



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER



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

Founded 1945

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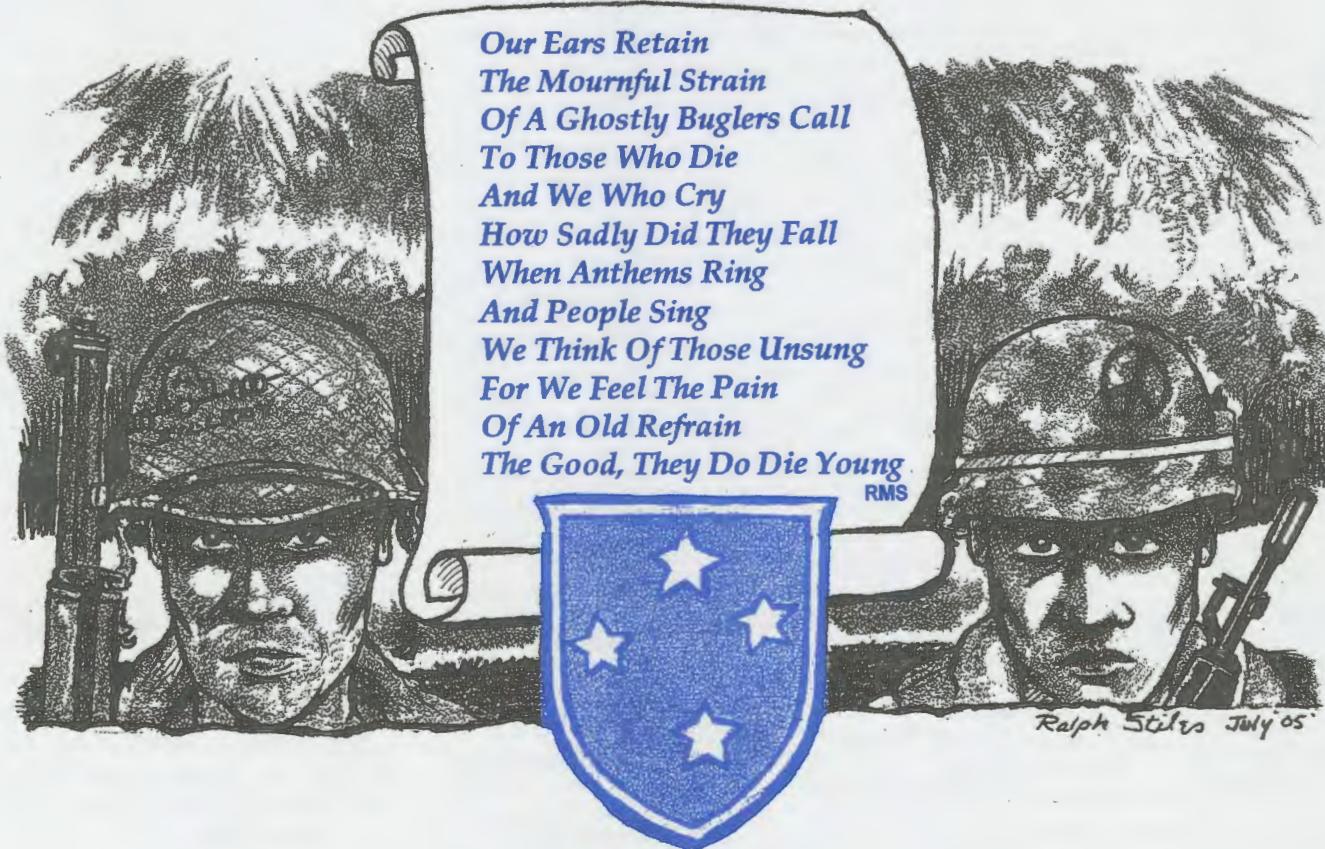
The Americal Newsletter is the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.

July-August-September 2005

Editor-In-Chief Emeritus: James C. Buckle

Editor: David W. Taylor

Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller



Art rendition of Americal soldiers, WWII (left) and Vietnam (right) contributed by Ralph Stiles, Captain, 23rd MP Company, Vietnam. Stiles was moved to write the above poem at the conclusion of the memorial service held at the ADVA Annual Reunion in Kansas City this June. He has gifted the copyright to his poem to the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Association Elections Are Slated For 2006

By PNC Gary L. Noller

The bi-annual election of officers and Executive Council members will be held in 2006. National Commander Jon Hansen has appointed PNC Ronald Ward to be chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2006 elections.

I was very happy to serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2004 elections. This effort provided me with a better understanding of our members and the candidates selected to run for positions.

The ballot will list candidates for the positions of National Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, and Executive Council members. Any by-law changes requiring a vote of members will also be on the ballot.

For the first time in 2006 the ballot will list candidates for open positions on the board of trustees of the Americal scholarship foundation.

In the past couple of years it has been suggested that the elections be held at the reunion and be limited to those members at the reunion. I have voiced my opinion against this suggestion. I feel it is important that every member who wishes to vote in the election be able to do so whether or not he or she attends the reunion.

In 2004 approximately 3,000 ballots were mailed to members. About 1,000 were returned and validated for the tally of votes. Reunions generally attract 300-500 members. Restricting elections to reunion attendees would significantly reduce the number of members voting.

It has also been said that the elections limit candidates to "good ol' boys" and that all candidates are not considered. I suppose this may be true depending on how one defines "good ol' boys". Candidates are generally chosen because they are known to be willing and able lead the association.

The Nominating Committee is a very powerful committee. It is appointed by the National Commander and has to be approved by the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee is generally composed of long-time members, Past National Commanders, current and former Chapter Commanders, Executive Council members, and appointed officers.

The 2005-2006 Nominating Committee is Ron Ward, Jim Buckle, Lloyd Morrell, Ron Ellis, Rich Scales, and Jim Craig. Ron Ward is chairman and can be contacted at 280 Vance Rd., Protec, MO, 65733 or by e-mail at rward307@yahoo.com.

Any member can offer his name or the name of any other member to the Nominating Committee for consideration. Nominees for the Executive Council (but

not commander positions) can be made by the collection of 15 members' signatures supporting the candidate. I believe these two provisions ensure that members can and do influence who is on the ballot.

I attended my first ADVA reunion in 1989. At that time I was just a new member walking around with my hands in my pockets. But I liked the organization and I continued to attend reunions. I observed the officers and their duties. I let people know that I would like to offer my talents to help run the association. When the time came I accepted the opportunity to serve. I believe many others have shared and can share this same experience.

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of submitting a slate of candidates for elections for officers and Executive Council members and to ensure that the election is carried out according to the by-laws and traditions of the association.

A. The following are key points taken from the ADVA by-laws:

1. The Nominating Committee must be composed of not less than five (5) members, must be appointed by the National Commander, and must be approved by the Executive Council.
2. The Nominating Committee must present a slate to the National Adjutant by February 1.
3. Candidates for Executive Committee can also be nominated by receiving the endorsements of fifteen (15) members in good standing.
4. Endorsements must be sent to the National Adjutant by February 1.
5. The National Adjutant must verify the eligibility of all candidates.
6. Balloting will be conducted between March 1 and June 30.
7. Names will be drawn to determine the order on the ballot of candidates for Executive Council.
8. A plurality of votes will decide the winners.
9. Balloting results are to be returned to the National Adjutant within seven days of tabulation.
10. Elected officers are National Commander, Sr. Vice-Commander, and Jr. Vice-Commander.
11. The term for elected officers and Executive Council members is two years and begins on July 1 of the election year. An elected officer (commander) cannot succeed himself. A former elected officer can be on the ballot after being out of office for one term.
12. The Executive Council must consist of no less than seven (7) members and no

B. The following items are not specified in the By-laws but are held as traditional procedures:

1. Elections are held every two years in even numbered years.
2. Executive Council members who have completed one term are nominated for a second term.
3. The current Sr. Vice-Commander is nominated unopposed for National Commander.
4. The current Jr. Vice-Commander is nominated unopposed for Sr. Vice-Commander.
5. The oath of office is given to those officers and Executive Council members in attendance at the National Reunion.

ADVA National Adjutant Notes

The annual reunion in Kansas City was a great event, sponsored by Dave Chrystal and the Central Mid-West Chapter. I visited with a lot of old friends, and met many members for the first time.

ADVA's new membership continues to grow steadily. During the June - August period, we added forty-one new members to the roster. Of these new members, ten were signed up at the Kansas City reunion and five are Paid Life members. As ADVA members, we need to actively seek new members for the organization.

A small percentage of our annual-pay members become delinquent on dues payments each renewal period. As you meet with your ADVA buddies at various Veterans' functions, encourage them to keep their membership current.

If you have buddies you served with in the Americal Division who are not members of ADVA, contact them today and sponsor them for membership. We still have the recruiting packets available for mailing to prospective members. Contact the National Commander, Jon Hansen, or myself for a supply of these packets.

The ADVA has entered into a formal agreement with Texas Tech Universities Vietnam Archive project at the university, to be the official repository and archive for all ADVA records. This will mean that the TT Vietnam Archive will store all organization documents produced in the future by ADVA, including the quarterly newsletters. In addition, the Vietnam Archive will archive members' personal collections from Vietnam. For those members who attended the Kansas City reunion, Dr. Richard Verrone, Assistant Archive Project Coordinator, gave a very good presentation at the general membership meeting on the Archive project. For information on how to submit personal collections to Texas Tech Vietnam Archive, view the website at www.vietnam.ttu.edu.

As a reminder for annual pay members, be sure to check your renewal date in the address block on the back cover of this newsletter. The first line in the address block, under the postal bar coding, contains your membership renewal date.

If the date shown on your newsletter is May 05 or earlier, please send your dues payment to PNC Ron Ellis, Assistant Finance Officer. Ron's mailing address is listed on the outside back cover as part of the membership application form.

As always, if you have questions about your dues status, have an address change or have a notification of the death of an ADVA member or former Americal veteran, please contact me with that information.

Please send written correspondence to the ADVA National Adjutant P.O. Box in Richardson, TX. The full address is listed inside the front cover at the bottom right corner of the page.

You can also FAX or E-Mail the information. My FAX number is [REDACTED].

My E-mail address is listed in the newsletter directory.

Roger Gilmore
National Adjutant

TAPS TAPS TAPS

Americal WWII Veterans

121st Medical Regt

Mr. Robert Keenan
Roslindale, MA
June 1, 2005

132nd Infantry, Co. D

Mr. Samuel C. Meeker
Danville, IL
July 5, 2005

125th Quartermaster Co.

Mr. Harold Leonhardt
Astoria, OR
June 17, 2005

182nd Infantry, Co. B

Mr. Edward Stevenson
St. Petersburg, FL
May 1, 2005

182nd Infantry Co. C

Mr. Arthur A. Pope
Brewster, MA
January 10, 2005

221st Field Artillery

Mr. Joseph R. D'Ambrosio
Peabody, MA
December 20, 2004

247th Field Artillery, Btry C.

Mr. Gerald T. McPhillips
Fuquay-Varina, NC
February 5, 2005

182nd Infantry Co. L

Mr. George Vallinich
Council Bluffs, IA
May 29, 2004

221st Field Artillery, Btry C.

Mr. John J. Laffey
S. Weymouth, MA
Date Unknown

247th Field Artillery, Hq Btry

Mr. Emil L. Parker
Circleville, OH
March 10, 2005

26th Signal Co.

Mr. William A. Gold
Baltimore, MD
June 22, 2005

Americal Vietnam Veterans

11th LIB

Mr. Kenneth H. Lewis
Manassas, VA
May 13, 2005

198th LIB, A/1/6 Inf.

Mr. Lyndal Kohl
Tilden, NE
May 23, 2005

11th LIB, C/1/20 Inf.

Mr. William R. Allen
Taylor, MI
July 6, 2005

198th LIB, D/1/52 Inf.

Mr. Tom Mead
Albany, OR
July 21, 2005

8th Air Cav, Troop F

SSG (Ret) Robert W. Hunt
Alamogordo, NM
May 19, 2005

LAST ROLL CALL

(Deceased Americal veterans not members of the ADVA)

Americal WWII Veterans

132nd Infantry, Co. C

Mr. Robert Hausz
Wellington, IL
2002

26th Signal Co.

Mr. Frank J. Curtis
Beverly, MA
June 5, 2005

Units Unknown

Mr. Montgomery Anderson
Rhinebeck, NY
July 14, 2005

Mr. George DeMatta
Ft. Myers, FL
May 7, 2005

LAST ROLL CALL

198th LIB, A/5/46:Mr. Jeff Perdue (Address Unknown) June 6, 2005

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Ray Connel
198th LIB, B/5/46 Inf.
Tyngsboro, MA
#Roger GilmoreMr. Bruce Flaherty
11th LIB, D/4/3 Inf.
Flushing, NY
#Les HinesMr. John Hazucha
196th LIB, B/3/21 Inf.
New Lexington, OH
#Joseph W. ZubaMr. Ralph Miller
1/82nd Field Artillery, Bty A
Brooklyn, NY
#PNC Ron EllisMr. William Eberle
11th LIB
Hilton Head, SC
#PNC Gary NollerCol (Ret) John A. Fulmer
23rd Admin. Co.
Hampton, VA
#F. H. KolbrenerCol (Ret) Frank J. Maurer
196th LIB, B/4/31 Inf.
Highlands Ranch, CO
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Robert A. Peterson
198th LIB, E/5/46 Inf.
Faribault, MN
#Dave TaylorMr. John P. Farley
198th LIB, 17th Cav. H Troop
Cheltenham, PA
#Robert ShortMr. Jose Guerrero
11th LIB, HHC/3/1 Inf.
San Antonio, TX
#Roger GilmoreMr. Robert D. Henderson
23rd Admin Co.
Midland, TX
#Bill MaddoxMr. George W. Isenberg
164th Infantry, Co. A
Las Vegas, NV
#SelfMr. Vernon Koedam
11th LIB, B/1/20 Inf.
Alvord, IA
#Dave ChrystalMr. Joseph L. Martin
11th LIB, D/3/1 Inf.
Kansas City, MO
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Claude A. McCale
11th LIB, C/4/21 Inf.
Erwin, TN
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Rex E. Miller
198th LIB, B/1/52 Inf.
Aleppo, PA
#Donald MusilekMr. Ike Roell
11th LIB, E/4/3 Inf.
Kewaskum, WI
#Dave ChrystalMr. Kenneth Sandora
198th LIB, B/1/52 Inf.
Lakeland, FL
#Dan YoungMr. Robert D. Bussell
1st Sqdn. 1st Cav B Troop
Anza, CA
#Kurt McFaddenMr. Daniel J. Cicotte
23rd MP Company
River Rouge, MI
#Paul StiffMr. Billy H. Coleman
18th Arty, 3rd Bn., Btry C
Farmersville, TX
#John AndersonMr. Ed Einarsen
198th LIB, D/5/46 Inf.
Blaine, WA
#Dave TaylorMr. Kenneth R. Gruska
198th LIB
Boynton Beach, FL
#Robert ShortMr. Garrett W. Hartman
26 Engrs, Co. E
St. Mary's, PA
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Ray Hickman
11th LIB, B/1/20 Inf.
New Braunfels, TX
#Dave ChrystalMr. James E. Jochims
11th LIB, A/1/20 Inf.
Friendship, WI
#Dave ChrystalMr. Glen Malatesta
198th LIB, B/1/52 Inf.
Clermont, FL
#Pat HanlonMr. Charles Maxson III
11th LIB, B&D/1/20 Inf.
Clearwater, KS
#SelfMr. Francis P. McDermott
16th CAG, 123rd Abn Bn.
Spring Hill, FL
#PNC Jon HansenMr. Stephen J. Newland
23rd Armed Recon (50's Era)
Garnett, KS
#PNC Gary NollerMr. James A. Saffold
328th RR Det.
Rochester, MI
#Robert KappMr. Paul R. Strotman
11th LIB, C/4/21 Inf.
Monongahela, PA
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Emilio Weaver Jr.
11th LIB, A/1/20 Inf.
Lyford, TX
#Dave ChrystalMr. John D. Whittaker
Div. Sniper School
Missoula, MT
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Robert M. Wilson
8th Cav, F Troop
Quechee, VT
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Mark D. Callahan
11th LIB, B/3/1 Inf.
Wall, NJ
#SelfMr. John R. Worrel
6/11th Field Artillery
Liberty, MO
#SelfNEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Ms. Ann Herd
President, Gold Star Mothers Association
Dallas, TX
#Roger Gilmore

