

PRESERVING AMERICAS FREEDOM: WORLD WAR II – KOREA – VIETNAM



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER



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

Founded 1945

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The Americal Newsletter is the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.

Editor-In-Chief Emeritus: James C. Buckle

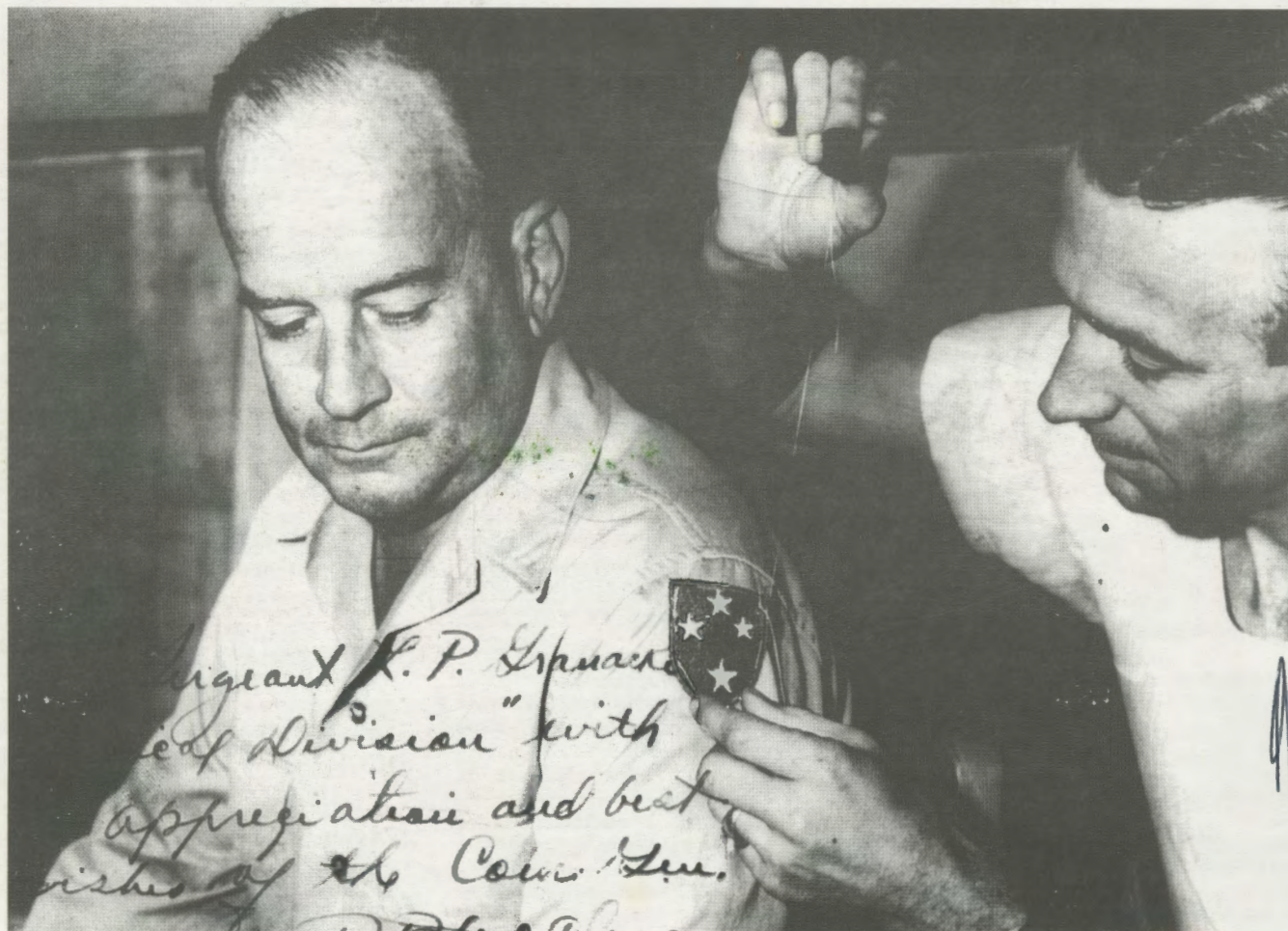
Editor-In-Chief:

David W. Taylor

Vietnam Editor:

Gary L. Noller

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2005



Origin of the Americal patch: Technician Fourth Class Leon P. Granacki, designer of the Americal patch, sews it on Major General R. B. McClure, Division Commander, in early July 1942. His story is inside on pages 18-19.

HEWITT
GRANT
MAY 2005

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David A. Chrystal

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New applications & dues send to **Ron Ellis** (address in first column). **All National Adjutant Correspondence** send to:

ADVA National Adjutant

Richardson, Texas 75080

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

**National Commander**
Jon Hansen

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Years and that 2005 is starting out well for you. It looks to be a very busy year. I have already been to DC once and am looking forward to returning at least three more times. I'll be going to Kansas City in June with a stop over in Branson, MO on the way; Veterans reunions in Melbourne, FL in April and Kokomo, IN in September and to Gettysburg, PA in November.

My trip to DC last month was to attend the Presidents Inauguration. The trip started with freezing temps and then driving through a blinding snowstorm between Richmond and DC, the first snow I had driven in since before I went to Nam 35 years ago. We stayed at the home of Capt. Larry Bailey, a retired Navy Seal. Also staying there was Jug Burkett, author of *Stolen Valor*. We attended a party on the 13th floor of the National Press Club in Inauguration Day and watched the parade pass by from there. It made me proud to be an American.

I am really looking forward to our Reunion in Kansas City this June. Dave Chrystal has really planned a good time for us and I hope many of you are making plans to attend. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones there.

For those of you who live in the Southeast, come on down to Melbourne, Florida April 22nd through the 24th for the Florida Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion. Paul Stiff, our Chapter Commander for the Southeast Region, has been planning our get-together there. He will be setting up a booth in the vendor area and Jerry Anderson will have a location in the camping area for all of us to meet. This is the 18th year this reunion has been held and it is always a great time for those in attendance. If anyone would like more information, check them out on <http://members.aol.com/flvietvets/reunion.html>. I'll see you in Kansas City in June!

EDITORS NOTES

**Editor-In-Chief**
Dave Taylor

This issue marks my second as the new Editor-In-Chief. Your response to Gary Noller (our Vietnam Editor) and myself with sending us submissions for the newsletter has been great! Keep it up. I hope to get everyone's submission into the newsletter the next scheduled issue after we receive it. Sometimes that won't be possible but we will do our best to be as timely as possible.

For this issue we added another four pages, from 32 to 36 to keep up with all the information we are getting. I am always mindful about keeping costs under control but will balance that with the need to communicate to our membership. I have always felt the Americal Newsletter is a real catharsis for our Vets ... remembering who we were and what we are all about. The memories you submit, your recollections about past events and old friends are important parts of our human experience.

The next issue of the Americal Newsletter (April-May-June) will be mailed later than normal, sometime in early July. I will hold the press until returning from the National Reunion in Kansas City (June 16-19), so I can include four pages of reunion photos and information in the issue, for those who could not attend. Otherwise, our members won't be able to see and read anything about it until late in September.

I hope to see everyone in Kansas City. Stay safe, stay healthy and remember, "every day that you wake up free, it's going to be a good day!"

"If you're a pacifist who hasn't been murdered or enslaved, thank a soldier."

National Review

CHAPLAINS CORNER

**ADVA CHAPLAIN**
David A. Chrystal

Returning just this weekend from a "Dare-2-Share" convention, I was amazed at the power of our Creator. Imagine eight thousand sixth, seventh and eighth graders declaring their faith and worshipping our Creator together! The only word that I can think of, that explains what I observed this weekend – and a word our younger generation uses often, is AWESOME, SIMPLY AWESOME. "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).

With that said I wish to elaborate this issue on feelings. In specific the word PROUD comes to mind. It is the desire of every child for their parents to be PROUD of them. Are you proud of your children? Why of course you are. Now think about your relationship with your Creator, your heavenly Father. Can your heavenly Father be proud of you? We are all sinners, each and every one of us, but we are forgiven by our Creator who simply wants the best for us. Our Creator wants to be proud of us.

For many of us this is the season of Lent. During Lent we make a desert journey of penance and remember the last days of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "Let us give thanks, Oh Lord, that we as sinners have the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ who died that we might be saved."

God be with you till we meet again. Enjoy the beautiful spring and early summer which is God's time to renew the earth. Spring ... new babies, new plants, fresh color ... all placed there for us, by our Creator.

We wish to recognize our Jewish comrades as they begin Passover on April 23rd beginning at Sundown. The Passover of the 10 plagues visited on Egypt was the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt for the Jewish people, a reminder of mankind's yearning for freedom, throughout the ages.

Greetings and happy New Year from the office of the National Adjutant! I sincerely hope every member is off to a great start in 2005.

As I started my term as ADVA national Adjutant, I set some immediate goals for the office. Those transition goals are now complete.

A new postal box number is established in Richardson, Texas and is available to all members for contacting the National Adjutant Office. The mailing address is listed inside the newsletter cover at the bottom right portion of the page.

ADVA's second non-profit organization mailing permit is in place and will be used for mailing its annual member renewal notices, new member welcome packets and other general communications to members.

New members are steadily increasing. Since July 2004, a total of 101 new members have been added to the roster, 14 of which are paid Life Members. ADVA has an aggressive membership recruiting campaign underway and the campaign committee has prepared a few thousand very impressive recruiting packets. If you have names of fellow Americal Veterans who are not ADVA members, contact the National Commander, Jon Hansen, or myself for a supply of recruiting packets.

As a reminder for all annual payment members, the Executive Council approved a change in the dues structure at last years' reunion in Reno. The three-year dues option was eliminated, which leaves only the annual payment or a Life membership as a membership payment option. Annual dues rates for WWII and Vietnam Veterans are listed on the outside back cover of the newsletter.

To keep the national roster as up to date as possible, I encourage each member to contact me with your address changes or questions about your dues or renewal date. Also, if you become aware of the passing of an Americal Vet, contact me with the deceased name, unit information and date of death. We publish the names of all deceased Americal Veterans we know of, whether or not they were ADVA members.

I can be notified by mail at the USPS Postal Box listed inside the front cover (lower right corner), by E-mail at the address listed under my name inside the front cover, or by FAX. My FAX number is (972) 412-0089.

I'll close with a reminder to all annual payment members to check your dues renewal date on the back cover of this newsletter. That date is listed on your name & address block. If your renewal date is September 2004 or earlier, your dues payment is delinquent. If payment is not received prior to the next newsletter issue, your membership in ADVA will be dropped.

Dues payments should be mailed to PNC Ron Ellis, Assistant Finance Officer. His mailing address is listed on the outside back cover as part of the membership form.

Roger Gilmore
National Adjutant

TAPS TAPS TAPS

101ST QM Corps

Mr. Elmer Franson
Woburn, MA
2004

246th Field Artillery C Btry

Mr. Glendon J. Bell
Piles Grove, NJ
November 15, 2004

132nd Infantry (Anti-Tank Co)

Mr. Carl W. Hawkins
Martinsville, IN
2004

182nd Infantry C Co.

Mr. Albert r. Krantz
East Gull Lake, MN
2004

Widow (132nd Infantry)

Mrs. William Pritchett
Las Vegas, NV
Unknown

22nd Ordnance Co

Mr. Robert Acton
Loganville, WI
2004

132nd Infantry

Mr. Nicolas Chromiak
Summitt Hill, PA
September 22, 2004

182nd Infantry H Co

Mr. Newton E. Bennett
Hyannis, MA
January 11, 2005

Mr. Edward J. Chisholm
Lincoln, MA
July 21, 2004

Mr. Walter B. Emerson
Duxbury, MA
February 3, 2005

Mr. Alfred Zaino
Everett, MA
November 13, 2004

182nd Infantry G Co.

Mr. James J. Gangi
Woburn, MA
2004

182nd HQ Co.

Mr. Russell B. Perham
Acton, MA
Date Unknown

11th LIB, HHC

Mr. Howard Goldberg
Minneapolis, MN
2004

221st Field Artillery A Btry

Mr. Everett Ashworth
Champion, MI
February 25, 2004

245th Field Artillery B Btry

Mr. Hovey Waldrop
Brevard, NC
Unknown

57th Engineers

Mr. Jacob Jacobson
North Dartmouth, MA
February 4, 2005

132nd Infantry K Co.

Mr. Calvin Yegge
Apple Valley, CA
2004

Honorary Member

LTC (Ret) Robert Downey, Jr.
Braintree, MA
May 7, 2004

221st Field Artillery

Mr. Edward L. Scott
Atchison, KS
October 30, 2002

LAST ROLL CALL

(Americal Vets Who Were Not Members of the ADVA)

132nd Infantry B Co.

Mr. Jack Bloom

132nd Infantry F Co.

Mr. Ricardo Ramirez

132nd Infantry G Co.

Mr. Vernon Youtsy

132nd Infantry I Co.

Mr. Leo Hoefler
Mr. Anthony Paiva
Mr. Howard Smalley

132nd Infantry K Co.

Mr. Albert Janik

132nd Infantry L Co.

Mr. Robert Cauley

132nd Infantry (Unit Unknown)

Mr. Lawrence Higby
Mr. William Murphy

182nd Infantry K Co.

Mr. Nelson O. Price
West Falmouth, MA
December 14, 2004

182nd Infantry (Unit Unknown)

Mr. Donald Taylor
Mr. Joseph Putzengaro
September 26, 2004

LAST ROLL CALL (Continued)

246th Field Artillery HQ Btry

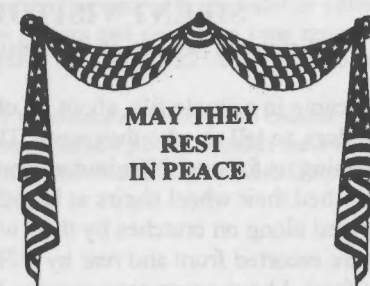
Mr. Ralph Larson

23rd MP Company

Mr. Larry J. Fox
Thompkinsville, KY
December 9, 2004

198th LIB, E/1/52 Inf

Mr. Gary Judy
Unknown
July 2004



NEW MEMBERS

Mr. William R. Allen
11th LIB C/1/20 Inf
Taylor, MI
#Self

Mr. Michael Boise
26th Engineers
Peoria, IL
#Jon Hansen

Mr. William D. Castille
11th LIB B/1/20 Inf
Groves, TX
#Gary Noller

Mr. Robert E. Conroy
17th Cav H Troop
Hatchville, MA
#Phillip Haymaker

Mr. Charles D. Foringer
723rd Main Bn Co B
Butler, PA
#Gary Noller

Mr. Joseph P. Guntor
101st QM Co A
Oxford, MA
#Jim Buckle

Mr. John K. Krodell
11th LIB A/4/21 Inf
Dallas, TX
#Roger Gilmore

Mr. Michael McQueen
11th LIB D/3/1 Inf
Brandon, FL
#Gary Noller

Mr. George M. Morris, Jr.
11th LIB HHC/3/1 Inf
Dallas, TX
#Self

Mr. Steven B. O'Keefe
11th LIB A/4/21
Plano, TX
#Roger Gilmore

Mr. Charles L. Barbo
198th LIB A/5/46 Inf
Houma, LA
#Self

Mr. David Campbell
11th LIB, 6th Spt Bn, Co B
Bakersfield, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Luther A. Chaviers
Associate
Puyallup, WA
#Self

Mr. Raymond R. Czerkie
196th LIB B/2/1 Inf
Ashford, CT
#Ronald LeClair

Mr. Edward M. Frazier, Sr.
16th CAG 71st AHC
DeRidder, LA
#Gary Noller

Mr. David Kennedy
11th LIB A/4/21 Inf
Three Forks, MT
#Self

Mr. Clarence Lloyd
16th CAG 176th AHC
Newark, DE
#Gary Noller

Mr. Bruce Monaco
198th LIB A/5/46 Inf
Matthews, NC
#Gary Noller

Mr. Clyde E. Murray, Jr.
198th LIB C/5/46 Inf
Babylon, NY
#Gary Noller

Mr. Paxson L. Payne
196th LIB B/2/1 Inf
Stevens City, VA
#Self

Mr. Roy L. Pearson
11th LIB E/4/21 Inf
Overland, MO
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Jackson Rogers
11th LIB E/1/20 Inf
N. Richland Hills, TX
#Mike Robinson

Mr. Eric Snow
23rd MP Co.
Las Vegas, NV
#Rich Merlin

Ms. Malissie Wiggins
Associate
Hendersonville, NC
#Venice Owens

Mr. Barry Yusko
167th Bn
Juncos, PR
#Gary Noller

Mr. Gary W. Bray
11th LIB C/1/20 Inf
Stigler, OK
#Gary Noller

Mr. Xavier Castro
6/56th Art D Bn
Estill Springs, TN
#Gary Noller

Mr. Cliff Raymond
198th LIB HHC
Sam Rayburn, TX
#Dutch DeGroot

Ms. Maureen Robinson
27th Surg & 91st Evac Hosp
Chester, PA
#Paul Stiff

CSM (Ret) Vinson M. Rose
196th LIB HHC/1/16 Inf
Louisville, KY
#Self

Mr. David Weaver
3/18th Arty, D Btry
Jonesboro, GA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert L. Wolf
198th LIB A/5/46
York, PA
#Self

Mr. Wilbur L. Cook
Associate (26th Marine Regt)
Moore, SC
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Frederick A. Camacho
16th FA 3rd Bn
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
#Gary Noller

Mr. James A. Fivian
198th LIB D/1/52 Inf
Fayetteville, GA
#Robert Kapp

Mr. Lee S. Rodriguez
198th LIB D/1/52 Inf
Columbus, GA
#Dan Young

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. Robert S. Abrahams
196th LIB 1/46 Inf
Raytown, OH
#Self

Mr. Frank Brennan
11th LIB 1/20 Inf
Southington, CT
#Gary Noller

Col (Ret) Michael J. Ford
196th LIB A/2/1
Arlington, VA
#Dennis E. Matthews

Mr. Michael Matalik
196th LIB A/3/21 Inf
Rock Island, IL
#Dennis Laird

Mr. Larry Sullivan
11th LIB HHC
Hollywood, FL
#Self

Mr. Kenneth L. Bolton
23rd MP Co.
Hobart, IN
#Self

Mr. Don Ehlke
198th LIB A/5/46 Inf
West Bend, WI
#Roland Castronova

Mr. Ronald Kappeler
198th LIB HHC
Pittsburgh, PA
#Mark Deam

Mr. Horace F. Nearhood
164th Inf B Co.
Toledo, OH
#Roland Castronova

Mr. Gene E. Zugelter
23rd MP Co.
Cincinnati, OH
#Bernie Chase

NEW PAID LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Lyle E. Cheadle
11th LIB HHC/1/20
Harker Heights, TX
#Gary Noller

Mr. Leroy Nordstrom
11th LIB E/4/21 Inf
Anchorage, AK

Mr. Larry G. Barnes
11th LIB E/4/3
Lyman, ME
#Bernie Carroll

Mr. David D. Eichhorn
196th LIB HHC/c/3/21 Inf
Fleming, OH
#Gary Noller

Mr. Robert G. Hynson
14th Arty B/1/14 Btry
Laurel, MS
#Gary Noller

Mr. Jesse J. Mendoza
196th LIB B/2/1 Inf
Heidenheimer, TX
#Self

Mr. Roger A. Sprik
198th LIB
Amado, AZ
#Self

Mr. David Mims
11th LIB HHC/1/20
Kalamazoo, MI
#Robert Short

Mr. Charles J. Arcoletti
198th LIB B/1/52 Inf
Pittsburgh, PA

Mr. Roger D. Barney
1/1 Cav H Troop
McArthur, OH
#Self

Mr. Victor Frysinger
11th LIB C/4/3 Inf
College Station, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Richard L. Janousek
178th AHC
McPherson, KS
#Les Hines

Mr. Charles H. Runkel
132nd Inf Co. F
Annville, PA
#Don Ballou

Ms. Beverly East
Associate
Lumberton, TX
#Malcom East

SILENT VISITORS (Christmas Season at the Pentagon, 2004)

They came in a single file, about 50 of them. Silent ambassadors, to tell us who they were. They moved at a slow pace, passing us for over 20 minutes. Some walked, while others pushed their wheel chairs as best they could. Some were helped along on crutches by their wives or sweethearts. They were escorted front and rear by U.S. Marines in dress blue uniform. I have never seen prouder Marines. The Amputee Ward from Walter Reed Army Medical Center visited the Pentagon today. I was there.

