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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

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Vietnam Editor: John R. McKnown Jr.
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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION- P.O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



AMERICAL REMEMBERED - MEMORIAL DAY
WOODBURY, NEW JERSEY

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Chapter Coordinator Austin J. Roth [REDACTED] Westlake Village, CA 91362	Exec. Council Member Brian Mulcrone [REDACTED] Des Plaines, IL 60016	Headquarters Americal Division Veterans Association [REDACTED] Boston, MA 02104	

Final Comments



In 1970 I was a lonely and frightened PFC in the hot and humid jungles of Vietnam. I didn't think that I would ever make it out of the war without suffering some severe consequence. I am happy to say that due to the care and support of those who were there with me, I made it home in good shape.

I have always considered my buddies in Vietnam to be the greatest people that I have ever known. It is hard to believe that anything will ever be able to change my

A Few Words of Gratitude

The ADVA would not be able to prosper if it were not for the selfless efforts of many dedicated Americal veterans, family members, and friends. I would like to take this time to recognize some of those whose contributions have been especially helpful to me.

Jim Buckle, Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Executive Council, prepares, prints, and mails the newsletter. The last mailing filled 26 boxes. Bernie Chase, National Adjutant, keeps records for over 3,500 members. Bernie's in and out box is always flooded. Rick Olson, National Finance Officer, disburses payments from the treasury and maintains a watchful eye on our financial health. Ed Marsh and Ron Ellis represent the association at various functions around the country and will lead us in the coming years.

The Executive Council members hold the ultimate responsibility for keeping the association on course. The Regional Commanders and Reunion Committees offer members opportunities to get together and enjoy each other's company. The National Chaplains provide for our spiritual strength and comfort.

Joe Chin serves as Treasurer of the Scholarship Foundation and as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. His personal support has been very helpful. Ken and Jan Turner do a great job of handling product sales to members and serving at the museum.

The Membership Committee recruits prospective members and encourages their participation. The museum staff and volunteers help preserve our heritage, tradition, and artifacts for others to enjoy.

mind. I would not have what I have if it were not for those that helped me survive those most difficult of times.

I often thought how nice it would be to live on the same block with all my Vietnam buddies and share our lives today as we did back then. I know this is far from reality, but it is something interesting to think about.

For the past ten years I have been a member of the ADVA and have been able to meet many veterans of the Americal Division. I have found that while we may not have been in the same unit or even in the same war, we continue to share many common interests. It has been great to be able to add many more names to my best buddies list.

As a PFC in Vietnam, it never occurred to me that I would someday be honored by holding the position of National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association. It has been an extremely rewarding and satisfying experience.

I hope that in some small way I have been able to serve and honor the veterans of the Americal Division. I look forward to being able to contribute my efforts to the association long into the future. Please accept my thanks for allowing me this opportunity.

W. Mark Durley and Les Hines have singular interests in collecting and preserving facts about the Americal Division. Ron Ward heads the Scholarship Foundation and represents the ADVA at many events.

Rollie Castronova is an outstanding recruiter of new members. His assistance in the t-shirt sale is extremely valuable. Jay Roth keeps the e-mail group alive on the internet. Don Ballou is exceptional in his efforts to contact prospective members via internet contact.

Tony Greene, Greg Noller, and Kevin Sartorius make it a joy to establish and maintain the ADVA web site at www.americal.org. Dutch DeGroot uses his graphic and printing skills to provide much needed resources and ideas. He is also my unpaid therapist.

Lloyd Morrell is my sponsor and offers quick and thoughtful responses to my questions and proposals. Bill Maddox appointed me to my first post and is a constant supporter. Ernie Carlson reminds me to have a heart and hug some one. He also allows me to enjoy his wife Fay's delicious Armadillo eggs.

My close friends and supporters, such as Larry and Gloria O'Boyle, have invite me to their homes and make me a part of their families. Friendships such as these are very dear.

The members of the association allow me the honor of holding leadership posts, and give me suggestions and words of encouragement and thanks.

Joe Feeler, James Nufer, and Dave Recob, departed Americal veterans, are my inspiration, and, for the most part, exemplify the reason that I have try to do the best that I can on behalf of the veterans of the Americal Division. My sincere thanks to all.

Goal reached for funding the Nimitz Museum plaque

Mr. Malcolm East, Treasurer, South Midwest Region, reports that sufficient funds have been raised to acquire and install a plaque at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. The design of the plaque, which honors WWII veterans of the Americal Division, has been submitted to the museum for approval.

Members of the ADVA were very generous in their support of this project. A plaque dedication ceremony is planned in conjunction with a chapter meeting on July 4, 1998. The South Midwest Region is considering a proposal to host the ADVA reunion in 2000. A visit to the Nimitz Museum with an appropriate memorial ceremony is also being discussed.

If you would like further information on visiting the Nimitz Museum, contact Ernie Carlson, Chapter Commander, [REDACTED], Fredericksburg, TX, 78624.

1999 Reunion in St. Louis

The 1999 ADVA reunion will be held June 17-20 at the Radisson Hotel-St. Louis Airport. The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association will also have its reunion at the Radisson at the same time. This promises to be another good reunion for members of both associations. Additional information will be published as it becomes available. Keep these dates on your calendar open!

ADVA receives data entry support

The ADVA would like to acknowledge the fine efforts of Fran Fierson, Associate Member. Fran has volunteered to transcribe data from print to computer files. These files will be used in newsletter articles and in composing diskettes of Americal Division history.

Fran has recently transcribed articles about the Americal Division from The Army Reporter. These articles have been obtained by Les Hines, Vietnam Historian, and are part of the information that Les will send to interested parties via electronic media.

Sep. 17-20 scheduled for Kokomo

The Howard County (IN) Vietnam Veterans have scheduled the 16th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion for September 17-20, 1998. This is one of the oldest and best Vietnam veteran reunions in the country. The Americal Division is always well represented at this event and 1998 will be no exception. The Great Lakes chapter is scheduling a meeting to be held at Kokomo.

The sponsors of this reunion are currently in the process of purchasing a plot of land for the reunion. In past years the reunion has been held at a couple of different sites. By purchasing the land, the organization will be able to make permanent improvements that will enhance the reunion. If you would like more information or you want to be added to the mailing list, write to Howard County Vietnam Veterans, Inc., [REDACTED], Kokomo, IN, 46904-6104, or call [REDACTED].

T-Shirts prove to be popular items for Americal veterans

The current t-shirt promotion has proved to be a big success. In the past six months the ADVA has sold approximately 500 t-shirts, most by mail order. Four different designs in popular sizes are being offered.

Ken and Jan Turner have been kept busy filling orders. Ken suffered a mild heart attack a few weeks ago but is now doing very well. He is determined to continue with his product sales efforts. He credits his wife Jan with being very helpful in this endeavor.

If you are interested in t-shirts or other ADVA products, please contact Ken. Descriptions of items will be made available in the Americal Newsletter from time to time. Some items will be for sale at the national reunion in June..

POW/MIA Flag display is made law

The display of the black and white POW/MIA flag on patriotic holidays at federal buildings and Post Offices is now the law of the land, following President Clinton's signing of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act.

The POW/MIA provision was sponsored by Congresswoman Jane Harman of Torrance, CA. She stated "On future patriotic holidays, when Americans everywhere see the POW/MIA flag above their neighborhood post office and at other federal buildings, they will be reminded of our continuing commitment to the servicemen and women who remain unaccounted for in our nation's wars."

Under Harman's POW/MIA flag provision, the number of Federal sites where the flag will be flown is expanded to include Post Office, selected military bases, and selected war memorials in Washington, D.C. It also requires that the flag be flown on specific national holidays associated with patriotism: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Items found in your mailbox

ADVA members recently received raffle tickets for support of the Americal Scholarship Foundation. This is the primary fundraising effort of the foundation for the year. Your contributions to foundation is greatly appreciated. Awards to qualified students will be announced at the annual reunion in Orlando.

Enclosed with the election ballot was a membership survey form. You are asked to return this survey even if you chose not to vote in the election. The results of the survey will be used to improve the association.

Nebraska veterans plan reunion

The annual Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be held August 13-16, 1998 in Columbus, NE. ADVA member Rich Smith, 23rd M.P. Company, is an organizer of this event and invites veterans to attend. For more information, call [REDACTED].

AMERICAL DIVISION FLAG NOW AVAILABLE

The Americal Division Veterans Association has for sale a limited supply of Americal Division flags. These flags are approximately 28" x 40". The top half of the flag is Old Glory Red. The bottom half of the flag is Old Glory Blue. Centered on the flag is a 13" representation of the Americal division shoulder patch. This flag is constructed in accordance with official designations.

The flags are dyed NYL-GLO nylon and are manufactured by the Annin Co., one of the largest flag manufacturers in the United States.

The flags are offered in three styles: canvas header to attach to a lanyard (\$38), tubular sleeve to slip over a staff (\$40), and tubular sleeve with gold fringe (\$50). The prices include mailing costs.

To order a flag, send check or money order to Gary L. Noller, National Commander, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO 64114. Please state the quantity and styles that you wish to order. Please do not send cash. Profits from the sale of the flags will be forwarded to the regional chapters to help fund their activities.

VA Clarifies Rules For Health-Care Enrollment

Washington, D.C. -- In response to incorrect information distributed by others on the Internet, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is clarifying recent changes regarding veterans' eligibility for health care.

VA is required by law to establish an enrollment system for health-care services to be in place by Oct. 1, 1998. While veterans must be enrolled to receive care, it does not mean that veterans who have not applied for enrollment by that date will lose their eligibility for VA health care. Veterans can apply and be enrolled at the time they are in need of VA health care. Veterans who have received VA health-care services since Oct. 1, 1996, will have an application processed automatically on their behalf.

Applicants will be placed in one of seven enrollment priority groups specified by Congress. Based on the priority they are assigned, the number of other veterans requesting to be enrolled, and the funds available for VA health care, VA will determine how many veterans can be served. Veterans will be notified by mail beginning in late spring whether or not their application for enrollment has been accepted.

After Oct. 1, 1998, some veterans may still be treated without being enrolled. Veterans with service-connected disabilities may be treated for those disabilities, and veterans who were discharged or released from active duty for a disability incurred or aggravated while on active duty may be treated for that disability within the first 12 months after their discharge.



Veterans who are classified as being service-disabled with a rating of 50 percent or greater will continue to be eligible for VA health-care services without making application for enrollment.

While veterans in these categories do not have to be enrolled to be treated, they are encouraged to do so to help VA plan its services and allocate its resources.

Those who are enrolled will be eligible for inpatient and outpatient services, including preventive and primary care. Other services include: diagnosis and treatment; rehabilitation; mental health and substance abuse treatment; home health, respite and hospice care; and drugs in conjunction with VA treatment.

Veterans accepted for enrollment will be eligible to receive care at any of VA's more than 1,100 service sites. While enrollment must be renewed every year, a veteran's enrollment will automatically be renewed unless he or she chooses not to re-enroll, or unless VA resources limit the number of veterans the department can cover. Certain veterans will be asked to provide income information annually in order for VA to properly classify them within the enrollment system, as required by law.

To apply for enrollment, veterans should call, write or visit their nearest VA health-care facility. Most facilities have designated special enrollment coordinators to assist veterans and their families, and to answer any questions they may have.

3/11/98

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

JUNE 25, 26, 27, 28, 1998
NATIONAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
(TIME AND DAY TO BE ANNOUNCED)

NO MEETING IN JULY

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 19, 1998
AMERICAL MUSEUM
WORCESTER, MA
10:00 A.M.

REINSTATED

Mr. Dale J. Belke 11 LIB B/1/20 Inf Brodhead, WI #Terry Babler	Mr. Henry Breckenbridge 196 LIB A/E/1/46 In Jennings, OK #R. Castronova + Fred
Mr. Mark T. Butler 182 Infantry M Co. Pepperell, MA #Self	Mr. Santos S. Chalmers 11 LIB A/B/4/21 Inf Sturgis, SD #R. Castronova
Mr. Grover E. Clark 101 QM Ser Co Colorado Springs, CO #Self	Mr. Kevin B. Conway 23 Div Hull, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. Robert R. Crews 182 Infantry Hd/1 Phoenix, AZ #Bernie Chase	Mr. James H. Durrant 198 LIB M.P. Oshkosh, WI #R. Castronova
Mr. Nathan A. Embry Jr. 198 LIB 11 Inf Pittsburg, PA #Non-Lister	Mr. Jeffrey B. Graves 82 Arty Needham, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. Wallace Grivois Jr. 23 S+T Bn B Co. Grand Isle, ME #R. Castronova	Mr. Ernest T. Hollis 101 Eng Harwich, MA #R. Castronova
Mr. Herbert Langlois Jr. 11 LIB West Roxbury, MA #R. Castronova	Mr. Avery J. Leger 164 Infantry B Co Rayne, LA #R. Castronova
Mr. Richard Leonard 11 LIB C/3/18 Arty Waupun, WI #Bill Maddox	Mr. Charles H. Mathes 132 Infantry K Co. New Castle, IN #R. Castronova
Mr. Gary Mello 23 M.P. East Boston, MA #R. Castronova	Mr. John J. Moran 11 LIB A/1/20 Inf Dumont, NJ #Ron Ward
Mr. James N. Mortimer 196 LIB C/1/82 Arty Killeen, TX #William Maddox	Mr. Fred W. Nessler 198 LIB 1/14 Arty Verona, NJ #R. Castronova
Mr. Daniel Newcomb 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf Bay, MI #Memb. Com.	Mr. John O. Newman 221 FA Springfield, MA #Bernie Chase
Mr. Stanley K. Pasay 23 M.P. Newfields, NH #R. Castronova	Mr. Donald Pittsley 23 M.P. South Barre, VT #R. Castronova

Mr. George W. Rhoden 11 LIB C/1/20 Inf Glen St. Mary, FL #Bernie Chase	Mr. John L. Rorabaugh 26 Sig Lancaster, PA #Larry LeFever
Mr. Kurt W. Schmidt 11 LIB 3/1 Inf Lyme, NH #R. Castronova	Mr. Mathew R. Spearing 198 LIB HHC 5/41/In Bangor, ME #R. Castronova
Mr. Randolph M. Wright 196 LIB C/3/21 Inf Birmingham, MI #R. Castronova	Mr. James W. Zawatski 82 F.A. C/3/82 Ridgeway, PA #Craig Singer

	TAPS	TAPS	TAPS
UNIT UNKNOWN			221 FA HDQ BTRY
Wendel Adams Tatum, TX April 1998		Edward S. Alekel Methuen, MA April 4, 1998	
246 FIELD ARTILLERY			221 FIELD ART B BTR
William D. Baggett Lakeland, FL February 12, 1998		Gilbert G. Boucher Walpole, MA January 28, 1998	
182 INFANTRY H CO.			182 INFANTRY
Robert E. Butcher Lakeland, FL March 1998		Angelo R. Cataldo Vero Beach, FL Date Unknown	
182 INFANTRY I CO.			182 INFANTRY F CO.
Joseph Cerchia Seaford, NY March 1998		Kenneth Coburn Waltham, MA May 2, 1998	
196 LIB D/1/21 INF			39 MILITARY POLICE
Ralph E. Durain Jacksonville, AR April 30, 1998		George J. Medeiros Sr. Somerset, MA February 2, 1998	
23 DIV HDQ HHC			182 INFANTRY H CO.
Jimmy R. Miller Lenoir City, TN October 6, 1997		James P. Noonan Somerville, MA March 3, 1998	
132 INFANTRY D CO.			721 ORDNANCE L/M Co
Marion P. Paske Roby, TX August 23, 1997		Jack Shapiro Salt Lake City, UT Date Unknown	
1 CAV C TROOP 67-68			221 FIELD ARTILLERY
Michael Tino Southfield, MI October 1997		John T. Woodworth Hingham, MA June 11, 1996	

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

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. David A. Alfred Non-Listed Dayton, NV #Don Ballou M.C.	Mr. Jesus Almaraz 196 LIB 17 Cav F Tr Brownsville, TX
Mr. Albert Anderson Jr. 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf Manning, SC #Castronova-Ed Hayes	Mr. Claude W. Balkey 132 Infantry M Co. Orland Park, IL #R. Castronova
Mr. David H. Banister 23 Medical B Co. Farmington, IL #Don Bailou	Mr. Rodney W. Benad 196 LIB A/2/1 Inf Pleasant, TX #Ernie Carlson
Mr. Harris Bonnell 82 Arty 1/82 Burleson, TX #Memb Com Don Ballou	Mr. William H. Borling 182 Inf M-K Co. Hartwell, GA #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Richard L. Brock 335 Trans ADC North Port, FL #Garry L. Noller	Mr. Skip Brownfield 174 Avn 11 LIB 3/1 Elizabethtown, IL #Memb Com Don Ballou
Mr. Wayne M. Bryant 196 LIB C/1/46 Inf Greensboro, NC #Ron Ellis	Mr. Donald J. Bugos 198 LIB 11 LIB HHC Canton, IL #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Thomas M. Burkhart 1 Cav F/8 570 TC Malvern, OH #Gary Noller	Mr. William Cahill 196 LIB C/1/46 Inf Rochester, NY #Castronova-Ron Ellis
Mr. Richard A. Cheshire 11 LIB A/4/1 Inf Rootstown, OH #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Randy Cline 11 LIB A/1/20 Inf Galesburg, IL #Self
Mr. Frank E. Cohee Jr. 23 S+T Lakeland, FL #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Dean Cooper 198 LIB C/5/46 Inf South Bend, IN #Leslie Hines
Mr. Roy Cordingley 198 LIB C/1/46 Inf Boise, ID #Dennis Crouse	Mr. John D. Creamer 164 Infantry A Co. Longview, TX #R. Castronova
Mr. Nolan Cross 11 LIB B/3/1 Inf Ravenna, OH #Gary L. Noller	Mr. James P. Curran 164 Inf 1st Bn Med Worcester, MA #Paul E. Dickerson
Mr. Rad F. Dedham 26 Engs El Paso, TX #R. Castronova	Mr. Thomas Dube 16 Arty B/3/16 Black Canyon, AZ #Tony Percoskie
Mr. Larry C. Duca 11 LIB B/3/1 Inf Akron, OH #Bernie Chase	Mr. Thomas C. Dunnigan 132 Infantry K Co. Niles, OH #Max Hartswick
Mr. Tommy D. Dyson 1 Cav H/1/1 Waycross, GA #R. Castronova	Mr. W. Allen Eades 198 LIB Newton, NC #R. Castronova
MS. Beverly Ann East Associate Lumberton, TX #Malcolm East	Mr. William C. Elliott 11 LIB D/3/1 Inf Winchester, OR #Brian Mulcrone