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. William Baumiller
11th LIB, A/4/21 Inf.
Pittsburgh, PA
#PNC Gary NollerMr. Larry F. Boyd
196th LIB, A/2/1 Inf.
Bessemer, AL
#SelfMr. Gary Caneva
198th LIB, A/1/6 Inf.
Henderson, NV
#Dave ChrystalMr. Robert J. Ciulla
198th LIB, C/1/52 Inf.
Lorain, OH
#SelfMr. Mark W. Dine
198th LIB, C/5/46 Inf.
Celina, OH
#Dave Taylor

Editors Note: If you wish to reply to an article in the Americal Newsletter that only lists an e-mail return address, and you do not have e-mail, 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:

Dear Editor,

In 1944 on Bougainville there was a training platform built in a river in front of the 164th Infantry lines. It had 8-foot and 18-foot levels and when we were not busy some of us dived off it into the water.

On one occasion I dove off the 8-foot level and another fellow dove off the 18-foot level, striking me in the back and, I'm told he broke his neck and passed away. I was told nothing except his name was similar to mine. Can anyone confirm this incident?

Wm. Wayne McDowell

Mattoon, IL 61938-5605

Dear Dave,

The enclosed copy of an article, written by Sgt. Hyman Ganiels, is furnished for your consideration in the ADVA Newsletter.

First a few words about Hyman Ganiels. I first met Sgt. Ganiels in the early 1950's when he was on leave from the Army. At the time my mother was living with my wife and I, and a mutual friend to both Hyman and my mother brought him to the house. That occasion was the first time that my mother saw him since WWI when they both lived in the same town in Poland.

My mother left Poland in 1921 and emigrated to the U.S. My father left Romania in the same year and they met in the U.S., got married and, lo and behold, my sister and I were born in February 1924. Hyman remained in Poland. Consequently, he was taken by the Nazi's and placed in a concentration camp. He survived WWII and emigrated to the U.S. from a displaced persons camp in Europe. He shortly, after arrival, enlisted in the U.S. Army. I estimate that he was about 35-40 years of age when he enlisted. The Army needed him – indeed wanted him – because he was a first class baker.

For some years we corresponded with Hyman but that petered out shortly after he retired from the Army after more than 20 years of service. His rank at retirement as I recall was Sergeant Major. The enclosed item was submitted by Hyman when he was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

I think Hyman's story and his essay (below) is a great tribute to all of our fighting men and women with special emphasis on our emigrant enlistees, so many of whom are currently serving in Iraq and elsewhere.

Jack Warkow
Btry B, 221st F.A. Bn.
Maple Shade, New Jersey

Editors Note: We are happy to reprint Hyman Ganiels' essay in the next column, provided to us by Jack Warkow. Hyman Ganiels passed away June 16, 1992 at the age of 93. He was buried with full military honors at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Gustine, Merced County, California.

"WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME"

By SFC Hyman Ganiels
(Freedom Foundation Award Winning Essay)

Frankly, I have no words to express myself, because America means to me everything in the world.

I was born and raised in a foreign country, which is now under the Iron Curtain. I came from a country where I never had any freedom. I had to have my passport in my pocket at all times. I served in the Army over there for three years and three months. I got paid two dollars and forty cents a month, and only had one hot meal a day. I never ate an orange or a grape until I came to America. I had to work a whole day for two oranges or two pounds of grapes. When I came to America the most that impressed me was the "Freedom." I did not need a passport in my pocket. I have been in forty-three states already and nobody has asked me for a passport when I walk in the street. I feel the freedom from every brick in the buildings and from every stone in the ground. My greatest thrill in life was when I walked out of the Federal Building with my citizenship papers in my hand. I felt like kissing everybody in the streets, and what an honor and a privilege it was to be an American citizen.

I'm now in the American Army. The best paid, the best fed, the best clothed Army in the entire world. Since I am in the Army I developed an urge to stand retreat. It is so beautiful, so peaceful, every time I see the flag go down and the band plays the "Star Spangled Banner", that alone fills my heart with joy and gratitude. I consider my beloved America God's country. It is heaven and the Garden of Eden. It is more significant what America means to me. America is the most fortunate nation on earth. When the whole world suffered the horrors and toll of war, the peoples were left without families or without homes, America was the only safe place in the whole world.

Do I need more evidence what America means to me? Especially being in Korea now, for the past 18 months.

Here is my answer to "WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME". I have all the confidence in America's future. God will watch over us and protect us from all the evils, which destroy those nations whose trust is in their own selfish power.

As for me, I say with Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death."

SFC Hyman Ganiels
United States Army

Bill Gold Remembered

Dear Army Guys,

It is with the deepest sadness that Harriet, Carl and I write to tell you of Bill's death on Wednesday, June 22, 2005.

Our utmost thanks to all of you for your continued friendship and support. Until Bill hooked up again with you after so many, many years, he had been reluctant to speak of the war days. But once friendships were renewed, the American became a part of all of our lives, and for that, we are so grateful. It was our pleasure to have met the men who loved our father and husband before we even knew him.

We will always treasure all of you as Bill did. With great fondness, love and respect,

Bill's children Debby and Carl and wife Harriet

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to drop a note to let the ADVA know how important your locator service issue (ADVA Web Site). My father was an Americal WWII Vet. He passed away in 1970 not having said much about his war years. When I first discovered your web site in 2001, your locator had a listing of an old time friend looking for Dad. I made contact with that Veteran, and then used the locator to contact quite a few other WWII Vets, and their offspring that knew Dad or had an interest in his unit. They helped me greatly. Veterans, their children and grandchildren are using your locator every day to make contacts; I am guessing you only hear about a small percentage. I have a network of 182nd Infantry, Company G relatives that I now communicate with periodically. I believe I have made several dozen contacts via the locator service.

Our most recent locator hit came August 4. I had listed the names of soldiers that appeared on an 11/29/43 roster of my father's 182nd, Company G, 2nd Platoon squad. August 4, 2005 David Brinkmann, son of David Brinkmann, Americal Vet, contacted me. He knew his father was in the Americal, in the South Pacific and in the Solomon Islands. The senior Mr. Brinkmann had a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. I, and several other locator friend contacts, have been able to help this Veterans son learn that his father was on Guadalcanal and cited in the Presidential Unit Citation for that action, and that he was on Bougainville, and likely wounded on March 11, 1944, on Hill 260. Dave Colamaria, a Veterans grandson, was able to provide him the document awarding his father the Combat Infantryman Badge, and I was able to explain that Mr. Brinkmann earned an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Bronze Star. I believe he was wounded March 11 because my father reported to Mr. Brinkmann per the 11/29/43 roster, and on March 11 my father, per one of Dads Bronze Star citations, assumed command of his squad that day as his leaders had been killed or wounded.

We referred the Brinkmann family to several books and they shared some pictures of their father with us. Thank you for your excellent tool to help us understand our parent's history and the context it played in world history.

Edward Gekosky

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

To the Division Historian:

The undersigned individual, a retired public school history teacher, is compiling the Texas War Dead and Missing of World War II, who died on active duty, killed in action or listed as missing in action for a book. The basic information sources being used are the official records of the American Battle Monument Commission and the Texas Adjutant General's archival records.

If your division has published a book listing of the World War II war dead, missing and those who died while on active duty with the dates of death, I will appreciate information where I may purchase a copy of the book.

The project is an on-going manuscript of several years' duration. I have some 20,000 names and related information already typed into a database.

Alfred Evans

San Antonio, Texas 78218

Editors Note: As ADVA WWII Historian I have notified Mr. Evans of the book, Under The Southern Cross which, of course does not have the detail or specificity Mr. Evans is seeking. ADVA members who may be able to help are encouraged to contact Mr. Evans.

Dear Dave,

Please place this message in the Letters-To-The Editor section. I wish to thank my friends for the many letters, cards, e-mails and telephone calls I have received since announcing my retirement as Editor-In-Chief of the Americal Newsletter, all thanking me for the many years of service I have given to the Americal and the pleasure they have received from the Americal Newsletter over the years.

Thank You! Thank You!
Jim Buckle

Dear Editor,

My father, Alfred Paulson, served in WWII in the 132nd Infantry Regiment, Company K. Years ago we had a long (perhaps 2 to 2 1/2 feet) but narrow picture of what I assume were the whole 132nd Infantry. But some 20 years ago my mother gave it away. I have been heartbroken ever since.

I really don't know whom to consult about this. A few years ago I did contact the vice-president of the 132nd Infantry regiment association, but he did not know what I was talking about.

I there a government agency to contact? Please let me know if there is someone that I can contact for a copy of this photo.

Pam DiBenedetto

Editors Note: As WWII Historian I e-mailed Pam and suggested she contact the National Archives Photo Branch. If any ADVA members know of other sources, please contact her or e-mail me and I will contact her.

Dear Editor,

I read the article, "Huh! Are You Talking To Me?" in the second quarter 2005 newsletter. I would like to relate my experience regarding hearing loss.

I was in an anti-aircraft (AA) unit on Bougainville in 1943-44. My job was to man a .50-Cal water-cooled machine gun. We protected our 90mm guns from fighter plane attacks.

On February 17, 1944 at 7:00PM three Japanese bombers from Rabaul came over our position and began bombing. They did not have fighter escort. My gun sergeant sent me over to the closest 90mm gun to assist in getting ammo into the gun bunker.

Just as I was bringing a 90mm shell into the bunker the gun changed direction and fired directly over my head. I stumbled into the bunker and was lucky to not drop the shell I carried. I could not hear for about three days. When I reported this to our medic his comment was, "consider this your contribution to the war effort." Hello!

I suffered hearing loss for over 60 years and I had to buy expensive hearing aids. Finally at a Seniors Conference the speaker told me I should visit the local VA office and file a claim for my hearing.

I reported in to the VA and was really surprised how quickly they handled my claim. What really helped was that I provided evidence from three of my former buddies about this event.

The VA was surprised when I told them that upon my discharge from the service one of the officers advised us that it was better that we not turn in any injury claims. He said it would hold up our getting out of the service. After 30 months in the war who the hell would want to hold up getting out?

After all these many years I finally received a letter from the VA stating that they had decided my hearing loss was caused by enemy action!

Leonard "Sack" Owczarzak
Btry. D, 746th AAA Gun Bn.

Dear Editor,

I am looking for anyone who may have known my grandfather in WWII. His name was Boyd Bedkley Hass and he was in Co. A, 164th Inf. Regt. His discharge papers say he was a sergeant and a squad leader (607).

My grandmother said that he played music with some people over there and he loved to play music a lot. He may have been with a band.

Andrew Haas

Editors Note: I notified Andrew of the 164th Infantry Regiment Association whom he might contact as well.

VIETNAM

Editors Note: Below is a letter from Ann Herd, who is the National President of the American Gold Star Mothers, and mother of Ronald Ward Herd, Co. B, 4/21st Inf, 11th LIB, who was killed in action on August 5, 1970. Mrs. Herd wrote a letter to her son to mark Memorial Day, 2003 and the ADVA published the letter in its Jan-Feb-Mar 2004 newsletter issue. I had sent Mrs. Herd a copy of that newsletter which she had not received, as well as copies of subsequent issues. Her letter, dated June 8, 2005 follows:

Dear Dave

I received the package of newsletters a few days ago. I thank you so very much. I assure you I will enjoy reading them.

Thanks to the ADVA for putting my letters in the newsletter for everyone to read. Ronnie's attitude in life helps me in accepting his loss. He expected everyone to do the best they could about disappointments in life and go on to the next best thing. He told me that was what he expected of me if something happened to him. So I don't want him to be disappointed in me.

Definitely he is by my side watching over me. We have nothing but happy memories of Ronnie during his 21 years with us. Not one heartache did he give us – just when we heard of his death. He is kept alive in our memories. Our conversations on November 19th, when we have his birthday dinner of the things he enjoyed – are about the fun things we all did together.

Thank You Again,
God Bless You
Ann Herd

Dear Editor,

I am waiting in hope you can be of some help to me. I was the Chu Lai Crash Team Rescue Chief in 1969/1970 and our unit debarked on 10 September 1970 and was replaced by soldiers of the Americal Division. I would like any of those firefighters from the Americal to get in touch with me. Thank you and Semper Fi!

MGYSGT Ray Cowley Jr.
U.S.M.C. Retired

Beaufort, SC 29902

Dear Dave,

I thought you would be interested in knowing than an Americal Newsletter Locator request has resulted in the daughter of a former B Company, 5th/46th Infantry grunt, getting in contact with her fathers good friend from 1968 when they were in Vietnam together. Lisa Sutton posted a locator in the Jan-Feb-Mar Americal Newsletter looking for friends of her father, Thomas Van Guilder, particularly her father's good friend, David Forms. Her father had passed away recently. Through a total team effort, a group of B Company, 5th/46th grunts were able to find a picture of Lisa's father from 1968. We also tracked down his good friend, David Forms, as well as his Platoon sergeant and a medic that was present when her father was wounded. Lisa was able to speak to friends of her fathers' and it made my day as well as a few other guys.

Bob Chappell
Trinity, Florida

Bill Allen Remembered

To all,

I was able to attend Bill's funeral yesterday. I wanted you to know that we did have an ADVA presence. Two Vets from his VFW post that served in the Americal Division were there, along with a guy that served with Bill in the 1st/20th during his Nam tour. Bill had been cremated so there wasn't a casket but they had many pictures of Bill posted throughout the room and many of those were taken during his Army days.

There was an honor guard from his VFW of about 12 men that gave their honors during the service. Bill's older brother talked before the group about Bill's life. Both a Priest and a Minister that had known Bill from his attending their church's and his work at the VA Hospital spoke as well, which added much to the service. Those attending the service filled the room until there was standing room only. I feel that Bill went out with honor, but not near enough for all the good he did during his life.

