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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE
VIETNAM EDITOR: DAVID L. RECOB

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



AMERICAN MEMORIAL - NEW CALEDONIA

1992 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1993

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina
[REDACTED]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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John H. DeGroot
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Ronald L. Ward Central Mid-West Chapter
Lloyd J. Morrell North-West Chapter

A by-law change, approved by a National Ballot, now makes Chapter Commanders members of the Executive Council.

AMERICAL NEWSLETTEREDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As a result of the Federal Base Closure Act, indications are that Fort Devens will be deactivated and become a Federal Penitentiary. That will not be a conducive location for our Americal Museum. This past year I have received many excellent suggestions regarding the museum. To facilitate a timely decision by our Executive Committee I have appointed our Cape Cod Chapter Commander, William J. McLaughlin, as Chairman of the Museum Committee. They will explore all possible avenues and make their recommendations to the Executive Committee.

A 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee is functioning under the auspices of the Secretary of the Army. The Department of Defense will be holding commemorative events throughout the world. Honoring the veterans is the primary focus of these events. Key commemorative events of primary interest to our Americal veterans would be the Liberation of the Philippines (Oct 1994), V-J Day (Sep 1995), International Events to Commemorate WW II End (May-Sep 1995) and Veterans Day: Major End of the War Activity (Nov 1995) to be held in major cities of Washington, D.C., New Orleans, San Antonio, New York City and others. I received a call and a letter from their Operations Officer. For planning purposes they would like to know how many of our members would likely attend to represent the Americal at any of the events, what events you want to see emphasized, what battles or campaigns covered, and any other opinions you may have. We will discuss this at the Topeka reunion and send our results to the Army. If you desire to inform the Army personally of your opinions, please write to: Hqs., Department of the Army, Room 3D679 The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20077-5540.

The Field Artillery is having their reunion May 13-16 at the Radisson Hotel in Asheville, NC, and we plan on being there to represent the Association. We have been invited to attend the Far West Chapter reunion in Reno on August 16-18. Our schedule is fairly full, but we are going to try and make it.

You have heard the old saying that you could not believe a whole year has come and gone. I don't really know where this one has gone, but I have been very busy. By now all of you have voted for the new slate of officers, and I want to personally congratulate all of the winners. I will be pleased to turn over my position to John "Dutch" DeGroot, a Vietnam Veteran. He will follow in the footsteps of two prior and capable Commanders that were also Vietnam Veterans and I am sure that Dutch will do an exceptional job just like Ron Ward and Rolly Castranova. I want to thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve you as your Commander and I will assist the new officers to the best of my ability. I am looking forward to seeing you in Topeka. Be there, you will be glad you went! Peace, and may God bless and be with you.

PETER J. MESSINA
National Commander

AMERICAL MUSEUM FORT DEVENS, MA

It is common knowledge that Fort Devens is scheduled to be closed sometime in 1995 -- that is as a U.S. Army military base.

The Massachusetts National Guard and the Army Reserves occupy a large area at the Fort and it is also the maintenance center for heavy equipment belonging to these units. If these units remain it is a possibility that the Museum could remain.

However, in the meantime the committee is looking into several opportunities. So far, the best location offered is at the old Fore River Shipyard Quincy, MA. Will keep you posted.

Kenneth R. Turner
Museum Director

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

June 26, 1993
Holiday Inn, Topeka, Kansas
General Meeting 9:00 A.M.

No Meeting July - August 1993

September 11, 1993
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

TAPS TAPS TAPS

John H. Blanchard
182 Infantry B Co.
Peabody, MA
December 14, 1992

Daniel H. Pittsnogle
164 Infantry G Co.
Martinsburg, WV
Unknown

Harry A. Strong
Hq. Btry. Div Arty
Mahopac, NY

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

James V. Bailey
523 Signal Bn
Augusta, GA

Marie Engle
164 Infantry
Vancouver, WA

John P. Hofer DMD
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf
Grove City, OH

Fred A. Preuss
198 LIB B/1/6 Inf
Sanger, CA

Patrick H. Taylor
Task Force Ore HHC D
El Paso, TX

Vincent Tringali
182 Infantry M Co
Melrose, MA

NEW MEMBERS

John S. Baky
23 M.P.
Gladwyne, PA
#Larry Gelnett

John Boyer
123 Avn Bn F/18 Cav
West Chester, PA
#Prodigy-Roth-Ballou

Paul E. Bigham
198 LIB Recon/1/52
Van Wert, OH
#Don Smith

David A. Chrystal
23 M.P.
Centralia, MO
#Larry Gelnett

164 NL 294073

Charles F. Clark
57 Com Eng A Co
Kensington, CA
#Bernie Chase

James J. Eddington
Iselin, NJ
#Paul Santogeanis

William H. Cooper
132 Infantry L&F 3rd
Stone Mountain, GA
#Paul Santogeanis

Joe Gravens Jr.
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf
Cambridge, OH
#Bernie Chase

Noah Halfacre
21 Inf HH/4/21
Manchester, TN
#William K. Maddox

Zane E. Jacobs
164 Infantry E Co
Seaside, CA
#Paul Santogeanis

Phillip E. Jones
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Seabrook, TX
#Self

Edward R. Klosterman
14 Avn Bn 71 AHC
San Jose, CA
#Paul Santogeanis

James E. McNeil
14 Avn Bn 174 AHC
Seagrove, NC
#Wayne P. Wilson

Richard H. Olson
198 LIB D/1/46 Inf
St. Paul, MN
#Prodigy-Ballou

Lee A. Sands Jr.
11 LIB C/E/4/21 Inf
New Boston, TX
#William Maddox

Jessica St. John
White Hall, MD
#Bernie Chase

Douglas F. Surette
182 Infantry I Co
Stoneham, MA
#Odes Smith

Charles Twiggs
198 LIB E/1/52/Inf
White, GA
#Self

Robert W. Zimmerman
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf
Columbus, OH
#David W. Taylor

SPONSOR

MEMORIAL DAY

The cover picture this month is of the memorial on New Caledonia dedicated to the Americans that died preserving the freedom of that island.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

CONVALESCING

182 INFANTRY E CO. 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

Francis J. Buckley PNC Sam Ravagno
Hingham, MA 02043 Saugus, MA 01906

121 MEDICAL BATTALION 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

Paul (Smokey) Fortunato Gustaf H. Wallin
Medford, MA 02155 Quincy, MA 02169

182 INFANTRY E CO. 26 SIGNAL CO.
Albert C. Thomas Richard Gallant
Deerfield, NH 03037 Sandwich, MA 02563

ATTENTION ATTENTION

If you know of a member that is sick or ill or has passed away, please notify Bernie Chase - IMMEDIATELY!

NOW HEAR THIS

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

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Richard G. Totten
In Memory Of
Lt. Chris W. Morgan
198 LIB C/5/46 Infantry

Leonard S. Graham
In Memory Of
Walter Sweeter
221 F.A. A Btry

William E. McCormick

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

40 or under.....	\$125 Payments -5*
41 to 60.....	\$100 Payments -4*
61 to 70.....	\$ 75 Payments -3*
71 or over.....	\$ 50 Payments -2*

*Note: Payments of \$25 in 6 month intervals. Any member who has paid his dues in advance will receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

SEND TO
Bernard C. Chase
National Adjutant ADVA
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

CHAPTERS

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

Regional Commander
Thomas P. McQuade
[REDACTED]
Nalcrest, FL 33856-6345

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

Regional Commander
Ernest B. Carlson
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Telephone [REDACTED]

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

Regional Commander
Rush G. Propper
[REDACTED]
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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

Regional Commander
Joe D. Feeler
[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Telephone [REDACTED]

WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

Cape Cod Chapter Commander
William J. McLaughlin
[REDACTED]
Marston Mills, MA 02648

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

Eastern Regional Commander
Stephen N. Dennison
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Telephone [REDACTED]

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

David L. Recob
[REDACTED]
Topeka, KS 66611
Tel: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES?

