



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

JAN-FEB-MAR 2001

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



## GREAT LAKES CHAPTER



AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
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Veterans. Association  
Boston, MA 02104

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**Chapter Commander**  
Central Midwest Region  
Ronald L. Ward  
St. Louis, MO 63123

**Web Site (Internet)**  
www.americal.org

01/01

TAPS TAPS TAPS

182 INF AMERICAL BAND

Albert E. Comeau  
Haverhill, MA  
Date Unknown

82 FIELD ARTILLERY BN.

Willard L. Gray  
Childress, TX  
Date Unknown

245 FIELD ARTILLERY

Norman H. Hardin  
Davison, MI  
November 23, 2000

132 INFANTRY REG HDQ

Gerald S. Hickey  
Geneva, IL  
March 1999

182 INFANTRY E CO.

Floyd Jennette  
Wolfeboro, NH 03  
September 18, 1999

182 INFANTRY M CO.

Dominic A. Lucci  
Stoneham, MA  
January 10, 2001

182 INFANTRY MED DET

William J. O'Toole  
Melrose, MA  
January 2, 2001

182 INFANTRY C CO.

Edmund H. Rymsha  
Clinton, MA  
November 2000

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Robert N. Thornton  
Melrose, MA  
January 11, 2001

182 INFANTRY F CO.

William Zarembo  
Worcester, MA  
July 6, 2000

132 INFANTRY

William E. Creel  
Raytown, MO  
July 24, 2000

221 FA SERVICE BTRY

Jean R. Hammel  
Hackettstown, NJ  
November 20, 2000

132 INFANTRY M CO.

Edward R. Henrich  
Medina, MN  
Date Unknown

USN CONSTRUCTION BN.

Albert F. Histen  
Braintree, MA  
August 26, 2000

182 INFANTRY L CO.

Joseph Kirby  
Melrose, MA  
April 6, 2000

57 ENGINEERS

Vincent J. Mattus  
Sterling, MA  
November 8, 2000

182 INFANTRY G CO.

Donald A. Pray  
Reading, MA  
November 13, 2000

164 INFANTRY

Howard N. Smalley  
Greenbrae, CA  
December 18, 2000

23 MILITARY POLICE

Donald Van Estenbridge  
Waymart, PA  
October 8, 2000

MAY THEY REST  
IN  
PEACE

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Kenneth Lachmann  
182 Infantry G Co.  
Albuquerque, NM  
#Art Cole

Mr. Robert L. Stevenson  
164 Infantry B Co.  
Elmo, MO  
#Art Cole

Mr. Robert McCulloch  
57 Engineers  
Conway, SC  
#Art Cole

#Sponsor

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Mark E. Albright  
1 Cav 1/HH Troop  
Georgetown, TX  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Stephen H. Armending  
23 M.P.  
Richmond, VA  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Jeffery L. Barwick  
23 M.P. Co.  
Powell, TN  
#Rick Merlin

Mr. David Bloom  
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Clay Center, KS  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Jimmy M. Brewer  
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Downing, MO  
#Self

Mr. Ricardo Castillo  
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Boling, TX  
#Bill Bacon

Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuvier  
523 Sig Bn + Hdq + 196  
Fort McNair, DC  
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Henry R. Frost  
196 LIB 523 Sig Co.  
Reno, NV  
#Art Cole

Mr. Chester S. Gibson  
164 Infantry F Co.  
Albuquerque, NM  
#Art Cole

Ms. Kristy Heath  
Bowling Green, KY  
Jim Buckle

Mr. Joseph Iona  
23 M.P. Co.  
Hammonton, NJ  
#Rick Merlin

Mr. Leonard L. Johnson  
182 Infantry D Co.  
Glasgow, KY  
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Charles LaFlamme  
20 Infantry A/1/20  
Fair Oaks, CA  
#Bill Allen

Mr. David Massich  
196 LIB C/1/46 Inf  
Hibbing, MN  
#Art Cole

Mr. George E. McMurtry  
196 LIB E/3/1 Inf  
Hazel Green, AL  
#Nicholas Jarvela

Mr. Larry L. Meynardie  
1 Cav E Tr  
Virginia Beach, VA  
hip Committee

Mr. George W. Anthony  
11 LIB HHC 4/21 Inf  
Arlington, TX  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Donald R. Ball  
101 Med Reg A Co.  
Nashua, NH  
Art Cole

Mr. Tim Blackwell  
23 M.P.  
Belton, TN  
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Frank Brennan  
11 LIB B/1/29 Inf  
Southington, CT  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. John L. Carlson  
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Basking Ridge, NJ  
#Larry Watson

Mr. William B. Chisholm  
221 FA Bn  
Anaheim, CA  
#Art Cole

Mr. Louis Dunlop  
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf  
Stonewall, OK  
#Bill Allen

Mr. Thomas Gabrielson  
26 Engrs HHC  
Fairfield, CT  
#Frank Marriott

Mr. Glen A. Grady  
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf  
Scurry, TX  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Bert S. Imada  
198 LIB E/1/52 Inf  
Chula Vista, CA  
#Art Cole

Mr. Everett Ishmael  
65 Infantry Heavy  
Richmond, MO  
#Art Cole

Mr. James A. Kronner  
1 Cav Trp C/1 Sqd  
Dade City, FL  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Richard D. LeBaron  
132 Med Det  
Los Molinos, CA  
#Art Cole

Mr. James I. McMahan  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Portland, OR  
#R. Castronova

Mr. James D. Menoni  
23 M.P. Co.  
Round Lake Park, IL  
#Rick Merlin

Mr. John H. Moran  
16 Arty B/3/16  
Skaneateles, NY  
#Self



Mr. Bruce R. Mulroney  
11 LIB E/4/21 Inf  
San Francisco, CA  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Bill Packett  
723 Main B Co  
Belleville, IL  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Jerry F. Puryear  
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Acworth, GA  
#Larry Watson

Mr. Daniel Reed  
23 M.P. Co.  
Winters, CA  
#Rick Merlin

Mr. Jim P. Rosson  
52 Infantry  
Antlers, TX  
#Art Cole

Mr. Jack Rudder  
23 Recon  
San Pedro, CA  
#Don Ballou

Mr. David G. Saxon  
1 Arm Cav C/1 Sqd  
Sonoma, CA  
#Frederick Markovich

Mr. Walt Scheinost  
1 Cav 1/1 Cav  
Fernwood, ID  
#Don Ballou

Mr. James A. Sipe  
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf  
Palmyra, PA  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. J.R. Skip Snedecor  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
Chesapeake, VA  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Dan Thorlton  
23 M.P.  
Linton, IN  
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Howard Vadasz  
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Hartsville, OH  
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Earl Wolf  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Mt. Vernon, WA  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Raymond Oglesby  
18 Arty A/3/18 Arty  
Tulsa, OK  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. John F. Ponton  
1 Cav HH Tr 1 Sqd  
Leominster, MA  
#John Anderson

Mr. Ray D. Rader  
1 Cav C Troop/1/1 Cav  
Saint Paris, OH  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Christino Rodriquez M.D.  
11 LIB C/6 Sup  
Barranquitas, PR  
#Bill Allen

Mr. Curt Rothacker  
23 M.P.  
Bloomington, CA  
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Robert A. Rutledge  
57 Engrs  
Huntsville, AL  
#Art Cole

Mr. Gary L. Schafer  
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf  
Medford, WI  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Thomas A. Simonic  
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Pittsburgh, PA  
#Art Cole

Mr. Allen F. Smallwood  
132 Infantry D Co.  
Winchester, KY  
#Art Cole

Mr. John G. Thomas  
11 LIB + 198 LIB C/E  
Black Mountain, NC  
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. John P. Trauger  
182 Infantry F Co.  
Lancaster, PA  
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Donald D. Winter  
1 Cav Tr D/1/1  
Ashton, MD  
#Don Ballou

Mr. Nick Zonas  
132 Infantry Med Det  
Ocala, FL  
#Self

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. Marcel A. Barcomb  
198 LIB HHC/1/52  
Plattsburgh, NY  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Marvin L. Haar  
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf  
Elmore, OH  
#Bernie Carroll

Mr. James R. Daly  
182 Infantry  
Long Beach, CA  
Castronova - Bill Maddox

Mr. Arthur W. Hanley  
164 Infantry A Co.  
Mt. Vernon, WA  
#PNC R. Castronova

Mr. Pete Jewell  
23 M. P.  
Smithfield, ME  
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Jerry D. Ladd  
23 Div Hdq HHC  
San Pablo, CA  
Membership Committee

Mr. Lawrence G. Ranslow  
23 M.P.  
Norwich, VT  
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Michael J. Thyne  
198 LIB H/17 Cav  
Fairbury, IL  
#Ron Ward - Jim Buckle

Mr. Michael O. Kelly  
Task Force Oregon HQ  
Chicago, IL  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Theodore M. Rahl  
198 LIB A/1/46 Inf  
Lansing, MI  
#R. Castronova

Mr. Dennis E. Thornton S  
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf  
Sheffield, PA  
#Membership Committee

#Sponsor

LAST ROLL CALL  
132nd Infantry Regiment

Frank Briske	-	Company D
Leroy Carr	-	Company I
Ltc. Raymond E Daehler	-	1st Bn. Hdq.
Henry C. Donahue	-	Company E
Nicholas J. DiRago	-	Company E
Edward R. Henrich	-	Company M
Kenneth Hinz	-	Company K
Robert Krejcu	-	Company F
Robert Lawson	-	Company F
Leonard Liepelt	-	Company C
James Logalvd	-	Unknown
Walter J. Motyl	-	Company E
Francis Pubins	-	Company K
William Pukalo	-	Company I
Oliver W. Raz	-	1st Bn. Hdq.
John Rogers	-	Company B
Anthony Rotolo	-	Company I
Bernard Rugendorf	-	Company E
William M. Rybarczyk	-	Company K
Chester Rydelek	-	Company M
William J. Sipavich	-	Company D
Leland W. Smith	-	Company D
Charles Sostrin	-	Company M
Betty Spangler	-	Company K
Peter Tassio	-	Company L
Solly Vaccaro	-	Company I
Robert H. Wellington	-	Company C
Matthew Wierciocok	-	Hdq. Co.

This list was taken from the 132nd Infantry Regiment Newsletter and is the known members that passed away in the year 2000.

(Letter sent in by Rocco Solto)

LAST ROLL CALL  
164 Infantry Regiment

Clayton W. Kingston - Union, WA - Sept. 25, 2000  
Erwin W. Swapp - Detroit Lakes, MN - Apr 30, 2000  
Arthur Johnson - Belle Plaine, MN - May 24, 2000  
Ben Kosanke - Lake Park, MN - August 12, 2000  
Court Marty - Moorhead, MN - July 17, 2000  
Jack Shank - Indianapolis, IN - October 12, 2000

Clayton W. Kingston was also a Korean War veteran.

(From the 164th Infantry Regiment Newsletter)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

John R. Geib Sr.  
Thomas F. Mayer

Mrs. Walter Heckman  
in memory of  
Sgt. Major Walter Heckman

Donald Hall  
in memory of  
Benito Conchola  
A/3/1 Inf 11th LIB

Patricia Quinn Moffa  
in memory of  
James A. Quinn  
Co. D 3/21 Inf. 196 LIB  
Killed in Action October 29, 1970

W. Mark Durley Jr.

Jim and Ellen Doherty  
in memory of  
Ernie Carlson

Jim and Ellen Doherty  
in memory of  
William (Doc) McCormick

The following people made an extra donation above the requested ten dollars on last years Raffle:

Kenneth Melesky  
Raymond R. Schelble  
James Clark  
Ruth Mongeau  
George Haertel  
Scott Birdsall  
Pauk Chappell  
Julio H. Silva  
Rich Carey  
Ltc. Joe Loadholtes  
Joseph McCourt  
Warren Bushong  
Floyd Petty  
Jim Gaffney  
Grant Finkbeiner  
Edwin Forrest  
Thomas Dawson  
William McMurty  
John Gasper  
Ken Turner  
Ernie Misa  
Eric Mackintosh  
Michael Ross  
Ben Kelly  
Robert H. Acton  
Joann Muehrcke  
Lonnie Dillon  
John Matthews  
P.W. Merten  
Jim McFarlen  
David Germain  
John McKnown  
Kathy Maloney  
Ray Fox  
Gen. Arthur Brown  
Gary Roschevitz  
Richard Friedman  
Donovan Associates  
Felix Walsh  
Tim Coffey  
Joseph Castagneto  
O.J. Mailhot  
David Frazier  
Gen. Lloyd Ramsey  
Gen. Fritz Kroesen  
Gerald F. McDonald

Bruce Beal  
Spencer Wolfe  
Albert Re  
Max Hartswick  
William Shugarts  
Christine Sarnese  
Robert Short  
Mike Criswell  
Vernon Hitzman  
Bob Beschle  
Robert Ozenghar  
Guy Moline  
Calvin Yegge  
Larry Dresser  
Tom Hunter  
Irbe Hanson  
Ron Fatato  
Allan Forde  
Harry Milne  
George Gould  
Bill Mahoney  
Fred Siems  
Evans Neumann  
Al Krantz  
Ted Block  
Dacid Eichhorn  
John Gentile  
Ron Ellis  
Loyd T. Carr  
Neal Mortimer  
Nancy Rizzo  
Ltc. Patrick Dionne  
Terrance Maloney  
Russ Marceau  
Ltc. Bert Fuller  
Jack Head  
William Hawkins  
Paul Sutton  
Jerry 'Doc' O'Connor  
L. Waguespack  
W. Mark Durley  
C. Frank James Jr.  
Edward J. Den Braven  
Louis Blumengarten  
Steve Parten  
Russ Miles

Rich Lawson  
S. Edward Freeman  
Ed Woods  
Gen. John H. Grubb  
Roger Gilmore  
William Kuykendall  
Floyd Nicholas  
Ephrain Close

Dan George  
Charles Kleinhagen  
Reynaldo Mendoza  
Bobby Preston  
Ken York  
Lyndal Kohl  
John Riley  
Chester Carlock

CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

William Mahoney  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

New England Chapter - ADVA  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

Battery C - 221st Field Artillery  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

Joseph and Trude Anderson  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

Nelson J. Dion Sr.  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

PNC Bernard Chase  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

PNC James C. Buckle  
in memory of  
PNC Robert N. Thornton

E Company and Medical Detachment 182nd Infantry  
in memory of  
William O'Toole

E Company and Medical Detachment 182nd Infantry  
in memory of  
Floyd Jennette

A NEW MEMBER

Arthur M. Martinez  
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf  
Hichory Hills, IL  
#Bernie Chase

(CORRECTION: In the last issue several letters in this new members name were cut off).

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

Senior Vice Commander Malcolm P. East has resigned his office due to a conflict with his work schedule.

Junior Vice Commander Richard L. Scales has now been moved up to the position of Senior Vice Commander.

Jon E. Hansen has been appointed to be Junior Vice Commander.

Jon lives in Orlando, Florida and he served with D Company, 26th Engineers in Vietnam

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

COMMANDER                      SEC/TREAS  
Roland T. Castronova        Bernard Chase  
[redacted]                      [redacted]  
Peabody, MA 01960            South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
Tel: [redacted]

The New England Chapter annual Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 2, 2000, at the Americal Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts

We had over sixty people present. The food was great. Jim Flynn provided the musical entertainment. There were seventeen ladies present and they all went home with a Christmas Poinsettia plant. In addition to our usual cake a surprise cake was presented to Bernie Chase for his seventy eight birthday. Around 4:00 P.M. we ran out of war stories and everyone started home.

There is no National Election this year as a result we will not have to count ballots. So we will not have a party at the Museum in May. Some of the members have suggested that we have a picnic in July or August in lieu of the May party. If you have any ideas of a location that would be centrally located for most of the members let Bernie Chase know. If we come up with a location we will have an item in the April-May-June Newsletter.

It is my sad duty to inform you that Past National Commander Robert N. Thornton passed away on January 11, 2001. He was buried at the V.A. National Cemetery Bourne, Massachusetts. At the cemetery two Massachusetts Police Officers mounted on horse back led the funeral procession to the committal area, where a squad of soldiers under the command of Second Lieutenant Danish were waiting. The soldiers removed the casket from hearse and escorted it into the committal house. Later they fired the traditional three volleys and folded the American Flag over the casket. The Flag was then presented to Bob's wife by Second Lieutenant Danish.

Bob served fifty five months in the Army in World War II, forty four months of which was served with the Americal overseas. He had served two years in the National Guard before it was federalized on January 16, 1941. After the war was over he served fifteen years in the Massachusetts National Guard.

We of the Americal will miss Bob. He served as National Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Finance Officer and many terms on the National Executive Council. If you needed help on any project he would be the first to volunteer. Bob was one of the volunteers who for the last five years would report on the second Tuesday of every month to the work detail at the Americal Museum.

May he rest in Peace.

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

COMMANDER                      SEC/TREAS  
Larry O'Boyle                Gene McGrath  
[redacted]                      [redacted]  
Ran Santa Margarita, CA    Pahrump, NV 89848

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

From the former Secr/Treas and now Chaplain

Back in the seventies, Lloyd Morrell took it upon himself to establish the ADVA Far West Chapter. Our first get-together was at the Presidio in San Francisco. Those of us who attended were WW II vets and we were anxious to assist in his effort to start the Chapter. Lloyd's tenacity kept the Chapter afloat and he carried on single handedly. Other than some mail exchanges the Chapter remained dormant with little activity.

In 1993, Joe Feeler, now deceased, became th Commander with Gino Massagli, now deceased, as Secretary. The two of them were very instrumental in building the Chapter to one hundred and fifty (150) members. With Joes' passing in 1995 John Bowley assumed the job of Commander and in 1995 at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada, we held our ADVA Far West Chapter meeting and elected a new slate of officers. I (Paris) was elected to the Commanders position. Upon the resignation of Gino Massagli, Don Shebesta volunteered to fill the position of Secretary/ Treasurer. In October 1998, Don was elected Commander and I recycled myself (was elected) into the Secretary/Treasurer position.

Don and I have worked diligently as your representatives and we will continue to do so in our newly elected jobs.