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

Mr. Wayne G. Finkral 198 LIB HHC/1/52 Colorado Springs, CO #Bernie Chase	Mr. Willis A. Fleming 196 LIB St. George, UT #John Anderson
Mr. Robert E. Frank 147 Infantry Sandusky, OH #R. Castronova	Mr. Michael E. Frost 198 LIB 11 LIB Antioch, CA #Memb Com Don Ballou
Mr. Lou Gallob 198 LIB Security, CO #R. Castronova	Mr. Ken Gates 198 LIB Warren, IL #R. Castronova
Mr. Lannie D. Gilbert 198 LIB A/1/6 Inf Richmond, VT #R. Castronova	Mr. Lanny Gillilands 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Rougement, NC #R. Castronova
Mr. Chuck Grimesey 198 LIB E/46 Inf Blue River, WI #R. Castronova	Mr. Philip T. Hade 11 LIB D/1/3 Inf Elwood Park, IL #Brian Mulcrone
Mr. Leonard B. Harootun 11 LIB C/1/20 Inf Lockport, IL #Gary L. Noller	Mr. James A. Harris 196 LIB F/17/Cav Clinton Township, MI #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Herbert L. Hatfield 82 Arty D/1/82 Union, MO #Allen R. Bates	Mr. Paul Henner 198 LIB D/1/46 Inf Kaukanna, WI #R. Castronova
Mr. Charles R. Hensley 196 LIB B/1/46 Inf Willow Wood, OH #Brian Mulcrone	Mr. Byron K. Higby 21 Infantry D/3/21 Bremerton, WA #Memb Com Don Ballou
Mr. Richard E. Hill 11 LIB B/3/1 Inf Kent, OH #Memb Com Don Ballou	Mr. Anthony D. Hollins 198 LIB 16 CAG Palmdale, CA #Don Ballou
Mr. mark C. Hughes 11 LIB B/1/20 Inf Beltsville, MD #Dale J. Belke	Mr. Julian C. Humphries 196 LIB HHC/3/21 In Lawton, OK #John Anderson
Mr. Victor Jasinski 198 LIB D/1/46 Inf Amherst, OH #R. Castronova	Mr. Roscoe Jones Jr. 46 Infantry B/1/46 Asheville, NC #Self
Mr. Franklin Keels Jr. 23 MP Denver, CO #Brian Mulcrone	Mr. Frederick C. Keihn 55 Arty Btry G (MG) Lake Winela, PA #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Rick Kerrigan 198 LIB South Weymouth, MA #R. Castronova	Mr. Jack Kickave 198 LIB A/1/46 Inf Jonesboro, IL #R. castronova
Mr. Gordon K. Kitts 198 LIB C/1/46 Inf Tazewell, VA #R. Castronova	Mr. Robert H. Kraft 11 LIB A/1/20 Inf Albany, NY #R. Castronova
Ltc. Thomas E. Lasser 14 AVN Bn Los Almitos, CA #Non-Listed	Mr. Robert Lawson 132 Infantry F Co. Marion, IN #Don Ballou
Mr. Peter L. Lawson 11 LIB D/E/4/3 Inf White Riv Junction, VT #Don Ballou	Mr. Marc A. Laxer 11 LIB HHC/4/3 Inf Fall River, MA #Gary L. Noller

Mr. James M. Leach Jr.
196 LIB C/1/46 Inf
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#R. Castronova

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178 ASH Heli Co.
Denver, CO
#Bernie Chase

Lt. Daniel J. Mack
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Broomfield, CO
#R. Castronova

Mr. Alvin E. Malloy
23 Div Hdq
Bronx, NY
#Gregory R. Parris

Mr. Richard L. McLennan
23 Div Sup Com.
Lawton, OK
#Non-Listed

Mr. Ronald Moran
198 LIB B/1/14 Arty
Saginaw, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. Arthur C. Nelson
132 Infantry A.T.
Elmhurst, IL
#Don Ballou

Ltc. Edward L. Oliver
198 LIB Hq
Sumeres, SC
#R. Castronova

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Auburn, ME
#Robert E. Miller

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Simi Valley, CA
#R. Castronova

Ltc. Everett I. Perrin
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Crescent City, FL
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Ervin Powell
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#R. Castronova

Mr. Ramon Gill Ramirez
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San Pedro, CA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Erich Risch
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#R. Castronova

Mr. Anthony L. Rone
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#Castronova-Ed Hayes

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Annnville, PA
#Don Ballou

Sgt. Ev John M. Lindena
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Federal Way, WA
#R. Castronova

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Mt. Storm, WV
#Joe Cravens Jr.

Mr. John Mackey
198 LIB 1/52 Inf
Temple, TX
#R. Castronova

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Brookfield, IL
#Don Ballou

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63 Cav
Bellerw, FL
#R. Castronova

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Sumeres, SC
#R. Castronova

Mr. Nathan C. Parsley
196 LIB
Lafayette, LA
#R. Castronova

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196 LIB E/3/21 Inf
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#None Listed

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#Neil Hannan

Mr. Ardl Michael Reynold
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#Don Ballou

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Baker, LA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Louis F. Rudolph
182 Infantry A Co.
Palmyra, TN
#Robert Thornton

Lt. Terry W. Sams
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Greenville, SC
#R. Castronova

Mr. James G. Sanchez
723 Maint B Co.
Antonito, CO
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Thomas Schneider
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Allaince, NE
#R. Castronova

Mr. Wilbur Schwartz
182 Infantry D Co.
Pewaukee, WI
#Bernie Chase

Mr. James E. Sheridan
8 Cav F Troop
Gulfport, MS
#Don Ballou

Mr. Neil R. Spencer
196 LIB A/E/3/21
Farmers Branch, TX
#Memb Com Don Ballou

Mr. Wendall K. Strode
11 LIB
Bowling Green, KY
#Self

Mr. Leroy Tawps
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Thonotsassa, FL
#R. Castronova

S/Sgt. Lynn M. Toussant
23 Admin
Sterling Heights, MI
#R. Castronova

Mr. Tim Vail
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Roanoke, VA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Ivey N. Youmans
132 Infantry K Co.
Schenectady, NY
#Don Ballou

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Larry Dakken
1 Cav HHT-Ex 69-70
Mayville, ND
#Self

Mr. Frank M. Mantua
1 Cav C Troop/1
San Jose, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Col. Henry Ricci M.D.
132 Infantry Reg HQ
Walnut Creek, CA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Domingo Vasquez Jr.
75 Infantry G Co.
San Antonio, TX
#Memb. Committee

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
TOMORROW MAY BE TO LATE.

SFC John T. Schlitt
198 LIB HHC
Napperville, IL
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Richard A. Schroeder
196 LIB HHQ Recon
Canandaigua, NY
#Robert Miller

Mr. Earl Shelbourn
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Valentine, NE
#R. Castronova

Mr. Terry A. Sifford
15 MI 504 Bde
Waco, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Paul B. Stimson
132 Infantry Reg Hq
N. Fort Myers, FL
#Don Ballou

Mr. George C. Strom
57 Eng. A Co.
Astoria, OR
#Robert Van Osdal

Mr. John C. Taylor
57 Engrs C Co.
Marco Island, FL
#Carlo Pola

Mr. Rick Turner
18 Arty Ser/3/18
Whitehorse, Yukon, CANAD
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Leonard Villano
196 LIB
Deerfield, IL
#R. Castronova

#SPONSOR

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

James M. Carroll

Scott G. Bernie

Louise M. McGoldrick
in memory of
Harry Corliss

Evelyn E. Witkofsky
in memory of
Victor A. Witkofsky

Donald D. Hall

WATCH YOUR MAIL!

The raffle tickets for the 1998 Americal Scholarship Foundation are now in the mail and every member should have received a book of raffle tickets. We urge you to participate since this is a worthy cause. Any contribution that you make to the Scholarship Fund is tax deductible.

If you are not a gambler you can donate ten dollars, (\$10.00), of the money you saved when you gave up smoking.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

Remember, the Americal Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization and any contributions made to this Fund are tax deductible. If you have any ideas for a fund raiser to support the Foundation please contact me and we will work out the details.

Remember, this Fund is set up as a Memorial to all men that served in the Americal Division. If you have any ideas, suggestions, complaints, or desire information on the Scholarship Fund, do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Applications are closed for 1998. However is not to early to start thinking about 1999. Please write to me at the above address for an application and the necessary qualifications.

IF YOU KNOW OF A MEMBER WHO HAS PASSED AWAY OR THAT IS SICK PLEASE NOTIFY:

ADJ. BERNARD CHASE
[REDACTED]
SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664

OR CALL: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

It is compulsory to be a paid up member of National before you can join a Chapter. However, Chapters hold regional get-togethers and this provides an excellent opportunity to meet members and also perhaps meet and old buddy.

It is also necessary for Chapters to charge dues because they are financially independent from National and must raise their own expenses.

JOINT VETERANS COMMITTEE MIA/POW FLAME MEMORIAL MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL CEMETERY

The final design of the MIA/POW Eternal Flame Memorial, being built at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, on Cape Cod, has been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C..

The Eternal flame Memorial will be built in three phases on a scenic site adjacent to the Administration building and will have as its centerpiece an eternal flame mounted on a beautiful black-marbleized granite stone surrounded by appropriate foliage. A memorial walkway will include a 25 foot flag pole installation for flying the MIA/POW flag.

Phase 1, was completed for Veteran's Day ceremonies, 9 November 1997, it included excavation, gravel, stone, and the flag pole - all presented with that of a finished appearance.

Phase 2, Donations are still needed for this stage of construction. This phase schedule for completion by Veteran's Day, November 8, 1998 at 1:00 P.M. and will include the Memorial, the Flame, and the plantings.

Phase 3, scheduled for completion on Memorial Day 1999, will be a publicly accessed computer located in the Administration building of the Cemetery, listing available names and information of the MIA/POW's from World War II, through all the wars to the present time.

The Administration building will also house four (4) 18" by 34" wall-mounted plaques, each containing 100 1"by 3" brass plates listing the names or organizations of donors who contribute \$125.00 or more. Donations of any amount are welcome. A bound, indexed book of names and sponsors will be located in the Administration building for public viewing.

Please make checks out to MIA/POW ETERNAL FLAME MEMORIAL and mail to:

William F. Mason Jr.
MIA/POW Eternal Flame Committee
Massachusetts National Cemetery
[REDACTED]
West Wareham, MA 02576-0171

Your help is greatly needed and appreciated as we work to make this long overdue Memorial, the first in a National Cemetery, a reality.

Our sincere thanks from the committee.

William F. Mason Jr. Francis F. Carmichael
MIA/POW Memorial Chairman Joint Veterans Comm.

COMPANY D - 132nd INFANTRY

Did You Know Marion Paske?

Marion Paksy died on August 23, 1997 at the age of 72. His widow, Donna Paske, would like to hear from any of the men that her husband served with during the war in the Pacific. Please write to:

Mrs. Donna Paske
[REDACTED]
Roby, Texas 79543

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER SEC/TREAS
 Robert L. Granoff Bill Gold
 Collegeville, PA 19426 Baltimore, MD 21209
 Phone [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]

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

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

1998 CHAPTER REUNION 1998

September 15 - 16 - -17, 1998
 Harper's Ferry, West Virginia

A difficult time was had in deciding on a place for our yearly fall Reunion but we finally settled on Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. September 15, 16, 17, 1998 are mid-week days, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, which is a change from our usual get-together days. However, we have found we can save some money by going mid-week instead of over a weekend. Plans so far include a visit to the Harper's Ferry Historical area and a luncheon and afternoon at the Charlestown Race Track and Casino. Hoping we will leave there with some smiling, winning faces.

Detailed information will go out to our Chapter members in early June. Any member of the ADVA who cares to join us is welcome. Drop me a note or give me a call and I will send you all the necessary information.

It would be great if we could have a good turnout for this Reunion, particularly a real good showing of some of our Vietnam veteran's and their families. Come on guys - we need to know you and we could use your to help in keeping this Chapter alive and well.

We have a member of our Chapter who is presently hospitalized and would appreciate hearing from his friends. William E. (Doc) McCormick is presently in the V.A. Hospital in Philadelphia. Please send all cards or notes to his daughter at:

Barbara Cathers
 Philadelphia, PA 19152

Sincerely,
 Bill Gold

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

COMMANDER SEC/TREAS
 Roland T. Gastonova Carlos A. Pola
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
 Peabody, MA 01960 Sandwich, MA 02563

The New England Chapter has made a donation to POW/MIA Memorial at Bourne National Cemetery.

Dues are now due.

SEE YOU ALL IN ORLANDO JUNE 25-28, 1998

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR NATIONAL DUES YET?

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

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

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

On February 9, 1998 our Chapter set up a stand at the 'Moving Wall' in Marble Falls, Texas. The 'Wall' was sponsored by V.F.W. Post 10376, Marble Falls, Texas.

Our guest book was signed by about thirty (30) people and we had the opportunity to meet several Chapter members that we had not met in person before. Also we passed out several A.D.V.A. applications.

We must give thanks and any support possible to the people that take the 'Moving Wall' to small towns around the country. I am quite sure that most of us will never be able to see the original 'Wall', but as everyone said that I talked to -- "Go to the 'Wall' -- it is an experience.

I am really surprised and pleased that we raised the necessary money in time to have the dedication of the Americal Plaque on this coming July 4, 1998. Once more we will have a float in the annual parade. A Chapter meeting and social will follow.

Wear your C.I.B. - Americal patch -- and a smile.

Hug somebody,

Ernie Carlson
 Chapter Commander

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

COMMANDER SEC/TREAS
 Robert (Bob) Kapp George P. Dakin
 Tampa, FL 33615 Deltona, FL 32728

As Chapter Commander I want to welcome all of the Chapter members and also all members of the Americal Division Veterans Association to the National Convention in Orlando, FL on June 25, 26, 27, 28, 1998.

Chapter member, PNC Tom McQuade, Chairman of the National Convention, has put a lot of time and effort into making this Convention a success. Many thanks to him and his committee.

COME ON DOWN!

Yours in comradeship,
 Bob Kapp

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

196th Light Infantry Brigade is Re-Activated at Ft. Shafter, HI

The following e-mail communication was forwarded to the ADVA by Mr. Ken McKnight, Editor, 196th LIB newsletter.



LZ Bayonet Home of the 198th LIB (1969)

Army Considers Re-Activation of 198th Light Infantry Brigade

The Infantry Training Brigade (ITB) at Ft. Benning, GA is considering the possibility of changing its unit designation to the 198th Infantry Training Brigade. Such a move would carry on the lineage, history, and traditions of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade. The 198th LIB was one of the three brigades that made up the Americal Division.

Capt. Duane Melvin, Assistant Adjutant,

ITB, is seeking information about the 198th LIB. Such

information will be beneficial

in the discussions of the renaming of

the ITB. He is especially interested in locating

any former brigade Commanders and brigade Command Sergeant Majors.

The mission of the ITB is to train soldiers in Infantry tactics and doctrine. This includes Basic Combat Training as well as advanced courses. Ft. Benning, GA has long been the home of the Infantry and the Infantry School. It is located near Columbus, GA.

Capt. Melvin has contacted the ADVA for assistance. Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, has been asked to assist Capt. Melvin in obtaining historical information about the 198th LIB. If you would like to contact Capt. Melvin, he can be reached by writing to Commander, Infantry Training Brigade (ITB), Attn: Capt. Duane Melvin, HQ Infantry Training Brigade, Ft. Benning, GA 39105 or you may call him at [REDACTED]

When asked for additional background information, Captain Miller replied "We did some research and found three brigades that had a distinguished lineage in the Pacific area of operations. Of the three we decided upon the 196th. We felt this was a great brigade that represented the professionalism and dedication with which we would be proud to be associated.

"The mission of the brigade is to train and assist Reserve component units in the Pacific Theater attain and maintain the highest levels of training, logistics, maintenance, and readiness. The Army calls brigades such as this "Training Support Brigades." The Army made a decision a year back to give all Training Support Brigades a number designation from a historical brigade.

"The brigade is comprised of 106 soldiers divided into four battalions, three infantry and one forward support battalion. An infantry battalion is located in Alaska, another in Guam, an one in Hawaii, with companies in American Samoa and California. The forward support battalion is in Hawaii.

"The commander of the brigade is COL Ronnie W. Tucker. COL Tucker is a Vietnam vet who has served in a variety of command and staff positions since 1970."

Mr. McKnight,

My name is CPT Ken Miller, I am a brigade adjutant stationed at FT Shafter, HI. I would like to inform you that my Brigade is going to reorganize and we will be known as the 196th Infantry Brigade, effective 26 May 1998. I require your assistance in getting this word out, as we would like to invite as many members of the Brigade to Hawaii for the reflagging ceremony.

We are honored to have a chance to break out the colors of a Brigade such as the 196th and want to share this ceremony with as many members as possible. The reflagging is scheduled for 26 May 1998 at 0900. The ceremony will take place at Palm Circle, the parade field, FT Shafter, HI. I am the point of contact for this ceremony and am here to assist any soldier who cares to attend this ceremony.

Thank You,
 CPT Ken Miller

REUNIONS

178 A.S.H.C. THE BOXCAR REUNION 178 A.S.H.C.

FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA
July 30, - August 1, 1998

Some of the activities that are being planned can be accomplished during weekday Ft. Rucker duty hours only. That's why the dates above show Thursday as the arrival date.

