



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor-in-Chief: James C. Buckle
Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2000

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION – 82 PHYLLIS DRIVE – SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664



The
Americal Division

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Chapter Commander
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St. Louis, MO 63123

Web Site (Internet)
www.americal.org

Christmas Message

THE CALENDAR OF GOD

Rev. Perry M. Woerner, National Chaplain
Galatians 4:4 - "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son."

The world lay in unrest and had been impatient for centuries waiting for the Messiah. Here is proof that God is never hurried, but neither is He late. God always plans His work, then works His plan.

It was a mighty clock stroke when the angels announced His birth to the shepherds on a Judean hillside. The response, "Let us now go and see."

The shepherds saw in the manger a child that was born a King. He had no royal palace nor royal tapestries, yet He was born and IS KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS. Isaiah 9:6-7 declares "...and the government shall be upon his shoulders."

The shepherds saw in the manger a child that was born a Priest. Hebrews 7:21-22, "The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, by so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament." He came to reconcile men unto God. The work of the priest was to represent the people before God. In this respect Christ is the mediator between God and man. (I Tim. 2:5)

The shepherds saw in the manger a child born Wonderful Counselor. His words were and will always be words of life.

The shepherds saw in the manger a child born the Prince of Peace. There can never be a world peace apart from this Prince of Peace. But also there is a personal peace that He gives. John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.... not as the world giveth, give I unto you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Yes, Christ is ALL and ALL IN ALL in a troubled world. HE came as a child that we might receive him as children.

So each Christmas it witness again of God's plan, purpose and perfect time-keeping.

National Commander's Message

Welcome from the Commander. I hope all of you are enjoying a happy holiday season. As the first calendar year of my term comes to a close, I am looking forward to the start of another great year for the Americal Division. We will soon be in Cleveland for the 2001 reunion. I talked with Dave Taylor and Larry Watson at Kokomo and it sounds like the Cleveland reunion will be another successful gathering. There seems to be many ADVA vets in that area. I will be looking forward to seeing all of you again.

I was at Kokomo, IN in September for the Howard Co. Vietnam Veterans reunion. I have been there many times but I think this was the best. Many Americal vets were there and some had never heard of the association. I would like to commend PNC Ed Marsh on a great job at the recruiting tent. He puts in a lot of hard work and long hours for the membership. I also thank Michael Brown who handled all the cooking duties for the weekend. He really did a good job with the chow. I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Remember to hug a vet

Ronald R Ellis, Henderson, TX
Co. C, 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB

From the Jr. Vice-Commander

I would like to say thank you to all the OLD GUARD for the freedom that I have today for what they did so long ago. If only the rest of the world would look back and see what was happening then and where they would be today if it were not for the great people of the United States. To my BROTHERS of today, there are words to

say, but I could not put them on paper to say how I feel. So just let me say Happy Holidays to all the Best Wishes for the New Year.

Rich Scales, Oakley, IL
Co. B, 3/21st Infantry

In Memoriam

Dear Friends,

Donald "Cowboy" VanEstenbridge is dead. His wife, Madelyn, sent the word. He died on Sunday, October 8, 2000. He was a 95Bravo with the 23rd MP Co., 23rd Inf. Div. (Americal), RVN, in 1970-71.

I served with Don twice. First we were in a Security Guard Company in QuiNhon during the first part of our '70-71 tour and later we were in the 23rd MP Co. together.

Images... folks sometimes ask how a guy from the East Coast could end up with a nickname more suited to the Ponderosa. I do not know how Don first earned the nickname "Cowboy". But thirty years ago his monicker was affirmed when I saw him attempt, A T T E M P T, to ride a water buffalo that had wandered into the barbed wire at our Long My depot outside QuiNhon.

The poor beast had gotten snarled in the barbed wire and was running the risk of cutting itself by thrashing. Don, and others, could not easily witness this cruelty and bravely helped cut the animal free. Problem was the water buffalo ended up INSIDE our compound instead of outside. Now Vietnamese water buffalo appeared docile when plowing a rice paddy or being led by a seven-year-old child along a path, but they clearly were big and dangerous. All of a sudden "Cowboy" VanEstenbridge leaps on the beast's back and it's literally RODEO time for "steer riders" at Long My. I do not know how much training or experience Don had previously, but I was in awe of him as the water buffalo snorted, sprinted, reared up, kicked, spun around and bucked him off --- it all took about three seconds.

Eventually some local farmer's youngster came in and led the beast away, and when the dust cleared there was Don grinning at his exploit. The beast had survived; "Cowboy" had really earned his name and all of his fellow MPs had enjoyed a marvelous moment of mirth and merriment in an otherwise grim day.

To his country Don "Cowboy" VanEstenbridge gave his service, to his family he gave his love and to his God he has given his spirit.

Brian J. Mulchrone, Des Plaines, IL
23rd MP Co.

Editor's Note: I regret that I never met Don "Cowboy" VanEstenbridge, but I am familiar with his contributions to ADVA members. Don acquired hundreds of official documents related to the Americal Division. He was very generous in sharing this information with other Americal veterans. We express heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

1971 Southern Cross editions are still missing. Can you help?

We have not been able to locate several 1971 issues of the Americal Division's weekly newspaper, "The Southern Cross". The following 1971 issues are being by the ADVA Vietnam Historian:

Vol 4/3 15 Jan 71	Vol 4/16 03 Apr 71
Vol 4/17 10 Apr 71	Vol 4/20 01 May 71
Vol 4/23 22 May 71	Vol 4/36 10 Sep 71
Vol 4/39 01 Oct 71	Vol 4/40 08 Oct 71
Vol 4/41 15 Oct 71	Vol 4/42 22 Oct 71
Vol 4/43 29 Oct 71	Vol 4/44 06 Nov 71

If you have any of the above editions please make a copies and send to Mr. Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, Des Moines, IA, 50312. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Roy Anderson 196 LIB E/2/1 Inf Bellerose, NY #Self	Mr. Billy Arnold 11 LIB C/4/3 Inf Plainfield, IL #PNC Gary L. Noller
Mr. Robert Bischoff 196 LIB HHC/1/46 Oak Grove, MO #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Willie Blanton 23 M.P. Blanchester, OH #Rich Merlin
Mr. Donald J. Boe 258 Per Ser Co. San Diego, CA #Dennis Daniels	Mr. Gary L. Boggs 1 Cav B Troop 1st El Paso, TX #Don Ballou
Mr. Ronald J. Buntz 56 Arty Hq/6/56 Hanover, PA #Self	Mr. Kim L. Cantor 362 Avn Det Stockbridge, GA #PNC Gary L. Noller
Mr. Robert Carrigan G-55 Stinson Beach, CA #Norm Smith	Mr. Robert E. Clark 11 LIB A/4/3 Inf Baltimore, MD #Bill Bacon
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Mr. Arturo Fuentes 1 Cav HH Troop 1st Kissimmee, FL #Bernie Chase	Mr. Roland Gendreau 196 LIB Hq/2/1 Inf Hull, MA #James Lundbohn
Mr. David L. Gibson 198 LIB D/1/6 Inf Baedwell, KY #Don Ballou	Mr. John Hastings 46 Infantry 5/46 - Chicago, IL #Don Ballou
Mr. S. Wesley Haun 23 M.P. The Woodlands, TX #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Greg Humes 196 LIB B/1/46 Inf Arcadia, IN #Ron Davis
Mr. Dennis Keever 196 LIB B/1/46 Inf Durham, NC #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Robert J. Krull 11 LIB A/4/3 Inf Tonawanda, NY #Dennis Daniels
Mr. Jack London 182 Infantry Hq Co. Hickory, NC #Jim Buckle	Mr. John W. MacLeod 182 Infantry Hq/2 Campton, NH #Jim Buckle
Mr. Arthur M. Martin 6 Infantry E/1/6 Hickory Hills, IL #Bernie Chase	Mr. Dennis Martzall 26 Com Eng A Co. Akron, PA #Self
Mr. Joseph Michael 41 Inf A Co. Allentown, PA #Bruce Monaco	Mr. Donald Morrill 198 LIB HHC Killeen, TX #James E. Johnson
Mr. Thomas E. Morris 596 D.C.S. Redcliff, KY #William Walker	Mr. Windell Naylor 196 LIB 2/1 Inf Trinty, AL #Don Prochaska
Mr. Steven Parkman 14 CAB New Rodeford, ND #PNC Gary L. Noller	Mr. Harold P. Pasmeg 198 LIB A/1/52 Inf Blakely, PA #Joe Tunis
Mr. Neal Paulshock 198 LIB C/1/6 Inf Fleetwood, PA #Wade Rodland	Mr. Bobby W. Renew 20 Inf D/1/20 Harlem, GA #Cliff Barger

Mr. Ray Rice
198 LIB A/1/5 Inf
New Middletown, OH
#Lannie D. Gilbert

Mr. John R. Sabol
11 LIB C/4/21
Glen Rock, PA
#Tom Millhouse

Mr. Scott K. Smith
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf
Fairhaven, MA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Donald W. Stokes
23 M.P. Co.
Forest, VA
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Lee A. Trent
196 LIB
Riverhead, NY
#Mike Ackerfield

Mr. William Zelasko
23 M.P. Co.
Livermore, ME
#Rich Merlin

TAPS TAPS TAPS

251 A.A. GROUP

Fred Berkoben
Wilmerding, PA
September 11, 2000

164 INFANTRY

George M. Christense
Minot, ND
Date Unknown

57 ENGINEERS

Theodore F. Coughlin
St. Petersburg, FL
April 18, 1999

196 LIB 3/82 ARTY

Gerald D. Kushner
Antioch, IL
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY MED

William E. McCormick
Feasterville Trevose
July 21, 2000

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

Leo Scrabacz
Portage Des Sioux, M
January 14, 2000

101 QUARTERMASTER

Howard B. Travis Jr.
Sandwich, MA
August 22, 2000

164 INFANTRY CO. C

Robert G. Wason
Trappe, PA
July 1, 2000

MS. Victoria L. Rich
Associate
El Paso, TX
#Don Ballou

Mr. Arthur Sanchez
23 M.P. Co.
Reedsport, OR
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Richard Stephens
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#John Furgess

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Lakewood, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Col. John R. Worrel
23 Div Arty 6/11
Liberty, MO
#Bill Bacon

#SPONSOR

82 ARTILLERY

James D. Buckley
Fort Pierce, FL
March 22, 2000

247 FIELD ARTILLER

Marvin E. Corbett
Athens, TN
October 9, 2000

101 QUARTERMASTER

Charles A. Kallio
Carver, MA
July 14, 2000

132 INFANTRY A,H,F,I

Robert A. Manning
Manhattan, IL
October 6, 1999

196 LIB

James P. Meade
Beaverton, OR
October 4, 2000

182 INFANTRY D CO.

Anthony Tenczar
Lowell, MA
May 4, 2000

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Felix J. Walsh
Brookline, MA
August 19, 2000

723 MAINTAINENCE

David M. Withrow
Palestine, TX
August 28, 2000

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478 AAA AW Bn C Btry
Fairport, NY
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Robert Brennan J
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Charleston, SC
#R. Castronova

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

Mr. William Coleman
1 Cav A Troop 2nd
Jefferson City, MO
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert Cummings
198 LIB A/5/46 Inf
Moorehead City, NC
#Internet

Mr. William Elliott
11 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Winchester, OR
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Larry J. Fox
23 M.P.
Tompkinsville, KY
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Howard Henderson
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Jacksonville, TX
#Memb. Com.

Mr. Franklin Keels
23 MP
Denver, CO
#Brian Mulcrone

Ms. June E. Kodalen
Associate
Great Falls, MT
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Eugene Levesque
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf
Hampden, ME
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Otto S. Lindskog
640 Tank Des. B Co.
Stockton, CA
#Memb Committee

Mr. James McDaniel
174 AHC 116 AHC
Springfield, VA
#Rick Olson-Jay Roth

Mr. Antonio Pulcini
132 Infantry Co F
Cranston, RI
#Gordon L. Silseth

#SPONSOR

HAVE YOU PAID YOR CHAPTER DUES? Your Chapter depends on annual dues. This is their major source of income and is needed to pay operating expenses.

Mr. Sam Brawley
23 M.P.
Arab, AL
#Rich Merlin

Mr. James Brundrett
6 Infantry A/1/6
Westerville, OH
#Fred Vigeant

Mr. Michael Chirsky
723 Maint E Co.
Waterbury, CT
#Ron Ward

Mr. James E. Crum
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Massilon, OH
#Ronald Leclair

Mr. Francis Downing
182 Infantry Hdq
Carver, MA
#Memb. Com.

Mr. Robert J. Fosset
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf
Norwood, PA
#R. Castronova

Mr. James A. Harris
196 LIB F/17/Cav
Clinton Township, MI
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Ronald D. Hopper
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
Delaware, OH
#Memb. Com.

Mr. Daniel A. Kirby
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf
Arlington, VA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Daniel Lapierre
31 Infantry A/4
Levant, ME
#Ron Davis

Rev. Jon Lindenauer
196 LIB
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#R. Castronova

Mr. James E. Markham
198 LIB
Commerce Township, M
#R. Castronova

Mr. James Mortimer
196 LIB C/1/82 Arty
Killeen, TX
#William Maddox

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

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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198 LIB HHC/A/E/6
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Gary L. Noller

Mr. Elon F. Bailey
721 Ordnance
Sylacauga, AL
#John R. Geib Jr.

Ltc. Milton E. Brown
25 Infantry HHC/3/
Phoenix, AZ
#PNC Gary L. Noller

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26 Sig Co.
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#Michele Lombardo

Mr. Michael F. Mille
198 LIB HHC/A/E/6
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Mr. Russell M. Blais
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#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Richard J. Bush
164 Infantry F Co.
Fargo, ND
#John Paulson

Mr. John J. Head
11 LIB E/4/21 Inf
Nashville, IN
#PNC Ed Marsh

#SPONSOR

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 10, 2000

In accordance with the By-laws of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I hereby make the following appointments effective July 10, 2000.

National Finance Officer
National Asst. Fin. Off.
National Adjutant
Editor-in-Chief
Vietnam Editor
Judge Advocate
Chapter Coordinator
Sergeant-at-Arms
Chaplain
Chaplain
Chaplain
Vietnam Historian
Museum Curator

Spencer Baba
Rick Olson
PNC Bernard Chase
PNC James C. Buckle
PNC Gary L. Noller
Jim Craig
PNCJohn DeGroot
Larry J. O'Boyle
Rev. William Elliott
Rev. Perry Woerner
Rev. Richard Shannon
Les Hines
Kenneth Turner

Ronald R. Ellis
National Commander

The newly elected officers are as follows:

National Commander
Sr. Vice Commander
Jr. Vice Commander

Ronald R. Ellis
Malcolm P. East
Richard L. Scales

Executive Council

PNC Gary L. Noller - Chairman
James G. Craig
Terry D. Babler
Bill Bacon
John DeGroot
Edward W. Marsh
William K. Maddox
Lloyd J. Morrell
Tommy Poppell
Paris (Pat) Tognoli
Larry J. Watson

Chapter Comm. - Members of the Executive Council

Dave Hammond
PNC Roland Castronova
John Mathews
David Eichhorn

Bob Kapp
Cameron F. Baird
Don Shebesta
PNC Ronald Ward

Certificate of Appreciation

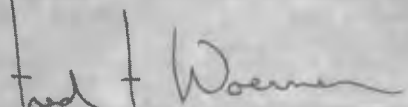
*In grateful recognition of your support in helping to build the
National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.*

*The World War II Memorial is America's tribute to the men and women,
in battle and on the home front, who together won World War II,
the defining event of the twentieth century. By virtue of the powers
vested in the American Battle Monuments Commission, this is to certify that*

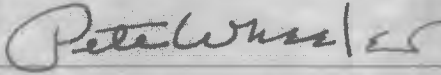
Americal Division Vets Assoc, Inc

*is a Charter Member of the World War II Memorial Society and
shall be accorded all rights and privileges thereto.*

Certified this 25th day of August, 2000


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




Peter Wheeler
Chairman, World War II Memorial Advisory Board

0000000442

Shown above is the "Certificate of Appreciation" awarded to the Americal Division Veterans Association members for their generous support of the World War II Memorial. So far the members have contributed over six thousand dollars, \$6000+, to this long overdue Memorial.

If you have not as yet made a donation to this World War II Memorial, it is not too late. Send your check, made out to A.D.V.A., to your Adjutant:

Aid. Bernard Chase
[Redacted]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

DO IT NOW!

Construction is due to start on Veterans Day, November 11, 2000 and will be dedicated on November 11, 2002.

The year 2002 Americal National Convention will be held in Washington, DC providing members of the A.D.V.A. an opportunity to attend the dedication.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FUND

George Vasilescu Jr.

Alfred Gutttag
in memory of
Pat Thompson

Fernando Vera

Robert D. Burns
in memory of
Herbert O'Brien - Co. H 101st Medical Regiment

AN ADDED OPPORTUNITY

The Convention in 2002 will also give you the opportunity to visit the Americal Memorial in the National Cemetery that was pictured on the cover of the last Newsletter.

