the hurt feelings that every American went through, as we did what we thought we had a right to do.

But always with love in our hearts for those brave young men who answered freedom's call, whose names are engraved upon that memorial wall that has been erected in Washington, D.C. and will forever stand as a memorial for every American and the entire world to see, the names of those who gave their lives answering freedom's call and with love forever in our hearts and with tears forever in our eyes, your fellow Americans forever say--may God always, always bless you all.

(Written as a tribute to all Vietnam Veterans, by Leonard Sabbatino.)

TOWNSVILLE SUB-BRANCH VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

This sub branch will host a National Reunion of Vietnam Veterans during the period of August 16 thru August 24, 1997 to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the withdrawal of Australian troops from Vietnam. The reunion will be held in Townsville, the Capital of North Queensland, and will be known as 'Fire Support Base Townsville'.

For further information contact:

Ted Miskiewicz
Aitkenvale, 4814
Australia

196th LIB REUNION

FORMER POW TO SPEAK AT THE BANQUET

Commander Sergeant Major Thomas J. Davis is a native of Eufaula, Alabama. Upon completion of high school, he worked various jobs before being drafted into the United States Army in June 1967. He completed Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in August 1967. After completion of training he received orders for South Vietnam, where he served with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, until his capture near Chu Lai on 11 March 1968. He was held captive in South and North Vietnam until his release in March of 1973.

CMS Davis' military education includes all the non-commissioned officer leadership courses and schools, including Rotor wing flight school and the Sergeants Major Academy, class#31. He has held a variety of positions prior to his current assignment at Armstrong Atlantic University as Senior Instructor, Military Science Department. Other assignments held include squad leader, platoon sergeant, operations sergeant, First Sergeant, Provost Marshal and Battalion and Brigade Command Sergeant Major. He attended John C. Calhoun College and the University of Maryland, European Division. CSM Davis returned to South Vietnam in 1994 and 95 with the Joint Task Force For Full Accounting, to repatriate his fallen comrades that died in captivity.

His awards and decorations include the CIB, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star w/1 OLC, meritorious Service Medal w/1 OLC, Army Commendation Medal w/2 OLC, Purple Heart w/1 OLC, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal 9th Award, NCO Ribbon #4, German Expert Marksmanship Badge, Overseas Ribbon 3rd Award, The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry/Vietnam Service Medal/Vietnam Campaign Medal.

CSM Davis and his wife Barbara reside in Savannah, Georgia. They have two children and one grandson.

CEMETERY

Throughout the United States, there are 114 national cemeteries under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). Eligible for burial in these cemeteries are all veterans and armed forces members who die on active duty.

The only national cemetery in Massachusetts is in Bourne, part of Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, which is filling up at a rate far exceeding projections at the time it opened in 1980. In addition to its fine capacity, it is unappealing as a burial site for most of the 600,000+ veterans in Massachusetts because of its relatively remote location from most of the Commonwealth.

In recognition of the need for more veteran's cemeteries around the country, the VA, through the National Cemeteries Act of 1993, has instituted the State Cemetery program to enable states to establish their own cemeteries for veterans. The program encourages cities and towns to provide grave sites in those areas in which national needs for veterans are not being met by the primary service areas of existing National Veterans' Cemeteries.

(Concluded Next Page)

(Conclusion - Cemetery)

By funding up to 50% of the value of the land acquired for a cemetery and the cost of improvements, the VA allows states to:

Actively participate in meeting the burial needs of veterans:

Complement the National Cemetery System by providing grave sites for veterans in those areas undeserved by National Cemeteries: and

Provide a vehicle whereby veterans who so desire can be buried with spouses and comrades-in-arms in cemeteries close to their home town.

We are hoping to establish two state veterans cemeteries, one in the central part of the state and one in the western part to augment the capabilities of the National Cemetery in Bourne.

We will need the support of the veterans' organization like the Americal Division Veteran's Association in persuading the Legislature to appropriate the monies necessary for this cemetery program. On behalf of all the Commonwealth's veterans, I look forward to your support.

For further information contact:

T.J. Hudner, Jr.
Commissioner
Executive Office for Admin. & Finance
Department of Veteran's Services
Boston, Ma 02202

QUILT TO PROTEST VETERAN'S CHEMICAL ILLNESSES A call to action for all nimble fingers!

Vietnam Veterans Wives is promoting the crafting of an enormous quilt designed to draw widespread national attention to the desperate plight of U.S. veterans sickened by exposure to chemical and germ warfare in the Gulf War.

We anticipate the "Vietnam Agent Orange/Desert Storm Germ Warfare/Chemical Awareness Quilt", being constructed by approximately two to three million American women--wives of Veterans, POW's, MIA's, Veterans' widows, and Veterans' organization members.

The quilt will be done in an array of oranges, contrasted with Desert Storm blocks done in all colors of browns and blacks; black will represent the deadly germ warfare. The quilt will include the embroidered names of those who died in vain for their country..died because the government refused to recognize the grief and pain and complications from Agent Orange and "Persian Gulf Syndrome."

Out of 50,000 Agent Orange claims, only 2,000 have been granted. And of the thousands of claims for Desert Storm Syndrome, all are listed under "PTSD" or individual disabilities, instead of Gulf Syndrome or chemical warfare.

The quilt will have names of those who have already died, those who have become sick, and family members.

When the quilt is completed, it will be

accompanied by petitions requesting information pertaining to those who have made rulings on claims over the last 30 years, and about the whereabouts of lost and destroyed records that, we know, show service connections.

The battle against cancer will continue to spread through the efforts of the widows of thousands of Vietnam and Desert Storm veterans. These widows have been left penniless, denied compensation and left to die, just like their husbands.

It is time to recognize our brave women who have stood by their husbands, to listen, to give them their request; recognition for their husbands claims as a service connection for Agent Orange, and for the Persian Gulf Syndrome.

There will be no more "sweeping" the pain and the cover up out of sight, for this quilt will tell the story of our men's horrible plight.

As a Vietnam veteran wife, with a husband 100 per cent disabled, with a Gulf war son 60 per cent disabled, it is difficult to sit by and see the injustices to wives, families and veteran's loved ones--especially since I love America and want to believe in our government. It is clear that chemical and germ warfare have both taken and crippled the lives of our loved ones. They are still dying their slow deaths.

It doesn't seem to matter to the Pentagon, where negligence reigns; paper work is lost, files destroyed and there is an apparent lapse of memory about where soldiers were when they were either sprayed in Vietnam or when chemical alarms went off during Desert Storm.

All those interested in participating in the construction of this quilt may write:

Vietnam Veterans Wives
Republic, WA. 96166

Or call Danna at [REDACTED]. Or call Jenny LeFevre, Agent Orange Victims and Widows Support Network, [REDACTED].

I've never made a quilt before--but that won't stop me and should not stop you! Contact us soon!

Danna Hughes, Executive Director, VVW.

Ed Note: The above is a copy of a flier concerning a Chemical Awareness Quilt project that is being circulated to widows and families of Vietnam and Desert Storm Veterans. We also need the help of as many organizations as we can.

I am requesting that this information be printed in the next issue of the ADVA Newsletter. I have known Jennie LeFevre of the Agent Orange Victims and Widows Support Network for approximately four years. I've also spoken with Danna Hughes, who has this project very well organized.

Your assistance with this project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Lawrence
Cleveland, Ohio 44130

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

NOT WITHOUT HONOUR "One More For The Boys" The Canadian Vietnam Veterans

For this soldier the war has finally ended--John W. Blake--St. John, Newfoundland, died in Hilo, Hawaii, on February 13, 1996. John was an Airborne Ranger, an elite service of the Special Forces in the US Army. He was the first Newfoundlander to win the Green Beret. He maintained his Canadian citizenship throughout the years. John completed two tours in Vietnam. In 1983 John completed a walk across the United States of America, to bring awareness of the Vietnam Veterans, POW's and MIA's. John fought a long hard battle with (PTSD) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and it was not without the cry "don't let the enemy get you" did he fight his last battle and died a triumphant soldier, freeing himself from an enemy which had consumed his life for the past twelve years.

Burial for John, our native Newfoundlander, proud Canadian and Veteran, in the "Field of Honor", Mt. Pleasant, WAS DENIED and John's burial will be delayed indefinitely, do to a CANADIAN POLICY.

(A policy of the Department of Veteran Affairs of Canada states: Canadian Vietnam Veterans are NOT ACCEPTED nor RECOGNIZED as eligible veterans for burial in the "Field of Honour").

As a point of interest the United States policy in such matters state: A United States citizen who served in the armed forces of a government allied with the United State in a war may be eligible for burial in a National Cemetery.

A gentle wind of change has begun to swirl softly and swiftly across this country and will continue until Canada recognizes and accepts those Canadians who had chosen to be soldiers during the Vietnam War, as readily, as she accepted the Americans who had chosen not to be soldiers.

Ed Note: We can not write to members of the Canadian government to support the Canadian Vietnam veteran but we can write to thank the families of these men that served our country.

Ms. Cathy Saint John & Family
St. John, Newfoundland
Canada A1C 5M3

In case you have forgotten--as many Canadians served in Vietnam as Americans that skipped into Canada. (Carter granted all these traitors amnesty). The least we could do is thank these Canadian veterans.

198 LIB COMPANY D 1st BN 6th INFANTRY

I enjoyed the recent issue of the ADVA Newsletter. I always look forward to it. I need help in locating some former member of the above unit. Would like to hear from anyone that remembers me or knows the location of the men I have listed below. can help me or not, but you have access to the information that I need to process an appeal with the Veterans Administration.