Some wore looks of resolution, pride or dignity. Many had prosthetic devices where limbs used to be. All of them wore looks of surprise. We, the 26,000 employees of the Pentagon, lined both sides of the A Ring (the inner ring of the Pentagon) to watch them pass and welcome them with thunderous applause. Half a mile they walked through a gauntlet of grateful fellow citizens two and three deep, who reached out to shake the hands of the remaining good arms, or grasp the remaining fingers of hands that have given ultimate service. They walked through us to the main concourse, where they were met by the Army Band and color guard playing martial music for them, and where the mall was filled with additional people who swelled the applause. Many of us just called out loudly, THANK YOU! Because we didn't know what else could be said; thank you for your service to us. The applause never stopped.

None of them spoke. They just cried. So did we.

It was the closest I have been to Christmas in a long time.

- Anonymous

YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!

Every newsletter issue we mail has a "Change Service Request" for the Postal Service. Each issue they return because of an undeliverable address costs the ADVA \$.70. Since the 4th Quarter 2004 issue was mailed we have received 98 returned newsletters due to address changes. In many cases the "Forwarding Address" service had expired but the ADVA member had not notified us of the address change. If you are moving, or will be at another address for a period of months, please notify us so we can make the change in your record for the next newsletter issue.

Americal Division Veterans Association
National Adjutant

Richardson, Texas 75080

AMERICAL AFFILIATED REUNION NEWS

REUNION 2005 AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY

- Open to all Americal Field Artillery Vets from WWII-Korea-Vietnam.
- Will be held April 26-27-28 at the Holiday Inn Express, [REDACTED], Charleston, South Carolina 29407
- For reservations call toll free [REDACTED]. All rooms \$87 + tax. Check-in 4:00PM. Checkout 12:00PM. Complimentary Continental Breakfast 6:30AM till 9:30AM.
- Any questions call: Bob at [REDACTED].

26th YANKEE INFANTRY DIVISION 86TH ANNUAL REUNION

- Eisenhower Inn, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on June 16-17-18, 2005. For further information contact Robert Raney, Committee Chairman, 27 Forest Street, Peabody, MA 01960-4138. Telephone: [REDACTED]

Editors Note: If you wish to reply to an article in the Americal Newsletter that only lists an e-mail return address, you can receive assistance by contacting one of the newsletter editors. Write or call one of the editors and give them your request. They will forward your message via e-mail and obtain additional contact information.

The newsletter staff welcomes all letters and comments from ADVA members. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address to help us contact you in a timely manner if we have questions about your letter.

WORLD WAR II:

To The Editor,

On your web site you mention that Company A, 80th Combat Mortar Battalion was attached to the division in WWII. I have been talking to a Vet - 2nd Platoon, A Co., 80th CMB, and he has info to support that his platoon was attached to the 31st Infantry Division for all its operations in the Pacific. He says each company had 4 platoons, and all were parceled out to different units.

Do any of your members know which platoons were attached to any of the regiments of the Americal? Also, did the Americal work closely with the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade? Specifically the assault landing on Cebu island, 26 March 1945. If anyone has any information, I would appreciate them contacting me.

Dave Kaufman

Chatsworth, CA 91311-2134

Dear Editor,

I want the Americal members to know I received a note, along with his dues, from Al Hartwell, who is a member of "The Old Guard" and lives in Louisville, KY. He sent the dues to me as the Assistant Finance Officer and says, "it seems odd sending my check to Henderson, Texas, but you guys are taking over and doing a fine job. We GI's of WWII are fewer and fewer." Al was a member of F Company, 182nd regiment on New Caledonia when the Americal was formed and he quotes that he is old. He says this is his 50th check and hopes he can write many more. He will be 90 years in September. I get several memos like this and it really makes me proud to hear their stories. Keep them coming cause I am proud to be a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association and to know what a good job the Old Guard did in the big war. You are the greatest generation. I was at the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC last May and I just wish more of you could have been there.

PNC Ronald R. Ellis
Assistant National Finance Officer

Dear Editor,

I received a letter from Mrs. Bob Galpin, which reports his death in August 2004. Bob was the First sergeant of battery B, 221st Field Artillery battalion on Bougainville until he was sent to OCS where he got his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to another artillery battalion in the Americal. I last saw Bob and his wife at the National in 1994 in the Catskills.

Bob died just after his 87th birthday and just before his 57th wedding anniversary. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington national Cemetery, which is what he wanted. After the

funeral, his family visited the new World War II Memorial in Washington, and was very humbled.

Bob's children listed him in the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual listing of Veterans who contributed to the war effort. Anyone may add a qualified Veteran at the site, which is located at: <http://www.ww11memorial.com>.

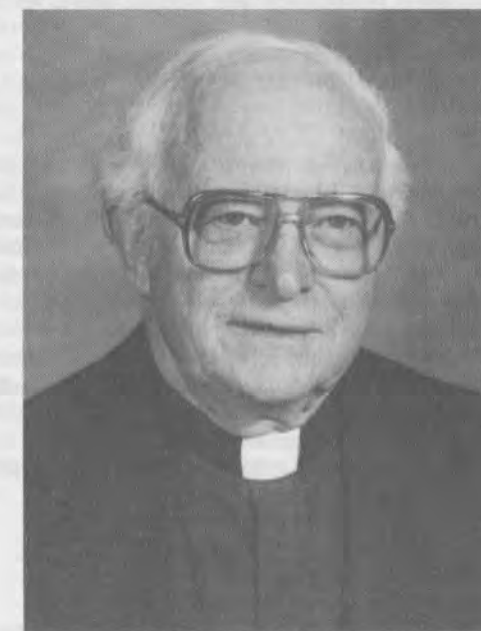
Jack Warkow

Editors note: two years ago we were erroneously informed that Rev William Elliott, an ADVA Chaplain, was deceased. We recently discovered he is very much alive and have added his name back to our directory. Here is a recent letter from him:

Dear Editor,

It is good to be back. I didn't know I had been away until contacted by you and found out that due to my area code changing, the new phone number recipient had thought you were attempting to her husband and told you he was deceased. Maybe this is how it feels to be resurrected or maybe to reenlist, but I am back. Let me introduce myself. I served in the 246th Field Artillery from New Caledonia to Japan and when the war was over returned to the seminary and was ordained a few years later. I met Jim Buckle about twenty years ago and was signed up as a member of the Alumni Association about ten minutes later ... and was asked to be a chaplain a short time after that.

I didn't know I was missing in action, but it is good to be back as I said before. And now a short sermon: As religious people we know we are offered new life every day by a wonderful God who cares for all soldiers who offer themselves for a just cause. Our faith tells us that God even loves the people who represent the demonic forces in this world. As Veterans we know what it means to face death and terror and loneliness. As Veterans we know we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.



The Reverend William T. Elliott

To The Editor,

My uncle, Benjamin (Ben) Franklin Hadley, was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company, 132nd Infantry Regiment during WWII. He was drafted into federal service in April 1941, I believe he went to basic training at Camp Croft, SC and was in the second group of recruits that joined the regiment at Camp Forest, TN in June 1941. He remained with the regiment until he was wounded near Cebu City, Philippines, in April 1945.

He has since passed on. He told us stories about his war experiences but usually no times or locations where these events occurred. "Orchids in the Mud" spends most of its time with the infantry, as one would expect and an occasional reference to the Anti-Tank Company's locations. Would any of your members from the Anti-Tank Company be available to communicate by e-mail, snail mail, telephone or a visit for more information for me on the whereabouts of the Anti-tank Company during this time? I would appreciate any time they could make available.

Best Regards,
Thurston Sullivan
[REDACTED], Louisville, KY 40220
[REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

Your reference was given to me by Dr. John Hofer (Doc) at the Madison, WI VAMC. Doc and I were discussing and reminiscing about the Americal Division and I mentioned that my dad was a member of the division during WWII. Though my dad has been gone for many years (1975) I was wondering if any of your members from that era might have known him. It would be a great pleasure to me to know if anyone is still around, and perhaps correspond with someone, who remembers my dad from those difficult days in the Pacific.

My dad's name was Vernon Ray Burkett and he served as a Combat Engineer with the Americal. That's all I know.

Tony Burkett (Sgt.- USMC- Vietnam)
[REDACTED], Cottage Grove, WI 53527
(Cell [REDACTED])

To the Editor,

On your Americal Web site you mention that Co A, 80th Combat Mortar Battalion (CMB) was attached to the division. I have been talking to a Vet - 2nd platoon, A Company, 80th CMB, and he has info to support that his platoon was attached the 31st Infantry Division for all its operations in the Pacific. He says each company had four platoons and all were parceled to different units.

Does anyone know which platoon (or platoons) were attached to any of the Regiments in the Americal? Also, did the Americal work closely with the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade? Specifically the assault landing on Cebu Island, 26 March 1945?

Dave Kaufman [REDACTED]
Chatsworth, CA 91311-2134 [REDACTED]

To The Editor,

I am in the process of trying to build a shadow box for my dad, PFC Anthony (Tony) Cervone who served in the Americal Division during WWII from 24 February 1942 to 25 December 1944. I have his separation papers but not a lot of information on his units.

I know he was a medic and also played in the Army band. He served in New Caledonia among other places. He was in the 391st ASP Band SCU 1493.

Do you know how I could find out more information about his units so that I could include all of the appropriate patches and insignias? I'm looking for anything that I could include in his shadowbox that would represent his service.

Tony Cervone, Jr.

VIETNAM:

To The Editor,

On page 10 of the Oct-Nov-Dec 2004 Newsletter there is a picture of me (Frank Cohee Jr.), and my Granddaughter (Tracy Andrews). It is a great picture. Unfortunately the caption says "23rd S&T - WWII" and, while I am old, I am not quite old enough for WWII.

I served in Korea with the 19th Ordnance MM Company (from Ft. Meade, MD) attached to the 2nd Infantry division. While we were a support unit, there were many times that the Division Artillery and the Marines were behind us.

I did make the Army a career after I got out a couple years (I was a Staff sergeant at that time). Later I applied and received a direct commission and retired as a Major. I was the Assistant Division Supply Officer (ADSO) in Vietnam with the 23rd S&T Battalion, Americal Division.

Frank E. Cohee Jr.

Editors note: We regret the error in the previous issue. Frank has served his country long and well. He is planning to attend the Melbourne, Florida reunion in April. For those going there, plan to look him up at the Americal gathering place.

Dear Editor,

My father, Thomas Van Guilder, recently passed away. He was in Company B, 5th/46th Bn, 198th LIB. He always talked about buddies that he would like to find but could never remember their names.

I have been told that my father was a good friend of David Forms. I do not know where he is located. The last information was that he was in West Virginia.

Lisa Sutton [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

It is with great anguish that I announce the passing of my best friend of more than 34 years, Larry J. Fox. We both served with the 23rd MP Company, 1st Platoon. His passing was on December 9, 2004 in his hometown of Thompkinsville, KY. I have truly lost a brother and the hurt is still there.

Dan "Duc Pho Dan" Thornton
[REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

My husband, Jesse A. Annunciation, known as "Doc", was in the Americal Division in Vietnam. He passed away about 20 months ago of squamous cell carcinoma. Jesse's greatest fear was that our 3 year-old daughter would not know her "Papa" and would forget him.

I would like any information about Jesse's service or stories about him. I would like to contact anyone who might have known him. Additionally, I am having a difficult time obtaining his personnel records so that I can receive his retirement benefits on behalf of our daughter. The VA has denied my DIC for Agent Orange related carcinoma. If anyone has any advice or help, it would be greatly appreciated.

Pam Annunciation; [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I participated in a fairly large all night battle at BS343882, Tra Bong, Quang Nhay Province, LZ Cindy, on September 8, 1970. Elements of the North Vietnamese Army attacked and overran an ARVN Ranger battalion base camp. The NVA also overran a Special Forces camp (A-107, or perhaps A-106).

I was part of A Battery, 3/18th Artillery, also at that location. We were separated from the Ranger base camp by the width of a dirt road. The airstrip and a few rice paddies separated us from the Special Forces camp. My firing battery fought all night long and was the only friendly unit to survive the night.

Cannoneers of my battery went outside the wire the next morning to mop up the battlefield. There was no one else left to do so. The unit killed several NVA and took three prisoners. I was told shortly after the battle that the estimated casualties were about 100 to 125 on each side.

The only official recognition of our participation in this fight that I know of is the distribution of medals. They included Bronze Stars with V devices for those who took prisoners, and ARCOMS for bunkerline participants. There is also the official notification of one American cannoner KIA.

I am looking for any after action report I can find. I have found none so far. I know the prisoners we took were from the 406 NVA Sapper Battalion. Among the NVA dead were some wearing "tiger stripe" uniforms. Others had black web belts with large silver buckles. These items were never seen by us prior to this battle and were atypical to the expected.

The hot rumor at the time was that there was a heavy weapons company assisting the 406th. I am curious to find out just what we were actually up against that night. I personally saw a steady stream of mortar rounds pound the special forces camp for what appeared at the time to be several hours. It seemed to go on all night long, so the possibility of a heavy weapons unit on site would not be out of line.

I would like to know what we were up against that evening, but cannot find anything except one ORLL that mentions the fight. But it does not give details of an American presence or participation. I would like to contact anyone that can give me more information about this battle.

Dan Kuzniar
[REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

My name is Donna Brizendine. I am the wife of SFC (retired) Thomas L Brizendine. He served with 2nd platoon, Co. B, 1/6th Inf. in 1968-1969. I would like very much to see a association started before

we lose all of our men who served in this battalion. My husband's webpage is <http://www.airborne-ranger.com:16080/~brizendine/>.

Donna Brizendine; [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I am trying to locate Morrill (Duke) Barron. He served as the Americal Division's Command Sergeant Major when the division was deactivated in Vietnam. There was a picture of him in Life magazine furling the division's colors in late 1971. One can see three missing fingers on his hand as he is rolling up the flag. Barron was the best man at my father's wedding. He served in Merrill's Marauders during World War II and saw action in Korea and Vietnam. My family has lost touch with Duke and we would appreciate any word of his whereabouts.

Brian O'Connor; [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I served with CO G. 75th Ranger Rgt. and would like to hear from crewmembers or pilots, that pulled my team out from a hot LZ around Easter 1969. This was a night extraction under heavy fire after we found a large base camp.

We were directed to the LZ by the Warlords and ended up calling in the guns on our position to move the NVA and Chinese back. Any replies would be welcome.

Ed (Dealer) Carey; [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I was with Echo Co, 1/46th, 196th LIB from Oct. 69 through Nov. 70. I am in the process of trying to put together a memorial to honor all the guys from the 1/46th that made the ultimate sacrifice.

I am having a bit of a problem coming up with an accurate list since the 1/46th started out with the 198th, then went to the 196th, then back to the 198th.

I received a list of casualties from Vance VanWeiren, Delta, 1/46th, but it is missing a friend of mine, Patrick Darren Lovell, who was killed in June of 70.

I have been to a ba-zillion web sites and have not been able to find any lists that would show casualties by unit. Would you happen to know if such a list is out there?

The problem with the flip-flopping of the 1/46th between the two brigades is that some of the records seem to have been lost in the shuffle. Many of the Honor Rolls that I have found do not have Pat Lovell's name on them. This includes the Americal site's casualty lists for the 196th and the 198th.

Any help you could provide in getting a completed list of the 196th, 198th, or the Americal Division casualty list would be greatly appreciated.

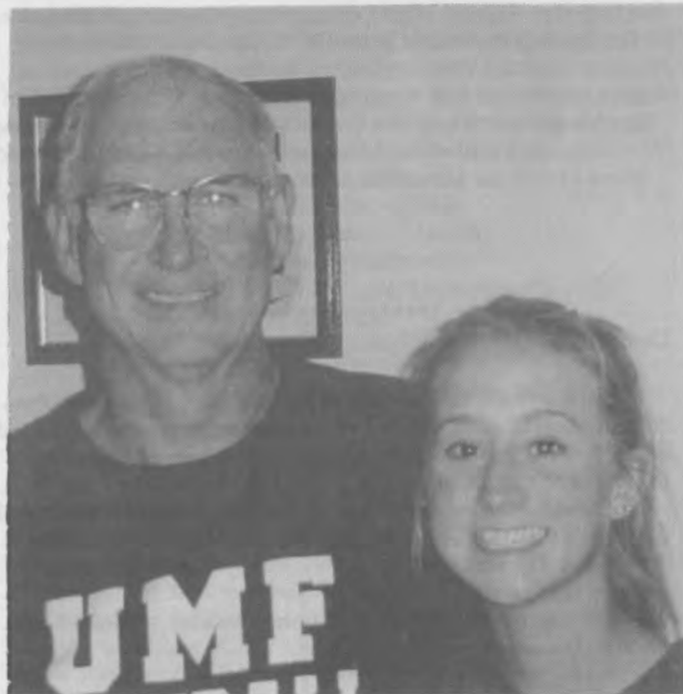
Paul Gildner; Co. E, 1/46th Inf.
[REDACTED]

Editor's reply: Corrections to the casualty list on americal.org will be made. The best source of unit information on Vietnam casualties is the Coffelt Database. Most all Vietnam KIAs are listed in this database with unit information to include company. The database is available on the internet and can be downloaded to a home computer.