Thanks again to Colonel John L. Insani for time and effort he put into this Memorial.

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Gregory Herring



To The Members Of the Americal:

I would to thank ADVA Scholarship Fund for this award granted toward my education. I accept this award with reverence and gratitude. I feel truly honored and grateful. Thank you for this opportunity you have given me. Furthermore, I would like to thank my grandfather, Joseph Papa, for his sponsorship and also for his years of leadership and teaching. Without him, I wouldn't be the person I have become to date. Moreover, I would like to thank others like him and what they have done for our country.

Thank You,
Gregory Herring

(Gregory's grandfather Joseph Papa, served with F Company, 182nd Infantry, during World War II.

SECOND PLACE WINNER

Mary C. Regan



To members of the Americal Division Veterans Association:

I am writing this letter to thank you for the scholarship you have granted me. I thank you for all the hard work you put into raising money for the scholarships, and I am honored that I proved worthy to receive one. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Thanks to you, those of us you have honored, will be able to attend the school of our choice and not have to worry so much about the financial burden.

I know all recipients of this scholarship feel the same pride I do in receiving it.

Thank you also for the time you spent in the service to our country, and your devotion to the children of other veterans.

Gratefully,
Mary Regan
Year 2000 Recipient

(Mary's Dad served with 196 LIB 2/1 Infantry in Vietnam)

THIRD PLACE WINNER

James Maluk



Members of the Americal Division Veterans Association:

I am writing to express my gratitude for coming in third in the ADVA Scholarship contest. Both my father and I cannot thank you and your organization enough for your generosity.

I begin my first year at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey this September and, while I am anxious about what college will be like, I am encouraged by the support given to me by my family and Vietnam Veterans of the Americal Division.

You can be sure that the faith you have placed in me will not be in vain. Thank you.

Sincerely,
James Maluk

(James's father served with Company E, 26th Engineers, while in Vietnam).

MORE DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Edwin Denny	Eric Bogle
Herbert Jensen	Randy Murphy
Scott Smith	John Nightingale
D.E. Smith	Dorothy Leaman
Gerry Borysiak	Wayne Moore
Kirk Foecking	Jerry Wiese
Dan Straight	David Mower
Carlo Pola	Bruce Buehrig
Paul Stiff	L.V. McNamara
Nelson Dion	Dudley Farquhar
William Eberlin	Steve Mulak

The above named people made an extra donation with their raffle tickets. More to follow.

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

COMMANDER Larry O'Boyle [REDACTED] Ran Santa Margarita, CA	SEC/TREAS Gene McGrath [REDACTED] Pahrump, NV 89048
---	--

Vice Commander- Don Shebesta
Chaplain - Paris Tognoli
Sergeant at Arms - John Bowley

The Far West Chapter held its 2000 Reunion in Laughlin, NV the first week of October. An election of officers resulted in the following for the years 2000 and 2001:

Commander - Larry O'Boyle
Vice Commander - Don Shebesta
Secretary/Treasurer - Gene McGrath
Chaplain - Paris Tognoli
Sergeant at Arms - John Bowley

Attending members also voted on the site and time of the FWC 2001 Reunion. It will be again held in Laughlin, Nevada from Sunday, September 30 to Wednesday October 3. The specific venue and other details will be decided by the Reunion Committee.

The banquet was a huge success. Chaplain John Bowley masterfully MC'd the event. Distinguished guests included Jim Buckle and his lady Helen. MC John Bowley summarized Jims' distinguished service accomplishments and Commander Shebesta presented Jim with a plaque in appreciation of his service to the ADVA and the Far West Chapter.

The entertainment was an Abbott and Costello skit(Who's on First?) which kept the attendees laughing. The two entertainers have been invited to Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame to perform. The Original Abbott and Costello are the only non-baseball inductees in the Hall.

Raffles and drawings followed the entertainment and in closing our newly elected Chaplain, Paris Tognoli sang an inspirational Benediction.

DUES ARE NOW DUE! Vice Commander Don Shebesta will now be responsible for membership. Please remit your dues to:

Don Shebesta
[REDACTED]
Woodbridge, CA 95258

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

COMMANDER David Richhorn [REDACTED] Fleming, OH 45729	SECRETARY Joe Tunis [REDACTED] Lake Ariel, PA 18436
--	--

VICE COMMANDER Jay Flanagan [REDACTED] Cranford, NJ 07016	TREASURER Al Barbieri [REDACTED] Woodbury, NJ 08096
--	--

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

At our Chapter Reunion, held towards the end of September, new officers were elected for our Chapter. The new Chapter Commander is David Eichhorn, Vice Commander Jay Flanagan, both Vietnam veterans. Joe Tunis remains our secretary and Al Barbieri remains treasurer.



The SPAM gavel of command (which requires a bit of explanation-given below), was turned over to Dave by Past Commander Bill Gold.

Explanation of SPAM gavel of command: When our Past Commander, Bob Granoff, left the service he went to work for Hormel selling SPAM! We have never let him forget this and have referred to him as a traitor to our service. I, in particular, have kidded him about this at every Reunion. Last year when he turned the job of Commander over to me he presented me with a can of SPAM to use as a gavel. I took the label off the can and put it on a gavel creating the SPAM gavel of Command and used it at the business meeting at this past Reunion. Upon election of David Eichhorn as Commander I turned the gavel over to him with good wishes and the request to use it wisely and well, but never to eat the stuff.

The Reunion turned out well. We stayed at a very nice motel/conference center in Wildwood Crest, NJ. We visited Cape May, NJ where we were went on a dolphin cruise and as promised, sighted both dolphins and whales. We also were taken to Atlantic City and one of the Casinos where we had winners and losers-but everybody was happy. We had some good dining and three great days of visiting with old friends and making new friends.

Everybody wound up being particularly pleased that we had a good turn-out of Nam vets and that our Chapter's leadership was now in their hands.

Our future reference and planning we decided our 2001 Reunion would be held in Marietta, OH. We hope to see both old and new faces there.

Bill Gold

NOW HEAR THIS!

The Chapters are financially independent from National Headquarters. Any dues that are requested by a Chapter are up and above your National dues. It is necessary for Chapters to raise funds through dues in order to pay for postage and other office expense.

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

COMMANDER Roland T. Castronova [REDACTED] Peabody, MA 01960	SEC/TREAS Bernard Chase [REDACTED] South Yarmouth, MA 02664 Tel: [REDACTED]
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The New England Chapter is once again hosting the annual Christmas Party at the Americal Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts, on December 2, 2000. If you intend to attend please call Al Doig at [REDACTED] or Bernie Chase at [REDACTED].

Chapter member, Felix Walsh, passed away on August 19, 2000 after a short illness. He was eighty years old at the time of his death. He served with Service Battery, 221st Field Artillery during World War II.

Felix made almost all of the ADVA Reunions, in fact he attended the San Antonio Reunion this past June.

Felix was buried at the National Cemetery in Bourne, Massachusetts. An eight man honor guard from the 10th Mountain Division, Camp Drum, New York, under the command of T/Sgt Landry provided full military honors at the cemetery.

The members of the New England Chapter will miss Felix, as he attended all Chapter activities.

May he rest in peace.

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

COMMANDER John Mathews [REDACTED] Verona, WI 53593 Tel: [REDACTED]	SEC/TREAS Terry Babler [REDACTED] New Glarus, WI 53574 Tel: [REDACTED]
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The next Great Lakes Chapter function will be at New Glarus, Wisconsin for the 15th Annual Winterfest R&R All Veterans Festival on January 19-20-21, 2001. This is billed the first Veterans Reunion of the year, in the nation.

Our Americal activities include:

Friday: night-Hospitality parties, burning of winter, parade and dance.

Saturday: Meeting at 9:00 A.M. at Jimmies downtown in the upstairs meeting room. All Americal and 1/1 Cav and anyone that may be interested is welcome to attend the meeting. Also Group pictures in front of Puempels Old Tavern. Village wide poker run downtown, Auction, banquet Saturday night at the New Glarus Hotel. All Americal veterans, no matter where they live, are welcome to join us in our little town of 1800 people, in the winter of Wisconsin. Dress for the weather! Motels, restaurants, bars, gift shops and more. Make your reservations NOW to attend. For further information contact:

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574
Telephone: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]

Last year 35 Americal veterans attended. They were all Vietnam veterans.

The Great lakes Chapter is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the Americal Division National Convention in Washington DC on November 8-9-10-11, 2002. This is Veterans Day weekend. This is the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and also the dedication of the World War II Memorial. The hotel will be the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City. Tours, banquets, hospitality parties, dances, vendors and more. More information will be available at the Cleveland Convention in 2001. This is the first time the Americal has had a Convention on Veterans Day and in Washington, DC.

to keep up on what our Chapter is doing--please join the Chapter. Our Chapter dues are only \$5.00 a year. There are two Newsletters a year, one in December and the other in June. We extend a welcome to all Americal veterans to join with us. Simply send a check to:

Terry Babler
Great Lakes Chapter ADVA
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574

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

COMMANDER Cameron F. Baird [REDACTED] Stonewall TX 78671	SEC/TREAS Malcolm East [REDACTED] Lumberton, TX 77656
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A HUG
(In Memory of Ernest Carlson)

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
A hug can say "I love you so" or
"Gee, I hate to see you go."
A hug is "welcome back again."
And "Great to see you! Where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The hug! There's just no doubt about it---
We scarcely could survive without it!!
A hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.
Hugs are great for fathers and mothers.
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.
And chances are your favorite aunts
Love them more than potted plants.
Kittens crave them, puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them.
A hug can break the language barrier
And make your travels so much merrier.
No need to fret about your store of them,
The more you give, the more there are of them.
So stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug today!!!
by Dean Walley

P.S. A hug is a perfect gift, one size fits all,
And nobody minds if you exchange it!!!

(As Ernie would say, "Hug somebody!")

Today is November 11, 2000 and the ground-breaking ceremonies is taking place in Washington, DC. How about everyone pledging to make the dedication of the World War II Memorial a "must" in 2002? Let us make this the biggest Reunion, ever, of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Military reenactment group in Ukraine chooses Americal unit for portrayal

Military reenactment groups are a popular way for professional and amateur historians to teach and learn about military history. There are many different groups in the United States and they cover all eras of U.S. military history. However, not all reenactment groups that study and portray former American military units are located in the United States.



Max Popov, Kiev, Ukraine

They receive valuable assistance from U.S. Army veterans who regularly communicate with them via e-mail.

The club was started in 1999 by Max Popov, 26, the billing officer for an internet service provider. Popov holds a bachelor's degree in Foreign Economics and is a veteran of the Ukrainian army. His interest in U.S. Army history goes back to 1991 when he was a student in high school. In 1995 he began talking with American veterans through e-mail and he started to collect Vietnam era uniforms and equipment.

Popov decided he wanted to capture the essence of the American infantryman during the Vietnam War. He began to research items about the war to include such diverse media as Shelby Stanton's *Vietnam Order of Battle* and Oliver Stone's *Platoon*. He also began to recruit others with similar interests so that a platoon size unit could be formed.

The current members of the group are Evgeniy Ivanov, (1LT, Platoon Leader); Max Popov, (SSG, Platoon Sergeant); Roman Grigorenko, (SGT, Squad Leader); Alexey Kolesnik, (SGT, Squad Leader); Valeriy Gavriluk, (PVT, Rifleman); Valeriy Brin, (PVT, Doc); Vladimir Kurchenko, (PVT, Rifleman); Vitaliy Barkovskiy, (PVT, Rifleman); Elena Grigorenko, (2LT, Nurse); and Joanna Popov, (2LT, Nurse). There "civilian" occupations include private security, Biology student, aircraft engineer, rescue man with Ukrainian Rescue Service, computer programmer, and foreign economist.

Popov states that the purpose of the Vietnam reenactment "is to portray the American infantryman and to educate society how things were during the war. A lot of people do not know about the war in Vietnam. We show how the world lived in the 1960s and what the politics was at that time. But the main reason is to tell the truth about the war and how the soldiers felt."

The Americal Division was one of two final choices for the Vietnam portrayal. It and the 25th Infantry Division were the lightest infantry divisions in Vietnam. Other divisions were more

dependent on mechanization or aviation which makes them more difficult to reenact. The 198th LIB was chosen because Popov had acquired 198th patch from one of his correspondents. He was also influenced by the willingness of Americal veterans, including those of WWII, to talk to him about their war experiences.

Reenactments take place on public land outside of Kiev. On a recent rainy morning he and another reenactor, both soaking wet



Reenactment Patrol

and in full gear, strolled into a small village. He recounts that "the citizens were very shocked when they saw two Grunts absolutely wet with rifles, in steel pots, full of ammunition, and damn angry of that rain. It took us some time to explain to them that everything is okay and there is no WWII around."

Popov's equipment needs are few. He currently has a complete uniform and web gear and almost everything needed for bivouac. He is especially proud of his twill Americal shoulder patch. Items still required include a gas mask, gas mask pouch, poncho, and poncho liner. These items are available but, for the sake of authenticity to his reenactment, he will not accept them if they are not of 1968 vintage. About 20% of his gear has been donated by American veterans. The rest has come from scouring local second-hand stores, U.S. surplus stores, and from on-line auctions.



1st Platoon returns from night reenactment

The group plans to recruit more members and participate in bigger events. Popov says his friends support the group any way they can. He states that "others say that we are crazy and some just don't understand why we spend so much money on this stuff." And even he admits that "it is hard to reenact." This accounts for the uniqueness of this group- it is the only group in Ukraine that does Vietnam War reenactments.

RIDGE REFLECTS ON HIS VIETNAM DUTY RETURNING TO ASIA, GOVERNOR RECALLS HOW WAR SHAPED HIM.

By Ken Dilanian

INQUIRER HARRISBURG BUREAU

They chased the Vietnamese guerrillas for what seemed like hours, their hearts racing in the heat.

It was just another day of probing and pursuit near the South China Sea in 1970. Six Americans on patrol spotted three Viet Cong. The GIs gave chase. The VC disappeared into the dense brush.

Sgt. Tom Ridge and his squad stopped in a clearing to take a break.

Ridge's back was to the open area as he chatted and joked with his radio man. Suddenly, the radio man's eyes widened, and his mouth fell open.

"Di! Di!" he yelled, screaming in Vietnamese for Ridge to scramble. By the time Ridge turned around, three guerrillas had sprinted past him and into the jungle. They had come within a few yards of the back of his head, without firing a shot.

"They went flying by," the Pennsylvania governor recalled, sitting in his Capitol office recently with a smile on his face. "We just got caught for that moment. . . . If they had just wanted to spray us, who knows?"

There were other days when people did shoot at Ridge and he shot back. But he may have faced no closer brush with death in combat.

Yesterday, Ridge arrived back in Vietnam for just the second time since he won a Bronze Star in battle there 30 years ago. He returned to the scene of the war of his youth as a middle-aged politician on a trade and cultural mission, as the governor of a key electoral state, and as the man who could end up as the Republican vice presidential nominee next year.

If Tom Ridge does become a national candidate, his transforming experience in Vietnam will become more than just an old war story. It will help define his national profile at a time when the United States is fighting low-level conflicts in Yugoslavia and Iraq.

Ridge's service in Vietnam sets him apart from most of his generation. Of the nearly 27 million American men who came of eligible age while the United States fought in Vietnam, just three million served there. Only about 10 percent of that group prowled the jungles and rice paddies as infantry foot soldiers, or "ground pounders" as they called themselves.

Ridge was a ground pounder.

He was sent to Vietnam trained to kill. And while he never had to zip a buddy into a body bag, as he puts it, he saw enough carnage, among both soldiers and civilians, to mark him forever.

Ridge is the first to say he was not really a war hero. He spent much of his time hunting for, and rarely finding, Viet Cong guerrillas while living in a coastal peasant village and advising Vietnamese soldiers as part of what the Army called pacification.

He wasn't wounded. His Bronze Star with the "V Device" for valor was awarded in connection with a fairly routine firefight, if there is such a thing.

"My experience in Vietnam, I will tell you, is not as heroic as others - as most, I presume," he said.

Ridge rarely talks about his seven months in Vietnam. Even after his two successful gubernatorial campaigns, Pennsylvanians know far more about how their president avoided the Vietnam War than how their governor fought in it.

Shortly before he left for an Asian trade mission that is in Vietnam through Sunday, Ridge for the first time spoke publicly and in detail about his experiences.

This is Tom Ridge's Vietnam War story.



Governor Tom Ridge (Pennsylvania)

It was the first piece of mail he received that summer in Erie, home from his first year at Dickinson School of Law in 1968.

Dear Mr. Ridge: You're drafted.

For a decade, Ridge had been climbing up and away from his working-class roots. He was the standard-bearer in a tightly knit family whose ambitions outshone its social status.

He had aced his way through Erie's Cathedral Prep. Won an academic scholarship to Harvard. Conquered the tough first year of a legal education.

Now, at 23, Ridge was called by an Army that was sending home hundreds of Americans each week in green rubber body bags.