Without going into a lot of detail, I was injured in August 1970 while serving in the Americal near Chu Lai. My discharge/separation physical at Ft. Lewis was pretty haphazard and so just a few

months after discharge, I went to the Milwaukee VA Hospital to get some help. Without any meeting with medical staff, I was later informed by the VA that there was nothing in my medical records to show the injury. After seeing so many of my fellow veterans there in much worse shape than me I let it drop, but I always remembered my orthopedic doctor in Vietnam warning me that arthritis would be a problem down the line. Now it's 27 years later and I am having arthritic problems.

It always infuriated me that according to the VA--no records existed. I learned how to obtain a copy of my medical records and found some twenty some pages of references to the injuries, treatment, hospitalization and long term "light duty medical profile". I went back to the VA and re-opened my claim, providing a list of men I served with to verify my case. Naturally the VA hasn't checked with any of these veterans, and so I could use some help locating them.

Enclosed is a list of Americal veterans (The ones most familiar with my long term problems).

BOGGS, J.D. SFC
HOOTER, RICHARD G. SGT.
TOMLIN, LAWRENCE (LARRY)
DIVISEK, JAY A. 1LT.
ROSS, JAMES A. SGT.
ANDERSON, ASA W. JR. LT. COL.
CLARK, ROBERT W. SGT.
CAIN, WILLIAM LT. (My Lt. in the field who visited me in the hospital and got me assigned to HHC, 1st Bn 6th Inf.)
SCHULTZ, HENRY LT (Bn Adjutant until my DEROS)

If any of these men can remember my injury please contact me, it would be most helpful and appreciated.

Earl J. Carlson
Wauoaca, WI 54981

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR THE 1997-1998 YEAR

NATIONAL COMMANDER
Gary L. Noller

SENIOR VICE COMMANDEE
Edward W. Marsh

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

James C. Buckle Chairman
Alfred R. Doig
William K. Maddox
John H. DeGroot
Robert N. Thornton
Austin J. Roth
Stephen N. Dennison
James P. Meade
John A. Bowley
Malcolm D. Cate Jr.
Brian J. Mulcrone

CHAPTER COMMANDERS - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ernest B. Carlson	South Midwest Region
Terry Babler	Great Lakes Region
Pat Tognoli	Far West Region
Robert L. Granoff	Eastern Region
Ronald L. Ward	Central Midwest Region
Lloyd J. Morell	Northwest Region
Bob Kapp	Southeast Region
Roland T. Castronova	New England Region

FRIENDLY FIRE

An e-mail message was reprinted a couple of issues ago that grabbed my attention. Ray Pierce was asking if anyone remembered the night he was wounded. He was also interested in knowing who else was killed or wounded that same night. Ray served with Charlie Company, 1/46th Infantry.

I also served with C/1/46 Inf. I remembered Ray and was there the night he was medevaced. I have been in touch with Ray (thanks to Rollie Castronova) since reading the article but wanted to write what I remembered of the event. My hope is that others who were there, or perhaps on Professional or aboard one of the helicopters that night, might see it and add what they remember about the incident.

The date was March 5, 1970. I only know the exact date because three good men died that night and I have visited them at the Wall on several occasions. They are listed together on panel 13W. I'm sorry to say that I do not remember the names of the other wounded, but I do know that there were several--some with very severe injuries.

Charlie Company was moving along a ridge line just before dusk. We passed through a clearing that gave us a view of the valley below and enemy movement was spotted in the valley. One of the artillery forward observers called for the 105's on LZ Professional to fire on the enemy position.

While this was unfolding, the third platoon (of which I was a part) was on point and leading the company up onto some higher ground to set up for the night. The company was spread out along the trail on the ridge line. I remember having just dropped my rucksack and was stretching the kinks out of my aching body, when we heard the tubes fire on Professional. However, instead of impacting in the valley below, the rounds landed just down the hill from where my squad was setting up--right on the rest of the company! The rounds landed so close that I and others instinctively went to the ground. I believe that two rounds landed almost simultaneously, but my memory is hazy on this point.

At any rate, we knew immediately that something had gone terribly wrong. Seconds later, our RTO received a call for help from those still down the trail. My squad headed back down to assist. We found a mess. A round had landed right on the trail between Bruce Klingaman and Miguel Garcia. They clearly had died instantly. The third KIA was Mario Gonzalez. Mario was still alive when we arrived on the scene, but died a short time later. Ray and several others were wounded.

It was getting dark quickly. Fortunately, the clearing we had passed through could be used to evacuate the dead and wounded. The hillside was steep, so the choppers couldn't land. They simply nosed in as far as they could and we hoisted the dead and wounded over our heads. It was dark by this time and we could not see anyone in the chopper, but hands would reach out and pull the men into the cargo compartment. Ray remembers a jumbled mass of dead and wounded on the chopper. We abandoned all light discipline as the choppers used their landing lights to illuminate the LZ and we used flashlights to make sure we found all of the wounded. The pilots did an outstanding job in a difficult situation.

I remember each of KIA's well. All three were 21 years old. Klingaman was from Elizabeth, N.J. He

had extended for 30 days in order to get an early out. It was during that time that he was killed. He had only a few days left on his tour. We had been resupplied earlier in the day and he had shown me some pictures of his fiancée. He was very excited about going home and getting married. Bruce was a big, strong guy who carried an M-60 for most of his time in the bush.

Mario Gonzalez was from San Angelo, TX. He and I had both been with the company about ten months by then and had become good friends. He had a wife and baby son back home and delighted in showing off pictures of his son.

I didn't know Miguel Garcia very well. He was from Auburndale, FL. He was very quiet, but I remember him as steady and dependable. He was Klingaman's assistant gunner.

I'm not sure any of us slept much that night. We felt a great deal of anger and frustration at the senseless loss of life. It was infuriating enough to suffer casualties from enemy action, but when friends were killed and maimed as a result of "friendly fire", it was more difficult to accept. I don't think we ever received much of an explanation as to the cause of the incident. When we went back to Professional a few days later, tensions were still high. Most members of the company popped smoke grenades as we approached the base of the hill as a cynical way of letting the artillery types know of our whereabouts. Fortunately, things cooled down and we got on with the job of mutually supporting one another. In spite of the frustration, we certainly knew that the arty had supported us well in the past and would continue to do so in the future.

Bob Short
C/1/46 Infantry

TASK FORCE OMEGA OF KY., INC.
██████████, Preston, KY 40366
Phone ██████████ FAX ██████████

Are you ready for Rolling Thunder X? This is our tenth anniversary so if you ever went or wanted to go, this is the year to go. This year will be the largest rally for our prisoners of war/missing in action (POW/MIAs). Last year we had 250,000+ motorcycles, cars, trucks, etc., all converging on Washington, D.C. to demonstrate for our POW/MIAs abandoned from WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Somalia, and the cold war. This year concerned people from across America, Australia, and Canada will be in Washington, D.C. demanding that our government not forget our brothers and sisters and never let this atrocity happen again. Why??...In September 1966 in the hearings led by Congressman Bob Dornan from California, we heard more evidence about American POW/MIAs being abandoned. Col. Philip Corso an advisor to President Eisenhower testified that he and Eisenhower knew of over 600 live American POWs that had been transferred from Korea to Russia during the Korean War and they were abandoned. The policy that Eisenhower signed that caused this is still CLASSIFIED. Maj. General Jan Sejna was the highest ranking officer to defect and said "Between 1961 and 1968 when I left Czechoslovakia, I would estimate at least 200 Americans were shipped to the Soviet Union through Czechoslovakia."

Everyone is welcome to come to Kentucky or meet us on route and travel with us. Motorcycle, car, any vehicle, Veteran or non-Veteran. It doesn't

matter. If you care, go with us. We will travel at 60 MPH on the interstates and obey all laws. We will stop about every 70 miles for 15 minutes for gas and rest. We will have a break down truck following us. There is no charge to go with us. The break down truck, postage and other expenses are covered by the Kentucky Motorcycle Association, Task Force Omega of KY., and several people who care. Those that donated last year, thank you. We could not have done it without you. There is no charge to go. Just cover your own food, gas, room and other personal expenses.

If you want to travel with Run for the Wall (California group) call Bungee at ██████████. Call Artie Muller ██████████ for more Rolling Thunder info or your state co-ordinator. Michael Martin (Last Patrol) will be marching with a group from Florida to Rolling Thunder for our POW/MIAs and Persian Gulf Syndrome. Call Chris Hamrick 407-589-4648 for info. It doesn't matter how or who you go with, just go if you care.

Call our hotel in Washington, D.C. to reserve your room. Call before you put this letter down. We ran out of rooms last year. Call the Best Western at 703-532-9000 and tell them our group number is 3010.

You can sit at home and talk about how bad things are or go with us and do something. You have a choice, be part of the problem or part of the solution. Be a minority. Be an American that cares and is not afraid to show it.

For Honor and Freedom,

Danny "Greasy" Belcher, director
Task Force Omega of Ky., Inc.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE GOAL IS THE RETURN OF ALL AMERICANS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA--BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ANYONE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM
By Julie Weaver, Burleson, Texas

Dear Hero,

I was in my twenties during the Vietnam era, I was a single mother and, I'm sad to say, I was probably one of the most self-centered people on the planet. To be perfectly honest...I didn't care one way or the other about the war. All I cared about was me ---how I looked, what I wore, and where I was going. I worked and I played.