Paul Stiff

Dear Editor,

I wanted to let you know that my father, SSgt. Robert W. Hunt, US Army (Ret) of Alamogordo, New Mexico passed away May 19, 2005. He served in the Americal Division, 8th Cavalry, F Troop during his first tour of duty in Chu Lai, Vietnam, 1968-69.

He was very proud to have served in Vietnam as a helicopter mechanic and crew chief. He was a member of the Americal Division Veterans association and VFW Yucca Post #8919.

Joni Hunt Sheridan
Sugar Hill, Georgia

Dear Editor,

My uncle, William R. (Bill) Allen was a Vietnam veteran in the 1/20th Inf., 11th Light Infantry Brigade. He passed away on July 6, 2005. He was my only uncle and we were very close. His death has devastated my father and me. My husband and I attended an Americal Division reunion in Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day 2002 with my uncle. This group was very important to my uncle Bill. We would not only like to make everyone aware of his death, but we would also like to stay in contact with this group and we would like to attend the next reunion in honor of him. Can you help us get going in the right direction?

Wendy Allen-Nash

Vietnam Editor's Reply:

Dear Ms. Allen-Nash,

I wish to express my sincere condolences on the loss of your uncle, William R. Allen. I am sure that you miss him deeply and I appreciate your desire to honor him and his service to our country.

I knew Bill for many years. It was always great to see him at our national reunions. He wrote me an e-mail a few weeks prior to this year's reunion and told me that he regretted that he would not be there. He told me that he was to undergo additional treatment for his illness and that he hoped it would be effective. I was very saddened to hear that he took a turn for the worse and died of his terrible illness.

Bill was a strong advocate for veterans and the issues that affected veterans. He expended a great deal of effort on behalf of veterans of his company, his battalion, his brigade, and his division. He also took time to honor Canadian veterans who were killed in Vietnam and he gathered support for our military members that are deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. I know one of his chief efforts was to create and maintain a website for the 11th Light Infantry Brigade. He was active in the Great Lakes Chapter of the ADVA and held the post of Vice-Commander in the chapter.

Other people could do what Bill did, but Bill not only could do it, he did do it. He was not one to just talk the talk. He also walked the walk.

I am copying this message to members of the ADVA leadership. They may chose to contact you and offer suggestions on how you can stay in touch.

You are welcome to attend future ADVA reunions. The 2006 reunion will be in Portland, OR. Information on the reunion will be at www.americal.org in the near future.

Please let me know if the ADVA or I can be of service to you and to your family. We will miss your Uncle Bill and the contributions he made on behalf of veterans.

Gary L. Noller

Dear Editor,

I am chairman of the Bossier High School Alumni Association. The association is in the process of collecting the military stories of former students. We would like to ask your help in finding any information about two classmates who were killed in Vietnam.

Staff Sergeant David Faughn was assigned to Co. B, 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB when he was killed on December 7, 1969. SP4 James Walter Myles was killed on June 4, 1971 while assigned to the 1/52nd Inf. Bn., 198th LIB.

David was in my class. He was our Rudy at Bossier High School. He was not tall enough to enlist right out of school. Then the rules were changed and height requirements were lowered.

David was a member of undefeated 9th grade team, and played on the Bearcats "suicide squad", although he was not a starter. He was very

well like by most, and left a high school sweetheart behind who named her son for David.

Please let me know if you are able to provide any information about David or James' service in Vietnam. I would like to know their units, comrades, and the incidents that led to their deaths.

Buzz Wokecki: [REDACTED]

Bossier City, LA 71112
[REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

This is to notify you of the death of my husband, Kenneth H. Lewis. He was a life member of the ADVA. He was so proud to have been a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Americal Division. He was in the 11th LIB and the 196th LIB.

Kenneth died on May 13, 2005 due to complications of Agent Orange. He didn't die in Vietnam but that is where it started. I just want to notify all of his friends of his passing.

Joan Lewis
Manassas, VA

Dear Editor,

Thomas R. Mead, age 58, died on July 21, 2005 as a result of injuries from a motorcycle accident. He was buried with full military honors at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Tom served with Co. D, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Tom was a lifetime member of the Americal Division Veteran's Association. He enlisted on 3 Jan. 1968 and was discharged as E-5 SGT on 2 Oct. 1969. Please remember him.

Candace Gravelle
Maggie Mead
Sarah Mead

Dear Editor,

I am asking you to put your memory cap on and help me fill in some blanks in one of my Chu Lai experiences.

I believe that this happened in early 1971. I was asleep in my hooch and about 0100 hrs I was awakened by dustoffs landing at the 91st Evacuation Hospital. This was most unusual because flights usually stopped at dark. The choppers kept coming in for more than half an hour.

The next day I went to visit my doctor friends and I had never seen them so depressed. They had been up all night trying to administer to at least 15 GIs that had been flown in from the bush.

As I recall, they told me this unusual story. A patrol had gone out on a three-day sweep. Among the group was an Army Chaplain. The unit stayed close to the same location for a couple of days.

There was a terrible enemy attack of some sort. It was devastating. I believe that seven or eight GIs died, including the Army chaplain. Others were severely injured. The doctors told me that it was the worst mass casualty experience they had seen.

Can you fill in the details that are missing? For instance, what was the unit and where was it were based? I will never forget the choppers waking me up. They just kept coming and coming. It was very eerie.

Don Kilgore: [REDACTED]

Vietnam Editor's Response to Kilgore Letter: Most likely you are describing the incident that took place on Easter Sunday, April 11, 1971. A helicopter on a re-supply mission was shot down at a landing zone (LZ) at a Co. A, 1/20th Inf. field location. An enemy attack followed the shootdown. Several American soldiers were killed to include CPT Merle D. Brown, a Protestant chaplain.

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find information about a friend of mine who was killed in Vietnam. We were together in basic and advanced training but went different ways after that. We both ended up in Vietnam. My friend died the day I arrived in-country.

His name was Dean Orn. He was assigned to H & S, 6/11th Artillery, but was attached as a forward observer to Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB when he was KIA on 11 Mar 69 in Quang Ngai province. Also KIA in the same action were SP4 James H. Horton, SP4 Walter Moore, PFC Robin W. Richardson, and PFC Bennie J. Graham.

Among the pieces of information I am searching for are:

1. Contact with anyone who could give me specific info on the engagement that day,
2. Access to dean's Silver Star citation, and
3. Contact info on anybody who actively served with Dean in his operational unit.

Rhea Rippey: [REDACTED]
Co. C, 229th AHB, 1st Cav. Div., 69-70

Nashville, TN 37205

Dear Editor,

While reviewing the Americal Division Order of Battle at: <http://www.americal.org/oobc2.shtml>. I discovered the entry for the 48th Scout Dog Platoon is incorrect. The entry lists the platoon as part of the 198th LIB. The correct listing should indicate the platoon as part of the 196th LIB.

Tom Sykes: Appleton, WI
48th Scout Dog, 1968-69 - Unit Director

Dear Editor,

I was a member of Delta Company, 1/20th Infantry, 11th LIB. On March 1, 1969, one of our helicopters crashed, killing all four crew members and five of our seven Delta Company men who were aboard. One of our Delta men killed was David Lovegren, from Portland, Oregon.

After the crash, we were involved in the recovery mission for the men killed.

During the recovery, David's body was accidentally dropped from the recovery helicopter's sling and his body fell into triple canopy jungle at the base of the hill. Delta searched for his body for two or three days, but we were not able

to locate his body in the jungle. There was enemy activity within the area that hindered our search efforts.

In May 2004 the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), at Hickman Air Force Base, contacted our Delta website (www.deltacompany.org) asking if any Delta men could help in identifying the location where David's body was lost. The purpose of the inquiry is to initiate a new search for David's body.

We were able to locate approximately 10 men who were eyewitnesses to the drop, and a number of other Delta men who had been on the search for his body. Our men were able to accurately pinpoint on the map where David's body was dropped.

We submitted maps from each man and photographs of the crash site to JPAC to help them in identifying the exact location. But more importantly we wanted to ensure that JPAC would include David on their next search in that area.

As of this date, JPAC has been unable to tell us when a new search for David's body will be initiated. I am asking you, the men of Delta are asking you and the Lovegren family is asking you, to immediately contact JPAC to inquire when they will begin a search for David's body.

The address for JPAC is:

Commanding General
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
[REDACTED]
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853

David Lovegren was an American soldier, David Lovegren is an American son. His nation, his brothers-in-arms, and most importantly, his family yearn for the day he will be returned to the soil of his birth. We ask you to write JPAC and ask them to do everything in their power to bring David home to this wonderful family. They have more than once given up their sons to ensure the freedom of our nation.

Jason Wright, President
Delta, 1/20th, 11th LIB Association

Dear Editor,

I recently met a woman whose husband was killed in Vietnam. She is searching for any information about him. I understand he was only in-country a few months before being killed by a booby-trap.

His name is SGT Roy W. Marlatt, assigned to Co. B, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB. He arrived in Vietnam on May 1, 1970 and was killed on July 29, 1970.

If you have any information please send it to pattycak2@msn.com.

Harry Little

Dear Editor,

This is to let everyone know of the passing of my friend Jack Levitz. He replaced me as commander of Co. E, 1/46th Inf. in December 1969. He then became commander of Co. D, 1/46th Inf. sometime in February 1970.

Jack was severely wounded by shrapnel from the explosion of an RPG round during the battle in the Hiep Duc Valley in May 1970. He apparently went through several months of reconstructive surgery on his return to the states.

After retiring from the Army, Jack became a Forest Ranger in Northern California. He got hit with colon cancer a number of years ago and had thought he had it beat, but it came back on him with a vengeance. After retiring from the ranger life, Jack and his wife, Faye, had just within the last year, built their dream home in the Hawaiian Islands community of Paauilo.

Jack Michael Levitz was born on November 5, 1943 in Woodside, NY. He passed away at age 61 on June 7, 2005, at his home in Paauilo, HI. He is survived by his wife, Faye, his mother, Mary, and his sister-in-law, Beverly Young. His ashes are interred in Section 13-F, Site 4, of the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery on the Kamehameha Highway in Kaneohe, HI.

Dick Pils
1/46 Infantry

Dear Editor,

I am a veteran of HQ Co, 198th LIB from its outfitting and training at Ft. Hood, TX, in early 1967 until well into its Vietnam campaigns in December 1968. I was the brigade S-5 NCO during that period. I wonder if it would be possible to contact any survivors of those years, especially any from HQ Company?

Beauregard W. Lee, SFC, Retired

Dear Editor,

I served with the 1/6th Inf. Bn., 198th LIB, from September 1969 to September 1970. I looking for anyone who was there at that time and remembers me.

Dave (Little Dave) Lawrence

Dear Editor,

Some time ago I signed the guest book on the 11th LIB website. A lady from Texas named Kitty helped me find a brother from Vietnam after 37 years. He is alive and well with a family and children.

He remembers everything that happened to me on August 19, 1968. He saw me get hit and he saw our best friend get killed. We were injured by a land mine.

He remembers that I had a leg wound and that I did not tell anyone about it. We kept it to ourselves out of anger and guilt that we felt because of what happened to our friend.

I changed that day. I had the blood of my dead buddies in my veins. We lost two others that same day. A few days later we went into Tam Ky and fought two NVA divisions for about five and one-half days.

Our former company commander has been found and remembers the day I was wounded. Orders are being prepared for me to receive the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. The captain said that he put me and several others in for Bronze Stars but they were never received.

What I care about more is that I have found a friend that I thought was killed in the action in Tam Ky. I tried to locate him through the news media with no luck.

Miracles do exist through our website. I hope all the brothers keep signing in because some lady in Texas read the guest book and found my friend for me. I can't believe this happened. I am so happy I have to share the news.

Robert Lee Horton; 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB ns_volunteers@cox.net

Dear Editor,

I would like to tell you about an article I read in the August 2005 VIETNAM magazine. It began on page 26 and was titled "The Montagnards- Trail of Tears."

The article stated that in 2002 Vietnam signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism with the United States and the Southeast Asian nations. But Vietnam is reportedly still torturing and killing Montagnards. Montagnards (mountain people) were the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

I urge Vietnam veterans to read this article and to contact their representatives in Washington, D.C. Tell them to apply pressure on Vietnam to uphold the terms and conditions of the Joint Declaration as it applies to Montagnards. I have already written my letters.

James W. Gales; Co. B, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB
Glendale, WI; 414-351-DEER

Dear Editor,

I was stationed in Chu Lai with the 23rd Admin Co. as a records clerk on Team 6. I was there from August 1970 to October 1971. I would like to contact anyone who remembers me. I am from Michigan.

Al (Fritz) Friess

Dear Editor,

I received a call tonight from Bill Noe He recently became a member of the ADVA. Bill was listed as 1/16th Artillery. Bill served with me in Co. A, 1/52nd Inf.

Dan Young

Editor's note: Our apologies for the error. A correction will be made in the records.

Dear Editor,

On May 30, 2005 VVA Chapter 931 in Lufkin/Nacogdoches, Texas, held a Memorial Day ceremony at the Nacogdoches County courthouse. The guest speaker was Retired Army Lt. Gen. Orren "Cotton" Whiddon, who commanded the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam. His photo was in a recent edition of the VVA VETERAN magazine.

Les Hines and Tom Bedient

Dear Editor,

I have been trying to find an old friend that I knew in AIT and jump school. We were there in early 1968 and arrived in Vietnam together in August 1968. He was shot the first of September 1968 and that is the last that I heard of him.

His name is Gerald Allen and he was from Inkum, IN. He was 20 years old in 1968.

Jerry Forrett

Dear Editor,

My wife's dad died on 18 January 1969 in a mortar attack on his base. She has looked for many years for anyone, who served with him, as she never knew her father. I believe she has only succeeded in locating one person so far who knew him.

The following information is on the Report Of Casualty form, which she still has: Bonetti, Freddie Allen; RA 25 875 626; SSG; RA; HHC, 5th BN, 46th Inf., 198th LIB, Americal Division, Vietnam.

Died 18 January 1969 in Vietnam from wound received while in base camp when area came under hostile attack. Commenced tour in Vietnam 24 September 1968.

If anyone knew SSgt. Bonetti, I know my wife would love to hear from them. I'm not sure about her, but I would be interested in any details concerning the battle in which he was engaged when he lost his life.

My gratitude to all who have served our country. Thank you.

Barry and Angelina Deans

ADVA Scholarship Fund Report

Bob Short – Fund Chairman

Thanks to our members and friends, the ADVA Scholarship Fund enjoyed another very successful year. Contributions to the fund totaled \$26,895.23. That's a 40% increase over contributions for the previous year! Sixty-five percent of that increase came from one source – the South Midwest Chapter of the ADVA. The South Midwest Chapter received a contribution of \$5,000 from one of its members, Mr. Al Cotta, who is a World War II Veteran. The chapter decided that the best use for the money would be to contribute it to the scholarship fund. Consequently, a huge thank you goes to Mr. Cotta and the South Midwest Chapter of the ADVA.