Dear Americal Association,

I just wanted to take this moment to thank you for your gracious contribution to my college career. As you must know, an education is a necessity in the working world today. Thanks to your scholarship opportunities, you've made it that much easier for me and others like myself to get an affordable, excellent education. Thank you so much. I appreciate it more than I can say.

Allison Reitchel



(Allison with her father, Paul Reitchel, F troop, 8th Cavalry "Blue Ghost", 123rd Aviation Battalion, Vietnam).

Dear Mr. Short,

I am writing to express my thanks as a recipient of the 2004 ADVA Scholarship. I feel extremely honored to have been selected for this award for a third, consecutive year. It has been helpful in paying for my college tuition at Belmont University, where I will be graduating in May 2005. After graduation I plan to continue my professional career in theatre, with my musical theatre degree. This past summer I was privileged to be part of the Bigfork Summer Playhouse's 2004 company in Bigfork, Montana which was an amazing experience for me. Thank you for your generosity and helping me to achieve my dreams!

With Sincere Thanks,
Laura McLean

(Laura is the granddaughter of Nicholas Shealy, who served with the 132nd Infantry Regiment, in World War II)

Dear Mr. Short and the Americal Division Veterans Association,

I want you to know I consider it the utmost honor and privilege to have been selected to receive this scholarship. My head has been spinning as I have been working, starting school, and continuing to

volunteer at my youth group and deal with the health issues of my father. I am thrilled to tell you that I am currently enrolled in the Robert D. Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon and am working towards a major in Business Administration with a focus on Marketing. I am taking more than a full load with 17 credits; I'm part of the Honor Society and am also working in the Lillis Business Center under business management systems. Though the amount of schoolwork I have is quite heavy and the difficulty level quite high, I couldn't be happier with my experience so far. Being in the Honors College – the professors are extremely gifted, and I am honored that I get to be part of such a unique and challenging division of the University.

I want to thank you and the ADVA for helping me achieve my academic goals and for furthering my education. I also want to thank you for being so good to my Grandpa – who is deserving of more honor than anyone could possibly know merely by the numerous medals and commendations he's received. Thank you so much again; I really can't say it enough: THANK YOU!

Joel Reynolds

(Joel is the grandson of Jack Morton, who served with the 182nd Regiment in World War II)

To the ADVA Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for supporting me in my pursuit of an education. This award has allowed me to pay more attention to my grades and spend less time worrying about money. I truly appreciate your organization and the support that you continue to give students across the nation. My classes at the University of Washington are challenging and engaging. I am enjoying this experience and would like to thank every member of the Americal Division Veterans association for helping to make this possible.

Mark Orthmann



(Mark with his father, Dennis Orthmann, who served with the 174th Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam)

Dear Veterans,

Words can not express how grateful I am to everyone who contributed to the scholarships this year. Because of you I am happily attending my first choice of schools, David Lipscomb University. I am currently majoring in Psychology and hope to eventually go into the field of Diagnostic Testing. Thanks again to all the members of the ADVA!

Kari Ewing

(Kari Ewing was our 2004 fourth place winner with an award of \$1,500. Her father is John Ewing, who served in Vietnam with the 1st/20th, 11th LIB)

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY

Each June the ADVA Scholarship Foundation awards college and vocational scholarships to the children and grandchildren, including those by adoption, of current and deceased members, provided the deceased member held good membership standing at the time of his / her death, and to any child of an Americal Division soldier who was killed in action or died while on active duty with the division.

Application forms are available on the ADVA website (www.americal.org) or may be obtained by contacting the scholarship fund chairman at the following address:

Mr. Bob Short

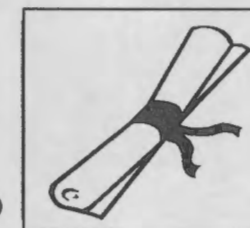
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Completed application forms and all required attachments must reach the fund chairman at the above address by not later than May 1, 2005 to receive consideration.

In 2004, the fund awarded \$25,000 in scholarships.

INDIVIDUALS WHO RECENTLY DONATED MORE THAN \$10 FOR THE ADVA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

- Steven Parkman
- Thomas Morris
- Dan Webster
- James Lyons
- PNC Roland Castronova
- Mrs. Walter Heckman
(in memory of Walter Heckman)



Dear Mr. Short and the Americal Division Veterans Association,

Better late than never! I am writing to thank you for helping receive a scholarship last fall. However, it is to my grandfather, Leonard Johnson, that I owe the greatest thanks. I thank him for the support he has shown for his country, the Johnson family and his grandchildren's education.

I appreciate the service of the Americal Division Veterans association. I am now a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.F.A. in Arts Administration.

Sincerely,
Elijah Rena Dylan Johnson



(Shown above is Elijah Johnson with her grandfather, James Leonard Johnson, who still fits in his WWII American Army uniform. Leonard served with the 182nd Infantry Regiment.)

"As a junior officer, use common sense regarding who you brown-nose; sergeants will save your life and generals will get you killed"

- Infantry Journal

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER II IN MI MN WI

COMMANDER
John Mathews

Verona, WI 53593
Tel: [REDACTED]

ADJ / FIN OFF
Terry Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [REDACTED]

The Great Lakes Regional Chapter had another great annual meeting as part of the 19th Annual WINTERFEST R&R, held in New Glarus, Wisconsin, January 13th-16th. The Winterfest is an "All Veterans Rally" which the Chapter traditionally uses for its annual get-together. Over 200 Vets were in attendance with a total attendance of over 265.

On Saturday, the 15th we held our annual business meeting at the headquarters hotel, the Chalet Landhaus Inn. The slate of officers for the next two-year term is as follows:

- Commander - John Mathews (1/14th Artillery)
- 1st Vice Commander - Terry Babler (1st Sqd/1st Cav)
- 2nd Vice Commander - Bill Allen (1/20, 11th LIB)
- Chaplain - Dale Belke (1/20, 11th LIB)
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Bill Lobeck (1/6, 198th LIB)

Our dues structure will change. Effective at the meeting, a dues increase was voted to be \$5/year. Members may get a \$5 discount for a 5-year membership at \$45. This increase in dues will help us to put out three newsletters per year rather than the two we currently publish.

All national Americal Vets are invited to our annual Winterfest. We currently draw visitors from over 20 states, as far away as California. New Glarus is a quaint village with Swiss architecture. The food is great and the comradeship is greater. Plan to join us next January. We will post information in this column.



(Top Right) Part of the Landhaus Inn, headquarters for the Winterfest All Veterans Rally.

(Center) Two Americal Vets gather at the New Glarus Fire Hall after the "Burning of Winter" ceremony and Veteran parade through the village of New Glarus. All participants enjoyed food and dancing at the Fire Hall.

(Left) The annual group picture Saturday afternoon outside Puempels Old Tavern, on the main street of town.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER - WINTERFEST R&R (Continued)



(Left) Americal Vets gather after Great Lakes Regional Chapter meeting at the Chalet Landhaus Inn, Saturday morning. Seated left to right are: Terry Babler, 1st Vice -Adjutant & Finance Officer, John Mathews, Chapter Commander and Dale Belke, Chapter Chaplain.

(Below) Chapter Commander John Mathews leads the Winterfest auction at The New Glarus Hotel & Restaurant. This year's theme was "Red-White-Blue". Assisting John is a Veterans wife, Shirley Lewis.



(Above Left) Colonel (Ret) Dave Taylor, Americal Vietnam Vet was the guest speaker who spoke about "The Pride of Being a Veteran." (Left) Special guest Sammy Davis, Medal of Honor Recipient, offers comments on how we must support those who are serving on active duty and Veterans in need. (Above) Late Saturday night "music" at the Chalet Landhaus Inn, by the "Gut-Bucket Brigade Band."

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC DE KY MD NJ NY OH PA VA WV

COMMANDER
John "Jay" Flanagan
[REDACTED]
Cranford, NJ 07016
Tel: [REDACTED]

VICE COMMANDER
Conrad Steers
[REDACTED]
Hicksville, NY 11801
Tel: [REDACTED]

SECRETARY
Joe Tunis
[REDACTED]
Lake Ariel, PA 18436
Tel: [REDACTED]

TREASURER
Mark Deam
[REDACTED]
Sidney, OH 45365
Tel: [REDACTED]

Leo Orfe: Sergeant-At-Arms
Everitt Williams: Chaplain
Visit our web site at:

<http://home.woh.rr.com/sidneyalum/advaerc/>

Our 2005 Chapter Reunion will be in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, November 3-6, 2005. It will be hosted by Dave Taylor and Darryl "Tom" Smith. All Americal Association National Members are invited! Friday will be a full day with the electronic map battle presentation, cyclorama, buffet lunch and two-hour battlefield tour with guides and plenty of stops for picture taking. In the evening we will eat at the historic Dobbin House Tavern, in our private ballroom and our guest of honor will be President Abraham Lincoln who will address the group and remain for pictures. Saturday is reserved for shopping and Saturday night will be our annual banquet at our headquarters hotel, the Holiday Inn Battlefield, located in the heart of Gettysburg. (Hotel is only \$59/night, single or double). For full information write or e-mail Dave Taylor: [REDACTED], Medina, Ohio 44256 or [REDACTED].



It is time to begin the New Year with payment of the annual dues. Membership Dues for year 2005 is again \$3.00. Feel free to pay for more than one year if you wish. We can track what year you are paid through. To the right of the mailing label you receive in the Chapter Newsletter is the year you are paid through. If your label shows 2005 or above, you are already paid. Remember that you must belong to the National ADVA in order to be eligible for membership in the chapter. Send your dues and/or questions to: Mark Deam, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Sidney, Ohio 45365-1623. Please make your check payable to: ADVA/ERC. Any questions write to Mark, call [REDACTED].

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

There are two great ways to reunite with comrades who share a common bond:

- Keep your Americal Division Veterans Association membership current!
- Join the chapter in your area for regional reunions and events that are closer to your home.

Each of the above requires separate memberships but both are very affordable and offer the opportunity for great times and developing great friendships.

JOIN YOUR AMERICAL CHAPTER TODAY!



Americal Vet Wendell Strode (D/1/20, 11th LIB), who is the Executive Director of the National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY, has submitted the above photo, showing the ADVA brick, which is now part of the walkway into the museum. Vets can purchase individual bricks as well. Wendell says the welcome mat is out for all Americal Vets. If you are passing through Bowling Green, Kentucky, stop by and say hello. The museum is located off of Interstate 65 (Exit 28). Hours are 8:00AM to 5:00PM seven days per week. Contact Wendell at [REDACTED] or the website: www.corvettemuseum.com.

ARTHUR R. WOOD

SOUTH EAST CHAPTER

AL FL GA NC SC TN

COMMANDER
Paul Stiff
[REDACTED]
Port Charlotte, FL 33949
[REDACTED]

SECRETARY / TREASURER
Allen Feser
[REDACTED]
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
[REDACTED]

We hope to see as many Americal Vets as possible at Florida's 18th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion, April 22-23-24, 2005 in Melbourne, Florida at the city's beautiful Wickham Park. You can call their number for more information at [REDACTED]. Just look for the Americal flags. There will be a Chapter meeting and elections for some open offices. You can also access information on the web at: <http://members.aol.com/flvietvets/reunion.html>.

Jerry "Doc" Anderson will be welcoming Americal Vets at his Camp Site and we will have an Americal "Welcome Booth" up by the concessions. So either way it won't be hard to locate us. I think it's fair to say you won't reliably shake out all the winter cold in your body without a trip to our veteran's reunion! A great way to welcome the spring season.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

AK WA OR ID MT WY

COMMANDER
Dave Hammond
[REDACTED]
Beaverton, OR 97005
Tel: [REDACTED]

2006 ADVA National Reunion Update (Portland, Oregon)

Friday night reunion activities for the Portland, Oregon 2006 reunion are booked. We will be taking a jet boat water taxi from our hotel on the beautiful Willamette River for a look at the downtown waterfront. Then, by water taxi, on to the Oregon Science Museum to have dinner, dance and a private tour of the famous USS Blueback Submarine. This is the last fast-attack, diesel powered submarine built by the Navy. This sub was even seen in the movie "Hunt for Red October." Another ride in the water taxi jet boats will take us back to our hotel. To top it off, this will be very affordable. Don't miss it! Details and updates on the reunion will follow in future ADVA Newsletters.

Anyone, who can help with reunion activities, please contact Dave Hammond.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

MA NH VT ME CT RI

COMMANDER
Arthur G. Cole
[REDACTED]
Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel: [REDACTED]

FAR WEST CHAPTER

AZ CA CO HI NV NM UT

COMMANDER
Richard A. Merlin
[REDACTED]
Riverside, CA 92503
Tel: [REDACTED]

SECRETARY / TREASURER
Gene McGrath
[REDACTED]
Pahrump, NV 89048
[REDACTED]

Vice Commander: John Bowley
Sergeant-at-Arms: Curt Rothacker
Chaplain: Pat Tognoli

The Far West Chapter will hold its next reunion in San Diego, California starting Thursday, September 22, 2005 and ending on Sunday, September 25, 2005. We will be staying at the San Diego Bayside Holiday Inn, [REDACTED], San Diego, CA. [REDACTED]. Our special room rates will be \$99.00 a night. For the discounted rate, tell them you are with the Americal Far West Chapter. Reservation cut off date is August 23, 2005. 24-hour free airport/hotel shuttle bus is available. San Diego International Airport is only 5 minutes from the hotel. The hotel web site address is: <http://www.holinnbayside.com>. On Friday, September 23rd we will tour the Aircraft carrier USS Midway and there are many other side trips available to include The San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Sea Port Village, Tijuana, Mexico and much more. We will have our dinner dance on Saturday night, September 24th. Registration forms are available. For more information call Kurt McFadden, Reunion Chairman [REDACTED] or Rich Merlin, Chapter Commander, [REDACTED].

RENO REUNION MEMORY BOOKS

If you did not order one or want an extra book we have a limited supply left for sale. This year's book is the best yet. It is in full color and has 36 pages. To order one, send a check for \$20.00, payable to the "ADVA Far West Chapter" to: Rich Merlin, [REDACTED], Riverside, CA 92506.

SOUTH MID-WEST CHAPTER

AR LA MS OK TX

COMMANDER
Cameron F. Baird
[REDACTED]
Stonewall, TX 78671
Tel: [REDACTED]

Our first event of the year was held in Abilene, Texas on February 5th in conjunction with the 18th Annual TET reunion hosted by the Abilene Grunt's Association. Approximately 400 Veterans and their families attended, including 14 Americal brothers. Local pilots staged a "Missing Man" fly over to start the program. The keynote speaker was USAF Lt. Col. John Wendell who was a POW in Vietnam for over six years. Special tribute was paid to area soldiers who have fallen in the Iraq War and reductions in funding for Veterans health care was addressed by the Taylor County Director of Veterans Services. A BBQ meal and USO show followed the program. Upcoming chapter activities now in the planning stages are a meeting in the Central Texas area (New Braunfels) and a charter-fishing trip on the Gulf Coast. The next chapter newsletter will provide details. With Roger Gilmore assuming the duties of National Adjutant, the chapter is in need of a treasurer. Please contact the chapter commander if you are interested in performing this vital function.

ADVA KANSAS CITY REUNION 2005**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Make your hotel reservations directly with the Kansas City Downtown Marriott. Call 1-800-228-9290 and identify yourself as being with the Americal Division Veterans Association. Room rates are \$89.00 per night. Rooms can be reserved after 7 July 2004. Cutoff date is 9 May 2005. The hotel is located next to the convention center in downtown Kansas City close to I-70 and I-35 junctions and and 20 minutes from the Kansas City International Airport, KCI Shuttle operates every thirty(30) minutes from the airport to downtown at a cost of \$23.00 round trip per person.

AIRLINE INFORMATION (12% DISCOUNT AVAILABLE)

Midwest Airlines [REDACTED] (Discount Code CMZ6350)

American Airlines [REDACTED] (Discount Code A4165AI)

AUTO RENTAL

Hertz in conjunction with Midwest Airlines [REDACTED] Code CV#02R30003

Avis in conjunction with American Airlines (ask clerk on the phone when booking flight)

MEMORY BOOK (Delivered approximately 90 days after the reunion.)

Once again First Class, professionally upgraded, in full color, at least 24 pages including individual, unit and event pictures

HARLEY DAVIDSON TOUR (FRIDAY, 6/17/05, 7:45AM-11:00AM) See how sportsers, V-Rod and Dyna-Glides go from the drawing board to the street. Whether you like to wear black leather jackets or just enjoy a ride with the wind in your hair, this new Kansas City production facility will interest and amaze you.

KANSAS CITY HIGHLIGHTS TOUR (FRIDAY, 6/17/05, 10am - 3PM) A driving tour of Kansas City will acquaint visitors with the historic buildings, the newly erected federal courthouse and the government square. A stop at Lewis and Clark Point, The Steamboat Arabia Museum, The Hallmark Crown Center, Union Station (where over 80% of the service men and women of WWII passed through, The majestic Liberty Memorial (dedicated to those who lost there lives in WWI), The famous Country Club Plaza (more than 170 boutiques and shops, modeled after Seville, Spain) and a drive along Ward Parkway will acquaint you with the homes and estates of some of the city's most prominent citizens.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Friday 6/17/05 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

A golf tournament is being organized at this year's reunion. It is planned to be a team event (scramble, best ball, etc.); the exact format is still to be determined. It is hoped that this will be the start of an annual event with a little good-natured team (Unit) rivalry. Anyone interested should contact Frank Moon [REDACTED] or Darrell Freeman [REDACTED]. Participation in this activity, will require pre-enrollment and a deposit. So let's get signed up individually or as units. More information will be posted later.

FRIDAY NIGHT BARBEQUE IN THE PARK (FRIDAY, 6/17/05, 6PM-9PM) Barney Ellis Park Downtown across from the hotel - A sample of the Famous Kansas City Barbeque. Local artists will provide entertainment for your enjoyment.