His father took it hardest.

Thomas R. Ridge had wanted to be a lawyer, but World War II and a baby intruded. Working as a meat salesman by day and a shoe store clerk by night, he invested everything in his children.

"My dad basically lived his life so that his three children could achieve their aspirations and goals," said Ridge, whose father's death of a heart attack in 1986 remains the biggest emotional blow of his life. "Two jobs, working like a dog, his son's in law school - and then suddenly it looked like somebody short-circuited that career plan."

The elder Ridge, a lifelong Democrat, hated the war even before his son was drafted, according to the governor's mother, Laura Ridge.

His son, who wore his hair short, says he never smoked marijuana, and seems to have been unaffected by the counterculture movement of the late 1960s, recalls feeling differently. Ridge said he had misgivings about the military's habit of gauging its progress in Vietnam based on enemy body counts. But he said he believed in the

domino theory of communist expansion and "certainly supported us being there."

That was an uncommon attitude among college students then, especially at Harvard.

In the 1,200-person Harvard Class of 1967, Ridge was one of a handful who served in Southeast Asia. Nearly 700 Harvard men were killed in World War II. But of the 12,595 who graduated from 1964 to 1973, just 12 died in Vietnam, including two members of the Class of '67, according to research by former Navy Secretary James Webb.

But although Ridge broke from many of his classmates by supporting the war, he said he viewed it in distant and academic terms - and certainly was not rushing to enlist.

Nor was he happy to be drafted. But once the notice came, he said, he did not view himself as having a choice, even though his distraught father told him he would not object if he fled to Canada.

Ridge also rejected the suggestion of his maternal grandfather, who wanted to secure him a spot in the National Guard - a much-coveted avenue for fulfilling a military obligation with little chance of ever seeing Vietnam.

"I said, 'Look, I'm drafted,'" Ridge recalled. "I'll go where they send me."

Despite his ambivalent views, Ridge quickly embraced his lot in the Army. Named outstanding soldier of his unit after boot camp in Fort Dix, he was assigned to the infantry and ordered to advanced training at Fort Polk, La.

That meant Vietnam.

Ridge was the only college graduate in his 160-man company at Fort Polk, and he was offered admission to Officer Candidate School. The catch: becoming an officer required a three-year commitment instead of two.

No, thanks, Ridge said: "I wasn't prepared to give them another year."

Instead, he headed off to Fort Benning, Ga., to be trained as a noncommissioned Officer - an instant NCO, or "shake-and-bake," as they were called.

The former high school debater who had never before fired a gun became an expert with the M-14 and M-16 rifles. He learned how to set up an ambush and detonate claymore mines. He learned how to read map coordinates and direct artillery.

At a party on home leave before he shipped out, he met Michele Moore, who would become his wife.

Ridge also took some special time with his father, a man he idolized. They sat together for hours on several nights, drinking beer at their favorite watering hole, Chuck & Ginny's Place, chatting about anything but the dangers of war.

When the leave ended, Tom and Laura Ridge drove their son to meet his plane in Cleveland.

At the gate, his father tried to josh. "Tom, I can't find your ticket," he said. "What are they going to do, send you to Vietnam?"

Parting was agony.

"That was one of the hardest days of my life," Ridge's mother said. "We cried all the way home."

November 1969. Bravo Company, First Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. "What the hell are you doing here?" the company commander asked Ridge when he learned of his Harvard background.

Ridge was nervous when he learned he was being sent to I Corps, in the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam. That area, occupied mostly by Marines, had been the scene of some of the war's heaviest fighting.

In March 1967, Marine Lt. Ron Castille, who later would join the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, lost a leg in a disastrous engagement at Duc Pho. In the same operation, another Marine lieutenant, future Pennsylvania Attorney General Ernie Preate, saw dozens of his men wounded and killed.

A hotbed of guerrilla activity, the area was infested with booby traps. Nineteen months before Ridge arrived, another company in his battalion had killed hundreds of old men, women and children in the infamous My Lai massacre.

But by 1969, I Corps had cooled down. Planning for troop withdrawals, President Richard M. Nixon had begun turning the war over to the Vietnamese. Ridge's company was changing tactics: Instead of sweeping through villages, it would occupy them. The leaders called it pacification.

Several B Company vets interviewed said they viewed pacification as an absurdity. The villages would remain guerrilla-free only as long as U.S. soldiers stayed there - and not a moment longer, they felt. Ridge said he did not spend much time contemplating his country's war aims or the overall sense of his mission. Some things he was told to do made sense, he said, and some seemed stupid. He wasn't paid to ask questions.

A few days after his arrival at Duc Pho, he found himself slogging through the mosquito-infested heat, toting an M-16 and grenades.

Suddenly, a sniper opened fire. It was Ridge's first moment under fire.

He scrambled for cover. His mind raced. He doesn't remember shooting back. Somebody did, and the sniper disappeared before anyone was hit. The patrol resumed. But Ridge, like most vets, would never forget the feeling.

He was 24, and somebody was trying to kill him.

"It heightens all your senses," he said. "You'd see the specks of dust flying, and they're pretty close, you're saying, 'Thank God he's a bad shot.' You hear that crack, boom, AK-47, you hit the ground.

"I mean, holy s-!"

His combat baptism complete, Ridge got a special assignment: He would lead a squad of just three or four other Americans and live in a compound with a company of Vietnamese soldiers. The job meant Ridge had to be a sort of diplomat warrior. Many American troops, including Ridge, shared a low opinion of their South Vietnamese allies. The Regional Forces soldiers with whom he lived and worked routinely fired ambushes by shooting off their weapons. Once, they abandoned his squad under fire. Sometimes, they refused to go into the field at all.

One day, an argument with his Vietnamese counterparts got ugly. The squad had been chasing guerrillas through an area filled with civilians. "We were out, and we took some fire, figured out where they were, they left, we saw, we ran. . . ." Ridge said. "We started chasing them, but there were people, and a lot of buffalo. We were gaining on them pretty good, but they kind

of blundered in. . . . Instead of just opening up or calling in artillery, we kind of worked our way through it, and we lost them."

The second-ranking Vietnamese officer became enraged. He accused Ridge and his men of cowardice.

"It pissed me off," Ridge recalled.

"He got so irritated, and he was yelling at me. . . and he pulled out his revolver and started waving it around. I thought, well, you know, hey. I threw my clip into my M-16 and said, 'Go ahead.' I said to the interpreter, 'How far does he want to take this?' He calmed down."

Enemy contact was light during much of Ridge's tour. But death was always there.

From January to May of 1970, B Company took 49 casualties, according to Army records. Five men were killed. The worst hazards were booby traps and snipers.

Of course, the better-armed Americans gave far better than they got.

According to the Army's daily journal of B Company's activities, which does not clearly distinguish among squads, the company killed dozens of suspected guerrillas while Ridge was there and arrested dozens more. Often, according to historical accounts, the detainees would be tortured by Vietnamese officials and imprisoned under brutal conditions.

It was a war with no clear line between civilian and combatant. While Ridge was there, Army records show, a 10-year-old boy tossed a grenade that killed a soldier in A Company.

That kind of incident did not inspire discretion among the 18- and 19-year-old grunts. Records show that soldiers in B Company and other units routinely shot people, including women and the elderly, simply because they ran away - only to find they did not have weapons.

Ridge said he tried to be as careful as possible. It is not a part of the Vietnam experience he is comfortable discussing.

He said that his squad did not kill anyone accidentally and that he was aware of no atrocities. He believes they were infrequent.

"My gut tells me that unless there was extraordinary provocation, rare were the occasions when soldiers didn't discriminate," he said.

Sometimes, the battle lines were crystal clear, as they were on March 30, 1970. That day, Ridge's squad came upon at least 10 uniformed North Vietnamese soldiers, sitting on the ground eating lunch.

His radio man, Kurt Walker of Parowan, Utah, opened up on a sentry with his M-16. So did Ridge.

Ridge's voice began to shake slightly as he recalled the incident.

"We saw them. Kurt. . . ah. . . he, ah. . . he fired first, and he was just a little bit ahead of the column. They fired at us, and we fired at them, and. . . you got the rest."

Ridge was referring to his medal citation, which tells it this way: "Reacting immediately, Sgt. Ridge moved forward and began placing accurate bursts of rifle fire on the insurgents, eliminating one and forcing the remainder of the hostile elements to take evasive action."

Later, the squad found one dead soldier in a blue uniform, with an ammo belt and a grenade.

The man had been killed by small-arms fire. The Army credited the kill to Ridge.

"I don't know who shot him," Ridge said.

Some soldiers hated and feared the Vietnam War enough to injure themselves, hoping to be sent home. Many more prayed for a "million-dollar wound" that would carry them home without taking their life or their health. Ridge did not hate his tour. But he was not sorry to see it end early.

In mid-May, as Ridge was on his way to seven days of rest and relaxation in Australia, stomach pains he had been ignoring turned out to be a ruptured appendix. A doctor who examined him rushed him into surgery.

It was a ticket home. He spent weeks in Valley Forge Military Hospital. His parents did not see him until he stepped off a plane in Erie.

He kissed the ground.

"He was skin and bones," Laura Ridge said.

His father, who had pounded out a letter for him every single day on a manual typewriter, cried tears of joy.

Young Tom never talked about the war, even with his closest friends.

"Nobody broached the subject," his mother said. "It was just too painful. He was not happy with what he saw over there."

It did not change his ambitions, but it changed the way he looked at the world, both personally and politically, he said.

"He often says he will never send troops into battle half-prepared," said his best friend, Homer Mosco, also a Vietnam combat veteran.

Like many veterans, Ridge believes the Vietnam War illustrated the perils of military gradualism - a sin he believes NATO is repeating at the moment in Kosovo. He laments, for example, that U.S. troops for the most part were barred from pursuing their enemy into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam.

Just the same, he is not prepared to say whether or how the war could have been won.

He believes it was worth fighting, even in defeat, because he thinks the American presence changed South Vietnam for the better and will pave the way eventually for capitalism and democracy.

Not prone to public introspection, Ridge is reluctant to discuss how his brush with killing and death affected him emotionally. His wife and siblings also declined to offer their insights.

"I don't dwell on it," he is fond of saying. "I draw on it."

The experience instilled in him a greater confidence, he said, and a theory of leadership that involves trusting those he is leading.

"People talk, here in Harrisburg, about winning and losing. You won or lost workers' comp, you won or lost school choice, you won or lost the stadiums. These are not W's and L's," he said.

"It helps give me a healthier perspective on who I am as a person, as a citizen, and as a governor. When the criticisms come my way, I just think: These are not live rounds. I mean, what I do is important, but it's not life and death."

Reprinted with permission from the Philadelphia Inquirer, May 21, 1999. Photo from Governor Ridge's official website.

Americal Division Together Again

Vietnam Vets Meet At Annual Kokomo, Indiana Reunion



(Left)
Smile Everyone!
Americal vets gather for their annual group photo on a sunny Sunday afternoon by the flagpole. Over 60 Americal vets were represented at this year's annual Kokomo reunion. The Kokomo reunion is a great opportunity for division vets to get together in the late summer and have fun. Members of each separate brigade, division headquarters and the supporting commands were in attendance.

(Below)
Thanks Mike!
National Commander Ron Ellis presents a check for \$250 to Mike "Mikie" Brown in appreciation for his support of Americal vets at the Kokomo reunion. Mike cooks every year at his "mess tent" for all Americal vets attending the reunion. There is no charge and vets can donate whatever they have at each meal.

"This is a great thing!"

Americal vets were well represented at the 18th annual Kokomo, Indiana Vietnam veterans Reunion, September 15-17, 2000. Held on a 22-acre lot just southeast of the city, the site is the home of the Howard County Vietnam veterans association. While officially listed as a three-day weekend affair, Vietnam vets began arriving early in the week to camp out in their RV's, tents or at local hotels. Typical of the sentiments voiced by many of the vets was that of Marine veteran Kenny Farrell, "This is a great thing. . . It's a chance to get with the type of people I knew. I like seeing the people and reminiscing and having fun. I think it helps everybody. You can talk to people who know what you're talking about and have been through it. Every year I make new friends and next year I'll see them again which makes it even better."

Over 40,000 Vietnam Vets were in attendance. Among the featured speakers was Adrian Cronauer - memorialized in the Robin Williams' film "Good Morning Vietnam."





(Above) Sign In and Register!

Over 60 Americal vets signed in at the Americal registration / sign-up table. A number of vets filled out membership forms, unaware the ADVA existed. (left to right): Past National Commander Ed Marsh, National Commander Ron Ellis (who traveled from Texas to be with the troops) and Jr. Vice-Commander, Richard Scales.

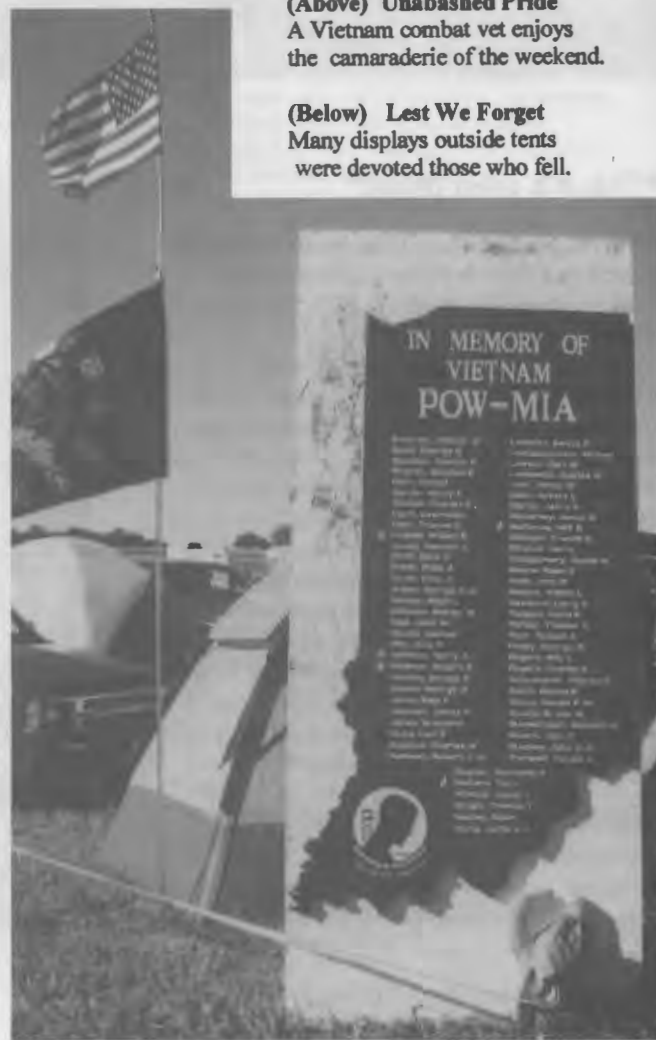
(Below) Showing The Colors

Hundreds of flags denoting units, branches of the armed forces and Old Glory flew proudly over the 22-acre reunion site.



(Above) Unabashed Pride
A Vietnam combat vet enjoys the camaraderie of the weekend.

(Below) Lest We Forget
Many displays outside tents were devoted those who fell.



Dear Gary,

Do you have casualty list (KIAs) for the 198th LIB that you could post on the website? I have only a copy for the 1/6th Inf. up to the memorial service at LZ Bayonet in September, 1968. This list includes casualties through 17 September 68 but nothing after that. Best regards.

Jan F. Milles, Red Hook, NY
Co. D, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB

Editor's Note: A complete list of 198th LIB KIAs has not been provided to the ADVA website. Listings for the 11th LIB and 196th LIB are available through links on the website. Additional lists will be included as they are made available. (It is helpful if such lists are in electronic form.) Anyone having lists of casualties are encouraged to make them available the ADVA for inclusion in the Vietnam Historian's records and on the website.

As Jan Milles states above, his list ends at the time of a memorial service held on 21 September 68. The casualty list began on 1 November 67 and lists approximately 275 names. The list is type written and appears to be part of a handout used at the memorial service. The cover of the list contains the following information:

198th INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION
Colonel Charles B. Thomas, Commanding

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Saturday, 21 September 1968
1530 Hours

INVOCATION	CH (CPT) Richard J. Shannon
SCRIPTURE READING	CH (CPT) Glenn P. Hargis
PRESENTATION OF THE MEMORIAL BOOK	CH McMillan
BRIGADE COMMANDER'S REMARKS	Colonel Thomas
MEMORIAL PRAYER	CH (CPT) John A. McDonald
ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE	
FIRING SQUAD	
TAPS	
BENEDICTION	CH (CPT) Alexander M. Mason

WE SHALL NOT FORGET

Dear Gary,

Hello, my name is David L Gibson. My name was in the latest ADVA newsletter. However, it contained some incorrect information. It stated that I was with C Co. but I was with D Co. I had an e-mail from a fellow vet trying to remember me. I e-mailed him back and told him why he couldn't remember me- we were with different companies. (He was with C Co.) It's no big deal but I thought you might want to correct it.