There were almost 1,000 individual contributions to the fund. Almost half of those contributions (47%) were greater than the minimum of \$10 that is requested as part of our annual raffle ticket fundraiser. Eighty-two individuals contributed \$50 or more and thirty-two of those individuals contributed \$100 or more.

As a result of the contributions for the year as well as earnings on our investments, we were able to award \$30,000 in scholarships for the 2005-2006 school year. The fund trustees at the ADVA Annual Reunion in Kansas City approved those scholarships. The winning raffle ticket was also drawn in Kansas City. The \$250 raffle winner was Mr. Jim Martin from Grove City, Ohio.

I want to thank the ADVA members and associates who have given so generously to the scholarship fund. Our organization can be very proud of the financial assistance that we are providing our children and grandchildren!

2004-2005 Financial Report

Tim Vail – Fund Treasurer

Summary of Finances:

Scholarship Fund Balance – 07/01/04:	\$ 99,838.13
Income from Contributions, Donations, etc.	26,895.23
Interest Income	539.69
Appreciation of Vanguard Fund	4,781.68
Sub-Total	<u>132,054.73</u>
Scholarship Fund Expenses (includes scholarships)	31,619.15
Scholarship Fund Balance – 06/30/05	100,435.58

Itemization of Fund Expenses:

• Printing Expense	\$ 515.27
• Printing & Postage	824.88
• Service Charge on Return Check	29.00
• Scholarship Awards 06/16/05:	30,000.00
• Raffle Winner 06/18/05:	<u>250.00</u>
Total:	31,619.15

2005 ADVA Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship fund trustees met on June 16, 2005, at the annual reunion in Kansas City and authorized awarding \$30,000 in scholarships.

The first place award of \$3000 went to Elizabeth Owczarzak. Elizabeth attends Ferris State University and was sponsored by her father, Leonard Owczarzak, who served in World War II with the 746th AAA Gun Battery.

The second place award of \$2500 went to Catherine Gibson. Catherine attends The Master's College and was sponsored by her father, Philip Lavoie, who served in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

The third place award of \$2000 went to Kevin Little. Kevin attends Taylor University and was sponsored by his father, Alan Little, who served in Vietnam with the 174th Aviation Co.

Two fourth place awards of \$1500 each went to:

Katie Andresavage attends the University of Northwestern Ohio and was sponsored by her father, William Andresavage, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.

Edward Robey will attend Southern Polytechnic State University and was sponsored by his grandfather, Calvin Reese Jackson, who served in World War II with the 132nd Infantry.

Nine fifth place awards of \$1000 each went to:

Michelle Laxer will attend Bucknell University and was sponsored by her father, Marc Laxer, who served in Vietnam with the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry.

Karen McCourt attends Boston College and was sponsored by her father, Joseph McCourt, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Brian Murray will attend the State University of New York Maritime College and was sponsored by his father, Clyde Murray, who served in Vietnam with the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Alison Reinsch attends Rider University and was sponsored by her grandfather, the late Joseph Thompson, who served in World War II with the 125th Quartermaster Company.

Page Schroeder attends The Ohio State University and was sponsored by her father, Michael Schroeder, who served in Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

Rachel Schur will attend Fort Lewis College and was sponsored by her grandfather, Alfred DeLong, who served in World War II with the 245th Field Artillery.

Christine Trout attends the University of Pittsburgh and was sponsored by her grandfather, Kermit Trout, who served in World War II with the 26th Signal Company.

Nora Tuite will attend St. Joseph's University and was sponsored by her grandfather, the late James Driscoll, who served in World War II with the 101st Quartermaster Company.

Kaitlyn Zaino will attend Curry College and was sponsored by her grandfather, the late Alfred Zaino, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry.

Twenty-one sixth place awards of \$500 each went to:

Bethany Andrzejewski attends Wright State University and was sponsored by her father, Larry Andrzejewski, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry.

Martha Burch attends Knox College and was sponsored by her father, James Burch, who served in Vietnam with the 26th Combat Engineers.

Cody Camacho will attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and was sponsored by his father, Frederick Camacho, who served in Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery.

Kimberly Clary will attend Auburn University and was sponsored by her grandfather, Calvin Reese Jackson, who served World War II with the 132nd Infantry.

John Farley, Jr. attends West Chester University and was sponsored by his father, John Farley, who served in Vietnam with H Troop, 17th Cavalry.

Bethany Fawkes attends Bradley University and was sponsored by her father, Raymond Fawkes, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

Alison Gray attends Hartwick College and was sponsored by her grandfather, Harold Gray, who served in World War II with the 57th Combat Engineers.

Jeffrey Gruska will attend Florida Atlantic University and was sponsored by his father, Kenneth Gruska, who served in Vietnam with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade.

Kendall Hatch attends Framingham State College and was sponsored by his grandfather, Leonard Oliver, who served in World War II with the 221st Field Artillery.

Stephanie Loeb attends the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and was sponsored by her grandfather, Everard Loeb, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry.

Brooke Logan will attend the University of Central Arkansas and was sponsored by her grandfather, Alexander Cameron, who served in Vietnam with the 123rd Aviation Battalion.

Jennifer Lorenz will attend Saint Anselm College and was sponsored by her grandfather, Edward Lorenz, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry.

Kelly Matthews attends the University of Connecticut and was sponsored by her father, Dennis Matthews, who served in Vietnam with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry.

Thomas Monroe attends West Virginia University and was sponsored by his father, Stephen Monroe, who served in Vietnam with Headquarters Company of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade.

James Parry attends the California Maritime Academy and was sponsored by his father, Michael Parry, who served in Vietnam with the 23rd Military Police Company.

Jessica Raley will attend Western Kentucky University and was sponsored by her father, Michael Brown, who served in Vietnam with Headquarters Company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Claudia Saric attends DePaul University and was sponsored by her grandfather, Felix Kirk, who served in World War II with the 247th Field Artillery.

Jenna Saric attends Augustana College and was sponsored by her grandfather, Felix Kirk, who served in World War II with the 247th Field Artillery.

Aspen Skiens attends the Oregon School of Massage and was sponsored by his father, Tommy Skiens, who served in Vietnam with the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry.

Kristine Stringham attends Northern Illinois University and was sponsored by her father, James Stringham, who served with the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry.

Johanna Swanson attends Hope College and was sponsored by her father, Charles Swanson, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry.

Donations of More Than \$10 To The ADVA Scholarship Fund

(Continued from the Apr-May-Jun 2005 Newsletter)

Jon Hansen
National Commander
James Lyons
ADVA Product Sales Raffle
ADVA South Midwest Chapter
Gerhart Mehner
Anthony Greene

Rich Scales
Past National Commander
Wes Haun
ADVA (Executive Council)
198th LIB Hospitality Room
(Gary Befus)

Contributions Made In Memory:

- PNC Roland Castranova in memory of Raymond F. Perry, Co A, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB
- Ross & Elaine Jandorf in memory of William Gold
- Helen Naviasky in memory of William Gold
- Joan & Leonard Cohen in memory of William Gold
- Ronnie & Stanley Amernick in memory of William Gold
- Leo Welsh in memory of William Gold
- Myron Oppenheimer & Maxine Cohen in memory of William Gold
- Barry & Karen Lewy in memory of William Gold
- Arthur & Doris Rocklin in memory of William Gold
- Robert & Helyn Granoff in memory of William Gold
- Malcom & Buzz Hellman in memory of William Gold
- Anna Martin in memory of William Gold

- Hooper and Jacobs LLC in memory of William Gold
- Maxwell Morgan in memory of William Gold
- Lois & Michael Mark in memory of William Gold
- Marjorie Strasburger in memory of Bill Gold
- Cindy & Bob Lepofsky in memory of Bill Gold
- Maxalea, Inc. in memory of Bill Gold
- Justin Woelper in memory of Bill Gold
- Tri-State Distributors in memory of Bill Gold
- Ruthie, Herbert, Stacy & Lee Block in memory of Bill Gold
- William & Beverly Pollack in memory of Bill Gold
- Anthony Albini in memory of Bill Gold
- Diane Markman in memory of Bill Gold
- Kermut Trout in memory of Bill Gold
- John & Linda McCleary in memory of Bill Gold
- Debbie & David Bacharach in memory of Bill Gold
- Charles & Lillian Keck in memory of Bill Gold
- Robert & Frieda Hallock in memory of Bill Gold
- Kathleen Sweeney & Richard Rubin in memory of Bill Gold

(Fund Chairman Bob Short reports contributions made in memory of Bill Gold now total over \$1,200. A wonderful legacy for a great Vet)

Scholarship Recipients Offer Thanks

Dear Mr. Short,

It is with great honor and appreciation that I thank the Americal Division Veterans Association Scholarship Foundation Board for bestowing on me the privilege of receiving a \$3,000 scholarship award from your foundation.

This award means all the more to me because of the institution that is granting it. My father's role with the Americal Division during World War II was a major part of his life, and I have no doubt that his patriotic service to God and country continues to influence him as a man, as a father, as a grandfather and as a citizen. The "Army stories" he told us as children he continues to use by visiting classrooms to talk to schoolchildren about what war was really like for him; bringing to life a time out of the pages of their history books and making it personal. Stories that can teach the meaning of doing what is right no matter how hard, of loyalty and friendship, stories that help instill values like honor and patriotism and what it means to be a citizen of this great country. Veterans deserve to be recognized for their contributions, not only as soldiers, but also as inspirational leaders and teachers, the fabric that binds the strength of our nation.

I am also immensely grateful to the ADVA Scholarship Foundation for considering non-traditional students as equally qualified applicants. In researching over 400 veteran scholarships, there were only 3 that I could qualify for, mostly because of my age. The road I have traveled did not lead me directly to the career I now seek, and because of my circumstances, just finding the openings that allow me to proceed can be difficult and terribly frustrating at times. But the more contact I have had with my chosen career of land surveying, the more I am sure that this is what I am meant to do; and so, if it is worth having, it is worth fighting for. It is a tremendous relief not to be consumed with worry about how to make it through another year of school. I truly appreciate the opportunity your scholarship affords me.

With Sincere Gratitude
Elizabeth Owczarzak

Dear Mr. Short and all the ADVA Members,
Thank you, thank you for selecting me to be a scholarship recipient! (\$2,500). My father and I greatly appreciate your generosity and are thankful for your contribution to my education.

God Bless You
Catherine Gibson

Dear Mr. Short,

Thank you and the members of the scholarship committee for selecting me as a recipient of the ADVA award. It is truly an honor in many ways for me receiving this scholarship. First and foremost, it's another link to my grandfather. Secondly, it's a testament to my hard work over the last four years of high school.

I have one request of the Americal Division. Since my grandfather's passing in November, we no longer receive the Americal newsletter. When the edition announcing the scholarship recipients is announced, could you forward a copy to me so that I can have it for a keepsake?

Again, thank you for awarding me this truly generous scholarship.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn A. Zaino

Editors Note: Kaitlyn, we will be happy to mail you a copy!



(Left to right: Alan Little - 174th Aviation Co., Vietnam and son Kevin)

Dear Mr. Short,

Thank you very much for the ADVA scholarship towards my tuition at Saint Anselm College. My grandfather attended the yearly Americal reunions until his health prevented him from going two years ago. He was in New Caledonia when the Americal division was formed (Company F, 182nd Infantry) in World War II.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lorenz



(Above, grandfather Edward Lorenz and Jennifer Lorenz)



(Above, Kaitlyn A. Zaino, High School Class of 2005)

Dear Mr. Short,

I would like to take a moment and thank you and the Americal Division for the scholarship that I received. This program provides wonderful opportunities for relatives of American Veterans. As a second year recipient, I have found that learning a little about my heritage each year makes me more appreciative of what I now have as an American. Thank you all again for recognizing me through the scholarship and I look forward to applying in the years to come.

Sincerely
Stephanie Loeb



(Above, grandfather Ed Loeb, 182nd Infantry Vet and Stephanie)

Dear Mr. Short,

I would like to thank you and the members of the scholarship selection committee for selecting me for an ADVA scholarship of \$1,500. Thank you more, however, for service to our country. Without your sacrifice, I wouldn't have the opportunity to go to college, or live a free life like I do.

With Great Admiration
Edward T. Roby



(Above, Calvin Reese Jackson, 132nd Infantry with grandson Edward)

Dear Mr. Short and Members of the Americal,

It was a great honor to be named as one of your scholarship recipients. Thank you for all your efforts to give to our country and then to continue to give through scholarships. My grandfather is so proud, which is most important to me. This opportunity helped me learn more about the sacrifices that he made. I feel honored to have been sponsored by him. Thank you for this opportunity and your check to Auburn University.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Clary



(Above, Calvin Reese Jackson, with granddaughter Kimberly)

Dear Mr. Short,

I am honored to be a recipient of the ADVA Scholarship this year. This scholarship of \$1,000 will enable me to continue my studies to become a music teacher – an occupation that will allow me to pass on my sense of pride in my country through the teaching of patriotic songs. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Alison Reinsch



(Above, Alison with her grandfather, Joseph A. Thompson, Sergeant, 125th Quartermaster Company, Americal Division, WWII)

Dear ADVA,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a winner of a \$500 scholarship. I attended the ADVA banquet in Kansas City with my grandfather and family and enjoyed it greatly. I will be attending it again in Portland, Oregon.

Thanks once again. It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Brooke Logan

(Brooke's grandfather is Alexander Cameron, 123rd Aviation Battalion, Vietnam)



Dear Mr. Short,

I am honored that you have chosen me to receive this scholarship and I thank you very much. This five hundred dollars will help me greatly when I attend Florida Atlantic University this fall. I appreciate that you have an organization like this one, because it gives people like me a chance at another scholarship, and every little bit helps. I just want to say thank you again and I appreciate it very much!

Sincerely,
Jeff Gruska



(Above, Kenneth Gruska – 198th Bde, with son Jeff)

Dear Mr. Short,

I would like to thank you and the ADVA, for selecting me as the recipient of one of your scholarships this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as I continue my education at Boston College with a double major in Elementary Education and Human Development. It means so much to my family to be awarded with this gift; thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely,
Karen McCourt



(Above, Karen with her father Joe McCourt, 1st/46th Inf., 196th LIB)

Dear ADVA,

Thank you very much for your generous scholarship. Also, thank you for fighting for our country so that I can have the opportunity to go to college and be free! Your efforts will not be overlooked and forgotten. I promise to make the most of this scholarship and, when I receive my degree, I will remember your courage and generosity. Thank you for making my education possible.

Sincerely,
Bethany Fawkes

Dear Mr. Short,

Thank you and all the members of the Scholarship Committee for the award of the \$1,000 scholarship. It means so much to me to get an Americal award. My grandfather would be so very pleased and proud.

I am really looking forward to my freshman year at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and my scholarship will help a great deal. Thank you again, so much!

Best,
Nora Tuite



(Above, Nora Tuite, whose grandfather is the late James Driscoll, 101st Quartermaster Company)

Dear ADVA Scholarship Committee,

You guys are angels, and I can't thank you enough for choosing me this year. Your support has really meant a lot to me and helped me get to know my dad better. Thank you so much for this awesome opportunity — you guys rock!