CHAPTERS

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Lloyd J. Morrell
[REDACTED]
Redmond, OR 97756-9612

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA
[REDACTED]
PEABODY, MA 01960

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander
Ernest B. Carlson
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Tel: [REDACTED]

Secretary/Treasurer
Malcolm P. East
[REDACTED]

Sergeant-at-Arms Jesse J. Mendoza

In the back of my Chapter roll book, I have listed four of our Chapter members that have passed away recently. They are;

Eldredge Roddy	182 Infantry
John C. Gramstorff	182 Infantry
Lewis W. Doyle	182 Infantry
Woodson C. Tucker	Division Hdq.

Our prayers go out to their families.

One of my grandsons, who is in the 82 Airborne stationed at Fort Bragg, says that I harp too much about dues. So---all I am going to say is---"We have 40 members that owe 1993 dues---34 paid up---several CHARTER MEMBERS that have NEVER paid Chapter dues and several HONORARY members!!!

PNC Jerry Martel will represent the Americal at the Admiral Nimitz Museum Symposium in San Antonio on May 3-5, 1993.

We are still waiting to hear from ANYONE about ideas for a Chapter meeting.

May you all show up in Topeka in June.

Ernest B. Carlson
Chapter Commander

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES YET?

It is necessary for each Chapter to assess dues on their members. The Chapters receive very little financial support from National Headquarters and are obliged to raise funds in order to pay for postage and other administration expense.

CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
Stephen Dennison
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
Peter J. Messina Sec
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

The plans for the 1994 National Convention are well under way. It will be held at the Pines Resort and Conference Center, south Fallsburg, New York which is located about 45 minutes from West Point. As you know, the Eastern Regional Chapter is the host for this Convention.

Chapter Commander Stephen Dennison is the Chairman and Jack Samuels is Co-Chairman.

Full details will be published soon.

Stephen N. Dennison
Chapter Commander

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER
Dave Recob, Secretary
IA, KS, MO, NE, ND, SD

All systems are go for the National Convention in Topeka on June 24 thru 27 1993.

If you have not made your reservations do it NOW!

See you in Topeka!

Dave Recob
Chairman

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

The Far West Chapter has planned a Reunion for August 16 thru 18, 1993 at the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

The price is right and we are expecting many of ADVA members there from outside of the Chapter area.

For \$50.00 per person you will receive the use of the Hospitality Room, Meeting Room, 1 Banquet Dinner and 2 Buffet Breakfasts. Rooms will cost \$32.00, plus tax, per couple.

For more info and details write to:

Lew Turner
[REDACTED]
Oroville, CA 95966-5643

ALL YOU SNOWBIRDS

HOW ABOUT LETTING US KNOW WHEN YOU ARE HEADING SOUTH AND WHEN YOU PLAN TO RETURN? THE POST OFFICE CHARGES FOR ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND IT HAS BECOME QUITE EXPENSIVE.

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK



VIETNAM EDITORS COMMENTS

HOMOSEXUALS IN THE MILITARY
THE PRESIDENT'S DILEMMA

To a gruff and grizzled old soldier, used to living a spartan life out of a poncho and a helmet for a sink, protecting my weapon and ammunition before considering even my own needs, and being mindful of my comrades sharing my foxhole or tent, I find it extremely hard to believe that my President and the Commander-In-Chief of all military forces would have the courage or even iota of a thought, to force upon me or my buddies in combat, the burden of sharing my primitive conditions, spartan as they are, with a homosexual who believes its okay to live his lifestyle openly and in conflict with the laws of nature, God and man. I have no problem with him believing he has a right to be homosexual. That is a problem he must come to grips with. But my problem with him is a simple one. When we are engaged in a fluid, gut busting battle, depending on each other to cover our butts while bullets fly, I need to know that my foxhole companion, or guy on my flanks as we move across open territory, has his mind on what is out in our immediate front, than inspecting the rumps or crotches of his fellow soldiers. Men in war go long and unusual times without the enjoyment of female companionship, and sometimes hurt as a result of that separation. Yet, being a soldier by choice, men learn to live with this denial of companionship from the opposite sex as a matter of doing the business we are in - soldiering. To have a homosexual in the field, in a foxhole or in battle, can only destroy unit morale, cause uneasy relationships, and even cause violence among men who otherwise would be celibate or unattached from wanting sexual favors. Yet, it takes only a predatory homosexual or some hardcore roughneck who seeks relief from his denial of a relationship, to break the harmony or cohesiveness of a unit, and may well result in deaths of others around them, as men fondle each other rather than keeping their eyes peeled to the horizon, looking for an enemy that must come. In war, soldiers need to concentrate on survival and overcoming the enemy, not who they want to sleep with or kiss. No way can I accept the fact a Homosexual has a right to be in combat or in a military uniform. He is a danger to himself and all those around him. He cannot think clearly, and being emotionally involved with another man or men companions, he can cause a whole unit to become infected with disease or victims of enemy bullets because he was horsing around, rather than keeping his eyes peeled for the enemy that must come. President Clinton never served one day in uniform. How can he even presume to believe homosexuals have the same rights as do all soldiers. In war soldiers have no rights. They are a human killing machine that does things by instinct and have self survival utmost at hand. We cannot let politicians make decisions of such magnitude without sounding off and telling them they are going too far pushing gay rights into the military establishment. If you agree, write your Senator and Congressmen - better President Clinton.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID IN CHAPTER?
ARE THEY PAID UP TO NATIONAL?

NEWS

NETWORK



AGENT ORANGE VETERAN PAYMENT PLAN

Any Vietnam era veteran who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in or near Vietnam from January 1, 1961 to December 31, 1971, who believes he has been exposed to Agent Orange and who has become 100% totally disabled under Social Security standards before Age 60, is eligible to make application for a maximum payment of \$12,500.00 from the Agent Orange Veteran Payment Program, [REDACTED], Hartford, CT 06104.

Tel: [REDACTED] and ask for a kit of forms to be filled out. They are simple in nature, take about 30 minutes of your time, and require as proof to support the claim, [1] A copy of your DD 214, [2] A copy of your Social Security Letter of Award, and [3] A statement from your private or VA physician that you were 100% totally disabled prior to your 60th Birthday.

America Division veterans of the Vietnam era were stationed in I Corps, the northern most post in Vietnam.

Many of us suffer from the effects of Agent Orange and are awaiting VA determination on our claims. However, the program being described is not handled by the Dept of Veterans Affairs and is an independent body created by the federal courts to oversee a 240 million dollar settlement from the herbicide companies that manufactured Agent Orange that was used in Vietnam to defoliate the jungles and expose the NVA or Viet-Cong. This is compensation in addition to any that the Dept of Veteran Affairs may award eligible veterans.

Since I was declared 100% disabled by VA for my injuries while in the Army in Korea and Vietnam and am on VA compensation, I have received mail from organizations informing me of several rights we have in seeking compensation.

The 240 million dollars spoke of in this article is a fund in the hands of the federal court and is being paid now to veterans who apply within 60 days of receipt of the kit of forms supplied from the above organization, simply by calling the above 1-800 toll free telephone number.

You can bet this veteran has submitted his own application for a shot at \$12,500.00 in compensation for my own exposure to Agent Orange. It doesn't matter where you were stationed in the America Division in I Corps. If you have became 100% totally disabled under Social Security before your 60th birthday, you are eligible to apply for this compensation. If you are not 100% disabled by Social Security Standards but are certified 100% disabled by VA you can still apply, but must meet requirements outlined in the book of instructions that tell you how to complete the forms. It is not hard at all.

If an eligible veteran is now deceased who was eligible under these standards, his surviving spouse or children may make application for this payment. There is a form to be filled out by the survivor and it too, is simple.

Fellow Vietnam veterans, if you are eligible to make application for some of this available settlement money from the herbicide companies who sprayed Vietnam from one end to the other, and a lot of U.S. troops, call [REDACTED] and ask for your application kit today!