Recruitment and retention are our primary concerns. As a WW II (Old Guard) vet, I see a large drop out of our older veterans. In most cases, age, health and reluctance to travel are the primary factors. This is attested to the fact that our yearly Chapter Reunions are not the howling success they should be. Those of us that attend have a great time. It is encouraging to see an influx of Vietnam veterans into our Chapter. Please join us at the Reunions. It is fun! This year retention and recruitment of membership is our major concern. Our roster at the start of 1999 was 150 members. It now stands at 100. Most of the decrease is NOT attributable to death or illness. This trend is disturbing and somehow we have to turn it around.

Don Shebesta, our vice Commander has taken on this task of recruitment and retention of membership. Knowing Don as I do, he will do an excellant job for us. So, please keep you membership current and let us keep this ship afloat.

Larry O'Boyle, our new Commander, needs all the support we can muster. I know I will be there for him--HOW ABOUT YOU!!!

Paris Tognoli  
Chaplain

DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE

Please submit your dues to:

Don Shebesta  
[redacted]  
Woodbridge, CA 95258

ATTENTION

The AMERICAL DIVISION FLAG tha was presented to the FWC by then National Commander Gary Noller at the 1999 Reunion in Las Vegas is missing. Please look for either the flag or the box (approximately 10" x 6") it came in. Please send it to Sergeant-at-Arms John Bowley.

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

COMMANDER                      SEC/TREAS  
John Mathews                Terry Babler  
[redacted]                      [redacted]  
Verona, WI 53593            New Glarus, WI 53574  
Tel: [redacted]                Tel: [redacted]

The Great Lakes Chapter just finished up attending activities at the Winterfest R&R Reunion and Festival in New Glarus, Wisconsin on January 19-20-21, 2001. We had a great attendance for the whole weekend. Over 500 people attended activities. People were from 21 States and Canada. About 70 Americal Veterans were in attendance. No snow--but very cold this year. In attendance were PNC Ed Marsh, PNC John DeGroot and Dave Taylor, Chairman of this years Americal National Reunion to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. Our special guest for the banquet was Dianne Carlson--Founder of the Woman's Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. She was presented with a check of \$4,000 from Winterfest for the Memorial.

Our Great Lakes meeting took place at Jimmie's on Saturday, January 20the in New Glarus. The following officers were elected for two (2) years:

Commander - John Matthews  
Sr.Vice Commander - John (Dutch) DeGroot  
Jr. Vice Commander - Brian Mulcrone  
Sergeant-at-Arms - Bill Lobeck  
Chaplain - Dale Belke  
Finance and Newsletter Editor - Terry Babler  
Service Officer - Mike Iverson

The Great Lakes Chapter is now in the Planning stage for the Americal National Reunion in Washington, DC on November 8-10, 2002 at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City. Planned are: Banquet and Dance, Hospitality Room, Night River Cruise on the Potomac viewing DC, Veterans Day Ceremonies at all Memorials, Ceremony for the Americal Plaque and more. The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, one of the units of the Americal, will also hold their Reunion with the Americal in Washington, DC. Hotel reservations may be made after November 11, 2001.

Our Chapter will again be attending the 19th Annual Veterans Reunion being held in Kokomo, Indiana on September 13-16, 2001. We will be setting up a Hospitality Tent and will set up tables in the vendors tent with a sign-up sheet and PX items for sale. A group picture will e taken at the main Flag at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday. Over 100 Americal vets attended last year. The grounds itself held over 45,000 veterans that attended last year.

For information on camping call 765-628-0297 or their email is frogbo6566@aol.com or their web site: www.hevvo.org. Or stay in one of the many motels in the area. There is a shuttle service from hotels to the grounds. This Reunion fills up fast-if you are planning to attend-make reservations NOW.

Our Chapter dues are \$5.00 a year. There will be two Newsletters a year-one in June and one in December. The Newsletter fill you in on the details as to what is going on. To renew or join send check to Adjutant of the Great Lakes Chapter:

Terry Babler  
[redacted]  
New Glarus, WI 53574

YANKEE DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
NORTH SHORE CHAPTER

June 5 -6-7, 2001  
Cape Codder Resort  
Hyannis, Mass.

The 26th (Yankee) Division Veterans Association is having its 82nd Annual Convention/Reunion at the Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, Mass., on the 5th, 6th and 7th of June 2001. Anyone that served in any unit of the 26th (Yankee) Infantry Division, at any time, is welcome to attend. For further information please contact:

Robert R. Raney  
27 Forest St.  
Peabody, MA 01960-4138  
Telephone [redacted]

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THE SILENT SENTINEL OF FREEDOM

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody swamps of Vietnam.

I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent White Crosses, row upon row.

I have flown through Peace and War, Strife and Prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My Red Stripes...symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.

My White Stripes...signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.

My Blue Field...is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.

My Stars...clustered together, unify 50 States as one, for God and Country.

"Old Glory" is my nickname, and I proudly wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.

Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.

Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.

Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

I AM YOUR FLAG

(Sent in by Jack & Shirley Cglesby)

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

Americal Division Field Artillery  
World War II - Korea - Vietnam

April 25 - 26 - 27 - 28, 2001

LaQuinta Inn and Suites  
Durham/Chapel Hill  
Durham, NC 27704

For Reservations call:  
OR

Please make reservation before March 26, 2001.

When making reservation with the 800 number,  
please refer to group #45202.

For more information contact:

E.R. Horton  
Timberlake, NC 27583-9191

COMPANY E AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT - 182ND INFANTRY

Kernwood Restaurant  
Lynnfield, MA  
May 23, 2001

If you are interested please write or call:

Jim Buckle  
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

Telephone:  
email:

ALL AMERICAL MEMBERS INVITED

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

March 24, 2001

Robert Doucette  
Lynn, MA 01904

Telephone

All Americal members welcome!!

F COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

F Company, 182nd Infantry will hold their annual  
Reunion in the middle of April--the exact date has  
yet to be decided on. More information may be had  
by contacting:

Joseph Papa Paul Miele  
West Newton, MA 02465 Waltham, MA 02152

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?  
IF NOT  
YOU ARE MISSING SOME GREAT GET-TOGETHERS

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  
Pontiac, IL 61764

Tel:  
e-mail:

NEW LAW PROVIDES FUNERAL HONORS FOR VETERANS

To repair a flagrant, long standing discrepancy, a  
new law mandates funeral honor details for  
eligible veterans.

As of January 1, 2000, the Department of Defense  
is required to provide two active service members,  
one from the deceased's branch of service, at the  
funerals for flag presentation and the playing of  
"Taps."

"These services must be requested as they are not  
provided automatically," said Gail McGinn, from  
the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Personnel Support, Families and Education.

Veterans' service organizations assisting with the  
honor detail can coordinate with the Department of  
Defense to augment the ceremony, providing firing  
parties and other elements.

As Legion Resolution No. 68 from the 1999 National  
Convention notes, with membership failing and  
funerals rising, DoD is urged to surpass minimum  
funeral participation specified by law.

"In developing the policy, we realize the number  
of requests for military funeral honors was going  
to increase," McGinn said. "The veterans of World  
War II are passing away, we're anticipating that  
there will be about 1500 deaths per day."

Request for military funeral honors are expected  
to climb at least 45 per cent of those eligible,  
about 250,000 this year alone. Exacerbating the  
problem is the 33 per cent drop since 1989 in the  
active-duty pool from which to draw honor details,  
along with a 25 per cent drop in the reserves.

"We believe it is important to demonstrate the  
country's gratitude to those who, in times of war  
and peace, have faithfully defended our country,"  
McGinn said, "we want the department's Military  
Funeral Honors Program to do that for our veterans  
and their families."

(Taken from the American Legion Magazine issue  
March 2000)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

BY-LAW CHANGES AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Chairman of the Scholarship Fund, PNC Ronald  
L. Ward has requested that the following changes  
be made to the by-laws of the Scholarship Fund.

Article 13 Amendment

Section 1: The Constitution and By-Laws of the  
Scholarship Foundation may be amended, or a new  
Constitution may be adopted by a one half majority  
vote of the members present and voting at any  
annual reunion, or regularly called meeting of the  
ADVA, provided that a prior notice of at least one  
month has been published in the Americal  
Newsletter.

The section that we want to change is Article 4,  
Trustees...Section 1. that section in the current  
by-laws reads as follows:

Article 4 Trustees

Section 1: There shall be six (6) Trustees  
comprising the Scholarship Foundation Board.  
Trustee/Officers shall be ADVA Treasurer and the  
ADVA National Commander, who will hold office Ex-  
Officio. Four (4) other Trustees will be elected  
by the ADVA membership to serve a four (4) year  
term, one of them to be elected Chairman of the  
Scholarship Foundation by the (4) Trustees.  
Original term of Office for Trustees will be  
staggered, one (1) Trustee to be elected annually  
thereafter.

The Fund Chairman and the Trustees propose the  
Article 4 Section 1 be amended to:

Article 4 Trustees

Section 1: There shall be (6) Trustees comprising  
the Scholarship Foundation Board. Trustee/Officer  
shall be the ADVA National Commander, who will  
hold office Ex-Officio. The Chairman of the ADVA  
Fund, to be appointed by the National Commander.  
The Chairman will serve an unlimited term unless  
replaced by a vote of the Trustees. The fund  
Treasurer, who will be appointed by the National  
Commander to serve an unlimited term unless  
replaced by a vote of the Trustees. Four (4)  
other Trustees will be elected by the ADVA  
membership to serve a four (4) to serve a four (4)  
year term. Original term office for Trustee will  
be staggered, one (1) Trustee to be elected  
annually thereafter.

REPORT SAYS WARNING ON PEARL HARBOR WAS IGNORED.

A midget submarine rest on the sea floor outside  
Pearl Harbor, a remnant of America's sudden  
introduction to World War II and a remindr of a  
missed opportunity.

"Americal forces might have had time to prepare  
for the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, if  
higher command had heeded the warning from an  
American ship that discovered tiny subs trying to  
enter the harbor and attacked them," underseas  
explorer Robert Ballard said Thursday.

Ballard hs been working near Pearl Harbor for a  
television special planned to be aired in May. He  
chose the anniversary of the attack to discuss his  
sea floor discoveries, including the midget sub.

tanks, airplanes and an 'incredible amount' of  
ammunition.

"Most people don't realize that the first shots  
fired in the war in the Pacific were fired by us,"  
Ballard said in an interview.

It was forty five minutes before Japanese aircraft  
attacked that a U.S. destroyer, the USS Ward,  
dropped depth charges on a midget submarine that  
was tryig to sneak into the harbor behind a  
tugboat.

The Japanese submarine's job was to enter Pearl  
Harbor and attack U.S. Navy ships in conjunction  
with the arriving Japanese airplanes, he  
explained.

"The people on the tug saw the periscope, alerted  
the Ward, and the Ward came over an engaged it,"  
he said.

"Ironically, they reported it, but no one pushed  
it up the chain of command. Just imagine what a  
totally different outcome it would be if we'd  
gotten 45 minute warning," Ballard said.

As it turned out the 360 plane Japanese air attack  
struck an unprepared U.S. base, sinking or heavily  
damaging 21 ships, destroying or damaging 323  
aircraft, killing 2,388 people and wounding 1,178  
others.

Decried by President Franklin Roosevelt as a "a  
date that will live in infamy," the attack brought  
United States into World War II. "Just imagine if  
they had heeded that warning and had 45 minutes to  
get ready before the Japanese Came--it would have  
been a different day," Ballard said.

Ballard's television special is scedualed to air  
in May on the National Geographic Channel, a new  
cable channel being launched nationwide in  
January.

He brought veterans back to the scene -- one  
Japanese man who had served on a submarine that  
helped launch the midget subs and two Americans  
who served on the Ward, (The Associated Press)

(Sent in by Dom Pantaleo)

LUNCHEON TO HONOR MAJOR SALVATORE VINCIULLO  
Holder Of The Silver Star

The Waltham National Guard Veterans Association,  
Chapter 14, will host a "Silver Star" luncheon for  
Major Salvatore Vinciullo.

Major Vinciullo led the battle for the capture of  
the heights above Cebu City. Philippine Islands.

Chateau Restaurant  
Waltham, Mass.  
March 24, 2001  
12 - Noon

Major Salvatore Vinciullo's military career  
started as an enlisted soldier in the  
Massachusetts National Guard in the late 1930's,  
with Company F, 182nd Infantry.

For more information please call:

Al Arena

## 164th INFANTRY REUNION STIRS VETS MEMORIES

Army unit members gather to remember fallen friends, catch up with war survivors.  
(The Forum, Fargo, ND - by Tom Pantera)

The Fargo Holiday Inn's harvest Hall is dark, save a few candles burning on a table at the front.

The roll call of deceased members of the 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, is read. At each name, a bell rings. At the end the final candle is snuffed.

The lights come on a hall filled with more than 160 people. They are here for the Regiment's 54th Reunion, about half are veterans, the rest spouses and children.

This memorial service opens the reunion. Sgt. Mitch Olson of the North Dakota National Guard sings, "How Great Thou Art," his voice soft and sweet. His 4-year old son, Benjamin, stands next to him. The boy looks curiously at people who were fighting and seeing friends die a half century before Benjamin was born.

Small, sad smiles play over a couple of veterans lips.

When "Taps" is played to end the service, those smiles disappear. Memories descend like veils over the old men's faces.

But when the bugle fades and the lights come up, it's time to catch up. Suddenly, it's just a reunion.



Retired U.S. Army 164th Infantry A Company members Paul Dickerson, Canton, Ohio, left, Joe Castagneto, Lincoln, Ala., and Walter Hickey, Hilliard, Fla., react as a bugler plays "Taps."

And, of course, a time to tell stories. Doug Burtell of Bowman, ND, tells a comrade about the time a Japanese soldier ran right past him. "If the SOB would've looked at me I would have shot him," he says. "He didn't, so I let him go."

The 164th, made up mostly of North Dakotans, was the first U.S. Army unit to fight against the Japanese on Guadalcanal. It reinforced the 1st Marine Division on October 13, 1942.

But that was just the beginning of a chain of engagements that stretched through places like New Caledonia, Bougainville, and Leyte before ending in Hawaii. The unit won the Marine Corps

Presidential Battle Citation for its part in the Battle for Henderson Field in October 1942.

This weekend's reunion in Fargo has drawn people from all over the country.

Joseph Dest, 76, of Hamden, Conn., says he came "To see the old friends, buddies. We lived with these guys for almost three years."

"We're dying out fast," says Horace Nearhood, 76, Toledo, Ohio. "They claim there 1,000 World War II vets dying every day."

A lot of conversation is just where have you been, what are you doing. "But then you talk about what you did on those different islands," Nearhood said. "Most of it's about the fun part. Not too much about the...fighting. We used to do a little drinking, you used to play cards once in a while for a little bit of money."

Both were brought in as replacements for North Dakotans who had become casualties. Dest says with a chuckle that the only problem was that it was difficult to get promoted unless you were from North Dakota.

But there is plenty of serious talk. "These are the only guys you can talk to," Nearhood says. "You try to talk to somebody that's got nothing to do with it, you tell them some of the things you went through and they don't believe you."

Nearhood has given his memories form. He carries a walking stick he carved earlier this year. Its head is a helmeted American soldier. It's inset with replicas of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart and crest of both the 164th and the Americal Division. Etched into it are names of all the islands he saw: New Caledonia, Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte, Biak, Johnson and Hawaii. Battle stars are etched under Bougainville and Leyte, where Nearhood earned his Purple Heart.

He's not the only one that turned his experience into art work.



Doug Burtell, Bowman, N.D., poses with his painting of Mount Bagana. In Bougainville, Solomon Islands. The painting depicts the U.S. Army's 164th Infantry's arrival on the islands on Christmas Day 1943, with the Bagana volcano in the background. Burtell is formerly of Casselton, N.D.

This year, Burtwell painted a picture that is prominently displayed near the reunion registration table.

It shows a patrol crossing the Torokina River on Bougainville. Mount Bagana, an active volcano belches smoke in the background. The painting is detailed and realistic; the soldiers don't wear

helmets because, Burtell explains, they were noisy, hot and taking them off reduced the chance the patrol being mistaken by other U.S. troops for helmet wearing Japanese troops.

Like the others, Burtell is there for the comradeship, although "most of the guys from my platoon are long gone. When you're with 3,000 men for five years you get to know pretty near all of them."

Burtell is often called upon by teachers to talk to school children about the war. It's not easy.

"If I do, it's hard for me emotionally to do it," he says. "When you talk with the guys here, who've gone through the same experience...we talk about it."

(Sent in by Donald J. Berg - A 164th veteran)

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SERVICE BATTERY - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY

This letter was written to PNC Al Doig in reference to an up-coming Reunion of Service Battery, 247 Field Artillery. I cannot remember if it appeared in the Americal Newsletter before or not but if so I feel it is well worth repeating. PNC Doig was Service Battery Commander.

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Dear Al:

Enclosed you will find a check, It is from Hank Bourneuf, my Assistant S-3 in the 247th, and myself. It comes from over the years from an agreement we made between us on Bougainville in late March 1944.

Hank was a remarkable and talented man who through study and hard work had made himself a gunnery expert. He created a great FDC.

During a lull in combat, we were talking over the situation, and both commented on how our Battalion never ran short of supplies or ammunition. No matter how many rounds we fired, we never had to worry about restricting ammunition, and not being able to fire missions, thus not helping the Infantry, who, tired, wet, hungry and facing the enemy over a rifle muzzle, when they needed it most.

Despite the heat, constant rain, and a fatigue that made one ache, you and your Battery always came through. George Power, our Bn C.O. more than once wished that the other Batteries came up to your standards of performance.

Hank and I thought it would be a good idea, if, after things died down, the Operations Section do something for Service Battery to show our thanks and respect for all of you in the manner which was outstanding--no matter what difficulties or odds--you carried out your hourly and daily mission of support.

What we had in mind was a steak and beer party with no limits on what you could eat or drink.

After 51 years, it has taken us this long to get there. This reunion of yours, which is unique and scarce in the Army, (I know only of one other in the 11th Armored Division) seems the best way to show our respect, admiration, and thanks.