For full information write or call:

Larry Busbee
[REDACTED]
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
Tel [REDACTED]

COME BACK TO MOTHER RUCKER!

"F" TROOP - 17th CAVALRY

Planning Reunion for 1999. Site to be announced later. Contact:

Bob Janicek
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, WI 53219

ATTENTION
VIETNAM AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS
LZ BLACKWELL
August 29, 1998

The third annual South Carolina Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be held in the Weston lake Recreation Area, Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC.

For more info write:
Vietnam Veterans of Americal Chapter 303
[REDACTED]
Columbia, SC 29202

Or call Frank - [REDACTED] - Evenings

LONG BINH JAIL
(Vietnam-1971)

I am seeking anyone familiar with the part of Long Binh Jail known as "Steel City". I spent six weeks in a Conex there and need verification. A Conex was a 6'x 6'x 8' steel box.

Please write or call:
James G. Ford
1288 Davidson Drive
Memphis, TN 38116
Call: [REDACTED]

A COMPANY - 123rd COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

I am looking for anyone that might have served with my brother, Earl F. Hicks. He was a door-gunner in A/123 CAB from Sept '69-Aug '70.

In am interested in any/all missions, information, etc. Please contact:

Russell K. Coleman
[REDACTED]
El Reno, OK 73036

C COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 46th INFANTRY 198 LIB

'Walking Point', an Infantryman's untold story, was written by Mike Cunningham of Norwood, Mass. This is the unit with which Mike served his time in Vietnam.

Mike has the knack of 'telling it like it was'. The language is somewhat salty at times but this is about an Infantryman and their life -- and that is the way 'it was'.

This book is about the life of an Infantryman from the time of induction until the return to 'the world'. This book is about the good times, the bad times. It expresses the feeling of the hot humid weather, slogging through the mud. It has the fear and anxiety of 'walking point' on a jungle trail. It has the exhilaration of conquering an enemy and the anguish of losing a comrade. It has the feeling of the men of the front line who face death everyday -- the feeling of men who live a primitive life at times -- the feeling of loving and losing comrades.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this book write to:

Michael H. Cunningham
[REDACTED]
Norward, MA 02062

TWO NEW RELATED ILLNESSES
PROPOSED FOR SERVICE-CONNECTION

The VA, following the release of a comprehensive study on maladies possibly related to exposure to Agent Orange, is drafting regulations to grant service-connection for two new conditions---Hodgkin's disease and a skin condition known as porphyria cutanea tarda. Following release of the study, VA Secretary Jesse Brown said, "I have ordered that we move as quickly as possible to develop and publish regulations" on the two illnesses. He also directed the VA's Veterans Benefits Administration to contact veterans on the Agent Orange registry and urge them to apply for benefits.

Brown also agreed that additional studies and research needs to be conducted to help determine the increased risks of disease among Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides. More than 19 million gallons of herbicides were sprayed over South Vietnam between 1962 and 1971. Most large scale spraying took place from the air, but a considerable amount was done from boats and ground vehicles and by soldiers carrying back-mounted equipment.

The study, ordered by Congress under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and conducted by a branch of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), found that three types of cancer---soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease---have a "statistical association" with exposure to Agent Orange. A statistical association does not prove that exposure caused certain disorders, but indicates that a link is likely. The 18-month study, which focused on available scientific and medical literature on Agent Orange, also found an association with another skin condition, chloracne, which along with soft-tissue sarcoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is already granted service connection by the VA.

The NAS study also found "limited or suggestive evidence" of an association between exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam and three other types of cancer: respiratory cancers, prostate cancer, and multiple myeloma. There was insufficient scientific data to determine an association for bone cancer and leukemia and disorders ranging from birth defects to nervous system disorders. The study concluded there is "no association" between gastrointestinal cancers and brain tumors.

The Chairman of the committee that reviewed the scientific literature, Harold Fallon, M.D., of the Institute of Medicine, noted that the committee held three public hearings to allow veterans to voice their concerns, and received information from veterans' groups, congressional committees, federal agencies, scientific experts and the public in compiling the report. The committee targeted 230 epidemiological investigations of people who were exposed to herbicides.

The findings were hailed by both the DAV and members of the House and Senate Veteran's Affairs Committees. Testifying before the House Veterans' Affairs committee in early August, DAV Assistant National Legislative Director for Medical Affairs, David W. Gorman said, "This is a landmark day. For it can now be said that Vietnam veterans and those caring individuals dedicated to ensuring Vietnam veterans and their families, receive what they believe they are entitled to from the VA, finally have received answers to questions that have long eluded reasonable resolution." Gorman also cited Congress' oversight role regarding Agent Orange, and both NAS's and Secretary Brown's commitment to the issue.

Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller, IV (D-W.VA.), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, characterized the release of the findings as a "red-letter day" in the history of the Agent Orange issue. "For the first time, an independent review of the scientific evidence shows there is a clear association between Agent Orange exposure and five diseases. It further shows there is a likely relationship between exposure and several additional diseases....These are incredibly important findings". He added "The report also suggests that further epidemiological studies are possible and should be done, now. This is enormously encouraging."

Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee who has taken the lead on the Agent Orange issue, said, "The quality and comprehensiveness of the report...suggest to me, for the very first time, veterans and the American public have solid reason to believe that their concerns about exposure to Agent Orange, dioxin, and other toxic chemicals are being taken seriously by people in a position to help address those concerns."

Vietnam veterans who believe they have health problems that may be related to their exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam should contact their nearest DAV National Service Office.

(Taken from the DAV Magazine).

COMPANY B - 3rd BN. - 1st INFANTRY - 11 LIB

I am writing this letter in regard to a fellow veteran and friend. His name is Gary Patrick Judice. If it seems short and blunt, please excuse me, because time is the one thing, God forgive me

for saying, Gary does not have.

Gary served in the United States Army from 11 January 1967 to 2 December, 1968. Sometime after Basic and AIT, Gary was sent to Vietnam. his MOS being 11B20 Light Weapons Infantrymen.

Gary was stationed with Company "B". 3rd Bn. 1st Inf., 11th Bde. Americal Division. While in Vietnam, Gary performed duties compatible to his position as a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol/Army Ranger. Gary's Vietnam Tour of Duty was by in large served during the 68 TET Offensive.

After being Honorably Discharged, Gary worked for many years until an injury forced him to go on disability. Gary had to cash in on whatever insurance and savings he had to survive.

Gary is a Charter Member and Officer of Veterans of the Vietnam War, Post NY-10, Babylon, NY, for the past four years. Gary has also held a membership with the American Legion, Babylon Post #94, NY, for the past 18 years. Gary has served on numerous committees and is currently a member of The Board of Management for Babylon Post #94, Gary is also a member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #193. Gary has helped countless Veterans through these organizations

While in service to his country, Gary attained the rank of Specialist fourth Class (E-4), and was awarded the following (known):

- Combat Infantry Badge
- Army Commendation Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal w/Silver Star
- VCM with 2 O/S bars
- Sharpshooter Badge/Small Arms

Gary has been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in recent years, and is currently 50% service connected disabled.

Gary, like many other Veterans, was exposed to defoliant chemicals. The most widely known of these being Agent Orange.

Gary is rapidly dying of inoperable liver and lung cancer. Gary has very little time left.

Unfortunately, Gary has no insurance. So in thinking, where to turn; where else can a Veteran turn to, but other Veterans. Please help us help Gary, who has helped so many in his life.

Please send any donation you can to help defer the costs of Gary's funeral. All donations can be made out to the VVn Post NY-10, 22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY, 11702.

Any donation received is greatly appreciated by the membership of the VVnW, as well as Gary's wife.

If donations received exceed what is needed for Gary's Wake and Funeral, a Burial Fund will be established in Gary's name so that Veterans with no insurance can get buried with the Dignity and Honor they deserve.

Thank you and God Bless.

E. A. Hotchkiss
Cmdr. VVnW Post NY-10
Adjutant-American Legion
Babylon Post#94

Vietnam Women's Memorial Project

The Americal Division Veterans Association has made a contribution on behalf of all ADVA members to the Vietnam Women's memorial Project. The following are excerpts from letters that were received in response to that contribution.

If you wish to make a personal contribution, mail it to Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc., 2001 S Street NW, Suite 302, Washington, D.C. 20009.

February 24, 1998

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the generous donation of \$100.00. We are grateful as this gift helps retire the construction cost of building and installing the memorial which so beautifully honors America's daughters who served during the Vietnam war. Together with the "Wall" and statue of the Three Infantrymen, the Vietnam Women's Memorial completes the circle of healing at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The sculpture, designed by Glenna Goodacre, reflects the legacy of the women who served. It leaves a tangible, lasting reminder of men and women in service to this country and the consequences of war.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project (VWMP/Project) is committed to honor and remember the thousands of civilian and military women who served during the Vietnam war. The Project continues to work on behalf of Vietnam women veterans through its education and outreach programs, and helps facilitate research that involves the women who served.

Again, please accept our grateful appreciation for your support.

Sincerely,

Diane Carlson Evans, Chair and Founder
Vietnam, 1968-69

2-18-98

Dear Gary,

I want to send you a personal note of thanks for the generous donation from Americal, for your wonderful letter, and for your offer to help with the fundraising event sponsored by General Cinema.

Gary, I also want you to know about the upcoming Vietnam Challenge documentary which will air on NBC Memorial Day Weekend (check your local listing.) I was with the Challenge team- we rode bicycles from Hanoi to Saigon. At Chu Lai, I told the film crew about Sharon Lane and recited a poem written about her death. This story may or may not be in the final 2 hour documentary.

Again, all my thanks.

Diane Carlson Evans

Army nurse killed by enemy rocket

From The Army Reporter 23 June 1969 -

CHU LAI - An enemy 122mm rocket fired at the sprawling military complex here struck down the first Army nurse to die as a result of hostile fire in the Vietnam conflict.

The rocket impacted near a heavily populated 312th Evacuation Hospital ward and also killed a Vietnamese child, while wounding 25 other Vietnamese civilians, a military policeman, and a medic.

The Army nurse, Lt. Sharon A. Lane, 25, had arrived at the 325-bed 44th Medical Brigade facility on April 29, and immediately assumed duties as a staff nurse in the Vietnamese ward.

"The ward consists of two Quonset-type huts shaped like the letter 'H,'" said Capt. John D. Medlin, Jr., commanding officer of the 312th Evacuation Hospital Detachment. "The rocket exploded in the open area between the sides of the 'H' and tossed shrapnel through both walls."

The impact came at 5:55 a.m., one hour and five minutes before the nurse's 12-hour 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. night shift would end. "All the patients were sleeping," said Lt. Patricia E. Carr, the staff nurse who shared night duty with Lt. Lane.

"We were just relaxing before staring to wake the patients up at 6 a.m.. I was sitting behind the desk and Lt. Lane was sitting on an empty bed when the rocket hit,"

Three other rockets landed one mile south in the South China Sea, while another exploded in an empty field nearby.

Maj. Bruce Lippman was the first doctor on the scene. "I was walking to get some early coffee when I heard the explosion. I couldn't tell where the rocket had landed until I saw a number of Vietnamese running around crying. Then Lt. Carr took my arm, and we went into the shattered ward."

"Nurse Lane dies within seconds of being hit by a piece of shrapnel which entered through the throat," the medical officer added.

Lt. Lane's immediate superior at the hospital, Capt. Lorraine W. Monte, said the blonde, brown-eyed girl was an excellent nurse. "She was always so kind to people and listened to them with compassion. She liked the Vietnamese, and they appreciated her tenderness and concern for them."

"After she had worked in the Vietnamese ward for about six weeks, I asked 'Missy Lane' (That was her nickname) if she would like a transfer," remarked the head nurse. "She replied that she liked it here and wanted to stay." The chief nurse at the 312th, Lt. Col. Minnie Sue Walker, reiterated that the petite Lt. Lane was a very good nurse.

"Lieutenant Lane served of the staff of Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver before coming to Vietnam, the chief nurse said. "She fit in beautifully. She was sweet, quiet, and willing to work."

After 26 years, brothers in 'Nam meet again

From the Texas VVA Veteran

John "Doc" Henyan and Larry Barnett have that "special bond" as they walk together. Why, you may ask? They were buddies 26 years ago in Vietnam, sharing the same poncho half hootches in the field. Though they spent time together in Vietnam, much of it in the field and in heated combat, the two lost contact with each other for nearly 27 years. Then, by fate, they bumped into each other accidentally on August 10, 1996 in Springfield, Illinois.

This is how it happened, according to "Doc," as Barnett affectionately calls his former hootch buddy. On August 10, 1996, after 27 years and a couple of days, former Army Specialist 5 John S. Henyan, Medic of HHC 3/1, 11th Brigade, Americal Division attached to A Company, 2nd Platoon, met up again with his old hootch buddy Sgt. Larry (Big Foot) Barnett from Lubbock, Texas, now living in Fritch, Texas.

Henyan had traveled with VVA Chapter 299 members to Springfield, Illinois, for ceremonies to follow the State Convention on VVA Councils. On arrival at convention headquarters "we (Honor Guard Members) walked around till we found the meeting rooms. We sat in on the meeting and listened to the speaker. "I heard the President mention the speaker's name, 'Larry,' and that he was from Texas and that he was the President of the VVA in Texas."

I made mention to Len Peters, our Honor Guard Captain, that the guy's voice sure sounded familiar, that it sounded just like the Larry (Big Foot) that I shared a poncho half hootch with in the bush in 'Nam! "Then I got a side view of him and started to shake. I got real excited and antsy. I walked over to Larry's chair, squatted down and said 'I was with A Co. 3/1, 11th Brigade in 'Nam and I was the medic for the 2nd Platoon. I had a friend named Larry Barnett, who was the RTO for artillery.' He said, 'You're talking to him!'"

"That was it! He jumped up, I grabbed him in a Bear Hug, and we just shook! It's hard to explain the rush of feelings I had at that moment or since then. We turned around, the place was dead silent. I explained to everyone that I had hootched with this man for five and one-half months and we covered each other's asses, along with the rest of our platoon."

We had a really nice reunion for a day and a half. We both put on a little weight. He still has all his hair, mine is leaving slowly. He has three grown kids and is happily married. I'm divorced with two great kids.

We now call each other about every other week and exchange pictures and such. It is a great feeling finding someone after so much time. It still seems unbelievable, but it's true. Thank God! And to think, I almost didn't go to the convention."

Book Review

Hostile Fire: The Life and Death of First Lieutenant Sharon Lane by Philip Bigler. Vandamere Press, Arlington, VA, 1996.

An enemy rocket exploded in the midst of the 312th Evacuation Hospital on the morning of June 8, 1969. 1LT Sharon Lane was killed instantly in the attack. She thus became the first and only woman killed in the Vietnam war as a result of direct enemy action.

The 312th Evac was located in Chu Lai near the Americal Division headquarters. Its neat and utilitarian buildings were situated on the craggy bluffs above the South China Sea. The 312th was a stateside reserve unit sent to Vietnam to render aid to the most seriously wounded. Once the wounded were stabilized and able to be moved, they were transferred to hospitals outside of Vietnam.

1LT Lane, a native of Canton, OH, chose to be an Army nurse and volunteered to go to Vietnam. She was diligent in her duties and proved herself to be up to the arduous demands of the combat zone. Her tour of duty lasted only 40 days.

In Hostile Fire, Philip Bigler does an outstanding job of detailing the activities of Lane and other hospital personnel. He taps a variety of resources to include the letters that Sharon sent home as well as personal accounts of those that served with her.

Lane was attracted to nursing as a chosen career. She decided to pursue this career as a Army nurse. After military training at Ft. Sam Houston, she was posted to a stateside hospital. She volunteered for Vietnam out of a sense of duty and for adventure.

The medical personnel of the 312th were not unaware of the dangers of serving in the combat zone. Enemy rockets were frequently aimed at the sprawling Army base in an effort to harass the American troops. The base was also rumored to be a favorite target of any impending enemy offensive.

ADVA member Amy Lazar of Kansas City was a Red Cross social worker at the 312th at the time of Lane's death. Lazar kept a personal journal that was cited several times in the book. Lazar was jolted from her bed by the impacting rocket and suffered cuts and bruises.

Bigler gives a good description of the history of the development of Chu Lai as a prominent U.S. military base. Hostile Fire includes several pages of pictures and maps that will be of interest to Americal veterans. His descriptions of the Americal headquarters compound and hospital area will ring familiar to those who passed through them.

This book is a must read for those who desire a better understanding of all facets of the Vietnam war. It provides a fine detail of the sacrifices that were required of those whose mission it was to care for the casualties of war. It is a fine memorial to Sharon Lane.