Sincerely,
Johanna Swanson
Senior at Hope College, Holland, MI

Dear Mr. Short and the ADVA Scholarship Fund Committee,

Thank you so much for the \$500 scholarship. I am honored by your support for my continuing education. I am sincerely grateful for the effort you and the committee put forth to sift through applications and decide awards purely for the benefit of those of us pursuing a college education.

I am planning to graduate in March 2006 with my undergraduate degree in Human Resource Management from Wright State University. I am currently receiving great experience from my internship on Wright Patterson Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio. Although I am not sure where I will settle after graduation, my hope is to become known as a manager who is truly working for the good of the employees. Work is such a huge part of life and I believe that everyone has the right to be respected and valued in his or her workplace. My education is giving me the tools to make this dream a reality.

Thank you again for aiding me in my educational goals. I truly appreciate and admire your endeavor to give more people the opportunity to pursue a college education. Thank you again and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Bethany Andrzejewski

Dear Mr. Short,

I would like to sincerely thank the ADVA Scholarship Committee for selecting me to receive a \$500 scholarship. It is both an honor and privilege to be chosen for one of the scholarships.

It will help me to purchase textbooks and pay Part of my tuition in the coming semester, and will also be an added incentive for me to work hard and complete my college education.

I have the utmost respect for all of the Veterans, including my father, that have served our great country in combat to preserve the freedom that Americans enjoy today.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Monroe

(Pictured to left is Thomas Monroe and his father Steve Monroe, HHC, 198th LIB)

Dear Mr. Short,

We would like to thank you and the Americal Division Veterans Association for honoring us again with scholarship grants. It means a lot to know that the ADVA gives so much attention to the education of the children and grandchildren of its members, and shows that the ADVA is genuinely concerned with schooling for the greater good of everyone.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Claudia and Jenna Saric

(Pictured to the right are sisters Claudia Saric, grandfather Felix (247th Field Artillery) and Jenna Saric)

Dear Americal Division Scholarship Committee,

Than you for awarding me the \$1,000 Americal Division Scholarship. It was such a pleasure and honor to be selected as one of its recipients. The money and assistance that it will provide for me next year at Fort Lewis College is considerable and I am very thankful for that. Also in being awarded this scholarship I know my grandfather feels very proud and grateful as well. By winning this scholarship I know that it is a big way of showing my grandfather my gratitude for all he has done for me and it helps give me the opportunity to prove myself in college as a determined and goal-oriented lady.

Thank you so much Scholarship Committee and all of the other Veterans of the Americal Division for your great service to our nation and helping to make this world a better place for me and all of the other future generations. Thank you again for your generous gift. I know it will serve me well and I will use it with great pride!

Sincerely Yours,
Rachel M. Schur

(Pictured left, Rachel with grandfather Alfred DeLong, 245th Field Artillery Bn.)



Ruth Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365-1623. Please make your check payable to: ADVA/ERC. Any questions write to Mark, call (██████████) or e-mail: ██████████ See you in Gettysburg!

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

COMMANDER John "Jay" Flanagan ██████████ Cranford, NJ 07016 Tel: ██████████	VICE COMMANDER Conrad Steers ██████████ Hicksville, NY 11801 Tel: ██████████
SECRETARY Joe Tunis ██████████ Lake Ariel, PA 18436 Tel: ██████████	TREASURER Mark Deam ██████████ Sidney, OH 45365 Tel: ██████████

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 Daryl "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). Reservations are due by September 1, 2005. For full information write Dave Taylor: ██████████, Medina, Ohio 44256, ██████████ or get a registration form off the eastern Region chapter web site: <http://home.woh.rr.com/sidneyalum/advaerc/>.



We now have 679 paid-up chapter members after deleting 53 that have not paid dues over the past few years. Chapter members can track what their status is. 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

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!

Bill Gold Answers Final Roll Call

Our Eastern Region Chapter has just lost a dear friend and fellow comrade. Bill Gold was an active and contributing member for many years. He passed away June 22, 2005.

He began as Chapter Secretary/Treasurer in 1993 and eventually became our Commander. For many years and many reunions Bill took on the job of reunion chairman. Every unique area that Bill selected became a special place that lingers in the memories of all that attended. We all got to know and love his wife and assistant, Harriet and also his son Carl. They shared one of their celebrations of an anniversary with chapter reunion attendees, having Debby, their daughter and our special sweetheart, cater the party with cake and trimmings.

When volunteers were requested Bill was always there to do the job. His last undertaking was to recognize the original charter members of the chapter on the 20th anniversary of the founding of the chapter. Each one received a framed certificate.

Rest in Peace. Bill We Love You.

*"Gold is good in its place,
but having living,
brave patriotic men
are better than gold."*

— Abraham Lincoln

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER
IL IN MI MN WICOMMANDER
John Mathews
██████████Verona, WI 53593
Tel: ██████████ADJ / FIN OFF
Terry Babler
██████████New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: ██████████

Bill Allen Answers Final Roll Call

Bill Allen, who served as our Junior Vice Commander, passed away. Bill worked very hard getting the 1st/20th Infantry database started and was very involved with the Northern Wall ceremonies in Windsor, Canada very July 4th weekend. Bill attended many Veterans functions and was very involved. We will miss him.

A big thank you goes out to David Chrystal for a job well done at the National Americal Reunion in Kansas City, MO held June 16-19, 2005. A total of 430 attended. We look forward to the next national reunion in Portland, Oregon, June, 2006.

Our next focus is the 23rd Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana, September 15-18, 2005. We will not be setting up the big tent this year, but will be at John Mathew's and Terry Babler's campsites 205W and 202W. Look for the Americal flag and the 1st/1st Cavalry flag. When you enter the gate we are at the first camping area behind the first building. We have 12 campsites. There will be a sign-in table for all Americal Veterans so that if other guys are looking for you they know where to find you. Any PX items you need, check with Terry Babler at the campsite. The Americal group photo will be at the main flag at 3:00PM (CST) on Saturday, September 17, 2005.

The 20th Annual Winterfest R&R All Veterans Reunion, New Glarus, Wisconsin will be held January 13-16, 2006. Diane Carlson Evans, Chairperson of the Women's Vietnam Memorial and Sammy L. Davis, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient from Flat Rock, IL, will be in attendance. Don't miss this one!

Our chapter is planning to attend the 19th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Melbourne Beach, Florida on April 27-30, 2006, at Wickham Park. We are dealing with the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the beach for setting up group rates. There will also be some functions held at the hotel. More details will follow as we get closer to the event.

Keep in mind the 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on November 9-11, 2007. This will be a big one! We are checking into blocking some rooms at the hotel. More information later.

For those of you who may not be a member of the Great Lakes Chapter yet, the dues are \$10/year or save and pay \$45 for five years. This covers the cost of three newsletters a year. For all current members, please check the mailing label on your chapter newsletter cover to find the expiration date of your dues.

ARTHUR R. WOOD
SOUTH EAST CHAPTER
AL FL GA NC SC TNCOMMANDER
Paul Stiff
██████████Port Charlotte, FL 33949
██████████SECRETARY / TREASURER
Allen Feser
██████████Lindenhurst, NY 11757
██████████

Jerry "Doc" Anderson and Jon Hansen welcomed over 50 Americal Vets at the 18th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion, Wickham Park, Melbourne, Florida on April 22-24. For the first time the Chapter set up a tent in the vendor area and handed out applications, and Jerry hosted a small gathering in the camping area. Jerry already has two camping spaces reserved for next year, so block out your 2006 calendar and lets make next years reunion the biggest!

NORTHWEST CHAPTER
AK WA OR ID MT WYCOMMANDER
Dave Hammond
██████████Beaverton, OR 97005
Tel: ██████████

Our Chapters sponsored 2006 ADVA National Reunion will be in Portland, Oregon on June 22-25. Anyone with time to help us please contact Dave Hammond. For more information, see our ad in the reunion section of the newsletter.

WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
MA NH VT ME CT RICOMMANDER
PNC Roland Castronova
██████████

Peabody, MA 01960

TREASURER
Joseph Mullen
██████████

North Eastham, MA 02651

SECRETARY
James C. Buckle
██████████Harwich, MA 02645
██████████

Tel: ██████████

New England Americal Vets: Please note the recent changes in our chapter office holders, above. We look forward to serving you.

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER
ND SD KE NE MO IA

COMMANDER
David A. Chrystal Sr.
217 Southwest Circle
Centralia, MO 65240
Tel: 573-682-2205
cryweasel@worldnet.att.net

I will be attending the Far West Chapter reunion in San Diego this September and I hope to attend the 164th Infantry reunion in Valley City, North Dakota. I need input from the membership as to where and when you would like to see the next chapter reunion to be. Please drop me a line with your stories, comments, etc.
Dave

All Veterans and families are invited to attend the Veterans Day ceremonies at the National Museum of the Pacific War, in Fredericksburg, Texas. Pre and post ceremony activities will be at the Altdorf Biergarten. ██████████

Several more American Veterans in the chapter area have dropped off the mailing list due to outdated addresses. Please let me know where you are!

A Tribute to Mr. Al Cotta

This is a salute to one of the finest men I never met. This year at the Kansas City reunion, the South Midwest Chapter was privileged to present a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the ADVA Scholarship Fund. This extraordinary occasion was due to the generosity of a special member of the Americal brotherhood.

I never met Al Cotta. Our relationship had developed the old fashioned way, by handwritten letters. We began corresponding shortly after I inherited the chapter as commander upon the death of "Mr. Hug Somebody" Ernie Carlson in 2000. Right away I sensed that Al was special. His enthusiasm for the Americal was clear, as was his penmanship and his recollection of events long past.

Over the years, Al's pride in serving with the Americal has shown brightly. He has collected many articles relating to the genesis and history of the division, and has donated the best of them to the association's museum. He helped to finance the design and installation of a stained glass panel in the chapel of his current residence. The panel depicts the Americal's WWII Pacific campaign, and is dedicated to Al's tent-mate who was killed during a bombing attack.

Al joined the 26th (Yankee Division) of the Massachusetts National Guard in 1940. The unit was activated shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and became part of Task Force 6814. As a member of Company D of the 121st Medical battalion, Al saw service in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte and Cebu. After the campaign on Bougainville, Al spent some time on Fiji for R&R. As a committed PFC, he was alert for opportunities to maximize his leisure time, which led him to volunteer for latrine duty. This unpopular duty didn't take a lot of time and exempted him from guard duty or having to pull a shift on the medical ward. He took great pride in his work and erected a sign to inform his "clients" that they were using "Cotta's Cozy Crapper."

Al relocated to Los Angeles in 1950 and decided to enlist in the Navy. Postwar billets were scarce however, so he wound up in the Naval Reserves as a postal clerk. He retired in 1991 and settled into the Naval Retirement Home (now the Armed Forces Retirement Home) in Gulfport, Mississippi.

It is clear that Al cherishes his Army memories and that he has enormous pride for having served under The Southern Cross. In his most recent letter he sent an imaginary salute to Americal Veterans. I hope that we all have the opportunity to return that salute at the next reunion.

"If you are able, save for them a place inside of you and save one backward glance when you are leaving for places they can no longer go. Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not have always. Take what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own. And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."

— Major Michael Davis O'Donnell
(Written after the Battle of Dak To, Vietnam)
Major O'Donnell was later Killed In Action

FAR WEST CHAPTER
AZ CA CO HI NV NM UTCOMMANDER
Richard A. Merlin
██████████

Riverside, CA 92503

Tel: ██████████

SECRETARY / TREASURER
Gene McGrath
██████████

Pahrump, NV 89048

Tel: ██████████

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

In June I, along with a group of fellow Far West Chapter members, had the enjoyable experience of attending the national Reunion in Kansas City. It was another great one, with a good time shared by all. It's always nice to see old friends and make new ones. Congratulations and thanks to Commander Dave Chrystal, the Central Midwest Chapter, and volunteers for all the hard work in making this such a great event. Particularly impressive for me was to learn about all the scholarships made available to family members of Americal Veterans. We can all be proud of this great program. If you have not yet attended a national reunion, I urge you to do so. In 2006 it will be held in Portland, Oregon.

Our Far West Chapter continues to grow with a current membership of 154. Many of you have accepted our invitation to join. We warmly welcome you. We continue to hold annual chapter reunions, and are trying to hold them at a different location within our chapter area each year. It's always interesting and fun to see someplace different, and hopefully more members can attend a place that is convenient for them. A report on our 2005 Reunion in San Diego will be forthcoming.

There has been much praise for our quarterly Chapter Newsletter, the cannon. It has grown to three multi-color pages with pictures. Members have now started to send in anecdotes and interesting stories about their Americal experience. What a great way to share, especially those who may not be able to attend reunions. So... keep those cards and letters coming!

Change of Address

If you have a change of address or telephone number, please notify our Secretary/Treasurer, Gene McGrath (contact information above). Keeping our roster up to date will insure you receive the newsletter and all other Chapter mailings.

Thank You!
Rich

SOUTH MID-WEST CHAPTER
AR LA MS OK TXCOMMANDER
Cameron F. Baird
██████████

Stonewall, TX 78671

Tel: ██████████

Election of chapter officers planned for this fall has been cancelled due to a lack of interest. No nominations for offices were received. The chapter really needs a treasurer, so a volunteer in that capacity would be helpful.

National Reunion 2005 ... A Great Success!

Downtown Marriott – Kansas City, Missouri
 June 16-19, 2005
 (Sponsored by the Central Midwest Chapter)

Over 400 attendees enjoyed Kansas City's fountains, food festivities and friendship as Americal Vets gathered "Together Again." In addition to the Hospitality Suites and vendors, highlights included:

- Harley Davidson Plant Tour
- Kansas City Lights Tour
- Americal Memorial Service
- Friday Night BBQ & Jazz Fest
- A "Visit With President Truman" Tour
- Annual General Membership Meeting
- Saturday Night Banquet with live band & dancing

"KANSAS CITY HERE WE COME!"



"Reunion" Means ... "Chillin"



Americal Vets relax and reminisce.
 "Do you remember when?....."



Above, Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian shares his database with attendees.





Americal Vets and guests enjoy a summer night BBQ and Jazz Fest at the Barney Allis Park in front of the Downtown Marriott. (Below left) Seated left to right are PNC Gary Noller and Dr. Richard Verrone, Texas Techs Vietnam Archive, enjoy the music and casual conversation. Standing behind is Dave Chrystal, Reunion Chairman.



**"BUT WE IN IT SHALL BE REMEMBERED;
WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW, WE BAND OF BROTHERS."**

FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME SHALL BE MY BROTHER"



"LEST WE FORGET" Left to right: Floyd Nicholas, 1st Platoon Sergeant, 23rd MP Company – Duc Pho and National Commander Jon Hansen participate in the ADVA's Annual Memorial Service at the Downtown Marriott – headquarters hotel for the 2005 Annual Reunion.



(Left) Jon Hansen, ADVA National Commander presents special gift to Dave Chrystal, Reunion Chairman and Central Midwest Chapter Commander, for a job well Done in hosting the 2005 National Annual Reunion.