Will you Al, as our friend and their great Commander and leader, see that this small token goes toward the Reunion or in any other way in helping the Battery and its members.

I know Hank would join me in thanking you once again for the duties well performed, and wishing each of you and yours, the best that life can give in the years ahead.

Have a great Reunion-and-Bless You all  
John F.P. Hill  
Former S-3 247th FA Bn  
And proud of it.

Ed Note: It was unanimously agreed at the fore mention Reunion to donate the check to the Americal Scholarship Fund.

Al said in his letter to Ron Ward, the Scholarship Chairman: This gesture by Col. Hill and Maj. Bourneuf was a great honor bestowed upon the Battery and myself. Please accept this check.

Sincerely,  
Al Doig  
247 FA Bn Service Btry

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BOUGAINVILLE - 1944

March 10, 2001 marks the 57th anniversary of the date the battle started for control of Hill 260.

Following is a copy of a article written by Charles E. Cooper and published in the Palm Beach Coast-Cox News Service, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the battle.

Heavy fighting erupts on March 9, 1944 on Bougainville, the largest of the Solomon Islands, after two months of relative quiet.

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

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

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

Defending the American perimeter are 27,00 combat troops under the command of Army Maj. Gen. Oscar Griswold. His 14th Corps includes the Americal Division, the 37th Infantry Division and a battalion of the Third Marine Division.

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

15,000 Japanese Troops.

For two months, Japanese Lt. Gen. Harukichi Hyakutaka has patiently put together a combat force of 15,000 men to attack the American perimeter.

He badly underestimates U.S. strength, believing his troops will face only one division. Hyakutaka is so confident of victory that he even designates the spot where he will accept Griswold's surrender.



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

the Japanese unleash the attack with their greatest field artillery assault so far in the Pacific war. By evening March 9, they capture Hill 700, "one of the knife like ridges separated from one another with swamp like ravines," Morison writes.

It takes the 37th Division three days to knock the enemy off Hill 700. the destroyers USS Sigourney and USS Eaton pour 400 rounds into enemy-held positions.

A Second Assault

A second enemy attack is launched March 12 at the "Piva Yoke" fighter strip. Artillery fire also is directed at "Piva Uncle" and Torokina airfields.

Japanese artillery is silenced March 13 by dive bombers from Henderson field on Guadalcanal. After medium tanks stop enemy advances March 15 and 17, the Japanese withdraw and reorganize, Morison says.

He writes, "On the night of March 23-24 they made their last attempt, penetrated to within 25 yards of a battalion command post, but were thrown back by early afternoon."

"On the 27th the Japanese were expelled from Hill 260, about a half mile outside the perimeter, and with that the battle was over."

Japanese losses in the Battle of the Perimeter are 5,469 dead, as against 263 Americans killed or missing.

After the battle, Morison reports, Japanese morale "fell deplorably...and hundreds of soldiers deserted and wandered through the jungle, living on anything they could find, even on snakes, rats and crocodiles."

(Sent in by Jack Warkow)



Ed Note: Above is a picture of the famous "Million Dollar Tree" taken several months after the battle. Captain Vic Landers, of the 57th Engineers reviews the remains of the "Tree".

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

I think the staff of the Americal Newsletter are doing a great job. Down the line there is going to be a lack of news, stories and memories from our group, but then, the Korean and Vietnam boys will carry the torch. I have had all my copies of "The Old Guard" bound separately from the Vietnam copies and as now I have three volumes. I regret that I didn't find out about the Americal Newsletter until 1980, and wish that all issues, from the very beginning, could be reprinted even at a few pages in each issue, then I could pass on to my children a fine history of the "Old Guard". I plan to donate the Vietnam sections to our Kansas City V.A. Hospital, and any veterans organization here.

In the Americal Newsletter issue of July-August-September 2000, the Vietnam section, Page 29, I read about the "Americal March" and "The Dogface Soldier". I wrote, requested and received from Lloyd Morrell, by way of Les Hines, both a CD and a march-cassette and I bet I've played them eight times! (As well as my kids playing them when the come to visit.) What is interesting and valuable is that the "Americal March" was authored by Chet Whiting who was the Bandmaster at Malden High when I was there in the 30's and who later joined us in the Islands and played for us. He was made a Major and formed the Army Field Force Band, that played for "Bond Rallies" back in the States.

As you well know each war designate "monickers" for their military men. During the Civil War the Yankees were "Billy Yank", rebels were "Johnny Reb", World War I they were "Doughboys" and World War II they were "Dogfaces". In Korea and Vietnam they were "Grunts". They say the term "Dogface" was a product of the 3rd Infantry Division but I heard it in 1944. It spread like wildfire.

Following is information on 'Dogface' and the lyrics to the song:

THE DOGFACE SOLDIER

The title "Dogface" was applied, mainly to the Infantryman during World War II, jokingly, because due to the hardship life his tongue hung out like a dog when he was worked too hard in the field and when he was around a bitch-female in heat. There are other versions but the preceding was the original. Korean war veterans used the term "Grunts" but the idea was the same.

I wouldn't give a bean, to be a fancy pant Marine  
I'd rather be a Dogface Soldier like I am  
I wouldn't trade my old OD's for all the Navy  
dungarees  
For I'm the walking pride of Uncle Sam  
On all the posters that I read it says the Army  
builds men  
But they're tearing me down to build me over again  
I'm just a Dogface Soldier with a rifle on my  
shoulder  
And I eat raw meat for breakfast everyday  
So feed me ammunition; keep me in my old division  
For your Dogface Soldier is OK, OK,  
Your Dogface Soldier Boy's OK

(William D. Picardy - L Company, 182nd Infantry

Ed Note: Thanks for all the kind words about the Newsletter. I think that E Company story might be a little long for the Newsletter but I will run you off a computer copy as soon as I get time.

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID? CHECK THAT ADDRESS LABEL.

F COMPANY - 182ND INFANTRY

I spent most of my years in the south Pacific with F Company, 182nd Infantry thru Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte and Cebu.

In the middle of 1945 my health problems caught up with me. I was evacuated from Cebu and hospitalized with malaria--tenth attack, pneumonia, malnutrition, impacted bowel and suspected liver flukes. To say the least, I was a sick puppy! After a couple of treatments I started to recover, and one day the attending doctor sat on my bed and said, "Son, I hate to tell you this, but I think you have been rendered sterile."

I had been engaged to my High School sweetheart since 1940. But when I got home in December of 1945 she was in Japan in the Army Nurse Corp. She returned home in March of 1946 and we were married May 8, 1946.

Now move forward to July 1959. My wife had presented me with five great daughters--she had two miscarriages and was in the labor room again. She looked up at me and said, "I wonder where that joker is who said you were sterile?"

Everything turned out well for now we had five (5) girls and one (1) boy. We thought it would be on our part to say we had enough.

P.S. We have enjoyed those kids to the utmost!

Thanks for giving me this chance to tell this story.

Sincerely,  
John P. Trauger

Ed Note: In the last Newsletter Lloyd A. Perry from Lubbock, Texas had a story about a patrol activity and asked if anyone knew of a Lt. John Trauger. I searched the Americal data base but he was not listed as a member. I then did a computer search of the telephone directory and I came up with a John Trauger in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I called and it was THE John Trauger. John started off the above letter with, "I was pleased to hear from you because I never knew there was an Americal Division organization to help us keep in touch with each other." "I will be sending you and application for a three year membership. I think I will live that long. I was 80 years old in July."

After I talked to John on the telephone I immediately contacted Lloyd Perry with the good news. In a recent letter Lloyd stated--"It was great to hear from you with the news on John Trauger. I called him and we had a nice long chat."

Nothing makes me happier and my work with the Americal more worthwhile, then to bring to bring long lost comrades together again.

Jim

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COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

Reading the article from Michael Pillarick about the Combat Infantryman's Badge, in a recent issue of the Americal Newsletter, I must report that I have seen, many times, the abuse of orders for the Badge in Vietnam. I have sets of orders that I have saved where blanket orders were published and printed ordering the CIB for people who never left the rear areas, and never saw combat, as did we Infantrymen, who were shot at and sometimes hit.

One set of orders was for a Headquarters Company to include all of the Company's men, awarding them the CIB. It included clerks, S-1 Sergeants, S-4 Sergeants and officers that never saw combat in Vietnam.

When I read those orders, where the MOS's are not printed, and I think of all those great men who won the CIB, it makes me wonder just how this could have been done. Of course it was lack of good leadership. The ones that put orders into higher headquarters and were actually responsible for the orders being allowed to be printed were at fault.

Along with these orders there were also blanket orders that awarded the Air Medal to the same Company, and none of these men ever got on a helicopter or made an air assault to earn the Air Medal.

We had some sorry officers that did not care for anything but their own glory and wanted medals for doing nothing. It is a shame to reveal this, but the truth doesn't hurt anyone. The lies that they live should hurt them, but again, they have no conscience. They and they only have to live with it.

Ray E. Poynter (1/Sgt Ret)  
WWII, Korea, and two years  
in Vietnam. All under fire.

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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)

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

\*\*\*\*\*



## WHAT IS THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

Special Olympics is an international program of sports training and athletic competition for mentally retarded children and adults. The year round recreational program contributes not only to their physical development and fitness, but to their social and psychological development as well. Through positive experiences in sports, athletes gain self-confidence and develop self esteem associated with success rather than failure.

The Special Olympics was created in 1968 by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation. All the experts scoffed at that first event in Chicago, saying the mentally retarded could never run a mile, make it over the high jump or swim in a relay event. But as over 900 special athletes arrived and DID run, jump and swim, the experts realized how wrong they were. That first special Olympic competition told the world something they needed to know--the mentally retarded can do anything they want to do. All they need is a chance, and Special Olympics is that chance.

## Who Runs The Special Olympics?

Special Olympics is run almost entirely by volunteer. Over 300,000 volunteers nationwide provide manpower for the events.

One of these volunteers is William Rizzo. Bill grew up in Revere, Massachusetts and played sports while attending Revere High School. Bill joined E Company, 182nd Infantry just before they were Federalized in January of 1941. He was among the youngest of the members and he served through the Guadalcanal campaign before returning home. Bill worked for the United States Department of Agriculture as a meat inspector. He is now retired and lives in Florida.

Bill became interested in the Special Olympics and has been coaching a Soccer Team for several years and has produced several winning teams.



Above is a picture of his winning team of last year. Bill is the one second from right, standing in the rear row, with the cap on.

The motto of the Special Olympics is:

"LET ME WIN, BUT IF I CANNOT WIN, LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT."

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## JUNGLE ROT

The 52nd Field Hospital - Bougainville, July 1944

On Bougainville, during the early part of 1944, My case of "Jungle Rot". on both of my feet, had gotten progressively more severe, to the point that our Battery Medic had me taken off active duty, and put in quarters. While writing a letter one day, I saw my Battery Commander, Captain Nolen, approach my tent and violently kick over a can of soiled socks I was boiling to disinfect, outside of my tent. He said, my use of gasoline to boil water was a flagrant violation of orders, and that when I returned to duty, he would punish me with seven days of extra duty. I never received the extra duty because the Battalion Medical Officer decide that my jungle rot needed further treatment and I was sent to the 52nd Field Hospital. When I returned to my unit a month later, Captain Nolen had been transferred to Headquarters, due to complaints about his treatment of the men under his command.

At the 52nd Field Hospital I was assigned to a Ward with 25 or 30 other G.I.'s suffering from various stages of this vile affliction, "Jungle Rot". My cot happened to be the first cot at the entrance to the Ward, directly across from the ward boy, the male nurse who attended our needs and dispensed our medications. He hailed from Biloxi, Mississippi, and was efficient and compassionate in the handling of he patients under his supervision and care. The location of my cot gave me an excellent opportunity to observe the diagnosis and treatment each patient was receiving when Captain Appel, a doctor of dermatology made his daily appearance, to check on each patient's condition or progress and dispense medication or treatment.

One of the patients in the Ward by the name of Riley, who was about 30 years old, an old man to all of us 18 and 19 year olds, had a severe case of jungle rot covering about 75% of his body. The other patients in the ward assisted Riley in his feeding, dressing and bathing because of his condition. One morning Captain Appel arrived at our ward and appeared to be very angry and agitated. He ordered the Ward boy to have Riley come up to the front immediately. Riley reluctantly obeyed and hobbled up to the desk as best he could. Captain Appel began shouting and berating Riley with the words, "I hear you think you are getting quack treatment here?" Captain Appel had evidently heard from one of the officers censoring all of our outgoing mail, that Riley had written home making that statement. Riley replied to Captain Appel. "What else can I do? My treatment here has not improved my condition, and it seems to be worsening. My only hope is that you send me somewhere where more advanced assistance is available". Captain Appel replied angrily, "if you don't like it here you can go back to your outfit". He then ordered the Ward boy to discharge Riley. I remember other helping Riley to get dressed, packing his meager belongings and Riley leaving the tent.

Captain Appel evidently realized a short time after Riley's departure, that when Riley reported to his unit's medical officer, he would have a lot of explaining to do about this drastic action. He immediately gave all of us patients, who were familiar with Riley's treatment, a cursory examination, and told us that we would be moved to the 21st Evacuation Hospital for further treatment and possible evacuation to the 9th Station Hospital on Guadalcanal. The day after arriving at the 21 Evacuation Hospital we were prepared for evacuation by a C-47 airplane to

JUNGLE ROT  
THE CURSE OF THE TROPICS

Virulent tropical fevers, that both chill and heat  
Parasites internal, external, in/on what we eat,  
Various viruses, cocci, fungi, and staphs...  
All attacks the unwary...a barrel of laughs.

But of the vile tribulations to which man is prone  
Jungle rot's one affliction he can't leave alone.  
His armpits, scratched raw are crusty with sores  
And his crotch a disaster his helpmate abhors.

The rot treatment requires many a toe-curling swab  
With alcohol and some solute as rough as a cob  
To forestall reinfection, change clothing each day  
And rinse out the last sud to keep rash away.

Ere I gained Solomons' wisdom, Guadalcanal  
buddies said,  
As I passed arms akimbo, with my legs widely spread  
"Al do you always go 'round like a  
rooster with clap?"  
Alas, the napkin of itch would not  
slip from my lap.

Now I minimize sweating, change skivvies at noon  
As well as on rising, I won't play the buffoon  
In damp salty Khakis. I rinse suds from my duds  
To avoid the most horrific of tropical crud.

So if work takes you toward the equator some time  
To avoid use of the swab and its tent-pole climb  
Keep body and clothes squeaky-clean and soap free  
And your fethers unruffled. At ease! (You can be)

A.R. Kerr-1985

\*\*\*\*\*

G COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY



Do you recognize any of the above men? The picture was sent in by Pat Farino. How is your memory?

Guadalcanal. Captain Appel had thus gotten rid of all the witnesses to his indiscretion.

After a month's treatment, during which I also celebrated my 20th birthday, my jungle rot was arrested and I returned by L.C.I from Guadalcanal to my unit on Bougainville.

Another interesting occurrence transpired while I was a patient at the 52nd. One of the patients in the jungle rot Ward was a very strapping and very black Fijian Commando, who had his arms and upper torso covered with the rot. The Fijian Commandos, under New Zealand command had been brought to Bougainville to infiltrate Japanese positions, destroy artillery pieces, and harass and frighten the sons of Nippon. The Fijians were good at what they did!!

During a conversation with "Joe" as he was called, I mentioned that I had served on Fiji, and we became fast friends. He was enthusiastic about the treatment and acceptance he experienced while associating with American troops. He said his New Zealand officers and non-coms discouraged fraternization.

One afternoon he asked me to accompany him to one of the hospital tents that housed several Japanese prisoners. Japanese prisoners at that time were very rare, as most would fight to the death or commit suicide to avoid capture or be taken prisoner. I tried to dissuade him, but he was very insistent in his desire to visit the prisoner Ward. I asked him why he wanted to go to the Ward but he was very evasive about answering. I finally gave in and agreed to accompany him to the Ward.

This Ward was situated toward the front of the hospital compound and was dug several feet below ground level with a sandbagged perimeter. As we approached a M.P. stepped out and challenged us as to our reason for approaching this area that was posted "Off Limits". I explained that Joe was very anxious to see the Japanese prisoners. The M.P. angrily informed us that this was impossible and that we should leave the area.

Joe was very disappointed that we had failed in our mission. I again questioned him as to his interest in this prisoner. He replied that a cousin of his had recently been killed by the Japanese while on a infiltration mission behind the Japanese lines. He reached into his pajama pants and pulled out a highly honed mess kit knife that he said he intended to use on the Japanese prisoner if he got close enough.

My composure was shattered when I thought about the consequences of having led him to his prey! Joe did not realize that I would have been innocently involved, had his mission been a success.

Leonard (Sack) Owczarzak  
746 AAA Gun Battery D

Foot Note: We had Ward boys or male nurses on Bougainville. There were over 20,000 Army, Navy Marines and Air Corps--but no women! We saw our first woman when Bob Hope and Jack Benny brought their U.S.O. shows to Bougainville.

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HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER AS YET?  
IF NOT  
YOU ARE MISSING SOME GREAT REUNIONS

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VETERANS DAY SLIPPING AWAY, SAY VETS  
by Jill Anderson  
Wakefield Observer Staff

Almost 60 years ago, Wakefield resident James Nardone, 79, got on a boat and steamed to Australia. It took 43 days to get there. On the trip he was hot and "packed like sardines." It was World War II.

Nardone spent 30 months in the Pacific. He saw service on New Caledonia and the Fiji Islands and fought on Guadalcanal.

He was lucky to come home alive, many didn't.

Millions of men and women have taken the same risk, in efforts to defend our country.

On Saturday, November 11, 2000 at 11 a.m. Wakefield will honor those men and women in a service at the Galvin Middle School auditorium.

This year Veterans have much to commemorate. Not only is this the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, but also the 225th year since the creation of the United States Army.

"Veterans Day to me used to be Armistice Day," Nardone said. "I'm always looking forward to this day and I think very much about this day."