Looking For: 2nd Lt. Guinette or Gwenette, 2nd P.L. 3/1 11th LIB, '68. Contact: Frank Hickman [REDACTED], Lakeville, Mn. 55044

Looking For: Tom Coppinger, anyone, Co. E 3/1, 11 LIB; 8/69-10/70; Contact: Jim Thomas [REDACTED] Olathe, KS 66062-2410

Looking For: Anyone, 1/6th Inf, 198th Inf Bde Oct 68-Oct 69, Contact: CWO James Viverette [REDACTED], Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Looking For: George Brewster, 11th LIB, 3rd/1st Inf., 68, Contact: Neil Burke [REDACTED] Annapolis, MD 21403, ph [REDACTED]

Looking For: Info on Jim Quinn, KIA, 10-29-70, 196th LIB, 3/21 Inf., Co.D, Contact: Tom Halpin [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, help completing VN regmt. history Contact: SFC J. A. Kusinski [REDACTED] C, 2/1 Inf., 3441 Ile De France St. Ft. Wainwright, AL 99703

Looking For: HHC 523rd Sig Bn. Sep 69 - Sep 70. ComCenter, Contact: Larry J. Theiss [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone, C, 1/6, 198th 2nd plt., 2/68-2/69. Contact: Alan Torsiello [REDACTED] Union, N.J. 07083, ph [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Div G-1 shop, 68-69. with NAFs Contact: Don Wolf [REDACTED] Tallahassee, FL 32308

Looking For: Ronald L. Swensen, 1/46 198th INF June 68-69. Contact: Roy L. Cordingley [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, D, 2/1 196th, 70 to 71, Contact: T Morton, 850-897-4803 [REDACTED], Niceville, Florida 32578-4216

Looking For: John Burgess, Baytown, TX 196th 11/68-11/69 Contact: Layne Davis [REDACTED]

Looking For: William (Bill) Lance, 11th Bde, Alpha 4/3 67-68 Contact: Freddie C. McDonald [REDACTED], Mineral Wells, TX 76067-9796

Looking For: Don Davidson, C 3/1 11LIB, Duc Pho, Fire base Liz 1968. Contact: Kent Winebarger [REDACTED]

Looking For: M Kovascovitch, C Robbins, Hawkeye, R Broom, Mouse, B Teeter, Booth, Sims, A, 2/1, 9/68- 9/69 Contact: T. Wright, 31 Ball Hill Rd Greenbrier, AR [REDACTED]

Looking For: Members of "Romeo 3/I", Recon. E. Co. 3/1 Inf., 12/67- 12/68. Contact: Nick Jarvela [REDACTED]

Looking For: Roger Ooten or anyone, 132d ASHC, 7/68-3/70. Contact: Ron Hoggard [REDACTED], 17800 Sandcastle Court, Olney, MD 20832

Looking For: Bill Bradley, 23rd S&T, 10th Trans 1968, Contact: John {Mike} Rea [REDACTED] Columbia S.C. 2923

Looking For: Anyone, A, Co. 26th Eng: Junker, M McGovern, Doc, D Smith, 69/70, Contact: Darrell Osborne, [REDACTED] 15303 Enchate, Clinton Twp. MI. 48038

Looking For: Anyone, Co.B, 2nd Bn 1st Inf, 2nd Platoon from Sept. 67 Contact: Tom Schintzius [REDACTED]

Looking For: Lt. O'Rourke and Medic Dave?, D, 3/21 196th LIB 10/70 Contact: Pat Moffa [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, G-5, Civil Affairs, HHC, TFO/Americal, 1967, Contact: Bob Perkins [REDACTED], 19747 Oakland Valley Dr, Katy, TX 77449

Looking For: Doug Whittman, 1/52, 198 LIB, 70-71, Contact: Dan Gagen (415) 639-7150 [REDACTED]

Looking For: William (Bill) Lance, 11 LIB, 66-68, Contact: Freddie C. McDonald [REDACTED] Mineral Wells, TX 76067

Looking For: anyone, B Btry 1/14th Arty, 3-68 to 10-68 Btry B 6/11th Arty Contact: Michael Frost [REDACTED]

Looking For: Co. A, 132 Inf. Jan 1944 to April 1945, Contact: Leon Homer Barden [REDACTED] Amelia, VA 23002 Ph: [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone in E/Co. 1/46 Inf., 196 LIB, 6/69-3/70 Contact: James E. Ellis [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Americal Div Hqs, Special-Corresp'ndence grp '70-'71. Contact: Jerry Rowles [REDACTED]

Looking For: Gary Gruber, D, 4/3, 11 th LIB 10/68 to 10/69, New Ulm, MN Contact: Dave Lutz [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone knowing my father Arthur M. Wood, Guadalcanal in 182nd Inf. Contact: Art. Wood [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, D, 1/6 Inf. 5/70-5/71, Contact: J Williams [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, A Trp, 1/1 Cav, '69 Contact: Richard Beaty [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, artillery unit, LZ LIZ Contact: Ernest Turner [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, on Hill 69 or at Fat City Contact: Bill Sawyer [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone 178th, Boxcars. My father-Captain John S. Seeley-was the first pilot casualty of the 178th "Boxcars" who were originally based at Phu Loi. He was killed in a CH-47 crash near Dau Tieng, RVN on 6-27-66. His unit-the 178th "Boxcars" moved to Chu Lai in 1967. Send e-mail if you knew ith "Big John" during his 1952-1966 U.S. Army career.Contact: Mark Seeley [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bill Agnew, 132 ASHC 6/69 to 5/70, Contact: Joe Altimari, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Lt. Dave Lucast, Co. E, 3rd Bn, 1st Inf, 11th LIB FSB 411 Contact: Jim Thomas [REDACTED]

Looking For: Any Gunner/Crew Chief or air crew member, Minutemen, 68-69, Contact: G.S. Rogers [REDACTED], Burton, S. Carolina

Looking For: Anyone, 1/6th Inf. 198 LIB. 69 to 71. Recon., D. Co. Contact: Chris Byrne [REDACTED]

Looking For: Charlie Bruno, E, 1/6, 69-70. Smitty and Jenkins too. Contact: Clarkston A. Cook [REDACTED] Cumberland, NC 28331

Looking For: anyone C, 1/52nd Inf. 69-70. Contact: Dennis K. Philburn, 1402 Virginia Ave, McKeesport, Pa. 15135 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, B & E 4/31. 69-70. Contact: John 'Doc' Lysinger [REDACTED] Lowry City, Mo. 64763 417-644-2918

Looking For: Leigh McEroy, HHC 4th/3rd Old Guard from 67 to 68. Contact: Dave Johnston [REDACTED]

Looking For: Doc Fox, Doc Steve Miles. Lt. Gary Bray. C Co. 1/20 11th LIB 6/69-6/70. Contact: Steve Fordice 102 E. Alamo Enterprise, OR [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone 4/21 Inf, 11th Inf Bde. Echo Co Recon 4-68 2-69, Contact: William G. Urban [REDACTED] Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 [REDACTED]

If you need assistance in contacting anyone posting on this page, contact Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO 64114 Phone [REDACTED]. More locator posts can be found at the ADVA website at <www.americal.org/locator>.

Looking For: Anyone 198th LIB Aviation Section Cpt Percy, WO1 Lacky, WO1 Kampmeire, Dancing Bear, OH-6A. 4/71-10/71. Contact: Ron Petrovich, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Recon 1/20th Inf, 69-70, LT Blake, Sgt Lassister, Sgt Hensley, Sp4 Gee, Sgt Smith, J Eastridge, Dennis Shaw, Doc Janes, Sp4 Kuhn, Sp4 Rogers, Sgt Coker, Alan Radke, Sp4 Kennedy, Ssgt Vazquez, Mike Killian, Scooter Martel, Sgt Olinger, D Deacon, M Helbert, D Gillam, Contact: Mike Robinson [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone A 26th Eng. Contact: Darrell Osborne <mag5@ameritech.net> (810)412-8022 Clinton Township MI.

Looking For: John Bernard 2nd plt, C 1/46th, 198 Bde, 1/69-7/69 Contact: Tim Vail [REDACTED] Roanoke, Va 24012

Looking For: Robert Mangano, 1st Bn 198th LIB, Contact: Steve Lear [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone: H/17th Cav, 198th 3/70-2/71. members of A plt. Contact: John Hanson [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, C, 1/6, 198 LIB 7/70-1/71, 23rd MPs Contact: David Disch [REDACTED]

Looking For: ANYONE, A&D, 23rd Med, 70-71 Dean Brink, Roger Stump Contact: Gary Naden [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, knowing my grandfather, LTC Phillip D. Grimm, Bn CO 4/ 3rd Inf., 70-71. Contact: Cdt. Michael J. Grimm [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bill Haley, Greasy Grimes, Hatty Burke, anyone, reaction force, 6/56 Arty, 68-69. Contact: John Kehoe aka 'herc' or 'breeze' [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, D 1/20th 1/68-5/68 I was wounded May 31st. Contact: Allen Corneliusen [REDACTED]

Looking For: David A. Auerback, Medic, C Meds, 6th. Spt. Bn., 12/67-12/68 Contact: Jerry O Anderson [REDACTED] Stone Mountain GA.30083

Looking For: Anyone, E Recon 1st/52nd 198th '70-'71. Contact: Mark Frankie Edwards [REDACTED]

Looking For: Dave Mason, Dave Paavola, Ben Roberts A 4/3rd Inf 69-70 Contact: Cesare DePiano [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bobby Hall, Michael E. Zike, HHC, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB '68-'69. Steve Pupak, Jr., [REDACTED] Gwinn, MI 49841, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Roger Gray, C 3/21, 196th LIB. WIA. Contact: T.L. Bradshaw [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Hill 156, 18Feb70, C 1/6 198th. Contact: Terry V. Ivey [REDACTED] Marshall, MI 49068 [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone, B 1/52 198th LIB 2/69-11/69. Contact: Jack Tonkin [REDACTED]

Looking For: James Stamper, D, 1/6, 198th 67-68 Contact: Alan Pogue [REDACTED] 2104 E M. L. King, Austin, Texas 78702

Looking For: anyone, 59th Scout Dog platoon. Vietnam Dog Handlers Assn. Contact: Rusty Aller [REDACTED] Hemphill, Tx 75948 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Sam Avalos, B, 23 Med, 70, Contact: Dave Banister [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone, L Co. 132nd Inf., F Co., 132nd Inf., TF6814, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal. 15Jan42-25Dec42 Contact: William H. Cooper, Jr [REDACTED] Peachtree City, GA 30269

Looking For: Anyone knowing Nathaniel T. Toole, my father, 2nd LT, 182nd Inf., killed on Cebu Island, April 14, 1945. Contact: Thomas W. Toole [REDACTED] Coalville, Utah 84017

Looking For: Anyone, 2nd Plt, C 1/6, 198 LIB, who served with SSG McPherson. Contact: Allen McPherson 10916 W Puget, Peoria, AZ 85345

Looking For: Anyone, 3/18 FA HHB and/or B Btry 5/68-4/70 Contact: Kevin Conway [REDACTED] Hull, Ma. 02045

Looking For: H.T. Walls, 1st Plt, H Trp. 17th Cav 68-69, also Danny Holder Contact: Tom Adams [REDACTED]

Looking For: Irvin Abhold, B, 132 Inf, machine gunner, captured Cebu City, and was on Hill 26 Contact: Lauro Montoya [REDACTED]

Looking For: Thomas Martinez, 1/14th Arty LZ Bayonet 1970 Contact: Grady B. Alexander [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 5/68-9/69, 17th Cav H Contact: Ron S Haskell [REDACTED] Denton, Texas 76201

Looking For: Glenn Spratt/others: 176th AHC 16th Avn Grp 71-72. Contact: Ralph J. Page [REDACTED] Adrian, Georgia 31002-0213

Looking For: Anyone, A Trp 2nd Plt 1/1 Cav 70-71 Contact: Nick Patoka [REDACTED] dynamite jr] [REDACTED] New London, WI 54961

Looking For: Charles Vannatter, Tom Ryan 68/69. D 2/1 196TH Contact: Thomas Cunningham [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone that crossed Cebu from Cebu City to Toledo. Contact: Kenneth Vander Molen [REDACTED] Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Looking For: Melvin Nelson 196 LIB. D 4/31 5/67-5/Contact: Kenneth Wilson [REDACTED]

Looking For: someone who served with Lt. Martin (Jerry) Keogh, KIA March 2, 1970 Quang Ngai 11th LIB Contact: P. Wynne [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone in Americal Div. Band Symphonic Sandbaggers: Sgt. Chuck Ramsey, Don Rolli, J.J. Johnston, Steve Stroud, Carey Frstrup, Richard Eichenberger, Lanny Davis, Curt Dunphy, Joe Simoni, Murray Solomon. Chuck Miner, Ed Zapata, Jimmy Compoli, and Locksley Stubblefield! Contact: John P. Moore [REDACTED] San Antonio, TX 78217

Looking For: ANYONE A 3/21 196, 3/69-3/70 Contact: Robert Levinson [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone 23rd med Co B Dec 69 until Feb 71 Contact: Dave Banister [REDACTED]

Looking For: S/Sgt William R. Willains, 5/46th 198th, HHC and B co, 68/69 Contact: D Wilson [REDACTED]

Looking For: Former C-1/52 members & 198th Bde TOC members 70-71 Contact: Lee Basnar [REDACTED] Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Looking For: Booth or Both, C Co.1/46th 1970-71 FSB Maryann Contact: Jack Davis [REDACTED]

Looking For: Lt.Ron Zernos/ny 9th Support Bn. Contact: HERMON BELCHER [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone from 3rd Plt. "A" co 4th/21st LIB, 70 - 71, Contact: Mike Carter [REDACTED] Santos S. Chalmers P.O. Box 183 Whitewood, SD 57793 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Stiles, Ralph 23MP Co 69-70 Contact: Dutch DeGroot 217 S. I-Oka Mount Prospect, IL 60056-3005 [REDACTED]

If you need assistance in contacting anyone posting on this page, contact Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO 64114 Phone [REDACTED]. More locator posts can be found at the ADVA website at <www.americal.org/locator>.

Looking For: anyone, C, 3/1st. Inf. 12/68-12/69. Contact: Hank Snyder
 [redacted] > North Carolina Justice Academy, [redacted] Salem, NC 28385

Looking For: Anyone, B 1/46th 196, 6/69-9/69 Contact: Allen F. Wilson
 [redacted] Manchester, IA 52057 [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone in E Co. Recon 1/6 198 from Ft. Hood on the Upshur in Oct.67. Contact Bruce Yacuk
 [redacted]

Looking For: Members of A, 4/31, 196th, Sgt. Buyteart, Lt. Johnson, "Electric Prune" 10/68-09/69. Contact: Jim 'MAC' McDowell [redacted]

Looking For: L.Love, '68, 5/46th, Chu Lai. Contact: Dean Cooper [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, 23d Admin Bn, 68-69. Contact: Ed Snyder
 [redacted] Grants Pass, OR 97528

Looking For: Anyone, Survey sec HHB 3/16 Arty 5/68-11/70 252nd FA Det., Divarty 1/69-11/70 Contact: Jim Besonen [redacted] James St Grayling, MI 49738

Looking For: anyone, F/8 Cav 68-69 Contact: James Sheridan [redacted] Gulfport, MS 39506
 [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, 198th D 1/6, 8/68-5/69 Contact: Leandro {Lee} Navarro Jr [redacted] Venus, Texas [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, A, 1/20 6/69-6/70 Contact: Tom Elmore, [redacted] [redacted] SWRochester MN 55902
 [redacted]

Looking For: B Mathis, PI Woorley, S Hudson, S Stanford, T Poucher, M Espranza A Maxwell, E Trp, 1 Cav, 11 LIB 12/67-12/68. Contact: Seth Haynes [redacted] Cave Junction, OR 97523 [redacted]

Looking For: Maj Fairchild, Lt Maybe, H Kinoshita, Swenson, Smith, Durall, other Combat Photographers with C 1/20th 11th LIB Contact: Dallas J. Riddle [redacted] Fayetteville, NC 28303

Looking For: Lowell L. Jones B, 4/21st Inf. 11th L.I.B. Co Hq 6/69-6/70, Contact: Bill Baird [redacted] Harrisburg, PA 17110

Looking For: Anyone, B 4/31, E 4/31, 4.2 Mortars 69-70 Contact: John 'Doc' Lysinger [redacted] Lowry City, Mo. 64763
 [redacted]

Looking For: Barlow, 196th LIB 1968 Contact: Jack Brister
 [redacted] Eufaula, OK 74432

Looking For: anyone, 11th LIB Primo aviation 4/68-4/69. Contact: Jimmy Kendrick [redacted] Vicksburg, MS 39180

Looking For: Anyone, 3/21 Inf and 3/82 Arty 67-68 Contact: Larry Seyler [redacted]

Looking For: anyone, 11th LIB, A 1/20 11/68 to 11/69. Contact: David Roberts (Peanut Butter) [redacted]

Looking For: Mel Midboe, anyone, 164 Inf. My Dad served in Fiji. Any information is appreciated. Contact: Laurie Conzemius [redacted]

Looking For: A.Btry 1/82 Arty, '70. J King, R Harvey, L Ball, T Kirby, A Pacini, G Pawlak. Contact: H.J.Logsdon [redacted] Shawneetown, IL 62984

Looking For: Anyone who knew Clarence (Curly) Sizemore, A, 1/20th INF, 11th LIB, 04/69-05/69 Contact: Ben Sizemore [redacted]

Looking For: All Vets; Hill 411, 3/1st Inf, Arty, Engrs, Armor Reunion: July 17-19 '98 Cleveland, Oh. Contact: Thomas Petty [redacted] Lorain' Oh. 44063, (Bus.) [redacted]

Looking For: Rick Bolt / Joe Caligari/ anyone, Quad 50's G/55th arty. Contact: Fredd Merrill [redacted]

Looking For: anyone, D 1/6th, 67 to Mar 69. Contact: Charlie Hardin [redacted] Ft Worth, TX 76114

Looking For: Chief Clark or Anyone, HHC 4/21 11 LIB, 3/69-3/70 Contact: Merle Young [redacted] PA 18848-1115

Looking For: Evan Harris or anyone E, 196th LIB, 11/68-11/69 Lz East Contact: Pat Walker [redacted]

Looking For: anyone, B 5/46 198th LIB 69-70 Contact: Scotty Callihan [redacted] Bimble Ky. 40915

Looking For: Anyone, D 1/14 7/69-6/70. Contact: Richard 'Dick' H. White [redacted] Lewes, DE 19958 [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, C, 1/46th Inf., 1st Platoon, 67-68, Fort Hood or Chu Lai Contact: Al Moore [redacted]

Looking For: Capt. William (Billy) Straub CO, C 3/1, 11LIB. 15 March 1969. Contact: Billy Kelly [redacted] Stockholm, NJ 07460 [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone. DIV ARTY HQ, 10/68-5/70 Contact: Mike Neeld
 [redacted] Muscatine, IA. 52761 [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, Echo Recon, 1/52, Chu Lai 70-71 Contact: Mark {Frankie} Edwards [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, C 4/21 11LIB Duc Pho between 01/1970-12/1970 Contact: Mike Huston [redacted]

Looking For: Dave, Doc, or anyone in D, 4/3 Inf 7/70-9/70 Contact: Glenn Morrell 318 Pioneer Cir., Woodstock, GA 30188

Looking For: Russel Habas, WORWAC 69-23 Americal Div., Contact: Roy L. Prisock [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, HHC 2/1 Inf, 196LIB 3/68-5/69 Kham Duc Special Forces Camp Contact: William E. Walton [redacted] Ossineke, MI 49766 [redacted]

Looking For: Ray Watts, SGT Cutler, Jim Sikro D 23rd Med.Bn. 69-70 Contact: Jim Talley [redacted] Florence, MS 39073

Looking For: Anyone who knew Ward "Pete" Weaver, B, 26th Engr 68-69 Contact: Linda Robertson [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, B, 1/46 Inf 196 LIB 3/70-1/71, Contact: Charles {Rick} Hensley 629 Private Rd. 3952, State Route 378, Willow Wood, Ohio 45696

Looking For: E (Recon), 1/6th Inf, 198 LIB. 5/70-8/71, Contact: Edward 'Daisy Chain' Marshall [redacted] fax [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, A 1/20 Inf. 11th LIB '68 - '69 Contact: John McNown [redacted] Overland Park, KS 66212 [redacted]

Looking For: Michael (Micky) Moore 3/21, 196 LIB 6/68-4/69. Contact: Robert B. Boyd Jr. Call [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone who remembers Ken Reed, FO, 82nd Arty 5/68-5/69. Contact: John DuMong [redacted]

Looking For: anyone 3rd plt. A Co., 4/3 Inf. Contact: john kelly [redacted]

Looking For: Curtis (Curt) Harris, Americal Div 67- Contact: John Ax [redacted] Lexington, VA 24450 [redacted]

If you need assistance in contacting anyone posting on this page, contact Gary L. Noller, [redacted] Kansas City, MO 64114 Phone [redacted]. More locator posts can be found at the ADVA website at <www.americal.org/locator>

AMERICAL DIVISION VIETNAM VETERANS

I saw this Southern Cross patch in a military surplus store in Montreal. I recognized it as your Divisional emblem and I knew that it was not right to let this patch hang up stapled to the store's wall with other military insignia.