TOUR - A VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT. (Saturday, 6/18/05, 10AM-3PM) A driving tour of Independence, home to the 33rd President, Harry S. Truman. You will see the old square, the churches, the unusual Temple and Auditorium of the Community of Christ, The Truman Library and Museum, The renovated cars of the President. Guests will enjoy lunch at the Stephenson's Apple Farm Restaurant.

TOY AND MINATURE MUSEUM TOUR, (SATURDAY, 6/18/05, 10am- 3pm) Toy and Miniature Museum. Some of the country's finest miniature craftsmanship and antique toys on display in a beautiful old home on the KC, MO campus of U of Mo. Scissors cut, clocks wind, and musical instruments can be played. Then on to the Country Club Plaza, the first planned suburban shopping center in the country. 170 shops in a 14 square block area.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER DANCE (6/18/05 6pm-10pm) A world-class award winning buffet dinner. Live Band and Dancing. Entertainment and much, much more. Recommended dress is business casual.

**AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI JUNE 16-19, 2005**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Spouse or Guest Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ War served with Americal _____ Unit _____

REGISTRATION: Early Bird Special

Before 5/1/05: \$20 PER PERSON X # OF PEOPLE () \$ _____

After 5/1/05: \$30 PER PERSON X # OF PEOPLE () \$ _____

MEMORY BOOK: \$20 PER COPY X # OF COPIES \$ _____

TWO OPTIONAL BUS TRIPS FOR FRIDAY, 06/17/05, CHOOSE ONE ONLY:

HARLEY TOUR: \$30 PER PERSON X # OF PEOPLE () \$ _____

7:45AM - 11AM, does not include lunch

OR

KC TOUR: \$40 PER PERSON X # OF PEOPLE () \$ _____

10AM - 3PM, does not include lunch

FRIDAY NIGHT BARBEQUE: \$30 PER PERSON X 3 OF PEOPLE () \$ _____

6PM - 9PM

TWO OPTIONAL SPOUSE BUS TRIPS FOR SAT, 6/18/05, CHOOSE ONE ONLY

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10am-3PM, includes lunch

OR

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SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER DANCE 6/18/05

\$35 PER PERSON X # OF PEOPLE () \$ _____

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TOTAL: \$ _____

Make check payable to:
"Americal Midwest Chapter" and mail to:
David A. Chrystal, SR
[REDACTED]
Centralia, MO. 65240

Reunion Chairman
Dave Chrystal
[REDACTED] (cell)
[REDACTED] (home)

Remembering Guadalcanal

The story that I'm about to relate to, happened sometime between Thanksgiving and the first of March 1943 on Guadalcanal.

Every day around noon Jap fighter planes would appear over Henderson Field and our Grumman Wildcats would go up to meet them in dogfights. Since this happened daily it became routine to us doggies of the 22nd Ordnance Company of the Americal Division, so we would get into the chow line as usual while the dogfights were in progress.

On this particular day while the dogfights were going on and we were in the chow line, a slew of Jap medium bombers came in low over the mountains and were not picked up by radar. They bombed and strafed Henderson Field and the entire surrounding area, which included our bivouac area. I had been through many bombings and shelling's from the Jap ships at sea but we always got a "condition red" radar alert and had time to get to a foxhole. The element of surprise in this attack was devastating. They demolished many planes on Henderson Field and those of us in the chow line were overwhelmed and took off in all directions.

I've made an attempt to picture our area at this time. Enclosed you will find a print of the picture that I painted. This picture may bring back old memories to others who may have been there.

Joe Salini

San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: [REDACTED]

(Editors Note: The picture in the upper right was scanned into a photo to try to capture the essence of Mr. Salini's work. Note the Jap "Zeros" flying overhead and the terror on the faces of the GI's. We thank Joe Salini for this contribution)



In Memory

*Here, on this forsaken land,
They lie in God's abode;
The boys who gave what
They loved most
In order that we may hold –
The Peace and Freedom
Of our States Democracy
That's true:*

*So we may live in Peace again
Beyond the ocean blue.
They lived and loved their
Country just the same as
You and I,
And gave their life in action
So our faith would never die.*

*May they be remembered ...
For that, we're sure
They shall.
Here lie the boys who
Fought so brave
On the Isle of Guadalcanal.*

(Reprinted with permission, "The 164th Infantry News"
April, 1996)

The Way We Were ... When Entertainers Entertained



Phil D'Entremont contributed the top and bottom left photos. (Top) Taken on Leyte, Philippines, 1945. Phil notes, "This is the shot of the crowd that attended the Irving Berlin show. He is on the stage and I am by the cameraman. It rained a little that night but Irv said he would put on the show anyway. He did, and also did a fine job of entertaining." Note the female Red Cross worker in the front row, third from left. Phil adds, "If that Red Cross worker wasn't around, he (Berlin) would have told some off color jokes and sing some different songs. But he couldn't embarrass her." (Editors Note: Contrast that attitude with the Janet Jackson Super Bowl half-time performance that was thrust on millions of children last year?) (Bottom left) Phil notes "this shot was taken of popular comedian Joe E. Brown on Guadalcanal, 1943. He had just lost his son – a pilot. Brown was one of the first entertainers of the USO and entertained the Americal again in late 1943 on Bougainville. (Bottom right) Photo contributed by Howard Burroughs. Roy Rogers with actress Vera Hobel Ralston entertaining returning troops (including Americal soldiers) at a Lake Placid club, 1945.



Origin of the Americal Patch: A Wisconsin Farm Boy Who Sought A Trade Artist Leon P. Granacki's Wartime Creation Is The Symbol Of The Army's Only Named Division.

Gaining A Vocation — For War and Peace

Leon Granacki came to Chicago with his family as a young teen just months before the Great Depression in 1929. An unsophisticated farm boy from Pulaski, Wisconsin, he was lost in a big city high school. But he found his place at Lane Technical High School, where he fell in love with art. He studied drafting and free-hand drawing under Mr. Jorgensen, who also gave him an introduction to the tragedy of war. Jorgensen, who served in World War I, had been gassed in the trenches. Granacki, the student, observed that his teacher "was physically very weak from the gassing, but a very good teacher."

Graduating from Lane in 1933 he searched the city, looking for any art or graphics-related jobs he could find: window displays, layout artist, graphic designer or painter. He once mused, "Whatever they wanted, I was it. Being hungry will give you a lot of nerve."

Granacki's attitude was typical of the generation raised during the depression. "When a customer asked if I could do something, I always said 'yes' whether I could or not. By the time they found out I didn't have any experience, even if they fired me, I already learned something." Among the secrets he picked up on his odd jobs was a knowledge of silk screening. "Silk screening was not so well known at the time so people didn't want to give their secrets away," he once related. "But I found out how they did it."

Drafted into the 132nd Infantry Regiment in April 1941 and sent to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, Granacki's regiment was trained and ready to be shipped to the South Pacific after the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor. They traveled by train to New York, where they boarded a troop ship for the sea journey as Task Force 6814, eventually landing at New Caledonia. At some point he had been asked to fill out a biography of his prior experience. Granacki had summarized on his military bio sheet: "Commercial artist, illustrating. Was doing commercial artwork for retail furniture company. Did pen and ink work and architectural work." Of course, the Army's immediate needs were less compatible and he served many months in training as an infantry rifleman.

On New Caledonia Private Granacki was sitting with some friends one day, killing time, when an officer unexpectedly asked if he could draw. The officer handed him a pencil and paper and instructed him to draw some scenery off in the distance. When Granacki handed back the quick sketch, the officer was impressed. The rest, as they say, is history. He was subsequently assigned to the G-2 (Intelligence) Section of the Americal Division headquarters.

The Americal's commander, Major General Alexander M. Patch, Jr. wrestled with a quandary on New Caledonia. The War Department wanted a division formed out of Task Force 6814 but the unique assembly of units in the task force did not resemble the standard table of organization for an infantry division. Washington decided to give the division a name instead of a number.

Neither the War Department's suggestion, "Necal Division" nor Patch's first thought, "Bush Division," seemed to stick. Patch turned to his troops, the ones who would serve in the newly designated division, to offer suggestions. An enlisted man in the 26th Signal Company, Pfc. David Fonseca, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, offered the name which was subsequently approved by Patch and the War Department: "Americal" ... "American

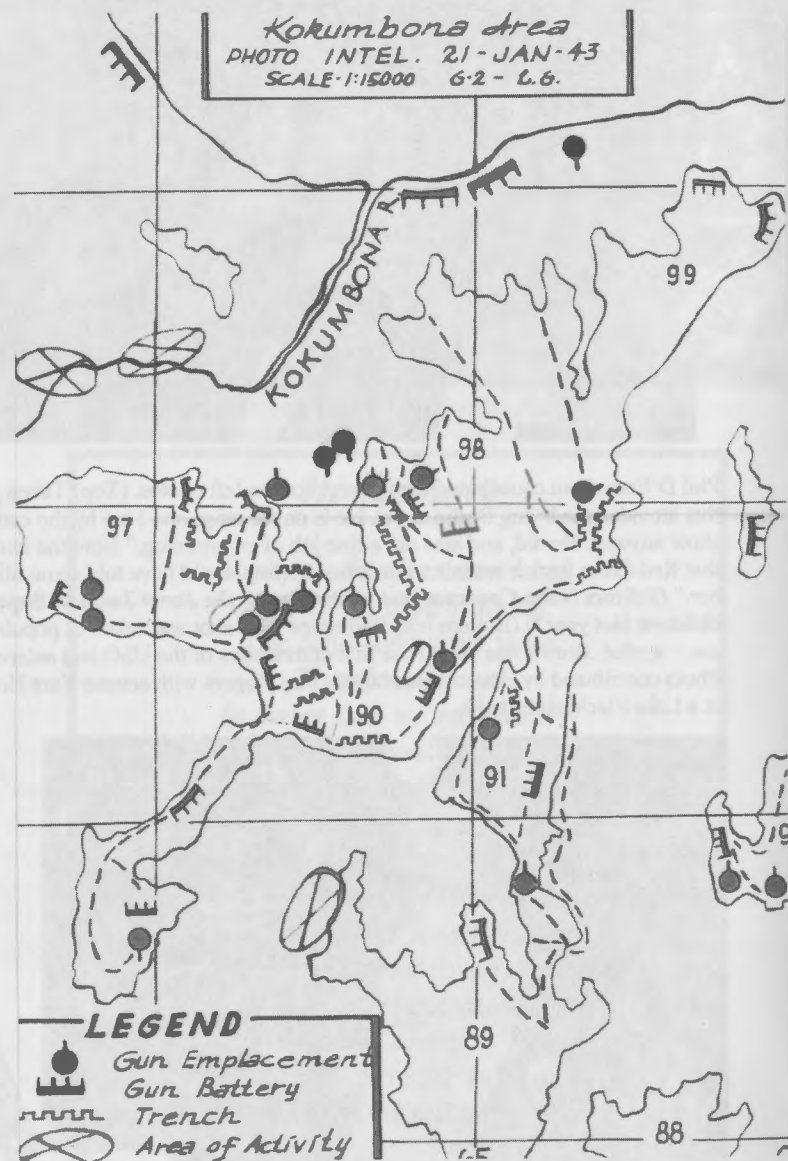
Troops on New Caledonia." It was to the commercial artist on Patch's staff, now Technician Fourth Grade Leon P. Granacki, to design Americal's patch. Granacki designed a Norman shield measuring 2 5/8 inches high and 2 1/2 inches wide with a deep blue background. Four



white stars of varying sizes were slightly tipped to the right, to represent the Southern Cross, which was so readily seen in the South Pacific, home of the division's origin.

Interpreting Intelligence to See the Battlefield

Leon Granacki's ability to portray graphically what he saw from aerial photographs proved invaluable for infantry units operating in the Guadalcanal campaign. As a Technician Fourth Grade his expertise gave him the principal responsibility for the development of the original maps made from aerial photographs of the Matanikau-Kokumbona area on Guadalcanal, the scene of fierce fighting.



Portion of Granacki's Map of the Kokumbona Area, Guadalcanal, Denoting Japanese Positions (Source: Victoria Granacki)

From time to time Granacki would be attached to the G-2 (Intelligence) section, Headquarters, XIV Corps. His unique expertise demanded long hours under difficult conditions, assisting the Commander, South Pacific's (COMSOPAC) Photo Interpretation Unit in the preparation of original copies of photo maps and target photos, which were of great value to both air and ground troops.

Granacki's abilities were also tapped to prepare graphic compilations of terrain information and in the rapid reproduction of captured maps. The pressures of time constraints and accuracy were enormous. Soldiers in the field were dying in life and death struggles. Generals needed to "see" the battlefield with as much clarity as possible. Granacki would always laugh years later when asked if he ever met General Douglas MacArthur when he worked at the Corps level. "General MacArthur and I weren't friends", he would relate. "He didn't have time for me, but I did talk to him. He always wanted to know when the maps would be ready."

Throughout his tenure in the South Pacific Granacki and his section used aerial photographs and captured Japanese documents to create maps which helped determine enemy positions for Americal battle plans. His outlines of coral reefs around Guadalcanal, the Philippines and other Pacific islands played a role in determining Japanese ship lanes.

During periods of relative calm, between the island campaigns, Granacki developed an expertise in watercolors and painted tropical scenes which, in the post-war years, were displayed at the Art Institute of Chicago. By war's end Technician Fourth Grade Leon P. Granacki was a Master Sergeant and Administrative NCO in the division's G-3 (Operations) section. He supervised fifteen clerks, typists and draftsmen in the preparation of plans and other operational documents.

(Below) Major General John R. Hodge (left), Division Commander from May 29, 1943 to March 31, 1944, Poses in Picture with Master Sergeant Leon P. Granacki.



A Return to Peace and A Love of Art

After the war Leon Granacki returned to Chicago and resumed his career in art. His job at Petersen Furniture Company was still waiting for him when he was discharged from Fort Sheridan, Illinois on June 13, 1945 after four years, one month and 30 days of service. At Petersen he illustrated and laid out newspaper advertising and created seasonal display windows. His watercolor skills came in handy since newspapers at the time printed black ink and watercolor wash drawings of furniture and appliances. He also met his future wife, Myrtle Meyer at Petersen, and they were married in 1947. Over the years his clients and work were varied and he gained a reputation for excellence in his profession. He did advertising and layout work for Polk Brothers, Sears Roebuck and Company, Mack & Parker Insurance Company and others.

Leon and Myrtle Granacki lived most of their post-war years in Old Irving Park, a historic neighborhood in the city of Chicago. There they raised three children, Victoria, James and Paul. For many years he would return to his native Wisconsin farmland and a summerhouse in Minnesota to paint ducks, geese and deer. The lush vegetation of farmland always caught his eyes. He recalled, "Sometimes I would go out into the woods to look for mushrooms, not to eat but to paint." His century-old home in Irving Park contained over 30 paintings of wildlife covering "everywhere but the ceiling." In his later years Granacki added to his passion a series of fine line drawings of his Irving Park neighbors' homes. Through the years his artwork was exhibited at numerous art fairs in the Chicago area.

Granacki's wife Myrtle passed away in 1989 and Leon P. Granacki, artist, illustrator, draftsman and soldier, who designed the shoulder patch of the U.S. Army's only named division, answered his final roll call on June 30, 1993. A farm boy from Wisconsin had answered his country's call, and thousands of Americal Vets honor his memory on their shoulders.

Remembering 9/11 on New Caledonia

Here is a photo I received from some friends on New Caledonia. The picture is of a memorial Service that was held in memory of the September 11, 2001 attack in New York. It was held September 11, 2004 at the site of the Memorial the people of New Caledonia erected in memory of the Americans that served there during WWII, particularly the Americal Division. Quite a few of "The Old Guard" attended the dedication of that memorial in 1992, which was the 50th anniversary of our arrival. – Jim Buckle.



(Left) 9/11 ceremonies held on New Caledonia September 11, 2004. Various consuls from Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia were present in addition to military officers and local mayors. The lady on the left (front row) is the American Consul. (Photo source: Jim Buckle)

An Extraordinary Thing Happens During Fifth Company Bivouac

David Lippert – Officer Candidate (OC)

Editors Note: This abridged article (March 1980) is reprinted with permission, "The 164th Infantry News", the official publication of the 164th Infantry Association.

It was the last day of Shell Creek Bivouac and the hill at Carkner Range was being taken for the umpteenth time. The squad was following the school solution. Then everyone was aware at once of something extraordinary.

It was that BAR. That rhythm was out of this world. If rifles played jive, then this was it. It was the neatest job of target engagement and coverage that anyone had seen. "Who's on that BAR?" the instructor asked in quite evident admiration. The class had the answer ready (as all OC classes do). "It's Ralph Gaugler, Sir." And the instructor soon learned where Gaugler had obtained his gunnery education.

OC Ralph L. Gaugler had been with the famed Americal Division in Guadalcanal. Not only that, his regiment, the 164th, was the first Army unit to land on that island, preceding the others by several weeks. It immediately undertook the defense of Henderson Field and relieved the Marines who had held it so tenaciously.

Gaugler was the BAR man, then squad leader in the five and one half months the outfit was there. He tells of how his unit maintained control in jungle fighting. "In the defense, since men could not move around much, communications from company to platoon was by sound-powered telephones, the same in the offense. Hand and arm

arm signals were of limited use, because they could not be seen.

Sometimes they would run into Jap machinegun fire – Gaugler has a very respectful opinion of this weapon as well as the Japanese machine gunnery. He says, "It's a very good gun and they can use it very cleverly. The worse thing is their crossfire, which opens up behind you. You can't flank them so you must depend on mortars and grenades to knock them out."

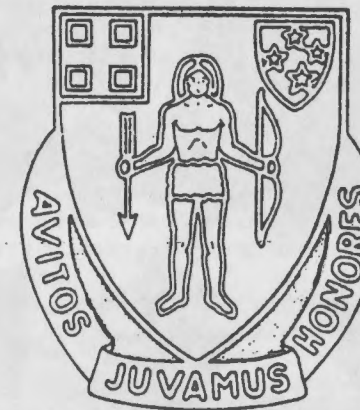
Among our weapons he has great admiration for the M1. He recalls how the Marines, who had "03s on Guadalcanal, offered anything for a Garand. "When you are shooting at a rustling sound in the dark you'd rather put three or four shots around it than just one."

He is sure his officers had heard of the Infantry School's doctrine of hot chow, but they could not get it up to his outfit in combat. Usually it was C rations that were delivered to their holes. Sometimes it was K rations. A great thing for building up the morale was the hot coffee and biscuits occasionally brought up around 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning.