After the end of World War I in 1918, November 11th, Veterans Day was set aside as a day of appreciation. World War I was the first modern global conflict. The war ended on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. The purpose of this day was to promote and celebrate peace. The initial hope was WWI was the "war to end all wars" and the day became known as "Armistice Day."

However it wasn't the last war. Only 30 years later after the Armistice Day's declaration, World War II broke out. At the end of WWII, the question was --how do we honor those veterans who just fought in this war?

Congress amended the Act of 1938 striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting "Veteran." By 1954, legislation passed to honor all veterans of all wars.

"Today, it is just like any other day--all the stores are open," Nardone said. "I think people should realize and think about veterans, I just don't think people think about it anymore."

According to Nardone, many people say vets are all done, but he disagrees. As a veteran, Nardone always has someone watching over him and when things seem to get tough they are always there.

Arthur Cole, Vietnam vet (1966-1967), and American Legion County Commander, said, "Veterans Day is one of the biggest days, in my mind, and I get upset."

Cole is frustrated by the fact that when he was a kid Veterans Day was an important Holiday and everything was closed. "Now as a vet. you can't even get a day off from work."

"I think a lot of veterans don't get the respect we used to. which could be the result of the younger generation," Cole said. "I don't know what the kids are taught about Vietnam."

Cole said many kids probably don't understand why America was in Vietnam, although he admits most of the soldiers didn't understand either.

"I was told by Uncle Sam to go and I was lucky enough to come back." he said

Cole also finds being a veteran very important.

"It's a brotherhood, we are out there to help each other," Cole said. I enjoy it and feel at home.

On Veterans Day, it is really important for people to stop and take some time to think about vets. "People should think about all the service men and women that served all over the world." Nardone said. "Those people really did some work to save our country".

Ed Note: James Nardone served with E Company, 182nd Infantry, Americal Division during World War II. Arthur Cole served with the 196 LIB 5/2/1 Infantry, Americal Division, in Vietnam. Both veterans are life long residents of Wakefield, MA. and both men are members of the Americal Division Veterans Association

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JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion  
Telling stories of the past,  
Of the war that he had fought in  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies  
They were heroes everyone.

Tho'sometimes to his neighbors,  
His tales became a joke,  
All his Legion buddies listened,  
For they knew whereof he spoke,  
But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For old Bill has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer--  
For a soldier died today.

He'll not be mourned by many,  
Just his children and his wife,  
For he lived and ordinary,  
Quiet and uneventful life,  
Held a job and raised a family,  
Quietly going his own way;  
And the world won't note his passing--  
Though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing  
And proclaim that they were great,  
Papers tell their life stories from  
The time they were young,  
But the passing of a soldier  
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land  
A guy who breaks his promises  
And cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who,  
In times of war and strife  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the  
Style in which he lives  
Are sometimes disproportionate  
To the service that he gives,  
While the ordinary soldier  
Who offers up his all  
Is paid off with a medal,  
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,  
For it was so long ago  
That the 'Old Bills' of our country  
Went to battle, but we know  
It was not the politicians,  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you want a politician  
With his ever-shifting stand?  
Or would you prefer a soldier  
Who has sworn to defend  
His home, his kin and country  
And would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his like again,  
For when countries are in conflict  
Then we find the soldier's part  
Is to clean up all our troubles  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor  
While he's here to hear the praise  
Then at least let's give him homage  
At the ending of his days,  
Perhaps just a simple headline  
In a paper that would say;  
"Our Country is in mourning--  
For a Soldier Died Today."  
Anon

(Sent in by Earle Cook - 26th Signal Co.

\*\*\*\*\*

MACARTHUR AT WEST POINT

Gen. Douglas MacArthur--The great military leader who commanded the southwest Pacific theater in World War II, administered postwar Japan and led the United Nations' forces during nine months of the Korean War--was about to deliver what would become the most famous talk of his career.

It was May 12, 1962, and a warm day. Seated among hundreds in the mess hall of the United States Military Academy at West Point was a plebe named Daniel W. Christman. He was 18.

"It was a very emotional moment for everyone there," Christman recalls today. "Those in my generation obviously had heard about him but never met him. I think he made me aware for the first time of what the motto of the Academy (adopted in 1897) really meant, because, until you hear it described with the power and imagery of a MacArthur, it never really comes alive. The motto came alive for us that day."

The speech began with that motto:

"Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are the rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn. Unhappily, I possess neither that eloquence of diction, that poetry of imagination, nor the brilliance of metaphor to tell you all that they mean."

The speech concludes:

"You are the leaven which binds together the entire fabric of our national system of defense. From your ranks come the great Captains who hold the nation's destiny in their hands the moment the war tocsin sounds. the Long Gray Line has never failed us. Were you to do so, a million ghosts in olive drab, in brown khaki, in blue and gray, would rise from their white crosses thundering those magic words--Duty-Honor-Country."

"This does not mean that you are war mongers. On the contrary, the soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. But always in our ears ring the ominous words of Plato, that wisest of all philosophers: "Only the dead have seen the end of war."

"The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished tone and tint: they have gone glimmering through dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wondrous beauty watered by tears, and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday. I listen vainly for the witching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille, of far drums beating a long roll. On my dreams I again hear the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield."

"But in the evening of my memory always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes Duty-Honor-Country."

"Today marks my final roll call with you, but I want you to know when I cross the river my last conscious thoughts will be of The Corps, and The Corps, and the Corps."

General MacArthur died two years later. Cadet Christman is now Lieutenant General Christman, the superintendent of West Point.

Foot Note: A great man and a great code to live by.

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AMERICAL REPRESENTED

On Veterans Day 2000 the town of North Chelmsford, MA, dedicated a Memorial to the two Clark brothers that were killed in action during World War II. Brother Allan was aboard the submarine USS Sailfish when it went down in the Pacific on February 15, 1945 and his brother was aboard the USS Longshaw when it was destroyed by Japanese planes in the waters off of Okinawa on May 18, 1945.

Eliot Carey attended the service as a representative of the Americal.

Eliot had his Americal cap on and he states that some present recognized the Americal logo and it was new to others. He also states that two officers, one a Major and the other a Captain said, "Good work Americal". which made me feel proud to be part of the Americal Division.

Eliot served with D Company, 182nd Infantry during the war. He keeps the 1st Battalion Buddies Association together and holds a Reunion at his farm each year.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?



# Together Again! Cleveland, Ohio

## Annual Reunion, June 21-24, 2001

### Register Now For A Great Time!

#### AIRLINES

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

Thursday, June 21st: Hospitality Room open all day. Come early ... and relax!

Friday, June 22nd: Special Cleveland-Area Tours available and hospitality room open all day.



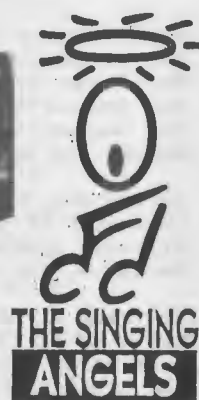
Morning Tour: Canton, Ohio's Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Six Eye-catching exhibits, the Twin-Enshrinement Halls and much more! Afternoon Tour: Cleveland, Ohio's National Rock And Roll Hall of Fame. The worlds largest collection of rock & roll memorabilia, hands-on touch screens, interactive exhibits and rare concert footage!



Late afternoon Special Memorial Service to our fallen comrades at the Cleveland Coast Guard Headquarters, Lake Erie (Those on the Rock & Roll tour will walk one block to the site ... those at the hotel will be provided free bus transportation. Service will last approximately 25 minutes).

#### FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER WITH SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT!



The world famous (Cleveland's own) "Singing Angels". Over 250 talented and dedicated children of northern Ohio to give a special performance for Americal Veterans immediately following dinner.

Make your dinner reservations before they sell out!

**THE SINGING ANGELS**

"MAKE MUSIC. MAKE FRIENDS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Saturday, June 23rd: Spouses Tour (morning to mid-afternoon) Ohio's Amish Country.



Visit the peaceful Ohio countryside, an Amish craft store, bulk food store and Amish cheese house. Lunch on your own in a quaint Amish town!

10:00 AM Annual Meeting in the Grand Ballroom

12:30 PM Special showing on two large screens in the ballroom:

DEAR AMERICA - Letters Home From Vietnam (84 minutes)

(An HBO special ... with newsreel and home-movie footage).

1:00 - 3:00 PM **FREE VA WELLNESS CHECK** at the hotel.

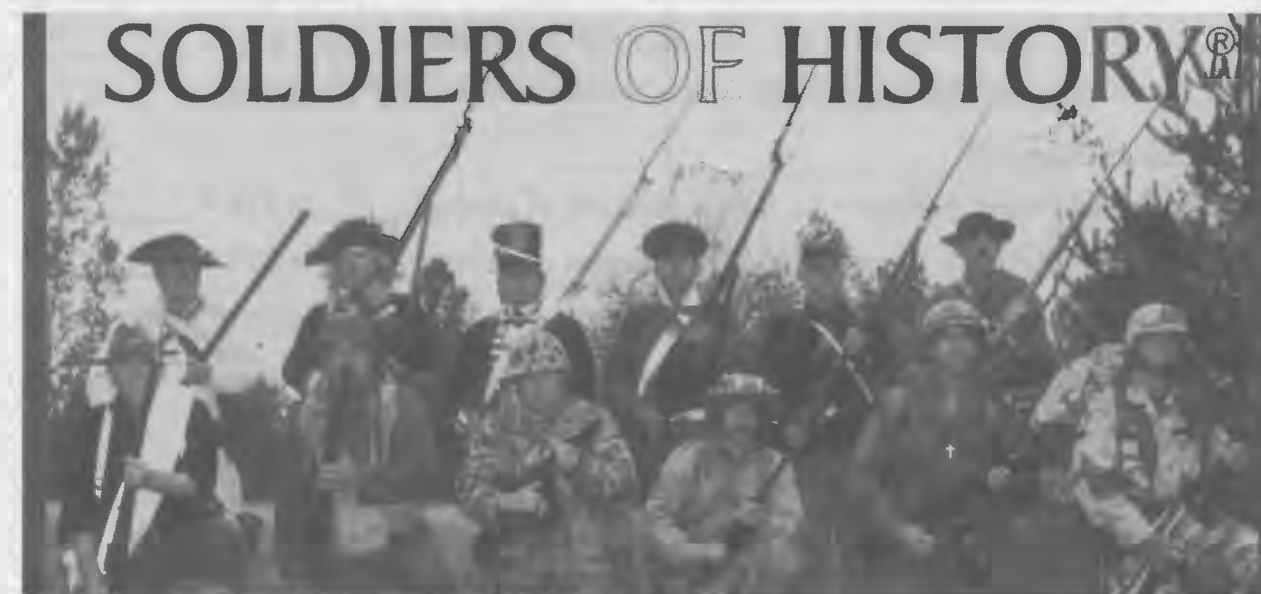
(only takes 10 minutes ... just walk in)

Cholesterol Check - Blood Sugar - Blood Pressure - Oral (mouth) Cancer Exam

**HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN ALL DAY**

#### SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER WITH SPECIAL PRESENTATION!

Immediately following dinner ... these men represent 12 wars in which over one million men died fighting for freedom in the world. Their presentation is given to preserve the history of the American fighting man and is dedicated to the Americal Veterans of World War II and Vietnam.



... AND AFTER DINNER ... listen and dance to all the music and songs you love to hear, the "Big Band" music of the 40's, Motown, Classic Rock, R&B, brought to you by the *Dynamic Duo*, Darryl Green, "The Wedding Singer" and Debra "Diva" Rose. Dance all night and let's party!

Sunday, June 24th: 9:00- 9:30 AM

**ANNUAL INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE**

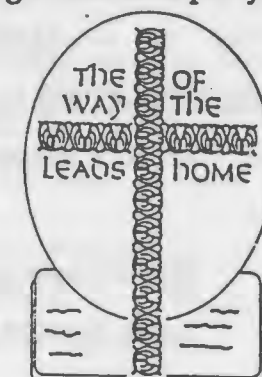
End the reunion in style at our annual worship service.

Led By ADVA National Chaplain Perry M. Woerner.

REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE



**FREE VIEWING!**





# 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 [REDACTED]. 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 = \_\_\_\_\_

(The "Singing Angels" Salute To Americal Vet's)

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

(The "Soldiers of History" Special Presentation)

( Dancing To The Tunes of the "Dynamic Duo")

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] or e-mail: [REDACTED]

Larry Watson (evenings) [REDACTED] or e-mail: [REDACTED]

WINDY CITY JOURNAL  
132nd Infantry Regiment  
28 October 1945

The Colonel Says:

This is my parting message to you officers and men of the Regiment. It is impossible for me to express to you all former members of my command my feelings, my appreciation, and my thanks for the splendid job you have done. I cannot help but feel that your cooperation was not purely from a sense of duty but, in a small way, because it was what the "old man" wanted. It has always been my policy to meet you more than halfway because I know that my job has been easy compared to yours. I have been spared the extreme discomforts and danger to which many of you have been exposed. Yet you have never failed to meet them with traditional guts of the American soldier. It has never occurred to to doubt your ability or courage to carry our any combat mission that has been assigned you and you have justified my confidence in you on every instance.

I have seen many changes in the Regiment since taking command back in Bougainville in February 1944. Few of you here now were with us then but those of you who replaced those who fell in combat, or left the Regiment for other reasons, have carried on the splendid record always held by the 132nd,

When the chips were down at the end of every War Bond, insurance or any other "drive" it has been my proud experience to be able to report to the Division Commander that our Regiment was not only over the top but ahead of the other Regiments in the Americal. That is the spirit of cooperation team work that brands this a great outfit. It is no less a great outfit judged on its combat experiences and exploits. You and I have every reason to point to the record with satisfaction and pride.

Now the outfit is breaking up. There will soon be nothing left but the record and memories. It is my earnest hope that those memories, both pleasant and unpleasant, be not forgotten. The pleasant memories because of friendships we have made and bad memories because none of us ever want to go through that again. Nor do we want any of our children or their children to experience what we have had thrust upon us. It is up to you to do your part in seeing that it will never happen again. You have been ambassadors of goodwill in Japan. Those of you who remain behind--continue to show the Japanese that their way of life is all wrong--that the American way is the only way. The majority of the Japanese people are normal humans who have been kept ignorant as to their rights as such by oppression and serfdom. They are beginning to realize that they have been misinformed about the superiority of the Japanese people. They were amazed, for example, to find that we know how to ride bicycles. These are the people that we must educate into understanding that the Americans must have something that they, themselves, have been missing.

Commanding this Regiment has been the most satisfactory and happy assignment of my 25 years in the Army. So now I say to you: Goodbye, Good Luck and may we meet again.

Colonel C.M. McQuarrie

(Sent in by Frank Nardoni)

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

If you are moving will you please send your change of address to the Americal Newsletter as soon as possible.

The price of returned mail has gone up this past month.

It cost approximately one dollar a piece to print the Newsletter and the mailing cost and return cost approximately another dollar.

If you do not notify the ADVA of your change of address the cost to the ADVA is two dollars (\$2.00) and you DO NOT get your Newsletter.

If you are going on vacation for several months please notify me of your vacation address, The date of leaving and date of return, and I will attempt to have your Newsletter delivered to your vacation address. If you go on an extended vacation your Newsletter is returned marked "Temporarily Away". That costs the Americal two dollars (\$2.00) and you do not get your Newsletter.

Check with the Post Office if you are leaving on a short vacation and see if they will hold ALL of your mail.

The last issue, October-November-December 2000 saw about seventy Newsletters returned for address change or members temporarily away. This means about \$140.00 was lost.

If you did not get your last issue send one \$1.00 to the address below and a copy will be sent to you.

Send address changes to:

Americal Newsletter  
James C. Buckle  
[REDACTED]  
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

\*\*\*\*\*

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Looking for anyone that knew my father, WILLIAM H. HOPKINS who served with the 182nd Infantry. He was in the Army from 1939 until 1946 and was from Lawrence Mass. Please contact:

Michael Hopkins  
[REDACTED]  
Dunkirk, MD 20754

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DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Looking for anyone that knew PVT. HORACE BENTLEY who served with the 182nd Infantry Regiment. He was killed March 31, 1945 on Cebu. He is my father-in-law and I have four children who would like to find some information on him. Bentley's son Carlton was only seven (7) years old when his father died. It would mean so much to us all.

Please Contact:

Sonia Bentley  
[REDACTED]  
Bakersfield, CA 93380

[REDACTED]

## Commander's Comments

Ronald R. Ellis  
National Commander

### Appointments Announced

Malcolm East has tendered his resignation as Senior Vice-Commander due to personal reasons. I wish to thank Malcolm for his service to the association and wish him well in his future endeavors.

I would like to announce the following appointments. Richard L. Scales, Junior Vice-Commander is appointed to the post of Senior Vice-Commander. Jon E. Hansen is appointed to the post of Junior Vice-Commander. Scales served with the 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB and Hansen served with the 26th Engineer Bn.

I am also announcing my choices for the Nominating Committee. They are PNC Edward Marsh, 11th LIB; PNC John (Dutch) Degroot, 23rd MP Co.; Austin (Jay) Roth, 164th Inf. Regt.; Donald Ballou, 121st Med. Bn.; and Terry Babler, 1/1st Cavalry. I have chosen PNC Marsh to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Members of the Nominating Committee must be approved by the Executive Council. The Sr. Vice-Commander and Jr. Vice-Commander appointments are effective immediately.

### Volunteer Needed

Mr. Ken Turner has asked that he be allowed to pass his responsibilities for product sales to someone else. Ken has been fighting illness in the past few months and is forced to lighten his load. Ken and Jan Turner deserve our gratitude for the outstanding work they have done for many years in handling product sales for the ADVA. Ken will retain his post as Museum Curator.

A volunteer is needed to assume the duties of product sales manager. We have a variety of ADVA and Americal Division related products that are offered for sale to interested parties. Responsibilities of the post include maintaining proper inventory, receiving and filling orders, and coordinating activities with the Financial Officer, National Commander, and other officers.