I bought the patch for about five dollars Canadian. It is a very sad thing when someone tries to put a price on something which can never be valued by a dollar sign.

You who served in the 23rd Infantry, the Americal Division, are people of honor, and I have not forgotten you. I read about the Gimlets at Nhi Ha in Keith Nolan's "The Magnificent Bastards." I also have a more personal connection. At least two of my fellow Canadians served with you in Vietnam; Kenneth H. Lewis (11 Brigade LRRPS; D Co.. 2nd Bn, 196th LIB; circa 1968) and Fidele Joseph Bastarache (1 Bn. 6th Infantry, 189th Infantry Bde. which had joined the Americal Division). Fidele was KIA 27, May 1968 with less than a month remaining in-country.

I am also very fortunate to have as my friend Sgt. Don "Rat" Luker, who was a tunnel rat with the Americal in Vietnam, 1967-68. Donnie is someone who still gives from the heart, and there are not many others like him.

It is because of Donnie, and Fidele and Kenneth and the Gimlets that I bought this patch. I felt I could not leave it hanging up there without any buyer showing interest, or maybe buying it as a trophy or a fashion accessory. The Southern Cross represents honor earned by the sacrifice and suffering, the blood and the courage of good people. Now, I never met the minimum physical requirements for military service, but I know enough people who came back from Vietnam to know what I am talking about here. Like I said, I have not forgotten.

I was very happy to discover via internet that you guys were organized and had an address. Now I can repatriate this patch, knowing that you will take care of it with the respect it deserves. I feel it is the least I can do to express my appreciation to all veterans of the Americal Division, living and dead, for what you did and endured for my freedom.

Thank you.
 Jose-Pierre Fernandez
 [redacted] Ville D'Anjou, Quebec
 Canada H1J2J3

A VETERANS OPINION

I read with a great deal of interest the story about L.B.J., written by Joe Kirkup, and printed in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter.

I too served with the Americal in Vietnam. I was posted to HHC 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., 198th LIB. My base camp was L-Z-Pro, L-Z-Baldy, L-Z-Ross and Hill 54. I was in country from April 1968 until April 1969.

A lot of what Joe Kirkup wrote about in his story happened to me. We are both Connecticut boys, as I am from Meriden. A few of the things he said and did while waiting to leave for the War zone ring true for me.

Joe also is very right about his paying for

L.B.J.'s popularity. Everyone who fought in the War is still paying for L.B.J.'s popularity and will do so for the rest of their lives.

Joe is well within his right to want to bury L.B.J. in another country, and I have just the place HANOI!!! But let us not stop there. Let's dig up the bones of John F. Kennedy, and send them to HANOI!! along with Jimmy Carter, Hanoi Jane Fonda, all the cowards, draft dodgers who supported the V.C. and NVA and last but not least, of all the cowards of cowards--Bill Clinton.

When he leaves office, we should put him on the first plane-non-stop to HANOI!! since he and all of his "Commie Cowards" love the V.C. and NVA so much. I do believe that is where they all should be. Because they too, are the enemy to all of the War Veterans, Vietnam or otherwise.

SP/4 John S. Ferraiolo
 HHC 1/52nd Infantry
 198th LIB APO 96219
 CHU-LAI South Vietnam

OPERATION PEGASUS

I am trying to confirm a story told me by a vet friend who is retracing his steps. He was outside the wire near Khe Sanh Combat Base the night Lang Vei was overrun. He sought refuge at the combat base and was there during the seige.

The operation credited with lifting the seige, on 4/68 was called Operation Pegasus. Although I have not found any Americal member to confirm their participation.

I did find the following mention--the book "Vietnam Battle Cronology", on page 73 that "Americal was shifted from OP Pegasus to OP Burlington Trail 4/8/68 to 11/11/68 in 1 corps (Quang Tin Province .. Hawk Hill .. Tam Ky .. Tien Phuoc .. & LZ's Pleasantville, Professional & Young) units consisted of 11 LIB (1st/20th Inf.), 198th LIB (2nd/1st Inf.), 198th LIB (1st/6th Inf., 1st/46th Inf., 1st/1st Cav).

He states that he formed with a bastard unit made up of elements & C/2nd Inf./1st Inf. Div. who had APC's. They traveled through Quang Tri, Hue, and then into the A. Shau. Do you have any info on this? Can you direct this inquiry to your Assn. Historian?

The mention that these Americal troops were pulled from PEGASUS indicates their participation, but does not suggest their role in the operation.

I am looking for 1st hand accounts but need references in print as well. Any assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Larry Jordan
 [redacted] Kansas City, MO. 64109-2261
 E--Mail WAFG88A @prodigy.com

(Sent in by Terry Babler)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?
 CHECK THE LABEL ON YOUR NEWSLETTER
 THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE

UNFRIENDLY FIRE, A MOTHER'S MEMOIR (A Book Review)

Peg Mullen's personal story and reflections of the events surrounding the death of her son, Michael Mullen has been published. Michael was accidentally killed in an friendly-fire incident in February, 1970 while serving with Charlie Company, 1/6th Infantry of the 198th Inf. Bde. near Chu Lai, RVN.

Peg Mullen provides personal insight to her grieving and her interactions with her family and friends, her son's friends, and her community. She tells how her life was and how it was changed because of her son's death.

Peg became very upset with the Army and local officials handling of her son's funeral. She documents these problems and notes that some improvements were made that benefited other grieving families because she dared to speak out.

She was also upset because of her difficulties in obtaining an explanation of what had happened to her son. She developed a personal dislike of the Americal Division because of this. And in particular, Lt. Colonel Norman H. Schwartzkopf, who was her son's battalion commander at the time of Michael's death.

Peg was sought out to be interviewed by major networks and newspapers during the preparations of Desert Storm. She related the problems she had with General Schwartzkopf to win public opinion points in her televised interviews. Her position was that there was a high rate of friendly-fire incidents in Vietnam and the advancements in weaponry since Vietnam would greatly increase the casualties from friendly-fire in Desert Storm.

The book introduced new information to be considered regarding the friendly-fire incident in which her son was killed. And there is a nice chapter where all of Michael's letters home are reprinted. However, as I read through the book I felt that there were problems with some of the information provided.

One of the quotes she used to illustrate a point came from an unnamed high school friend of her son who had served in the Americal Division. The quote roughly was to the effect that, "The Americal Division was a troubled unit initially made up of a thousand men sent to battle in 1967. All members of this tousled unit were educated, ranging from junior college credits to doctorate degrees and all had refused to undergo officer's training. In spite of their intelligence their casualty rate was enormous, more than two-thirds of the original one thousand men were either killed or wounded." For me this helped reinforce the concept that this was a book written by a grieving mother, but left me questioning other sources of references used.

My recommendation of this book is that you should read another book first. Much of this story was previously recorded in "Friendly Fire" by C. D. Bryan, first published in 1976. This book was made into an Emmy Award winning TV movie of the same name. It is a much more balanced and powerfully written book.

I felt that I needed information from the C.D.B. Bryan book as reference to understanding parts of Peg Mullen's book. By reading Bryan's book first you will also find out whether you have the interest to purchase "Unfriendly Fire, A Mother's Memoir" and find out what has happened to the

Mullen family since 1976.
Unfriendly Fire, A Mother's Memoir
Printed by Iowa University Press
Written by Peg Mullen Price \$12.95

Book Review by, Les Hines
(Editor's Note: If you would like to submit a book review for consideration for publication in the Americal Newsletter, please send it to the editor. If you have it in as an electronic file, please consider sending it as a text file on a diskette. Reviews are subject to editing. Thank you.)

BEYOND THE WALL

Magnet Interactive Studies recently launched Beyond The Wall: Stories Behind the Vietnam Wall. This interactive CD-ROM includes a searchable database (with 6 ways to initiate a search) of the 58,000 names that appear on the Vietnam Wall, personal letters, poems and home movies from a cross-section of fallen heroes, a historical timeline of the War and a history of the Vietnam Wall's construction.

We are currently trying to locate Veteran Organizations, in hopes of getting the word out, about "Beyond The Wall". We believe that this product is a useful tool to ensure that our next generation understands exactly what Vietnam was about. In addition, we have received positive many reviews from Veterans who have purchased "Beyond The Wall", and use it for their needs

If you have any suggestions as to how we can accomplish our goal, Please contact me. Thank you for your time, and your bravery.

Magnet Interactive Studios
Kenneth F. Roberts
Washington, DC 20007

IN APPRECIATION

Received the back issues of the Americal Newsletter. I wish to thank Jim Buckle and his staff. When I first joined the ADVA I really enjoyed reading the Newsletter, but, since that time the Newsletter has really improved! The layout and typo's are excellent -- a really ship shape job.

Ernie Carlson is our Regional Commander and a really great guy. We love him and want him to know it.

Les Hines was really been a great source of help to me personally and it appears that he is, (and will be,) doing a wonderful job as Vietnam Historian.

Thanks to all!

Sincerely,
Russell (Duck) Coleman

Ed Note: Russell is an Associate member. A brother served in Vietnam in the 123 Avn Bn. His request for information on his brother appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

INTERNET CARRIES BOGUS WARNING ABOUT VA HEALTH CARE CUTOFF

Veterans across the country should DISREGARD warnings that they will lose their medical benefits if they do not enroll October 1, 1998. The misleading information apparently surfaced on the Internet earlier this year and has caused quite a stir among veterans as the bogus warning spread.

"It is absolutely untrue that veterans will be locked out of VA health care system forever unless they enroll by a certain date," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman.

"The VA is required by law to have an enrollment system in place by October 1, 1998. But that doesn't mean veterans who have not signed up for enrollment by that date will lose their eligibility for VA health care," Mr. Gorman explained.

A trail enrollment period began last October to help the VA refine the process. (See the Nov/Dec 1997 DAV Magazine.)

A veteran can apply and be enrolled at the time he or she is in need of care, even after October 1, 1998. Veterans who have received health care services since October 1, 1996, will have an application processed automatically on their behalf.

Service-connected disabled veterans will still be treated for their disabilities without being enrolled. Those service-disabled veterans rated by the VA 50% or greater will continue to be eligible for health care services without making application for enrollment.

While veterans in those categories do not have to be enrolled to be treated, they are encouraged to do so to help the VA plan its services and allocate resources.

Applicants will be placed in one of seven enrollment priority groups, as specified by the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. Based on the assigned priority, the number of other veterans seeking enrollment, and the funds available for health care, the VA will determine how many veterans can be served.

The VA has said it will notify veterans by mail when enrollment is confirmed.

The veterans accepted for enrollment will be eligible for inpatient and outpatient services at any of the VA's more than 1,100 service sites. Services include preventive and primary care; diagnosis and treatment; rehabilitation; mental health and substance abuse treatments; home health, respite, and hospice care; drugs and pharmaceuticals in conjunction with VA treatment.

Although enrollment must be renewed every year, a veteran's enrollment will be automatically renewed unless he or she chooses not to re-enroll, or unless VA resources limit the number of veterans who can be treated. Certain veterans will be asked to provide income information annually so the VA can properly classify them within the enrollment system.

To apply for enrollment, veterans should call, write, or visit their nearest VA medical facility. If you need any assistance in obtaining health care or benefits, contact the DAV National Service Office nearest you.

1st BATTALION - 46th INFANTRY - 198 LIB

Recently I ran a hot tip on the internet concerning the 'Moving Wall' being in Marble Fall, Texas. A few days before the 'Wall' moved on, I received a e-mail from a lady who was interested in visiting the 'Wall' while it was close. During further internet conversations, I learned that her father was killed in action and that he was an Americal vet. The young ladies name is Angelina Bonetti and she lives in Brady, Texas. Angelina was two (2) years old when her father was KIA. Her brother was only two (2) months old.

Angelina would like to meet or talk to anyone who knew her father in Vietnam. His name was S/Sgt. Freddie A. Bonetti and he served with the 1/46th Infantry which at that time was in the 198 LIB. Sergeant Bonetti was killed on 18 January 69. You guys who may have served with him should contact me at:

Bill Bacon
San Antonio, TX 78250
Tel: [REDACTED]

I will put you in touch with Angelina.

In Angelina's words, "I never knew Dad and would love to meet someone who knew him".

I have invited Angelina to our annual July 4th parade and bar-b-cue in Fredericksburg, Texas and I am going to poll some of the guys in our Chapter to try and invite her to become a Life Member of the ADVA. She certainly has earned the right as much as we have.

Bill Bacon
HHC/2.1 Infantry

ATTENTION

I served in Vietnam during 1968 with the 1st Infantry Division and for the past seven years I have been collecting Military related license plates.

Do you by chance have and old or expired license plate that you no longer need? If you have such a plate and would be willing to mail it to me I would reimburse you for the postage.

I would also be willing to trade you an Illinois Vietnam Veteran plate that shows both Vietnam medals.

Please contact me:
Ray Weiner
Roselle, IL 60172

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO - August 25, 1968)...Action increased yesterday in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone as Division forces killed 170 NVA, 30 VC, detained 18 suspects, captured 18 individual weapons and seven crew-served weapons.

In the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry's area of operations "Dragoons" and supporting elements killed 177 NVA, captured 16 individual weapons, four crew-served weapons and one flare gun.

Approximately 0910 hours yesterday morning a platoon of "A" Troop led by 1 Lt. Thomas M. Ginz (Cheshire, CT) was in operation with the ARVN 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry on a reconnaissance mission, four miles west of Tam Ky. The 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry made initial contact and the platoon engaged an unknown size enemy force. Within a few minutes it was determined that it was a main force of NVA. "C" Troop was then committed.

As the battle intensified the remainder of "A" Troop was committed. "B" Troop made contact approximately the same time with an estimated NVA company northwest of the initial contact.

There were numerous air strikes, artillery missions conducted and "Blue Ghost" aerial scout teams were committed. Action continued until about 1925 when the enemy broke contact.

"A" Troop elements commanded by CPT George R. Kaczor (Seattle, Wa.) were credited with 89 NVA kills, "C" Troop with 9 NVA kills, "Blue Ghost" with 3 NVA kills and tactical air strikes credited for 75 NVA killed.

There were two recoilless rifles, two RPGs, two light machine guns, eight K-44s, four AK-47s, one Thompson machine gun, one 32 caliber pistol, and one flare pistol captured.

"F" Troop, 8th Cavalry engaged a group of NVA, killing one.

Heavy fighting continued in the Quang Ngai Province yesterday as 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" reported 29 VC killed, 10 VC suspects detained, two individual weapons captured, one crew-served weapon and one hand grenade captured.

Following a mortar attack of 81mm and 82mm rounds on LZ Bronco from 0245 to 0315 a "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aviation Company, with SP4 Gordon L. Knight (Los Angeles, VA) as gunner, observed and killed seven VC evading from a suspected mortar position near hootches, one mile north of Duc Pho.

Later in the morning a sweep was conducted by a squad of a company of the 1st battalion, 20th Infantry led by SGT Kermit Williams (Clinton, N.C.) resulting in the recovery of the seven VC killed by the "Shark" gunship plus the capture of an 82mm mortar, three 81mm rounds and one M-2 carbine. The squad later killed one VC dressed in a NVA uniform near the same site.

In action near Quang Ngai City, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, killed 11 VC and detained 12 suspects yesterday.

A company of the battalion killed two VC trying to break through their southwest perimeter and captured a carbine and one home-made grenade.

During separate actions later in the day the company killed two evading VC, one of them in a sweep of an area after an air strike that left six of the enemy dead.

Another company of the battalion killed one evading VC while another company of the "Always First" detained 12 military age suspects.

Other action resulted in one VC suspect detained by a 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry Company near a stream 8 miles south of Duc Pho.

The "Sykes Regulars" also captured medical supplies, documents, an AK-47 cleaning kit, one Chicom grenade, two empty AK-47 magazines and one

30 caliber ammunition belt with 65 rounds on the well armed suspect.

Troops of another 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry company detained five suspects three miles northwest of LZ Bronco. Another Battalion company found one VC body later yesterday afternoon.