After nearly six months on Guadalcanal, his unit was transferred to the Fiji islands for rest and reorganization. They had a good look at themselves. They had lost about one half of their strength. Those remaining were almost all sufferers from malaria (including Gaugler) and most of their officers were casualties.

It was this picture in mind that Gaugler declares that the most important thing in jungle warfare is individual morale. That's the only measure of a man there. Many of the little men lasted longer than the big, husky ones because they had the will to keep going. "Despite malaria, dengue, bugs, dirt, heat, rain, cold chow, snipers and rotting dead bodies, you had to keep on fighting."

The Oldest Regiment In The U.S. Army 182nd Infantry



The oldest regiment in the United States Army, founded in 1636, and known as the Old North Regiment when it responded to the call of Paul Revere and has served in every war up through World War II, has once again responded to serve our country.

Although it is now only a battalion it is serving our country well. B Company has been used in providing security to the four Air Force bases in Massachusetts. D Company had done a tour of duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey and several other places in the Northeast region. C Company was deployed in May of last year and was headed to the Sinai Desert, Egypt for one year of peacekeeping duty.

"WE UPHOLD OUR ANCIENT HONORS"

Jim Buckle

Flame Throwers: How Many Remember?

Marvin Seas

Editors Note: This is an edited article reprinted with permission, "The 164th Infantry News" (September 1985), the official publication of the 164th Infantry.

This is a short story about Hill 260 on the island of Bougainville, a northern Solomon island. I do not remember the names and dates, but I met a good friend who was from the state of Washington. He worked with me whenever they wanted more than one flame thrower, and most of the time they always called for two. I had wished many times that I had kept a list of names and dates.

One morning our company executive officer told me that I would be going to a school on flame-throwers. We (one person from each company) arrived at the training area, and after an hour of class we had lunch. Shortly thereafter we were told that we were needed up at the front and had to cut through the thick bush part of the way. This hill 260 was covered with trees of all sizes along with the brush. There was a huge tree right on the top at hill 260, which was used for a lookout post. I would say that tree would measure three feet at the base and 120 feet tall. This post changed several times with the Americans ending up in control. The hill was bombed and shelled so much that by the time we left you could have planted a garden. When our unit of 50 enlisted men and officers arrived, we were

told to load our flame-throwers and be ready to move out. Each man that carried a flame-thrower was the squad leader, and five other men made up the full squad, which was to protect the person carrying the flame-thrower. One morning my partner and I were supposed to try to destroy this tree. The Japs had those round foxholes dug around this large tree. My partner and I took five one-gallon cans of gas and two loaded flame-throwers and started to work our way to the tree. When we got close enough we took the covers from the cans of gas and threw them into the Jap foxholes and then emptied one flame-thrower without lighting it. Then we lit the gas with the second flame-thrower. After a few days the tree roots had burned off so the big lookout tree had come down.

A day or two later one company of infantry plus my squad from the flame-thrower's unit went out again. They had gotten so they couldn't even go on patrol without taking a flame-thrower along. A thrower weighed 90 lbs. loaded, so it was very hard to carry through rough terrain and brush. We flame throwers went through our line before daylight and proceeded to work our way into enemy territory, and by early afternoon we had many Japs between us and our front line. I was ordered to go forward to burn out a big bunker. I got about halfway there when I stopped to see where my squad was and couldn't see any of them. I alone proceeded forward and finally got close enough to my target to empty my flame-thrower.

The Japs started to come out of the other foxholes and bunkers. Everyone had orders not to shoot, but a man carrying a Browning automatic let go a burst and the Japs jumped back into their foxholes and threw everything they had at us. We finally got off the hill after dark carrying our wounded and several dead. After what seemed like many hours of walking we met a couple of soldiers who said we had been relieved. I stayed the rest of the night with an artillery battery, and this was the first time I knew that we 164th guys had been attached to the 182nd Infantry! The following day a jeep driver took me back to my own company. Our company executive officer came out of our headquarters tent and said he couldn't believe it was me, because they had just received word that I had been killed. Our small unit of flame-throwers had over 50 percent casualties. Hill 260 was destroyed by bombs and shells. I dug a foxhole one-day and hit something with my pick, and it turned out to be a 100-lb. bomb!



Flame-throwers in action on the Pacific Islands
(Photo courtesy of Steven Henningsen)

Memories Bring Appreciation

Dear Comrades,
This year on July 27th we celebrated my 90th birthday.

My thoughts go back to the times when we met and the events that have gone on since then. Do you also remember some happenings good and others not so good? My memory, like yours, is full of events that are most memorable of those by gone days. Looking forward, I great each new day with wishes for the very best for all our people.

I do my best to enjoy all the things we have and greatly appreciate our civilization in the U.S.A. I never forget to remember that I'm the son of an immigrant in this country! What do you appreciate most? Mine is freedom. Let me hear from you.

And now its time to wish you and yours the very best for the coming years.

Love,

Warren Hester, Colonel (Retired) US Army Dental Corps
[redacted] San Antonio, TX 78209-4209

Quartermaster – But Infantry

This is a story about my time as a replacement with the Americal Division. I was first sent to New Caledonia where I remained in training for two or three months. After this length of time I was embarked on a Marine troop ship and sent to Guadalcanal. After a period of time we were then sent to the island of Bougainville, remaining there for thirteen months, taking supplies wherever they were needed.

I was assigned as a Combat Quartermaster, in the 125th QM Company as a Platoon Sergeant with the rank of Technical Sergeant. My platoon, after bringing supplies ashore in an invasion status, was then charged with the guarding of the supplies on the beach area where we came ashore.

My company commander was William B. Abricht; my First Sergeant, Joe Swartz. He was my closet and best friend. After thirteen months on Bougainville we were involved in the invasion of Leyte, bringing in and guarding supplies. We also took prisoners and helped in guarding and transporting them.

After the invasion of Leyte we were involved in the invasion of Cebu. We were all dug in on the beach, ordered to dig foxholes and remain as guards to fight any infiltrating Japanese.

The First Sergeant and I were attempting to wash ourselves on the beach when a Japanese Zero glided in at tree top level with his engine off. Then, just above the beach started his engine and strafed the beach. This resulted in some dead and wounded. After all our work to dig our foxholes for ourselves, they were filled with other soldiers, leaving no room for us. Many acts of bravery were performed here on this beach at Cebu, as well as many others in the pacific area of the war.

As stated we were dug in and being shot at by the Japanese. One such man, known as a Naval Beach Master was attempting to bring LST's in with supplies and was being shot at as he was trying to do his job, because everyone could see him. He got tired of being shot at so he picked up a rifle and went after the Japanese sniper, killing him and remarking, "now I can get my job done!"

After duty on several islands and at wars end my division and I was shipped to Japan for occupation duty. My duties were many, guarding supplies ... keeping them from being stolen and sold on the black market. This was one of the most important jobs we had. An element of danger was present, as the persons being dealt with were some dangerous criminals.

In November of 1945 I was shipped back home. I was discharged in December of 1945 and saw no more of my friends. They were most all from Massachusetts, from the old 26 Yankee Division (later the Americal). Being from Portland, Oregon I was a long way off to have contact with them after the war.

And so it is. I am now 86 years old.
Harold E. Leonhardt, 88641 Youngs River Road.
Astoria, Oregon 97103-9127



(Above: Harold Leonhardt on the right with a fellow soldier, Frank Gore on Bougainville. Photo courtesy of Harold Leonhardt)

Cebu Beach Landing Remembered

The picture of Cebu's Talisay Beach (Americal Newsletter July-August-September 2004 issue, page 14) shows where we came ashore. This landing was the most unusual task I was faced with during my South Pacific tour. My gun crews, 105 howitzers and I, were the "ducks" for the landing. We placed one "105" in each of four Ducks. My Duck, No. 5, had an attached "A" frame and all the 105 ammo the Duck could hold. We loaded the five "Ducks" into the cargo hold of an LST, and left Tacloban, Leyte in the invasion convoy.

The invasion began with naval guns and rockets being fired constantly. Out LST stopped about 200 yards off shore. The bow doors opened and the ramp was lowered into deep water. I was in the lead Duck with the "A" frame. We backed down into the blue water. I thought we would sink, but eventually we floated free and drove to shore.

On landing we made a sharp right turn to be ready to pick each "105" off its Duck as they came ashore. At this point things became completely "SNAFUED". We were alone! The gun crews had become infantry. We soon found the beach road blocked by large timbers. Houses were burning and a bridge was blown up. The soldier, using a mine detector, said my ammo-loaded Duck had straddled two large bombs when we had turned to the right. It's a day I will never forget!

PS: I was in Task Force 6814 leaving New York January 1942 and have other stories to tell. Lt. George Cralle and I joined the Illinois National Guard the same night in December 1937. George is not well and could stand some prayers. Thanks.

John E. Schotemeyer

57th Engineers – Cebu

On the first night of the invasion of Cebu in the Philippines I was involved in an out-of-the-ordinary situation. The invasion was a success with our troops forcing the Japs to take to the hills.

Our Company "C" took shelter in some church rooms vacated by the Japs. There was a lot of damage to the church but we still had enough available rooms to house all the men. After securing the area, we all retired for the night.

About midnight I was awakened by our cook and informed that one of the rooms we occupied contained a young women who was about to give birth. Since I was married, he felt I would know what to do. The only thing I could think to do was "boil some water."

I checked on the young girl and determined that yes, she was about to become a mother.

I wakened my jeep driver and instructed him to return on the road we had used and he would find a hospital on the left that I recalled seeing on our way in. Things were getting dire with the young lady and time was passing much too slowly for all of us. A big part of the problem was that the jeep driver needed to drive in the dark without lights.

Eventually the driver returned with a local doctor. The doctor requested that I hold a candle as he explained what he was going to do. A few seconds later he cut the water bag and the infant emerged with the tide. It was a boy and it was soon obvious the father was one of the Japs forced into the hills.

The mother was up and doing her laundry the next day. The baby was named after my jeep driver.

CPT Clint Zimlich

[redacted]
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

My First Day on Guadalcanal

Sgt. Roy A. Lindberg (in letter to his sister)

It was a beautiful morning, brilliant tropical sunshine on October 13, 1942. It was on this day that I first saw Guadalcanal. It looked so peaceful, like a sanatorium to us unqua lovers.

When Higgins boat dumped us on the beach, our first impression of the "Haven of Rest" was changed. Here we saw for the first time beach defenders, barbed wire entanglements, gun emplacements and the foxholes of various shapes and sizes to fit the case.

Our battalion was designated to a bivouac area in the coconut plantation of the Lever Brothers. Here too beauty was a minus. The pockmarked earth, combined with the battle-scarred palms was truly a picture of destruction. In this area it seemed the makers of Lifeboy, instead of hiring coconut pickers, had gotten lumberjacks and they had quit when their jobs were only half finished.

Having settled here for the time being, at least we wandered about the beach (which we later learned was mined) talking to Marines – scuttlebutt was free and we collected plenty – tales about the various battles they had had. Each one had a different version. We also saw some Jap money, some which was in "invasion money."

About 10 o'clock we ate our canned rations, which consisted of meat and beans – a can of dog biscuits and a ration D Bar for desert. After this was done our company was to help unload boats. Never before have I seen men work with such zeal and enthusiasm. Due to that fact we soon had enormous stocks of rations, ammunition, tents and other things too numerous to mention, piled up on the sandy beach.

It was in this condition that our first bombing raid caught us. Marines yelled, "Condition Yellow" which meant unidentified planes in the vicinity (we learned this later). Excitement was great, and I actually believe there were fellows like myself who silently wished the

Nips would come. Our wish was granted. "Condition Red" someone yelled – the Marines told us to find a hole. I found a shallow ditch which, seemed like ample cover at the time and a good observation spot. Straining my eyes skyward, I saw silver streaks flying in perfect formation. Our "Ack-Acks" acked and tiny white puffs of smoke could be seen directly beneath the planes. It remained that way, an array of cotton balls – a cushioned path for the bombers. My curiosity soon came to an end, however, when a whistling bomb fell some hundred feet away. We saw men scurrying with stretchers. The report on the results was – one Army man killed and two Marines wounded. So happened the first casualty of the regiment. A second wave of bombers followed the first wave. Incidentally, the wave had 23 planes in it and the second had 14. Bombs fell to the south of us but their explosions were quite audible nevertheless.

So ended our first raid during which many questions were raised such as: in my bewilderment I tried to account for our Air Force, which had let these "helpless" Japs in. Second, why hadn't our ack-acks knocked them down? These questions were cleared up by the "Leathernecks" when work was resumed on the boats. Their explanations – we had about a dozen "Wildcats" (Grumman Fighters) on the island which were sadly in need of repair. The maximum range of the anti-aircraft guns was 28,000 Ft., which the Nips knew and consequently flew at a higher altitude. We also wondered if the raids would come regularly and to this they said "yes" they would until more planes were received to bolster the infant air force on the island.

We finished unloading the boats about 5:00PM. Supper followed which was tasty despite the fact our cooks were jittery too. Immediately following our first cooked meal the weapons platoon of our Company (of which I am a part) was assigned the first relief of the guards whose duties were to guard our rations from the rice eating Marines.

The General Orders were violated shamefully, we allowed the Marines to help themselves in exchange for versions of their exploits, some of which sounded fantastic at the time but through experience we learned differently. When Pistol Pete and Pete Jr. started shelling us from the hills, I quit my post promptly. The dash I made for the nearest unoccupied foxhole would have broken many college records. Speaking of dying from fright, I don't believe it's possible because during the next 2 hours my fear increased every minute. Sands from the sides of the foxholes kept filling my lap but to remove it would have meant a decrease in depth and that was definitely out of the question. After the situation seemed normal again, I did not go back to my post but on the contrary, I went to our bivouac area, which took considerable time due to the fact that during the shelling, Mother Nature had spread a veil of darkness so black that, when first emerging from the foxhole I pushed my new type helmet up, thinking it was covering my eyes.

Back in the area, some of the boys were stretched out in "our friend, the shallow ditch." Our minds were in such turmoil that to sleep was impossible. So we were all awake when the first salvo from the Nippon's Cruisers screamed overhead on its way to Henderson Field (so named because of the heroic deed Lt. Henderson did in the battle of the Coral Sea). The shelling continued until 3:00AM. Washing Machine Charley (the Nip who came to our island every single night) assisted the cruisers by dropping flares and he also dropped a few bombs. Charley had a brother too. He came too damn early for reveille but the Marines christened him "Reveille Joe" nevertheless.

Bad as well as good comes to an end, the only difference is that bad's ending seems like an eternity while the good seems like a short dream. So ended our first and a bad day, on Guadalcanal.

Editors Note: This article (March 1986) is reprinted with permission, "The 164th Infantry News", the official publication of the 164th Infantry Association.

DeGroot honored in WI

MSgt. John "Dutch" DeGroot (USAF Reserve) received the Wisconsin Military Achievement Award in a ceremony last fall. DeGroot, an ADVA member since 1986, is a Past National Commander of the association.

The award ceremony was held on November 7, 2004 in Madison, WI. Terry Babler, adjutant of the ADVA Great Lakes chapter, wrote the following account of the event.

The 40th Annual Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards ceremony was held in recognition of distinguished service by Wisconsin Guard and Reserve military personnel. It was held on Sunday, November 7, 2004 at 12:00 PM at the State Capitol Rotunda in Madison, Wisconsin.

Presentation of awards were made by Wisconsin governor Jim Doyle; Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Adjutant General of Wisconsin; and Mr. Jim Rebholz, State Chairman, Wisconsin ESGR.

The Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards program began in 1964. Since that time, more than 1,900 enlisted members of Wisconsin's armed forces reserve components have been honored with the Military Achievement Award. To qualify for this high honor, service members must be assigned to a National Guard or Reserve unit located in Wisconsin.

Award members must meet exceptionally high standards recommended by the organizing committee and established by each of the seven reserve components.

Standards include proficiency in a military assignment, attendance at scheduled training assemblies, leadership ability, military appearance and bearing, and citizenship. Awardees are nominated by their commanders and selected by appropriate military boards established by each component.

During his Vietnam service in 1969-70, DeGroot was assigned to the 23rd MP Co. He served in the "Gallant 3rd" platoon attached to the 198th LIB. In the late 1980s Dutch joined the reserves and his USAFR deployments have seen him in assignments at numerous Air Force Bases including Germany, Turkey, Florida, and Nevada.

Joining Dutch and his wife Janice in Madison were Terry and Judy Babler of New Glarus, WI. Babler served as a medic in the 1/1 Cavalry. Babler is a former commander of the ADVA Great Lakes chapter.

The 2003 and 2004 Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards are made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin State Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Let us all congratulate "Dutch" DeGroot on this special recognition.

Brian J. Mulcrone, 23rd MP Co. 1970-71
Wheeling, IL. 847/229-0908



MSgt. (And 23rd MP Company Vet) John DeGroot (USAF Reserve)
Receives His Award From Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

Facing the Enemy

(Americal WWII and Vietnam Vets will identify with this speech)

The following was attributed to the NCOIC (non-commissioned officer in charge) of the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course in a welcome speech to new SF candidates.

"Somewhere a True Believer is trying to kill you.

He is training with minimum food or water, in austere conditions, day and night.

The only thing clean on him is his weapon.

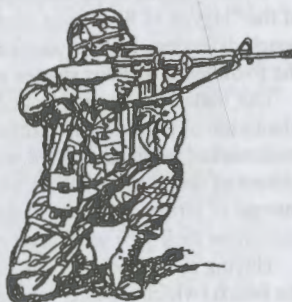
He doesn't worry about what workout to do - his rucksack weighs what it weighs, and he runs until the enemy stops chasing him.

The True Believer doesn't care "how hard it is"; he knows he either wins or he dies.

He doesn't go home at 1700 hours; he is home.

He only knows the cause.

Now, who wants to quit?"



AMERICAL DIVISION GUIDELINES FOR A FIREFIGHT:

1. Bring a gun. Preferably bring two guns. Bring all your friends who have guns.
2. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is pricey.
3. Only hits count. The only thing worse than a miss is a slow miss.
4. If your shooting stance is good, you're probably not moving fast enough nor using cover correctly.
5. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. Lateral and diagonal movements are preferred.
6. If you can choose what gun to bring to a firefight bring a big gun and a friend with a big gun. Have big guns for indirect fire support; have planes with big guns ... ships offshore ... you get the message.
7. If you are not shooting you should be reloading.
8. Accuracy is relative. Most combat shooting standards will be more dependant on the "pucker factor" than the inherent accuracy of the shot fired.
9. Use a gun that is clean and works every time. Remember, "All skill is in vain when an angel pisses in the flintlock of your musket"
10. Always cheat; always win. The only unfair firefight is the one you lose.
11. Have a plan
12. Have a backup plan because the first one will fail.
13. Use cover and concealment as much as possible. The visible target should be IN FRONT of your gun.
14. Watch their hands. Hands kill. Everyone else, keep your damn hands where I can see them.
15. Speed counts. The faster you finish the fight, the less you get shot.