I sure do enjoy the Americal website. Thanks for doing it for us fellow veterans. I found one guy that was in my company through the website and we have been in contact. I thought you would like to know that!!! Thanks again Gary.

David L Gibson,
2nd Platoon, Co. D, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB

Sir,

My husband, David M. Withrow, died suddenly on August 28, 2000. Please, discontinue his Americal Newsletter. He had a divisional flag from Vietnam that I will send. It was his wish that this flag be placed in the Americal Museum.

I'm sorry I don't know very much about his time in Vietnam. The only thing that I know is that he was in Duc Pho and received one of his Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star when a bunker that several of the men where in was hit by a mortar round; the bunker collapsed at which time David dug his way out and went back for another person.

Sheryl Withrow

Editor's note: David M. Withrow was a veteran of the 723rd Maintenance Bn. and resided in Palestine, TX. The Americal Museum will proudly accept the divisional flag in his honor. We express our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Dear Gary,

Thank you for your prompt response to my query. Within the past few months the ADVA website has made it possible to reconnect with 10 members of my unit (13 members counting those who have died). It feels like I have rediscovered lost family. You guys are doing a great job. Thank you for your work on our behalf.

I was originally with the 258th Personnel Services Company in Fort Hood, Texas. In June of '67, our entire company (approx. 90 men) deployed to Vietnam and was attached to HQ, Task Force Oregon in Chu Lai. The 258th PSC provided administrative and personnel support to HQ, Task Force Oregon and later to HQ, Americal Division.

On September 25, 1967, three days after General Koster assumed command from General Knowles, Task Force Oregon became the reactivated Americal Division. After the reactivation, a call went out for increased administrative assistance for what was to be the largest division in Vietnam.

On December 8, 1967, Company A, 6th Support Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade, which had just arrived from Hawaii, was reconstituted and redesignated the 23rd Admin. Co., and immediately took control of eight different special staff sections at Division Headquarters.

The 258th PSC remained independent for awhile, but I don't recall for how long. At some point, our personnel were merged with the 23rd Admin. To the best of my knowledge, 23rd Admin. never left Chu Lai. According to a locator posting I read, the company was still in Chu Lai in October '71 when hit by a devastating typhoon.

This summer--for the first time since '68--members of the company found each other through the website. It would be much easier to expand our ranks if new visitors saw a unit listing for the 258th. I can be contacted at [redacted], San Diego, CA, 92167, [redacted].

David J. Boe, San Diego, CA
258th Pers. Serv. Co./23rd Admin Co.

Editor's Note: The April-May-June, 2000 issue of the Americal Newsletter told of Sharon Gill searching for those who knew her father in Vietnam. Kenneth Lee Gill was killed on May 29, 1970 while serving with Co. C, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam. In this follow-up letter Ms. Gill describes her visit with veterans of Co. C during their summer reunion.

Hi Gary,

How are you? Sorry it has taken me so long to get this to you but I have been really busy. I'm not sure where to begin but here it goes.

As you know I was invited to the Charlie Co. (1/52nd Infantry) reunion in Indianapolis to meet with men that served in Vietnam with my dad. I decided to to Indy. (It is about a 6 hour drive.) I was doing okay until I got about an hour away from Indy. I really started getting nervous.



Tom Dier, Sharon Gill, and Terry Wyrick (Photo: Terry Wyrick)

After I checked in the hotel I went down to the meeting room. Terry Wyrick had sent me a recent picture of him so I knew I'd know him when I saw him. I only had a picture of Tom when he served in Vietnam. So I walked in and there was only a man and woman in the room. I asked if they knew where Terry Wyrick was and the man asked if I was Sharon. I told him I was and he started walking to me and said, "I'm Tom."

We just hugged and cried. He told me Terry was outside and he would be happy to see me. So I walked outside, my whole body was shaking. I was so nervous. As soon as I got to the door I saw Terry. He turned around and saw me standing there and we walked toward each other and start hugging and crying. He didn't have any pictures of me, somehow when he saw me he just knew who I was. We hugged and cried for quite awhile.

He then introduced me to the rest of the guys and we took a bunch of pictures. I was still nervous but it was a different kind of nervous. I just didn't know what to say. Terry and Tom asked if I had eaten and I told them no so they took me out to dinner. They really made me feel comfortable and like part of the family. Of course throughout the visit we would laugh and cry.

I listened to stories of their tours in Nam and looked at pictures. It was very emotional. One of the men, who had never met my dad, asked me to take a walk with him. We talked about a lot of things. He did most of the talking, I'm pretty quiet around people I just meet. We must have walked for an hour or so. He started telling me this story about him and his buddy that were over there together. He started getting tears in his eyes and couldn't actually say what happened. When I said "He never made it back", he said "No" and started crying. We grabbed each other and cried. He said he'd never cried on anyone's shoulder like that before. I don't know what enabled him to cry on my shoulder but I'm glad I was able to be there for him.



Bill Frankovitch, Tom Dier, Jim Sands, Charles Swanson, Mike Farney, Ed Angle, and Terry Wyrick. (Photo: Terry Wyrick)

I feel very close to these men. None of the men I've met knew my dad very well but meeting them and talking to them and hearing about their time in Vietnam has helped me a lot. My dad's last days were spent over there and I just needed to know what it was like for him.

I don't know if anyone will agree with what I'm about to say or even feel the same way, but they say my dad gave the greatest sacrifice. Well I guess that is true, but I can't call it less of a sacrifice for the ones that did make it home. Their lives were completely changed. They are having to live with those memories everyday of their lives. It is something they will never get over. It is now 30 years later and they are still living that like it was yesterday.

I feel the loss of my dad because I wasn't able to grow up with him, but I was only two when he died. I didn't know him. I don't have the memories that the parents and brothers and sisters of the men that didn't come home have. They have to feel a bigger loss than me. I just wish I could take away the pain of the men and women that were over there and the families of the men that didn't make it back. These are very special and caring people, and I hope they can find peace in their lives. And if there is anything I could do to help them, I would.

I want to thank the men from Charlie Co. for helping me and for considering me part of their "family". They will always be very special to me and I'll never forget them. They've made a big impact on my life and I'm going to keep going to the reunions to see them and possibly meet more of the men that served with my dad. They are always in my prayers and thoughts.

Sharon Gill

Dear Editor,

With your help and the help of David Myers the Americal Division ring that once belonged to Cpl. Milton A. VanDerveer has been returned to his next of kin. Milton was a veteran of HQ Btry., 245th Field Artillery, and passed away in 1983.

The ring had been in the evidence locker of the Hillsborough Twp. Police since 1982. The ring had been recovered by an officer of the department who placed it into evidence for safe keeping. It is unclear how the officer came into possession of the ring.



Bob Agans presents found Americal ring to Milton VanDaveer, Jr.

In 1985 I conducted an inventory of the evidence locker. At this time I attempted to ascertain the identity of the owner of the ring through the local Army recruiter. I was unable to do so. The ring would have been put up for sale at public auction but since I knew it belonged to a veteran I held on to it in hopes of locating the owner.

Several years later while conducting a second inventory I again came across the ring. I attempted to find the owner but had no luck. In 1998 I joined the ADVA. In 1999 I retired from the police department but was hired back on as a civilian employee. Due to my joining the ADVA I sought its help in identifying the ring's owner.

I located Milton VanDaveer's son in Hillsborough Twp. N.J. I made arrangements to turn the ring over to him. I made the presentation on August 4, 2000. Milton, Jr. knew that his father had the ring and had given it to a family member so that it could be passed on to a grandson. He was very happy to recover the ring.

**Bob Agans, Manville, NJ
Btry. C, 1/14th Arty., 198th LIB**

The Soldier

It is the "Soldier", not the reporter who has given us the Freedom of the Press; It is the "Soldier", not the poet, who has given us the Freedom of Speech; It is the "Soldier", not the campus organizer, who has given us the Freedom to Demonstrate; It is the "Soldier", not the Politician, who has given us the Right to Vote; It is the "Soldier", who serves the Flag, who Salutes the Flag, whose coffin is draped by the Flag; It is the "Soldier", who has given his blood, his body, his life, who has given us these FREEDOMS; It is the Soldier, regardless of gender, regardless of branch of Service, on the Land, on the Sea, in the Air. It is the SOLDIER.

Source unknown---- but much appreciated.

Taken from the New Mexico Roadrunner, Reserve Officers Association of the United States. Submitted by Harry C. Goodson; Albuquerque, NM; HQ, Task Force Oregon

Dear Readers,

The Americal Newsletter received a newspaper clipping from COL Thomas Bedient that had been sent to him by a relative. It was the front page of the June 1, 2000 edition of The Sun and Record of Sodas and Williamson, NY. The story on the page was titled "John Crowley comes home."

According to the story, John Crowley spent most of his life growing up in Williamson, NY. He was the son of Edward and Nettie Crowley and a 1967 graduate of Williamson High School. The article continues "Just like all the other males during the turbulent Vietnam era of the sixties, he faced the draft. Rather than the uncertain chance of a draft call, John decided to enlist, hoping that he might be sent to Europe. In the service, he learned ho to maintain 'Hueys' and become a crew chief."

Crowley left for Vietnam just after Christmas, 1969. He was assigned to D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, Americal Division. The report states that "John told his folks he was flying over the country of Laos, picking-up Green Berets on top secret missions." These missions were to harass the enemy who was using the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos to bring men and equipment into South Vietnam.

On August 10, 1970, Crowley flew his last mission. The helicopter he was flying on lost power and went down on a dense jungle mountain top in the southern panhandle of Laos. According to his mother's statement, "that was just the beginning of the nightmare."

Crowley's body was not recovered by American forces. The article states that U.S. "officials never admitted to the family that he was lost in Laos." But here the story takes an interesting turn. U.S. investigators discovered that a family of Rhades had recovered Crowley's body in 1988 and had buried it near their village 103 kilometers from the crash site.

The Rhades were "an ethnic minority that fought on the American side during the war" states the story. The Rhades led investigators to the grave in 1999 and the remains were subsequently gathered and sent to Hawaii for identification.

On May 26, 2000, Crowley was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. We echo the closing lines of the article: "Welcome Home John. You were prayed for and missed. We have counted the days and we've struggled over the circumstances of your loss. We are grateful you are home at last!"

Dear Editor,

We am researching the 32 Kansas MIA's from Vietnam. SGT Larry Welsh is one of them. The only reference I could find to what unit he was in was the Americal Division (non-brigade units). I wasn't sure if that meant he was in an engineer, MP, signal, or other type of combat support unit. I found reference to two units in the Tay Ninh area during that time - 26th Engr. Bn. and HHT, 17th Cav (which was later F Troop, 196th Inf. Bde.)

The biography on Welsh said that his platoon was in a firefight on 7 Jan 1969 near Tay Ninh City when he was slightly wounded by shrapnel. He told another soldier he was going for help and walked down a path. The wounded man was found the next day and the search team found Welsh's glasses, wallet and watch but not Larry or a body.

Welsh's home of record is Kansas City, KS. He was a switchman with Santa Fe railroad prior to joining the service. We would appreciate any information about his military service.

Scott & Bonnie Templeton

Ogden, KS 66517



TOGETHER AGAIN!

Set Your Azimuth Now

For Cleveland, Ohio!

June 21-24, 2001

AIRLINES

Special reunion air fare available on Continental Airlines. Call [REDACTED]. Mention: Reference #: NSBM6H. Z-Code: ZVHP. 23rd Army Infantry Division.

TOURS



Friday (AM), Canton, Ohio's, Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Football as you've never experienced it! Six eye-catching exhibit areas, the sensational Game Day Stadium turntable theatre, NFL Films Theatre, the NFL Museum Store and the Twin Enshrinement Halls, where the greats of football are honored!

Friday (PM), Cleveland, Ohio's Rock And Roll Hall of Fame.

The Rock And Roll Hall of Fame is a testament to the remarkable history of rock and roll. The museum holds the worlds largest collection of rock and roll memorabilia, interactive exhibits, hands-on touch screens, rare concert footage, classic films and much more!



Saturday Spouses Tour (8:30-3:30), Ohio's Amish Country

Visit the peaceful Ohio countryside, an Amish Craft Store, bulk food store, a unique Amish Cheese House. Lunch is on your own to explore a variety of food opportunities and experience the warmth and hospitality of the Amish people!



Friday night's dinner will include a special salute to our World War II comrades!

Saturday night's dinner with special guest speaker and great entertainment!

LANDING ZONE

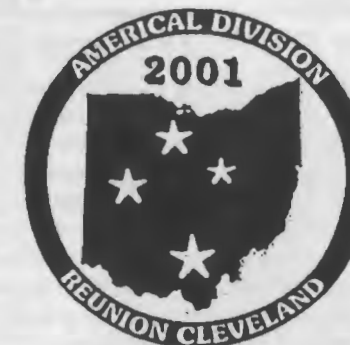
Cleveland Marriott Airport Hotel

The hotel is four miles from the airport and 10 minutes from downtown Cleveland (see Registration Form for reservation information). The hotel is located off of Interstate 71 and is easily accessible from Interstate 77, Interstate 90, the Ohio Turnpike (I-80), Pennsylvania and Indiana turnpikes.

REGISTRATION FORM

June 21-24, 2001 Reunion

Cleveland, Ohio



Hotel Reservations: Make hotel reservations directly with the Marriott. The Cleveland Marriott Airport Hotel is only four miles north from the airport and ten minutes from downtown Cleveland. It is located off of I-71 at West 150th Street. Make your reservations by calling toll free 1-800-228-9290. Mention Americal Division Reunion for the special room rate of \$85 / night (plus tax) for single or double occupancy. The special room rate will not apply after May 15, 2001. Please make your reservations early.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Nick Name: _____

Spouse or Guest Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ e-Mail: _____

Americal Unit(s): _____ Date(s) of Service: _____

RESERVATION FEE: _____ Number of people: _____ x \$15 = _____

(Registration fee provides registration gift, name badge, hospitality rooms and free events)

TOURS - Friday June 22nd:

Pro-Football Hall of Fame: 8:30am - 12:15pm Number of people: _____ x \$18 = _____

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame: 1:15pm - 3:30 pm Number of people: _____ x \$28 = _____

(This tour will also include a brief Memorial Service at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument)

SPOUSE TOUR - Saturday, June 23rd:

Ohio Amish Country Tour: 8:15am - 3:30pm Number of People: _____ x \$23 = _____

Friday Night Buffet Dinner: 7:00pm - 8:30pm Number of People: _____ x \$25 = _____

(And Salute to Americal WWII Vets)

Saturday Night Dinner: 7:00pm - 8:30pm Number of People _____ x \$25 = _____

(Guest Speaker and Entertainment After Dinner)

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make check payable to: AMERICAL REUNION 2001

Send form with check to: Larry Watson, [REDACTED], Wooster, Ohio 44691

(You will receive your registration confirmation in your welcome packet)

Any Questions Contact:

David Taylor (evenings) [REDACTED]

Larry Watson (evenings) [REDACTED]

"Torchlight 2001", 27 March 2001

Torchlight Ceremony is an annual event co-hosted by LTC Armstrong (current 1-46 INF BN CDR) and COL Richard Carvell, who was one of the Battalion Commanders of the 1-46 INF in Vietnam and today serves as the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

It is in honor of all veterans of the 46th Infantry from WWII through Vietnam up to today and celebrates the rich history of the unit, sacrifices of its soldiers and linkage with today's soldiers. It is a major Fort Knox event and will have hundreds of former 46th Infantry veterans attending - especially since it is held the same time as the annual Vietnam Fire base MaryAnn reunion.

This year, we are also conducting the dedication of a major training facility (an outdoor obstacle course), after a legendary 46th Infantry Regiment soldier, Captain Kern Dunagan. Captain Dunagan was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Vietnam with Company A/1-46 Infantry. After approval by the Department of the Army, we will formally name it the Dunagan Teamwork Development Course. LTC Armstrong plans to conduct the Memorialization ceremony at 1630 hrs / 4:30 pm on the same day as the Torchlight Ceremony, which will occur later that night (1900 hrs / 7 pm start), 27 March '01. For more information contact one of the following 1-46th INF officers:

Commander **MAJ McGurk**
1-46 INF, 1ATB
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Fort Knox, KY 40121

CHARLIE CO. 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB REUNION 2001

The arrangements for the Charlie Co. 1/52 198 reunion for 2001 have been completed. The reunion will be held as follows.

Radisson Hotel St. Louis Airport,
 [REDACTED],
 Bridgeton, Mo. 63044
 July 20, 21 2001

We have 15 rooms reserved, 30 rooms available as needed, flat rate \$69.00 + tax, rooms reserved until 6/20/01, then rooms on a space available basis only, reservations will be made by calling [REDACTED] 0. A hospitality suite has been reserved from 8:00 am Friday through midnight Saturday, or as needed, the reunion members will supply food and drinks, hotel will furnish tubs of ice.