WHEN FINISHED WITH THIS ADVA
NEWSLETTER, WHY NOT DONATE IT
TO A V.A. HOSPITAL!

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK



Mr. Ron Ward
Americal Division Veterans Association
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63123

Jan 21, 1993

Dear Mr. Ward:

For the record, the notice placed in the Association Newsletter, on or about June of last year, did not bring any results. My search for a 59th Scout Dog Platoon patch is over. My sincere thanks to you for your help through the Newsletter. On a totally different subject: I have accumulated a great number of non-fiction books on just about every phase of the conflict. I believe I have every periodical published on the subject. In all except one magazine, the Americal's contribution during the conflict has been ignored. This magazine, now defunct, said only that the Americal had the worse record of all combat units. From what I have read, none of the combat groups had much to boast about. The "why" of this can be blamed on policies set by Washington. The latest book, "We Were Soldiers Once...and Young" by Gen. Moore made that patently clear. It talks much about irresponsibility and lack of leadership under seige, and the admission of "friendly fire". Yet it seems that only happened in the Americal Division [of which Schwarzkopf was a prominent member]. Well, so was Calley. The reputation of the Americal as a fighting factor was in question as a result of such mishaps. In another book which is new to the book shelves is "After Tet", by Spector. On page 206 an Americal psychiatrist is reported to have said that after the My Lai incident, no member of the Division wanted to remain as a member. In my opinion the Americal has gotten a "shafting" and desperately needs to be heard. The Marines are noted for their public relations department; almost every unit, specialized or not, gets written up with impressive photo [actual or not] insuring that the reader knows who the real heroes were. Doesn't the Americal veterans have any veterans who can step forward and tell the other side? There MUST be an other side! Again, thank-you for your help and understanding.

Sincerely,

Russell M. Erickson
[REDACTED]
Bensenville, IL 60106

Ed note: Mr. Erickson's son, a member of the 59th Scout Dog Platoon was KIA. Mr. Erickson has been looking for a unit patch of the 59th SDP. If you can help locate one, please send it to him. About what his letter is telling us. He is a supporter of ours. He hurts that there is nothing positive that is written about our illustrious Americal Division, that this Editor and many like me, have for our combat unit. Larry Gellnett of the 23rd MP Co formally of Duc Pho said of Americal vets when he was trying to identify his platoon: "It seems people don't want to be discovered"... In Topeka this June let's resolve to get the story of the Americal Division told. I volunteer to help!

HAVE YOU REACHED OUT AND MADE
THAT TELEPHONE CALL TO AN OLD
BUDDIE YET? DO IT TODAY!



MEMBERSHIP - BLOOD OF ANY ORGANIZATION

The membership of this association is at about 2,500 members who are paid members. We should be 25,000 members, and growing every year as we find and locate those former members of this great unit in cities and towns across this nation. Wherever we go, we ought to display the patch of this organization on our automobiles, wear its jewelry, and drink our coffee and tea from its coffee cups, while we wear our Americal t-shirts and start-up our automobiles with keys that hang from a key chain with the patch of the Americal division on it. The point I am making, is we must be SEEN to be known. With every issue of this newsletter on the back is an application for membership in this association. Why not clip it, and put it in your pocket, briefcase, or wallet. When you come across someone who is a veteran of the division, give it to him or her with love in your heart for this unit, and show them your pride of it by displaying your own membership card. Urge them to make their membership a Lifetime commitment and thereby keeping your membership in perpetuity, so that this division association will live forever. Last year in San Antonio, Texas, I had the honor to address this association as a simple member and to assess our division veterans of World War II and of Vietnam as men of the same cloth and experience. We may be separated by an age spread, but - in reality, we were then, and in Vietnam, jungle fighters, fighting an entrenched and determined enemy in tall jungle grass, bamboo forests, hilly terrain, rice paddies, and terraced farm lands full of muddy, stinky water, flushing out the enemy from holes in the ground, and from tall elephant grass. We have a great opportunity, we the Vietnam veterans of the Americal division to extend this associations livability 50 or more years into the future, by seeking out the missing Vietnam vets who served in our ranks and signing them up. We must wake up from our slumber and sad moods of the things that affected us while in Vietnam and shake them from our souls, and make a new commitment to each other and to our illustrious division. Our days as youthful warriors are starting to wane and wax. We cannot sit forever and do nothing, wring our hands in pain, and cry about the hard breaks we had while in Vietnam. We must pick up the broken pieces, and start putting our shattered lives and hearts together with love, compassion, and understanding. We can achieve an increase in our membership, and we can see it grow into a huge and successful loving family of ex-warriors who do care for each other by sharing a common experience while in Vietnam during a terrible period of betrayal by an insensitive government and by devious political leaders who put restraints upon our Generals to not fight a war to win, but to appease the politicians for political clout and gain as bargain chips in a more fierce battle for mind control of our youth who were waking up and discovering themselves. Our Senior Vice Commander John "Dutch" DeGroot has been working on a plan to strengthen our membership and to grow with numbers. It is up to us to listen to his plan and to implement it with all our strength and vision we can give to it. Come to Topeka with the "Can Do" attitude. "We Can, and We Will"!

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY, AND
WATCH OUR ASSOCIATION GROW.

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK


SOUTH AFRICA AMERICAL DIVISION REUNION

Life is full of strange coincidences that are never imagined, but on looking back, one sees them so clearly. More than 20 years ago [1969] while looking out from LZ Professional, gazing across a small valley at a spot where we used to empty our weapons getting rid of old ammo, I never thought I would see that view again except in a photograph that I had taken that morning. Well, it has taken over 20 years and many more thousands of miles to meet up with someone who literally sat across the LZ from me and took a photograph of virtually the same spot, only from a different angle. I am presently stationed in Pretoria, South Africa at the Defense Attache Office in the American Embassy and one day while glancing through my Americal Division News Letter I came across the name of another "Professional" who was living in South Africa. After a few months of correspondence and telephone calls I finally got in touch with Ed Ostrosky and we arranged a South Africa Americal Division Reunion. Ed and I were with D/1/46 196th LIB, but did not know each other. After leaving the service, Ed realized his dream of going on a Safari to Africa not realizing that his short trip to then Rhodesia would turn into anything more. He was offered a job in Rhodesia and lived there until sometime in the early 1980's. He is presently living in South Africa and working for the Natal Parks Board as Chief Park Ranger at Tembe Elephant Park, a very secluded and very nice spot for seeing parts of Africa that are still "Africa"! I travelled down to see Ed and his wife at the park last year and we had a great time comparing stories. Ed is the first person that I have talked to that was at Professional at about the same time that I was, and it was quite an experience looking at pictures that we had each taken of the area. Ed and I have arranged to have another get together this year [March 1993] and just talk more about past times and remember the hill and the times around the area. I will send another report on the get together with more pictures. If anyone would like to contact us, our addresses in South Africa are:

Randy Murphy

Ed Ostrosky

WASHINGTON, DC
20521-9300KWANGWANASE
3973

Ed Comment: Thanks for the report. Keep us posted. Write to them guy's.



OFFICERS OF GENERAL OFFICER RANK WHO SERVED IN THE AMERICAL DIVISION

Not too long ago, General Fritz Kroesen remarked to me that we ought investigate to discover how many officers were or became Generals who served in our division 1942 to 1972 and deactivation. It has been a lot of fun researching this information. Here are the names I have found:

World War II:

MGen Alexander Patch, BGen Edmund B. Sebree, MGen John Hodge, MGen Robert McClure, and BGen William H. Arnold. How many did I miss?

Vietnam:

MGen William B. Rossen, BGen Samuel W. Koster, MGen Dick Knowles, BGen George H. Young, Jr., MGen Charles M. Gettys, MGen Lloyd B. Ramsey, MGen A.E. Milloy, BGen Roy A. Atterbury, BGen Edwin L. Powell, and BGen Ted Mataxis.