John Furgess, VFW national Commander-In-Chief and an Americal Vietnam Vet, was the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet.



"President Harry Truman" was on hand at the annual banquet to relive history, offer some comments and to bond with the Americal Vets during the Saturday night banquet.



(Left) The Americal's "Old Guard" was on hand and made roll call.

(Middle Left) PNC Ron Ellis on the right presents The "ADVA Lifetime Achievement Award" to PNC Bill Maddox. Two other Lifetime Achievements were awarded to PNC Ed Marsh and PNC Gary Noller.

(Below) Vets make the most of the final evenings camaraderie "until we meet again".



Editors Note: All Americal units holding reunions may have their reunion information published in the Americal National Newsletter. Contact David Taylor (contact information on inside front cover) as early as possible with your information.

Co B, 1/52nd, 198th LIB
Nashville, Tennessee
September 9-11, 2005

Our reunion will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown. Reservations can be made at [REDACTED] (rooms are under Bravo Company 1/52). Cost is \$99/night. The final date to receive the discount is August 10. Our main event will be Friday night. Saturday will be open for the guys and families to take in Nashville, visit with buddies, etc. Confirm reservations with Buddy Sadler [REDACTED]

23rd Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion
Kokomo, Indiana
September 15-18, 2005

The annual Kokomo reunion is one of the oldest and largest Vietnam Veteran reunions. Approximately 30,000 Vietnam Vets attend. There is live music all weekend. The Americal is always well represented and the ADVA Great Lakes Regional Chapter and the 1st/1st Cavalry organization sponsor the get-together. They have sponsored campsites, a tent headquarters and a registration table in the large vendor tent. For those staying in the many area hotels there is a shuttle bus service. The Kokomo Reunion point of contact for camping information is Dick Forrey. E-mail: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED] Web Site: www.hcvo.org.

The Americal hospitality area will be at the Ron Lewis / Terry Babler campsites all weekend. The Americal sponsors will set up a table in the large vendor tent from 11AM - 3PM each day for Americal Vets to sign in. There will be a group photo of Americal Vets by the main flag at 3:15PM on Saturday. Americal vets needing more information, contact Terry Babler, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Co A, 1st/46 Infantry and Kham Duc
Alexandria, Virginia
October 6-9, 2005

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA [REDACTED]. Rate is \$95/night plus tax and fees. Hotel parking is free. Reservation Code is C-U-N. The rates are good from the 3rd through the 12th for those who want to come early or stay late. If you want a good view of D.C. from your room window, ask for a room in the main hotel - East Side - above the 23rd floor. Ann and Bill Schneider [REDACTED]

H Troop, 17th Cavalry
Alexandria, Virginia
October 7-11, 2005

H Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry is having its 2005 reunion in Alexandria, VA, October 7 through the 11th, 2005. The reunion will take place at the Days Inn Alexandria Landmark, [REDACTED], Alexandria, VA 22312. Call [REDACTED] for hotel reservations. Be

sure to mention H Troop, 17th Cavalry. For more information contact Felix Westwood at [REDACTED] or e-mail: [REDACTED] or contact Ramon B. Vega at e-mail: [REDACTED]

2nd Annual 26th Combat Engineers
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
October 13-16, 2005

Reunion hotel is the Ramada Inn, St. Robert, Missouri just outside of Ft. Leonard Wood. Anyone interested contact me for a reservation form: Linda Gordon, Reunion Coordinator, [REDACTED], Clinton, IA 52732 [REDACTED]. E-mail: [REDACTED]

Highlights:

Thursday 10/13: Breakfast buffet, hospitality suite open, karaoke in the lounge and raffle at 10PM.

Friday 10/14: Breakfast buffet, hospitality, final voting on the association, "on-your-own tours". Options: Old stage coach stop, wineries, barrel factory, golfing (pre-registration required), shopping and Civil War museum. Raffle at 10PM.

Saturday 10/15: (the main day): Breakfast buffet, hospitality suite, introduction to the association, tour of Ft. Leonard Wood (10AM-3PM). This will include the school, Wood Museum, grounds and lunch in the Mess Hall (possible demonstration of present techniques). Banquet dinner, karaoke, raffle and 50/50 drawing.

Sunday 10/16: Breakfast buffet, closing ceremony and memorial service. Closing meeting, selecting members for committees.

3/1st Inf., 11th LIB (June 66 to December 68)
Atlanta, Georgia
October 14-16, 2005

This reunion covers those in the battalion who were in Hawaii and Vietnam. Contact Tim Cook [REDACTED] or e-mail: [REDACTED]

Charlie Co., 1st/52nd Inf., 198th LIB
St. Louis, MO
July 13-15, 2006

Charlie Company had another great reunion in 2005. There were 11 new guys who attended their first reunion and 32 total. I have several T-shirts for sale in L, XL, XXL sizes. The price is \$20 each and all money from sales going into the "NO BROTHER LEFT BEHIND FUND."

The 2006 reunion will be at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel, 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044. Reservations can be made by calling [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. A block of rooms is reserved at the daily rate of \$75 plus tax. Cut off date for the special rate is 6/15/06. Make your reservations as early as possible.

For more information contact:

Terry Wyrick

Cabool, MO 65689

Americal Division Veterans Association
National Reunion

June 22-25, 2006, Portland Oregon

Dave Hammond, Reunion Chairman
[REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Place: Portland Marriott Downtown

Situated downtown in the "City of Roses," on the west bank of the scenic Willamette River. [REDACTED]

Portland, Oregon. For more hotel information www.portlandmarriott.com

Room Rates:

Make reservations directly with the Portland Downtown Marriott. Specify you are with the Americal Division Veterans Association for our group rate of \$112.00 per night.

Transportation:

Suggested: Blue Star Shuttle Service from airport directly to the hotel. \$13.00 each way. Contact information to follow at a later date. Rental cars or cab service are available at the airport.

Reunion Activities & Highlights:

On Your Own Activities (Within walking distance or short cab ride): Stroll the Portland waterfront, Portland Saturday Market, Washington Park Rose Garden, Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center, Oregon wine country, Classical Chinese Gardens, and more.

Car Tours:

Oregon Coast, 1:45 minutes from hotel. Mt. St. Helens, 1:30 minutes from hotel. Mt. Hood, 1:00 hour from hotel. Oregon wine country, and more.

Friday:

Tours hosted by Grayline Tours: Portland City Tour-Oregon Coast-Mt. St. Helens-Columbia Gorge and Multnomah Falls and more. Details to follow later.

Friday Night:

Jet boat transportation and tour of the Portland waterfront: Jet boats will shuttle us to the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry for an indoor/outdoor BBQ and dance with a guided tour of the USS Blueback Submarine. DON'T MISS THIS. IT WILL BE VERY AFFORDABLE! Details to follow at a later date.

Saturday:

Guest speakers and seminars:

Kim Cook, veteran and published author of "Do Bar Fights Count? How To Write Your Military Stories," will speak on the importance of writing your own personal experiences for family and history. (www.warriortales.com)

Charlene Edwards, photographer, writer, wife of Vietnam veteran, and author of "Voices from Vietnam," a beautiful book about the tragedies and triumphs of Americans and the Vietnamese—two peoples forever entwined by the legacy of war. (www.voicesfromvietnam.com)

Saturday Night Banquet:

Banquet ceremony, dinner, and dance with live music. Details to follow at a later date.

New Association:
198th Light Infantry Brigade
Veterans Association
"Perpetuating the Brotherhood"



Gary Befus at the Annual Americal Reunion, Kansas City, MO

Headquarters, 198th Light Infantry Brigade Veteran Gary Befus introduced the formation of a 198th LIB Association at the Annual Americal Reunion in Kansas City. Gary's hospitality suite was one of the most heavily attended at the reunion.

The Association already has a 198th LIB PX for jackets, hats, license plates, decals, magnets, patches, sportswear and many other items. Information about the Association or 198th LIB items for sale can be found on the upcoming web site: www.198th.org. Interested Veterans can also contact Gary by phone or letter to obtain a membership application and more information:

Gary Befus
198th LIB Veterans Association
[REDACTED]

Albion, NY 14411
Residence: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

Membership Dues are listed as: One year - \$12 Three Years: \$30 and a Life Membership: \$198 which can be paid in four installments, the first due with membership and the other three in 6 month increments.

Befus is currently serving as Membership Chairman and is looking for volunteers to join and serve in a variety of capacities.

Cebu Veterans' Footsteps Become A Family Affair

Edward John Gekosky Jr.

The Last Of A Gallant Forty-Three



The remaining eight members of "Roy's Raiders", veterans of the long and bitter war on Bougainville, are shown at a base somewhere in the Pacific. Left to right, Sgt. E. Gekosky, Kulpmont, Pa., Pfc. S.L. Gonzales, San Angelo, Tex., Sgt. T. F. Marion, Charlestown, W. Va., Sgt. H.P. Simmons, Whitman, Mass.; Lt. Richard L. Roy, Mountain Lake Park, Md., for whom the group was named; Sgt. R. L. Egler, Rockville, Ill.; Sgt. J. G. Morton, Portland, Or., and Sgt. H. K.

(Photo of AP news story about "Roy's Raiders", December 1944. Far left is Sgt. Edward Gekosky. Fifth from the left is Lt. Richard L. Roy and sixth from the left is Sgt. Bob Egler. Photo courtesy of Edward J. Gekosky Jr.)

Fast forward to the summer of 2001. My son asked to know more about the grandfather he never met. At this point, my son was a married man of 26 years, with a baby of his own. I knew then that I had to tell him about how the war shaped Dad, especially after 9/11, and I had to get much more information about what Dad went through to tell the history right. I knew Dad won medals (3 bronze stars among others) while in the Army, that he had been in the South Pacific at Bougainville plus some other islands that I could not, at the time, name, and that he was with the Americal Division.

I located and read every book or magazine that I could find to re-trace Dad's wartime activities. The Americal Division Veterans Association was invaluable. The South Pacific Buddies Association was also of help. I visited the National Archives several times. I contacted Americal Veterans. I contacted children, grandchildren and other relatives of Americal Vets to share information on what we had, and knew, and others found me to compare notes. I especially traced the activities of the 182nd Infantry regiment, Company G, 2nd Platoon.

Dad was a private in the 2nd Platoon, which consisted of 43 men that came to be known as "Roy's Raiders", named after their platoon leader, LT. Richard L. Roy, as they fought on Bougainville. As they prepared to leave Bougainville, eight remained and were publicized throughout the country via an Associated Press wire photo, published nationally on December 12, 1944.

Leyte, in the Philippines, was the next stop and more losses occurred. Sgt. Bob Egler, one of the eight survivors of Roy's Raiders on Bougainville, was killed; replacements kept coming in. In March 1945, they stormed the beach at Cebu, another island in the Philippines and then fought the entire width of the island. At some point, Dad became a Tech Sergeant.

As I researched, I came to learn that Cebu had a very special connection to our present family. My son's wife, Michelle, is the daughter of parents who grew up on Cebu. Michelle's parents, with my son and my two grandchildren, visited the ancestral home and relatives on Cebu in May, 2004. During the trip my son retraced some of the more notable Americal locations of battles and took many photos, some of which are showed in this article.

Michele's relatives told stories of fear and Japanese oppression, people hiding in the mountains and celebration when the Americal arrived. Michelle's grandfather, then a child, remembered many of the events and that he entertained Americal officers with his guitar during the more relaxed times.

My father and other Americans put their life on the line for Cebu, and Cebu's ancestry has now given me these wonderful grandchildren. I recently obtained the Philippine Liberation Medal that Dad earned, and it will be a very special heirloom for my grandchildren. We thought the ADVA WWII Vets would like to see what some of the battle location's look like today.

Edward J. Gekosky would like to hear from Veterans of his father's unit, Company G, 182nd Infantry Regiment at:

Virginia Beach, VA 23401

Phone: [REDACTED] or E-mail: [REDACTED]



The Beach Then ...
The Americal stormed the beach at Talisay, Cebu, on March 26, 1945. The beach was heavily mined and losses from the mines held up the early advances of the soldiers. My son and I both marvel at the courage of the men who made the beach landing, Dad included.

(This National Archive photo of the Talisay Beach landing is provided by Dave Colamaria, grandson of 182nd Regt. Vet Ed Monahan)



River Crossing ...
Just inland from the beach a river crossing had to occur. Joseph Jackson, a Veteran, wrote me that he particularly remembered the crossing as he had to dive under the bridge to avoid Japanese planes strafing our troops.

(Photo taken by Edward Derek Gekosky, May 2004)



(Above, Go Chan Hill, Cebu. Photo courtesy of Edward Derek Gekosky, May 2004)

My son felt that it would be a difficult challenge for young men to climb a ridge without carrying equipment. Having to carry equipment and fight against a defending enemy looked near impossible to my son. We both came away from the picture with much more insight into why Company G losses were so heavy.

The Americal soldiers were taking Go Chan Hill on March 29, 1945 (shown in the photo, upper right), when the entire hill blew, taking most of Company A in the explosion. A number of caves on the hill had been filled with all kinds of explosives and were detonated with the Americans on it. My son remarked that today the site appears tranquil, in contrast to the horror in 1945.



Caves and Bunkers ...
The photo shown to the right is from the National Archives of soldiers on Cebu and provides an example of the cave complexes the Americal had to clear out on the island ... always wary of explosions detonated by the Japanese.

(Photo courtesy of Dave Colamaria)

Babag Ridge

On April 1, 1945 the Americal faced Babag Ridge. On April 5 a fanatical Japanese attack took all U.S. hands, including clerks, typists, cooks, etc. to fight it off.

The entrenched Japanese on the ridge had every advantage: observation, fields of fire, difficult terrain in front of them, the high ground, supplies, sufficient manpower, etc.

Several days of heavy fighting resulted in mounting Americal losses. Finally, on April 12, 1945 the final all-out Americal assault occurred on Babag Ridge.

Dad's company, with others, pounded the frontal approaches to the hill time and time again, only to be thrown back each time.



(Above, Assault on Babag Ridge. National Archive photo provided, courtesy of David Colamaria)

All approaches were over open terrain; G Company losses were heavy. As nightfall occurred, Captain John T. Murphy ordered bayonets fixed. Dad and the others charged and took the ridge. It was the first occasion in which Americans did a nighttime bayonet charge, uphill, to unseat a Japanese force.

Jack Morton, one that made it and a friend to Dad who now helps me in my research, said that only one in six that started the attack made it to the top of the ridge. Lt. General Robert L. Eichelberger, Eighth Army Commander, said that: "...considering the forces involved, and their relative strengths, the Babag Ridge positions were the toughest to reduce that I have ever seen."

Jack Morton advised me that Company G lost 110% of its strength the first five weeks of fighting on Cebu. Replacements arrived on two occasions, 60% and 50%, resupplying the unit as losses mounted. Many replacements, not being experienced, were among the casualties, often being wounded or killed in their first several days on Cebu. Somehow my Dad, Jack and a few others, made it through.