I was never politically involved in anything, but I allowed my options to be formed by the media. It happened without my ever being aware. I listened to the protest songs and I watched the six o'clock news, and I listened to all the people who were talking. After while, I began to repeat their words, and if you were to ask me, I'd have told you I was against the war.

It was very popular. Everyone was doing it, and we never saw what it was doing to our men. All we were shown, was what they were doing to the people of Vietnam.

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

In fact, I didn't understand anything...until one

day I opened my newspaper and saw the anguished face of a Vietnam Veteran. The picture was taken at the opening of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C. His countenance revealed the terrible burden of his soul. As I looked at his picture and his tears, I finally understood a tiny portion of what you had given for us and what we had done to you.

I understand that I had been manipulated, but I also knew that I had failed to think for myself. It was like waking up out of a nightmare, except that the nightmare was real. I didn't know what to do.

One day, about three years ago, I went to a member of the church I attended at that time, because he had served in Vietnam. I asked him if he had been in Vietnam, and he got a look on his face and said, "Yes." Then, I took his hand, looked him square in the face and said, "Thank you for going." His jaw dropped, he got an amazed look on his face, and then he said, "No one has ever said that to me."

He hugged me and I could see that he was about to get tears in his eyes. It gave me an idea, because there is much more that needs to be said. How do we put into words...all the regret of so many years? I don't know, but when I have an opportunity, I take it...so here goes.

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

Please understand that I am speaking for the general public also. We know we blew it, and we don't know how to make it up to you. We wish we had been there for you when you came home from Vietnam, because you were a war hero and you deserved better.

Inside of you there is a pain that will never completely go away...and you know what, it's inside of us too. Because when we let you down, we hurt ourselves too. We all know it...and we suffer guilt, and we don't know what to do.

So, we cheer for our troops; and write letters to "Any Service Member", and we hang out the yellow ribbons; and fly the flag; and we love America.

We love you too, even if it doesn't feel like it to you. I know in my heart, that when we cheer wildly for our (Desert Storm) troops, part of the reason is (our) trying to make up for Vietnam. And while it may work for us, it does nothing for you.

We failed you. You didn't fail us, but we failed you, and we lost our only chance to be grateful to you at the time when you needed and deserved it. We have disgraced ourselves and brought shame to our Country. We did it, and we need your forgiveness.

Please say you will forgive us, and please take your rightful place as heroes of our Country. We have learned a terrible painful lesson at your expense and we don't know how to fix it.

From The Heart,

Julie Weaver

██████████
Burleson, TX 76028-8948

POINT OF BAYONET
(John B. Foisy)

It all began when when the 1st Battalion of the 182nd Infantry were ordered up to the line across the Matanikau River area near Point Cruz, on November 21, 1942, about noon. Patrols had been down there checking for mine traps etc. along the road for a couple of days and said it was safe to use. We started down a rough path from hills in back of the river, to what was the road meeting other units going same way on foot. There were few vehicles, Jeeps and trucks hauling what we would need. It was quiet for awhile and suddenly an explosion up front. One of the Jeeps went up a few feet--came down and bounced over on its side. It scattered us quickly to the sides of the road for a few minutes. Word came back that the Jeep hit a mine on the road and disabled it. No one was hurt however, but it put us on the alert for whatever else might be around.

After an hour or so we stopped for a break, a little water and light snack. Sweating now, for more reasons than one. A few scouts went ahead for a look around. Okay to move on. Another hour or so we were approaching the river area and we were beginning to spread out, each unit dropping off the road. We finally reached the end of the road and "A" Co. was now the only unit left. Then we were told that we had to occupy the area near the mouth of the river on the extreme right flank, so we moved our platoons into position right up to where the ocean stopped us.

It was fairly flat there and we were not in the best place to defend ourselves and our flank, should Japs launch an attack across the river. "B" Co. was on the left, next to us and on higher ground. They had an advantage which we lacked.

We were then ordered to dig foxholes for protection (time about 6 P.M.). We moved quickly into this area and there was not much time left before darkness would set in (to dig in). We were not too well organized and some guys were almost in front of us, instead of in line. This could cause problems later and did, it blocked our line of fire. The Japs must have heard us digging in and moving guns up and held off attack until well after dark. About 9:30--10:00 P.M. we began to hear voices and noises across the river and sounds of gear being moved. We were again told to stay in positions and not to move around or we would be shot. Anyone moving around would be assumed to be the enemy. Lots of nervous trigger fingers by now.

Suddenly, a couple of muffled "booms" rang out, and Jap mortar shells dropped in on us, then rifle firing to our left.

The attack we were expected to get was beginning up on the ridge, to our left. Japs were attempting to cross the river in force and firing picked up considerably all along the river front. We could hear jabbering and shouting, some screaming, as guys were hit. Tracers were in both directions all over the place, along with mortar shells coming in not too far away. A few minutes later our end of the line was being hit, as Japs coming over sand bars got on our side. Unknown to us, was that some had infiltrated through the line and were behind us, and were directing mortars on the line, with deadly accuracy. Our BARs were working overtime trying to stop them, whether our mortars were busy was hard to tell.

It was very noisy by now, everything seemed

jumbled together. It was so damn dark, we couldn't see what was around us--chaotic. Every now and then a flare would light things up for a few seconds, then black again. They had found us and the whole front line was engaged, firing was continuous and coming from behind us now. We were getting our first experience of what close combat was like. A terrifying fear now that the Japs would slaughter us. Co. "A" was in a bad situation, so near the water in front and on our right. If they were getting by us over the water, we never saw them or heard them with all the noise. We even heard a few rounds go over from heavy guns--whose I don't know.

Suddenly I heard movement behind me and (get this) a voice said something in Japanese, very close by (no answer) and I whirled about with my rifle pointed at the sound. I never got to pull the trigger because I was struck from behind on the throat and neck with cold steel, which dazed me, but instantly, I had presence of mind to grab the blade and pull to the left with my right hand, badly cutting my thumb and index finger, and screamed something "Help me" or "I'm hit". The blade had hit my jaw bone in front on the left hand side, which also prevented further penetration to my throat. I was bleeding pretty bad, I could feel the blood going down the side of and the front of me. All this in seconds, still conscious, when my guys heard me yell, they opened up at once with their rifles. I was their Squad Sgt. and in trouble.

Last thing I heard was the smack of bullets hitting bodies and their screams, then a thud as the Jap over me, fell on me. Another yell from his buddy, then silence. I must have passed out awhile. They couldn't get to me with the battle still raging and no Medic around then, because the Japs were everywhere. They risked being shot trying to get to me. That's how I got trapped, not expecting to be attack from the rear. I later learned that the Japs were in pairs, one had a small radio. They must have been spotters for mortar crews, to direct fire on us.

I finally came to, again to the awful noise and tried to find my First Aid packet. I found it and was able to open it and somehow get a bandage over the wound and pull the collar of my jacket over it. It was enough to stop the bleeding. I had to move the Japs arm to do this, then lost consciousness again from the effort. Next time I awoke it was almost daylight and a few minutes later I could see better. What saved me from being found and finished off, I guess, was the fact that I had two Japs with me and I was partially covered by their bodies. Any others passing by may have figured we were dead. God was with me, I think.

The heavy fighting had stopped by now. Bodies around were mostly Jap. I couldn't see them but guys who came over to help me told me so. After awhile the Japs resumed their attack on our positions and broke through upon the ridge. We got orders to pull out of there. My Platoon Sgt. sent one of my guys down to check on me and get me out of there. He knew by now that I was alive. Meantime our outfit was pulling out and almost left me there.

If they had, I wouldn't be telling this story. Pete got to me about 7 AM finally. I was very weak by this time--loss of blood--partly conscious--covered with blood (Japs had bled on me, plus my own). Wasn't sure I'd make it. Pain was setting in, also from wounds. I had no feeling from wounds when I was cut. He put his First Aid bandage and

powder on top of mine, got me on my feet (which made me very dizzy and sick to my stomach) and we started back toward the Field Hospital, just behind the lines, about 1/2 mile or so.

We had to stop quite a few times because of Jap snipers in coconut trees taking pot shots at us, dangerous for us both as we pulled back. Each time we got down, poor Pete had a hell of a time keeping me moving. At one stop we damn near fell on a well rotted Jap body, he stunk to high Heaven, a grim reminder, moved on. Hadn't passed out again, reached the Aid Station finally and Pete turned me over to waiting Medics. I thanked him for his help and Pete went back to his outfit. I didn't see him again until after the war.

At the Field Hospital, after a long wait, they took me inside, cleaned me up, threw out bloody clothes, dressed my wounds, gave me Plasma, and a shot of Morphine, probably, and I was out again.

I woke up to a sound of noisy motors and discovered I was on a DC 3, evacuating wounded off Guadalcanal. There were about 50-60 of us. Some were in tough shape. We had a Fighter escort for safety reasons. After two or three hours we landed at Naval Air Station Hospital on Espirito Santos. It was my very first airplane trip, which I can't say I enjoyed. They had us strapped in on cots to the side of the Fuselage (could carry more doing that). They got us off the plane into ambulances (Navy, that is) and went to the Hospital, it was a beauty and plenty busy.

Note: Another short story in addition: How they closed my wounds (unbelievable in those days). After a couple of days in the hospital, the doctor finally got to talk to me. He told me delay in operating was due to the more seriously wounded being helped first. That was understandable and gave me more chance to recover from the trauma I had. He explained to me what I had sustained and that surgery would be local and that I would be awake, figured I was strong enough. Instead of general anesthesia he would use Novocain.