23rd M.P. Company to be Reactivated in 2005

The 23rd M.P. Company is slated for reinstatement on April 15, 2005 at Fort Lewis, WA. They will be part of the 504th M.P. Battalion "Dragon Fighters" who also have a storied Vietnam history.

I will be the First Sergeant of this unit and I am proud of what I've found of the history of the 23rd MP Co. I feel it would be appropriate to include the knowledge of veterans of the 23rd MPs into the standing up the unit. Soldiers should know their history to take pride in their organization.

If you don't mind, I would like to get some of photos for a display case. Scanned photos will do great if I can print them with a good resolution. Do you have any idea if the 23rd had a unit motto? Most units here have "Dragon" in their motto like Dragon Fighters, Crushers, and Slayers. If the 23rd had one I will resurrect it.

Late last year there was approval to increase the size of the MP Regiment by 20,000. A lot of these numbers came by making National Guard field artillery (FA) units into MP units. They are to backfill the law enforcement mission that active duty deployed MPs couldn't handle.

An additional number of MPs were added by taking division MP companies such as the 101st MP Co. and the 10th MP Co. and deactivating them theoretically. (I was in the 101st MP Co. for a deployment to Egypt so I shed a tear at its demise.) But then each direct support platoon was used as a plussed up platoon in an Infantry Task Force HHC.

This brought the platoon end strength from 21 to 42, not too shabby for us MPs trying to support an Infantry brigade with 21 folks. This leads to the formation of new MP Companies.

Initially the program called for the addition of numerous Escort Guard Companies to handle fun duties like Abu Gharaib. Fort Lewis WA was slated for this type of unit. The designation was the 54th MP Co. and I was slotted to take over as 1SG with an activation of 1 Oct.

However, Escort Guard Companies are not authorized heavy weaponry. The Regimental CO and CSM put in a change to the MTOE to make these companies Combat Support (like the 66th). This just got approved in December 2004 and the new designation for the Fort Lewis company will be the 23rd MP Co.

After reading the history of the 23rd MPs, (the 54th didn't have much), I have become quite energized to bring this unit back to life. We will fall under the 504th MP BN as their 5th unit (with 66th, 170th, 571st and HHD).

Right now I am the Det. SGT of the 51st MP Det. and we handle all the law enforcement specialties like K-9, Traffic and

PMO operations. I will step down on 1 April, pin on my 1SG diamond, and start a skeleton crew of the 23rd MPs on 15 April.

I hope that by October I will be at my operating strength and we will post a guidon and start making some new history for this storied unit. We are still at the crawl phase, but hopefully April will bring more solid dates.

Feel free to e-mail me, I will always have time to listen to some stories from the 23rd alumni. Once we get things rolling I can keep you updated as to where the 23rd MP history will next be made.

MSG Jay M. Thorpe

Co. A, 1/20th Infantry

The A&E TV channel has a show named "Airline". I believe they recently featured a nice story on Co. A, 1/20th Infantry's reunion with the widow of one of its company commanders.

The reunion took place at the ADVA national reunion at Reno last year. It was a very touching story. Look for it in reruns.

John P. Hofer D.M.D.

198th Light Inf. Bde.

When the 198th Light Infantry Brigade departed Ft Hood, TX in October 1967, the infantry battalions assigned to it were 1/6th Inf., 1/46th Inf., and 1/52nd Inf. I served with the division from October 1967 to December 1968. The battalions had E Companies added within that year. During that time the 5/46th Inf. was also added to the 198th LIB.

Terry Howell;

'70s Vietnam Veterans

The cover of the OCT-NOV-DEC 2004 Americal Newsletter depicted a split scene to show Americal GIs at Christmas during World War II and during the Vietnam War. Mr. Ralph Stiles, a veteran of the 23rd M.P. Co. in Vietnam, drew the illustration. His contributions are greatly appreciated.

Your Vietnam editor received a comment from a reader about the date on the sign that was used to indicate the Vietnam era. It is correct that the U.S. involvement in Vietnam spanned both the 60s and the 70s. In fact, your Vietnam editor was in-country in 70-71.

The Americal Newsletter staff and contributors will make every effort include everyone in the publication. Your comments are always welcome. -gln-

SFC Wilcox to Afghanistan



SFC Austin Wilcox, an Americal veteran and retired U.S. Army NCO, ended his military retirement to serve in Afghanistan. He is currently assigned as the Logistics NCOIC and Theater Liaison at the Office of Military Cooperation in Afghanistan.

Wilson relates the following when asked about his service with the Americal. "I enlisted when I was 17 and was headed for Vietnam. But they found out that I was only 17 and sent me to Schofield Barracks, HI instead.

"The 11th Brigade was forming and I was assigned to 1/20th Inf. I went through Jungle Warfare School and three months of amphibious training. Later I was assigned to HHC, 1/20th Inf.

"In December 1967 the 11th Light Infantry Brigade became part of Americal Division and was deployed to Vietnam. The brigade was transported to Vietnam via the USS Gordon.

"Our base camp was at Duc Pho and we were a roving battalion. Most of my time was dedicated to LZ duties north of Duc Pho through Tam Ky. I was at Phu Bai, LZ Dottie, LZ West, and many others."

Wilcox was recalled to active duty on September 15, 2004 and volunteered for Afghanistan or Iraq. Ultimately he was assigned to the Joint Task Force, Office of Military Cooperation-Kabul, Afghanistan.

He previously completed 26 years of military service, both active and reserve. He retired in February 1992 with 21 years of active duty. Wilcox expects that his current assignment will be effective until September 2005. He resides in Troy, NY.

23rd MP Veteran Does Tour in Afghanistan

SFC Albert (Ed) Miller safely completed a ten-month tour of duty in Afghanistan in May 2004. Ed served with the 23rd M.P. Company in Chu Lai and DaNang in 1971-72.

While in Afghanistan he was assigned to the 805th M.P. Company out of Raleigh and Rocky Mount, NC. He operated in a number of areas in Afghanistan to include the city of Kabul and Baghram Air Base.

At age 53, Miller was known lovingly as "Pops" to the younger troops. Most of his fellow soldiers were at least 20 years younger than he was. He was also called "the old man," but not to be confused with the company commander.

His duties in Afghanistan included road patrol, convoy security, sergeant-of-the-guard, screening Afghan nationals, clearing vehicles, force protection, and security for civil affairs missions. He notes, "M.P.s do very little garrison duty any more. They have a much more combat role."

Miller notes many differences between his duty in Vietnam and his duty in Afghanistan. He says, "Vietnam was a more advanced country than Afghanistan. But the Afghan enemy is more unpredictable in his methods." He notes that the presence of suicide bombers in the current war is something that was not present in Vietnam.

He escaped injury when an improvised explosive device (IED) was exploded 25 meters behind his vehicle. He was pelted with debris and experienced the well-known pucker factor. "This was the same in both wars," he said.

Miller has a total of more than 29 years in military service. His deployment to Afghanistan was his longest time away from his wife during their whole marriage. To top it off, they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary while he was away.

"There is a big difference between the way I was treated when I returned from Vietnam and how I was treated when returning from Afghanistan," he stated. "When we came home from Vietnam we were told not to wear our uniforms or we would be harassed."

But Miller now says, "When people saw me in an airport in my desert fatigues they would come up and shake my hand and tell me thanks. We never got this coming back from Vietnam."

Miller is a 30-year employee of the postal service. He resides in Fayetteville, NC.

Kugler Finishes Iraq Tour, Begins Retirement

SFC Clarence Kugler finished his tour in Iraq and returned to his home in Florida on October 7, 2004. He served nine months in Baghdad with the 478th Civil Affairs Bn.

At age 59, Kugler was considered the oldest enlisted man in Iraq. His retirement at age 60 was set for February 2005. In 1971 he commanded HHC, 23rd Supply and Transportation Co., Americal Division.

More information on Kugler can be found in the APR-MAY-JUN 2004 Americal Newsletter. News of his return can be found in a November 28, 2004 Los Angeles Times article written by John-Thor Dahlburg.

Who Still Serves?

I served with the Americal Division from May 1969 to May 1970. I was five months with the 196th LIB and then seven months at division HQ.

I went off active duty in 1980 and was with the Reserve from then until January 2004. I was then activated at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. My unit, the 1101st Garrison Support Unit, works with the newly reconstituted 196th Inf. Bde. to prepare and train USAR and NG soldiers for deployment.

I wear the Americal patch on my right shoulder and am frequently asked by younger soldiers here what that patch is... It got me to wondering if there are any other Vietnam Americal vets on duty.

Col. Jim Boersema;

Reply by Tom Bedient

As far as I know, there are no active Army soldiers with Americal Division service. There are a number of Army Reserve and Guard members still wearing the patch and most likely several are mobilized and/or deployed.

The number of Regular Army soldiers with Vietnam tours is estimated to be about ten; none are general officers; there may be a couple of command sergeants major who can serve up to 35 years in some circumstances.

Currently there is only one Major General with Vietnam service (MG Eldon Bargewell who was commissioned in 1973 after Vietnam and a DSC). Most selections for three star are now from year groups 73-76.

My Towel

By Dave Hammond

Uncle Sam made sure every grunt in Vietnam had all the necessary equipment it took to do his job. Yes, he took real good care of us.

We had weapons and all the ammunition we could carry. We usually had plenty to eat from a wonderful assortment of food in small green cans. We had pills to fend off malaria and to add to contaminated water to quench our thirst. We had clothes and boots to wear and a poncho and liner for our comfort while sleeping or to keep the rain off. We even had a rucksack in which to carry it all.

Not to take away from any of those prized possessions, but there was another item for which I still hold very fond memories. An army issue item that was more versatile than most any other equipment I had. It measured approximately twenty-four inches by thirty-six inches. It was olive drab in color and made from terry cloth. It was my towel.

Unlike other army issue equipment, this towel had a use all twenty-four hours of the day. At night it was the pillow I couldn't bring from home. Folded the correct way, it would hold my head comfortably while I slept on the hard ground. When out on a night ambush, I would wrap it around my nose and mouth to keep from inhaling an unwelcome insect.

In the morning it would wipe the sleep from my eyes and if needed, the crud from my teeth. If water was available, it was my wash cloth. After being exposed to the sun for a few minutes it was what I used to dry off.

As my day of humping the boonies was about to begin, I would arrange it around my neck and shoulders to ease the pain of the rucksack straps grinding into my flesh. I the heat of the day, I used it to wipe the sweat from my eyes. When soaked in water, it could cool my brow. I would help keep my M-16 clean, and if needed could be used as a bandage or tourniquet.

At the end of a sometimes-eventful day, it would start its routine all over again. Oddly enough, I can't remember after all of these ingenious uses my towel ever smelling bad. I guess that after a couple of weeks in the bush together, we probably both smelled the same.

To this very day, whether on a boat on Lake Shasta or camping around Mt. Hood, I drape a towel around my neck and shoulders. Not my olive drab towel from another time in my life, but a substitute with limited uses.

If there is a towel in heaven, I'm sure my old friend made it there and is draped comfortably around God's neck and shoulders.

[Dave Hammond resides in Beaverton, OR. He currently serves as Northwest Chapter Commander. -editor]



Dave Hammond and Jesse Hall with towels. Co. C, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 1970

Smitty's Zippo

By Jim Gales

I was in Vietnam in 1971-72 attached to Co. B, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB mortar platoon. Our motto was "High angle hell. You ask, we blast."

A few of us were pulling REMF duty in early spring 1972 at a compound that I believe was called 24th Corps. It was where the doughnut dollies were housed and the whole compound was lifers only.

One night we had early bunker guard. We were in a bunker along the front gate. For our whole shift we watched an endless procession of Vietnamese civilians going by. Most of them were amputees.

As we walked the fence line one of our guys, Gary (Smitty) Smith encountered a little boy about 8-10 years old. He was a cute boy who was street smart and could talk like someone who was a lot older.

This little boy asked Smitty for a cigarette. Smitty tried to explain to the boy that he was too young to smoke. After about five minutes Smitty gave up and handed the kid a cigarette. We saw hundreds of kids about that age smoking all of the time.

Then the kid told Smitty that he needed a light. Smitty said all he had was his Zippo lighter. The usual Zippo had his name on it and a map of Nam on the other side.

The little boy begged and worked his magic. Smitty kept telling the kid that he knew that if he threw his lighter over the fence that the kid would keep the lighter. But the little boy promised that he would return the lighter.

The boy was so cute and Smitty was giving in. I warned Smitty that he would end up losing his lighter. The little boy kept on begging for it.

Smitty, in a temporary lapse of sanity, threw the lighter over the fence. The little boy caught it. He then lit his cigarette, a Salem from a SP pack, looked at the lighter, looked at Smitty, and started moving away.

Smitty yelled at the little boy and told him to give him back his lighter. The little boy stopped, looked directly at Smitty, and flipped him the bird.

I laughed so hard I almost soiled myself. Smitty wanted to shoot the little guy. Smitty stood by the fence all day for two days hoping he would see the little boy again.

We left there shortly thereafter, but on our next firebase we just kept on Smitty. It was a great morale booster. To this day I can often see the little boy giving Smitty the bird.

[Jim Gales resides in Glendale, WI. -editor]

Furgess Leads VFW; Scheduled for Iraq visit

ADVA member John Furgess was sworn in as commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at their annual convention in August, 2004. He will hold a one-year term as leader of one of the oldest veterans' organizations in the United States. The VFW has approximately 9,000 posts in the United States.

In August 1965 Furgess earned a degree in business from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. He was also a ROTC graduate and received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army at the same time. He immediately undertook training at Ft. Holibird, MD in the field of military intelligence.

After assignments at Ft. Devens, Ft. Gordon, and Ft. Benning, Furgess volunteered for Vietnam. He arrived on October 27, 1967 and was assigned to the Americal Division headquarters in Chu Lai. As an Army Security Agency officer, he assumed his duties in the operations section of the Division Support Company.

While in Vietnam he had the opportunity to visit many field locations including Camp Evans, Hue, Phu Bai, and LZ Bayonet. He experienced the explosion of the ammo dump in Chu Lai during Tet 1968. "The explosion knocked me off my feet," he recalls. "But I was not wounded." An NCO with him at the time commented, "We've just been nuked."

Another sobering moment occurred when he witnessed the briefing of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division prior to their move to the A Shau Valley. They were told in very somber terms that they "must be prepared to lose good people."

Of the soldiers he served with in Vietnam, Furgess says, "They were terrific people, dedicated and capable, and very interested in their mission." He remembers that General Koster, division commander, and troops of the division's three infantry brigades were very appreciative of the contributions of the military intelligence unit.

At the close of his one-year tour in Vietnam he returned to the United States and completed a total of five years of active duty. But he was not done with military service. He returned to his home in Nashville in 1970 and joined the Tennessee Army National Guard. He served with the guard for 23 years, retiring in 1993 as a Colonel. He says, "I am very proud to have worn the Americal shoulder patch on my uniform for 28 years."

After leaving active duty Furgess began a career in business and became involved in veterans' causes to include his local VFW. In 1983 he was appointed assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs. He held this post until he retired in 2002.



John Furgess, VFW Commander-in-Chief

Involvement with the VFW on the national level has greatly increased his interaction with veterans and government leaders around the globe. Furgess made trips to Vietnam in 2003 and 2004 and plans to go again in 2005. On this year's trip Furgess and the VFW will take along twelve Vietnam veteran Purple Heart recipients.

On his previous visits he has visited with the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam. He comments that "there is not much left at Chu Lai." He has stayed at a hotel in DaNang that he calls "a very beautiful place." He continues, "It is hard to imagine things now as compared to the war years."

But Furgess does not focus only on Vietnam. Today's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq also have his attention. He has visited wounded troops at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He has also visited the U.S. wounded in the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

Of the troops that he has met, including reserves and National Guard, he says, "Their morale and spirit is phenomenal. The soldiers want to get the job done and then get on with their lives. I admire their dedication and accomplishments."

In March 2005 Furgess is scheduled to meet with President George Bush in the White House. Furgess will then depart for Iraq and visit the troops in the war zone. Due to security measures his movement will be restricted to helicopter transportation.

Furgess encourages all VFW members and posts to be involved in local send-offs and homecoming events for military personnel. He also is happy to announce that the VFW has denoted the week of May 1-7, 2005 as Vietnam Veteran Appreciation Week.

Veteran of the Year Honor to Americal Vet

Mr. David Mims, a former medical NCO with the Americal Division in Vietnam, was recently named the 2004 Kalamazoo Veteran of the Year. The Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) presented the award on November 4, 2004.

Mims was the medical platoon sergeant in the battalion medical section of the 1/20th Inf. and 4/21st Inf. in 1968-69. He was only in the Americal Division four months when he was transferred to a Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV) assignment at Soc Trang in the Mekong Delta.

He recalls, "When I went to the Delta I was sent to school and had to learn to speak Vietnamese within 30 days." He was then assigned as an advisor to a Vietnamese National Guard unit. He learned to speak Vietnamese fluently.

On his second Vietnam tour he was again assigned as a medical advisor with a unit near Ban Me Thuot. He worked in a hospital setting with Vietnamese civilians.

Mims entered the Army as an infantryman in 1953 and had thirty years of active duty service when he retired as a Sergeant Major in 1987. He went into the 91B medical specialist job in 1962.

Among his awards he received the Combat Medic Badge, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and ten Good Conduct Medals.

Besides two tours in Vietnam, his overseas assignments included two tours in Korea and tours in Germany and Alaska.

He was inspired to join the service by an uncle and two cousins who were in the Korean War. "They didn't all come back," he says. His grandfather, a disabled World War I veteran, accounts for Mims' interest in the needs of disabled veterans.

Although he only had an 11th grade education, Mims was selected for leadership school. "I always liked the military," he states. "I guess I just caught on."

Mims was recognized by the NAACP for his work in his community to include work with young people. Mims has held the top positions in his local DAV, VFW and American Legion chapters and is an advocate for veterans' legislation.

He is a life member of the Noncommissioned Officer Association (NCOA) and a recent member in the ADVA.

Upon presenting the award, the Kalamazoo NAACP said, "Mr. Mims is greatly respected in the Kalamazoo community for his honor, character, integrity, and helping to serve his fellow man."