Action dropped in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operations yesterday as soldiers accounted for 9 VC killed and three sampans destroyed.

"Polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry observed three sampans on a river. Mortar fire was called in destroying the three sampans.

"Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry observed five VC in the open. Artillery was called in killing one VC, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Another company of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, while following a blood trail, spotted three VC evading. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire, killing one VC 15 miles west of Tam Ky.

"Gimlets" of a 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry company observed a group of VC in the open, 15 miles west of Tam Ky. An artillery fire mission was called, killing two VC.

Another 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry company observed one VC evading. The enemy was engaged with small fire arms, resulting in one VC killed.

Yet another company of the battalion observed a group of VC moving west. The group was engaged, resulting in one VC killed eight miles west of Tam Ky.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry received small arms fire. Three enemy were spotted. The element returned the fire, killing three VC four miles south of Hoi An.

Action slowed down yesterday in the 198th Infantry Brigade's area as one VC and one NVA were killed.

An element of "H" Troop, 17th Cavalry on Highway I spotted a group of NVA. The NVA opened fire and fled. "H" Troop returned the fire killing one NVA.

A company of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry, commanded by CPT John Sprague (Atlanta, Ga), killed one enemy in the jungle highlands of the Operation Burlington Trail area. The enemy was found following a search through an area of a one hour battle between "The Professionals" and unknown size VC force.

Other units of the Brigade reported several sniper incidents.

Division forces suffered two soldiers killed and 26 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The opinions expressed in the Americal Newsletter are those of the writer. It is not necessarily that of the staff of the Newsletter or the officers of the ADVA.

To quote Voltaire - "I do not agree with what you say but I will defend to death your right to say it".

HOW ABOUT A CARD FOR A BUDDY?

We have several members of the "Old Guard" that are not quite up to snuff these days. How about dropping the a card to show that you care?

Bill McCormack, a Medic with the 182nd Infantry, is now a patient in the VA Hospital in Philadelphia and it requested that cards be sent to his daughter. The address:

William E. McCormick
Barbara Cathers

Philadelphia, PA 19152

Bill McLaughlin, 221st Field Artillery and the 23rd Recon, is taking treatments for a serious illness. Bill is Editor of "The Cannoners" and a contributor many veteran's Newsletters. Write to:

William McLaughlin

Marston Mills, MA 02646-1741

Bob Galpin, B Battery, Headquarters Battery, 221st Field Artillery, had a hip replaced four years ago and suffered a stroke shortly afterwards.

I had the pleasure of the company of Bob and his wife Ann on our trip to Guadalcanal in August of 1992 for the dedication of the memorial.

Robert E. Galpin

Chandler, AZ 85224-2131

Bill Dunphy, originally from the 101 Medical Regiment and then the 221 Medical Battalion, has had his ups and downs and I am sure he would enjoy hearing from his old friends.

PNC William L. Dunphy

West Roxbury, MA 02132

Marion P. Paske, 132 Infantry, passed away in August of last year, as noted under 'TAPS'. His son has given Marion's duffle bag and a flare parachute to the Nimitz Museum in Texas.

Marion's widow would like to hear from anyone that served with him in the Pacific. Her address:

Mrs. Donna Paske

Roby, TX 79543

MEMORIAL PLAQUES - NIMITZ MUSEUM

I am very pleased to announce, to everyone, that the Americal Division and the Americal Division Medal of Honor plaques are now being made for us. We have had such a positive response from a few of our Buddies, that we have raised enough money to have both of the plaques on the Memorial Wall of the Nimitz Museum by the Fourth of July, Veterans Annual Parade here in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Once again we will have an Americal Division float in the parade. Following the parade we will have a Chapter meeting and social as usual.

Gary Noller has suggested that whatever surplus we may have from the plaque fund, be placed in a Memorial Fund with the thought of maybe an Americal monument in Arlington National Cemetery

on the agenda. I think that is worth working for!!!

When started out on July 4, 1997, we had no idea that we would be able to see 'our plaque' on the Memorial Wall of the Nimitz Museum within a year! Any surplus, or forthcoming donations will be place into a Memorial Fund. That is, if it is so decided at the general meeting in Orlando.

Please join our committee in thanking Cameron Baird, Malcolm and Beverly East, Bill Bacon, Lloyd Perry, Warren R. Hester, Jim L. Brown, Albert E. Cotta, Carlos and Peggy Pola, Carl and Maria Richardson, Joe and Eva Balcazar, Doyle and Brenda Mason, Allen C. Duglosh, Arthur "Phil" D'Entremont, Cellerino Castillo Jr., Mike and Sandra Deel, Ron Ward, Dutch and Jan DeGroot, Mrs. Julia (Patch) Diehl, Mark Durley, National Commander Gary L. Noller, Tillman and Velma Cole, the A.D.V.A., Jane and Bill Maddox, Terrance and Kathleen Maloney, The New England Regional Chapter, Bernie Chase, Terry Sifford, Richard C. Schmidt, James and Priscilla Ferguson, Joseph L. Jackson, Jim Funkhouser, Doss Korenagay, Tyler Harper, and Stephan Krannick USN.

I certainly invite everyone to join us on July 4, 1998 here in historic Fredericksburg, Texas. Call me anytime at [REDACTED].

Wear your C.I.B. - your Americal patch - and Hug somebody.

Your buddy,
Ernie Carlson
Chapter Commander

MEMORIAL DAY 1998

On Memorial Day, 1998, we will hold our second dedication to the new World War II Memorial in the city of Woodbury, New Jersey. After several years of planning the Memorial was completed in time for Memorial Day 1997. A lot of thought went into the planning, construction, and landscaping.

Our Memorial consists of a large granite stone, centrally located, with a large bronze plaque containing the names of all local forty (40) veterans who sacrificed their lives, some at Pearl Harbor and others on the fields of battle in Europe, the Pacific, and China. One young man earned the Medal of Honor for his bravery in the Philippines.

The planners spared no expense in honoring all other servicemen and women with a granite plaque showing their names, service, and dates of service. This plaque were a granite stone set on a concrete base; each piece tightly placed side by side in four large fields with approximately five hundred and sixty names (560). Each field became part of a giant cross.

When they were preparing the Memorial I submitted my name for one of the plaques and another to Honor the Americal Division Veterans Association. Both plaques were placed in the same field not more than five (5) pieces apart. I believe the Memorial is worth visiting and anyone in the vicinity of Woodbury is welcomed, including vacationers visiting Philadelphia which is only fifteen (15) minutes away.

Al Barbieri

Ed Note: Thanks Al. One of these photos may be seen on the cover of this Newsletter. Al is a member of the Eastern Regional Chapter.

ON A LEYTE PATROL
Hdq. Co. - 2nd Battalion - 164 Infantry

On that patrol, I actually went too far. When I stopped and looked over the hill, I heard someone stumble to my right and looked over at two Japs looking to their left saying "Americans," -- one was a machine gunner and the other his assistant.

So then I backed up and looked for a low spot between me and the Officer in charge --- the rest is in the General Order.

When we moved back a little the Officer, Lt. Bouly and I were talking and grenades were coming over. One of them landed three feet from us. I hit the dirt and Lt. Bouly got hit in the face. He was a tough guy at 6' 5". He walked back.



Enclosed is a picture taken on Bougainville in 1944.

Front row -- Right to Left:
Joseph D. Galvan -- Culver City, Co. (member)
Me -- (Member)
Robert Perez -- Santa Fe, N.M.
Gordon Conway -- Santa Ana, Ca.

Standing -- Right to Left:
2nd from right: Joe Cuellar -- N.M. (Member)
Next to last: Berry Eversole -- Typo, Ky.
(All on this Patrol).

Jesus E. Avila
[Redacted]
Long Beach, CA. 90805
Tel: [Redacted]

Below is a copy of the General Order awarding Jesus Avila the Silver Star.

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAL DIVISION
APO 716

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 47

19 April 1945

II - SILVER STAR -- By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull 43 WD 1918) the Silver Star is awarded by the Commanding General, Americal Division to the following-named officer and enlisted men:

Private First Class Jesus E. Avila 39566405, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action at Leyte, Philippine Islands, on 1 March

1945. On 1 March 1945, near Abijao, Leyte, Philippine Islands, Private Avila, first scout in the lead platoon dispatched upon a combat reconnaissance mission, was pinned down by intense enemy fire coming from a point only four yards from his direct front. One officer and three other enlisted men were held down by the same fire which later developed into a "Banzai" charge. Private Avila remained in his exposed position dropped a grenade into the enemy position, coolly and with conspicuous efficiency obeyed all orders relayed to him by his superior officers. He remained calmly at his post while friendly overhead fire, but a few inches from his body, neutralized the enemy positions. Private Avila was in this dangerously exposed position for fifteen minutes, and when informed of the fire to be placed over his body, he replied, "Go ahead and shoot." After grenade supply was exhausted, more were thrown to him by the officer in charge.

By careful and efficient disposition of these grenades, Private Avila was able to cover the withdrawal of his comrades in an orderly manner. The aggressiveness and calmness shown by Private Avila while in such a precarious position was indeed a great inspiration to the men of the patrol. Home address: Mrs. Crespina Avila (mother) 879 19th Street, San Pedro, California.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL ARNOLD:

OFFICIAL: M. M. MAGEE
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

I COMPANY---182ND INFANTRY

I have a story to tell about an incident that happened in 1944 on Bougainville that will really effect some of I Company, First Platoon, if they read it. It will probably get me into trouble but since no one suffered or was effected at the time, or got sick, I can tell this after 54 years.

It concerns a situation that happened on a road block on the Numa Numa Trail when the First Platoon of I Company was occupying the road block. We were allowed to receive some B rations as we carried a small squad burner, and we had been able to cook pancakes, coffee and whatever we could receive from the mess to carry with us. This was a very good thing as it lifted the morale of the troops.

You know when on a road block like this no one was allowed to get out of their hole at night, and in my bunker three of us used a pineapple can to urinate in at night and we would empty it after using it and place it on the edge of our hole. Well, to my surprise next morning, one of the men had used this can to make coffee in it. Water being so rationed and valuable, I wasn't about to say anything about this and neither were the other two in my bunker. 2

Little to say, everyone wondered why we three refused to drink coffee that morning. We did eat the pancakes though.

I hope none of the I Company First Platoon will hold this against me after all these years.

Ray E. Poynter
I Company 182nd Infantry

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

THE DAY I STOPPED THE WAR
ON GUADALCANAL

I don't remember the day this happened, but it was not Xmas Day of 1942 (that was the only day we weren't rationed on 105 howitzer ammo). I had been getting some flak from the 6th Marine dogfaces about an occasional flyer getting a bit too close (I'll admit if they land behind you, that's too close). On this particular day I had soon expended the daily ration, so I decided on the 155s instead of the Marine 75 field howitzers. Since rationing, we only used one piece to register. The Marines would usually have a "battalion five rounds" out in the water, then moved into the jungle if they really had a target or were just shooting to hear the noise. That's likely the reason their 105s were so eroded that they were worthless.

So that required some brilliant thinking. Instead of going through Dave Schepp at FDC, I call directly to the 221st; and after discussing the weather with that guy...never did meet him...started. Couldn't see them either so asked for some rounds of smoke, which showed up very nicely; of course, I always did use the "Orem" tactic of field artillery. (Never have been able to understand why that method hasn't spread all over the world.) After getting adjusted close enough to the target, I called for "Fire for effect" and got just exactly what I called for..."Battalions 3rds of smoke." I forgot to change back to H. E. There was a faint breeze in our faces. That smoke gradually spread out and began moving straight towards us. By the time it got to us, it was still so thick that we were in a "Visibility Zero Condition" that lasted at least until it got dark. AS I REMEMBER IT, THAT NIGHT NOT A SHOT WAS HEARD. FRIENDLY OR OTHERWISE.

That's how I temporarily shut down the war in the Pacific for a few hours. Of course the flak from the Marines reached a new level of intensity. Those 6th Marines were an entirely different bunch from all the rest that I EVER MET. They had been to India for six years and, of course, had very little training in combat...just walked around the Consular Compound all dressed up. They had also been in on the initial landing and as expected, had been all shot up and their ranks thinned out.

(This portion, Barney added later here.)

Shortly after this took place, the 6th Marines arranged to have some Navy help. Lo and behold, here came a destroyer nosing into the shoreline. A couple of privates were holding a big white sheet up to mark the front line, with an Ensign ashore with a radio (which didn't work any better than the SCR 94 the Army supplied).

That thing got so close I was expecting it to go aground, and then opened up right on the line marked by the white sheet. That caused quite a scattering ashore, two or three times from the shore up to the hills and back. That poor Ensign! They finally backed off! When need arises Marines can sure move!

Needless to say, I had a lot of material to back up my defense of the Army... mistakes and all, I was able to hold my own. It was that same 6th Marines who had the final drive in early February or late January, whichever... not sure ... with Orem and four battalions of Army artillery and one Marine Battalion that finished off Guadalcanal.

The CO of the 6th told me (AND I quote), "We

didn't know what artillery was supposed to do until you guys showed up." Nice?

By Charles "Barney" Orem 245 FA Bn
(Taken from the "Cannoneer's Posts")

VETERANS' SACRIFICE DEFINES THE GREATNESS OF OUR NATION

How many of us, standing here on this November day, give thought to the freedoms we enjoy each day...the liberties most often taken for granted by those most blessed by them?

Freedom is not free. its cost has been high. It has been bought and paid for by legions of Americans through sacrifice and magnificent courage. These things have been manifested on every part of the globe from the days of the birth of our nation. Along the way freedom was defended and purchased by people of valor, leaving behind them so many things they held most dear for principles and ideals of greater value. People for whom, to borrow from the poem, these words may well have been written: "I could not love thee near so well, loved I not my country more."

People of many nations, not just our own, have reason to find inspiration in grateful hearts, from those who have given much through their great courage and steadfastness to provide liberty to so many, and who, in so doing, defined the greatness of a nation conceived in liberty for all.

Yes, legions upon legions of Americans, in the glorious and sometimes troubled history of this country, called upon to put behind them so much they loved for a greater devotion to their country and its principles of freedom have preserved for us those things which we, as a nation, should treasure most.

They have faced horror, wounds and death as a people bound together by an intense loyalty and devotion to those with whom they have served. In the history of America they have proved themselves the best of the very best.

Those of whom I speak are veterans. Each, living or dead, is a part of our history, and each of their stories there is a noble part of that history, a history which should remain a lesson forever in the teaching of our young. Who are they as we think of them today? They are your banker and the man who patches your roof. They are your selectman and the man who labors on your roads. They are old and they are young and a part of every generation. They are the old man leaning on his cane with fierce pride in his gaze, and the seemingly rigorous young man whose prideful walk does not betray his pain. They are here today in the renewal of well earned comradeship and, in their way, to honor one another.

When they leave this place they may adjourn to a place where they may tell stories they can only tell to one another. Join them. Hear them. Honor them well. Honor them best by jealously guarding, each day, those freedoms which they have brought you.

(The author, David Corcoran, a Brewster, Massachusetts resident, delivered these remarks at his town's Veterans Day observance. Thanksto Joe Mullen for bringing it to our attention.)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

MEMORIAL REUNITES COMPANY A (By Allison Perkins)

For a moment he was "Westie" again.

Larry L. West of Haverhill, Ma. stood among the veterans of Company A yesterday and grinned. Company members were among more than 100 who gathered at the World War II Memorial at Washington Square for a "Day of Reflection," a ceremony to honor those who served.

"It was very difficult for an 18-year old to leave Haverhill to find himself in the midst of catastrophe," Nicholas Hideriotis, founder of the memorial told the crowd. Company A was one of six groups that had a plaque dedicated to it at the memorial.

When Company A left Washington Square, Jan. 23, 1942, its 85 members ranged in age from 18 to 24.

They would be among the first Americans to face combat in the South Pacific, against one of the most relentless enemies the world had ever seen.

Yesterday they stood proud, returned to the same place they began their journey.

A dime sized tear in the shoulder of Mr. West's jacket was the only sign of wear on the pea-green uniform he wore as a young soldier, and again yesterday to the dedication.

"We were all together then," said Robert Thurston, also a veteran of Company A. "We only occasionally run across each other now."

Company A member Charles S. Marston III, 78, traveled from his home in Sarasota, Fla., for the dedication.

"He's very proud," said his daughter, Kathy Marston Goodman of Plaistow, N.H. "He served his country well."



Maj. Gen. Howard F. Channell waves the identification flag of Company A, which had a plaque dedicated to it at Haverhill's World War II memorial.

Cora M. Cahill of Haverhill, whose son, William Cahill who was killed in Vietnam, was one of the Gold Star Mothers recognized during the ceremony.

"It was an experience for us too. I'm glad they've got something here for everyone."

The memorial was originally dedicated in 1990.

Now eight years later and \$175,000 later, the finishing touches were placed on the obelisk monument with six markers laid at its base.

The final dedication was delayed until all the money could be raised to finish the plaques, The new plaques honor:

Gold Star Mothers Memorial: To honor all Gold Star Mothers whose sons or daughters were killed in action.

Company A Memorial: Honors Haverhill's Company A, 182nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard. As part of the Americal Division, Company A was one of the first army units to engage in offensive action against Japanese forces in World War II.

Home Front Memorial: For the men, women and children of Haverhill who served at home during WW II.

Pearl Harbor Memorial: Honors the men who died in the attack and the survivors.

Grateful Nation Memorial: Symbolizes a community grateful for the sacrifice of men and women who served in WW II.

D.A.V. Memorial: Depicts the seal of the Disabled American Veterans and remembers the sacrifice of its members.

Shoe City Memorial: Two stylized silhouettes of a lady's high-buttoned shoe top two spotlight posts in front of the monument to recognize Haverhill's history in the shoe industry.

Mr. Hideriotis, who first envisioned the monument, said there are now plans to construct a monument in the city for women veterans. Michael G. Ingham, director of Haverhill veterans services, said the plan calls for the memorial to be placed in front of the Pentucket Medical Association.