If you would like to be considered for this position please contact me by writing to Ronald R. Ellis, [REDACTED], Henderson, TX, 75652. I can be reached by phone at [REDACTED] and by e-mail at [REDACTED].

### 1/46th Infantry Reunion

As you may know, I was with Co. C, 1/46th Inf. in 1970-71. The 1/46th Infantry Reunion will take place on March 26-28, 2001 at Camp Carlson, KY. Camp Carlson is adjacent to Ft. Knox and is just a few miles off Hwy. 31. Arrangements for the reunion and FSB Mary Ann memorial ceremony are under the direction of Mr. Bill Walker, [REDACTED] Vine Grove, KY, 40175.

The 1/46th Infantry reunion is combined with the annual Torchlight Ceremony hosted by the present day 1/46 Infantry at Ft. Knox. Daytime tours and activities are yet to be named. The FSB Mary Ann memorial service will be on the morning of March 28.

Lodging arrangements can be made at numerous motels in Radcliffe, KY or at the campground at Camp Carlson. Some meals will be available at the host cabin with a free will donation accepted. The reunion is open to all veterans of the 1/46th Infantry.

### Americal vets invited to meet at Melbourne, FL

Southeast Region Commander Bob Kapp invites Americal vets to meet in Melbourne again this year. The next get together will be April 27-29, 2001 at beautiful WICKHAM PARK in Melbourne, FL. This is in conjunction with the big annual Melbourne Vietnam veteran reunion. Last year over 25 Americal vets showed up. Lets see if even more come this year. Americal vets will meet in the

center of campground "A" under the Americal blue tent. See you there for a great time! For more information contact Commander Bob Kapp, 435 Sailfish Blvd., Oldsmar, FL, 34677, (727) 773-0227.

### T-Shirts for sale



PNC Ed Marsh has a few t-shirts for sale. They are imprinted with the design as depicted in the photo above and were first offered at the reunion in San Antonio last June. Availability is limited. The shirts are offered at \$12 each plus \$3 per order for postage. Contact Ed at 11406 Bair Lake Rd., Jones, MI 49061, 616-244-5428

### Wanted: Video of 1999 reunion in St. Louis

Mr. Warren Neil, Vice-President of the 196th LIB Association, would like to locate video of the 1999 reunion in St. Louis, MO. He is especially interested in a video of the programs on Friday night and Saturday night. If you can be of assistance please contact him at [REDACTED], Cicero, IN, 46034, [REDACTED].

### New Address for Vietnam Editor

Please make note of the new address for the Vietnam Editor. Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED], Blue Springs, MO, 64104, [REDACTED]. E-mail remains the same at gnoller@aol.com.

Your submissions are requested and encouraged. Of particular interest are your first person accounts of your experiences during your military service. Articles from previously published works are also welcome but in most cases permission from the author and publisher must be obtained prior to reprinting in the newsletter. Currently there is no backlog in articles for the Vietnam sector of the Americal Newsletter so there is a good chance that your item could be in the very next edition. Your efforts in this regard are greatly appreciated.

### 196th LIB Association Reunion 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 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 317-984-3853 or e-mail at [REDACTED] or contact any 196th LIB Association officer.

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

### BY-LAW CHANGES AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Chairman of the Scholarship Fund, PNC Ronald L. Ward has requested that the following changes be made to the by-laws of the Scholarship Fund.

#### Article 13 Amendment

Section 1: The Constitution and By-Laws of the Scholarship Foundation may be amended, or a new Constitution may be adopted by a one half majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual reunion, or regularly called meeting of the ADVA, provided that a prior notice of at least one month has been published in the Americal Newsletter.

The section that we want to change is Article 4, Trustees...Section 1. that section in the current by-laws reads as follows:

#### Article 4 Trustees

Section 1: There shall be six (6) Trustees comprising the Scholarship Foundation Board. Trustee/Officers shall be ADVA Treasurer and the ADVA National Commander, who will hold office Ex-Officio. Four (4) other Trustees will be elected by the ADVA membership to serve a four (4) year term, one of them to be elected Chairman of the Scholarship Foundation by the (4) Trustees. Original term of Office for Trustees will be staggered, one (1) Trustee to be elected annually thereafter.

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The Fund Chairman and the Trustees propose the Article 4 Section 1 be amended to:  
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#### Article 4 Trustees

Section 1: There shall be (6) Trustees comprising the Scholarship Foundation Board. Trustee/Officer shall be the ADVA National Commander, who will hold office Ex-Officio. The Chairman of the ADVA Fund, to be appointed by the National Commander. The Chairman will serve an unlimited term unless replaced by a vote of the Trustees. The fund Treasurer, who will be appointed by the National Commander to serve an unlimited term unless replaced by a vote of the Trustees. Four (4) other Trustees will be elected by the ADVA membership to serve a four (4) to serve a four (4) year term. Original term office for Trustee will be staggered, one (1) Trustee to be elected annually thereafter.

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#### A/3/1 Infantry - 11 LIB

I just found a fellow with whom I served with over thirty (30) years ago while working with A/3/1 Inf 11 LIB. His name is Gary T. Norman. He was wounded on July 1, 1969 and extracted via Dust Off.

We lost another good man that instant as well. His name was S/Sgt. Joseph Kelly--due to go home in sixty seven (67) days. Kelly took Gary's position as point man, while heading back to Route 1, when he stepped on an unexploded 105 or 155 round that had been rigged as a booby trap.

I found Gary sort of by accident. A while back I sent for morning reports. These list changes from day to day as to who was KIA, WIA, transferred or

deros--which I guess meant being sent back to the world.

I copied Gary's name as Gary P. Norman. the Army had it wrong. It was Gary T. Norman. Some screw-up by a rear area M.F.. Any way I went to the Rochester Rendall Library, got a quick lesson in using their computer and copied all the names, addresses and phone numbers of Gary Norman in a three state area. I knew that Gary was from Ogden, Utah, so I started there. On the third phone call, BINGO, I found him.

Gary and I talked for some time. He said he did not know what P.T.S.D. was which I am sure he has. Most of us combat vets have some form of it whether we want to admit it or not. Gary did not know a thing about the Americal Newsletter or the Reunion get-togethers. That will soon be corrected!

I am forwarding Gary an old copy of the Jan-Feb-Mar 2000, with the group photo of the 14th Anniversary WINTERFEST R&R on the front cover.

That photo shows Doc. Henyon, our Company Medic holding the sign or banner, on the right hand side. The left as you look at the cover. Doc is the fellow in the beret and beard.

I've been lucky enough to hook up with five (5) guys and still looking for more. Call me if you know me or served with A/3/1 Infantry in 1969.

Robert J. Miller  
716-924-5296

Bob. how about sending me the names of the men you found and I will put them on our mailing list.

Jim Buckle  
Editor

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#### COMPANY D - 1st BN - 52nd INFANTRY - 198 LIB

My name is Frank Tobani, I am the Veteran Service Representative for Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 82, Nassau County, New York.

I am currently representing a former member of the 198 LIB and I could use your help. The gentleman's name is PAUL FORAY and he served with D/1/52 Infantry from February 4, 1968 to February 5, 1969. I am searching for anyone who served in this man's Company or in the 1st of the 52nd Infantry at the same time. The best possible scenario would be locating someone who knew my client back then, but I would be happy locating anyone who served in the unit during ground action at that time. I can't go into a lot of detail due to confidentiality, but if anyone fits the description I will have Paul call or write to you. If this arrangement is not convenient, I can have the letter directed to you to be forwarded to the veteran.

Needless to say this request is for a claim for benefits and any help that you can give would be gratefully appreciated.

Francis X Tobani  
Vet. Serv. Rep.  
[REDACTED]  
Hicksville, NY 11802  
Tel: [REDACTED]

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?



B/3/1 INFANTRY 11 LIB

I'm writing to let fellow Americal Newsletter members know that my husband, Charlie Mankin, successfully underwent a liver transplant on 19 Dec 00. His area of operation in Vietnam was Quang Ngai Province (I Corp).

After undergoing a routine physical three years ago, he was diagnosed with end-stage liver disease. It was determined that the cause of his liver disease was due to a blood transfusion he received when wounded, 28 May 70, in the Horseshoe Region, Vietnam. He overcame rejection seven days after surgery and arrived home from the hospital, 8 Jan 01.

He is doing extremely well and looks forward to good health once again. He especially looking forward to attending the Ohio Reunion in June 01.

Margie Mankin

Hey guys, how about a card?

Mr. Charles Mankin  
Fairfax, VA 22030

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VIETNAM  
The Domino That Fell

The following is an interview of General Westmoreland by the American Legion Magazine.

At 83, General William C. Westmoreland, a South Carolinian and the icon of authority for most who served in Vietnam, retains a presence undiminished by a quarter-century since his 36-year military career ended. Strolling the scenic historic district of his hometown of Charleston. "Westy" keeps a relaxed route-step in sunlight, waving to tourists and smiling at children. But when his gaze falls on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, where America's Civil War began, Westmoreland the warrior embodies the links and parallels of two bitter national divisions 100 year and half a world apart.

A West Point graduate and the 1936 Cadet Corp First Captain, Westmoreland counts among his honors an inscribed sword presented by Gen. John J. "Blackjack" Pershing. Hollywood could hardly contrive a clearer symbolic summary of the permutations of America's military tradition and the nation's technological blossoming: Just 56 years after America's World War I commander graduated under the eyes of instructors who had campaigned in the Civil War, he passes the sword to a soldier whose troops will regard the air just another flank and who will climax his career advising the the president on military concerns that include space travel and nuclear weapons.

From the Point, Westmoreland was sent on a special mission to Ecuador and posted to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where horses and mules were still an artillery officer's means to mobility. After a stint with a battery in Hawaii, Westmoreland found himself ordered to the other side of the globe for World War II. He rose quickly to colonel, serving in the invasion of North Africa, the conquest of Sicily, and at the Remagen Rhine bridgehead. In the lull before Korea, Westmoreland became a paratrooper. After Korea, he was promoted to a brigadier general and participated in planning an American intervention

in Indochina to aid the French against the Viet Minh. That never happened, but the staff exercise gave the general a significant leg-up some ten years later when he was asked to assume command of U.S. military operations in Vietnam.

Replaced in Vietnam by Gen. Creighton Abrams in late 1968, Westmoreland became Chief of Staff of the Army, a post he held until his retirement in 1972. "My first mount in the Army was a horse, and my last was a helicopter," he recalls smiling.

Westmoreland says of the years he commanded in Vietnam--much of the time while being "shackled" by civilians who had little knowledge of what it would take to win--he kept his frustrations under his hat. He later addressed a few of those frustrations in his memoir, 'A Soldier Reports. but for the most part has held is fire.

Of President Johnson:"he once told me if he had it to do over again he would have gotten rid of all the advisors he inherited from the Kennedy administration except Dean Rusk."

Of the troops that served under Westmoreland says: It is regrettable the Americans who served in Vietnam took the brunt of the bad press that came out of the war. They didn't get much media attention for the thousands of good things they did--civic improvements, humanitarian efforts or the valor they displayed. Those things don't make good headlines, I guess. I've long felt the media should be ashamed of how it treated the Vietnam veterans, and I think it had a lot to do with the deplorable ways veterans were treated.

Asked if he had any message to those who served under him he replied--"Yes. And to do so I have to go back to President's Kennedy's inaugural remarks. It is in that context Americans were sent to the battlefield...to pay any price, to bear any burden, to support any friend, to oppose any foe, to ensure the survival and success of liberty. Those serving in Vietnam answered that call and performed superbly. I am extremely proud to have served with them, and I hold a special place for them in my heart."

Gen. Westmoreland was asked how he would respond to those who say Vietnam was the first war our armed forces ever lost. His answer: I would tell them they have no idea what they are talking about. American forces never lost a single major engagement in Vietnam. In fact, everytime we did engage we inflicted staggering losses and drove the enemy back. The enemy never took any ground we defended exclusively by American troops. Not once. Some people point at the battle of Hue during the Tet offensive in 1968, which the enemy held only a short time, as evidence against that statement. But American forces did not give up Hue. There were only a handful of them there when the offensive started, and the enemy suffered huge losses when we mounted an attack to drive them out. I think it was the failure of politicians to take advantage of our strategic gains we achieved that lost the war. That along with not continuing the bombing and disruption of supplies going into Vietnam, and of course the Case-Church Amendment which cut of funds for any further assistance to South Vietnam.

On closing: "McNamara was wrong. LBJ anguished. Yet, our GIs fought valiantly in a war controlled by number-crunchers and politicians."

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

To the Editor,

In 1970 and 1971 I served with Co. C, 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB, Americal Division. I was a rifleman and RTO for the first six months of my tour and the company clerk for the last six months. During this time I had the good fortune to work with First Sergeant Edward Froelich. He was noted throughout the battalion for his booming voice and his ability to get the most crucial and hardest to find supplies to his men in the field.

Froelich commanded the respect of all the people who dealt with him. Our company's rear area was located at LX Bronco in Duc Pho. The First Sergeant's hootch was built into the big hill behind the company area. He was able to secure enough building materials to construct upstairs quarters for himself and a few sleeping rooms on the ground floor for the NCOs that came in from the field.

The roof of the NCO rooms was a large deck on which we would occasionally gather in the evening for a few beers and cookout (if the First Sergeant was able to secure the beer and hamburger.) One especially quiet night (no incoming or outgoing) there were about eight of us, including the Chaplain, relaxing on the deck. Suddenly the lights for the entire LZ Bronco compound flickered and went out.

The First Sergeant asked the Chaplain if the Chaplain would use his contacts with the powers in heaven to get the lights back on. The Chaplain said that it was beyond what he could accomplish. He added that since the First Sergeant was so good at getting results that the First Sergeant should try.

With this said the First Sergeant strolled to the edge of the deck, raised his arms up into the air and in his loud and booming voice proclaimed, "This is First Sergeant Froelich of Charlie Company and when I say let there be light, let there be light!!" With this he dropped his arms and every light in the compound miraculously came on, leaving eight silent and stunned believers of the First Sergeant's power.

Mark Mentz, Laona, WI  
Co. C, 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB

To the Editor,

I was in Vietnam in 1969-70 with 4/21st Inf. Recon. We were at LZ Debbie near Duc Pho. I would like information on my unit. I can be reached at 925 Jorgenson St. SE, Hutchinson, MN, 55350.

Steven Lee Jensen  
Recon, 4/21st Inf.

To the Editor,

I am seeking help in locating veterans I was with in Vietnam.

John Driggers  
Orange Park, FL, 32073,

Dear Mr. Noller,

I have some info on this year's Cross Border Run VI, which will be held in Quebec to honour those Canadians who served, died and went missing in Vietnam. Here is a more detailed schedule;  
FRIDAY, 13 JULY 2001  
5.00-7.00 PM, Kahnawake-Veterans are invited for a get-together at the Canadian Legion, Mohawk Branch 219  
7.30 PM, Kahnawake-Departure towards Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Melocheville  
9.00PM-10.00PM, Melocheville-Vigil at the Memorial  
SATURDAY, 14, July 2001  
8.00 AM to 10.30AM Kahnawake Cenotaph-Participants' arrival  
10.30AM, Kahnawake Cenotaph-Opening Ceremony

11.00AM, Kahnawake Cenotaph-Parade around village  
11.30 AM, POW WOW Site at Kahnawake-Arrival at POW WOW site for activities, souvenirs, entertainment, food and refreshments.  
12.00 Noon, POW WOW site at Kahnawake-Veterans' participation for the "Grand Entry" and POW WOW opening  
2.30 PM, Kahnawake POW WOW site--Departure for Melocheville Memorial. Parade from Kahnawake to Melocheville  
3.00 PM, Melocheville-Presentations and raising of the flags  
4.00 PM. Beauharnois Legion-Dinner (buffet) at Canadian Legion, branch 146. Tickets will be on sale (approx \$5.00)  
SUNDAY, 15, July 2001-Kahnawake-POW WOW Continues on Sunday with Veterans opening "Grand Entry" starting at noon.

The contact person is Dominic, at the following co-ordinates;  
Phone/fax OR  
web site; <http://members.attcanada.ca/~rovend/>  
OR [www.attcanada.ca/~rovend](http://www.attcanada.ca/~rovend)

Thank you again, Mr. Noller, for your continued efforts on behalf of my countrymen who served in Vietnam. If you are in contact with Ed "Top Gun" Marsh, please tell him I said thank you for the packages, and that I will set down and write to him as soon as I can.

Joe Fernandez  
Montreal, Quebec

To the Editor,

I was with the 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, at an observation post (OP) in an area west of LZ Snoopy near Duc Pho. It was at an old French perimeter (Hill 103) in the Sombay Valley. There were 14 people on the hill. I was injured there in a firefight in December 1970 but the VA will not recognize its existence. I need help to verify my claim. I can be reached at , Lewisville, AR, 71845.

James Moser  
1/20th Inf., 11th LIB

To the Editor,

I was in the 23rd S & T Co. in Chu Lai from March 1968 to March 1969. I would like to receive information about my unit. Write to me at GSP, 100 GA Hwy. 147, Reidsville GA, 30499.

Jerry B. Calhoun  
23rd S & T Co.

To the Editor,

I am interested in contacting any fellow vets who might have served with me in Vietnam. My unit was Co. C, 4/3rd Inf. Our brigade headquarters was in Chu Lai and our company headquarters was in Duc Pho. I was there in 1968. Contact me at , Greenwood, SC, 29649-3120.

Ernest Bowles Dean, Jr.  
Co. C, 4/3rd Inf.

To the Editor,

I am searching for any member of Co. D, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, Feb. 1968 to Feb. 1969, who might remember Paul Foray of Long Island, NY. I am looking for anyone who witnessed members of this unit tending to wounded in the field during or immediately following combat action. Please contact me at , Hicksville, NY, 11802.

Francis X. Tobani  
VVA Service Officer

Dear Editor,

Greetings from the 23rd MP Company (Vietnam). I'm pleased to announce that the regrouping of the former members of the 23rd MP Company is doing very well. With the help of many, including the ADVA, we have been able to locate several hundred of our MP brothers. We have been using the Internet and a Yahoo Club Site as home base for the regrouping. The website is located at <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/twentythirdmpco>.