Thanks to General Art Brown, Jr., here are more names of General Officers who served in Vietnam:

Gen Fritz Kroesen, Gen Bill Richardson, Gen Art Brown, Jr., Gen Butch Saint, Gen Fred Woerner, Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, Gen Colin Powell, LGen Tom Tackberry, LGen Dick Graves, LGen Dick Lawrence, LGen Bob Arter, LGen Sin Melner, LGen Jim Lee and BGen Ed Kennedy. How many did we miss?

If we have more who served from World War II, will you WW II vets help out and send the name? It will be appreciated. Also, Vietnam era Generals we may have missed also need to be mentioned. A lot of the Assistant Division Commanders are not listed as each division usually have two of each. This has really been a lot of fun to research. I don't think I could have attempted a more educational and informational project than this. Now, if any of these Generals listed above, still living, would like to send me their military biographies, I'll print them in future issues for the pleasure of our readers and history of the division. While I am on the subject of history. I mentioned in another article above that somewhere there is someone who can write a composite history of this illustrious division. I'd like to start collecting photographs of our bases in WW II and Vietnam that are of good quality print suitable for reproduction. I'd like photographs of our Commanding Generals if possible, and the whole nine yards. We desperately need to put to rest all of the negative stories about the Americal Division that have been printed over the years and used against us for one reason or the other to show us in an unfavorable light. The Americal was created in 1967 to give General Westmoreland "more punch" in I Corps, and by golly this Division did that. The Americal excelled in its military role, and was indeed a stiff opponent of the NVA and VC. Our Division was feared by the NVA and VC because we had a reputation not to take any "crapola" when engaged in field operations. In June when you come to Topeka for the Reunion, let's talk about doing a comprehensive history. Our future is in our hands to set the record straight!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS ILL?
LET THE NEWSLETTER STAFF KNOW.
WE WILL GET SOME CARDS AND SOME
LETTERS ON THE WAY!

VIETNAM

NEWS

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LONG RANGE PATROLS
E Co L.R.R.P. 51 - and- G Co 75th Rangers

By
Jim Connolly

Dear Dave: Thank-you for your interest in E Co LRRP 51 and G Co 75th Rangers. Long Range Patrol and Ranger units in Vietnam were raised as field expedient elements to perform extended scout and raiding coverage for larger formations employed in territorial security role. The impact of limited warfare in Southeast Asia. Small patrol teams were fielded to discern the fragmented battlefield and detect enemy activity in difficult tropical terrain. These patrollers, later designated Rangers, were tasked to operate in the remote countryside and gather intelligence, perform terrain analysis, monitor key areas, acquire targets, and conduct small precision strikes. Extended ground combat recon operations were the domain of Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol [LRRP] units later redesignated as Ranger companies. These were organized into platoons and infantry companies that consisted of small command and control headquarters, a sparse support element, and a number of recon teams. Long-Range Patrol and Ranger companies in Vietnam were combat recon units. In other words, they were capable of performing both reconnaissance and combat missions, either separately or in combination. Contact with the enemy was avoided and if the enemy became aware of the presence of the patrol, it was considered compromised and evacuated as quickly as possible. Combat recon team size varied with mission requirements and personnel availability, although a four man patroller was the minimum considered prudent for actual deployment. The long range patrol recon team was a team in its truest sense. The members developed confidence in their own abilities and relied on those of their comrades and their mutual trust for each other counted for everything. A [LRRP] team consisted of 1 team leader and 1 radioman who would double as a forward observer to adjust artillery, and the other 2 men were a medical specialist and a marksman. Long range patrols in Vietnam were routinely scheduled for five days, the time period was chosen to give adequate surveillance opportunities for distant patrols working inside unknown territory. LRRP and Ranger carried the following equipment on missions for a team of 5 or more members: 2 PRC-25 radios with long antennas and 3 handsets [1 extra], spare radio batteries, 1 starlight scope, 4 strobe lights, 6 or more trip flares, 8 or more star clusters, 6 or more parachute flares, 4 VS-17 panel markers, 4 WP grenades, 4 CS grenades, 4 laws, 1 M-60 machinegun, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 1 XM21 rifle with sniper scope, 4 WP rifle grenades with crimped cartridges for M-16 use, 1 pair 6x30 binoculars, 900 rounds M-16 ammo, 1500 rounds M-60 ammo, 300 M-14 rounds, M-70 ammo to include 120 HE rounds, 10 canister rounds, 6 parachute rounds, 8 quarts of water each, 2 smoke grenades, 2 compasses, 2 signal mirrors, 2 battle dressings, 6 M-26 or M-33 grenades, 6 claymore mines, a knife, weapon cleaning equipment, poncho, 50 salt tablets, insect repellent, and a length of suspension line.

Continued Next Page

Now to give you a little bit of history of E Co LRRP 51st and G Co 75th Rangers. On 2 Jan 1967 the Commander of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, BGen Richard T. Knowles, organized a long range reconnaissance detachment [LRRD]. The 196th LIB LRRD was assigned to the Brigade S-2 Intelligence section, but was controlled by Troop F, 17th Cav. The recon troops were known as "the Burning Rope Patrollers". In April 1967, the Brigade was relocated from Tay Ninh province to Chu Lai. For the longest time the unit did not have an officer in the company. SSG Earl L. Toomey was in charge of the detachment until MGen Charles M. Gettys, the CG, Americal Division, assigned CPT Gary F. Bjork as the first Commanding Officer of E Co, 51st LRRP. CPT Bjork pushed the men through a rigorous ten day physical hardening and preparatory course prior to a three week finishing school, taught by crack Special Forces instructors at the MACV recondo school in Nha Trang. The first few days in as we called it "Bjork's School" was composed of a strenuous physical training period, forced marches with thirty pound rucksacks in the morning, and a five to seven mile run in the afternoon. Special attention was given in the classroom to map reading and radio communications. This was probably the hardest part of the school. We covered in ten days what we would receive in more detail at recondo school. On 1 Jan 1969 the Department of the Army reorganized the 75th Infantry. During the Vietnam era the 75th Infantry perpetuated the heritage of "Merrill's Marauders" but was denied any official ranger lineage already bestowed on Army Special Forces. We the Rangers and LRRP's of the Americal Division know in our hearts we made our own history in Vietnam and did a job no others could do, or would do under the same circumstances!

James L. Connolly
Code Name: "Winston".

Ed note: Thanks Brother Jim. What a testimony to a great fighting unit. You forgot to mention that there was an NVA or VC bounty on the head of any LRRP or Ranger captured, and that Charlie reserved his 'best' torture treatments to LRRP's and Rangers. You also forgot to mention that there were a lot of Silver Stars and other Medals awarded for bravery under battle conditions when forced to fight. You fellows forged a great history in Vietnam, and under conditions most soldiers could never endure, you endured daily as a matter of life and fact. Many Soldiers lives in the Americal Division were spared by the actions you guys took as a daily dose of duty, honor, and country. The veterans of the Americal Division who served in Vietnam salute you Brothers who gave your all, and will always remember those of you, who did not come back. God-bless you all, and thanks for the job you all did to make our lives better, happier, and consequently free. If you guys would, who remember the LRRP and Rangers, drop these guys a thank-you note if you have time. They made the difference for the grunt in the boondocks: Gary F. Bjork, 1415 Fernwood Pacific, Topanga, CA. 90290. Jerry B. Schuster, 2005 Robin, Altus, OK. 73521. Earl F. Toomey, HQ ESUCOM NCO Club, APO 09131, and James L. Connolly, [REDACTED], Woon, RI. 02895.

DO YOU WANT YOUR UNIT HISTORY HERE?
WE WILL BE GLAD TO PUBLISH IT IF YOU
WRITE IT LIKE THIS ARTICLE. IT MAKES
THE AMERICAL DIVISION COME TOGETHER!



AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL REUNION JUNE 24-27, 1993

HOLIDAY INN WEST HOLIDOME

TOPEKA KANSAS 66606

TEL: [REDACTED] ASK FOR SALES DEPARTMENT

Welcome to Topeka, Kansas. Topeka is the site of the 1993 and 51st Annual Reunion of the Americal Division of World War II fame and 23rd Infantry Division [Americal] of Vietnam fame.

This Reunion is "Shaping up" to be one of the better reunions in a long time, as far as facilities, entertainment, activities, and sight seeing is concerned. You will enjoy our Kansas hospitality. Topeka, and the location of the reunion, is an excellent place to bring the kids. There is plenty of activities to entertain them.

MOTEL AND FOOD COSTS

Package #1 - Single Rate - 3 Days.

Room Costs @ \$60.00 per day	= \$180.00.
Wine & Cheese Party	= \$ 20.00.
3 Breakfasts @ \$10.00 each	= \$ 30.00.
3 Dinners @ \$20.00 each	= \$ 60.00.
<hr/>	
	\$290.00.

Package #2 - Single Rate - 2 Days.

	\$200.00
--	----------

Double Rate - 3 Days.

\$66.00 per day	= \$180.00.
\$20.00 per per	= \$ 40.00.
\$30.00 per per	= \$ 60.00.
\$60.00 per per	= \$120.00.
<hr/>	
	Total Costs:
	\$418.00.
<hr/>	
	<u>Double Rate - 2 Days.</u>
	\$292.00.

There will be a \$15.00 per person registration fee to be paid in advance on the coupon below with tour reservations to be mailed to David L. Recob, [REDACTED], Topeka, KS 66611-2132. Make checks payable to Reunion 1993 ADVA.

To make reservations, choose the package you want to sign-up for and telephone [REDACTED] and ask for the sales department. Give them your choice of reservation. You will be responsible for that amount on check-out, even if you did not use same. You may cancel a reservation 24 hours in advance without being charged. If you fail to show, you will be charged a minimum of one days lodging and meals. That is to assure the rate packages.

Please wear your Name Badge when participating in all events.

All reservations for rooms and meals must be made prior to June 3, 1993. Anyone making reservations after that date will be by space available only.

Persons staying at another Hotel or Motel who want to participate in Meals, Wine & Cheese Party, must call [REDACTED] and make a reservation. No reservation, no meal. This is a controlled access.



AIR TRAVEL

KING TRAVEL SERVICE, [REDACTED], Topeka, KS 66614, telephone [REDACTED] or FAX [REDACTED] is the OFFICIAL AGENT for travel arrangements to and return from the reunion. Air Transportation will be to Kansas City International Airport and then Bus or Van to Topeka by scheduled pick-up.

Most airlines have discontinued meeting saver fares which offer discounts to attendees of reunions and conventions. However, King Travel has negotiated with CONTINENTAL AIRLINES to offer a 45% off discount on Coach Class fares, and a 5% off any discounted fare for which you otherwise qualify. This offer can save you a huge amount of money in travel expenses.

If you prefer to fly by some other airline, King Travel can guarantee you the lowest fares for which you can obtain. Call [REDACTED] or FAX [REDACTED] for further information.

If you desire KING TRAVEL SERVICE to make your travel plans from your starting city to Topeka and return. Telephone [REDACTED] and ask for Connie Foltz or Stephanie Stromgren. They may ask you to complete this form.

AIR/LAND TRAVEL REQUEST

NAME: _____

GUEST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

DATES YOU WISH AIR TRAVEL TO KANSAS CITY AND RETURN HOME:

HOME PHONE: _____ BUSINESS: _____

I/WE wish ROUND TRIP Motor Coach or Van Transportation between Kansas City Airport and Topeka and return to Kansas City on dates I have indicated as travel dates. Rates are \$54 per person round-trip in air conditioned Bus or Van.

I/WE wish to obtain a Rental Car on arrival in Kansas City. Size of the car desired: _____

Signature

Date

VIETNAM

NEWS

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VIETNAM WARRIORS - A STATISTICAL PROFILE

Reprinted Page 20, VFW March 1993 Magazine

Confusion reigns when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports.

IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY

*Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation. *9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era [Aug 5, 1964-May 7, 1975].

*8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war [Aug 5, 1964-March 28, 1973].

*3,403,100 [including 514,300 off-shore] personnel served in Southeast Asia Theater [Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters].

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

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

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

*7,484 women [6,250 or 83.5% were nurses] served in Vietnam.

*Peak troop strength in Vietnam was 543,482 on April 30, 1969.

CASUALTIES

*Hostile deaths: 47,359. *Non-hostile deaths: 10,797.

*Total: 58,156 [included men formally classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties]. 27 other men have died of wounds, bringing the total to 58,183.

*8 nurses died - 1 was KIA. *Married men killed: 17,539.

*61% of the men killed were 21 years old or younger.

*Highest State death rate: West Virginia - 84.1 [national average 58.9 for every 100,000 males in 1970].

*Wounded: 303,704 - 153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured who required no hospital care.

*Severely disabled: 75,000 - 23,214 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.

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

*Missing in Action: 2,338. *Prisoners of War: 766 [114 died in captivity.

DRAFTES VS. VOLUNTEERS

*25% [648,500] of total forces in country were draftees. [66% of US armed forces members were drafted during WWII].

*Draftees accounted for 30.4% [17,725] of combat deaths in Vietnam.

*Reservists killed: 5,977. *National Guard: 6,140 served; 101 died.

RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND

*88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% [275,000] were Black; and 1% belonged to other races.

The Staff wishes to thank the VFW for the research put into this article. We believe they want all veterans to read it.

VIETNAM

NEWS

NETWORK



GENERAL POWELL TO RETIRE

Gen Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has told the news media that He wants to retire prior to the expiration of the term of his office, Sep 30, 1993. He has served since Oct 1, 1989. Gen Powell has been a moving and a dedicated force in Washington for a strong national defense and his departure will leave President Clinton and Defense Secretary Les Aspin hard decisions to pick his successor.

His departure will be felt throughout the whole United States Army. He has demonstrated over and over again his keen abilities to lead under pressure and maintain integrity and sense of duty at the same time. He says his stand on the integration of Homosexuals into the military has nothing to do with this decision.

It is his belief it is time to retire, as all military men come to realize at some point in their careers. He has been an excellent Ambassador of the Americal Division, always seen wearing the divisions patch proudly on his right shoulder. This old G.I. 1st Sgt wants to tell him, "well done General, we love you and salute you". The Americal Division Veterans Association wishes you a good retirement, and we hope you can find time to come and join in our yearly reunions when time permits.

VA: HEALTH CARE MODEL?

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown said in a recent interview with the Associated Press that He hopes to expand the VA health care system and make it a model for a future health care plan covering all Americans. He called for extending coverage under his plan to all 27 million veterans and said that could eventually lower health care costs over the board.

Brown stated He would cut administrative costs as part of President Clinton's drive to reduce government spending, but had no plans to cut the VA work force of 260,000 - second only to the work force in the Department of Defense, or to reduce any of the \$16 billion in benefits paid annually to veterans.

The VA's 171 hospitals, 350 clinics and 128 nursing home care units for approximately 2.5 million veterans who have service connected disabilities or who are indigent, will likewise be left intact. Brown said He intends to bring the other 25 million or so veterans into the system by introducing third party reimbursements, payments through Medicare, private insurance companies, or some type of a VA insurance plan.

"We will actually be in competition with a lot of the private health care providers, and they will have to compete with us for the patients. If we are providing quality service at a lower price, its going to put increased pressure on all of our competitors to do the same thing!"

"That's going to help America", he said. "We can really serve as a model, a micro-model of how the big picture will look" when universal health care is achieved.

Brown further said the VA can become more efficient by sharing equipment with other military and private hospitals, and flatly rejected any recommendations that VA down grade or close underutilized facilities to open them up to non-veterans.

Ed note: We wish him success in this endeavor. Good health care for veterans is foremost in the minds of those who fought for this country.