They put me in a small room, where I saw an opened dental chair. They put me on it and the Doctor came in and he put a couple of big syringes of Novocain into both ends of the cut. While waiting for the Novocain to work, he explained that he has to do two operations. Close and tie up tendons inside first, which was dangerous, pull the tissue over Jugular, then close with stitches (40-50), then repeat outside, which was much easier to do. Then, pull tissue and skin together to stitch wound, shoot another (40-50) stitches.

He told me also, that another 1/4 inch penetration of blade would have killed me. He worked very fast and kept talking to me. Finally, I was done (2 hours or so). I never found out who he was except he was Southern, John Hopkins Graduate, and very pleasant to talk to. He was good. Then he put me back in a room to rest for a day or so before I was shipped to Fiji to recover, the 9th Station Hospital. I never went back to the 182nd.

As Paul Harvey would put it "Now you know the rest of the story" as to how I experienced the rare incident of surviving a bayonet wound to the throat and being able to tell about it. I received the Purple Heart in Fiji Hospital, around Thanksgiving time 1942.

Re-assigned to 491st QM Depot Co. on Fiji. I went back to Guadalcanal, a second time, early 1944,

quite different from first visit. Sent home from there on rotation, June 1944.

John B. Foisy

VETERAN RETURNS FROM MEMORABLE TRIP TO PHILIPPINES

A long time desire to return to the location where the Americal Division landed 50 years ago in the successful effort to retake the Philippine Islands from the Japanese was satisfied last month by a local resident.

Robert R. Dye has just returned from a memorable trip to the Philippines where he retraced his troop's movements in the South Pacific. He was accompanied by his wife, Barbara, and was joined in Tokyo by his son Dennis, who lives and works in Japan as an Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo.

The experience exceeded all expectations. Although the island of Cebu has grown both in population and economic development, many of the old landmarks were still very much in evidence.

The Americal Division landed at Talisay Beach on the island of Cebu in the Philippines on March 26, 1945. A major battle ensued and many lives were lost on both sides, but resulted in the liberation of the island of Cebu from the Japanese who had occupied the island since April 12, 1942.

On March 26, this year, the city of Talisay held a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landing of the U. S. Troops.

A memory Dye has held uppermost from that period is the tragic death of his friend, another Ft. Gibson boy, Hardy Robison.

The two had been together since October, 1943 when they both joined the Americal Division in the Fiji Islands.

Though from different units of the Division, they had been delighted to run into each other shortly after arriving in Fiji.

They remained together while they moved on from Fiji to the Solomon Islands and Leyte and then on to Cebu. They saw each other frequently and it was comforting to have a hometown friend to relieve some of the loneliness.

In early April 1945 in Cebu, after many days of fierce fighting, the Japanese retreated to the mountains behind the Capitol building.

There was still fighting in that area to clear the enemy from their stronghold in the hills. Hardy was with the advanced observation unit with a walkie-talkie directing the field artillery unit where to aim their fire when he was killed.

The date was April 12, 1945. The following morning Dye was delivering supplies to the area of the fighting when he heard Hardy had been injured.

Dye proceeded to the field medical unit only to be told that Hardy had died several hours earlier.

Later he watched as they placed Hardy in a temporary grave in the place prepared in front of the Capitol building.

(Concluded Next Page)

(Conclusion: VETERANS RETURN)

With permission from Hardy's commanding officer, Dye gathered up Robison's belongings from his tent and shipped them back to his sister, Margie, knowing that otherwise his items would probably never be returned.

A major point of this return visit to the South Pacific was to find Hardy's grave to pay respects.

Having been told years ago that his body had been sent to Hawaii for burial, the Dye's first stop on this trip was Honolulu and the National Cemetery there.

However, upon arrival there, they learned that Hardy was not buried at either National Cemetery in Hawaii.

But it was there that they first learned of the National Cemetery in Manila, Philippines. So that was their next stop.

The Dyes (and now with their son, Dennis) found the cemetery in Manila with the help of a friendly taxi driver. The unexpected surprise was the magnificent beauty of the area.

Its marble walls in a double semi-circle walkway lists about 17,000 servicemen whose bodies were never found.

Seals of the 48 States are inset in the walkway. Large panels depict the different battles which took place in the Pacific area. It was here that Hardy Robison's grave was located.

Although it was an emotional experience, it was rewarding to see that he is resting in such a serene and beautiful place.

Later, in Talisay, the Dyes were given celebrity status by the staff at the city hall.

The brass plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Americal's landing had been removed for storage at the mayor's office to protect it from weather and vandalism.

An office worker carried the large plaque to the beach where the original marble memorial structure was located so that pictures could be taken.

Also, they gave the Dyes a great deal of information and history regarding past and more recent details of the city.

The Dyes hired a local taxi driver for several days to tour the area around Talisay and Cebu City and to cover spots recalled from his WW II days.

It was nostalgic for Dye and gave his wife and son valuable insight to a very intense and important time in his life.

One of the highlights of the trip was the meeting with retired Colonel Manuel F. Segura. He is a Filipino who fought with the guerrillas against the Japanese in the early days of the war and later joined the U.S. Army.

He has written two books describing the history of the Philippines fight to liberate their country.

On two occasions he went to the hotel where the Dyes were staying to visit with them and present them with autographed copies of his books.

He was an extremely intelligent and interesting man who shared numerous pictures and stories with them.

World War II had a significant impact on the lives of millions of veterans and some may have no interest in re-visiting the scenes where the scars of battle occurred.

However, Dye believes this visit has had a cleansing and releasing effect and finding the burial place of his friend, Hardy Robison, made the trip fully worthwhile.

Robert Dye
125 Quartermaster

(This article appeared in the Fort Gibson Times, Oklahoma).

746th AAA GUN BATTALION

The Americal Division on Cebu had a very interesting reaction when it ran into a series of prepared cave positions after driving the Japs out of Cebu City and into the hills on the north and east. The Americal had been in the line on Bougainville, and a message went up to Luzon "Send us some 90s".

A message was sent immediately to the 746th AAA Gun Bn., veterans of Bougainville. They were on Leyte at the time training for the next battle, not realizing it was so close, exactly one month after landing at Leyte we were on our way to Cebu.

At approximately 2000, 6 April 45, the outfit landed in the city of Cebu, we at once got orders to just pull out side the city limits and bed down for the night. I believe that was about the most exciting night I had ever seen. We threw our shelter halves out on the ground and stretched out, without removing our clothes. After everyone had fallen asleep a few Japs slipped through the front lines and set off a large ammunition dump just a few yards from where we were bivouaced. For approximately two hours our area was sprayed with shrapnel, we really were in a spot, no one had dug a fox hole and all we had for cover was the vehicles to crawl under. I think everyone was praying that night that one of those big shells wouldn't come their way. After all had quieted down we found that we had escaped with just a few casualties.

As soon as day light came orders came for us to move into the Americal Division area and set up most of the guns for immediate use as long range ground support for the Infantry, who were having a tough time of it just in front of us.

It's always a choosy job picking front-line gun positions. If the ground is good and you find a bit of defilade, the targets are scarce; in a spot where you can shoot to good effect your gun is usually right out in front of God and everybody. The Colonel for the Infantry Regiment, where we went first, thought the two gun team, which would support him, should go in on the edge of a rice paddy. The position wasn't bad, if a trifle soupy, but there were only two or three targets we could hit worth a nickel. So we went on.

We found what we were looking for just a few hundred yards behind the Infantry outpost line and

(Continues Next Page)

(Conclusion 746 AAA)

right up with their front. The ridge the Japs held opposite the line were lousy with caves and bunkers and pillboxes. It was target heaven.

The Nips must have been watching us move in, just as we were about set up they cut loose with those nasty 20mm guns of theirs. Everyone hit the dirt and stayed there until ordered out by Lt. Hill, of Btry C, who was commanding the gun teams. Every man responded to his commands at once and in record time the big guns were set down and hot shrapnel was flying into the caves. From then on we had the Nips guessing, every time they would roll one of their guns out and start firing our observers would spot them and the 90s would cut loose.

Eventually four gun teams, eight 90s went into the front lines opposite the Jap hillside position. The gun positions were organized as strong points with the Infantry, the guns of each pair being about twenty yards apart. Fire control methods were the same we'd used before--height finders for observing, locating targets and getting initial range. B.C. scopes tied in to give azimuth readings. Guns were laid with azimuth clocks and gunner's quadrant. We used the direct fire sights against moving personnel and vehicles.

We shot up caves, pillboxes and targets of opportunity, destroyed the Japs water supply by shelling their tanks and pipe lines, and supported Infantry attacks. When the main force pulled out of the fortifications and retreated inland we captured a few Jap prisoners and believe me they really were scared of those 90s. They said if it hadn't been for the big guns sealing up their caves and suffocating them, they could have held out for a long time.

Soon the new orders came "move up the Island about 20 miles, the Infantry needs help." They figured there wasn't enough shooting for all the 90s so C Btry., having a good record, was picked to clean the Japs out. The rest of the Batterys were used as Infantry. C Btry, set their guns down on top of a hill where they has a good view of the front lines and caves. The Japs fought back hard. They infiltrated every night and kept the area full of snipers. One of their tricks was to lug in homemade demolition blocks of peiric acid taken from bombs and torpedoes, and fused with two second blasting caps. We'd find them all over the place each morning, set up as booby traps or just lying on the ground where they'd dropped them when fired on. One night a tent, which our men were using, was blown up with one of these charges. Pieces of our personal belongings, bits of packs and clothing and tent were scattered for a couple of hundred yards around. You never heard such a blast nor saw such a flash in your life. Luckily none of the men were in the tent at the time.