As of today we have over 130 members logged onto our site and have contacted many more aren't internet user friendly yet. Now the Really Good News! We have over 60 of our members signed on to attend next June's ADVA Reunion! We have only a few months until the reunion. What I would like to see is that number to climb to over 100 before June. If you were a member of the 23rd MP Company and ever thought about attending a reunion, then this is the one for you! It's the largest gathering of 23rd MP's since the stand down of 72! This will be The One To Remember! The One You Will Not Want To Miss! Please! Make plans today! Join us in Cleveland next June at the 2001 ADVA Reunion!

Paul Stiff, 23rd M.P. Co.  
Troy, MI

Dear Editor,

Viet Nam Vets '67 - '68 of Alpha Company, 4th Battalion 3rd Infantry, 11th L.I.B. (The Old Guard) will hold its 4th Annual reunion at the Radisson Hotel Opryland in good old Nashville, Tennessee. The dates are June 28 - 30, 2001.

The price of the rooms, single or double, (two double beds or one king size) are \$99.00 plus a sales and lodging tax of 13.25%. You also have the option of a triple (2 double beds) at \$109.00 or a quad rate (4 people to a room, still only 2 double beds) of \$119.00. Cots are available at \$10.00 per night. We are also holding a hospitality room that would cost the group \$25.00 per day.

If you want to make your reservations or speak to someone at the hotel, our contact is Christina E. Filippi, Sales Manager, Radisson Hotel Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214, 615.889.0800. Her e-mail is [cfilippi@oprylandhotels.com](mailto:cfilippi@oprylandhotels.com). Reservations should be made at the front desk if calling. Specify The Old Guard Reunion - Viet Nam Vets.

If you have any questions or would like further information, contact Ron 'Kurlly' Krul at [REDACTED] or call at 716.695.7677.

Ronald Krul, Co. A, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB  
Tonawanda, NY

(Editor's note: Ron's name was spelled incorrectly in a previous issue of the Americal Newsletter. Apologies from the editor.)

Dear Editor,

I am looking to find information on my cousin that was KIA in Vietnam, January 7, 1970. Frank Zydzik Jr. was attached to Delta Co., 3/21st Inf., 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Second platoon, Gladiator.

I am trying to locate anyone from his platoon, or from this engagement. The circumstances of the fight are as follows: Late in December 1969, intelligence indicated a large-scale enemy offensive during TET 1970. It was focused at Tam Ky and the South Vietnamese outposts in Thang Binh [Binh]. The 196th LIB in cooperation with the 5th ARVN Regt. and Quang Tin Hdqrs. mounted a pre-emptive blocking operation. The block was established on January 5, 1970. On the 6th and 7th two infantry companies and two troops from the 1-1 Cav. encountered the 3rd

Bn of the 3rd NVA Regiment in the flat areas west of Tam Ky. On the 7th of January 2nd platoon was detached from the company and attached to the brigade's armored calvary unit, (F troop, 17th Cav.) Around 12:35 PM they encountered sniper fire while crossing the rice paddies. The 2nd platoon was ordered to attack the tree line. The NVA were entrenched and hiding in spider holes. The result of the fire fight was 5 US KIA: Frank Zydzik Jr., Larry Alan Bradley, 2LT William James Erkes Jr., SSG Gene Gordon Wells, and John Dean Retseck. There were seven US WIA: Steven M. Rivenburgh, Carl M. Rebman, Alec R. Andrews, Robert N. Whistler, Marvin D. Lambdin, Richard A. Kem, and Daniel L. Nava.

I would like to hear from anyone who has information about this battle and those who were killed or wounded.

Lee Smolen

[REDACTED], Waukesha, WI 53189

### 1/46th Inf. Torchlight Ceremony

The 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 Bn. COs 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 2001. Contact us at:

Commander

1-46 INF, 1ATB

ATSB-BAD (Torchlight)

Bldg. [REDACTED], Fort Knox, KY 40121

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], DSN: [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I was a Recon SGT with 1/14th Arty from 11/68 to 1/70. I was part of a F.O. team with Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. The CO of Co. C was Jim Hall and the FO was Pedro Beslachain (sp?). I would like help in finding these men. Contact me at [REDACTED], Mt. Vernon, WA, 98273, [REDACTED]

Earl Wolf, 1/14th Artillery

Dear Editor,

I was in Vietnam in 1970-71 with 4/21st Inf. I attended sniper school and managed to live through it all. Now I am fighting heart disease and may soon be on disability. I would like to contact members of my old unit. Please write me at [REDACTED], Harvey, LA, 70058-1918.

Patrick A. Grayson, 4/21st Inf.

## In Memoriam

James P. Meade

1922-2000

Command Sergeant Major

5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 1/68-5/68

196th Lt. Inf. Bde., 5/68-12/68

Americal Division, 12/68-12/69

CSM James P. Meade, former Command Sergeant Major of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the Americal Division, passed away on October 4, 2000. He was buried with Military Honors at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, OR.

James Penny Meade was born in 1922 in Goshen County, Wyoming. He moved to Oregon in 1936. In April 1941, at the age of 18, he went to Kodiak Island, Alaska to work on construction of the Naval Air Station and Army installations along the Aleutian Islands Chain. At the age of 19 he was promoted to the position of foreman of one of the utility crews and remained in that position until returning to the states in 1943.

He joined the Army in July 1943 and took Infantry Basic Training at Ft. McClellan, AL. He was selected as Cadre Instructor from December 1943 through November 1944. In November 1944 he was transferred overseas to the South Pacific and was assigned to the 37th Infantry Division on the Island of Bougainville of the Solomon Islands group. Within six months time he advanced from the rank of Corporal to First Sergeant of Co. A, 129th Inf., 37th Inf. Div. He participated in three major campaigns on the island of Luzon, P.I. They were the Battle of Manila, Battle of Baguio, and the Cagayan Valley to Aparri operation. He remained in that position until the division returned to the states in December 1945.

He was discharged in February 1946 and returned to civilian life. In August 1946 he was elected Commander of the Banks, Oregon American Legion Post #90. He was reelected in 1947 to serve a second term. During this time (and missing Army life considerably) he determined that his professional calling was to be a SOLDIER. In June 1949 he re-enlisted in the U. S. Army to pursue what ultimately resulted in an outstanding and memorable military career.

His initial assignments included the following: 1949-53, 1SG Co. G, 351st Inf., Trieste, Italy; 1953-54, 1SG Co. B, 38th Inf., 2nd Inf. Div., Ft. Lewis, WA; 1954-56, U.S. Army ROTC Staff, Seattle University, Seattle, WA. In 1956 he was transferred to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

At West Point he was appointed to the position of Sergeant Major, 2nd Regiment, USCC (United States Corps of Cadets) which was considered to be one of the most prestigious assignments for a Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army. He considered the assignment at West Point to be one of the highlights of his military career. In 1958 he was the first person promoted to E8 under the newly established E8-E9 program. He was subsequently assigned as Sergeant Major, HQ, USCC, until his reassignment to Europe in 1960.

His next assignments included: 1960-64, Sergeant Major, 1st ARB, 46th Inf., and 3rd Bde., 24th Inf. Div, Munich, Germany; 1964-67, Senior Enlisted Advisor, 41st Infantry Division, Oregon Army National Guard, Portland, OR.

In January-February 1968 he was Command Sergeant Major of the 5/46th Inf., 198th Light Infantry Brigade at Ft. Hood, TX. He prepared the battalion for its movement to Vietnam and went with

the unit to Vietnam. He was CSM of the 5/46th until May 1968. He then assumed duties as CSM of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade at LZ Baldy. He served in this capacity until December 1968.



CSM James Penny Meade

In December 1968 CSM Meade was selected by MG Charles Gettys, Commanding Officer of the Americal Division, to be the CSM of the Americal Division. The Americal Division, including attached units, was the largest division in the world. It was a great honor for him to hold this position. (It was on the battlefield.)

On his return from Vietnam he served at the following posts: 1970, CSM, The School Brigade, Ft. Benning, GA; 1971, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Oregon Army National Guard; 1971, Post CSM, Ft. Monroe, VA. In 1972 CSM Meade returned to Vietnam to be the CSM of MG Frederick J. Kroesen, Commanding General, 24th Corps. In 1973 he was assigned as CSM of Support Command, Ft. Jackson, SC.

In 1974 he began a voluntary tour in Korea as CSM, 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div. followed by a post as CSM of the 2nd Inf. Div. His final military assignment was as CSM, 19th Support Command, Taegu, Korea. He retired on 1 July 1977 after 31 years of duty.

CSM Meade's citations and decorations include the following: Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster; Bronze Star with V and four Oak Leaf Clusters; Meritorious Service Medal; Air medal with Oak Leaf Clusters (11 awards); Army Commendation Medal with V and one Oak Leaf Cluster; Presidential Unit Citation, Philippines; Combat Infantry Badge with one star.

He was an active member of the Oregon Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, serving as president in 1989. He was a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association serving one term on the Executive Council. In 1996 he gave a memorable tribute to veterans of WWII and Vietnam as keynote speaker at the ADVA National Reunion in Reno, NV. His vision led to the combined reunion of the ADVA and the 196th LIB Association in St. Louis in 1999. This was to be his last reunion.

Two of CSM Meade's sons also served in South Vietnam. One, a helicopter pilot was shot down in 1967 and remains 100% disabled. The other son, a 1LT with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, was killed in action by an exploding mine in 1970.

CSM Meade was married on 15 Oct. 1977 to Sue Lee of Seoul, Korea. He resided in Beaverton, OR at the time of his death.



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.*

*The first part of this story was printed in the OCT-NOV-DEC 2000 edition of the Americal Newsletter. This is the final part. -The Editor-*

### The words of Dr. Hal Kushner:

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 in the Army. These guys looked horrible. They wore black PJs, 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 around a creek, with a hole in the ground for a latrine. This was the first of five camps we lived in the South-all depressingly similar, although sometimes we had a separate building for a kitchen and sometimes we were able to pipe in water through bamboo pipes from a nearby stream.

**No Escape.** I asked one of the Marines, the man captured longest and the leader, if escape was possible. He told me that he and a special forces CPT had tried to escape the year before and the CPT had been beaten to death, while he had been put in stocks for 90 days, having to defecate in his hands and throw it away from him or lie in it.

The next day I was called before the camp commander and chastised and yelled at for suggesting escape. My fellow PW then told me never to say anything to him that I didn't want revealed, because the Vietnamese controlled his mind. I threatened to kill him for informing on me. He just smiled and said I would learn.

**Others released.** Our captors promised us that if we made progress and understood the evils of the war they would release us. And the next day, they released the two Puerto Ricans and 14 ARVNs PWs. The people released wore red sashes and gave anti-war speeches. Just before the

release, they brought in another 7 American PWs from the 196th Light Bde who were captured in the TET offensive of '68. I managed to write our names, ranks and serial numbers on a piece of paper and slip it to one of the PWs who was released. They transported the information home and in Mar 68 and our families learned we had been captured alive.

*They died of their wounds, disease, malnutrition, and starvation. One was shot while trying to escape.*

**Grim statistics.** We were held in a series of jungle camps from Jan. 68 to Feb. 71. At this time, conditions were so bad and we were doing so poorly, that they decided to move us to North Vietnam. They moved 12 of us. In all, 27 Americans had come through the camp. Five had been released and ten had died. They died of their wounds, disease, malnutrition and starvation. One was shot while trying to escape. All but one died in my arms after a lingering, terrible illness.

Five West German nurses in a neutral nursing organization, called the Knights of Malta, similar to our own Red Cross, had been picked up (I always thought by mistake) by the VC in the spring of 69. Three of them died and the other two were taken to North Vietnam in 1969 and held until the end of the war.

The twelve who made it were moved to North Vietnam on foot. The fastest group, of which I was one, made it in 57 days. The slowest group took about 180 days. It was about 900km. We walked through Laos and Cambodia to the Ho Chi Minh trail and then up the trail across the DMZ until Vinh. At Vinh, we took a train 180 miles to Hanoi in about 18 hours. We traveled with thousands of ARVN PWs who had been captured in Lam Song 719, an ARVN incursion into Laos in 1971.

**Arrival in Hanoi.** Once in Hanoi, we stayed in an old French prison called The Citadel or as we said, The Plantation until Christmas 72 when the Xmas bombing destroyed Hanoi. Then we were moved to the Hoa Lo or Hanoi Hilton for about three months. The peace was signed in Jan 73 and I came home on Mar 16 with the fourth group.

In the North we were in a rough jail. There was bucket in the windowless, cement room used as a latrine. An electric bulb was on 24 hours. We got a piece of bread and a cup of pumpkin soup each day

and three cups of hot water. We slept on pallets of wood and wore PJs and sandals and got three tailor made cigarettes per day. We dry shaved and bathed with a bucket from a well twice per week, got out of the cell to carry our latrine bucket daily.

Towards the end, they let us exercise. There were no letters or packages for us from the south, but I understood some of the pilots who had been there awhile got some things. In the summer, it was 120 in the cell and they gave us little bamboo fans. But there were officers and a rank structure and commo done through a tap code.

No one died. It was hard duty, but not the grim struggle for survival which characterized daily life in the camps in the south. In the north, I knew I would survive. In the south, we often wanted to die. I knew that when they ordered us north, I would make it. In the south, each day was a struggle for survival.

**Conditions in the South.** There were between three and twenty-four PWs at all times. We ate three coffee cups of rice per day. In the rainy season, the ration was cut to two cups. I'm not talking about nice white rice, Uncle Ben's. I'm talking about rice that was red, rotten, and eaten out by bugs and rats, cached for years, shot through with rat feces and weevils. We arose at 4:00, cooked rice on wood ovens made of mud.

*We did slave labor during the day, gathering wood, carrying rice, building hootches, or going for manioc...*

We couldn't burn a fire in the daytime or at night unless the flames and smoke were hidden, so we had these ovens constructed of mud which covered the fire and tunnels which carried the smoke away. We did slave labor during the day, gathering wood, carrying rice, building hootches, or going for manioc, a starchy tuberous plant like a potato.

The Vietnamese had chickens and canned food. We never got supplements unless we were close to dying then maybe some canned sardines or milk. We died from lack of protein and calories. We swelled up with what is called hungry edema and beriberi. We had terrible skin disease, dysentery, and malaria. Our compound was littered with piles of human excrement because people were just too sick or weak to make it to the latrine.

We slept on one large pallet of bamboo. So the sick vomited and defecated and urinated on the bed and his neighbor. For the first two years, we had no shoes, clothes, mosquito nets or blankets. Later, in late 69, we got sandals, rice sacks for blankets, and a set of clothes.

We nursed each other and helped each other, but we also fought and bickered. In a PW situation the best and the worst come out. Any little flaw transforms itself into a glaring lack. The strong can rule the weak. There is no law and no threat of retribution. I can report to you that the majority of the time, the Americans stuck together, helped each other and the strong helped the weak.

**No structure.** But there were exceptions and sometimes the stronger took advantage of the weaker ones. There was no organization, no rank structure. The VC forbid the men from calling me Doc, and made me the latrine orderly to break down rank structure. I was officially forbidden from practicing medicine. But I hoarded medicine, had the men fake malaria attacks and dysentery so we could acquire medicine and keep it until we needed it. Otherwise, it might not come.

I tried to advise the men about sanitary conditions, about nutrition and to keep clean, active and eat everything we could; rats, bugs, leaves, etc. We had some old rusty razor blades, and I did minor surgery, lancing boils, removing foreign bodies, etc. with them, but nothing major.

At one time, in the summer of 68, I was offered the chance to work in a VC hospital and receive a higher ration. The NVA Political Officer, who made the offer and was there to indoctrinate us, said it had been done in WW II. I didn't believe him and didn't want to do it anyway, so I refused and took my chances. Later, upon return, I learned that American Army doctors in Europe in WW II, had indeed worked in hospitals treating German soldiers.

But I'm glad now I did what I did. We had a 1st Sergeant who had been in Korea and in WW II. He died in the fall of 68 and we were forbidden from calling him "Top". The VC broke him fast. I was not allowed to practice medicine unless a man was 30 minutes away from dying, then they came down with their little bottles of medicine and said "Cure him!"

**Illness and death.** At one point we were all dying of dysentery and I agreed to sign a propaganda statement in return for chloromycetin, a strong antibiotic, to treat our sick. Most of us were seriously ill, although a few never got sick, maintained

their health and their weight. I never figured it out. When a man died, we buried him in a bamboo coffin and said some words over his grave and marked it with a pile of rocks. I was forced to sign a death certificate in Vietnamese. I did this 13 times. The worst period was the fall of 68. We lost five men between September and Christmas.

Shortly before the end of Nov., I thought I was going to lose my mind. All of these fine young strong men were dying. It would have been so easy to live, just nutrition, fluids, and antibiotics. I knew what to do, but had no means to help them. I was depressed and didn't care whether I lived or died myself. At this time, we were simply starving to death.

*I was beaten very badly, tied up with commo wire very tightly for over a day.*

**The commander's cat.** As an example of how crazy we were, we decided to kill the camp commander's cat. Several of us killed it, and skinned it. We cut off its head and paws and it dressed out to about three pounds. We were preparing to boil it when one of the guards came down and asked us what was going on. We told him we had killed a weasel by throwing a rock. The guards raised chickens and the chickens were always being attacked by weasels. Well, the guard, who was a Montagnard, an aborigine, found the feet, and knew it was the cat.

The situation became very serious. The guards and cadre were mustered. it was about 3 am. The prisoners were lined up and a Marine and I were singled out to be beaten. He was almost beaten to death. I was beaten badly, tied up with commo wire very tightly (I thought my hands would fall off and knew I would never do surgery again) for over a day.

I had to bury the cat. And I was disappointed I didn't get to eat it. That's how crazy I was. Shortly thereafter, the Marine who had been beaten so badly died. He didn't have to. He simply gave up, like so many. Marty Seligman, a professor of psychology at University of Pennsylvania has written a book about these feelings called Learned Helplessness and Death. The Marine simply lay on his bamboo bed, refused to eat, wash or get up and died.