MASSACRE AT TRA BONG

Reprinted From Vietnam Magazine

The soldiers of the 3/18th Artillery were the first American unit, with the exception of the Special Forces, to arrive at Tra Bong in force. The "Red Legs" of the Americal developed an instant rapport with the peaceful Montagnards. "One of them gave me a crossbow for a pack of "Kent's" remembered Jim Kessler. "However, after that, they wanted three packs and no Kents"! "I can recall going down to the river to guard the women so they could wash our clothes" said Bob Hornlein. "They were simple and kind people". When the siege of Tra Bong ended, horrified members of the 3/18th Arty entered the Montagnard village located near their perimeter. The NVA had completely leveled the village in a determined effort to over run the special forces camp and artillery positions at LZ Cindy. Hornlein was told by two different sources that an estimated 2,000 Montagnard tribesmen had been killed or wounded during that period. "They [the Montagnards] should have been inside our wire for protection" remarked Kessler, who walked through the village later. "However, there were too many 'yards to do that. I felt bad for them and embarrassed at the same time. I felt we didn't do enough to protect them. The survivors seemed dazed and untrusting of us. The NVA even killed their Elephant. The 'yards took a lot of abuse during that war. "And, do you know what's sad about the whole thing" asked Hornlein. "Everytime you mention the Americal division, most people associate it with the My Lai massacre. But look at the atrocities the communists did". "For every My Lai" added Kessler, "we did 20 positive things". But nobody reported that. I wasn't at My Lai. I had nothing to do with it, but its a stigma with the unit. We all suffered because of that. True. However, during the recent war in the Persian Gulf, most Americal veterans could not help but notice the shoulder patch worn by the Commander-In-Chief in the gulf, General Norman Schwarzkopf and General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of whom were Vietnam veterans. It was the familiar four white stars in a blue field - the Americal patch. "For the overwhelming majority of Americal veterans who served honorably, the patch should be a source of pride. Generals Powell and Schwarzkopf certainly think so"!

Feb 9, 1993
Bob Hornlein

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Dave: Thank-you for printing the article in the Jan-Feb newsletter. I was disappointed the side-bar article was not included about Tra Bong. The name of the gun crew on the front page of the Jan-Feb issue is Sgt Lewis, Chief of Section, behind him sitting is the gunner, Sgt Garvin. Jim Kessler is the rammer-loader, breachman is a fellow



CAN WE
PUT A
NAME HERE?

Men of B Co.,
4th Bn., 31st
Inf., Americal
Div. in the
Huey Duc
Valley. Photo
by Sp4 Bob
Hodierne/
U.S. Army

PROFILE

Continues On Next Page

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VIETNAM

NEWS NETWORK

named Kindel. Sitting is the asst gunner Mike Kinolgy. The photo was taken in March 1969, not January 1970, as reported by Vietnam Magazine. "Just in case someone calls or writes about it."

Bob Hornlein.

DO YOU KNOW THIS PERSON?

Chris Dale formally B/1/82d Arty. Americal division 1969-1970. Being sought by Bill Zaccar through auspices of Massac county Vietnam Veterans at [REDACTED], Metropolis, IL 62960. Tel: [REDACTED]. If you know where He is, let them know. If anyone knows Chris or Bill and where they live, sign-them up! They don't belong to the ADVA.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To D.C. "Stew" Stewart, [REDACTED], Waterville, KS 66548 who sent the Vietnam Editor 10 names of WW 2 Anti-Tank Company, 132nd Inf Regt and their addresses. Stew is a widower and elderly. He lives on a farm. If you know him, or want to get to know him, write him. "We are on their tail Stew"! I hope they sign up and come to Topeka for the June 1993 Reunion.

SPEAKER FOR THE 1993 REUNION

Major General Lloyd Ramsey, CG, Americal Division, 1969-1970 will be the major speaker at the Saturday night Banquet June 26th in Topeka. We are very happy to have General Ramsey consent to come to Kansas and partake this event with us. You Grunts and REMF's must come and shake his hand, and make him feel welcome.

ITITY-BITSY TRIVIA FOR 'NAM VETS
WHEN MGEN. RAMSEY COMMANDED DIVISION '69-'70

In June 1969, sappers attacked LZ East, west of Tam Ky, and suffered 55 NVA and 7 VC dead. June 8th a 4 day battle saw 249 NVA and 87 VC killed and 89 assorted weapons captured. The second week of June 1969 more than 130 NVA and 40 VC were "dusted" in Lamar Plain. July 21st Operation Russell Beach was concluded, resulting in settlement of more than 12,000 refugees. During late summer 3 ARVN Regiments of the 2nd ARVN Division joined the 3 Brigades of the 196th, 198th and 11th LIB. Situation was "hot" on the 11th and 198th in Que Son and Heip Duc valleys, 30 miles west of DaNang. Thousands of artillery rounds were rained on strong NVA-VC bunkers in August 1969. More than 1,000 NVA and VC were killed in the Heip Duc vicinity and resistance was crushed. In September 1969, the 5/46 uncovered 282 tons of salt south of Chu Lai and discovered major NVA-VC storage sites. In November 1969, the 3/21st captured 20,000 pounds of Rice. In January 1970, 4/3rd Inf fought off sapper and mortar attacks. A/1/1 Cav and 15th RFG units

Continues On Next Page

defeated 2 companies of VC west of Tam Ky, killing 43. D/3/21st killed 39 NVA and confiscated a huge cache of weapons. February-March 1970 saw fierce fighting as the 198th and units killed more than 102 NVA-VC troops in their AO's. On March 17, 1970, while inspecting operations, Gen. Ramsey's Helicopter crashed in dense jungle, killing 2 of the crew, injuring 6, including Gen. Ramsey. After spending the night in this ordeal, they were rescued by Maj. James of the 71st Aviation Company, and Captain Luis Oliver, a battalion surgeon. [I thought you guy's would enjoy that recap].

G.I.'S ABANDONED, EX-OFFICIALS REPORT

Ex-government officials who worked on the POW/MIA issue during the Vietnam war have confirmed the American Legion's claim that U.S. servicemen were left behind in Southeast Asia at war's end. The lack of government commitment revealed by the American Legion magazine's investigative POW/MIA report in March 1992 was corroborated in September 1992 during hearings of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. Confirming the Legion's conclusions were former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and former CIA Director James R. Schlesinger. They told the Senate committee it was reasonable to believe American troops were left behind in the Vietnam pull-out. "I am utterly appalled", voiced National Commander Roger A. Munson, of the American Legion. Also testifying was former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, a central figure in the Paris Peace Talks between Hanoi and the United States. Kissinger denied these allegations as a "flat out lie" that American troops were abandoned by the Nixon administration. However, his statement was challenged by the contents of a recently declassified memorandum from former Defense Secretary Elliot Richardson. The memorandum was dated just one day before President Nixon announced to the United States that all of our American POW's were on their way home from Hanoi. Richardson's memorandum revealed that many POW's had been abandoned in Laos. [Ed note: Americal vet's may well remember when some of our troops were sent into Laos, in secret to carry the fight to the NVA and VC who sneaked across those borders seeking safety from battle]. Commander Munson of the American Legion said the Legion will never abandon these men or their families and will continue to push for the truth about their fates..

CONCERNING THE POW/MIA ISSUE

Vietnam Editor's comments

As American fighting men, serving in the defense of our nation, we must never forget our comrades who were lost in battle, fate unknown, or shot down over unfriendly skies. I beg every red blooded veteran of all wars to write their Senator and their Congressmen and push for a full investigation and accounting of our friends, and brothers who fought at our side. Please write today!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER YET? USE APPLICATION ON BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER. THANKS!

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

TASK FORCE 6814 FORCE A

Dear Mr. Chin:

Quite some years ago you were astute enough, as well as kind enough, to correct an error I had made about Force A of Task Force 6814. In some pieces I had written I had erroneously stated that Force A had been detached and sent to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) almost immediately after we had landed in Noumea. What I had not known was that the detachment, under Brigadier General William A. Rose, had gone first to Port Vila on the island of Efate for a few weeks before being sent up to Lugainville in Santo.