While we were on the front lines we would bed down with the battle-wise Infantrymen. We would put our men who were not on duty at night with an Infantryman in a fox hole. A lot of our men were green replacements and the plan saved lives. We had only five men wounded although some were scared so bad they wished they had been wounded so they could go to the rear.

I sure take my hat off to the Infantry. Those boys in the Americal were the toughest, coolest, fightnest guys I've ever seen. The best soldiers in the world, is what we thought. At night we were damn glad they were up in front of us, while we were firing our big guns. They really loved us.

When we were softening up the Nips so they could advance, they would yell like sixty when they saw the pillboxes and caves go up in smoke right before their eyes. When they would come back from the front lines they would stop and shake our hands and thank us for saving them a lot of dirty work. They also liked our little cook, we called "Frank"--"Tony" for short. Wherever we went we always took "Tony" with us, although we had nothing but "C" Rations, we always had hot coffee twenty-four hours a day. If the men were too busy firing to come for their coffee Tony would deliver it with a smile. He always had a cup of coffee for a tired Infantryman and believe me they really enjoyed that cup of hot coffee.

All the time we had men up on the front lines we had a full crew of men back in the rear with our other two guns. The men were made up of the supply Sgt., 1st Sgt. and Headquarters section. They were kept plenty busy firing at long range targets, some of the men had never been on a gun before but they did a fine job. They would ask the Battery Commander time and time again, if they could go up on the front with the rest of the Battery, but were always told they were doing a good job where they were. One man especially practically begged the Battery Commander to let him go with his men, that was our 1st Sgt. (we were from the same town). I guess he was afraid "Pat", our 1st Sgt., might get a little more glory than he. Believe me, I am sure the morale of the men would have been much higher if "Pat" had been along. He always had an encouraging word for you when you thought you were about to give in.

In less than two weeks the Japs pulled out, they had all the 90s they could stand. The front-line guns supported the Infantry rush to clean out the last of them, then moved back with the Battalion and fired long range with the rest of the batteries. We hadn't been in the rear area long when Charlie battery was told they were taking half of their battery and making a beach head on Negro's with the Americal Infantry. This time "Pat" didn't take any chances, he went directly to our Battalion Commander and asked permission to go with his men. The CO said, "Sure you can go, your place is with your men".

The beach-head didn't amount to much, for the Japs had evacuated the city and there wasn't much use for our guns. After two weeks we were shipped back to Cebu where we continued to clean up Japs that were left on the Island. Here we stayed until the war was over, then we were sent to the rear area. Our guns were taken away from us and we were used to pick up Japs as they came in to give themselves up, and the ones who still wanted to fight, we had to go in as infantry and clean them out.

At present we are acting as "Military Police", keeping law and order among the G.I.'s and Civilians. A job that is not too pleasant.

Fifty percent of our outfit had enough points for discharge and we are anxiously awaiting for that boat to come in, so we can get back to that land we love so much. We have had fun together and plenty of hardship and sorrow. The sooner we can get back where we can forget it all, the happier we will be.

Leonard Owczarzak

AMERICAL
Under the Southern Cross

CONTENTS INCLUDE:

- Complete written history of the Americal Division from origin "Under the Southern Cross" through WWII and Vietnam
- Special "war stories" told by Americal Veterans
- More than 300 personal bios of Americal Veterans with before and after photos
- Much More...

THIS BOOK IS TOP QUALITY WITH:

- Hardbound, Color Cover
- Library Quality Binding
- 104 Pages of Archival Paper for superior photo reproduction and longevity
- Large, Coffee-Table Size 8 1/2 X 11 inches

AMERICAL DIVISION



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

SPECIAL SALE PRICE
WAS \$49.95 NOW \$39.95

Americal—Under the Southern Cross

Book Style	Qty.	Price	Total
Standard Deluxe Edition		\$39.95	
Protective, plastic book cover		\$3.00	
Front Line catalog*		\$2.00	
(KY residents add 6% sales tax)			
S/H: \$5.00 for first book; \$3.50 for each additional book			
TOTAL			

Form of payment: ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

AMC-PS-RM-For Office Use Only

City: _____ Amt: _____

Mail to:
Americal—Under the Southern Cross
Turner Publishing Company
P.O. Box 3101
Paducah, KY 42002-3101 • (502) 443-0121

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

CREDIT CARD ORDERS ONLY

LIMITED EDITION
Order While Supplies Last!

JAN 44, BOUGAINVILLE, IBU PERIMETER

The Americal Division Artillery's Cubs played an important part in this operation when a small airstrip suitable for these light planes was hacked out of the jungle at Ibu by Fijians. This field, hacked out of eastern slopes of the Crown Prince Range, eight miles from Mount Balbi, proved valuable to the outpost as a means of rapidly delivering emergency messages and orders and of evacuating sick and wounded.

Lt. Charles W. Cross, one of the two original liaison pilots assigned to the division, took over the most runs to the perimeter, crossing Japanese-held jungles and high, rugged mountains to do so. Between Jan 15 and 26, Lt Cross made an even dozen trips to Ibu. On Jan 27, while returning on his 13th trip, carrying a Fijian officer, as his passenger, a heavy tropical rainstorm caused him to crash into the jungle. Consorted efforts were made to find the wreckage by aerial reconnaissance, but finally the pilot and his passenger were given up for lost.

It was not until the Fijian officer, several weeks later, staggered into a coastal mission northwest of the perimeter that the full story came to light. After having rested and recuperated to some degree, the officer gave his accounts of the crash and the events that followed.

Neither the Fijian or Cross were more than shaken up by the crash, but the plane and its radio were destroyed beyond repair. Although both men were lightly clothed and ill equipped for such an emergency, they headed generally westward toward the coast, hoping to be picked up there. It was not long until the pilot, weakened by illness and

lack of food, slowed down and almost stopped. The Fijian carried him for great distances through the maze of tropical trees and shrubs, weakening himself in so doing. After several days of this, the pair decided to stop and rest, forage for food in the jungle and regain their strength.

Instead, Lt Cross became increasingly weaker, so weak in fact, that he was virtually unable to move. Sensing that he was sacrificing the life of his companion by asking him to stay, he insisted that the Fijian leave him and head for the coast in an effort to send or bring aid. Twice the Fijian left and twice he returned to the stricken pilot's side. The third time, however, he kept going after having made the Lt. as comfortable as possible.

After several days he reached the coastal mission, stammered out his tale and asked that help be sent. With the assistance of the Fijian, a party searched for the airman, but no trace of him was found. It was later assumed that the Fijian, weakened by his ordeal, became confused in his wanderings toward the coast and forgot the route he had taken, thus eliminating any hope of finding Lt. Cross.

As a result, the Division Artillery pilot's name remained on the list of those missing in action. A short time later, for his intrepid work in the support of the Ibu outpost, Lt. Cross was awarded the Air Medal in the first such citation in the Division.

How about that, boys. Doc Merk

Michael Moehrke
23 Med HHC 198th 68-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR THE 1997-1998 YEAR

NATIONAL COMMANDER
Gary L. Noller

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
Edward W. Marsh

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

James C. Buckle Chairman
Alfred R. Doig
William K. Maddox
John H. DeGroot
Robert N. Thornton
Austin J. Roth
Stephen N. Dennison
James P. Meade
John A. Bowley
Malcolm D. Cate Jr.
Brian J. Mulcrone

CHAPTER COMMANDERS - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ernest B. Carlson	South Midwest Region
Terry Babler	Great Lakes Region
Pat Tognoli	Far West Region
Robert L. Granoff	Eastern Region
Ronald L. Ward	Central Midwest Region
Lloyd J. Morell	Northwest Region
Bob Kapp	Southeast Region
Roland T. Castronova	New England Region

CO. "B" 57th ENGINEERS

I started out in Co. "B" of the 132nd Infantry as a private on February 22, 1941. Our 1st Sgt. was Sgt. Peter Raymond Muscarello. Capt. York was our Company Commander. The Lieutenants were Lt. Brown, Lt. O'Dal, Lt. Komromy and Lt. Berry.

I went to Camp Forrest, Tennessee in March for basic training and January 12, 1942 we were on our way to New York harbor to board a ship, "The Cristobal". That was to be a part of Task Force 6814. We left New York harbor on January 23, 1942, destination unknown. It was not until we transited the Panama Canal that rumors started circulating that our destination was to be Australia. The rumors proved true. We arrived in Melbourne, Australia on the 26th of February, 1942. Most of the regiment was transported by train to Ballarat where we were billeted in private homes. We spent a week in training (and enjoying the Australian hospitality, which I would like to emphasize was second-to-none). We were issued summer clothing and transported back to Melbourne.

Maybe some members remember that early breakfast where we had our first scare. It was either a Jap plane launched from a submarine or an Aussie on an early reconnaissance, but we thought it was our first air raid. We loaded up again aboard ship bound for New Caledonia where we landed days later. After about seven days of unloading the ships we marched and were trucked up the island to do outpost duty. I was a Sgt. in Lt. O'Dal's platoon and our area responsibility was in the vicinity of Voh. We later returned to Company control and took up positions for the defense of the Airport at Plains De Gaiacs. About this time there occurred a need for additional officers within the division and the first Officer Candidate School ever held outside the continental United States was established in Noumea. I was detailed to the school and for on-the-job-training to Co. F 182nd Infantry. "F" Company was commanded by 1st Lt. "Moon" Mullins. During the thirty days I was there, he was promoted to Captain. Promotions then were slow, but, boy did they speed up later when we got into combat!! The Company officers were Lt. Goldfarb, Lt. Crain and Lt. S. A. Vinciuillo, the finest Infantry officer I ever knew. Sgt. Jim Lettiere was 1st Sgt.