For more information contact:

Terry Wyrick
 [REDACTED], Cabool, MO, 65689
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I served with the 1/52nd Inf, 198th LIB, in Chu Lai in 1967. I was wounded on 19 Nov. 1967 and was evacuated back to the states. I lost contact with all that was in my unit. We left Ft. Hood, TX aboard the (USNS) GORDON on 20 Oct. 1967. I would like to hear from others from my unit. Contact me at [REDACTED], Decatur, GA, 30034. [REDACTED]

John White, Decatur, GA
 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB

196th Lt. Inf. Bde. Association Reunion Gettysburg 2001

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association plans R&R&R (Rest & Recreation & Remembrance) in Gettysburg, PA, on July 26-29, 2001. The reunion headquarters will be the Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center near the Gettysburg National Battlefield.

Tentatively scheduled activities include tours of the historic Civil War battlefields, a golf scramble, a memorial ceremony, and a dinner and dance. The hospitality room will be open for conversation and camaraderie.

Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel by calling [REDACTED]. The reunion rate is \$89 per day plus tax. Be sure to state that you want the special rate for the 196th LIB reunion.

For a registration form or more information contact Warren Neill at [REDACTED] or e-mail at [REDACTED] or contact any 196th LIB Association officer.

COL Oran K. Henderson, 1920-1998

Col. Oran K. Henderson, 77, of Lebanon and formerly of Carlisle died Tuesday, June 2, 1998.

Born Aug. 25, 1920 is a native of Indianapolis, Ind., he is the son of the late Vieregil and Mary Wilson Henderson.

Graduate from the Armed Forces Staff College in June 1959 and graduated from the Naval College.

After his assignment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania he was an executive vice-president with the Emergency Management Services, Ind.

Member of Carlisle VFW; American Legion; Disabled American Vets; Military Order of the Purple Heart; PA Sports Hall of Fame; Carlisle Country Club; Country Club of Callawassie, S.C.

Widower of Dorothy Lawson Henderson who died Dec. 23, 1993.

Survived by one son, Kenneth R. Henderson of Guilford, Ind.; two daughters, Ann H. Kline of Lebanon; Nancy V. Schultz of Monroe, NY; one brother, Wayne Henderson of Indianapolis, Ind.; two sisters, Glenita Bastin of Indianapolis, Ind.; Virginia Betts of Indianapolis, Ind.; five grandchildren, Adrienne, Kline; Audrey Kline; Abby Kline, Christopher Schultz and Justin Schultz and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Chapel of Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. Interment will be in the Indian town Gap National Cemetery.

There will be no viewing. Family will receive friends from 9 a.m. until time of the services in the chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VA Medical Center Hospice, 1700 S. Lincoln Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042.

Editor's note: The obituary on COL Henderson is being run at the request of a reader. It originally ran in the Carlisle Sentinel, Carlisle, PA, on Wednesday, June 3, 1998. COL Henderson commanded the 11th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam in 1968. The obituary was provided by Francis A. Patsy, 23rd Admin. Co.

Send us your stories!

Your stories and news items are needed for the next issue of the Americal Newsletter. The deadline for the Jan-Feb-Mar 2001 issue is January 27, 2001. Send your Vietnam related articles to Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO 64114, [REDACTED]. Photos are appreciated but cannot be returned. Photos must have plenty of light and will be cropped to 3.5". Please indicate that you authorize the use of your text and photos for the newsletter. Thank you. **-Vietnam Editor**

Dear Readers,

Dr. Hal Kushner was held as a prisoner of war in South Vietnam and North Vietnam for over five years. At the 1999 reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, Dr. Kushner told the story of his service in Vietnam, his horrible ordeals, extreme pain and suffering, and unflinching loyalty and honor to the United States Army and our country.

In 1967 CPT Kushner served as a medical officer with the 1/9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. His story is of particular interest to Americal Division veterans because Dr. Kushner was taken captive in the Americal Division Area of Operations (AO). He shared his ordeal in enemy prison camps with POWs from the Americal Division.

The following story has circulated through e-mail on the internet. I wish to acknowledge Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, for forwarding Dr. Kushner's story to me. I also wish to acknowledge Mr. Frank Anton, ADVA member, for obtaining permission from Dr. Kushner for this story to be printed in the Americal Newsletter. (Anton and Kushner were confined to the same prison camps in Vietnam.)

Most of all, I wish to acknowledge Dr. Kushner for telling his story and allowing it to be retold. It is a story that every American needs to read and understand. **-The Editor-**

The words of Dr. Hal Kushner:

I want you to know that I don't do this often. I was captured December 2, 1967 and returned to American control on March 16, 1973. For those of you good at arithmetic - 1,931 days. Thus it has been 32 years since capture and 26 years since my return.

I have given a lot of talks about medicine, about ophthalmology, even about the D-Day Invasion. (I was privileged to go to Normandy and witness the 50th anniversary of the invasion in June, 1994.) But I have not talked about my captivity.

I don't ride in parades; I don't open shopping centers; I don't give interviews and talks about it. I have tried very hard NOT to be a professional PW. My philosophy has always been to look forward, not backward, to consider the future rather than the past. That's a helluva thing to say at a reunion, I guess.

In 26 years, I've given only two interviews and two talks. One interview to my hometown newspaper, one to the

Washington Post in 1973, and talks at Ft. Benning in 1991 and to the Military Flight Surgeons in 1993. I've refused a thousand invitations to speak about my experiences.

But you don't say no to the 1-9th, and you don't say no to your commander. COL Bob Nevins and COL Pete Booth asked me to do this and so I said "Yes Sir" and prepared the talk. It will probably be my last one.

Preparing to serve. I was a 26-year-old young doctor, just finished nine years of education, college at the University of North Carolina, medical school at Medical College of Virginia. I had a young wife and three year old daughter. I interned at the hospital in which I was born, Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, HI.

While there, I was removed from my internship and spent most of my time doing orthopedic operations on wounded soldiers and Marines. We were getting hundreds of wounded GIs there, and they filled the hospital. After the hospital was filled, we created tents on the grounds and continued receiving air evacuated patients.

So I knew what was happening in Vietnam. I decided that I wanted to be a flight surgeon. I had a private pilot's license and was interested in aviation. So after my internship at Tripler, I went to Ft. Rucker, AL and to Pensacola, FL and through the Army and Navy's aviation medicine program. I then deployed to Vietnam.

While in basic training at my E&E (escape and evasion) course, they told us that as doctors we didn't have to worry about being captured. Doctors and nurses, they said, were not PWs- they were detained under the Geneva Convention. If they treated us as PWs, we should show our Geneva Convention cards and leave. It was supposed to be a joke and it was pretty funny at the time.

Deployed to Vietnam. I arrived in Vietnam in August, 1967 and went to An Khe. I was told that the division needed two flight surgeons, one to be the division flight surgeon at An Khe in the rear, and the other to be surgeon for the 1-9th, a unit actively involved with the enemy.

I volunteered for the 1-9th. The man before me, CPT Claire Shenep, had been killed. The dispensary was named the Claire Shenep Memorial Dispensary.

Like many flight surgeons, I flew on combat missions in helicopters, enough to have earned three air medals. One of my medics, SSG Jim Zeiler, used to warn me: "Doc, you better be careful. We'll be renaming that dispensary the K&S Memorial Dispensary."

I was captured on December 2, 1967 and held for five and a half years until March 16, 1973. I have never regretted the decision that I made that August to be the 1/9th flight surgeon. Such is the honor and esteem that I hold the squadron. I am proud of the time I was the squadron's flight surgeon.

The tragic crash. On November 30, 1967, I went to Chu Lai with MAJ Steve Porcella, WO1 Giff Bedworth, and SGT McKeckney, the crew chief of our UH-1H helicopter. At Chu Lai I gave a talk to a troop on the dangers of night flying. The weather there was horrible: rainy and windy. I asked MAJ Porcella, the aircraft commander, if we could spend the night and wait out the weather.

He said, "Our mission is not so important but we have to get the aircraft back." I'll never forget the devotion to duty of this young officer- it cost him his life.

He said, "Our mission is not so important but we have to get the aircraft back." I'll never forget the devotion to duty of this young officer- it cost him his life.

While we were flying from Chu Lai to LZ Two Bits, I thought we had flown west of Hwy. 1. This would be off course. I asked Porcella if we had drifted west. He called the ATC (air traffic control) at Duc Pho and asked them to find him.

The operator at Duc Pho said that he had turned his radar off at 2100 hours. He said, "Do you want me to turn it on and find you?" MAJ Porcella replied "Roj" and that was the last thing he ever said.

The next thing I knew I was recovering from unconsciousness in a burning helicopter which seemed to be upside down. I tried to unbuckle my seat belt but couldn't use my left arm. I finally managed to get unbuckled and immediately dropped down and almost broke my neck.

Assessing the casualties. My helmet was plugged into commo and the wire held me as I dropped out of the inverted seat. The helicopter was burning. Poor MAJ Porcella was crushed against the instrument panel and either unconscious or dead.

WO1 Bedworth, still strapped in his seat, was thrown out of the chopper. His right anklebones were fractured and sticking through the nylon of his boot. SGT Mac was unhurt but thrown clear and unconscious. I

tried to free Porcella by cutting his seatbelt and removing him. However, I was unable to do so.

The chopper burned up and I suffered burns on my hands and buttocks and had my pants burned off. While trying to free Porcella, some of the M-60 rounds cooked off and I took a round through the left shoulder and neck. My left wrist and left collarbone were broken in the crash, and I lost or broke seven upper teeth.

We assessed the situation - we had no food or water, no flares, no first aid kit or survival gear. We had two .38 pistols and 12 rounds, one seriously wounded WO co-pilot, a moderately wounded doctor, and an unhurt crew chief.

I took the compass from the burned out helicopter and tried to go down the mountain towards the east, and, I believed, friendlies.

Searching for help. We thought we were close to Duc Pho and Hwy. 1 and close to friendlies. Bedworth and I decided to send Mac for help at first light. We never saw him again. Later, 6 years later, COL Nevins told me that SGT Mac had been found about ten miles from the crash site, shot and submerged in a rice paddy.

So on that night of November 30, 1967, I splinted Bedworth's leg with tree branches, made a lean-to from the door of the chopper, and we sat in the rain for three days and nights. We just sat there. We drank rainwater.

On the third morning Bedworth died. We could hear choppers hovering over our crash site and I fired most of the rounds from our .38s trying to signal them. But cloud cover was so heavy and the weather so bad, they never found us.

I took the compass from the burned out helicopter and tried to go down the mountain towards the east, and, I believed, friendlies. My glasses were broken or lost in the crash and I couldn't see well.

The trail was slippery and I fell on rocks in a creek bed and cracked a couple of ribs. I had my left arm splinted to my body with my belt. My pants were in tatters and burned. I had broken teeth and a wound in my shoulder. I hadn't eaten or drunk anything but rainwater for three days. I looked and felt like hell.

A cruel irony. One of the cruel ironies of my life, you know how we all play the what if games, what if I hadn't done this or that, well, when I finally reached the bottom

of the mountain, I estimated four hours after first light, the weather cleared and I saw choppers hovering over the top. I knew I couldn't make it up the mountain, and had to take my chances. But if I had only waited another 4 hours

I started walking up the trail and saw a man working in a rice paddy. He came over and said Dai-wi, Bac-si- Captain, Doctor. He took me to a little hootch, sat me down, and gave me a can of sweetened condensed milk, a C-ration can, a can opener, and a spoon.

This stuff was like pudding and it billowed out of the can and was the best tasting stuff I ever had. I felt very safe at that point. One minute later, my host led a squad of 14 VC with two women and 12 rifles to me.

Captured by the enemy. The squad leader said, "Surrenda no kill." He put his hands in the air and I couldn't because my left arm was tied to my body. He shot me with an M2 carbine and wounded me again in the neck.

After I was apprehended, I showed my captors my Geneva Convention card, white with a red cross. He tore it up. He took my dog tags and a medallion my dad had given me before I left. It had a St. Christopher's medal on one side and a Star of David on the other.

They tied me with commo wire in a duck wing position, took my boots, and marched me mostly at night for about 30 days. The first day they took me to a cave, stripped my fatigue jacket off my back, and tied me to a door. A teenage boy beat me with a bamboo rod. I was told his parents were killed by American bombs.

We rested by day and marched by night. I walked on rice paddy dikes and couldn't see a thing. They would strike these little homemade lighters and by the sparks they made see four or five steps. I was always falling off the dikes into the rice paddy water and had to be pulled back up. It was rough. On the way I saw men, women, and kids in tiger cages and bamboo jails.

She cauterized my through-and-through wound with the cleaning rod and I almost passed out with pain.

Crude medical treatment. I was taken to a camp, which must have been a medical facility, as my wound was festering and full of maggots. I was also sick. A woman heated up a rifle-cleaning rod and gave me a bamboo stick to bite on.

She cauterized my through-and-through wound with the cleaning rod and I almost passed out with pain. She then dressed the wound with mercurochrome and gave me two aspirin. I thought, what else can they do to me. I was to find out.

After walking for about a month through plains, then jungles and mountains, always west, they took me to a camp. I had been expecting a PW camp like a stalag with Hogan's Heroes; barbed wire, search lights, nice guards and red cross packages - and a hospital where I could work as a doctor.

They took me to a darkened hut with an oriental prisoner who was not American. I didn't know whether he was Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, or Chinese. He spoke no English and was dying of TB. He was emaciated, weak, sick, and coughed all day and night.

He said, "You will find that dying is very easy; living-living is the difficult thing."

The Vietnamese officer. I spent two days there and an English-speaking Vietnamese officer came with a portable tape recorder and asked me to make a statement against the war. I told him that I would rather die than speak against my country. His words which were unforgettable and if I ever write a book, will be the title. He said, "You will find that dying is very easy; living, living is the difficult thing."

A few days later, in a driving rain, we started the final trek to camp. I was tied again, without boots, and we ascended higher and higher in the mountains. I was weak and asked to stop often and rest. We ate a little rice which the guards cooked.

PW camp one. We actually needed ropes to traverse some of the steep rocks. Finally, we got to PW camp one. There were four American servicemen there, two from the US and two from Puerto Rico. Three were Marines and one was in the Army. These guys looked horrible. They wore black PJs and were scrawny with bad skin and teeth and beards and matted hair.

The camp also had about 15 ARVNs who were held separately across a bamboo fence. The camp was just a row of hootches made of bamboo with elephant grass roofs. They were around a creek with a hole in the ground for a latrine. This was the first of five camps we lived at in the South-all depressingly similar.

To be continued in the next issue of the Americal Newsletter.

REUNIONS

1ST SQUADRON - 1st CAVALRY

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry will hold its next National Reunion with the Americal in Washington, D.C. on November 8-9-10-11-12, 2002. More details on this later.

We have plans for the following Reunions: In New Glarus, Wisconsin on January 19-20-21, 2001, B Troop (1967) in Louisville, KY in May 2001, Americal Convention on June 21-22-23-24, 2001 in Cleveland, OH and Kokomo, Indiana on September 13-14-15-16, 2001.

We have over 460 Members and a directory of over 2600 names. If you are interested in joining dues are \$12.00 a year. This covers three Newsletters. For more information contact:

Terry Babler-President
1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association
New Glarus, WI 53574

email: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]

196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

The 196 LIB Association will hold its next Reunion At Gettysburg, PA on July 26-29, 2001. For additional info contact Warren Neill [REDACTED] or e-mail: [REDACTED]. Call hotel at [REDACTED]. Ask for special rate of \$89.00 plus tax.

THOUGHTS OF A CHRISTMAS PAST

It was the decade of the 60's with love, peace, Beatles, and the Vietnam War. Young boys were called to duty and few knew what for.

Boys quickly turned into men in that land so far away. We all counted the days, longing for the end of our 365 day stay.

Life was so different there with the jungle, heat, and the Viet-Cong. Home, birthdays, holidays, and family were greatly missed and long.

Christmas, 1968, is a lasting memory for me. Instead of a special day, it was like every other day to be.

With no glitter, tree, or presents around, it was difficult to celebrate the Savior. As this special day wound to a close, I wondered about our G. I. behavior.

Sure enough, there would be a flicker of life as our sergeant pulled out a surprise. It was a 5th of Black Velvet which brought gleam to our eyes.

It was such a dark, lonely night, 10,000 miles from home. Our hearts and minds were with those we loved but felt so alone.

The sergeant passed his bottle around and each

took a swallow in our group of eight. It wasn't the Christmas of childhood past, but those few moments of camaraderie were great.

Our leader reminded us it was time to hit the sack and turned out the lantern light. We all laid in our bags thinking about the meaning of that night.

My thoughts turned to next Christmas and how great it would be. I'll be happy, I'll be good, nothing will bring me down, you'll see.

I often think about that Christmas night so long ago and so far away. In a way I cherish those lonely moments but the true meaning of Christmas was in my heart to stay.

I wrote the above poem on the eve of the 30th anniversary of arriving in country. I arrived in November of 1968 and was assigned as a A-13 to C Battery 3/18 Arty which was in Duc Pho at that time. Within days we road marched into the central highlands and set up A Btry at Minh Long and established LZ CRUNCH. At Christmas time we were living in tents and pretty crude conditions.