(Sent in by Herbert O'Brien)

BIG BASH IN BOSTON

Close to 400 people turned out in Boston on Veterans Day, last November for the opening in the Massachusetts State House of a major photo exhibit chronicling the World War II exploits in Burma of Merrill's Marauders and the Mars Task Force.

This was the first public showing of the exhibit, titled "General Stilwell's Infantry -- A History in Photographs", which was put together at the request of the Stilwell Foundation of Andover, Mass., a co-sponsor of the show along with Suffolk University.

After its Boston appearance, the exhibit will go to Milwaukee, Wisc., where it will open on May 21, 1998 at the War Memorial Center, 750 North Lincoln Memorial Drive. Memorial Day will fall on May 25th. The exhibit will then move on to the Hoover Institute, Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif. Its final destination is the Stilwell Museum in Chungking, the World War II capital of China, a museum that was established by the Chinese Government to honor the American General and his U.S. Forces in the wartime CBI, who the Chinese hail as "Liberators" of their homeland.

All told the exhibit traces the Marauders and Mars campaigns through 275 photographs, maps, historical materials and quotes from individual officers and men. It represents a labor of love for David Quaid, Marauder Historian Emeritus, who

spent more than two and a half years, seven days a week, assembling it from his own photo coverage and that of others from the 164th Signal Photo Company, who accompanied the mission.

He came across some film that had never been seen before. "It all started this way," said Quaid. "About three years ago, the Chinese opened the Museum, with American Defense Secretary Perry and Stilwell's daughter, Nancy S. Easterbrook, there to cut the ribbon. They were then taken on a tour of the facility, passing exhibits memorializing the Flying Tigers, the Hump pilots and others. When Nancy came to the end of the line she said, "But where is my father's Infantry?" Neither the Marauders nor the Task Force were represented. I was asked to fill the gap.

Fifteen members of the Marauders and Mars Task Force showed up for the opening ceremony in Boston, coming from as far away as Minneapolis, Minn., and they were besieged with questions from people attending the exhibit.

A picture of one Marauder, Warner Katz, in the next day's "Boston Globe", along with television coverage of the event, drew several telephone calls from other Marauders and Mars Task Force veterans, friends and families in the New England area.

Quaid expressed a hope that more Marauders and Mars Task Force vets will turn out when the exhibit reaches Milwaukee and Palo Alto.

David B. Richardson,
Military Liaison Officer, MMA

Ed Note: Many Americal men that served through the Guadalcanal campaign also served in Burma with Merrill's Marauders. During the time of intensive training on Vita Levu, Fiji Islands, a call came out for volunteers for combat duty. Many men volunteered but few were chosen--one requirement being that you had never had malaria.

It would be great to hear from some of those Americal vets that served in CBI. Lets hear your story!

A LETTER FROM THE OLD GUARD

In 1935, I joined the old Howitzer Co., of the 132 Infantry Regiment, Illinois National Guard at the young age of 16. When the unit was federalized on March 5, 1941, I was a brand new "shavetail". A Platoon Leader of the new Anti-Tank Company. I was one of many who got their service records corrected as to age before I received my commission. After Camp Forest, Tennessee, we went overseas as part of Task Force 6814-A. After New Caledonia we hit Guadalcanal the night of December 6-7, 1942. Then we went to Vit Levu, Fiji Islands, where I was promoted to Captain and assigned as Regimental Transportation officer, (RTO). Shortly thereafter I was re-assigned as S-1 and Headquarters C.O., 2nd Bn. just in time to go to the island of Bougainville.

We left Fiji on New Years Eve 1943 and arrived on Bougainville several days later.

On Bougainville I was assigned as C.O. of Company G, better known as "Swingin G" where I experienced plenty of action. My 1st Sgt. was Milton Elberg (recently joined the ADVA). No one had a better Top-Kick. On or about 12 Jan. '45 we loaded ships and took off for Leyte, P. I. On or about the 17th of Feb. '45 the entire 2nd Bn. of the 132nd

was sent to western Leyte, the Villaba area, to push the Japs from their fortified positions. Fr. Francis Gorman came along with us. I believe it was about Feb. 26th, at dawn, as we were getting ready to attack a heavily defended hill, a Jap machine gun burst caught me. As an infantryman you're supposed to keep your head, butt and ankles down. I caught four slugs in all three places (embarrassing for an infantry officer). While the medics were working on me, Fr. Gorman came and administered the Last Rites to me.

The Battalion took the hill after a bayonet attack (this may have been the first and possibly the only, fixed bayonet attack by U. S. Army troops in the Pacific during WWII). The next day I was evacuated to the San Isidro area where I received my first operation by Dr. John Belmonte of the 121st Med. Bn. (Dr. Belmonte was formerly the Regimental Surgeon of the 132 Infantry Regiment).

At the 50th Anniversary Reunion in 1991, of the 132nd Infantry Association, in Oak Brook, Ill., I met Fr. Gorman as he was greeting everyone coming into the Saturday night Banquet. We hadn't seen each other since Leyte, 46 years before. He was good at remembering names and faces but he hesitated when he saw my name tag, Len Chase, Co. G. Unknown to him and many other friends I had changed my name in 1949 from Czachowski to Chase and remained in the service. Many of my old army friends had thought I had died somewhere along the line. Fr. Gorman however, quickly remembered and said; "Sure, they used to call you Butch." I said, "Yes and do you remember that on Leyte, P. I. you gave me the Last Rites?" He looked me in the eye and said, "I guess I did a good job."

Fr. Francis Gorman was indeed a soldier's Chaplain. It was my privilege to know Fr. Gorman for many years and he will be missed. May God grant him eternal peace.

For those of you who I haven't seen or heard from me and who may read this letter, I retired in February of '61 as Lt. Col. and reside in Eugene, Or.

Len Chase

Eugene, Or. 97405

P. S. I really appreciate the Americal Newsletter. I read it from cover to cover and enjoy all the items, especially the Letters From the Old Guard. The Jan. Feb. Mar. issue had an item of interest to me and prompted me to write this letter.

TOUCHED BY FIRE

The Land War in the South Pacific
Eric Bergerud
Viking-Penguin
New York, 1996

In Re: Captain Alfred Gutttag's review of the book in the November-December 1997 Americal Newsletter

It is my opinion that Captain Gutttag did not read the subject book in the light of the statements made in the "Preface" thereof. It was not the intention of Eric Bergerud to write a history of the War in the SOPAC but to write about the men who fought it -- the Infantry!!

I believe that my adulation of the Coastwatchers exceeds that of 95% of the men involved in the South Pacific for I have taken three trips to Bougainville and Australia for the purpose of interviewing those who served on Bougainville

and/or their wives. However, I do not feel that leaving them out was wrong as this book was the not type to include them. It is important to remember that this is a story of Infantrymen with the promise that their future volumes would deal with the Navy and the Air Force. The Coastwatchers, as such, were either Australian Naval or Air Force personnel.

As a point of interest and fact, TF 6814 was not a combat unit. As such it did not exist after May, 1942 and the combat period of the Americal Division did not begin until October, 1942. An additional fact missed by Captain Gutttag was that it was the 164th Infantry (which was not part of TF 6814) which entered combat first as a unit assigned to the Americal but detached to the First Marine Amphibious Corps on Guadalcanal.

The critic's diversion into the subject of the West Point Protective Association is out of line with the subject of the book. This statement would seem to be contrary to my own feelings on the subject -- but I would have thrown in NGPA as well. I am, however, objecting to such criticism as being one not covered by the book in question.

And, now, a comment about Sgt. Vouza not being included; Vouza was a police man in the Solomon Islands Protective Police Force. There is no doubt that he was a hero. That he was decorated by Great Britain is a fact but one must note that that decoration came as a direct result of his being awarded one by the US Marines by some months. My records do not indicate that he received medals from five countries for valor. It is a matter of record that he was exiled from the Solomon Islands to Fiji for a number of years after World War II. He returned from exile because he was aging and because the US Marines wanted him on Guadalcanal as a show piece. Sgt. Vouza, was, by the way, not a Kanaka and would be very upset to be called thusly. "Kanaka" is a very derogatory term used by the French concerning the natives of New Caledonia.

I would presume that the author omitted references to the "Co-Prosperity Plan for Asia" because its influences on the Japanese mind was so well known that it did not need to be recalled for the reader.

Eric Bergerud writes in his "Preface" that, if you wish to read the full history of the SOPAC and the SOWESPAC you should read the US Army's Official History.

The term "Kamikaze" (Divine Wind) was not used by anyone during the early periods of WW II. It has particular reference to the suicide attacks, by airplanes, in the days of the battles in the North Pacific.

The "Izi" (?) sub-machine gun is not listed among the weapons of WW II, by any side, by any creditable book on the subject (I have five such works). It was created after WW II.

Over 100,000 Reising Model 50 and 55 were built during World War II. Over 75% of these were sent to Russia with the remainder going to England and the US Marines. It was patented in 1940. The Thompson sub-machine gun, the M 1928, was first patented in 1919. Thusly, the Reising did very little to create the Thompson.

The "Pink House" discussion simply does not fit the type of book which was written. To some, it might have been a "battle Zone" but it is not listed as an "official" area of combat.

References to Eric Bergerud not being a (to paraphrase) "a real combat soldier" is just about as short sighted as one can get. What Captain Gutttag does not know is that Bergerud is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Of course, Eric Bergerud's book did not include every instance one might feel is necessary; of course the book included some very unimportant events; and, of course, neither Captain Gutttag nor I have written quality books on the subject of the Infantry in battle acceptable to publishers. To pick flaws is easy, to write is hard work.

W. Mark Durley, Jr.
ex-164th Infantry
LTC INF USA (Ret)

JAPAN SAYS CHANGE OF NAME OKAY

The Japanese Government wouldn't mind changing the name of the Henderson International Airport terminal as long as it is given a name "that would remind us of our future relationship".

Japanese Charge d'Affaires in Honiara Hideo Nomoto told the Solomon Star yesterday in an interview, that since the new airport terminal was now the property of Solomon Islands, the Japanese Government will not mind changing its present name.

But he said if the Solomon Islands Government would like to change the name of the airport, it should be a name that should reflect upon our future relationship and not the terrors of the past.

"Not a name like Yamamoto, which a friend of mine in the government recently suggested to me.

"Names like Yamamoto will always remind me of the terror of the Second World War, which is a backward name. I feel that a name that all of us would look forward to and remind us of our future relations would do", Mr. Nomoto said.

He added that although the new terminal was funded by the Japanese Government, the issue of changing the name is now a matter for the Solomon Islands Government to decide.

The idea of changing the name of the airport was proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport, Works and Utilities, Sir Baddeley Devesi.

But the Prime Minister's Office has advised that the matter should be brought up to Cabinet for discussion.

No formal presentation has yet reached the Cabinet.

A number of callers who rang the Solomon Star yesterday expressed their support for the change of the airport from Henderson to Guadalcanal.

A correspondent from Kirakira said: "The intended re-naming of our International Airport is putting history in its 'correct place' and not 'changing History' as purported by the Museum Director.

"If you read the 'rare documents' on the bloody war fought on Guadalcanal such as "The Guadalcanal Diary", "Fire over the Islands" and "The Battle for Guadalcanal" (Solomon Islands National

Archives) you will appreciate that there were more dead heroes and it would be an act of injustice to glorify just one who bravely died executing his duties.

"But you need a 'hero to kill a hero', so what about the brave Japanese soldiers who first built the airfield and died defending it? It must be a difficult decision for the Japanese Government to fund and build a magnificent terminal that shines out only one American War Hero.

"It is therefore more appropriate to change the name from Henderson to Guadalcanal because Guadalcanal is the LAND where the Blood of all the dead heroes flow. Also "Guadalcanal" is more unique, unlike "Henderson" which can be a common American or English name."

The Director of Museum, Lawrence Foanaota has opposed to the changing of the name, saying "changing the name means changing History".

He suggested the idea of running a public poll to include tourists and our own people to get a wider view and opinion on the intention to change the name.

Foanaota said the name of the airfield is the issue. It should not be overlooked that "Henderson Field" is also Solomon Islands' history not just the U.S. or Japan.

He added that history and what had become part of our heritage should be handled with care and respect. No money can buy or replace what had been imprinted like the name.

(The above article was printed in the Solomon Island Star on Friday March 20, 1998. This article was submitted to the Americal Newsletter by Joe Micek and following is his response to the U.S. Embassy).

Submitted by Joe Micek

4 April 1998

Ambassador Arma Jane Karaer
Embassy of the United States of America
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Dear Ambassador Karaer,

Fifty-six (56) years since we defeated the Japanese Imperial Forces on Guadalcanal and now they are reversing history by trying to remove the name "Henderson Field" from Guadalcanal! It's a direct insult to the Armed Forces of the U.S.A. that fought in the six-month campaign.

After you read the attached article from the Solomon Island Star, a newspaper that is published weekly in Honiara, Guadalcanal, you feel sick in the stomach when you read the sentence, "so what about the brave Japanese soldiers who first built the airfield and died defending it?" (They did a pretty lousy job of defending the airfield in total defeat!) They seem to forget that they were the aggressor.

As we all know the elite Japanese forces met their first major defeat on the island of Guadalcanal, on land, sea and in the air. We stopped them "cold in their tracks" and backed them all the way to Tokyo.

When Guadalcanal (i.e., Solomon Islands) became an independent country in 1978, the Japanese Government and private Jap firms poured millions of dollars primarily into Guadalcanal. Eventually they bought the friendship and spirit of the Guadalcanal officials. The Japs financed the total cost (about \$60 million dollars) of the new air terminal. The new air terminal is located across the road from the old terminal and is very large and modern; makes the old terminal look like a shack.

A friend of the Japanese Charge d'Affaires, suggested the new terminal be named "Yamamoto International Airport!" What an insult to the American Guadalcanal WW II Veterans.

Something should be done about this serious situation. Perhaps our Senators and Representatives in Congress should be contacted to get involved, otherwise the accurate history of the WW II Guadalcanal Campaign will be lost forever and replaced by the Japanese "Heroes!"

What can we do to perpetuate the memory of our great victory on the 'Canal so that future generations coming through the new Air Terminal will respect and revere the name "Henderson" and associate it with the courage and valor shown by our American Armed Forces in WW II.

Thank you,
Respectfully,
Joseph G. Micek

THE LEGION of VALOR...A BRIEF HISTORY

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty..." With words similar to these and a bit of ribbon and metal, the nation honors those in its armed forces who, engaged with the enemy, forgot personal danger and accomplished their missions with daring. The frightening, impersonal war machines of World War II and Korea and now, Viet Nam were designed for wholesale slaughter, making personal bravery more rare.

In World War I, the President was authorized to present the Distinguished Service Cross to any person "who should distinguish himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy." In 1919, a similar decoration was conceived for the Navy, known as the Navy Cross.

The Congressional Medal of Honor, first awarded in 1861, has grown in prestige. (More of the men who have won this honor are dead, rather than living.) Those Medal of Honor men who have survived their deeds of heroism are few. There are less than two hundred and six living in the whole Nation, as of November 9, 1992

The awarding of medals to our national heroes dates back to the Revolutionary War when Washington recommended decorations be given to John Paulding, David Williams, and Jacob Van Wert, captors of the British spy, Major Andre. Congress, in 1861, authorized the first Medal of Honor. The U.S. Army followed in 1862 with the Medal of Honor. The U.S. Navy Medal of Honor was authorized in 1861.

The Air Force Cross, equal to the Distinguished Service Cross and Navy Cross, was authorized by Congress in 1960 and recipients are eligible for membership in the Legion of Valor.

The Legion of Valor was organized on April 23, 1890, in Washington, D.C. by a group of Civil War and Indian Campaign veterans who had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and membership was restricted to recipients of this medal. In 1918, recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross were declared eligible for membership, and in 1933, Navy Cross recipients were admitted to the Legion. The Legion has met in an annual convention ever since 1890. Included in the program, at all the conventions, is the hushed moment when the members stand uncovered in respectful silence to commemorate the deeds of those who had fallen in battle for our country.

The Legion of Valor is perhaps the most unique organization in the United States. Membership is not achieved by birth, social position, wealth, or academic achievement. Eligibility is confined to recipients of our nation's two highest decorations for valor. The official presentation of these decorations to members of the armed forces in appropriate ceremonies determine whom its members shall be.

Legion of Valor Museum
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent in by Larry O'Boyle

FIFTY YEARS LATE
125th Quartermaster

Local Veteran's Recognition Was Late In Coming

More than 50 years ago, Winchester resident Joseph Thompson earned a commendation for outstanding services in the South Pacific.

His Bronze Medal arrived just this year, however.

Recognition is still forthcoming for many men and women who served during World War II, as many more stories of courage and gallantry continue to come forward.

Thompson, born 1916 and a life-long Winchester resident, was a member of the National Guard in Woburn when the Yankee Division was federalized on January 16, 1941 and his unit was sent to Camp Edwards.

He became a sergeant in the 125th Quartermaster Company and in 1942 was in New Caledonia in the South Pacific. From there, he was sent to Guadalcanal aboard the U.S.S. Alchiba.

On the morning of Nov. 28, while approaching Lunga Beach, the Alchiba, which was carrying a dangerous cargo of gasoline and ammunition, was hit by a Japanese submarine and set afire. The ship's commander made straight for the beach, and men from the quartermaster platoon, including Thompson, assisted in fighting the fires and unloading the ship.

"Displaying great courage, leadership and intelligence," as his commendation states, "Sgt. Thompson effected the unloading of large quantities of bombs and aviation gasoline amid continuous explosions. Through his action, vitally needed supplies were landed for use against the enemy."

Thompson served in the war until honorably discharged October, 1944. He returned to his wife Marquerite and two daughters in Winchester and

worked at Beggs and Cobb and for the town highway department.

Once behind him the war was something to forget.

Looking back now, Thompson says the Lunga Beach incident was the worst experience of the war for him. It was a time when his Company suffered its first casualties. It was a time he does not now wish to recall.

In fact, had it been left up to him, he would not have applied to receive his belated Bronze Star. At the urging of his family and one old buddy, however, he went ahead.