My tent mates at O.C.S. were Fred Kucera, also from "B" Co. 132nd Infantry, who was shot in the head on Guadalcanal and died in the Veterans Hospital after being flown to the United States; Art J. Lazazzaro, assigned to "A" Co. 182nd Infantry, killed on Guadalcanal; Tom Lynch from the 164th Infantry who was wounded and evacuated to New Caledonia to return to the division and be wounded the second time on another of those wonderful South Pacific islands. These three tent mates were as fine a group as ever lived; physically, mentally and morally, all really outstanding men.

After O.C.S. I reported to "H" Company, 2nd Battalion 132nd Infantry. The Battalion was commanded by Lt. Col. Ferry. Five days later I was ordered to report to the 57th Engineer Battalion, commanded by Maj. Lenox with Capt. Rowan as executive officer. I was assigned to H & S Company as Battalion Motor Officer. The Company Commander was Capt. Joseph P. Driscoll. The other company officers were Warrant Officers Art Sagan and John Tierney; Pat Lecesse was 1st Sgt. and Sgt. Minton was Mess Sgt.

In November we loaded up for our first taste of

combat, Guadalcanal!! Trepidation? You better believe it!! Who there will ever forget Guadalcanal! The comrades we lost! The bombing, nearly nightly! The shelling by day and night! The shelling from the sea, the air raids, "Pistol Pete", "Washing Machine Charlie", sleepless nights, stifling heat, torrential rains, malaria, atabrine, spam, powdered eggs, and of course the fanatic Jap, the reason for it all. The sheer terror we experienced on that island and the relief we felt when the island was secured and we were on our way to Fiji, will be remembered for the rest of our lives.

(Jap transport beached on Guadalcanal. Four Jap transports were bombed by U.S. Forces and were run aground in order to salvage as much equipment and supplies as possible. Picture above).

Fiji - sugar cane, dusty roads, dinky engines hauling sugar cane, Indians, the native Fijians, lawn bowling Australians, the beautiful sunsets, the recurring bouts of malaria, the uninterrupted sleep, except for occasional nightmares, and the preparing for combat with the addition of fresh new men and officers. I was now the adjutant for the Battalion, assigned to Battalion Headquarters, sitting behind a desk shuffling and signing papers.

Just before our departure for Bougainville for further combat I talked the C.O., Lt. Col. Lenox into assigning me to a line company and went to Co. "B", commanded by Capt. Howard V. Elliott. He eventually retired as Major General Howard V. Elliott, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard. Capt. Elliott was hospitalized on Bougainville because of recurrent attacks of malaria and I was assigned as acting C.O. of Co. "B". During this time Capt. Ed Roeder of the 247th Field Artillery Battalion expressed a desire to put a forward O.P. on Hill 260. Hill "260" was some distance forward of the perimeter defense line, and from it there was good visibility into our entire perimeter. It had to be held by us at all costs. The next morning Capt. Roeder and a security detail met me with Sgt. Bill Nickerson and a security detail in the Co. A 182nd area. We went through the double apron, barbed wire concertina and cleared the field of fire and mine field, crossed the Eagle River and walked through the jungle and laboriously climbed to the top of Hill 260. This hill, at that time, was held by a reinforced platoon who got one warm meal a day, carried out to them in Marmite Cans (thermos cans).

Capt. Roeder picked out a tall Banyan tree on the forward slope of the hill for the O.P. His troops were to carry out the lumber for the steps and platform. We engineers were to build the platform and the stairway up to it. The platform was to be large enough for cots for around the clock surveillance, telephones, radios and B.C. scopes. The steps were built up to a platform to about the 130' level, this according to the best recollection of Sgt. Linus Bill Nickerson, who is now a priest in the Catholic Church in Colonial Beach, Virginia.

After the stairs (ladders) and platform were built I climbed up to the platform. The sight was impressive. The scoured-out plain of the Torokina River, which was normally sixty to one-hundred feet wide but had a flood plain fifteen-hundred feet wide, was to the east; the breadth of the ocean was to the south and stretched to the

(Continued Next Page)

horizon; the smoking, rumbling, earth shaking volcano, Mount Bagano, dominated the sight to the northeast. Our whole perimeter was clearly visible when looking in the other direction: the road net work, the airfields, a lot of bivouac areas, the quartermaster and ordnance dumps and the navy at anchor. Our camouflage was practically nil. We knew that we were the masters of all we surveyed, but that was to change on the 9th of March when the Japs attacked, overran the defenses on Hill 260 and captured practically the whole hill and the knob, except for "the tree". Lt. Earl E. Excell of the 246 FABN was killed on the platform and I have been told he called for the artillery to fire directly on his position, because that was where the most Japs were attacking. That, in my opinion, was clearly "above and beyond the call of duty", and certainly warranted a medal. I guess everyone on Bougainville at that time remembers the battle of Hill 260 on which stood the "Million Dollar Tree". Nobody knows how many times it was lost and retaken. Finally, only a denuded hill and a stump about fifteen feet high (the remains of what was once an enormous tree) was all that remained. The Japs finally conceded victory and pulled back to regroup and from then on they only harassed the perimeter, except for one other desperate attempt at penetration where the two divisions linked up, but that is another story! Later Captain Carlin and I were assigned to Co. A of the 57th Engineer Battalion.

By this time members of the Division had been overseas for thirty-two months and there was more transportation available and rotation and re-assignment was possible. Lt. Curtis Clark who commanded Co. "C" of the 57th Engineers was one of the early lucky officers to get chosen to go, and I was put in command of Co. "C". It was about this time that, now Lt. Col. George Lenox was re-assigned and accompanied General Hodge to Hawaii to cadre a new division. Major John Rowan assumed Command of the Engineer Battalion.

While I was commanding Co. "C", Major Driscoll, who had been detailed to Q.M. Battalion, returned to command the Engineer Battalion and Major George F. Lovejoy reverted to Executive Officer. Major Driscoll re-assigned me (against my wishes and despite vehement protests) to Battalion Headquarters, Bn. Liaison Officer, so now back to Headquarters of the 57th.

Our next objective was Leyte in the Philippines where I co-ordinated the assignments of two companies for a short while. I was appointed Loading Officer of an LST for the assault that was to take place on Cebu. Major Joe Driscoll was insistent on getting engineering supplies loaded, especially Bailey Bridge components, which were very heavy. I understated the net weight to get more spans aboard. When fully loaded for departure, we couldn't leave. We sat firmly on the bottom. It took the propeller screws of the ship the entire night to wash the sand away from the bottom of the hull. Cables from ships anchored in deeper waters aided us in finally getting loose from the bottom.

Everyone who was there remembers Cebu City. It was the most modern city we had experienced since Australia, although it had been bombed pretty thoroughly. Headquarters of the Engineer battalion was located in a very modern Coca Cola Bottling building.

The engineering job of opening the airstrip could not be accomplished as we were shelled every time

we moved our equipment out to the strip. Securing the overlooking mountains was a tough job. The Japs had thoroughly mined the area and there were substantial casualties during the assault. After the low mountains overlooking the airport were secured, the airstrip was made operational.



One of four Japanese transports, beached after being bombed by U.S. Forces, in order to salvage as much equipment and supplies as possible.

In the meantime the engineers had made a landing on Mactan, a small adjacent island. There we found an airstrip virtually complete and ready for use. My job was to make the airstrip usable. This was accomplished in short order, as all that was needed was grading and rolling. Accidentally we found that the strip was mined with 100 and 200 pound aerial bombs standing upright. The grader operator just missed running over the top of a bomb and detonating it, but caught it with the end of his blade, unearthing it, thus alerting us to the fact that we had not been given a free gift. All the bombs were finally located with mine detectors and removed with no more trouble. We had this airstrip in operation very quickly. Comedian Joe E. Brown, was entertaining our division and I met him just as he was departing from this airstrip.

Later on Cebu I commanded Co. "B" for a short while when due to a personality conflict between the C.O. of "B" of the Engineers and the Col. commanding the Infantry Regiment, Lt. Col. Joe Driscoll ordered me to assume command of "B" Co. Lt. Bill Rumsey, who joined our Battalion on Bougainville was sent along with me. After satisfying the Infantry Colonel, I returned to Battalion Headquarters and left Lt. Rumsey to command Co. "B".

These are the reasons I think my service was so unique: I had been a Pvt.-through-Sgt. of "B" Co. 132nd Infantry; an Officer Candidate in "F" Company of the 182nd Infantry; a 2nd Lt. in "H" Co. 132nd Infantry; a 2nd Lt. Motor Officer in H & S Co. of the 57th Engineer Battalion; the Battalion Adjutant in HQ of the Engineer Battalion; a platoon leader in Co. "B"; platoon leader of Co. "A"; Captain and C.O. of Co. "C"; Battalion Liaison Officer: C.O. of Co. "B", and back again as Liaison Officer. (Continued Next Page)

(Conclusion - 57TH ENGINEERS)

It was from Cebu, in June of 1945, that I finally left the Americal Division. We were then starting amphibious training for the planned assault on Japan and I figured I had about used up my good luck after forty-two months in the South Pacific. If I had known what was about to happen (the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan) I would have done everything possible to stay with the Division and go with it for the occupation of Japan. However, that was not to be.