**Nothing worked.** So many did this. We tried to force them to eat, and to be active, but nothing worked. It was just too hard. This Marine wavered in and out of coma for about two weeks. It was around Thanksgiving, the end of November. The

rains had been monstrous and our compound was a muddy morass littered with piles of feces.

David Harker of Lynchburg, VA and I sat up with him all night. He hadn't spoken coherently for over a week. Suddenly, he opened his eyes and looked right at me. He said, "Mom, dad. I love you very much. Box 10, Dubberly, Louisiana." That was Nov 68.

**Coming home.** We all escaped the camp in the south. Five were released as propaganda gestures. Ten Americans and three Germans died and twelve Americans and two Germans made it back. I am the only PW who was captured before the end of 67 to survive that camp. I came back Mar 16, 1973 and stayed in the hospital in Valley Forge, PA for a month getting fixed up with several operations and then went on convalescent leave.

The first thing I did was go to Dubberly, LA and see the Marine's father. His parents had divorced while he was captured. I went to see five of the families of those that died and called the others on the phone.

*I learned about loyalty to your country and its ideals and to your friends and comrades.*

**Learning experience.** It was a terrible experience, but there is some good to come from it. I learned a lot. I learned about the human spirit. I learned about confidence in yourself. I learned about loyalty to your country and its ideals and to your friends and comrades. No task would ever be too hard again. I had renewed respect for what we have and swore to learn my country's history in depth (I have done it) and to try to contribute to my community and set an example for my children and employees.

I stayed on active duty until 77 when I was honorably discharged and entered the reserve from which I retired as an O-6 in 86. I have a busy medical practice down in Florida and been remarkably successful. I am active in my community and despite being drenched with Agent Orange a number of times and having some organs removed, have enjoyed great health. Except for some arthritis and prostate trouble, I'm doing great. So I was lucky. very lucky and I'm so thankful for that. I'm thankful for my life and I have no bitterness. I feel so fortunate to have survived and flourished when so many braver, stronger and better trained men did not.



My name is Terry Wyrick. I served in Vietnam with C Co., 1/52nd Infantry, 198th LIB from 11/69 to 10/70. In late April 1970 tragedy struck a family living not to far from where I grew up. This story is about the Healing Circle, and how the circle touched the lives of two people years later. This story is dedicated to Irene Corp.

## The Healing Circle

By Terry Wyrick

In early January 1970 Charlie Company was in a day laager in the SON HA region southwest of Chu Lai. A re-supply helicopter landed to bring in mail and supplies. The chopper also brought a new soldier to Charlie Co.

After mail and supplies were passed out the men returned to their separate platoon sections along the perimeter. A couple of hours later Ronnie Battles, a soldier from Tipton, MO, came to me. Along with Ronnie was a tall lanky kid with a big grin on his face. Ronnie said, "Terry, this guy is from where you come from back in the world. This is Jerry Corp. He's from Tecumseh, MO. Jerry, this is Terry Wyrick from Willow Springs, MO."

Jerry and I became great friends. We were in a world of war and a state of mass confusion. I was 18 years old, and Jerry was 19.

Jerry wrote home to tell his folks of meeting me and I wrote home with the same story. Two boys met in Vietnam and found out they grew up 50 miles apart, and knew the same people. As a result, Isom and Irene Corp shared a common bond with Bill and Mary Jane Broyles. Both sets of parents had sons in Charlie Co. 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, Americal Division.

On April 21, 1970 a re-supply helicopter came into Charlie Co.'s day laager to deliver mail and C-rations. Suddenly Viet Cong sniper opened up on the chopper. Captain Fritog yelled, "Third platoon get that son-of-a-bitch." The third platoon left the laager to locate the sniper. I was walking point.

About 150 meters out of the laager I spotted a booby trap on the paddy dike. I cleared a trail around the booby trap and got the platoon past it when the sniper opened up on us from behind. In the confusion Jerry ran back down the paddy dike and was gone forever in an explosion of dust and smoke.

Back home, Bill and Mary Jane Broyles received the word about Jerry Corp. They went to comfort Isom and Irene Corp. The Corps wanted Terry to come visit them and tell them what happened to Jerry the day he died.

I got home on October 31, 1970 and was reminded to go see Isom and Irene. They wanted to talk to me. I couldn't go see them. All I wanted to do was forget about Vietnam and bury it deep. I learned to live with it and not fight the war forever. I came to peace with myself.

I often wondered about the Corps and I asked people in the Tecumseh area where Isom and Irene lived. But I never heard what was being said.

In May 1996 I observed a house as I was passing by. I had wondered who lived there for some years. Then the mail box caught my eye for the first time. The name on it was Irene Corp. I drove away down the road before realizing there was a strange feeling in my chest. I had a strong urge to go back.

I turned around and went back to Irene's house. She wasn't home, but she would be back about 5:30 PM.

I went back to Irene's about 6:00 PM and she met me at the door. I told her who I was and we took each other in our arms and cried a few minutes. We just held on to each other. We had visited

about an hour when a woman walked in and introduced herself as Ceil. She was Jerry's sister. We talked awhile and Ceil asked, "Why did you come today?" I said, "It just felt right." Ceil asked, "Do you know what today is?" I said, "No. Why?" Ceil said, "I'm wondering why you show up for the first time today." I said, "Someone higher up is controlling it. It was just meant to be today. The healing process has made the full circle. You can accept me, and I can accept you." Ceil then told me that she was wondering why I had shown up at their home and come into their lives 26 years later to the day that Jerry was buried, May 7, 1996. With cold chills all over my body all I could say was, "It was just meant to be, the circle has closed."

I visited with Irene until about 11:30 PM. Upon leaving I said to Irene, "You buried your son 26 years ago today. I know I'll never be Jerry and I don't want to be Jerry, but if you think I'm good enough, and you will have me, I'll be your son for the rest of your life." Irene looked at me and said, "I'd like that very much."

The healing circle started with a dot. As tragedy came into Irene's life the dot started moving in a 360 degree circle. The circle was completed on May 7, 1996, when two strangers came into each others lives. They came to fill a great void and accept and love each other and to share a life as mother and son. Mom Corp and I are very close.

For Christmas 1999 I gave Mom Corp a gift Certificate. A few days later Mom called me and said, "Son, I got what I wanted for Christmas. I got a mother's ring and your birthstone is in it. You're my son and always will be."

That was the greatest medal anyone could receive from war. A medal of honor with a common bond.

Mom Corp will always be just Mom. I love you Mom Corp.

## Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. Reunion 2001

C/1/52 Vets  
(clockwise)  
Jay Flanagan  
Larry Watson  
Vinnie Tabor  
John Stringer  
Bill Oberle  
Harry Wilmoth  
(Photo by Wyrick)



The 2001 reunion of Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. will be at the Radisson Hotel St. Louis Airport, 1128 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044, July 20-21, 2001. The special rate is \$69.00 plus tax until 6/20/01. Reservations can be made by calling [redacted] or [redacted]. A hospitality suite has been reserved from 8:00 PM on Friday until midnight on Saturday. Please bring food and drinks. For more information contact Terry Wyrick, P.O. Box 172, Cabool, MO 65689, [redacted].

Looking For: Members of D Co., 3/21st Inf., 1969-1970. Daniel Phillips, [redacted]

Tallassee, AL, 36078, [redacted]  
Looking For: Freddie McDonald and Larry Ferris, Co. A, 4/3rd Inf, 11th LIB, left Hawaii on US Gorden, 12/67. Contact: Tim Long, [redacted]

[redacted], Carbon, IN, 47837, [redacted]

Looking For: Members of 1st Plt, 23rd MP Co, 11th LIB, Oct. 68-Feb. 69, especially Captain George Harris, Plt. Ldr. Contact: Larry B. Gelnett, [redacted], Pocasset, MA, 02559-3018, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone who knew William H. Hopkins, my father, who served with the 182nd Infantry. He was in the Army 1939-1946 and was from Lawrence, MA. Contact: Michael Hopkins, [redacted], Dunkirk, MD, 20754

Looking For: Brig. Gen. George H. Young, Jr., who was the ADC to General Koster in Vietnam ('67-'68). He was a friend of my father, Jack Long, who was killed in Jan. '68. Contact: Chris Long Henson, [redacted], Columbus, GA, 31904, [redacted]

Looking For: Ron, 31 March '70 to 7 Feb. 71, Co. D, 23rd Med. Contact: Sam Bullington, [redacted], Grantsburg, IN, 47123

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 69-70. Contact: 'RC' Tom Zanoth, [redacted], Silver Lake, MN, 55381, [redacted]

Looking For: Jerry (Gerald?) Shelton and others, CDR, Co. B, 1/20th Inf., at Schofield in '67. Contact: Tom Sillen, [redacted], Sausalito, CA, 94965

Looking For: Jack Miller, Larry Johnson, Ramos, Clause Moore, B Btry., 1/14th Arty (Commo), July 69-70. Contact: Ron Allen, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, D Co., 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, Jan.-Feb., 1971. I was wounded Feb. 1971. Records are lost. After hospital stay assigned to 335th Trans Co. Contact: Heriberto Rivas, Jr., [redacted], San Benito, TX, 78586

Looking For: Anyone, 11th LIB, 67-68, HQ Co. Contact: David Stacy Freed, [redacted], Covington, IN, 47932, [redacted]

Looking For: James H. Horton, Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB. Contact: Al

Keck, [redacted]  
Connecticut, Cleveland, OH, 44105

Looking For: 23rd MP Co. reunion planned for June, 2001 in Cleveland, Ohio. Contact: Paul C. Stiff, [redacted]  
Troy, MI, 48099, [redacted]

Looking For: CPT Wall/Walls, S4 OIC, HHC, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 68/69. Contact: Carl Hudson, [redacted]

[redacted], Enterprise, AL, 36330, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB, 6/71-10/71. VA is trying to deny claim since my MOS is listed as A36K29 (wireman) on DD 214. Contact: Clifford Hill, [redacted]

Jackson, TN, 38302

Looking For: Foy from Wyoming, April, 70-71, Co. B, 26th Combat Engrs. Contact: Howard Manger, [redacted]

[redacted], West Orange, NJ, 07052, [redacted]

Looking For: George Rowe. This man served with my father in the 11th LIB. Contact: Christi, [redacted], Vossburg, MS, 39366, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone who knew Pvt. Horace A. Bentley, 182nd Inf. Regt., Americal Div. He was killed March 31, 1945 on Cebu. He is my father in law and I have four children who would like to find some information on him. Bently's son Carlton was only 7 yrs old when his father died. It would mean so much to us all. Contact: Sonja Bentley, [redacted], Bakersfield, CA, 93380

Looking For: Anyone, 1st plt, B Co., 1/6, 198th LIB, Sept 1968 to Dec 1968. I was hit in the Rocket Pocket on Dec. 27, 1968 and lost track of all but Art Rollin and Rod Davis. Contact: Dan Gross, [redacted], Schererville, IN, 46375

Looking For: Anyone that knew Oliver Conrad Manuel from Elbert, Texas. He was in the Americal Division in the Philippines in WW2 as scout in an infantry platoon. Contact: John Judah [redacted], Balch Springs, TX, 75180

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 1/52, 198th, 9-21-68 to 5-19-69, the with 23rd Admin. Co. APO post office until 10-21-69. Contact: Art Taylor, [redacted], First St., Oakridge, OR, 97463, [redacted]

## ADVA Website News

### Internet Service Provider

VERIO continues to provide internet service to the ADVA website free of charge. This is a very valuable contribution to the association. VERIO upgraded services to the ADVA website this summer and allows americal.org 250 megabytes of storage. We express our sincere appreciation to VERIO for their continued support.

### Locator Service

The ADVA web locator is on the internet at [www.americal.org/locator](http://www.americal.org/locator). It currently has hundreds of posts from Americal Division veterans looking for lost buddies. Check there to see if anyone is looking for you. Post your request there and someone may find you.

The ADVA web locator has been in existence for five years. It was started in December, 1995 as part of the ADVA website. It is a very successful site and many vets have been reunited through the locator service.

The locator service was founded by SFC Anthony E. (Tony) Greene. SFC Greene is currently assigned to Ft. Drum, NY as part of the 10th Mountain Division. He is quickly approaching the 20 year mark in the Army. He continues to administer the ADVA locator with updates every 30-60 days.

### Guestbook

For the past three months the ADVA guestbook has been "on automatic." Previous to this time all guestbook posts were edited by ADVA webmasters.

Development work on the guestbook is performed by Kevin Sartorius. The current trial version is under consideration for permanent adoption on the website.

Many veterans are posting locator requests to the guestbook. This was not always allowed under the old version. Locator requests to the new guestbook are allowed to remain there.

Veterans are encouraged to use the locator pages for locator requests as they are categorized and searchable on the locator. They are not categorized or searchable on the guestbook.

### Electronic Directory

The electronic directory currently lists several hundred Americal veterans. They can be located by name, unit, and current city of residence. If you have posted to the directory in the past please check to see that your information is still current. This is of particular need if you have changed e-mail address since your initial posting. The electronic directory is maintained by Gary L. Noller.



Looking For: Lt. Randall (Randy) Clark, C Co., 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, Mar. 69 to Aug 69. Contact: Jim McCloughan, [REDACTED], South Haven, MI, 49090, [REDACTED]

Looking For: 39th Engineers. Contact: Terry Rossiter, [REDACTED], Bloomfield Hills, MI, 49304, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Gerry Ford, C Co., 2/1st Inf., 66-67. Contact: Charles W. Rowell, [REDACTED], Zumbrota, MN, 55992, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 11th Brigade, B Co., 4/21st Inf., also E Co., March 7, 1970 to April 21, 1971. Contact: Martin Gentile, [REDACTED], Newtown Square, PA, 19073, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Information on Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB. I had a very good friend, James Donald Gibson, who was killed July 27, 1969. James' unit was on a search and clear operation near the village of Ngai Lai, approximately 5 miles southeast of Ha My City, in the Quang Nam Province. Contact: Jack Gaskins, [REDACTED], Yanceyville, NC, 27379, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Men from 3rd platoon, C Co., 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB, late winter/spring '68. I was Platoon Leader and WIA on 6/12/68. The following men from my platoon were wounded at the same time. The names are directly from the S2/S3 Daily Journal/Log Entry for 1000 Hours: SSG Peter G. Molyneaux, SGT Elmer Koenig, SP4 Bobby Williamson, SP4 Winfred Storie, PFC Kenneth B. Knotts (my RTO), PFC Jackie L. Catron, PFC Robert W. Compton, PFC Wayne E. Daniels (my medic). Contact: James Patrick Casey, [REDACTED]-county.org. D.A. Office: [REDACTED], Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who served with B Co., 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 1966, who knew James D. Brewer, who served with this unit from 7/15/66 until with the 4th inf. Div in early 1967. Contact: Charlie Brewer, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Looking For: SFC King, Mess Sergeant, 4/21st Inf., 9 April 68; Specialist Eisenbar or Eisenbart, awards clerk 23rd Admin, 1969; 1LT Michael F. Murnin, Co. D, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. Contact: Jan F. Milles, [REDACTED]

Looking For: A large soul brother that went by the name of Whispers, HHC, 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB, 1971. Contact: Kenneth Shunatona, [REDACTED], Wichita, KS, 67213, [REDACTED]

Looking for: Anyone who knew Drew Hatfield, Co. C, 1/46th Inf., KIA 3/28/71 on FSB Mary Ann. Contact: Thomas Adkins, [REDACTED], Accoville, WV, 25606, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Dostal, Ivan. F Troop, 17th Cav., 196th LIB, 1968-69. Contact: Berj Manoushagian, [REDACTED], Cambridge, MA, 02140-1120, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Jimmy Crow, 523rd Sig. Bn., 10/70-6/71. Contact: Ray Fawkes, [REDACTED], Carol Stream, IL, 60188, [REDACTED]

Looking For: James Fuller, 3/82nd Arty., LZ Baldy, 10/68-4/27/69, or anyone who can provide information on Mr. Kendrick, KIA 5/13/69. Contact: Elmer Johnson, [REDACTED], Pittsfield, MA, 01201, [REDACTED]

Looking For: LTC Albert L. Russell Jr., commander of the 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, 1968. Zane E. Ward, [REDACTED], Alexandria, IN, 46001, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Co. D, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, 1970-1971. Contact: Billy Wagner, [REDACTED], Pineville, KY, [REDACTED]

Looking For: All those that served in the 1/82 FA. Please check in at our web site. We have gathered the names of almost 500 former members and have contacted about a hundred and would like to find all of you. Contact: Ron Griffin, [REDACTED], Oshkosh, WI, 54901, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Wesson, Catron, Skoll, Bodine, Johnson, Knots, Burnett, 11th LIB, Co. C, 3/1st Inf., 11/67 to 9/68. Contact: David Allen {Sgt. Rock} [REDACTED], Tuscaloosa, AL, 35403, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, mortar platoon, of Co. E, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, October 1967-68. Contact: Ted Fowler, [REDACTED], Aberdeen, SD, 57401, [REDACTED]

[www.americal.org/locator](http://www.americal.org/locator)

Looking For: John Fishenick, Steve Lamarand, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, Echo Recon, 70-71. Contact: Joe Walsh, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Joe Earl Wilkerson (GA), - Buddy Nettles Jr (NC), Btry. B, 3/82nd Arty., 67-68. Contact: Ed Denbraven, [REDACTED], Mays Landing, NJ, 08330, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 67-68, Co. B, 8th Spt. Bn., 196th LIB. I need help on a claim. My sergeants were Clayton Savior and Jesus Garcia. Contact: Van Wilkerson, [REDACTED], Atkins, AR, 72823, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. E, 26th Engr. Bn., Oct. 68 to Nov. 69. I remember LT. Williams, Carruters, Olivas, Lopez, Chavez, Carlos Amy, the water point boddy, Jhonson. I need help to support my case with V.A. Contact: Carlos Ortiz, [REDACTED], Webster, FL, 33597, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anybody, 2/1st Inf., Co. E Recon, Aug 69-Oct 70. Contact: Don Lair, [REDACTED], Monticello, Kentucky, KY, 42633, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Eugene Lyons, HQs, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 68-69, was Operations Sgt. in BTOC. Contact: Jim Trepoy, [REDACTED], Salina, KS 67401-6663, [REDACTED]

Looking For: B Co., 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 3/69-3/70. Contact: Charles Franklin, [REDACTED], Columbia, MD, 21045-2511, 410-997-9138

Looking For: Steven Cross and James Stephens, 196th LIB, Co. D, 2/1st Inf., August 71-June 72. Contact: Stephen E. Carlomusto, [REDACTED], Cranston, RI, 02910, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 258th Personnel Services Company, Ft. Hood, June 1967, to Task Force Oregon and Americal Division. Contact: David J. Boe, [REDACTED], San Diego, CA, 92167, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Jim Fuller or anyone who was at LZ Baldy with the 3/82nd Arty., 10/68 - 5/69. I am look for some information especially around 5/13/69. Contact: Elmer Johnson, [REDACTED], Pittsfield, MA, 01201, [REDACTED]

*The following are excerpts from the Americal Division newspaper Southern Cross, No. 3-13, April, 1970. Provided by Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian.*

#### SOLDIERS COMPETE NAME GAME

CHU LAI - Enola Gay, lady that she was, achieved her fame during the final months of WWII. She was the B-29 Strato-fortress that dropped THE first atomic bomb on Japan.