The Hanukkah Bush Christmas in Chu Lai, Vietnam: 32 years ago

By Gary Befus

[Every veteran's organization newsletter should have at least one good Christmas story indicative of the spirit of its membership. Christmas 2004 is now part of history, but its spirit will live on forever, just as one Christmas thirty-two years ago will always be remembered. This is a true story, and over the last three decades, it has remained at the top of my list of most memorable Christmas celebrations.]

As Christmas 1967 approached, most of us at LZ Bayonet, Chu Lai, Vietnam, preferred that we could be at home with our families rather than being ten thousand miles away in a war zone. Wishful thinking aside, we knew we would have to make the best of the situation, hopeful that anticipated packages from home would ignite and sustain a candle's worth of holiday spirit.

Not one single building throughout the entire base camp had a chimney, so cans of evaporated milk and C-ration pound cakes were not a big priority. Neither the small camp PX, nor the giant division superstore, had one shelf, let alone rows and rows of decorations and wrapping supplies.

It was as if this Christmas was nothing more than a figment of our collective minds.

However, Armed Forces Radio Network Vietnam, finally got with the spirit of the season and when in base camp we could listen to familiar traditional Christmas music.

Six White Boomers seemed far more appropriate than Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Years later it occurred to me that if we would have had only one real North American winter in Vietnam during the early '60s most of us would not today be qualified to be members of the Legion. And if so the five hundred feet of Wall might only be a plaque upon a medium size rock. Not once did I see a pair of Ho Chi Minh sandals with all season or winter tread patterns.

Each of us, in our own way, did what we could to perpetuate our personal traditional memories. Hanging displays were either handmade, or constructed from Christmas cards sent from the real world.

Some of the guys even received real decorations in the mail from home. Grenades substituted for hanging ornaments, while machine gun bandoleer style ammunition simulated garland, with every fifth red tracer round adding some color.

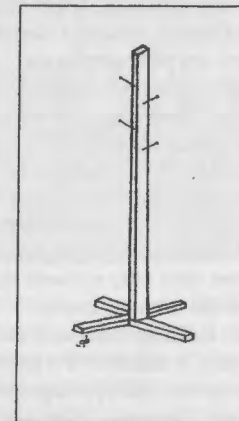
One creative homemade tree was topped with a gas mask masquerading as an angel. Necessity is the mother of....

Slowly a Christmas atmosphere was developing, with the highlight of each day being mail call. By the second week of December, everybody had caught the spirit of

the season. Everybody except one young man from Chicago.

Larry worked for me, and he was the only Jewish soldier in the entire camp. This was the twentieth Yuletide season of his young life, and not once had he given or received a Christmas card or gift. There was no Little Drummer Boy in Larry's personal band.

He tried to fit in, patiently admiring everyone's newly arrived care packages, and he certainly enjoyed the extra special tastes of shared homemade Christmas cake and cookies. Yet it was easy to see that he was uncomfortable.



He neither walked the walk nor talked the talk. We discussed it one evening, and he admitted to feeling alone and lost. he was unable to demonstrate the spirit of everyone else. Not only that, he missed the seasonal tradition of his own upbringing. The observance of Hanukkah was only days away and he would have to celebrate his beliefs and traditions by himself.

The next morning, leaving Larry in charge of the office, I traveled across Chu Lai to one of the Seabee camps. It was as if I had walked into a giant hardware store. If one knew what one needed, the Seabees could come up with it. They either had it on the shelf or they could make it from scratch. My request had to be custom-built.

Soon I was able to load my new treasure into the back of my jeep and return to the base camp. As I entered the office, Larry said, "Oh great, a hat and coat rack." I was carrying a six foot piece of two by four lumber with four feet attached at one end and two nails protruding upward from each of the four sides at the other end. I replied, "Well, I suppose it resembles one, but don't you recognize a Hanukkah Bush when you see one? Happy Hanukkah!"

Larry was speechless, and finally a wave of understanding appeared upon his face. He walked over to it, touched it, and after a short silence, turned toward me and quietly said, "Thank you, and Merry Christmas."

After New Years we had a fine hat and coat rack in our office. I came home first, and I wonder if Larry took his gift home when he left.

TFO ASA unit

Detachment 2, 374th Radio Research Company (ASA) was with the 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div. and remained with the brigade when it was reflagged to 3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div.

The reflagging occurred at Duc Pho in September 1967. In early January 1968, 3rd Bde. and Det 2, 374th RRC left Duc Pho and spent Tet 1968 headquartered at LZ Baldy.

A couple of months later, 3rd Bde. and D2/374th moved to LZ English (Bong Son) for a month or two, then left the Americal AO and went back with the 4th ID at Kontum.

I was with Det 2, 374th RRC from September 1967 until July 1968. We can be contacted through the 374th RRC "Finder" Chapter, National 4th Inf. Div. Association.

Additional info/photos can be found at the website at www.geocities.com/374th_rrc.

Steve Zawacki; [REDACTED]

Seen in VFW Magazine

Americal veterans Glen Robinson and Marshal Lichtenstein never knew each other while fighting in the jungles of Vietnam. But their service in Vietnam resulted in them coming together for a big game hunt in the vast outdoors of Montana.

Robinson, Lichtenstein, and fellow veteran Brian McNally were on a October 2004 hunt sponsored by the VFW. All three lost legs in Vietnam but have determined to live life to its fullest.

The hunt took place near Broadus, MT. Roger and Russ Greenwood of Doonan Gulch Outfitters guided the trio in search of their quarry. The prize that each sought was a pronghorn antelope.

Glen Robinson was drafted into the Army in May 1969 and arrived in Vietnam in June 1970. He was first assigned to the 9th Inf. Div. but was sent to Co. D, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB when the 9th Infantry went home.

On November 9, 1970 Robinson stepped on a mine while on a patrol north of Chu Lai. Both legs were severely wounded and were subsequently amputated at a field hospital in DaNang.

Marshal Lichtenstein was assigned as an infantryman with 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB in May 1969. After about six months in the field he took the relatively safe post as battalion mail clerk. But he later asked to be reassigned to a cavalry unit.

Lichtenstein received his wish and was transferred to F Troop, 17th Cav., 196th LIB. On May 1, 1970 he was preparing to dig a foxhole when his pickaxe struck a mine. The Silver Star recipient lost both legs in the resulting explosion.

The VFW magazine article, titled "In Hunting as in Life", was written by Jack Ballard. It can be found in the January 2005 issue beginning on page 18.

A Visit to Angel Fire

By Richard Ropele

Co. E, 1/6th, 198 LIB, Nov 67 - Feb 68

It was an awe inspiring sight to drop down into the valley and come around the bend to see that gleaming white chapel emboldened against the hillside. Ever since I knew that Cathy and I would be on vacation through this area of New Mexico, I knew I had to visit, to experience I knew not what, but I was knew there was something there for us.

I haven't had a chance to go to Washington D.C. to visit The Wall, so Angel Fire was my first opportunity to experience a memorial dedicated to the sacrifice of those great men and women we served with in Vietnam. It was an emotional afternoon, but more importantly, it was an eye opening, visionary experience, for Cathy. Let me explain.

Cathy and I have been married for 31 years. I got out of the Army in 1969 and took a job in the Aerospace industry here in California and pretty much tried to put Vietnam behind me as I got on with my life. Cathy and I married in 1973 and we set about having and raising our family. In those busy years of furthering education, earning a living, attending our Church and raising our five children, my memories of Vietnam were never in the forefront of my thoughts, but it never ceased to amaze me just how close to the surface those emotions and experiences always were. It could be something as innocent as an odor (that smell of burning wood that the people used when cooking), or it could be a song on the radio ('The Letter' by the Boxtops, '... lonely days are gone, I'm a going home, my baby wrote me a letter. . .') that would pop an incident into my conscious mind.

As I grew in maturity and became more and more involved in Church activities, I began to appreciate more and more how those experiences had contributed in shaping my character, in providing a value basis for living my life and in shaping my outlook in many associations with my fellow men and women. I began to realize that my Heavenly Father must have had a larger life plan in mind for me as I just as easily could have been KIA instead of WIA that morning on TET in 1968 at the bridge outside of An Ton.

Cathy knew somewhat of my time in Vietnam. She knew I was only over there a short time before being wounded and medicated back to the U.S. She knew of retained fragments and some of the discomfort that I occasionally experienced, but the experiences of war aren't something that you would just bring up in day-to-day conversation. How can someone who hasn't been in those situations relate to what it's like to walk point to a night ambush position, or to pull the trigger when you have another man in your sights?

To her credit, she certainly didn't have perspective to understand the depth in which these experiences changed our lives. She never said it so many words, but her perception was, 'hey, the past is in the past, don't dwell on it, move on'.

Now, I'm not a PTSD type person, where these processes are cranked up everyday, or where they drive daily thoughts and actions, but the memories are always there and their trigger is something of which I'm not always aware. So, it was with this basic background, we made a visit to Angel Fire as part of our vacation.

When we first arrived at Angel Fire, we went into the Chapel. Featured across the back wall were ten photographs and biographies of soldiers who had lost their lives in the war. These photos are changed out regularly so that whoever visits in the Chapel is reminded of its purpose, its significance, and the people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow man. It was plain in its simplicity, but its poignancy wasn't apparent until after we went through the exhibits in the other structure.

In the main building there were the usual things on display, a diorama of a patrol in the jungle, helmets, web gear, photographs, new reel footage, etc. However, what was most appealing was Dr. Westphall's efforts to personalize the experience.

Do you remember going into the auto parts store several years ago where they had their parts catalogs in these racks spread across the counter and the clerk would move along the rack as he looked through the catalogs for the stocking number of your part? Angel Fire also had this same kind of a display rack, except the rack was filled with picture after picture of the men and women who died in the war. Each one was accompanied by a small biography that Dr. Westphall had prepared. It is here that the experience becomes personal to everyone.

The black and white name of a person on a page took on the persona of the real individual. You could look into the smiling faces and easily relate to each of them. Most of the pictures were those 8 x 10s they gave us all after graduation from Basic Training. As you looked into their faces and read their biographies, you knew them. These men and women who answered the call to serve, had hopes and dreams of a bright future, they had parents, brothers, sisters, and friends who can still feel of their loss today, 40 years later.

We looked at faces, read biographies and became acquainted with real people, not just names on a wall or in a book. It was a very personal experience. I didn't realize how deeply Cathy had been affected.

As we walked back through the Chapel just before leaving, she went down the steps to the front, knelt and lit a candle in honor of all those men and women who have served and who are serving in the Military today.

That evening, she composed the following poem:

ANGEL FIRE

Today I knelt at Angel Fire
and in compassion, lit a candle there.
As I turned and looked up those stairs,
It was then, with grateful heart, I said a prayer.

We walked this memorial for the first time today
and viewed countless photos of those now gone.
That era of protest left heroes unspoken, till now...
those unappreciated warriors of Viet Nam.

When I knelt today at Angel Fire,
and looked up at that top step....
you were standing by the photos there.
You... one who lived... a Viet Nam vet.

Only those like you can feel so awakened
when kneeling here, or by The Wall....
and seeing the names of your comrades who fell...
those who died to answer that wartime call.

Survivor's guilt, somehow it just grows
out of a sense not well understood.
It compels its keepers to speak out often
of those heroes whose intentions were good.

When I knelt at Angel Fire today,
I realized the calling of Viet Nam vets.
God brought them back to tell of heroes,
and to ensure this nation never forgets.

In the candle's glow at Angel Fire,
I gave thanks to God in humble prayer
that you are here with me today,
and not in one of the photos posted there.

Dedicated to Rick Ropele by Cathy Ropele

I'm thankful that I am one of the lucky one who came back from the war unscathed. I'm thankful that I was led to this compassionate and understanding woman with whom I have been able to spend 31 great years. I'm thankful that I got to serve my country and associate with some of the finest men and women of my generation. There are countless millions of people alive today throughout the world because of the sacrifice and dedication of the men and women of the United States Military. I'm proud to have been a part of that great cause of preservation.

The United States has been preserved as a great country due to the sacrifices and dedication of the great men and women who answer the call to serve - honorable and great are they that wears the colors of the United States of America

Rick Ropele can be contacted by email at

Dr. Westphall's son David was killed near Con Thien, Vietnam on May 22, 1968.

The Vietnam Veterans National Memorial at Angel Fire is located in the northeast part of New Mexico just a few miles from Taos.

Acceptance

By Glen "Lippy" Lippincott

2 Plt., Co. A, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB 1970-71

The rain pelted the poncho raincoat that stretched over our heads. My first waking thought was; "Just another dismal monsoon morning in Quang Nam province."

This is the wintertime for Southeast Asia. It was a cold rain that had continued everyday for the whole of the almost two week mission. The only relief we got was that it just didn't rain as hard sometimes.

After awakening in our night defensive perimeter (NDP) in the jungle of Vietnam, we put on our socks and jungle boots, tore off a small chunk of C-4 plastic explosive, and lit it to heat our canteen cup of water for instant coffee. They say the fumes are toxic, but who the hell cares when you facing bullets and shrapnel on a daily basis.

I searched through my rucksack for a delectable C-ration canned meal, ripped open the top with my P-38 folding can opener and heated the can.

The platoon Sargent came over to talk to our squad. He informed us that it was our turn to take the point. As was the tradition, we rotated the "pointman" position in our squad. Also as was tradition, whoever walked point could request who he wanted to walk as his "slackman", or backup for him.

I was surprised when the designated pointman asked for me to walk "slack" for him. This was a turning point in the career of every new infantry soldier's life.

I was a "green seed", having been in the field for about three weeks. Every new guy was greeted with a certain distrust and even disdain until you proved your worth. My squad leader, John Collison, had taken me under his wing and had told me to "Do exactly what I say and don't do anything stupid to get yourself or the rest of us killed."

I had not done anything noticeably foolish up to this point so this was my first test. I was being asked to be entrusted with the well being of my pointman and squad.

We checked for leeches that might have attached themselves to us during the night of sleeping on the ground, cleaned up from breakfast and mounted up. We were exercising pretty tight noise discipline because we had fired up five North Vietnam Army (NVA) regulars the day before.

We knew the "gomers" were active in the area. This was a "free-fire zone" meaning that anyone out here was considered to be hostile forces. With all this on our minds we "rucked up" and moved out down the trail.

We had not gone very far when the trail came to the edge of a fairly large dog-bone shaped rice paddy. We conferred with our squad leader about crossing the 50- 60 meter narrow part of the paddy. The pointman told me to watch both left and right tree lines



while we crossed and with that he slipped down into the waist deep cold water.

I waited to establish a textbook three to five meter patrol distance from him and slid down the muddy bank into the murky water. We progressed quickly across the paddy as I scanned the tree lines for enemy presence. I had approached the mid-point when I looked front to see the pointman gone.

I held my clenched fist up to silently call a halt to the movement. I turned to look at the trooper behind me with a puzzled look. We gestured to each other. I raised a open flat hand and mouthed the words "Where did he go?" He spread his arms and mouthed the words "I don't know."

The only logical thought was that he might have fallen down. But he should have stood up by now. I cautiously moved forward searching the gray water for some sign.

It was then that I spied a pasty white hand down in the water reaching for the surface and then disappearing again. I then realized the gravity of the situation. He had slipped down into a huge bomb crater made by a 500 to 750 pound bomb.

I snapped my M-16 rifle onto the "safe" position on the selector switch and motioned the man following me to come forward.

Inching forward I scanned the water and held my rifle by the front sight post. The trooper behind me latched onto the rifle pistol grip and stock and lowered me into the submerged, twenty foot deep, cone-shaped crater.

I took a breath and stuck my face under the water and looked around. I came up for air and looked around again. Then I spied his white hand attempting to surface once more. I took a breath, lunged forward with my face just under the surface to grab for his hand.

I was relieved when our hands grasped each other's wrists. We slid and pulled and grunted to pull him up. This was no small feat considering he was a fair-size guy with a rucksack weighing about eighty-five pounds on his back.

He came to the surface sputtering and coughing. I left him with the man that had helped me then carefully navigated around the submerged crater and got to the other bank. I knew we did not want to "cluster-f*k" in the middle of a rice paddy.

We established a defensive position on the other side of the paddy and took a break. He told me that he had slid into the crater and had made multiple attempts to climb up the slippery sides of the crater only to slide back down to the bottom.

We sat there in the high grasses in the rain and he looked at me with his face still dripping wet and shivering. With all the sincerity that a man can muster he said quietly, "Thanks man. You saved my life."

I patted his shoulder and said with the typical "grunt" bravado, "Its cool man. Don't mean noth'in."

My personal stock in the squad jumped about a hundred points. My squad leader took me aside later and said "You did good today."

I entered the brotherhood of the combat infantry that morning without a shot being fired or a life lost for I had proved my mettle. I have long since forgotten his name, but I have never forgotten the moment. A man can learn more about what he is made of in a few months of combat than most men learn in a lifetime or may never know at all.

[Photo above of Glen "Lippy" Lippincott courtesy of the author.]

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association will have its biannual reunion in San Antonio, TX from July 28-31, 2005. The reunion will be held at the San Antonio Airport Hilton Hotel, 611 NW Loop 410.

Make room reservations directly with the hotel by calling [REDACTED]. Be sure to tell them you want the special rate and give them the code LIB.

Pre-registration information is available on the 196th LIB's website at www.196.org or can be obtained by writing to Warren Neil, [REDACTED], Cicero, IN, 46034, [REDACTED].

The reunion will feature full day and half day tours of San Antonio on Friday. A special memorial service will be held at Ft. Sam Houston on Saturday. A cowboy casual Texas style banquet will be held at Cowboys Dance Hall with cocktails beginning at 5:30 PM on Saturday. A DJ and live band will finish out the night.

The reunion will have a hospitality room at the hotel throughout the event. The final activity will be a Chaplain's service at 9:00 AM Sunday.

198th LIB Veterans

I am happy to inform you of the opening of a new group dedicated to veterans of the 198th Light Infantry Bde. Our group site is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bayonetnews198th/> and our e-mail address is [REDACTED].

We hope to have 100 or more members by the Kansas City 2005 ADVA Reunion. As our membership continues to grow we will pursue the possibility of a regular web site and eventually our own Association.

For now, please visit us and help 'Perpetuate the Brotherhood'. I look forward to hearing from my 198th brothers in the near future and anticipate meeting many of you at Kansas City 2005 and Gettysburg 2005.

Gary Befus; NCOIC 198th LIB Photo Lab
LZ Bayonet - October 1967 to July 1968

Btry. C, 1/14th Artillery

Charlie Battery, 1/14th Arty. is having its 3rd annual reunion on April 21-23, 2005. It will be held at the Best Western Saddleback Inn, 4300 SW 3rd St. Oklahoma City, OK.