After arriving back in the United States and "suffering" my first leave since September of 1941, I was assigned to the Personnel Office of the Granite City Engineer Depot at Granite City, Illinois. This was my last active duty assignment before being discharged. I remained in the Reserves and retired in November of 1966 as a Lt. Col. Engineers, which ain't bad for a plum-dumb civilian, who only wanted to put in his year and a day and only make Corporal before returning to civilian life, but then came Pearl Harbor, and that changed everything forever for a lot of us.

I have been able to attend two reunions of the Americal Division Veterans Association and two reunions of the 132nd Infantry Regiment, and believe me they are heart warming experiences, even though heartache comes when you think of that close friend or acquaintance or foxhole buddy that didn't return.

Victor G. Lander

Ed Note: Victor, I worked with Howard Elliott for a short time after WW II. He worked in management for the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. After leaving the A&P he employed by the Cube Steal Machine Co.

Howard joined the National Guard following his service in World II and upon his retirement he had reached the rank of Brigadier General. He also served as National Commander of the ADVA from 1964 to 1965. Gen. Elliott passed away in October of 1990.

BIG MAC

The month of October marks the 52nd anniversary of Big Mac's fulfilling his promise of "I shall return" to the Philippines. General Douglas MacArthur had a big ego, was vain and pompous, but most of the men under his command were unaware that under all this bravado, he was a very compassionate and caring man, when the safety and well being of the service men under his command was at stake. He was continuously at odds with Marine & Naval Commanders, who were sometimes more concerned with objectives than casualties that could be involved in any new battle strategy.

General MacArthur came from a military family. His father Arthur MacArthur served in the Civil War at the early age of 17 and was classified as a boy hero, when he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He rounded out his service time as one of the youngest Lieutenant Generals of the U.S. Army.

Douglas MacArthur entered West Point at the age of 19, and scored one of the best scholastic records there. He served in the Philippines and Japan and was then appointed Aide to President Theodore

Roosevelt. Serving in the far east gave him valuable insight and extraordinary knowledge of the Oriental psche & values, which was to serve him so well when he had to battle and then govern the Japanese.

During WWI, he served with the famous Rainbow 42nd Division and distinguished himself by earning 13 decorations and being wounded several times.

MacArthur then served three years as Superintendent of West Point, then another three years in the Philippines. Appointed Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, he continually warned of the possibility of war in Europe and the Pacific, and often fought Governmental Agencies that were bent on cutting funding for defense and the weakening of our Armed Forces.

MacArthur retired in 1937 at the age of 57, but worsening world conditions brought him back into active service in 1941. Sent to the Philippines to bolster their defenses, the massive and overwhelming Japanese attacks there soon forced the Filipino and U.S. defenders to a disastrous retreat to the Bataan Peninsula & Corregidor. President Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to evacuate to Australia and take command of the Pacific Forces.

His brilliant strategy of island hopping saved thousands of servicemen's lives by isolating whole Japanese units that would no longer be a threat to AMERICA'S ROAD BACK TO JAPAN AND VICTORY.

He kept his famous promise of "I shall return" when U.S. Forces landed on Leyte Oct. 1944. He was present and participated in the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan aboard the Battleship Missouri.

His fantastic service as Military Commander and strategist was then followed by his compassionate governing of a fallen enemy, earning their respect and admiration.

The out break of the Korean war found MacArthur at the forefront trying to secure a settlement of the vicious attacks against South Korea by the North Koreans and Chinese. A serious disagreement between MacArthur and President Truman as to how to conclude the Chinese involvement in the conflagration brought about his being relieved of his command and returned to the United States, where the Republican Party was considering his nomination to run for President of the U. S., he declined.

At the conclusion of one of his last speeches, he made that very emotional statement:

"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST FADE AWAY."

(Sent in by Leonard Owczarzak--Post Historian)

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I wopuld like to locate someone that served with my brother, Wallace "Jack" McCloud. Jack was killed on March 5, 1945 while serving with G Company, 182nd Infantry Regiment.

Please call me at [redacted] Eugene McCloud

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Did you or someone you know help win World War II?

If you are a World War II veteran who wore the uniform of America's armed forces during that GREAT and noble cause. . .

Or if you played your part on the home front by working in a factory or growing a victory garden.

Then I'd like to commemorate your service to our country by entering your name, or the name of someone you choose, perhaps your mother or father, in the Registry of Remembrances at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

More than 50 years after the end of World War II, America is now building a National Memorial to honor the courage and sacrifices made by a generation of Americans to win the war that forever changed the course of human history.

The Memorial's Registry of Remembrances, a state-of-the-art interactive display of names, will pay lasting tribute by permanently listing as many of the men and women as possible who, together, won the war and liberated the world from the forces of tyranny.

You and your family and future generations of Americans will be able to come to Washington, visit the World War II Memorial on the Mall, and see the name or names you have entered on the Registry.

The American Battle Monuments Commission has been charged by Congress with the task of building America's National World War II Memorial in our nation's capital.

The land on which this majestic Memorial will be built is situated directly between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

The Memorial's design is a worthy tribute to those who faithfully served their country in the defining event of the 20th century.

It will cost approximately \$100 million to move the earth, haul tons of marble and stone, and construct the magnificent edifice that will honor forever those who participated in the war---both on the battle front and on the home front.

The construction of the Memorial will be funded primarily by voluntary contributions from private citizens like you and me.

That is as it should be. For those who served in World War II or helped on the home front, volunteerism and sacrifice were the order of the day. WE ALL PULLED TOGETHER TO WIN.

For my part, I am honored to assist in this long overdue effort. And I have very special reasons of my own for helping.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, I was just a boy of eight. At first, I was too young to really understand what happened. But as the weeks, months and eventually years passed, my own family and the whole neighborhood became actively involved in the war effort.

We rationed and recycled precious articles needed for the war---shoes, gasoline, scrap metal, rubber, even sugar. I remember trading in my tin can full of spent .22 shell casings, in the

fervent hope that our soldiers could reload them and use them against the enemy!

My father spent almost every weekend writing literally hundreds of letters in longhand to the neighborhood boys who were now off to war, just to keep their spirits up.

We were planting victory gardens. Buying War Bonds. And getting by on less, because we knew our troops needed these things more than we did. Their lives depended on it.

Millions of women went to work, many for the first time, riveting together ships and planes, making everything from parachutes to combat boots. Some took the places of the husbands and brothers who went overseas to fight.



Never before or since has our country shared such a bond of common purpose and determination.

After the war was over, and I pursued a military career, I had the privilege of serving under the men who fought and won World War II. As a result, I learned about World War II in a way that most stateside Americans never knew.

I have heard the horrors of Pearl Harbor described by men who were there. I can still hear the anger in their voices as they recall their determination to confront this act of aggression.

I know veterans who hit the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, not knowing if each step they took would be their last. Yet they pushed on into the face of blistering German gunfire.

And there are countless tales of bravery:

Rescuing a stranded sailor in the South Pacific under a hail of bullets. Gaining half a mile of rocky ground in Italy when your hands and feet are so cold you couldn't even feel them. Flying deep into enemy territory to trade .50 caliber rounds with the Luftwaffe.

To this day, the heroic achievements of the World War II generation never fails to inspire me. They set the standards for courage under fire, against any which any soldier, sailor, airman or marine can be proud to measure himself. Many made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We grieve for them to this day.

Why would anyone or any nation pay such a price?

We did not enter this war to seize territory or gain power over the lives of others. We were fighting for freedom. Not just for ourselves, but for the whole world.

Tyranny was on the march and it had to be stopped. We did not start this war but we were determined, as a nation, to end it.

Today, over 50 years later, I consider it my duty to share the lessons of World War II so that future generations of Americans never forget.

Those soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, the doctors and nurses, the factory workers and every one else on the home front, deserve their place in history---before their heroic efforts are lost in a generation too young to know or remember.

That is why I am honored to help the American Battle Monuments Commission build the National World War II Memorial in tribute to those who helped preserve our freedoms and secure world peace.

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was chartered by Congress in 1923. Under the leadership of Gen. John J. Pershing, the ABMC was assigned the task of constructing memorials to honor our armed forces who fought in Word War I.

Today, the ABMC maintains in perpetuity the permanent cemeteries for many members of the U.S. armed forces killed on foreign soil---surely some of the most beautiful cemeteries in the world.

But it was not until 1993 that Congress authorized the ABMC to build a World War II Memorial in our nation's capital. I invite you to join with me in establishing this long overdue Memorial.

First, you may enter a name in the Registry of Remembrances without cost or obligation. Enter your own name, or that of someone else, just as long as that person helped in some way to win World War II, whether at home or abroad. Both veterans and civilians are encouraged to register.

Next, to help us raise the \$100 million we need to build the Memorial, I urge you to send a contribution of \$20, \$35 or \$100.

With your gift of \$20 or more, you become a Charter Member of the World War II Memorial Society, and you receive:

The World War II Memorial Newsletter with stories about the war and its participants, both in battle and on the home front, plus up dates on the Memorial's construction.

A Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging your financial support, and listing any names you enter in the Registry.

A personal Charter Membership Card to identify you as someone who stepped forward to help build the Memorial.

If you send \$35, you also receive the beautiful World War II Memorial Lapel Pin. Wear this pin proudly to help spread the good news that the World War II veterans and home fronters are FINALLY getting the memorial they deserve.

For a contribution of \$100 or more, you also receive an Artist's Rendering of the Memorial, suitable for framing. This large scale image will make a handsome addition at home or work.

★ THE WORLD WAR II
REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES ★

Anyone who helped win the war, either a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry of Remembrances. You may enter your own name, or the name of someone you wish to honor for their service to our country during the war. The Registry of Remembrances will be kept on permanent display at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., to ensure that the names of these Patriotic Americans are recorded in history for all time. Please complete or check all that apply, if information is available.