After fighting their way across the island to Toledo, the men

Miles and Miles of Hills and Ridges to Take
Company G fought across the 30 mile mountain range island, pushing the Japanese to the north. This photo shows an endless geography of hills and ridges. Each had to be fought for and won. My son felt that the men who did this, did something quite remarkable.

(Photo taken by Edward Derek Gekosky, May 2004)

expected a Navy ship to pick them up. Instead they marched back across the island to Cebu City to prepare for the invasion of Japan, staying in combat until around July 1, 1945.

About 9,000 Japanese were killed on Cebu. The Americal suffered 449 killed, two thousand wounded and 8,000 suffered due to disease. Generals MacArthur, Eichelberger and Arnold congratulated the men, with MacArthur saying in part, "...my heartiest commendation for the brilliant execution of the Visayan campaign. This is a model of what a light but aggressive command can accomplish in rapid exploitation."

Members of Company G earned a Philippine Liberation Medal for their efforts. I recently acquired Dad's, which will be a keepsake for my half Filipino grandchildren. Thank you to each Veteran that participated in freeing Cebu and the families of each. My father made it, going later to Japan. This research shows how lucky I am to be here, as so many others could not return to start families. I hope that my life and that of my children and grandchildren can contribute to the betterment of the world, as we exist only because of the sacrifices of so many war Veterans.

WWII Americal in Smithsonian Exhibit

David W. Taylor

My wife and I visited Washington DC during spring break (she is a teacher) and we particularly wanted to see the new exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, "The Price of Freedom: Americans at War". The exhibit opened last November on Veterans Day and will be a permanent exhibit. As I entered the WWII section I noticed the exhibit planners were careful not to highlight any particular unit. After all, when one is shown, there is a clamor for others to be recognized. But there, in the "Pacific Theatre" section, among a series of photos of General MacArthur and island warfare, was a picture of the sign painted by Master Sergeant Leon P. Granacki, shown in our Jan-Feb-Mar 2005 issue of the American Newsletter, page 19.

To me the photo epitomized the determination of our soldiers and marines in the Pacific Theatre and I am pleased, as the ADVA WWII Historian, the photo was selected. Through the coming years millions of visitors will pass through the exhibit and see this photo.

I strongly urge all ADVA members, when next in Washington, to visit this profound exhibit. The Vietnam War is also well done, as is the entire project. The specially prepared video clips are quite moving and Americal Vets will be proud of the role they played in securing our nation's freedom.

The National Museum of American History is located at 14th Street and Constitutional Avenue. Hours are 10AM to 5:30PM daily (closed December 25). Admission is free. The Price of Freedom Exhibit is located at the Behring Center, on the third floor.

"Presidential Unit Citations" Clarified

Jim Buckle

I enjoyed the tribute to Robert D. Tufts, written by his daughter-in-law, in the last newsletter issue ("Extraordinary Deeds in an Ordinary Life" - Meredith Peterson Tufts). I have just one comment I'd like to make about the article.

In this story is the oft repeated error of "Two Presidential Unit Citations". The Americal only received one Presidential Citation and on our WWII discharge it should read, "Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)". For the citation reads:

Cited in the name of

The President of the United States

THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION, REINFORCED.
(And it is signed by Frank Knox - Secretary of the Navy)

The entire division did not receive this award either. For instance, it did not include the 132nd Infantry regiment or the 3rd Battalion of the 182nd Infantry. To receive this award, the unit had to be on Guadalcanal between the dates of August 7, 1942 and December 9, 1942. The Americal was not operating as a Division at this time and the Americal units were under the control of the Marine Commander.

Where the confusion came about for a second Presidential unit Citation is an award given to E Company, 182nd Infantry, on Bougainville, for action on Hill 260. This honor belongs only to the men of E Company who were on Hill 260. This award is a Distinguished Unit Citation and is awarded by the president. This award is entirely separate from the Presidential Unit Citation and has a separate campaign ribbon.

This mistake is made on my discharge papers and every other member of E Company. On our discharges it states, "Presidential Unit Citation W/Oak Leaf Cluster". This is wrong. The Distinguished Unit Citation is a separate campaign ribbon. It is a plain blue ribbon encased in a gold frame.

I thought ADVA members would like to know.



A Soldier's Thoughts in Words

*In the deep blue Pacific, far away
The Lord must have lost his temper one day;
And in wrath he thumbed his nose
And on this spot am island rose.
A hell on earth believe me pal,
This place was named Guadalcanal.*

*A place where every man is weaned,
On bright yellow pills called Atabrine.
Where a torrid sun curses flaming red,
And makes a man wish he were dead.
A spot where each man draws his lot;
Of fever, jaundice and tropical rot.*

*For freedom's sake, we came to fight,
For our people's sake, we fought with might.
For justice sake, we made them run,
For our children's sake, the fight was won.
For our country's sake, we were willing to roam,
But know for God's sake, send us home.*

Jim Standish, Company L, 164th Infantry Regiment
(Reprinted with permission, The 164th Infantry News, December 1999)

Some Memories of Task Force 6814 - A

William Trubiano Sr.

(Company B, 57th Engineer Battalion)

On March 12, 1942 the troop ship Argentina moved into Noumea Harbor, New Caledonia with the fabled Task Force 6814. But a new Task Force, 6814-A was left on the pier waiting for another ship to pull in to take us to New Hebrides Island (Efate) two days later.

Our primary mission, as Task Force 6814-A was to defend the island. They were:

- (1) Company L, 182nd Infantry
- (2) Company M, 182nd Infantry
- (3) Detachment from the Medical Detachment of the 182nd Infantry
- (4) Detachment of Service Company, 182nd Infantry
- (5) One platoon of Company B, 101st Engineer Regiment.

Altogether we had about 500 assigned to the Task Force.

On March 17, 1942 General Rose set up his headquarters in the capital city of Port Vila and began organizing the island defenses. Engineers joined forces to construct an airfield with the help of natives on Efate. It would place the U.S. bombers closer to the enemy who held Guadalcanal Island in the South Pacific. With the help of the natives the airfield was built in the middle of a coconut grove.

With bulldozers and heavy equipment we knocked down coconut trees, flattened fields, removed stumps, spread crushed coral from the shore for a better surface and laid in metal strips that interlocked. The airfield that was made was one mile in length. Brigadier General William Rose flew in and landed on the airfield after it was done, to check it out for the B-17's of the 11th Bombardment Group.

We engineers, now part of the 57th Engineer Combat Battalion built bridges, roads and piers. "Washing Machine Charlie" came over and dropped a few bombs on our tents.

The Coral Sea Battle: A navy patrol plane operating near the eastern tip of New Guinea reported seeing a large and powerful fleet of enemy ships and transports steaming around the tip of the island in a southeasterly direction. The Navy did an excellent job breaking up the Japanese fleet.

Task Force 6814-A was set to blow everything up if the Japanese ships pulled in, with 500 of us to take care of thousands of them. Under Brigadier General Rose, we were setting up the defense for the island of Efate. We remained on the island until relieved by the marines and army troops in late May.

The Task Force then moved to the island of Espiritu Santo, some two hundred miles further north in the group of islands, to establish a new outpost, which was closer to the Japanese. We constructed an airfield on Espiritu Santo so the U.S. bombers could fly closer to the enemy holding Guadalcanal Island. We all worked together and did what had to be done to allow the B-17's to do their job. The men helped the crews of the B-17's with gasoline and anything else that would support them in their tasks. We could hear the B-17 bombers warming up early in the morning to make their runs. Good luck and keep flying!

So Task Force 6814-A packed up and shipped out to Noumea, New Caledonia to rejoin the rest of our Company B, of the 57th Engineer Battalion. The 182nd Company's rejoined their regiment and we all organized to hit Guadalcanal.

Question: How many of you remember what a "million dollar salad" is? The heart of a coconut palm tree.

William D. Trubiano, Sr.

[REDACTED]
Andover, MN 55304-2329
[REDACTED]

Guadalcanal & Salvo Island

A.A. Hannel (LTC-Ret)

On January 10, 1943, Company C, 164th Infantry Regiment, returned from a 5-day patrol on the back of Grassy Knoll (Mt. Austin). We were to be re-supplied by airdrop but somehow the re-supply was canceled. After the third day we resorted to fishing, using concussion and frag grenades to stun fish in the streams. Eating the fish, cooked in a steel paint-covered helmet was an experience. Our company found evidence of a Jap field hospital, with abandoned gear including some .25 caliber rifles (I brought a .25 cal. back to the perimeter and later had it sent home).

In some places the jungle growth was so restrictively dense it was much easier to wade up or down stream if not too deep. Tired and hungry, upon our return to the perimeter, we all tore into rations, now available.

Savo Island, January 28, 1943; Company C, 164th Infantry departed from Guadalcanal on a tank lighter for Savo Island, landing near Pago Pago, a native village. Our mission was to search for Jap survivors. At the village we were met by friendly natives, some of whom spoke good English. They said there were no Japs as far as they knew. Captain Mjogdalen gave each platoon its mission: each platoon was to scout approximately one-third of the island. Prior to departure each platoon was assigned three native guides. My platoon's chief guide was "Sananah" and, to his two helpers we issued machetes for the purpose of hacking lanes through the jungle. The route, which lied ahead of my platoon, was toward the center of the island, over an extinct volcano, then across to the opposite coast. Near the volcano depression in the heavy, dense jungle we came upon one of our missing, downed fighter planes with the pilot remains still strapped in his seat, likely downed several days previously.

We spent the night on the coast. When the Tokyo Express showed up that night, with the fireworks all around the island, we were not sure if the Japs were making landings around us. Early next morning Jap planes were flying at treetop level right in front of us, so close we could see the pilot's face. We soon observed what they were after when we saw them low-level bomb a Navy Destroyer Escort. Within minutes the D.E. was engulfed in smoke and sunk. That morning we returned to our CP to report our findings - all negative on Jap presence, also our sighting of the downed plane and its location.

On our way back to our CP along the beach we observed a Jap long-range torpedo which had slid ashore without exploding. At the Company CP we learned that the natives had picked up one of our downed pilots, not far offshore. His face was badly cut; he was soon taken to Tulagi for treatment. All three of our patrols had negative reports about any Japs on Savo. Our Company CP was in radio contact with the 164th Infantry HQ on Guadalcanal. During the Jap intrusion our sound wire line was severed temporarily; our wire chief, Carl Hauke Dahl, went out alone to locate the breaks and make the repairs. In my book, he should have been recommended for a Silver Star. Also, we learned that early that morning natives found a beached PT boat with crew, as a result of the Jap intrusion during the night. The help we received from the natives was invaluable. Prior to our return to Guadalcanal, the natives loaded us up with fresh fruits and even fresh eggs.

Editors Note: Hannel was a member of the 164th's group that made the return visit to Guadalcanal in October 1992, fifty years after the original October 13th 1942 landing.

(Reprinted with permission, The 164th Infantry News, Vol. 39, No 1, May 1, 1999)

History of the 221st Field Artillery Battalion

Lloyd J. Morrell

As First Sergeant, HQ & HQ battery, 221st FA Battalion, I was involved in receiving documentation about the origins of the 221st Field Artillery, from the War Department, while we were on Bougainville in 1944. As a member of this battalion from 1940, when it was activated, until after the war's end in September 1945, I feel well qualified to be able to discuss the history of this unit. It was a proud outfit. We usually operated as Division Artillery.

221st Field Artillery battalion
(155mm Howitzers)
World War II

The 221st Field Artillery battalion was originally organized in 1852 as the 1st battalion of Light Dragoons, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, from existing companies, as follows:

Designation (1 st Battalion)	Previous Designation	Date of Organization
Company A	National Lancers	1836
Company B	Boston Light Dragoons	1852

"In 1864 the battalion was disbanded but the two companies were retained as independent companies in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. On 27 March 1865 the two companies that had been the 1st battalion Light Dragoons, together with the Prescott Light Guard (1863) and the Roxbury Horse Guards (1864) were formed into the 1st Battalion of Calvary, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, the companies given the designation A to D respectively. The battalion served continuously in State service with various changes in designation and some changes in its component companies (The National Lancers however remaining as Company A) until 1916, when it was known as the 1st Squadron of Calvary, Massachusetts National Guard. In June 1916, the Squadron was mustered into Federal Service, served in El Paso, Texas and was mustered out in November 1916, reverting to its state status. It was again mustered into Federal Service in 1917 and, less Troop B, went with other troops to make up the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion, 26th (Yankee) Division. Troop B was redesignated Headquarters Troop, 26th Division. While overseas during World War I, the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion and Headquarters Troop, 26th Division participated in the Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne-St-Mihiel and Meuse Argonne operations and held defensive positions in the Ile de France and Lorraine areas. Upon return to the United States these units were disbanded and reconstituted as the 110th Cavalry, Massachusetts National Guard. In October 1940, the 110th Cavalry, Massachusetts National Guard was converted to the 180th Field Artillery Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard. On January 1941 the 180th Field Artillery Regiment was mustered into Federal Service at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. On 23 January 1941 the 1st Battalion, 180th Field Artillery (minus the 2nd Battalion) left for overseas duty in World War II. Pursuant to letter from the War Department the 180th Field Artillery Battalion was redesignated as the 200th Field Artillery Battalion. Effective 15 August 1942 the 200th Field Artillery Battalion was redesignated as the 221st Field Artillery Battalion, Americal Division."

"The 221st Field Artillery battalion is entitled to battle honors as follows:"

World War I

Ile de France
Lorraine

Champagne-Marne
St-Mihiel

Aisne-Marne
Meuse-Argonne

World War II

Guadalcanal

Bougainville

Leyte

Southern Philippines
W/Arrowhead

"Bits and Pieces"

Here's a little Tid-Bit you may remember about the Old Guard. I wonder how many of you remember some old songs before and after World War II?

- "Goodbye Dear, I'll See You In A Year, Because I'm In The Army Now"
- "When The Lights Go On Again All Over the World"
- "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree With Anyone Else But Me, Till I Come Home"
- "I'll Be Seeing You In All The Old Familiar Places"

Phil D'Entremont
Allen, Texas



Grass Huts - New Caledonia



Melanesian Coast Watchers - Guadalcanal
(Above photos courtesy of Howard Burroughs)

Poopie Pants in I Corps

By A. Darryl James

In 1968 I was flying small, one-pilot helicopters for Americal Division Artillery. The year that I spent flying OH-23G "Ravens" and later the OH-6A "Loach" helicopters was full of harrowing and sometimes frightening experiences. One experience remembered quite fondly now, but not so then, related to soiling my coveted gray one-piece cotton flight suit.

My rather earthy problem resulted from the heavy partying our unit had the night before. One of our clever crew chiefs got a case of cheap, tough-as-hide steaks from the Navy CB's in Chu Lai. This crew chief was especially good at trading and performing an acceptable kind of military larceny referred to as "midnight requisitioning." He found all sorts of useful stuff for us.

The fare he requisitioned that day was too tough for the usual "Barbie." They had to be more artfully prepared. Our Texan check-pilot, Lieutenant Connor Dotson, said, "Not to worry boys we will marinate them ol' steaks just like we all do in east Texas and make fajitas." The pilots and crew chiefs seemed excited diving into the beer. I wondered to myself, "What the hell are fajitas?"