Chuck Gifford

HHC 1/6 INFANTRY - B CO. - 1/6 INFANTRY - 198 LIB

In March of 1971 I was transferred from the 1st CAV to the 23rd Division. I was assigned to HHC 1/6 198 and then attached to B/1/6 198 LIB between the 23rd and 25th of March just before Mary Ann was over run. I worked on FSB Stinson and I went out with B/1/6. We left the base in the evening of March 23rd, a tired group. When we stopped to rest, a Sgt. I believed to be the Platoon Sgt. asked me if I would go out on a LP. The result of my going is that I am now in a wheel chair. I never expected a medal but now the VA says I was never in combat.

As a Medic I often performed other duties such as toting ammo, extra water, medical supplies, and helped put up suppressive fire when needed to help bring in a wounded soldier.

First of all I would like to know what happened on that early afternoon, March 25th. I would like to contact anyone that could verify I was there and went out on that patrol. A Lieutenant was near my head as I was put aboard a bird.

Please write or call and tell me what happened to everybody else and if Stinson was hit.

My record was stamped "Combat-None" and I have to prove that I was there. If you have been in combat you know how many times I think of that day--25 March 1971--.

I served my time in Viet Nam and did my job when called upon. Now I ask for your help.

Thanks,
Bobby Floyd
Burnsville, NC 28714
Tel: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

D COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 21st INFANTRY - 11 LIB

The First Platoon, Delta Company, 1/20th, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, had their second Reunion from April 28th through the 30th, 2000 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Almost 45 members have been located and 23 attended. A great turn out! We have found new members from the Company's other platoons as well. This years Reunion was organized by Dennis and Nancy Sperry of Danville, Ohio. Men came from as far away as Oregon. The men were in Viet Nam from 1968 through 1971. Everyone had a great time together, lots of laughs, certainly some tears, friendships renewed and memories relived.

This year on Friday night all the men and their wives attended the Louise Mandrell concert in Pigeon Forge in which the Platoon was honored and were given a standing ovation from the audience. It was a very rewarding and emotional moment for all and quite an honor for the men.

The next Reunion will be held in April 2002 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and all Delta Company members are more than welcome.



Front Row-LtoR: John Ewing, JD Kilzer, Cliff Barger, Jason Wright, Alan Conger. Middle Row LtoR: Steve Russell, Bill Toffling, Jim White, Bob McClellan, Danny Hanna, Bruce Moore. Back Row LtoR: Ken Sabatin, Bill Howard, Coshel Hall, Dennis Sperry, Rodney Doss, Bob Hatten, Erskin Wade, Jack Hayden, John Rosebrook. Not present for picture taking: Rich Parry, Fred Battle, Larry Reeder, Jack Sallee.

Many of us were wounded and to be together again was a very emotional but rewarding experience for all of us. We had a great time being together and it was very good for the men to see each other again, after many years.

Alan Conger

11th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

I have put a notice in the Army Lost and Found looking for someone that knew my cousin, Florian Anthony Bugni Jr., who was KIA thirty two ago. I had three answers yesterday and they all referred me to the 11 LIB of the Americal. I have looked at web pages associated with these units but can find nothing on casualties.

I was a tank crewman from June '67 - June '68' in A Company 1/69th Armor in the Central Highlands.

When I returned to O'Hare on June 6, 1968 I was greeted by relatives who told me that "Junior" had been killed and we had to hurry to Farmington, Michigan for his funeral. I was shocked with this first encounter back in the world and I had no information to help the family of my cousin, Florian. On behalf of his Dad (my uncle) I immediately wrote to the company CO for help in learning the details of his death but no response was ever received.

Its taken a long time for the wounds to begin healing and part of the process is knowing what has happened to our brothers. I and the immediate family would like to contact someone who knows what happened on May 23, 1968 in Quang Tin Province.

Any help would be appreciated.

Mr. Larry Bugni

Milwaukee, WI 53027

TASK FORCE OREGON

I was one of the original members of Headquarters, Task Force Oregon, which later "morphed" into the Americal Division. I was in the advance party that landed in Duc Pho in early April 1967. I then moved up to Chu Lai a week or two later (as Assistant Division Engineer) to help coordinate the engineering effort required to establish the division headquarters and is organic aviation battalion.

I have never heard of anyone else who was a member of TF Oregon who is presently a member of the ADVA. I worked very closely with MG William Rosson, the original Commander of TF Oregon, Col. Edgar R. Poole, the original Chief of Staff of TF Oregon, and Ltc. T.R. Fulton, 39th Combat Engineer Bn CO, and the original TF Oregon Engineer, I would like to get in contact with these men.

LTC Harry C. Goodson (Ret.)

Albuquerque, NM 87112-2531

Tel. [REDACTED]

1/ 20 INFANTRY - LZ DRAGON

I am looking for the Company that took over LZ Dragon in December, 1968 or any Company of the 1/20 Infantry that stayed on LZ Dragon. I am building a LZ Dragon site and wanted to include anyone who was on the base. I have 40 photos of LZ Dragon.

Any information you have about LZ Dragon would be appreciated. I have a photo of a tracked vehicle coming onto LZ Dragon with personnel from the 1/20 Infantry. The 1/20 was taking over the base as Company D, 3/1 Infantry left for the field.

John W. Caldwell

Dallas, TX 75287

Tel: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU PAID YOR DUES YET!

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM 'DOC' MCCORMICK
Medical Detachment - 182nd Infantry

I have just returned from the Eastern Regional Chapter Reunion held at Wildwood Crest, NJ.

At the Reunion meeting I was asked by Commander Bill Gold to give the Invocation, which of course I was honored to do. After that I asked for a moment of silence for our departed members.

Upon my return home from the Reunion I received a call from from Alice Mullen advising me of the death of Americal member Bill 'Doc' McCormick. He had been confined to the V.A. hospital in Philadelphia for sometime.

I am sure glad I asked for a moment of silence, at the reunion for our departed members. May his soul rest in peace.

Take care and God bless you all.

Leo W. Orfe
221 F.A. Bn. Btry C

221st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

An article by Les Hines, Vietnam Historian, on Page 29, Jul-Aug-Sep 2000 Newsletter, needs some clarification. I had sent Les a cassette tape entitled "A Salute to the Americal Division", by the United States Army Field Band, Washington, DC, in which the Band in 1982 salutes the Division on the 40th anniversary of the Division landing on Guadalcanal. The cassette contains a few military pieces, including the "Americal Division March" written by CWO Chester E. Whiting, former Americal Division Bandmaster. Chet, as he was known by his many friends in the artillery, wrote the Americal Division March while on Bougainville in 1944. It in no way resembles the 3rd Infantry Division "Dog Face Soldier" song.

Chet was the Band Leader of the 110th Horse Cavalry, Mass. National Guard, which later became the 180th Field Artillery Regiment. The 1st Battalion of the 180th eventually became the 221st Field Artillery Bn. and Chet led that Band until he became the Americal Division Bandmaster on Bougainville.

After World War II he was selected to form the Army Field Forces Band in Washington, DC and attained the rank of Lt. Col.. He led this Band until his retirement.

The Field Forces Band is stationed at Fort Meade, a few miles outside of Washington, DC and a trip to that Fort during the 2002 Reunion in DC should prove an interesting highlight, if you have the time. They have an outdoor display of all wheeled and tracked vehicles of WW I WWII, and later, including U.S., German, English, Russian and other Allied vehicles, along with a very interesting weapons museum. It should be well worth your time.

Hope this clears up the history of the Americal Division March,

Lloyd J. Morrell
221 FA Bn.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

WORLD WAR II MUSEUM AT CAMP EDWARDS

Mr. Joseph Yukna of Mashpee, Massachusetts is trying to preserve part of our memorable Camp Edwards from total obscurity, by remodeling, updating in a preservation mode one of the barracks (possibly more) as they were in the war period.

He is asking any of the men that were there during the war (particularly any of the original 1941 boys) to send him any articles pertaining to Camp Edwards or pictures of that era. Contact him at:

Cape Cod Military Museum
[REDACTED]
Mashpee, MA 02649

His request:

We are interested in anything you did during your service years. What food was served, what was a typical day of training like? Did you train with tanks and if so what types.

Did your unit interact with black troops on the base?

Did you see the Naval Air unit that was on the base?

We are interested in your experience after leaving Camp Edwards as well. How were the Australians? Did your unit use flamethrowers against the Japanese?

Anything and everything about your Army life, before and after Camp Edwards. That is what we are interested in.

Statutes and plaques are nice but they don't tell the story. We want to educate the public and especially the children as to what your generation went through.

If you would be so kind as to send your memoirs we would be honored to have a copy of an old dog faces writings.

(This article sent in by Bill Picardy-Bill saw service with L Company, 182nd Infantry)

FLAG AMENDMENT LOSES BY FOUR VOTES The Americal Legion - Citizens Flag Alliance

I just walked away from the United State Senate chamber where we lost our efforts to protect the American Flag from desecration by FOUR VOTES. I'm mad not because we lost the vote. I'm upset by politicians who disrespected the veterans who were in Washington on behalf of the flag amendment.

The above statement was written by Robert Spanogle, National Adjutant, The American Legion, after the recent vote by the United States senate on the flag amendment.

The two Senators from Massachusetts, Kennedy and Kerry, both voted against the amendment--the two Senators from North Dakota, Conrad and Dorgan, both voted against the amendment--the two Senators from Illinois split their vote, Senator Fitzgerald voted for and Senator Durbin voted against.

Just think, if the Senators from the 182nd Infantry State and the Senators from the 164th Infantry State had voted "YES" the amendment would have passed.

DO YOU REMEMBER BOB HOPE?

How many of our members remember Bob Hope? I remember him putting on a performance for the Americal when we were fighting on Bougainville.

Do you remember Patty Thomas? She wore short shorts and after her routine Bob came back on stage with the remark, "My, my, five thousand minds with the same thought"! (How many months had it been since you had seen a white women?)

Of course Jerry Colona was there also.

If I remember correctly there was a war being fought a couple of miles down the road and the powers in control would not let Bob and his group stay on the island over night.

Bob toured the battle areas during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Did you ever think about thanking him? Here is your chance. Write to:

Bob Hope

North Hollywood, CA 91602

DO IT NOW!

ANDY'S WALL REMEMBERS TWO F COMPANY VETERANS (182nd Infantry Regiment)

In February of 1998 I received a letter from Andy Mitzcavitch of Maynard, Massachusetts Americal Legion Post 235, asking me if I could locate two Americal Division patches for their Memorial Room. I telephoned my buddy Duckie Rollo (Company F veteran of Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Leyte battles) and told him of Andy's request. Duckie immediately sent Andy two Americal patches.

The Memorial Room is located in Maynard, Mass. American Legion, Frank J. DeMars Post 235. The Memorial Room is a 'Labor of Love' project of Andy Mitzcavitch, a USMC veteran. Along one wall is a 8x01 framed glass picture of the thirty two (32) Maynard WW II vets and four WWI men that lost their lives fighting for our country. On the adjoining wall is the Army Division patches or military service affiliations of these men.

The Memorial Wall is of particular importance to the men of Company F, for included on this Wall of heroes are the pictures of two Company F men who were killed on Guadalcanal. William F. Palmer was killed on November 21, 1942 and Thomas F. Lanigan on November 28, 1942.

Those of us that served with Bill and Tom remember Bill as a happy, always with a smile, never complaining, young man who enjoyed life. Tom Lanigan was a serious quiet man about eight years older than Bill and he enjoyed life no less than Bill did.

I finally visited this Memorial Wall on Memorial Day year 2000 and as I stood and looked at this Wall of Pictures and Division Patches, a feeling of peaceful and relaxing silence came over me.

At this time my fellow comrades of F Company, 182nd Infantry Regiment, want to express our profound and heartfelt thanks to Andy Mitzcavitch for his Memorial of our two unforgettable buddies of Company F, 182nd Infantry.

Joseph Papa
Chairman
Co. F Veterans Assc.

E COMPANY - 164TH INFANTRY

From the 4th Replacement Depot in Tacloban Leyte-Philippines Islands a bunch of scared, green young infantry replacements boarded a deuce and a half truck for a trip across the breadth of the island. Two days later after a bone jarring, wet ride we boarded a barge on the other side of the island for a much shorter ride to an encampment on the beach behind which rose mountain after mountain. We had arrived at 2nd Battalion Headquarters of the 164th Infantry Regiment to which all of us had been assigned. The 164th Infantry was part of the Americal Division. Those of us in basic training in Camp Roberts, California knew the Americal was one of the premier infantry divisions in the South Pacific. We had been told that Americal units were involved in "mopping up" operations in this area (Ormac, Palompan, Abijou). The time was early 1945.

The next morning with a couple of non-coms and a carrying party we set out for our individual assignments. Several of us were to be assigned to E Company, and the others to companies along the way. In the afternoon the going became hard. All of us were covered with sweat in the 110 degree (or hotter) temperature.

One of our group was very heavy and having a difficult time climbing the hills. After falling several times, he declared he could go no further and for us to leave him there. The non-com that was leading us came back to talk to him. He told him that if we left him he would not survive the night. He began to whimper and cry. Pvt. Kingery and myself decided that we would see that he got to his assigned unit. I took his M-1 rifle and bandoleer of ammo and Kingery took his web belt and pack. We got him standing up, and with one of us on either side of him, got him back on the trail.

About a half mile later we handed him off to the First Sergeant of the unit that he was assigned to. Others in the column made it to their assigned units, and finally it was just the 7 or 8 of us left that were assigned to E Company.

A short time later the CO of E Company, Captain Walker, arrived and began to brief us. The first thing that I can recall him saying was that if any of us were wounded that every effort would be made to get to us. He told us that one of his NCO's had just been wounded. Within minutes he was informed that the NCO had just died.

When we finally made it to the next hill where the rest of E Company was dug in, it was just before dusk. Since there was not time for me to dig in I was placed in a slit trench with a BAR man and another rifleman. I was told that we were covering the "flank side" of the hill. About that time the Japs launched an attack on the forward slope of the hill. The attack was repulsed but there were casualties.

I continued to observe the bottom side of the hill where we were located after the attack. The two guys with me correctly guessed that I was a "green", scared replacement and not likely to fall asleep on guard. Soon they were totally "out" of it. There was still some light and a moon when I noticed three figures moving along the bottom of the hill. I decided to go ahead and fire. I took a sight picture of the lead figure. They were about 40 or 50 yards from our position (lead the figure just a tiny bit) and I opened fire. I then fast-fired a clip at the other two figures who had hit the ground. I could have possibly hit the lead

164 INFANTRY REGIMENT

In the October-November-December 1999 issue of the Americal Newsletter carried a list of ships that were used to transport the Americal. The ships used by the 164th Infantry were not included.

The 164th Infantry sailed out of San Francisco aboard the U.S.A.T President Coolidge on March 20, 1942 as part of Task Force 6814 and arrived in Melbourne, Australia on April 8, 1942. There were three other transports in this convoy that included the Coolidge, the Queen Elizabeth, and the Mariposa. It was believed that these three ships carried 20,000 troops. The Queen and the Mariposa sailed into Sydney. This convoy was escorted by a lone cruiser--the U.S.S. Chester.

While in Melbourne harbor orders were given on April 12, 1942 to leave the Coolidge and march from Station Pier to Princess Pier. The order read, "Troops will move in complete uniform. Shoes will be shined. Ties and garrison caps, (former overseas caps) will be worn. Care will be exercised to see that Troops uniforms are consistent and that troops give the best appearance possible.

S.S. CREMER - The 1st Battalion, plus attachments.

S.S. VAN HEUTSZ - 2nd Battalion, plus attachments.

S.S. MAETSUYKER - 3rd Battalion, plus attachments

These were three Dutch ships flying under the Dutch flag. They were believed to be out of the Dutch East Indies. They transported the 164th Infantry Regiment to New Caledonia.

Ed Note: Thanks to Jim Fenelon of the 164th for sending in this information. If anyone has information on the fate of these ships Jim would like to hear about it. Contact him at:

Mr. James M. Fenelon

Marshalltown, IA 50658

Jim is the Editor of the 164 Infantry Newsletter.

HOW ABOUT THAT!

Just today I visited the Korean War Memorial near the Lincoln Memorial and took some pictures. I hope a better job is done with the World War II Memorial. The Korean Memorial has a number of statues of men in combat gear with their ponchos on. That is all well and good but not one of them have their helmet chin straps fastened! Those steel helmets can come off easily and one lying on the ground provides no protection at all.

Bad example for young people!

I'm virtually certain that if I hadn't had my chin strap fastened at the time of the explosion on "Watt Hill" on Cebu, I would have been killed. A piece of lumber about 2.8.10 hit my head and crushed my helmet. I had to pry it off my head!

Lewis G. Mayfield
A/182 Infantry

Ed Note: Sorry I could not include the picture. It would not reproduce well.

figure because I saw him kind of tumble. I saw no movement after that.

The firing woke the BAR man and the other guy. A Non-Com slid down to our position and asked what we were shooting at. He told us to stay alert as there could be an attack on our side of the hill. He then told the BAR man to lay down some fire along the bottom of the hill if he saw any movement.