Now it is my turn to correct a slight error of yours in the interesting letter which appeared in the March-April 1993 Newsletter on Page 11. It was not the President Cleveland but the President Coolidge which sank in Lugainville Harbor after hitting one of our own mines. The mine was NOT a floating mine but attached and waiting for a ship. The ship was the "S.S." and NOT the "USS". The full details are in the section called "For Want of a Navy Staple" beginning on page 47 of my little book; "Viginettes of the South Pacific".

My connection with Force A in March of 1942 is two-fold. As you may have known, I was in the dog-house after missing my ship (the S.S. Argentina) in Panama when Task Force 6814, of which I was the Task Force Surgeon, passed through the Canal. In Australia General Patch's staff consigned me to oblivion, instead of a court-martial by taking my job as Task force Surgeon away and assigned me no billet or a place to sleep in Noumea. When I got myself ashore and tried to find someone to tell me what I was supposed to do, I was told that I had been ordered to Force A under General Rose and that I had better hurry to find him as Task Force A was on its way to the New Hebrides. Since no written orders had been given me I wisely decided to get to know the French people in Noumea and made friends with the French Directeur de Sante at the French Hospital. He gave me a room in the hospital. After a few days Generals Patch's staff caught up with me but they let me keep my billet at the French Hospital and paid me 'per diem' for a year.

Assigned as Medical Inspector for the whole area I was ordered, about a month or two later, to fly up to Espiritu Santo to inspect Force A. There at last "caught up with" General Rose and had a nice three day visit. He forgave me for missing the ship in Panama and told me why he had been "exiled". One day I hope we can discuss the matter, as you probably know more than I do about THAT situation. On my return I gave Force A a good report except for the abnormally high rate of malaria.

After the Coolidge sank, in October, I was sent back to Lugainville to try to salvage the quinine which had gone down with the ship but the dive was called off after one of the other mines had broken loose. I had been given four hours training in one of the old- fashioned diver's helmet-suits, and I did get a glimpse of the ship as she lay on the bottom. The quinine was never found. I have had extensive correspondence with Reece Discombe, a New Zealander who now lives in Port Vila, Vanuatu, where he used to have an extensive salvage operation going. He plans to visit the States this summer and has promised to visit me.

You and I had a brief meeting at the Americal Division's 50th Anniversary on Cape Cod and I truly hope to see you again sometime.

Sincerely,
Arthur G. King, M.D.

9 STATION HOSPITAL 1942



DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE?

Wanda Engle

H COMPANY 182 INFANTRY 1942

The photo below was taken on Guadalcanal in December of 1942. Mike Lombardo and Bill Murphy were fortunate in being able to make the return trip to Guadalcanal and New Caledonia this past August.



From Left to Right
Mike Lombardo - Dorsey King - Bill Murphy

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

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Seem a message like this is necessary too often now! This is the third from me in a little less than a year. How many don't we hear about?

Harry A. Strong died March 16, 1993 at Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Hospital in Montruse, New York. He served with HQ. Btry. Division Artillery from Fort Bragg to Fiji. He was a member of the D.A.V. and V.F.W. His wife Yvonne, of 70 Archer Road, Mahopac, NY 10541 would like to hear from anyone who remembers Harry. I do! When we were "Young and Strong".

Thanks,
Charlie Young

246 FIELD ARTILLERY

I recently spent a week in Washington, DC so that I could participate in "Rolling Thunder".

During the days before Rolling thunder I spent the time going through records at the National Archives. I was looking for some information on my Dad's unit, the Americal's 246 Field Artillery.

Thanks to a friend and fellow ADVA member, Donald Van Estenbridge, I managed to acquire over 7,000 copies of documents concerning the 246 Field Artillery Battalion. I also have some copies of General Orders that include the 132 Infantry. These include daily reports and firing reports.

I am in the process of reading through these documents and putting them in a file as I find item I believe of interest to Americal Newsletter readers I will send them in for publication.

I am also willing to look through these documents for any ADVA member desiring specific information. Please send me the G.O. number if available or an approximate date. Include your full name and Army serial number.

David F. Myers

Stewartsville, NJ 08886

Tel. [REDACTED]

WERE YOU A SNIPER?

I am an author compiling materiel for a book on the art of sniping. I am reaching out to the widest group of veterans as possible, to draw on a myriad of experiences. With this mixture, the final result will hopefully be a solid manual on the training, tactics, and anecdotes of snipers and their teams.

The idea is to be functional as well as entertaining.

If you desire to participate in this project, contact me at;

Keith Everett

Tucson, AZ 85747

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS

132 INFANTRY REGIMENT WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 4, 5 1943

MARRIOTT OAK BROOK HOTEL
OAK BROOK, IL

Because this is our 52nd Reunion, we will have a four day celebration. Activities begin at noon Thursday and will continue through Sunday morning September 5th. For further info write;

Ed Ozzie

[REDACTED]
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Mitchell Przybien

[REDACTED]
Cicero, IL 60650

Call [REDACTED]

26 SIGNAL COMPANY

Several of our members are working very hard to locate their war time buddies and bring them together for a reunion.

One man, Earl Cook, journeyed from Atlanta, GA, reserved space at the Holiday Inn at Dedham, MA, contacted all the men he had addresses for from the local area and invited them to attend a get-together.

Below is a picture of the nine men that attended. This is a good turnout when you consider this unit was only a Company in size.

I was certainly pleased to be an invited guest.

Jim Buckle



Front Row: Jim Buckle, Sidney Lenson, Tom Conroy
Back Row: Earl Cook, Harry Miller, Doug Leaman, John Richardson, Malcolm Tate, Walter Morse, John Finocchio

WHERE TO TRACK DOWN A VETERAN

For those interested in tracking down veterans, the American Foreign Conflicts Electronic Library and Veteran Locator in Lomita, CA has a 24-hour, on line computer system that provides information on thousands of veterans.

The system is accessible via any modem-equipped personal computer. The system provides names, addresses, phone numbers, military units, ranks, years in service and medals of 410,000 living veterans. It also lists 4,000 military associations, 80,000 people killed in action, 1200 war correspondents, 2,750 missing in action, and 14,000 active duty personnel.

The system collects an average of 200 to 300 new names every day. Contact them at:

American Foreign Conflicts Electronic Library

[REDACTED]
Lomita, CA 90717

Phone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
(Thanks to Ramon Ramirez)

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

PROGRESS DIFFICULT -- SEEKING CURRENT ROSTER
72 FIELD ARTILLERY - DIVISION ARTILLERY HQ BTRY
AMERICAL DIVISION

Here are some samples of a few returns received in answer to the cards I mailed out to former buddies at former addresses. The samples make ADVA slogan, "HAVE YOU CALLED A BUDDY LATELY?" and the slogan I used "IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SAY HELLO TO AN OLD BUDDY BEFORE IT BECOMES TOO LATE TO EVEN SAY GOODBYE", a truism. READ AND THINK!

Hi! Sorry...but you waited too long...Lyle passed away eight years ago but I know he would have enjoyed hearing from his "Old Buddies". I am sure the time spent together was memorable. Lyle occasionally mentioned his war experiences and I still have some pictures he brought back. Lyle would have enjoyed a get-together..Hope can manage one. Signed, Betty Wohlleber..Iowa.

Dear Charles...It was good to hear from one of Perry's buddies. Perry died in 1978. When he came out of the service his health was not too good and he was going blind in one eye. Later the other eye was giving him trouble...optic nerve. By then just had spot vision and was considered 100% blind. I guess I have the clippers and scissors he cut hair with..I was the one who mailed them to him overseas. Perry often wondered about his old buddies. Being blind he was too handicapped to stay in touch with them. Mrs. Perry Wright.