Reserve rooms at [REDACTED] and ask for CHARLIE BATTERY rates of \$59.00 per night for one to four people per room. If you have a problem for any reason ask for Roger Goss, Sales Manager.

On Friday the 22nd we will be at Fort Sill and meet with some people in the 1/14th Artillery of today. The 1/14th is the only active unit in the 14th Artillery Regiment.

There is a lot of history at Fort Sill. You will be able to walk through buildings that Custer once walked through. Geronimo is buried here as well as Chief Santana, from whom our crest came. For more information contact Clarence Marrs; [REDACTED].

H Troop, 17th Cavalry

H Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry is having its 2005 reunion at Alexandria, Virginia from October 7 through October 11, 2005. The reunion will take place at the Days Inn Alexandria Landmark, [REDACTED].

Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22312. Call [REDACTED] for hotel reservations. Be sure to mention H Troop, 17th Cavalry. For more information you may contact Felix Westwood at [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] or Ramon B. Vega, [REDACTED].

AMCAL DIVARTY

Americal Division Field Artillery veterans will hold a reunion on April 26-28, 2005 in Charleston, SC. The reunion is open to all Americal artillery veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, [REDACTED], Charleston, SC, 29407. All rooms are \$87 per night plus tax. Use the special code A.M.E. for this rate. Reservations can be made by calling [REDACTED].

The hotel features a complimentary Continental breakfast. A dinner will be held at the Town and Country Restaurant at 6:30 PM on April 28, 2005. Enjoy true southern hospitality just minutes from Charleston's famous historic district.

For more information contact Robert Miller [REDACTED], Farmington, NY, 14425-8912, [REDACTED].

Co. C, 1/52nd Infantry

Former members of Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. met in July 2004 for their annual reunion. Special guests this year were Shauna Jordan and Steve Myatt. They are the brother and sister of Darrell LaFever, killed-in-action on October 31, 1968 while serving with C/1/52.

Jordan and Myatt met Tim Barron, Jerry Collins, and Gary Franklin, all veterans who served in the same squad with LaFever.

The following is a list of attendees: Terry Gordon, Ed Angel, Dickie Hall, Jim Sands, Bruce Fent, Bill Highland, Jerry Collins, Gary Franklin, Rocky Garcia, Don Wood, Buster Berna, Jerry Husted, Ron Vandenberg, Harvey Miller, Lawrence Rigg, Ron Redwell, Micky Chandler, Joe Smith, Malcolm Graham, Dave Nalley, Vinny Tabor, Paul Garrison, Henry Long, Jess Reynoso, Tim Barron, Jerry Alford, Jimmy Wilkie, Rod Heckart, Charles Knipper, Rich Ambroziak,

Wes Zanone, Phil Feder, Chuck Swanson, Dennis Forsberg, Herschell Blackwell, Mike Farney, David Breault and Terry Wyrick.

The next reunion will be held July 14-16, 2005 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 2602 Foreline Circle East, Indianapolis, IN, 46214. Phone the hotel at [REDACTED] and ask for the special rate of \$74 per night plus taxes. Rooms may not be available after July 1.

For additional information on the reunion contact Mr. Terry Wyrick, [REDACTED], MO, 65689, [REDACTED].

Co. B, 1/52nd Infantry

A reunion of veterans of Co. B, 1/52nd Infantry will be held in Nashville, TN on September 9-11, 2005. Hotel reservations may be made by calling [REDACTED] and asking for the special reunion rate.

For more information contact Buddy Sadler at [REDACTED] or Conrad Geibel at [REDACTED].

46th Inf. Regt, FSB

Mary Ann Memorial

The annual FSB Mary Ann memorial service and 46th Infantry Regimental Torchlight ceremony will be conducted March 27-31 at or near Ft. Knox, KY.

The FSB Mary Ann reunion and memorial will be held on March 27-28 at Camp Carlson. Tours of training areas and the Torchlight ceremony will be held on the evening of March 30 at Ft. Knox. Co. C, 2/46th Inf. will hold graduation on March 31.

For more information on these events you may contact Gary Noller, [REDACTED], or phone at [REDACTED].

USAF Vet in ADVA

Mr. Clifford Raymond of Sam Rayburn, TX recently became one of a rare breed. He is a USAF veteran of the Vietnam War that is a voting member of the ADVA.

Raymond served in the commo section in the B-TOC at LZ Bayonet. He helped coordinate USAF bombing strikes and communicated with FACs.

ADVA eligibility is not limited to U.S. Army veterans. Any veteran who served along side Americal veterans is eligible to join the association.

Vet Just Deployed

As this issue goes to press it has been learned that another Americal vet is headed to Iraq. Jim Lauderdale served with G2 Target Mission Force (TMF) in Vietnam. He has served over 20 years in the Arizona National Guard. His duty locations in Vietnam were Duc Pho and San Juan Hill. You may send messages of support by e-mail to [REDACTED].

Requests From The 196th LIB Association Newsletter

Co. D, 3/21st Infantry: I am looking for anyone who served with Frank Zydzik, D 3/21, Mar 69-Jan 70 (KIA 1/7/70). Frank was my cousin and I am trying to locate members of his platoon. I have photos that need to be identified and passed along to those in them. Please contact: Lee Smolen, [REDACTED].

Btry. B, 3/82nd Artillery: I am seeking information about my father, SGT Thomas Stephen Black. He was from Jasper, AL and was assigned to B/Btry, 3/82nd Arty. His war memories haunted him and he took his own life in February 1995. I believe he may have developed cancer from Agent Orange. He never shared much with his family concerning his time in Vietnam. Anyone who knew my dad and can help us fill in the gaps, please contact me. Thanks to all of you who served in Vietnam, you are all my HEROS and the essence of the American Spirit. Please contact: Tina Jo Giardina, [REDACTED], Pensacola, FL, 32514, [REDACTED].

Trp. F, 17th Cavalry: I am looking for F-Troopers who may have known my brother Ronald E. Gerten. He was a medic in the 1st. Cav. Airmobile. He was KIA on 31 Dec. 1970 while attached to F Troop, 17th Armored Cav. I was only 8 years old when he was killed and am trying to find out more about him and his experiences. I have a letter from another medic from his unit that was written several months after Ron's death. This letter, from Mark Madigan, was with Ron's things that I got from my parents. Only now am I able to go through these things, and I want to know more about Ron. Among Ron's things was a plaque with the inscription "In memory of Ron from his friends in F Troop 17th Armored Cavalry, he gave his life while helping us. His memory will remain with us forever." There is a list of names as follows: CAPT CHESTER FEITNER, SGT RICK WOOD, SP4 LARRY GALLENTINE, PFC MARK HOWARD, 1LT EVAN W. LAYTON, SP4 STEVE METCALF, SP4 STEPHEN CHAVEZ. If you could help me contact any of these men, I would be very grateful. Please contact Edward Gerten, [REDACTED], Britton MI, 49229, [REDACTED].

Co. A, 3/21st Infantry: A high school friend of mine, Bill Weleski (Martin W.) was in the 196th and was killed in Vietnam. I am trying to obtain information about his tour of duty. He was killed January 9, 1968. Please contact Bud Walkup, [REDACTED].

Co. A, 4/31st Infantry: I have been searching for my squad leader, Ed Farrell, for about four years. He was with me from April 1968 to July 1968 in A-4/31. Anyone that can help would be appreciated. Please

contact Terry Goul, 108 E. Summit St., Durand, MI, 48429.

Co. A, 3/21st Infantry: I am daughter number four of SFC Domingo F. Morado. He died on May 13, 1969 in Quang Tin. My father was 35 years old and was an enlisted man for 18 years. I was 10 years old when he died. He left six daughters behind, and he would have been proud of us. My mother is in the Gold Star Wives of America and she never remarried. Please contact: Katherine Morado Duke, [REDACTED].

Co. B, 23rd S & T Co.: I am looking for Garry Mackavee, Illinois; Richard Hart, California; David Haddix, Idaho; and Robert Carrol, Oklahoma.

We were in Co. B, 23rd S & T in Chu Lai in 1968-69. We were all friends then but have lost contact when we came home.

Contact Jerry Blaine Calhoun, 982495, [REDACTED], Reidsville, GA 30499.

Looking for anyone from **Co. E, 4/21st Infantry**, 11th LIB, 4.2" mortars who was at LZ Baldy, LZ Amy, and LZ Thunder in 1968-1969. Please contact Joe Bonanni, [REDACTED], Sterling Heights, MI, 48312, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Medics Luthor, Chalmers, Rossman and/or Williams. I am looking for the medic who was attached to 4th Platoon, **Co. B, 4/21st, Inf.** from January 1971 until June of 1971. The same medic then went to **Co. D, 4/3rd** in Chu Lai. Contact: Slater Davis [REDACTED].

Looking For: Sgt Faustino Caldera Jr., my long lost uncle. Served as a squad leader with **Co. E, 3rd Bn, 23rd Inf.** Div. between September 1970-71. Contact: SSgt Valentin Caldera [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone in **Co. B, 5/46/198th Bde.** My father's name is Thomas Van Guilder. He was around Chu Lai until July 1968, when he got hurt. Contact: Lisa Sutton [REDACTED].

Looking For: John Allen, in the original group sent to the **G-2 shop** at Chu Lai in the Spring of 1967. Contact: Alex Drinkwater [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone of **1st Bn., 164th Infantry** who knew Lorenzo G. Flores. I am trying to put together my grandfathers time in the service. All that is known is that he served in Guadalcanal. Contact: Lorenzo Leyva [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], Ca 9324 [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone from **Hq & A Co, 23rd Med**, between August 1970 - October 1971. Contact: Steve 'Ski' Goslawski, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone **26th Engr, HHC**, 11/67-8/68. I need pictures of the Dirty Dozen patrol. Contact: Kent H. Beeman, [REDACTED].

Manitowoc, WI [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone who served on LZ Stinson, 69-70, and all of 71. I was in **HHC, 1/52nd Inf.** on LZ Stinson, working in the TOC. Contact: James Melvin Digby [REDACTED].

Looking For: Jerry Leopold, **B Co., 23rd S&T Bn**, 67-68. Contact: John Mike Rea [REDACTED].

Ridgeway, SC 29130

Looking For: fellow members of the **57th Combat Engineers**, John Roderick. My grandfather served with the 57th Combat Engineers on Guadalcanal. He was born and lived in East Cambridge, Mass. during his service. Contact: Amy Card, [REDACTED].

Cambridge, MA 02140

Looking For: anyone with info on Sgt. Charlie Denning, **Co. D, 1/6th Inf, 198th** Contact: Kimberly Denning, [REDACTED], Hollow Place, Round Rock, TX 78664

Looking For: Anyone Who knew SGT Jess Holloway, **1/52nd Inf., 198th** and went over on ship in 67. Contact: Dale Moorman [REDACTED].

Looking For: Jerry Andrews, Fredrick R. Newman, **Co. C, 3/1st Inf.**, Contact: Gerald L. Moore, [REDACTED], La Porte, In 46350

Looking For: Mike Decker, **Co. D, 4/3rd Inf.**, 67-68. Contact: Dan Behrens [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone who new my father Everett Hultman at Guadalcanal. I think he was in **Co L, 164 infantry, 3rd Bn.** Contact: Gary Hultman, 706 South Court, Eveleth, MN 55734

Looking For: Anyone who knew James DeHerrera. Jimmy passed away on December 3, 2003. He served with the **11th Light Infantry Brigade** late 1968 and 1969. He was wounded in action. Contact: Julie DeHerrera Horner, [REDACTED], Auburn, CA 95603, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, **Co. C, 1/52nd Inf.**, 1971. Contact: Edward Navarro, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED], San Leandro, CA 94579

Looking For: Jerry or Gerald Allen, **D Co. 1/52 Inf, 198th**. Contact: Jerry Forreth [REDACTED].

[REDACTED], Manlius, NY 13104

Looking For: Anyone - **A Co., 4/3rd Inf.**, especially Lt. Miller, Lt. Hamlin, Craig Slocum, Mike Telganhoff, Goose Tatum, Charles Turner, Earl Guthrie, Mike Kastern, Jaca Jaca, PSG Gettings, John Yelly, Skip Malloy, David Mareno, Samanski, Brown. Contact: Jim Teller [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone who knew my uncle Frank J. Donadio. I have an article that was published in Yank Magazine about my father playing baseball on the battalion team on Bougainville. The article appeared in the May-Aug 1944 period. My uncle lost an arm in a mortar attack on August 8, 1944. He now resides in Schenectady, NY. Contact: Carmen A. Paludi, Jr., [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who knew Ernest Tolliver, now deceased. He left behind some pictures of WWII buddies. He was with the 164th Inf. Regt. Contact: Susan Tolliver-Pompa [REDACTED]

Looking For: PFC Rose, Co. D, 1/20th Inf., 11th BDE, Sept 18, 1968. Contact: E Dickey [REDACTED]

Looking For: LT James P Ellis, platoon leader for 1st platoon, B/1/20 on the 12 Oct 70. Contact: A Williams [REDACTED]

Looking For: Dennis J. Cohn, Danny Robinson, and Larry Sams; Co. C, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB, Jun 70-71. Contact: Louis LaParl Jr [REDACTED]

Looking For: 164th Infantry, anyone who may have known my grandfather, Helmut Wolter, usually called Heinz. He served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and the Philippines. He died in 1990. We recently found his old footlocker filled with photos and newspaper clippings from the war. I will be trying to get all of this scanned and online sometime soon, so if you are interested in this, if you knew my grandfather, or if you want to talk about your experiences to an avid listener, please contact me. Contact: Kristen Wolter [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], St Louis Park, MN 55416

Looking For: Tom Jenkins or anyone, A/Btry 3/82Arty., 69 and 70. Contact: Edd { Mick } DeJonghe [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Genoa, IL 60135 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who knew James/Jim Powell, 23rd Admin. Co., May 1969 to May 1970. Contact: Lanele powell [REDACTED]

Looking For: Sailor Williams or anyone with Co. B, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB, 68-69. Contact: Kate Hannah

Looking For: CPT Price, Lt. Lou Bailey, Lt. Livingston, TOP Reter, and anyone who

knew SSG Charlie Denning, Co. D and Co. E, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 67-68. Contact: Kimberly Denning [REDACTED], Round Rock, TX 78664

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 2nd Platoon, Feb. 68-Feb. 69. Contact: Gene E. Ashe [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Spindale, NC 28160 [REDACTED]
Looking For: Anyone, Co E., 1/6th Inf, 198th LIB, April 6, 1970. Contact: Peter Quintana [REDACTED] Peralta, NM 87042 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Doug James, Mike Neckerman, D.G. Salo, Paul Tornitelli, Cobb, Norfolk. Hosstetter, and anyone who went over on the UPSHUR, Co. A, 9th Support Bn., 198th LIB, commanded by Lowell D. Bittrich. Also 1SG Smithheart, CW2 Dodd, WO1 Salo, or anyone assigned to the Div Fin Off 1967-1968. Contact: Terry Howell [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Madison, NE 68748 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 3/1st Inf. & HHC, Jan '70-Apr '71. Contact: James R. {Jim} Wood [REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99712

Looking For: Anyone who served with Harold Lee Smith (Smitty), Co. A, 198th LIB, KIA on Feb. 9, 1968. Contact: John Serrano [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bill Semar, or anyone from Co. A or D, 4/3 Inf. 11th LIB regarding April 2, 1970 combat action, or with the companies from Feb 1970-Apr 1970. Contact: Robert Porter [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Moore, Ok 73160

Looking For: Anyone who remembers my uncle, Kenneth E. Kuspel. He was with the 198th LIB when it shipped out of Ft. Hood in Sept. 1967. He and eight others were killed in Feb. 1968 while preparing for an ambush. Contact: James [REDACTED]

Looking For: 2/1st Inf. sniper teams or Co. B, Oct. 1970. Contact: Chuck Wilson [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], La Quinta, Ca 92253

Looking For: Anyone, HHC 123d Avn. Bn., Feb - Sept 1968. Contact: Michael F. Rice [REDACTED], Buckholts, TX 76518 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Ron Martinez, Co. E, Recon, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 2/1969 - 2/1970. Contact: Tom Lentz [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Aurora, IL 60506 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who served with Lt. James F. Peacock, 198th LIB, possibly 1/52nd Inf. Wounded on Jan. 8, 1968 -

call sign 'Gallahad 6'. Contact: Clint Peacock [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Pensacola, FL 32514
Looking For: Anyone, HHC, 23rd Supply and Transportation Bn., Oct. 67 to Oct 68. Also looking for Pharr from Ark., Kim Karns from Wisconsin, Francis Galiger from N.Y. Contact: Francis Martin [REDACTED], Palm Coast, Fl 32164 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, OSU, 23rd Admin. Co., 1Jan69-31Dec69 or Special Services from 1Jan70-3Sep70. Contact: Dan Haggard [REDACTED]

196th Light Infantry Brigade

My father, Walter C. Evans, died on February 26, 2004. I would like information on where he was while in Vietnam. I do not know what battalion he was with or anything like that. I do know he worked in a motor pool.

All I have is pictures with names of places and people plus a picture of him standing by a jeep with number on it. There is also a sign with numbers on it.

Some of the names on the photos are as follows: March 1, 1970; Chatman, SP4 Alexander, PFC Little, PFC Bradvold. March 17, 1970; Hawk Hill and South China Sea. January 11 (no year); Chu Lai, Baldy. No date; 2 1/2 ton M35A2 parked in the vehicle salvage yard for 723rd Maint. Bn. No date; Motor pool sign with the numbers 4BN 31 INF 196 BG. November 15, 1969; picture of him and a jeep with 02D88268 on the hood and AMCAL 196BG 4-31HQ-5 on the front bumper.

He received a Bronze Star for meritorious achievement for May 1969-May 1970 signed by A.E. Milloy. My dad died of lung cancer although he never smoked. I wonder if he could have been exposed to Agent Orange.

Lynette Evans [REDACTED]

Dandridge, TN 37725 [REDACTED]

Co. A, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB

Gregory G. Fitch, Ph.D. is currently serving as President of Utah College of Applied Technology. Fitch served with Co. A, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB in 1967-68. He wishes to thank all the volunteers who contribute their time to the ADVA. He says, "We are one because of the commitment of the volunteers." He extends his best regards to the officers and members of the association.

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Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
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Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 (WWII) and Task Force Oregon (Vietnam). Branch of service is immaterial.

Dedication

The 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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PNC Ronald Ellis

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