Honoree's name: _____

Hometown: _____ State: _____

Honoree is: ☐ World War II Veteran ☐ Civilian on the Home Front

Honoree is currently: ☐ Living ☐ Deceased ☐ Killed in World War II

Service Branch, if applicable: _____

Brief description of wartime activity: _____

Your relationship to Honoree: _____

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you!

If you wish to register more than one name, please make copies of this form and return with the original. Be sure your name and address appears on all copies.

Building this Memorial is a big job, and \$100 million is a lot of money. But when you consider the task faced by our nation in 1941, how could we do anything less today?

On behalf of everyone who contributed to the greatest military victory in history, please join with us by sending your gift of \$20, \$35, or \$100. Thank you so much.

Gen. Fred F. Woerner, USA (Ret)
Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission

P.S. Use the enclosed Enrollment Form to enter a name on the Registry of Remembrances -- your name or that of someone who helped win the war, whether at home or abroad. And please send your contribution to help us build America's National World War II Memorial in our nation's capital.

LAST CALL LAST CALL LAST CALL

AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Worcester, MA

June 19-20-21-22, 1997

\$75.00 - 1-4 Person
Reservations Call [REDACTED]

Any questions contact:
Adj. Bernard Chase
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
[REDACTED]

THE PRESIDENT COOLIDGE SHIP IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

In early March of 1942, the 164th Infantry Regiment (North Dakota National Guard Unit) boarded the Coolidge for shipment to the South Pacific. There was also an aerial photo squadron on board. Their P-38 airplanes were carried on the top deck. These planes were painted sky blue on the underside and camouflage colors on the sides and top. This type of plane was new to most of us. Incidentally, all of our earlier fighter planes on New Caledonia were P-39's mostly a stripped version, that the U S had been building for Great Britain.

The Mariposa passenger ship from the Matson Line and the USS Chester, a heavy cruiser, completed our convoy, and we proceeded southward and met the Cunard liner, Queen Elizabeth, which had departed from the east coast and came through the Panama Canal.

Our convoy made its way southward to the Marquesas off the coast of South America, where a tanker was waiting, which refueled the Queen Elizabeth. The Queen was built for Trans-Atlantic crossing and did not have sufficient fuel capacity for crossing the Pacific.

Ordinarily, the USS Chester led the convoy, but sometimes it would go along the side of the three passenger ships. The Elizabeth being the fastest always led, followed by the Mariposa, and then the Coolidge, which was the slowest vessel.

The remainder of the convoy was then met by a World War I destroyer that had been transferred to Australia in the Lend Lease plan. It was a 4 stacker, The Ajax, which proudly led the convoy into the Tasmanian Sea. As the sea got rougher, the Ajax was along side the convoy. Finally it was behind, as waves completely washed over its deck. Eventually, both troop ships went off and left the Ajax.

The Coolidge traversed the Murray River at night, going to Melbourne. There were several times when the ship scraped on the bottom of the river.

The 164th Infantry remained on the Coolidge, and there had reportedly been several ideas or plans as to where we were to be sent. One possibility often mentioned was Perth on the west coast of Australia. After about a week on the Coolidge, the regiment was moved to three Dutch ships that had been operating around the Dutch East Indies. The ship's officers were Dutch and most of the crewmen were Javanese. It was decided to send the regiment to New Caledonia to help keep the supply lines open to Australia.

While we were in Melbourne harbor, the Japanese were bombing Port Moresby daily. Frantic calls came over our P A system regularly asking for anyone who had experience with the Hamilton adjustable pitch airplane propeller to please step forward.

The 164th Infantry became the 3rd Infantry Regiment in the newly formed Americal Division. They were the first Army troops to go on the offensive against Japan on Guadalcanal.

In San Francisco, the 164th had been issued both tropical and arctic clothing. I had been given heavy woolen underwear, woolen outer garments, heavy gloves with an opening for the trigger finger, 4 buckle overshoes, etc. as well as the tropical cotton clothing available at the time.

The Coolidge had been a luxury passenger liner and cargo ship sailing to Japan. The huge ballroom was still intact and was only used for storing barracks bags, trunks, and such. The ships lockers and pantries, still contained their choice cruise line foods. The officer's mess was served by the white-jacketed civilian waiters and new ship menus were printed and used each day.

Incidentally, the small Dutch boats had not been converted to troop ships, and still had choice foods and also printed menus daily.

On its second trip to the South Pacific, the Coolidge came to Noumea in New Caledonia in October 1942 and was only there a day or two. It was my duty to see that all radio operators secured their equipment to prevent unauthorized use. I went out to the Coolidge for this purpose, and while there, I met a former college friend and classmate. That evening, I ate in the officers mess as his guest. The menus and white-coated civilian waiters and printed menus were gone. The troop capacity had been increased, and the huge ballroom had bunk beds all the way to the ceiling and was now a full fledged troop ship.

The Coolidge departed for Espirito Santos the next morning and within two or three days, it was resting on the bottom of the harbor of Espirito Santos after striking two mines in our Navy's minefield that had been installed in the harbor.

The Captain headed his ship into the shore after the damage. It was beached on a narrow shelf and remained there while everyone, except for an Army Captain serving as troop mess officer and a ship crewman, was able to reach safety before it slid off into deeper water.

In 1994, I visited Noumea and found that a travel agency there offers diving tour groups to the Coolidge. If interested, contact Maxwell R. Shekleton of Center Voyages, B. P. 50, Noumea, New Caledonia. Phone 28-40-40.

Carl R. Lauritsen

WWII VET KEEPS SIGNIFICANCE OF WAR VICTORY ALIVE
A Company 132nd Infantry

It was 50 years ago today that Japan offered its unconditional surrender to the Allied forces, ending the most wide-reaching conflict in history.

For Americans who lived through it, both those who fought and those who kept the stateside vigil, World WarII was part sadness, part glory.

For some who came of age after the war, the war is just black and white images in a TV dovcumentary or a yellowed scrapbook.

Edmund Kueker of Waterloo is one World War II veteran who uses his personal relics, clippings and expansive memory to keep the significance of the Allied victory fresh and accessible. His mementos include battle helmets, blood stained rocks, spent casings, Japanees swords and much more. His barn is a make-shift museum.

"It's another generation," Kueker said, "There's no way I can tell you what these people went through or what it's like to get shot."

Kueker said that modern historians have mollified Japan's role in World WarII.

K COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

According to a diary I kept during WW II it is true that K Company, 182nd Infantry was on the New Hebrides. We boarded a Dutch ship at New Caledonia on September 12, 1942 and landed in the New Hebrides on the 21st.

The President Coolidge was sunk in the Hebrides during our stay their.



The "Triple Threat" trying to get into his World War II uniform at the ADVA picnic a couple of years ago.

My unit left the New Hebrides on December 11, 1992 and arrived on Guadalcanal on the on the 13th. On the 24th of February 1943, K Company was unloading ships and were taken to Tulagi. The following day we returned to Guadalcanal and were told we missed a good show put on by Joe E. Brown

We boarded the ship Clymer on 23 Mar 34 and arrived in the New Hebrides two days later. Left here on the 26th and arrived on Fiji on the March 29, 1943.

Ed Note: In a conversation with Leo just before this letter was written, Leo told me that he was a triple threat during the war:

Shooting Pool
Shooting the Bull
Shooting the Rifle

If you mailed your tickets for the Scholarship drawing and they were returned, Please remail to:

PNC Ronald L. Ward
St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

(I really loused up that deal by putting the wrong steet number on the return envelope. Please get me off the hook and send in that donation NOW. I want Ron to be speaking to me at the Reunion).

Jim Buckle

"Everyone knows the atrocities the Germans committed, and they did horrible things," he said. "But the Japanese were as bad. You don't hear much about it."

Kueker recalls first-hand accounts and published reports of the Japanese military's beheading Allied prisoners of war and the brutalization of civilians across the Yangtze valley in Southeast Asia.

"Some vicious things went on that a lot of people don't know about," he said.

He suggests the U.S. government's seemingly amicable disposition toward Japan stems from a need to maintain an ally in a part of the world dominated by Communist China and the former Soviet Union.

To Kueker and others, recent events indicate that an openly apologetic attitude toward the former enemy is held in some circles.

He noted an ABC news documentary spin on former President Harry Truman's decision to drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6, 1945 and Aug. 9, 1945, respectively.

Kueker conceded that dropping the A-bomb was a cruel act, but he weighs the 70,000-80,000 Japanese lives lost against other scenarios.



"I was laid up wounded at the time (the American high command) was preparing to invade Japan. I knew then---everybody in the service knew---that if we attacked the Japanese on their own homeland, it would have cost millions of lives. They'd have fought us down to the last little 10-year old kid, if we'd have landed there." he said.

Kueker said that the United States realized no tangible gain from the war's outcome.

"As far as ending up with more than we had after it was over, we gained nothing. But we stopped the German aggression and the Japanese aggression. What would've happened if we hadn't done what we did would have been the real question."

By Joe Leicht
Staff writer
(Taken from Monroe County Clarion Journal)



James C. Buckle

[REDACTED]
Harwich, MA 02645

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

Address Correction Requested

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 1997

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

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Americal Unit Rgt/Bde _____ Bn _____ Co _____ Other _____ Associate _____

Dates of Service _____ Serial/SSN No. _____

Occupation _____ Name of Spouse _____

Date _____ Signature _____

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