Dear Charlie..thanks for your letter and I wish I was more knowledgeable of WW II and the pictures my husband had. Unfortunately he did not put names to them..over 100..no negatives and only a few names..no identification of the scenes. There is also a large picture 10 X 30 of personnel. There are various pictures of tents, trees, scenery, motorcycles, church, priest...and a picture of fellows playing poker apparently using cigarettes for poker betting. There is also a picture of a horse with a saddle and a load of things..also a horse and colt. There are a few pictures with names on the back such as Ed Mevick, Harold Wayne Hover, and Raymond Powers...It is thought these men were from the 97th F A Pack, Service Btry. Good Luck with the project..thanks for writing. Let me know if I can help. Signed, Betty W. Iowa.

Dear Mr. Young..we received your card..it is painful to inform you that we lost our loved one --John Kincaid on May 12, 1986. My father had emphysema. We knew he was proud of the fact he served our country in the Armed Forces. There is a neighbor on our street and when my father would see her working in the yard he would often yell "Bula" and the neighbor would just laugh. I do not know what "Bula" or "Bula Joe" means. Was that a nickname for my father? Thank you for trying to communicate with our loved one. Signed, Kincaid Family--VA

Dear Sir: For four weeks I have been trying to answer your card. He, Harry, was very ill at the time and passed away 3/16/93. I am enclosing a picture taken on Guadalcanal. Can anyone identify the other men? We would like to hear from anyone that knew Harry. Signed, Yvonne J. Strong.

MY COMMENT--I knew without a doubt, that some family member would answer some of my cards..and

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

PROGRESS DIFFICULT (Continues)

the very first received began "Sorry, you waited too long". The second added to the mixed emotional feeling--He was one great guy who deserved better. (After Bob Burns left us Perry took over the job and took good care of our hair). The third letter--I am writing to the named buddy and will be glad to pass on any addresses I have. The buddy mentioned put my horse in shape on Fiji. the large pictured mentioned was our 'Graduation Picture' from FARTC at Fort Bragg on the day we were transferred to the old 72 FA. The fourth I have answered the family inquiry about "BULA". As you know it was a greeting so common on Fiji.

It just seemed appropriate--the last letter mentioned--HOW CLOSE IS TOO LATE?--The inquiry card, I think, arrived at a great time. The family knew, as Harry was slipping away, that others cared--others that the family did not even know--others who had known him and served with him over fifty years ago.

I cannot tell you, there is no way to describe the ups and downs as a card or a letter arrives in the mail--or a possible phone call. The positives are scarce for many of the cards are returned marked, Unknown, Moved, Forwarding Time Has Expired, or No Forwarding Address. Then one comes back with a forwarding address and a card is sent to an old buddy. Attempts are made through Telephone listings--sometimes an address is verified--sometimes a telephone number is verified but after numerous attempts the is still no answer. Suddenly one day an answer, a letter. Elation knows no bounds but these are far to few.

It makes me think of putting a penny on its edge on a fence post and using a BAR on full auto, not holding it down, and expecting to hit the target. But even the few contacts with buddies or their widows brings out some of the buried history. Also the serious and comical remembrances. Just the letters that I have noted have at least four good short stories that I can think of at the moment. Maybe even more. I have been receiving inquires outside of Division Artillery Hdq seeking info that I may have. My old arthritic fingers are doing more than walking through the Yellow Pages.

I would like to thank you for printing my last article in the March-April 93 issue. As I have said before, some of you have worked so hard all these many years forming the ADVA and keeping it together, watching it grow and keeping us informed and recording the history of the Americal so that it will not be buried. We cannot commend the men that have been responsible for this enough.

I have always been a procrastinator but I can't be that forever. I offer what ever I can in the written word--use what you will.

With all sincerity,
Charles W. Young Jr.

Tel [REDACTED] Trenton, NJ 08619

Ed Note: Charlie, after reading your letter over several times I decided that it should be printed in full. There is so much truth in what you say. The ADVA should have at least twice as many WW II vets as we have and I feel the main reason for this lack is that these 'missing persons' have not been contacted by a member.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

NEW HEBRIDES (Continues)

Speaking for myself, I feel that I receive a great deal of self-satisfaction for keeping my old Company together and for the time I put into the ADVA. I have talked to many men that have worked to keep the old gang together and they feel the same way. I am happy to report that more and more men are trying to locate there old buddies and get them together for old times sake. Our National Conventions and Chapter Reunions also serve this purpose. One of the aims of the ADVA is to keep us all together and informed.

Thanks for writing.

AMERICAL DIVISION HIGHWAY

Many years ago, in the early days of the ADVA, the section of Interstate Highway that crosses Massachusetts from the Connecticut to the Vermont border was named the "AMERICAL DIVISION HIGHWAY".

Joseph Lapinski, an engineer for the state of Massachusetts helped to see that the signs, four of them, were maintained through the years.

PNC William Dunphy and Edward Largess took the responsibility of placing a wreath on the four signs every Memorial Day.

In recent years this job has been taken over by Arthur Pope of Northampton, MA. Below is a picture of one of the signs. Arthur has decided to decorate the signs with an American flag.

The ADVA extends thanks to these men who have kept this project going over the years.



NEW HEBRIDES

I couldn't restrain from adding to Joe Chin's interesting submittal, because it revived many long gone memories and needed events not mentioned that were "hi-lites" at the time, to be brought forward. The long trip to Australia aboard the Argentina, the poker games in the hold, the sub attack (?), the "Diarrhea-run" of February 8 culminating in the verse "the wind she blew and the ---- she flew on the decks of the Argentina, what a mess! Arriving in Melbourne, the lucky units were billeted in private homes and L Company was sent to Camp Darly to sleep on concrete floors and a diet of mutton, ug, ug.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

things that should be left for reminiscence in the event that we should ever get together again before that last "Bugle Call".

I have to throw in a gold plug for the over-worked and talented platoon from the 57th Engineers. One day on the banks of a shallow stream, but wide, their Lt. turned to the Platoon Sgt. and said, "I want a bridge across this river". the Sgt. turned to and said, "you heard what the man said, let's go". I couldn't see his face but there was exasperation in his voice. However, they did a great job with the tools at hand. Crib-piers were built out of notched coconut logs and the centers filled in with rock. The road-bed was coconut logs and curbs with rock coral surface. For the rest of the time we were there this bridge served its purpose.

I intended this letter to supplement Joe Chin's fine contribution. Perhaps others can add their experiences. YES, WE WERE EXPENDABLE!

If the survivors could get together it would certainly be a story for the record.

Bill Picardy

COMPANY L 182 INFANTRY

Bob Doucette, a Life Member of the ADVA has been working diligently for many months to organize get-togethers for his former buddies in L Company, 182 Infantry. Beginning with just a few men, by his meeting of March 27, 1993 the group had grown to sixteen.

Bob has held all the meetings in his home in Lynn, MA and at the last meeting the members enjoyed a home-made stew and a large variety of sandwiches. As the Host and Chef, Bob did a terrific job.

If there are any ADVA members out there that served in L Company and have not been in touch with Bob, please write immediately. He is anxious to hear from you.

Robert Doucette

[REDACTED]
Lynn, MA 01904

Telephone [REDACTED]



Back Row L-R: Jim Standish, Harold Smolensky, John Patterson, Jim McCarthy. Middle Row: Stan Horne, Ray Kirby, Ted Milgroom, Bob Doucette, Israel Rosenzweig, Ray Kinnon. Front Row: Pete McDonald, Al Greer, Earl Magnuson, Bob Contant, Tom Ward.



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MAY - JUNE 1993

Mr. John DeGroot P.L.

[REDACTED]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Telephone:

Address — Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Americal Unit: Rgt.

Bn.

Co/Bty.

Other

Dates of Service — From:

To:

Serial No.:

Date of Birth:

Blood Type:

Religion:

V. A. Claim No.:

V. A. Office — City:

State:

Occupation:

Wife's First Name:

Date:

Signature:

(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$16.00

PLEASE: Attach a copy of the following information to your application.

1. DD 214 Form.

2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.

(All copies of records will be returned)