The next morning I watched as three or four dead were being wrapped in their shelter halves to be carried down to Battalion by the carrying party that was being assembled.

That was my first-night in combat--I was still scared, but no longer "green".

Bob Kiker

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT HOLDS 59th REUNION August 18 - 20 2000

We had a great Reunion at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel. Over twelve (12) Reunions have been held at this hotel.

Although our WW II ranks are thinning out, we still had a fairly good number of attendees. While some people went to see the fabulous Cantigny War Museum covering WW I through the Persian Gulf War, others remained at the hotel primarily socializing, i.e. discussing the World War II period. (These stories are getting more interesting!)

Our hospitality room was something special. Each day we had snacks, dips, assorted cheeses, soft drinks, fruit, coffee, tea, etc. Displays of photos taken during WW II covering Guadalcanal and Bougainville. Each attendee received an Americal tie, a Guadalcanal pin and a copy the book, "Orchids in the Mud".

At the banquet a champagne toast was given to all of our comrades KIA and those that have passed away since the war. It was a solemn moment.

Rather than have professional entertainment and dancing (which no one really cared for), an open discussion was held--New England town hall meeting type. Joe Micek told a few 'corny' jokes and invited anyone to come forward and discuss anything they wanted to. It was quite interesting. At this stage of life, the veterans would rather socialize and relive the past. This is a closed organization, i.e., only WWII vets and our ranks are thinning out rather fast. The Veterans Administration states that WWII vets are dying off at the rate of 1,500 to 1,700 per day. In eight to ten years the WWII vet will be "history".

In spite of this aging process the 132nd Regimental vets want to continue having an annual Reunion, hopefully for years to come. The hotel has been alerted for the year 2001 Reunion. All 132nd vets that read this article are invited to attend and to tell others about our 2001 reunion.

Please call or write to:

Joseph Micek
Norridge, IL 60706


Tel: [redacted]
e-mail: [redacted]

SOUTH PACIFIC BUDDIES ASSOCIATION
First Battalion - 182nd Infantry

The annual South Pacific Buddies Association was held on Elliott Carey's farm on August 19, 2000.

Thirty eight (38) members showed up plus twenty five wives and children.

Elliott's two sons prepared and served the meal, leaving the members free to renew old friendships and enjoy themselves.



There were many prizes given away and the only attending artilleryman won two of them.

There also three former Colonels in attendance.

This annual get-together is open to all Americal members. Watch for the date of next years gathering in the spring edition of the Americal Newsletter.

The South Pacific Buddies Association also puts out a Newsletter. I you are interested in joining and receiving the Newsletter write to :

Joseph L. Jackson - Editor
[redacted]
Swartz Creek, MI 48473-8885
Tel: [redacted]

132 INFANTRY REGIMENT
Do you know this man?

My name is Kelly Gumm and I live in Pontiac, Illinois. I am searching for someone that knew John G. Tamman.

John G. Tamman was my great-great uncle and I am doing research on his Army career. He was KIA on April 19, 1945. He was killed in action in the Philippines

John's brother Clarence Tammen was also killed in action on April 22, 1945.

If anyone has information on either of the two men I would appreciate hearing from them. Contact:

Kelly Gumm
[redacted]
Pontiac, IL 61764

THE COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

During the past several years, many people in and out of the military services have raised questions about the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB)--award requirements, number of times the badge may be awarded, and the like. Over the years with some limited success, I have been collecting information about the CIB and its running mate, the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB). With the assistance of the Infantry Center's Public Affairs Office, I have been able to update my collection of material, and offer parts of it for your information. But first, some background.

In August 1943, as a result of a detailed survey conducted by Lieutenant General Leslie J. McNair's Army Ground Forces (AGF) headquarters of soldiers assigned to AGF's 11 arms and services, General George C. Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff, became quite concerned about the state of the U S Infantryman. The survey found that the infantry was the least popular branch of service, even with it's own members--only 11 percent compared to 26 percent for the next least popular branch. It also pointed out that only 17 percent of the then serving infantrymen were satisfied with their individual assignment; this compared with 33 to 52 percent in the other branches.

Despite these and other gloomy findings, Marshall knew that our infantry units at the time were doing 70 percent of the fighting and dying. (This figure hasn't changed much over the years). Marshall, an old-line infantryman, knew full well the Army faced more years of hard, grueling fighting against two very determined enemies during which the infantry would be tested to the fullest, mentally as well as physically. And so he began looking for ways in which the infantryman's morale, effectiveness, and leadership could be improved. He finally accepted a number of pay, personnel action, and unit organization proposals called the Infantry Program. Most of the proposals came from McNair's AGF's personnel and operations staff sections.

One of the prime proposals called for the development and issuance of a "fighter badge" to those infantrymen who could meet the standards. This badge eventually became the CIB, formally established by an executive order on 15 November 1943. (The EIB was created four days earlier, by an executive order dated 11 November 1943). In an article that appeared in the March 1990 issue of ARMY magazine, the author pointed out that "the language of the original regulations indicated that the EIB would also be awarded to infantrymen whose action in combat was 'rated satisfactory, while the CIB was reserved for those 'whose conduct is exemplary, or whose combat action occurs in a major operation'. So far as is known, those distinctions were never made in practice, perhaps because it looked like a paperwork nightmare. Subsequent edition of the regulations required only 'satisfactory' performance in combat for the CIB, and the EIB was reserved for training accomplishments.

Today according to the latest regulations I have, these are the requirements an individual must meet in order to be considered eligible to the award of a CIB:

An individual must be an Army infantry or special forces officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of colonel or below, or an Army enlisted soldier or an Army warrant officer with an infantry or special forces MOS, who subsequent to 6 December

1941, has satisfactorily performed his duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger, or special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat. The mere presence of an individual in a unit in a theater of operations during a period for which unit campaign participation credit is earned does not count; a unit must have been in active ground combat with the enemy during the period.

Personnel with other than an infantry or special forces MOS, who are attached or assigned to an infantry or ranger unit (brigade or smaller) engaged in active ground combat are not eligible for the CIB regardless of the circumstances.

The CIB will not be made to general officers nor to members of headquarters companies of units larger in size than brigades.

Eligibility for special forces personnel (less the special forces medical sergeant) accrues from 20 December 1989. Retroactive awards for special forces personnel are not authorized.

Certain special provisions in the regulation apply only to particular kinds of service in the Republic of Vietnam:

Any officer whose basic branch was other than infantry who, under appropriate orders, commanded an infantry unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size for at least 30 consecutive days was deemed to have been detailed in infantry and was eligible for the award of the CIB, even in the absence of a written directive detailing him in the infantry. Of course, he had to meet all of the other requirements for the award.

Any officer, warrant officer, or enlisted man whose branch was other than infantry who, under appropriate orders, performed advisory, liaison, or training duties with Vietnam. South Korean, Thai, or Laotian units, were eligible for the award of a CIB, if they met all the other requirements for the award of the badge.

The regulation specifically states that only one award of the CIB is authorized for service in Vietnam, Laos, the Dominican Republic, Korea (subsequent to 27 July 1954). Grenada and Panama, regardless of whether an individual has served one or more tours in one or more of these areas. And if a soldier is awarded a CIB for service in any of those areas, he is not eligible to earn the Combat Medical Badge (CMB).

The regulation also points out that non-commissioned officers serving as command sergeants major of infantry battalions and brigades for periods of at least 30 consecutive days in a combat zone, are eligible for the award of a CIB provided he meets all of the other requirements for the award. This provision was made retroactive to 1 December 1967 for service in Vietnam and 4 January 1969 for service in Korea.

A recent official message clarified the award of the CIB for service in Somalia. It states that a CIB or CMB awarded during operations in Somalia will be included with those awarded for qualifying service in Vietnam, Laos, the Dominican Republic, Korea on the DMZ (after 4 January 1969), Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War. Thus, a soldier who was authorized a CIB or CMB for action in any of the limited conflicts is not authorized a subsequent award (star in wreath) for participating in the Somalia operation.

The badge may be awarded in the field only by designated commanders. All other recommendations for the award of the CIB and CMB must be forwarded to and approved by the Personnel Command at Headquarters Department of the Army.

As the author of the ARMY magazine article quoted above put it: "The Army has zealously preserved the original purposes of the CIB, despite sometimes, intense lobbying by other combat arms for establishment of equivalent awards; the only exception has been the Combat Medical Badge for front-line military personnel". Hopefully, the Department of the Army will continue to stand its ground and refuse to buckle to outside pressures.

(Sent in by Mitchell Pillarick)

THE MAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what THAT man has to say.
For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgement upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life,
Is the one staring back from the glass.
Some people might think,
Your'e a straight-shooting chum
And call you a wonderful guy
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum,
If you can't look him straight in the eye.
He's the fellow to please,
Never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear up to the end.
And you've passed a most dangerous, difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend,
You may fool the whole world,
Down the pathway of years,
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears.
If you've cheated the man in the glass.
Author Unknown

The ranks are thinning fast. They say WWII vets are dying at the rate of 100 a day. Hard to believe?

Another thing that is hard to believe is that our Americal Newsletter always arrives late. The Apr-May-Jun 2000 issue arrived July 10th!

Hope you enjoyed the above poem.

In Fellowship,
John Crowhurst

Ed Note: I have my troubles with the Post Office in many ways but I can never get any answers. I'll keep trying to improve service. Jim

I am looking for anyone that knew Horace A. Bentley who served with the 182nd Infantry and was killed on March 31, 1945 while in combat on Cebu.

He was my father-in-law and I have four children who would like to find some information on him. Bentley's son was seven years old when his father died. It would mean so much to all of us.
Contact:
Sonja Bentley
[redacted]
Bakersfield, CA 93380
e-mail: [redacted]

746 AAA GUN BATTALION

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

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

At approximately 2000, 6 April 45, the outfit landed on the city of Cebu. We at once got our orders to just pull outside the city limits and bed down for the night. I believe that was about the most exciting night I had ever seen. We threw our shelter halves out on the ground and stretched out, without removing our clothes. After everyone had fallen asleep, a few Japs slipped through the front lines and set off a large ammunition dump just a few yards from where we were.

For approximately two hours, our area was sprayed with shrapnel. We really were in a spot. No one had dug a fox hole and all we had for cover were the vehicles to crawl under. I think everyone was praying that night that one of the big shells wouldn't come their way. After all had quieted down we found that we had escaped with just a few casualties.

As soon as daylight came orders came for us to move into the Americal Division area and set up most of the guns for immediate use as long range ground support for the infantry who were having a tough time of it just in front of us. It's always a choosy job picking front-line gun positions. If the ground is good and you find a bit of defilade, the targets are scarce; in a spot where you shoot to good effect, your gun is usually right out in front of God and everybody. The Colonel, for the Infantry regiment, where we went first, thought the two gun team, which would support him, should go in on the edge of a rice paddy. The position wasn't bad, if a trifle soupy, but there were only two or three targets we could hit worth a nickel. So we went on.

We found what we were looking for just a few hundred yards behind the infantry out post line and right up with their front. The ridge the Japs held opposite the line were lousy with caves and bunkers and pillboxes. It was target heaven.

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

Eventually four gun teams, eight 90's went into the front lines opposite the Jap hillside position. The gun positions were organized as strong points with the Infantry, the guns of each pair being about twenty yards apart. Fire control methods were the same we'd used before--height finders for observing, locating targets and

getting initial range. B.C. scopes tied in to give azimuth readings. Guns were laid with the azimuth clocks and gunner's quadrant. We used the direct fire sights against moving personnel and vehicles.

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

Now that the Nips had moved up the island we were wondering what was next on the list for us, we didn't have to wait long, "Move up the island about 20 miles, the Infantry needs help". They figured there wasn't enough shooting for all the 90's, so C Btry., having a good record was picked to clean the Japs out. The rest of the batterys were used as infantry.

C Btry., set their guns down on top of a hill where they had a good view of the front lines and the caves. The Japs fought back hard. They infiltrated every night and kept the area full of snipers. One of their tricks was to lug in homemade demolition blocks of peiric acid taken from bombs and torpedoes and fused with two seconds blasting caps. We'd find them all over the place each morning, set up as booby traps or just lying on the ground where they dropped them when fired on. One night a tent which our men were using was blown up with one of these charges. Pieces of our personal belongings, bits of packs and clothing and tent were scattered for a couple of hundred yards around. You never heard such a blast nor saw such a flash in your life. Luckily, none of the men were in the tent at the time.

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

I sure take my hat off to the Infantry. Those boys in the Americal were the toughest, coolest, fightinest guys I've ever seen. The best soldiers in the world is what we thought. At night we were damn glad they were up in front of us while we were firing our big guns. They really loved us. When we were softening up the Nips so they could advance, they would yell like sixty when they saw the caves and pillboxes go up in smoke right before their eyes.

When they would come back from the front lines they would stop by and shake our hands and thank us for saving them a lot of dirty work. They also liked our little cook we called 'Frank'--'Tony' for short. Wherever we went we always took 'Tony' with us, although we had nothing but "C" Rations we always had hot coffee twenty-four hours a day. If the men were too busy firing to come for their coffee 'Tony' would deliver it with a smile. He always had a cup of coffee for a tired Infantry-man and believe me they really enjoyed that hot cup of coffee.

All the time we had men up on the front lines we had a full crew of men back in the rear with our other two guns. The men were made up of the supply Sgt., 1st Sgt. and Headquarters section.

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

The twentieth (20) annual Reunion of L Company, 182nd Reunion was held September, 16, 2000 at the home of Bob Doucette.

In attendance from L Company were Bob Contant, Dick Pratt, Jim McCarthy, Al Greer, Tom Ward, Ray Kinnon, Jim Standish, Ted Milgroom and Bob Doucette

Attending from M Company were Vincent Tringale, Joe Chin and his wife Barbara, Dom Lucci, Mike Imbrascio, Marty Binda, Doug Surrette..

E Company was represented by Harry Mohla, Jim Buckle, Editor of the Americal Newsletter and Ken Turner accompanied by his wife Jan. Ken is Curator of the Americal Museum in Worcester, Mass.

A light lunch was enjoyed along with and a lot of (tall) stories about World War II.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2001.



Ed Note: Above is a picture of Bob Doucette and Jim McCarthy, both members of L Company during World War II. These two men are responsible for keeping the old soldiers together. Bob opens his home to this reunion twice a year. Many thanks to Bob's wife Mary for her help and for putting up with us all these years.

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Looking for anyone that knew William H. Hopkins, my father, who served in the 182 Infantry.

He was in the Army from 1939 until 1946 and he was from Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Please contact:

Michael Hopkins

Dunkirk, MD 20754

e-mail: [REDACTED]

They were kept plenty busy firing at long range targets. Some of the men had never been on a gun before but they did a fine job. They'd ask the Battery Commander time and time again if they could go up on the front with the rest of the Battery but were always told they were doing a good job where they were. One man especially practically begged the Battery Commander to let him go with his men, that was our 1st Sgt. Our Battery Commander was a little timid as he and the 1st Sgt. were from the same town. I guess he was afraid, "Pat," our 1st Sgt. might get a little more glory than he. Believe me, I am sure, the morals of the men would have been much higher if "Pat" had been along. He always had an encouraging word for you when you thought you were about to give in.

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

The beach head didn't amount to much for the Japs had evacuated the city and there wasn't much use for our guns. After two weeks we were shipped back to Cebu where we continued to clean up Japs that were left on the island. Here we stayed until the war was over, then we were sent to the rear area. Our guns were taken from us and we were used to pick up Japs as they came in to give themselves up and the ones that still wanted to fight we had to go in as Infantry and clean them out. At present we are acting as "Military Police" keeping law and order and order among the G.I.s and Civilians. A job that is not too pleasant.

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

(Sent in by: Joseph W. Stelzl Jr.
746 AAA Gun. Battalion Battery C)

THE POINT SYSTEM

Following VE day in Europe a point system was set up by the Army. Eighty five were needed to get a boat for home.

1. Each child counted 12 points
2. Time in service-longevity-one point per month
3. Overseas time-one point per month
4. Time in combat-one point per month
5. Campaigns-five points per month
6. Medals - five points per months

(Thanks to Harry Mohla for sending in the above.

Ed Note: I have heard many explanations of the point system. This seems to be the most logical.

52nd FIELD HOSPITAL
XIV Corps
Bougainville, Solomon Islands
1944

The 52nd Field Hospital was located in a coconut grove between Henderson field and Fighter Strip #1 near the Lunga River on the island of Guadalcanal. The newly formed Americal Division arrived on the island sometime in November of 1942. This installation became the provisional hospital and provided hospitalization for divisional troops and also held sick call for many units without medical detachments. Major John Berry became the first commander of he 52nd with personnel taken from the 101st Medical Regiment, Americal Division. This hospital and other Army units earned the distinction of being the first Army unit ever awarded the Navy Unit Citation by the Secretary of the Navy for action on Guadalcanal. On May 1, 1943 the 52nd was activated as a Field Hospital under T/O as members of the 101st Medical Regiment were used to form a cadre for the 52nd and the remaining 101st Medical Regiment became the 121 Medical Battalion of the Americal Division.