The B-29 endeared with the title Enola Gay was not alone. Nearly all the aircraft that flew in WWII carried the personal touch of its crew: a girl's name, a cartoon, a caricature, etc. Those WWII aviators, in their attempt to add a little bit of home to their olive-drab aircraft, started a custom that has carried through to the present involvement in Vietnam.

A walk through any flight line in the 14 CAB will tell the story. Most of the aircraft carry the mark of their crews, names they have affectionately chosen to personalize their craft. Some names tell a story, other immortalize a song or rock group and still others leave the onlooker with questioning stare.

White Lighting, a 132nd ASH Chinook, was named by a homesick Missourian. Rumor has it that the crew chief's father was involved in a little under-the-table bootlegging and the name White Lightning made him feel a little closer to home.

SP4 Edward Madarus, 132nd ASHC crew chief, flies on a ship called the Virgin Hunter. He explained, "There's no special way the guys pick a name. They just put their heads together and throw names back and forth 'til they find one they all like."

One of the biggest inspirations seems to be today's rock music. Lady Will Power, Foxy Lady and Day Tripper can all be attributed to a popular song, and Iron Butterfly was borrowed from a fairly well known rock group.

Baby Sister, a 174th ASHC ship, has a little history behind its name. Crew chief SP5 Thomas Harmon (Dallas) named his first ship Big Sister. It was shot down. His next ship was called Little Sister. It made a hard landing and was shipped out for repairs. Big Sister and Little Sister gone, he had no recourse but to name his third, and yes, last ship Baby Sister.

SP5 John Martin (Cleveland), fight engineer with 178 ASHC, came up with the name Turnabout for his ship. He related, "I just got sick of the usual names. I wanted something opposite, turned around. Couldn't think of anything really original so I just called it Turnabout."

One ship received its affectionate title after being grounded quite a few times for mechanical failures. The crew very appropriately named it The Rag.

Most of the names are accompanied by complimentary drawings and illustrations painted on the craft by the crews with various degrees of artistry and detail. (14th CAB IO)

#### CHAPLAINS ORATE SERMONS IN FIELD

CHU LAI -- With a gun pit as a Cathedral and a portable tape recorder as an organ, two Division chaplains brought the religious spirit of Easter to artillerymen on 14 forward firebases.

Chaplain (MAJ) Douglas F. Nelson (Houston, Tex.) and Chaplain (CPT) Carl L. D'Agostino (Cleveland, Ohio), both chaplains of Div. Arty., planned to reach as many of the forward firebases as possible during the Holy Week that ended with Easter.

The chaplains hitched rides with aviators from Div. Arty., and they carried the church with them on the helicopter. Once at the firebase, they would make use of whatever facility was available. The services took place in dayrooms, in mess halls and even in a gun pit.

The ceremony was no different from any worship service. The service included a sermon, communion, and even group singing. The music was provided by a tape recorder that Chaplain Nelson had purchased the week before.

In eight days, the chaplains visited 14 firebases in addition to performance of normal duties in the Chu Lai area. They held 44 services during the period, and on one particular day the chaplains combined efforts to hold 16 services. "I've never done anything quite like this before," said Chaplain Nelson, the Protestant chaplain who is in his second Vietnam tour. "The response we received from the men made all the effort worthwhile."

For the almost 1,000 men who attended the services, next Easter will be happier. Most of them will be in familiar surroundings with loved ones.

But the memory of the Easter service on a lonely firebase in a war-torn country, provided by two dedicated men of God may linger in the memory for a long time to come. (Div. Arty. IO)

#### BG ATTEBERRY: AMCAL ADC

CHU LAI - During a recent brief ceremony at division headquarters, BG Roy L. Atteberry was designated as assistant division commander, support.

His most recent assignment was at Headquarters, U.S. Army Combat Developments command. On a previous tour in Vietnam, GEN Atteberry commanded the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. He began his command of the unit when it was still assigned in the States. During that same tour, he was assigned Chief of Surface, Plans and Operations Division, Headquarters, MACV.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy, GEN Atteberry has done graduate work in International Relations at Georgetown University. He holds the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters.

#### MEDCAP TEAM TREATS VIETS

LZ HAWK HILL - They treat over 500 Vietnamese patients a month. Their duties have ranged from curing routine skin ailments to saving the life of a mother in childbirth. "They" are the members of the mobile Medcap (Medical Civil Action Program) team of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde., Americal Div.

The Medcap team includes a doctor, a clinical technician and two medics. The team performs medical services for the small villages surrounding this firebase.

On a typical working day the team is invited to Binh An, seven miles northwest of Tam Ky, by the village chief. ILT William Bacon (Roswell, N.M.), civil affairs officer, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., journeys to the village and surveys the many thatched-roof hooches that line the street. ILT Bacon decides that the white masonry meeting hall in the center of the village would be the best place to house the team.

Frequently, the ailment is not so routine. Late one day the team was holding a Medcap in a small bare building. A woman had just given birth to a baby in the hooch next door.

The team rushed next door and found the woman near death from loss of blood during childbirth. One of the doctors felt the woman's pulse; it was almost nonexistent. Quickly he gave her a blood expander, then drew and watched. "Her pulse began to rise," recalled 1 LT Walker. "We knew she was going to live."

Medical evac. helicopters-dust-offs-are available to the medical team. "If a person needs immediate help we can have him to the hospital within minutes," claims Walker. "During one Medcap, a woman was bitten in the eye by a snake. We called in the dust-off ship and flew her straight to Da Nang." For less serious cases the patients are referred to the South Vietnamese hospital in Tam Ky.



## Pacific Stars and Stripes

### 01Feb69- Americal Div. Unit Wins Valor Award

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) - "For extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations" the 1st Bn., 6th Inf., 198th Inf. Brigade received the U.S. Army Valorous Unit Award.

The battalion - the first unit in the Americal Division to win this award - at the time of the action was comprised of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., and Companies A, B, C, and E (Company D joined the unit later).

While conducting a search operation south of hamlet of Lo Giang (1) in Quang Nam Province last Feb. 7, C Co. was pinned down by a heavy attack from an enemy force of unknown size. A Co. moved from north of the hamlet to help out, but came under a barrage of small arms, rocket and mortar fire, causing several casualties and forcing them to withdraw.

The lead element held their ground to cover the withdrawing remainder of the company, and engaged the Viet Cong in savage hand-to-hand combat to halt a human wave attack that followed the barrage. Their inspired fighting temporarily repulsed the enemy, and enabled the rest of the company to regroup and launch a counterattack which drove the VC back into the hamlet.

At the same time B Co. arrived and waded in to help out the beleaguered C Co. in repelling the Communists.

The three companies then completely destroyed the Viet Cong force. They killed more than 250 that there was evidence that the VC had removed an additional 300 dead or wounded from the area.

### Tiger Hunt By GIs Fail

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special)

-A fast-moving tiger invaded the Chu Lai defensive perimeter and gave the Americal Div. guards a taste of big game hunting.

The big cat slipped in through the perimeter wire along Highway 1 about 3:30 p.m., and moved out at a fast pace, keeping guards on extra-special alert within the area. There were no injuries.

One nervous soldier reported to the command bunker that the tiger "... wasn't the largest I've ever seen, but he wasn't the smallest, either." Other soldiers who briefly glimpsed the running beast estimated his weight at about 250 pounds.

At dawn, a helicopter with sharpshooters aboard and a ground patrol began a detailed search of the Chu Lai area without success.

### 18Feb69-Revamp Americal Division

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON-The Americal Division whose three self-supporting brigades have been helping fight the war in South Vietnam's upper provinces, is being reorganized as a standard infantry division.

The streamlining of support elements will reduce the division by 750 personnel slots. Military authorities said the reorganization was to be effective Sunday.

Activated Sept. 25, 1967, the Americal is composed of the 11th, 196th and 198th Light Inf. Brigades. The brigades were originally deployed to Vietnam as separate brigades and as such had their service support elements.

With the continuing U.S. manpower buildup in Vietnam, including arrival of the 101st Airborne Div., U.S. officials say, "It has been determined that the flexibility of a standard infantry division was sufficient and that a reorganization of the Americal Div. permitting the redistribution of 750 spaces, was feasible."

The officials maintain that the four separate brigades still operating in Vietnam - the 199th Light Inf., the 173rd Airborne, the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Div., and the 1st Brigade, 5th Inf. (mechanized) - provide enough of the old Americal-style flexibility for allied purposes at this time.

### 24Feb69-Goodies Better Late Than Never for GI

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) - Last Christmas, when everyone was receiving packages from the Red Cross and other organizations, Spec. 4 Ronald F. Blage of C Co., 26th Engr. Bn. was not so fortunate.

The company had run out of "goody bags" when it was his turn to receive one. Spec. 4 Gregory Homme, also of C Co. came to the rescue and gave Blage a pack of cigarettes from his own package.

The engineers noticed the pack had a slip of paper inside the cellophane wrapper indicating the gift was from the Passaic Valley (N.J.) Elks Lodge. Blage felt that even though it was a small gift, a note of thanks was in order.

In early February, Blage received a reply to his note. The note was so warmed by his response that they sent him a letter and package weighing more than 12 pounds.

Among the assortment inside, was a 2 1/2 foot Danish sausage and a 5-pound block of cheese.

The lodge wrote, "We believe that this is the least we can do compared to what you are doing for us back in the States."

### 02Feb69- 300 Reds Die in Widespread Viet Clashes

By SPEC. 4 JAMES LINN, S&S Staff Correspondent  
SAIGON - New battles erupted in widespread areas of South Vietnam Thursday. Almost all of them were costly to the Communists.

Allied spokesmen said Friday that more than 30 enemy troops had been killed in clashes from the mountains west of Da Nang to the Mekong Delta.

At least 72 Reds were killed when Leathernecks of the 7th Regt., 1st Marine Div., battled a sizable enemy force northeast of An Hoa, about 40 miles northeast of Da Nang. American casualties were six wounded.

Marines of the same regiment chalked up eight enemy kills as Operation Linn River, centered just west of Hoi An City, near Da Nang, entered its fourth day. The multi-battalion search and clear operation has also netted seven enemy suspects detained. Marine losses so far have been five killed and 17 wounded.

Also in the northern provinces Thursday, GIs of the Americal Div.'s 198th Light Inf. Brigade killed 14 enemy soldiers in a combat sweep about 11 miles southwest of Tam Ky. There were no American casualties.

Other Americal units killed 37 Communist soldiers in several clashes around Quang Ngai City.

Meanwhile, an unknown-size enemy force, infiltrated a rural hamlet near Tam Ky City, about 35 miles southeast of Da Nang. The Communists killed six civilians, including a woman. South Vietnamese Popular Forces returned the Reds' fire but enemy losses were unknown.

**Editor's note:** These articles originally appeared in *Stars and Stripes* in February, 1969. Thanks to ADVA Vietnam Historian Les Hines with assistance from Jay Roth for transcriptions of these selections. Contact Les Hines for more information about computer compact discs containing these and other items of interest.

## Flag of Our Fathers

by James Bradley and Ron Powers

Bantam Books, May 2000

### Review by Dave "Doc" Williams

*Flag of Our Fathers* is a 350-page story about "Doc" Bradley, the author's father, and the five other men who raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi. It is a well referenced and documented work, and reflective in its content, both within and in between the lines.

The portraits painted by James Bradley and Ron Powers about the invasion of Iwo Jima crosses the battlefields of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Vietnam. These connections between the combat environments and the silence experienced by many veterans are major messages of this book.

Throughout his life, Doc Bradley never once mentioned his involvement at Iwo Jima. Only after his death did his wife and eight bothers and sisters discover the many photos and documents hidden away at his office. His father did not speak of his involvement, his Navy Cross, his comrades. This startling realization of his father's participation sent the author on a four year mission to document his father's and his father's buddies' actions on Iwo Jima.

Bradley's book allows the reader the privilege to go through the life experiences of the six man-boys who hoisted the American flag over Iwo Jima. The gripping adventure through war history has its questionable dates, most missed by many references. However, the book stays on track with the story and emotions of war. The common theme that pervades the book is *what makes men and boys fight in such hell?* The worse the terrain the worse it becomes for the attacker and the better it becomes for the defender.

From Chapter 20 of *Flags of Our Fathers* comes this quote from Wm. "Bull" Halsey: "There are no great men. Just great challenges which ordinary men, out of necessity, are forced by circumstances to meet."

Being a war vet, a Vietnam vet in particular, allowed me more insight and comparisons than the non-combatant. But Bradley's book was recommended to me by my wife. She enjoyed the book even though she shared with me the fact that it was most difficult for her to make the first 30 minutes of the film *Saving Private Ryan*.

Reading about the Marines who raised Old Glory on Mt. Surabachi (Hot Rocks) brought back memories of the Screaming Eagles and other Army units attacking the slippery surfaces of Hamburger Hill. This was one of the few times that the enemy in Vietnam held a hill under attack. This transition between war scenarios of WWII and Vietnam is an underlying ingredient. The identification of similar battlefields and battles on the island of Iwo Jima and in the jungles of Vietnam is one reason I recommend this book.

I recommend *Flag of Our Fathers* to all the ADVA members for many reasons. It's well written story was humbling to an old combat veteran and fellow Doc. It was a hard book to put down. It was very meaningful to soldier and supporter alike. Most of all it points out how combat tends to silence its participants. As for history, the meaning and significance these events must be well understood so the masses can try to understand the hell and destruction of war so that war can be avoided in the future.

When I first started reading *Flags* I somehow felt I had read it before. Then checking the bibliography and references I realized many quotes and references were made from books I had abstracted. The favorite was Jonathan Shays' (MD Ph.D.) *Achilles in Vietnam*. This is a book I use as reference for my classes and seminars on PTSD and its accompanying silence....silence to speak about our history.

## RIPCORDER Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970

Keith W. Nolan

Presidio Press, 2000

### Review by Gary L. Noller

The 101st Airborne Division is one of the best known and easily recognizable divisions in the U.S. Army. It has a long and proud history of being in the toughest battles the army fights. In World War II the Screaming Eagles parachuted behind German lines the night before the landing at Normandy. At the Battle of the Bulge they stubbornly resisted surrender when surrounded at Bastogne.

The 101st took this tradition with them when they went to Vietnam. They again showed that they were up to the tough fight. Unfortunately, their actions mirrored the action of the entire war. They fought with valor but were not allowed to hold gained ground.

In May, 1969 the 101st fought against strong enemy units in the A Shau Valley. The battle at Dong Ap Bia was so intense and costly that the American soldiers termed it Hamburger Hill. Control of the high ground changed sides several times with the Americans finally victorious. However, a week later, the Screaming Eagles were ordered to leave the hill they had fought so hard to claim.

A year later the 101st was again tasked to root the enemy from strongholds in the A Shau. However, President Nixon had changed the course of the war to Vietnamization. American troops were slowly being sent home and the war turned back to the Vietnamese. The American forces had to inflict heavy losses on the enemy to protect Vietnamization. At the same time they could not take heavy casualties which would be politically unpopular back home. There were to be no more Hamburger Hills.

To begin the new campaign a fire support base was established on top of a mountain near the A Shau Valley. The base was called Ripcord and was situated close to the boundaries of Quang Tri and Thau Thien provinces. From this base soldiers of 2-501st Inf. and 2-506th Inf. were to disrupt enemy personnel and supply routes.

However, the enemy did not wait for the Screaming Eagles to come to them. While the Americans were constructing Ripcord the NVA was preparing soldiers and armaments to attack the base. The battle for Ripcord began on July 2, 1970 and lasted for three weeks.

Nolan's account begins with this first battle and continues to the bitter end. True to Nolan's style, the men that were on the ground are his best resource for what took place. Especially riveting are the accounts of suicidal enemy attacks on infantry company night defensive positions around Ripcord. American infantrymen fought all night to stave off annihilation and worked all day evacuate their casualties and to resupply and rebuild defensive positions.

Nolan does not limit his story to combat in the field. He also examines the political implications that played a powerful hand in decisions about the battle. The shadow of Hamburger Hill loomed over Ripcord. The American forces were outnumbered by the enemy but available reserve forces would not be committed to the battle.

Despite their valiant effort, the infantrymen of the 2-506th and 2-501st were unable to prevent the enemy from mortaring Ripcord and gunning down supporting aircraft. The order was finally given to evacuate Ripcord. The battle was lost, and it was a costly one. American casualties were 74 KIA and more than 400 WIA.

RIPCORDER is Nolan's eleventh book on the Vietnam War. It is his most outstanding. He admits, "It was only through the books I wrote in the interim that I acquired the literary seasoning needed to even attempt to do justice to the Ripcord story."

He does his best job yet in defining the participants of the battles he describes. The reader gets to know the characters very well, maybe too well, for too many of them did not survive. However, their story is finally told, and told in a superb fashion. We remember their sacrifices; their valor is not forgotten.



## 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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