The idea was first suggested to the Thompsons in 1989 by one of the men from his outfit, Paul Santogeanis of California, who has been researching the unit.

According to Santogeanis, many men who served in the war received only ribbons or nothing for the medals they earned. When the Bronze Star medal came into being, it was made retroactive to cover acts such as Thompson's.

The Thompsons put together the necessary documentation, and in June, this year, he received authorization for the award. Declining any possible ceremony to accompany the award, Thompson received his medal in the mail.

Seeking no recognition himself, it has come to Thompson from his family and friends. Though some veterans like Thompson may be reluctant to recall their war years, their deeds are not to be forgotten.

As his friend Santogeanis wrote while helping with the application process, those who come afterward will be interested. We need to leave "our tracks and traces" for them.

During the next year, following the Alchiba incident, Thompson received a Presidential Unit Citation and five other men received a commendation for outstanding service.

WERE YOU ON THIS SHIP?

When the Americal was staging for Japan in 1945 all of us "Old Men" were cleaned out. The originals from TF 6814 who had spent the best part of three and a half years (3 1/2) overseas came home to Cebu. We boarded PA 90 and were told if they died not have to pick up wounded on Guam that we would be home in five (5) days. They did and we weren't. We were dumped on Leyte for two weeks and our records of shots were lost. We had to take them over again before they'd let us go.

A junker of a Liberty ship, named the JAMES KINCAID picked us up and it took thirty three days (33) to reach San Francisco.

We were of Hawaii at night when the war ended and every gun on the island was fired. We thought they'd been attacked again, until the lights came on the aboard the ship. We had never been at sea before at night with lights on.

Through the help of the Boston Globe I finally found the name of PA 90 - it was the JAMES O'HARE.

I thought a lot of other guys might like to know the name of the ship. Of course we were only on it a short time.

Bill McLaughlin

C BATTERY 221st FIELD ARTILLERY

On Bougainville where my Americal Division were fighting the Japs for one year and one day, my #1 gun crew had a surprise visit.

We were firing the guns with what I recall was a harassing fire mission, whereas we fired our 155 MM Howitzers only 1 or 2 rounds a minute into the arrears of the Japs. Its purpose was not only to kill the Japs but also to harass them by keeping them awake.

Our surprise visitor was an older man who said he was a Navy Seabee who wanted very much to pull the lanyard to fire one round at the Japs. He told us that his brother was killed by the Japs and he sure would like to pull the lanyard to get even with the Japs.

My gun chief of section, Sgt. Barney Chase, asked permission from Lt. Fred Williams who said he would not look and go ahead just as if one of the regular Artillerymen had fired the gun. We even let him write on the shell in white chalk, words to the effect, TO HELL WITH THE JAPS.

Well this old Navy Seabee man did fire our gun and was so grateful and proud for us letting him pull the lanyard, on our #1 gun, that he asked us what did we need or could use. Of course the best thing would be a generator so we could have electricity. I remember one of us said just that, a generator. Well sure as hell the old guy was a man of his word and C Battery, 221st Field Artillery had a winner.

That same gun position on Bougainville where we let the old man fire our Howitzer was the same gun position where the Japs bombed us, and the Jap Artillery fired on our guns and the shells bursting in the trees and all around us, in the swamps, in our rear, but never on our guns. We fired our guns a long time and we were told we had blown up 4 Jap guns.

That Jap counter-battery fire is still very clear in my mind even after all these many years.

I was talking to my chief of section on my #1 gun, Barney Chase about this counter-battery fire, at one of our recent Reunions and he told me it was just as I described it.



Under the Southern Cross states that one of C Batteries Howitzer knocked out several Jap guns from Hill 600 and 1111. I was there with Barney Chase and John Ford adjusted the gun.

We were told that it looked like one of our shells went down the barrel of the Jap gun.

Thanks to the Americal Newsletter I was able to contact an old Buddy. We plan a great time at our Americal Reunion in Orlando.

Leo W. Orfe

REMEMBRANCES OF V-J DAY, AUGUST 14, 1945

In the latter part of July, 1945, our unit was engaged in patrolling and manning road blocks in the north and north central part of Cebu Island in the Philippines.

The 7,000 to 8,000 Japanese who had survived the initial battle for the island, which began in April of 1945, were engaged in a game of hide and seek, seeking to elude American forces which were attempting to corner or capture them. They were still a portent force capable of extracting high casualties on anyone they came in contact with. After the war ended Japanese servicemen had held high hopes to the very end, that their government would come to their rescue, and evacuate them from the island.

Towards the end of July, we were told by our commanders that we would soon be given amphibious training for the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland. We already had received new tracked vehicles that were to pull our new 120 MM AA guns that had been delivered to the docks of Cebu City.

Our original unit had been at Pearl Harbor and had experienced the Japanese attack. The majority of us now had almost 30 months of overseas duty, and had earned several battle stars in our journey

across the South Pacific, the Solomon Islands and the Philippines. We were aware of the heavy bombings of Japan by the B-29s, and that we were approaching the final phases of the struggle but were completely unaware of the atom bomb, what it was or what it could do.

The day the Japanese announced their surrender we first heard ships in Cebu City Harbor firing their guns and sending rockets up into the evening sky. Then all the local churches started to ring their bells. We then knew something important was happening and our first sergeant went through our area announcing that the Japanese had accepted the surrender terms.

Our first re-action was overwhelming joy at the thought of not having to be involved in the invasion of Japan and the knowledge of our being able to return to our loved ones after serving our country thousands of miles from our homes for almost two and one-half years.

It took almost a week to convince the 6,000 to 7,000 Japanese on Cebu that the war was really over. They had to be provided with radio communication to hear their emperor declare it was so.

There was some very delicate arrangements that had to be made by the commanding general of the Americal Division to specify where the surrendering Japanese troops were to appear, and bring along their weapons.

When this was arranged the Americal Division left the island for occupation duty of Japan. A section of our unit was given the task of collecting the weapons the surrendering Japanese troops were bringing in, then searching the troops for any hidden weapons, paper money, etc., after which they were loaded on trucks for transportation to the base's POW camp several miles south of Cebu City.

Battery "D" was given the assignment of running the POW camp. Newly arriving Japanese prisoners were given the opportunity of showering, given clean clothes, assigned tent and issued cots and blankets. Medical treatment was also provided. They then were given a hot meal, prepared by their own cooks, were given orientation talks as to what camp rules were and what their duties would be. They were not required to work but could volunteer to work loading ships at the Cebu City docks, for which they would be paid a small salary and were advised as to when they might be expected to return to their homes in Japan.

The camp usually had a population of nearly 2,000 to 2,500 prisoners at a time. We never experienced any problems with the prisoners. No one tried to escape. They seemed to be very happy that the war was over and they were going home. We had one incident where a Japanese officer was attempting to force fellow prisoners to perform close order military drill, but our commanding officer reminded him that the war was over and only physical exercises "calisthenics" would be allowed.

While on duty as corporal of the guard one day, I had a very interesting experience with one of the Japanese officers. As I was checking the barbed wire fencing around the camp this officer came out of his tent nearby and motioned to me that he wanted to talk. I approached the fence near to where he was standing and asked him what he wanted. To my surprise he answered me in perfect English. "Could I have a cigarette?" I said, "Yes", but told him I would give him a whole pack for his

Naval belt buckle that he was wearing, and he agreed. The exchange was made -- another souvenir for my collection.

When I questioned him about his excellent English he said he had studied at UCLA in California during the 1940s. When he returned home in 1941, to visit his parents in Tokyo, there was a knock on the door several days later and several Japanese officers standing at the door advised him because of his studies in the United States and his knowledge of English the Emperor desired his services. He further explained that there was no choice about accepting, especially when one officer made a gesture of drawing a knife across his throat if he refused!

He then questioned me about where our group was located while the fighting was still in progress in Cebu Island. I described our road block position near a bridge in the very northern most part of the island. To my surprise he took a stick and in the dust at his feet drew an exact sketch of our road block position, our patrol activities and even the number of GIs at the location. When I asked him how he could possibly know all of this, he coolly remarked, "We were dug in on the next ridge of hills and watching you!" I then inquired why they hadn't fired on us or even attacked. He said, "We knew we were outnumbered and if we had fired on you, we would have divulged our position. We still had hopes of our government sending reinforcements or evacuating us."

When most of the Japanese troops had been processed for their return, our group was loaded aboard LST ships and taken to Tacloban, Leyte. We disposed of all of our equipment there, and were processed for our return to the United States.

On Dec. 17, 1945 we boarded the USS Thomas Jefferson for our trip back to the Golden Gate and San Francisco. A very happy group of GIs arrived in San Francisco on Dec. 2, 1945, ready and willing to resume civilian life again, thanking God again and again for allowing us to arrive home "safe and sound."

Let us remember the men and women of World War II.

Consider where America and the world might be if 50 years ago the champions of freedom had failed in World War II.

Throughout our nation's history, the legacy of America's founders has sustained generations during troubled times.

World War II was an example of that legacy. Fifty years ago a generation of Americans took up a cause. They left home and family for months and years, facing an unknown future, and even death.

I believe the World War II generation was and is the most giving and compassionate generation this nation has ever known.

Their youth was marked by the stock market crash and the Great Depression. Then, as the economic corner was being turned, these men and women went off to war to fight a global conflict. More than 400,000 died defending our freedom, and that of other people who yearned to be free.

When victory finally came, our fighting men and women came home. But, they were determined not to rest on their accomplishments.

Instead they went to colleges and trade schools, got married, raised families, built homes, found

jobs and became productive members of society. Assisted by the G.I. Bill, the veterans of World War II provided the greatest economic growth this nation has seen in the span of one generation.

Why were they motivated to such great accomplishments?

Freedom has a lot to do with it. In the prime of their lives they understood this difficult-to-grasp concept. For many of them President Roosevelt's State of the Union address in 1941 held special meaning. That's when Roosevelt spoke of the Four Freedoms: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

Ask a World War II veteran or family member about freedom and you'll get a ready answer. To them freedom is something to protect, cherish and hold on to.

Should we celebrate freedom? The answer is clearly a resounding Yea!

So, strike up the band, light the fireworks, break out the red, white and blue and raise "Old Glory" high.

This day, and every day, celebrate America's freedom.

Leonard Owczarzak

THAT WONDERFUL "JEEP"

No other military vehicle that has served during our great country's various wars, and occupation duties, has ever captured the imagination and respect of Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine personnel as much as the famous jaunty Jeep!

Thousands of G.I.'s readily acknowledge that they owed their lives to the Jeep, in one way or another, because of its reliability, versatility, and rugged construction.

From the sands of North Africa to the frozen ground of the Aleutians, Bastogne, and North Korea the Jeep was ready, willing and able to perform any task that was needed to assist our fighting personnel in carrying out their assigned missions. In the steamy, swampy, and treacherous jungles of the Solomons, New Guinea, and Viet-Nam, every day miracles of rescue and defensive actions depended on this "Blitz Buggy".

It carried wounded out of and supplies into, many otherwise inaccessible locations. It pulled light artillery pieces, ammunition trailers to besieged positions. Equipped with a mounted machine gun it could function as a hit-and-run attack vehicle, and fire on low flying enemy planes. Many generals, and even land based admirals did a lot of strategical directing from the front seat of a Jeep.

Late in 1939 the Army asked various manufacturers for a light all-terrain fighting vehicle. Bantam Motors of Pennsylvania, Willy Overland of Toledo, and Ford Motor Co. of Detroit responded with prototypes. Before W.W.II ended, 600,000 of the versatile vehicles were delivered and in service on all of the fighting fronts.

The name "Jeep" is rumored to have come from a then popular cartoon character, "Popeye the Sailor".

If a military vehicle were eligible for a Medal of Honor, for service above and beyond the call of duty, the Jeep would be at the top of the list.

Eat your heart out "Hummer"!

By Leonard Owczarzak

132 INFANTRY
Benjamin Cooley Gets Long-awaited Honors
(By Randy Williams)

After 53 years and miles of red tape, an 81 year old Ithaca man finally receives all the recognition and decorations from the war he deserved.

Following a three year battle with the Department of Army St. Louis, Missouri Records Office, Benjamin Cooley finally received a package containing combat medals he earned while serving in the 132nd Infantry of the Americal Division from 1941 to 1945.

"It was a long battle with the records office", said Benjamin Cooley, who was wounded on Guadalcanal on December 27, 1942.



Receives overdue medals

Benjamin Cooley, 81, of Ithaca shows off all the recognition and decorations he deserved from the Department of Army, after a 53-year wait.

Cooley served in the United States Army, 132 Infantry, Americal Division, for four years, three months, and 11 days before being discharged on June 11, 1945. He was wounded when his platoon was pinned down by sniper fire. After being hospitalized for four days he was sent back into action.

Benjamin and his wife, Vera, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 6, 1996. They have two sons and three daughters, all residing in the Ithaca area.

Ed Note: Thanks to Tom Holewa for sending in this article. Sorry it took so long to show up in the Newsletter but it got lost in the shuffle when I moved. I still considered worth being printed.

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING YOUR NEWSLETTER
WHY NOT PUT IN THE LOCAL LIBRARY OR
VETERANS HOSPITAL?

C BATTERY - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY

CITATION

On the night of 8-9 April 1945, Second Lieutenant Harry B. Milne, O-1183930, FA, "C" Battery, 247th Field Artillery Battalion, was working with 'I' Company, 132nd Infantry Regiment on the Island of Cebu, Philippines Island, as artillery forward observer. On the afternoon of 8 April, the Company assaulted and seized Hill 26, a high point of ground offering almost no concealment, and of considerable tactical importance. The Hill was exposed to enemy observation and automatic weapons fire from north, west, and south. The company's position was under spasmodic fire throughout the night causing many casualties. At about 0300, 9 April 1945, enemy fire grew intense, wounding two men about fifteen yards from Lieutenant Milne's foxhole. Under heavy fire and over exposed ground Lieutenant Milne voluntarily went to their aid and while doing so was seriously wounded. His gallant action was and inspiration to his men.

The above citation earned Lt. Harry B. Milne the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action on Cebu, and a ticket home. Following is Harry's own story.

Now I will tell you what transpired after that event on the Hill. We had Filipino lads for litter bearers (at least they carted me down) and I don't think they knew any English. Along the way we encountered sniper fire and those boys just dropped me and took cover. I don't know how many times this happened because I was in and out of it most of the time. One time while lying on the ground I had this vision. I saw my aunt, who was a Nun, and had died in December of 1941. The words that I thought she said were, "Harry, we're not ready for you now. You will be okay ." The next thing I knew when I came to again, I was outside the field hospital with a hand on my head. That hand belonged to Col. Power and evidently he got me inside to be patched up. You know, to this day I believe he was responsible for saving my life.

Before leaving the hospital I had one visitor..that was Eric Wadleigh. (I was in his Battery prior to my transfer to C Battery, 247th FA Bn). His visit wasn't very long, but appreciated. I later found out that he wrote a nice letter to my parents telling them that I would be okay. In fact they got his letter before the telegram from the War Department.

From the field hospital I went back to a General Hospital on Leyte. In May I was put on a hospital ship and headed for the States. Arrived in Frisco early June and soon after that I was on a hospital train for the ride east. Eventually, I wound up at Walter Reed General Hospital in D.C. That's where surgery was performed to remove the 20mm shell fragments from my left lung.

Well, that's it in a nutshell, that's a brief story from the Hill where I got hit to Walter Reed where I finally recovered. Only a few people know about that trip off the Hill and especially about the vision I saw. Whether I did or didn't, it's hard to say. I guess I'll have to wait 'til I get to the Pearly Gates to find out for sure.

Harry

Ed Note: Harry recently sent the above story in as it was printed in the "Canoneers Post", put out by Bill McLaughlin. An attached note read:

Jim, in a recent Newsletter you mentioned you were looking for action stories on Cebu. Recently I was cleaning some drawers and came across the enclosed. Bill McLaughlin must have put it in one of his Newsletters.

Attached was a letter that I received from Jack Folmer dated 8-21-90.

You can see from the date on this memo that it was 51 years ago that I almost "bought the farm" as Jack states. Following is that letter:

August 21, 1990

Dear Harry:

The article about you in the last Newsletter (Canoneer's Post) really brought back memories. How well I remember those early hours of the morning of April 9, 1945. I was the NCO in charge of FDC at that time. We had registered the guns of the 247th late in the afternoon of the 8th.

At about 10 PM that night, the Captain in charge of FDC (I don't recall his name) told me, "I'm going to sack out for a while, if anything happens, call me." Well, as you well know, all Hell broke loose about 3 AM.

The first thing we heard in FDC was a whispering voice calling "Fire Mission". I grabbed the mike and asked for co-ordinates. After a short bit of confusion I found out he meant the spot where the guns were registered. I immediately sent the order to the Batteries for 12 rounds - as soon as they reported rounds complete I ordered 12 more rounds, and again when they reported rounds complete I ordered the third set of 12 rounds. About this time the Captain came running into FDC yelling, "What the Hell is going on?" Immediately behind him was the Bn C.O..

Well, the Captain never chewed me out - but he sure wanted to - because he would have to explain to the Col. why he wasn't on duty.

We heard the next day that you had been hit with a 20mm round and evacuated.

I left Cebu for the States shortly after that,, and had to presume you had "bought the farm". Sure was glad to hear you were still alive and kicking.. Thought you would enjoy hearing what happened on our end.

Jack Folmer

WE NEED YOU!

We need your story that is. The Americal Newsletter depends on you, our members, to fill the pages of every edition. Sit down and write that story NOW. It doesn't matter what Squad, Platoon, Company, Battalion, or Regiment you were in. We want that story.

It has been said that there are not enough stories about this or that unit in the Newsletter. This is because you have not sent in your story.

Send your story to:

Jim Buckle
[Redacted]
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

Please include your telephone number so that I may contact you in case of any questions.

T-SHIRT SALE



We are happy to make these fine shirts available to ADVA members at very reasonable prices. Send your order today while stocks are plentiful.

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1381

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