This photograph depicts two serpents coiled around a life preserver with a halloood stick leaning to one side within the preserver. In the background lies a strip of beach with gentle waves rolling onto the shore. A volcanic landscape lies on the horizon as one mountain lazily puffs a cloud of steam. This sign was painted by a member or members of the hospital whose names are not known.

Photo courtesy of Sgt. Joe J. Aguirre
101st Medical Regiment
52nd Field Hospital XIV Corps

26th SIGNAL COMPANY

I served as a radio operator with the 26th Signal Company from January 23, 1942 until September 9, 1945. I was discharged after serving forty three (43) months with the Americal Division. It wasn't until recently that I looked at my service record and discovered that there are no listings of the Bronze Star battle stars or the Bronze Star for the invasion of on Cebu. Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte and Cebu makes four Bronze Stars, am I correct? Also, I understand that the Philippine government gave the Americal certain awards.

If you are up on these medals could you please give me a listing of the awards we earned from 1942 to 1945. I was not in the Occupation Force.

Anthony Albini
26th Signal Co.

Ed. Note: It is difficult to pin point awards without first checking on a soldier's arrival date on any particular island or battle scenes. For instance; all members of the Americal did not receive the Presidential Citation (Navy) for Guadalcanal. You had to arrive before a certain date. The arrival date is the important thing.

Basically the Americal members are entitled to a battle star on their Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon for Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons (Bougainville), Southern Philippines and Philippines. This makes a total of four (4) at the most. The Americal was awarded only one (1) Spearhead and that was for Cebu and only certain units were involved.

As far as the medals from the Philippine government--forget it. First of all you had to buy them. I haven't heard of anyone receiving them as yet.

Your best bet is to write to the Records Center in St. Louis, MO and ask for the medals that you are entitled to. Jim

I COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

I am trying to locate then Lt. John P. Trauger who came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania and was platoon leader, 2nd platoon, I Company, 182nd Infantry on Bougainville.

On February 22, 1944 I was a BAR man on a patrol deep in Jap territory. The patrol moved forward with the 1st scout in the lead followed by the second scout, Lt. Trauger and then myself. We walked into an ambush. The 1st and 2nd scout were killed. I looked up in time to see the Jap a about fifteen feet in front of me. I hit the ground and pulled the bolt back on my BAR. As I aligned my sights I was looking at a machine gun barrel. I had to shoot over Lt. Trauger as I put about 10 rounds into the Jap but I also messed in my pants.

A soldier by the name of Bober was one of the scouts killed that day. He came to the CO that morning and shook his hand and said good bye saying that he was going to killed.

If you know of John P. Trauger please get in touch with me:

Lloyd A. Perry
Lubbock, TX 79405

147th INFANTRY REGIMENT

As an amateur student of the war in the Pacific I enjoy reading the Americal Newsletter but I wonder why the 147th Infantry Regiment is rarely mentioned in taking part in the battle for Guadalcanal.

The 147th was part of the Ohio National Guard 37th Division and was released from the 37th when the Army went from four regiments (square division) to three regiments (triangular division).

The 1st Battalion landed on Guadalcanal on November 4, 1942. That night the island was subjected to a heavy bombardment by a Japanese naval task force. The 147th unit was in the center of this bombardment. This unit was credited as having gone through the largest enemy bombardment in the history of the American military.

The consensus of opinion was had the shelling consisted of tree bursts rather than ground bursts not many of the Battalion would have survived.

The day after the shelling the Battalion joined the 2nd Marines Division and was instrumental in stopping a major Jap attack against the Marines.

During the battle for Iwo Jima the 147th was a floating reserve for the Marines but wasn't used. On March 22, 1945 the Regiment was put ashore as a garrison force and the nasty job of mopping up after the main battle. the 147th built the first Chapel on Iwo and allowed members of any branch of the service to attend.

During my research of the Pacific war I found some interesting material including this: In his after battle report Admiral Halsey said of the Marines. "The members of he 1st Marine Division, who were to make the landing were gathered from Marine units all over the world. They were poorly trained and were unprepared for the task ahead of them. In the first few weeks of battle more Marines were killed by other Marines than by the enemy".

General Eisenhower said very publicly that he would not have, a Marine in his command because he had seen enough of their action in World War I as had MacArthur who only used Marines when they were forced on him.

According to the Marine Corps the 5th Marine Regiment attached to the 2nd Army Division in World War I, won the war all by themselves. This is the same Regiment that was so chopped up by the Japs on Peleliu that the 81st Army Division had to send a Regiment to their rescue even though they were heavily engaged on Anguar. The 5th Marines, unlike their buddies on Iwo, complain even today and state, "If the Army had come to their rescue earlier they would not have suffered so many casualties". Can't satisfy them.

William B. Hill, said in his book, "The Case Against the Admirals", "The Marine Publicity Bulldozer is a fearsome thing". He also said that after Eisenhower's remark the Marines rented an office in downtown London and put a large banner across the front of the building saying, "We Are Here!" From that time on Eisenhower had a constant battle to keep the Marines out of Europe. Eisenhower knew that if he ever allowed "one Battalion" on a European Beachhead the Marines would start "winning the war", in the Newsreels and public print and the effect on three million GIs would not be good.

Hill continues that, "Marine publicity was on hand

alright, but they just couldn't get one Marine ashore in France". "Even if they had that one Marine ashore he probably would have out raced Patton, broad jumped the Rhine, and brought Hitler back alive".

The Smith vs Smith episode mentioned in the book, "Who Won the War", is about Marine General H.M. Smith and Army General Ralph Smith and the battle of Saipan. If anyone is interested in what really happened on Saipan, what Marine Corps and its officers, including Navy admirals, are really all about, and the totally unjustified dismissing of the 27th Army Division Commanding General Ralph Smith, of Marine General H. M. Smith's atrocious actions against the 27th Division, even calling then "Yellow Bastards", I highly recommend Harry A. Gailey's book, "Howling Mad Against the Army".

Oh yes, one more thing. Most of the supplies supplies to the Marines on Iwo were delivered by an Army Boat Company under command of a black officer.

James R. Daly
147th Infantry Regiment

Ed. Note: Thanks for your insight. You have brought several good points and some good books for future reading.

CHRISTMAS 1943

Christmas Eve 1943 found our anti-aircraft unit on Bougainville Island in the Solomons. For many of us 18 and 19 year olds, it was our first Christmas away from home and loved ones. The prospect of having a "Merry Christmas" on an embattled jungle island over 9000 miles from home, seemed very dim.

On December 4, 1943 we experienced our baptism of fire when several Japanese torpedo planes attacked our convoy as we were arriving from Guadalcanal. We were fortunate in having many Pearl Harbor veterans in our unit whose battle experience would prove very valuable in future engagements with the enemy.

The Japanese, from their base in Rabaul, began their bombing runs early Christmas Eve and continued them throughout the night. At 4:00 A.M. Christmas morning they finally left and we all dropped exhausted into our bunks. At 5:00 A.M. we were rudely awakened by a violent earthquake, that was heaving and shaking Bougainville's crust. Fleeing our tents, we found the ground so unstable that we were hardly able to stand. Nearby jungle trees were swaying as if some giant wind was blowing into them. A two and a half ton truck was rolled across the area and came to halt in the middle of the mess tent. Every piece of equipment was found to have been knocked of level.

While leveling our guns and radar, a jeep carrying a Salvation Army Officer. pulled into our area. He approached and handed each one of us a small Christmas gift package containing candy, gum, cigarettes, and toilet articles. With a hearty "Merry Christmas and God bless you" he departed.

The surviving members of our unit will never forget those 24 hours of Christmas 1943, during which they experienced enemy attacks, mother nature's power, and Christian charity.

Leonard M. Owczarzak
746 AAA Gun Btry

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The officers of the Americal Division Veterans Association and the Staff of the Americal Newsletter wish each and every member a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Think of the Christmas' that you were not home with your families and think of how fortunate we are to be here to celebrate this Christmas.

Think of the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen that will be far from home on this Christmas Day and say a prayer for their safe return home.

A NIGHT IN THE HOLE

The "Conditions Red" someone said,
And the drone of a plane is heard overhead.
Your on the way out of your tent in a flash,
And into the dugout in one mad dash.

We sit around and sweat while we wait,
All keyed up to a nervous state.
The drone of the motor grows louder and louder,
Then the whine of the bombs, the burst of the powder

"He's in the lights" someone cries
And the AA shells burst in the sky.
We stand and watch from down on the ground,
He circles the isle for a second round.

Into the hole we go again,
Just like rats into a den.
Again we sit and wait and wait,
Trusting to God to spare our fate.

The motor dies out, the lights grow dim,
And we climb outside to get our wind.
Then clear to us comes words so dear,
"O.K. come out, It's all clear".
Author Unknown

Sent in by Vic Lander - 57th Engineers

DID YOU KNOW?

Unlike many of the warring nations, the United States emerged from World War II essentially unscathed, primarily due to the vast stretches of ocean that lay between it and its enemies

However, the Axis planners were always looking for ways to attack the Arsenal of Democracy, even if only for propaganda value. Japan was especially motivated to strike after suffering the minor, but humiliating Doolittle raid of April 1942.

One scheme it developed to strike the American mainland involved a force of of huge, four-engined H8K float planes. The plan called for 30 H8K's, freshly refueled by submarines at a rendezvous point off Baja California, to fly half way across the U.S. to bomb the Texas oilfields.

After the attack, the seaplanes would meet up with a group of German "tanker" U-Boats in the Atlantic that would support them as they flew up and down the East Coast launching terror raids on major cities.

Although the Germans were supportive of this plan and prepared the necessary U-boats, the Japanese ultimately called off the operation because of their deteriorating situation in the Pacific.

VETERANS DAY IS A TIME OF THANKS

While there are no planned activities for Veterans Day in Lincoln, Massachusetts, many people take the time to visit cemeteries and thank veterans on this day.

According to Joe Chin, who is a veteran of World War II, there are about twenty five (25) members in the Lincoln Veterans of Foreign Wars. This includes two female veterans of Desert Storm, one veteran of the Korean War, and the rest all veterans of World War II.

The veterans do have events throughout the rest of the year. On Saturday before Memorial Day, the group puts flags and flowers on the grave site of veterans in town, of which there are two hundred (200) in three different cemeteries. Chin said that one cemetery behind Bemis Hall has buried veterans of the Revolutionary War; another on the corner of Trapelo Road and Lexington Road has some Civil War, as well as others from the Spanish-American War and World War I; and the main cemetery on Lexington Road has many veterans of World War II.

On Memorial day itself, the group has a march in town. They have also had a larger march on the Fourth of July which is longer and where they carry the heavy American flags, but Chin said that event may be discontinued because of the age of many of the veterans.

Lincoln Journal
Michael Wyner, Reporter

(Sent in by Joseph Chin - M Co. 182nd Infantry)

H COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY REGIMENT
Notes from my Diary: February 1942

Sunday 15 - Cruising along. Went to church

Monday 16 - Cruising along. We play cards a lot

Tuesday 17 - Cruising along. There are a lot of flying fish

Wednesday 18 - Claimed to have been sunk

Thursday 19 - Passed international date line

Saturday 21 - Cruising along

Sunday 22 - Captain Whitney inspected troops

Monday 23 - 40 rounds of ammo given out to each man. Port changed from Brisbane to Melbourne

Tuesday 24 - Sea very rough, waves over bow, quite a few sick

Wednesday 25 - Sighted land 9:30 P.M. Port Melbourne can see the lights

Thursday 26 - Entered harbor 10:30 not to leave ship until Saturday.

Friday 27 - Docked at 4:30 Left ship in a hurry 5 mile hike to park

Saturday 28 - Went to Ballarat I lived with Gates 33 Rodnian St.

Were you aboard the Santa Elena and does this sound familiar?

(Sent in by William E. Porter)

NORTHWEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

Mark your calendars for the Northwest Chapter General Membership Meeting to be held in Beaverton, Oregon, March 3, 2001. This will be an informal meeting with the sole purpose of getting a core group of ADVA vets together to promote the activity of the Chapter. All members are encouraged to participate in person if possible, or because of logistics, your comments are welcome by telephone, mail, e-mail etc.

A reminder notice will be mailed to all current Northwest Chapter ADVA members in January.

Your help and assistance is needed and appreciated. For more information or to RSVP contact:

Dave Hammond-Chapter Commander

Beaverton, OR 97005

Tel: [REDACTED]

AROUND ABOUT WAY TO THE 182nd REGIMENT

Dear Jim:

You were very kind to write to me and summarize the history of the 182nd Infantry Regiment. I really appreciate the information - it will be added to my own attempt to write a history of the war as I experienced it. Thank you so much.

You were home from the war and back in the States before I was assigned to the 182nd Infantry. I was a real late-comer and missed the heavy action that you saw. When I landed by LST at Cebu City, the city was secured, but the hills around the city were still occupied, as was the rest of the island. In fact, my first taste of enemy action was rather remote-a piece of shrapnel from a Jap artillery piece landed about two inches from my toes on the beach at Cebu City. The interesting thing was that we went ashore right next to a dock and warehouse that was marked, "Proctor and Gamble", apparently a copra export facility.

A little of my Army history. I enlisted in the NY National Guard 207th CA (AA) on October 10, 1940. This Regiment had recently been designated an anti-aircraft unit from its former designation, 107th Infantry Regiment. The original designation of the Regiment, back in the early 1700's, was the NY 7th Regiment. It, too, fought in all America's wars and had the distinction, in World War I, of having every single enlisted man become an officer before the end of the war. The Regiment was entitled to wear the same uniform as the West Pointers, because they borrowed our uniforms in the mid eighteen hundreds and we had a "grandfather's" right to continue wearing them. Our armory was a full square block between Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue, between 65th and 66th Street, Manhattan. We were inducted into Federal Service in December 1940 and left for Camp Stewart, Georgia, just outside of Savannah, on February 10, 1941.

After Pearl Harbor, our Regiment was split up into three separate battalions. I was in Headquarters Company of the First Battalion, which was then designated the 247th CA (AA) (SL). We set up perimeters around Newport, R.I. and out through Cape Cod and Narragansett Bay area. Our radars and searchlights were given the mission of defending Goat Island and Pig Island, in Narragansett Bay,

against enemy attacks. We were told that this was where 90% of the torpedoes were made for the Navy. We built outpost all over that area. I must say, it was soft living. We were pretty lucky in drawing of the straws, but most of us felt we weren't doing anything to fight the enemy.

After that assignment, I believe it was early 1943, we were assigned to Camp Edwards, for a brief while, and then we were convoyed down to Fort Davis, North Carolina, just outside Wilmington. There we became a Training Battalion for Officers Candidate School. Again, that was soft living. When it became apparent that there was no further need anti-aircraft defenses, we were de-activated and assigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia, to train Infantry Replacements. I was then assigned to Fort Ord, California. During my years with the 247th, I was advanced in rank from Corporal, to Sergeant, to Master Sergeant, to Staff Sergeant, to Master Sergeant. I was actually the Battalion Sgt/Maj, before that title was changed to "Administrative NCO."

At Fort Ord, I was made acting 1/Sgt. of a replacement Company of about 200 enlisted men. We boarded a ship at San Francisco and sailed, without escort to Finchaven and Hillandia, New Guinea, and then joined up with a convoy for Leyte. After arrival, I was assigned to be Acting 1/Sgt. of a group of about 300 E.M. replacements and we were shipped to Cebu on an LST. I was assigned to Regimental Headquarters, 182nd Infantry Regiment as M/Sgt. Operations (S-3). I can assure you, I was not very popular with the men who were in lesser rank and who deserved to be promoted to a M/Sgt. rating. Here I was a newcomer taking away this opportunity. The Exec, Ltc. O'Brien, expressed his disappointment in me in no uncertain terms. He gave me three weeks to learn to be a Operations Sergeant or he would bust me to a private. A nice greeting. Somehow I must have managed to satisfy him and the others because I stayed on the job.

After Cebu was over, and the A-bombs dropped, we proceeded to Yokohama, passing the "Big Mo" in the harbor, and found our way to Fuchinobe, a town northeast of Yokohama. In early October, the Sgt/Maj was rotated and I was re-assigned to that post, a job with which I was very familiar.

I returned to the States in December 1945 with the rest of the 182nd and was sent to Fort Lewis, near Seattle, to Fort Devens, Mass. for discharge.

Jim, I particularly want to thank you for sending me a copy of the Americal Newsletter. I found it to be very interesting and I am sending in the application for membership. I noted that you are Editor-In-Chief of the Newsletter and you are to be congratulated for such a fine piece of work.

Many, many, thanks again for taking the time to answer my request for Americal history.

Yours in comradeship,
Jack London

CORRECTION - CORRECTION

The caption for the picture on Page 24, upper left corner, of the Jul-Aug-Sep 2000 issue should read, Jesus R. Rios and Guest friend.

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

Dedication

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

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