Connor soaked the beef in beer, added lots of hot sauce, onions, jalapeño peppers and other stuff. He made homemade flour tortillas with lard absconded from the Officers Club. He chopped up the steaks into small chunks and folded beans and all kinds of hot fixings into the tortillas.

Soon, we were having a damn hot ol' Katie-bar-the-door-shin-dig with stereo speakers blasting away tunes from *Credence Clearwater Revival*. We ate Tex-Mex and drank beer...lots of both as I remember. A couple of the non-aviator Majors drifted down from their billets above us, which we referred to as "Silk Stocking Row," to partake in the merrymaking.

Later we learned that not all of those lofty inhabitants of "Silk Stocking Row" appreciated our party. Someone up the hill had the audacity to complain to the full-bird that the pilots were at it again partying at full throttle, and worse, carousing with the enlisted men.

It was a memorable event, but I didn't realize that the next day would be considerably more memorable to me. The following morning, I felt like a herd of elephants had dropped biological matter on my tongue. I moaned as I crawled out of bed mentally cursing Dotson.

I washed under our makeshift shower formed from a beat up jet fuel tank. Skipping breakfast and coffee, I dragged myself down to the Ops shed, and met the

artillery AO I was scheduled to take to firebase East in the mountains west of LZ Baldy.

We took off in the clear, cool, morning air and headed northwest. I felt better. Twenty minutes later we were over the triple canopy mountainous jungles of I Corps approaching our destination... a narrow-edged mountain ridge.

Setting up my approach-to-land, I felt a bubbling in my lower GI track. I suddenly developed an urge, which rapidly grew urgent worsening by the second and threatening to become absolutely volcanic. Squirming in my seat all the way down, I prayed for deliverance, "Grant me just a little time, Lord."

I landed with a jolt! Forgetting my passenger, I hastily pulled the fuel cut-off, turned off the master switch, and with the rotors still turning, ran off at full steam to one of the out-houses on firebase. Alas, I was too late.

You know how it is when you have to go REAL BAD and get physically close to the place where you can go and whoops out it comes? Well it happened—a volcanic, hot-fiery eruption spewed out as I fought the many zippers on my one-piece flight suit.

I sat down on the john to finish my business with real messy skivvies. I did the only thing a refined officer and gentleman would do under the circumstances, I ripped my cotton skivvies off and dropped them daintily in the hole.

I cleaned up and felt like an Army aviator again...ready for the challenges of flying in combat and ready to face death again albeit without proper underwear. I strutted over to the mess tent brandishing my wings for all to see. Sitting down I made the mistake of having a cup of strong black coffee. It was off to the races again. I dashed out from the mess tent to the crapper I christened earlier and nearly made it—honest, I darn near made it.

Now I had a problem—no underwear to sacrifice down the hole. I cleaned up best I could and casually asked the first person I saw where I could find some water.

"...to drink?", asked the Spec-four I saw carrying a wooden box.

"No, I kind of need to clean up a little, trooper," I said sheepishly.

"Try behind the mess tent, Sir."

I walked with some dignity over to the mess tent and splashed water and soap and tried to clean myself and my only gray cotton flight suit the best I could.

Dreaming of a hot shower, I flew back to the Ky Hai heliport, landed, and parked in the sandbagged revetments. My friendly crew chief came out to greet me. I could tell I lit up every sensor in his smellatory panel because he cut me a wide birth.

I didn't drink any coffee the rest of the day. Perhaps I had some bread or

something like that for lunch—I just can't remember. I do remember that I really didn't feel like eating again until it was well past suppertime.

We had a great time the previous night and although I suffered that following day, thanks to ol' Connor's spicy fajitas. Muchas gracias, Amigo. I took solace in that those who had to smell me that next day suffered too. Somehow today that makes me smile and think, *You know, it wasn't always so bad over there.*

A. Darryl James
(VHPA Life Member #L08838)
ORWAC 68-12 (Wolters)
ORWAC 68-18 (Rucker)

Gimlets Select Scales

Rich Scales has been selected to serve as Interim Senior Vice-Commander of the Gimlet Association (21st Infantry). Scales is a veteran of the 3/21st Infantry and Past National Commander of the ADVA.

The Gimlet Association is open to current and past members of the 21st Infantry. The 3-21st Infantry is currently part of the 25th Infantry Division and has seen duty in Iraq.

For more information contact Rich Scales or write to Gimlet Association, [REDACTED], Sacramento, CA, 95866.

Americal Vet Returns To Vietnam Via VFW Trip

Ruben Rojas was wounded in fighting near LZ Liz on September 20, 1970 while serving with Co. D, 1/20th Inf, 11th LIB, Americal Division. He and eleven other Purple Heart recipients recently returned to Vietnam courtesy of the VFW.

Rojas story is told in the August 2005 issue of VFW magazine. He says that he was certain that he was wounded that would never return to Vietnam. The article quotes him as saying, "I thank God for letting me live through it the first time so I could come back and see the country in a new light."

The trip occurred on April 8-18, 2005 and was highlighted by stops at Ho Chi Minh City, Camp Evans, Cu Chi Tunnels, DMZ, Khe Sanh, and the Mekong River. Making the trip were eight Army veterans, two Marine vets, and one each Navy and Air Force vet.

VFW Commander-in-Chief John Furgess accompanied the veterans. Furgess was assigned to the Americal Division as an Army Security Officer in Chu Lai during the Vietnam War. He was guest speaker at the 2005 ADVA reunion in Kansas City and urged Vietnam vets to make the trip back to Vietnam if they ever had the chance.

The trip was paid for by the VFW Kahle Fund, a trust for providing special opportunities to wounded vets.



(DeWayne Browning on the left with his friend and copilot Vaughn Perkins with the "Warlords" Vietnam

Iraqi Mission: One of Many For Veteran Flyer

CW5 DeWayne Browning made a promise to his wife that he would retire from the military when he returned from his current tour in Iraq. And, he says, "I have never broken a promise."

One thing for sure, Browning has given much of himself to the defense of our country. After graduation from high school in 1968 he entered the Army at the age of 19. He took basic training at Ft. Polk, LA and then went to flight school at Ft. Wolters, TX and Ft. Rucker, AL.

He graduated in July 1969 as a Warrant Officer. While attending flight school he and his wife Kathy were married. They have been together for 36 years.

Browning grew up with "the life of a military brat." His stepfather was career Army and went to Vietnam in 1963 as a crewchief on a helicopter. Browning was raised in diverse locales such as Northern California, Alabama, and Okinawa.

After flight school Browning was sent to Vietnam. He arrived in August 1969 and was assigned to the "Warlords" of Co. B, 123rd Aviation Battalion, at Chu Lai. As Warlord 25, most of his flying was out of Duc Pho in support of the 11th LIB. He flew a little in the 196th LIB area of operations (AO). He recalls, "I did not fly that many missions in the 196th AO, but when I did it was always interesting. My co-pilot took a round in his leg at LZ West."

He served as a UH1H (Huey) pilot-in-command. He also flew about 160 hours in the front seat of a Cobra gunship. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for

the rescue of a OH-6 scout ship crew that had been shot down just outside of Quang Ngai.

After Vietnam he did a brief tour in Heilbronn, Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1971 but in the same year he reentered the military via the California National Guard.

He went to college in California and settled down with his wife and three children in Modesto, Ca. He now lives just north of Sacramento in Paradise, Ca.

After joining the California National Guard he transitioned into CH47s (Chinooks). Browning flew many state active-duty missions to include floods, fires, earthquakes, riots, and search and rescue missions in the Sierra Mountains. In 1993 he transitioned into UH60 Blackhawks. He deployed to Panama for six months in 1995 and was activated in 1996 for nine months to fly the IFOR mission in Bosnia. His present activation began in 2004 with deployment to Iraq in January 2005.

His current post is the Battalion Aviation Material Officer at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher near Baghdad, Iraq. While this is a maintenance test pilot (MTP) position, Browning notes, "I am so busy with other duties such as Field Ordering Officer, that I have not done MTP flying. But I do fly regularly on missions, mostly from Baghdad to FOBs to the north."

"The flying here is more like being a flying bus driver as compared to flying missions in Vietnam. Most of the missions are transporting soldiers from FOB to FOB. The small arms threat is not as great, but we do get an occasional missile and see some tracers from rifle fire," he says.

When asked about his views on the war, Browning replies, "I support what we are doing here. The Iraqi people want this to work, and it would be very sad indeed if we were to bail out on the mission."

He has worked with military civil affairs and has accompanied doctors and medics to Iraqi towns and villages. "I have been a luncheon guest in a few Iraqi homes. I have met their children and seen how they are trying to make this work."

"Through my business back home I have given out wheelchairs and provided funding for several projects in Iraqi villages such as youth centers, clinical needs, and soccer fields. We even helped a youth soccer league in downtown Tikrit, Saddam's old hometown."

"This has been a wonderful experience for me and for my fellow soldiers. I have enjoyed working with the Iraqi people and I will take back some good memories from these visits."

In trying to compare combat in Iraq with combat in Vietnam, Browning says, "I can't say which is worse. I am a different person now. In Vietnam my whole life was in front of me. Now I look back a lot. I guess that is what experience is."

Browning hopes to be home by Thanksgiving 2006. In civilian life he is a regional manager for five John Deere dealerships in northern California. In

summing up his many years in the military, he says, "I have enjoyed my time in the active army, and the journey as a citizen soldier."

Those wishing to send personal greetings can send them to CW5 DeWayne Browning, 1-140th GSAB, FOB Speicher, Iraq, APO AE 09393.

Vietnam Was Tougher

Tom Molina had 19 "good years" in the California Army National Guard. He was near 50 years of age. With one more good year he would earn his military retirement. But he had to re-enlist to get the final term.

But as fate would have it Tom's unit was slated for duty in Iraq. But he did what good soldiers do. He re-enlisted and deployed with his unit.

Tom first entered the military in as a two-year Regular Army volunteer in 1970. He took basic and advanced training at Ft. Ord, CA. His specialty was 64C-transportation. After training in the states he spent two months "in the woods" in Panama. While in Panama he attended the jungle school and fine-tuned his readiness for combat.

Molina arrived in Vietnam in July 1970 and was assigned to the 23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion of the American Division. He ran with convoys out of Chu Lai that carried supplies to troops in the field. For most of his Vietnam tour he was the driver of a gun truck named Iron Horse.

He got to see quite a bit of the countryside in Vietnam. His treks took him to places such as Hue, DaNang, Quang Tri, Tien Phouc, and Bien Hoa. The convoys hauled a little bit of everything to include basic supplies, parts, ammunition, howitzers, fuel, and the like.

After his tour in Vietnam he finished his hitch at Ft. Lewis, WA. He decided not to stay in the Army but instead he returned to his home in the Imperial Valley town of Madera. But ten years later a friend convinced him to enlist in the California Army National Guard under the "Try One" program. This time he stayed in.

Tom's National Guard service took him to many diverse places. He had a one-month deployment to Korea for Spirit '86. He was called to duty during the 1992 Los Angeles riots that followed the Rodney King verdicts. He was mobilized after the September 11, 2001 attacks and served in a security role at airports.

But his greatest adventure was to come with the deployment of his unit to Iraq. The 1072nd Palletized Loading System (PLS) Detachment arrived in Iraq in February 2004.

The 1072nd was stationed at Al Taji, a deserted Iraqi army camp twelve miles north of Baghdad. Approximately 1,100 U.S. military personnel were at the base when Molina arrived. This included Special Forces personnel, U.S. Marines, and other U.S. Army National Guard units. One year later, when the 1072nd departed for home, Al Taji was crowded with 14,000 U.S. military members to include units of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Molina, a Staff Sergeant, assumed the responsibility of Convoy Commander and directed the movement of convoys as small as five vehicles and as large as 72 vehicles. He again got to see much of a foreign country in the time of war. His convoys covered territory from Al Taji to Mosul in the north, Kuwait in the south, and Syria to the west.

Along the way he got to see many famous sites that he describes as "incredible". This included the temples at the Garden of Eden, Saddam Hussein's home in Tikrit, and sites in Samara. He describes Baghdad as being "like Los Angeles. It is big, not backward, and has many fine homes." He remembers Mosul as "like San Francisco, built on rolling hills."

The convoys again carried the gamut of military necessities to include jeeps for the Iraqi National Guard, bottled water, ammunition, captured enemy equipment, and meals ready-to-eat (MREs). Goods were delivered to U.S. troops and also to multi-national forces such as the Ukrainian Army. Much of their driving was done at night.

The 1072nd encountered various contacts with enemy forces to include small arms fire, snipe fire, car bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs). No one from the 1072nd was killed-in-action but unfortunately the unit's troops did suffer serious injuries to include amputees.

The Americans used their ingenuity to improve the armor of their vehicles. Molina recalls, "We cut up plate steel with a cutting torch and bolted the plates to the doors of our vehicles. This helped protect us from the smaller ordnance but we were still vulnerable to RPGs."

He also recalls that he had his wife send him a civilian style Global Positioning System (GPS). "We had military GPS that was new in the Gulf War, but it was not as good as what we could get sent from home today. The civilian models are faster, more dependable, and more accurate."

When asked to compare convoy duty in Iraq to convoy duty in Vietnam, Molina quickly replied, "Vietnam was worse. The Vietnamese were a regular army with better training, better equipment, and better organization." He then went on to say, "It does not take much to train someone to carry a suicide bomb."

He said that over time the enemy is getting more sophisticated and imaginative in their methods. "They went from a man sitting in a field detonating an IED with a hand controlled wire to detonating them with a cell phone call. At one time they just strapped explosives on the side of a telephone pole. Now they hide them in the dead body of a dog on the side of the road."

When asked to evaluate the enemy's motivation in fighting Americans, Molina

said, "They do not want Americans in their country. They call us infidels. They do not believe we are worthy to step on their holy ground. It is a religion thing."

But he believes that the United States' mission is "worthy" because of the ruthless way that Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq. He says of Iraq, "They have potential. They have a lot of resources such as gold and oil. They have labor. They need to run the country the way it needs to be run."

The entire 1072nd returned to the United States in February 2005. They left their well-used equipment for the unit that replaced them.

Molina went back to his civilian job with the Army Corps of Engineers. He works at Buchannon Dam as a dam operator, and is "damn good at it." He plans to retire from the Corps in August 2005. He will be 55 and says, "I am not going to do this for a living any more." He is also slated to retire from the California National Guard in August 2005.

The number of Americal veterans serving in Iraq is quite small. But Tom's platoon in Iraq had another Americal veteran, Edward Lara of El Monte, CA. Our best regards to Tom and Edward for a job well done. Welcome Home!

How Many Americal Vets Are Deployed?

The answer to the above question is "probably more than you think." Tom Molina had one other Americal veteran in his platoon. CW5 Browning, currently stationed in Iraq, counted three other Americal veterans in his unit.

Most Vietnam era veterans currently serving in uniform do so because they are members of the reserve forces. As such, they can remain on duty until age 60. Many of them have also had a break in service and are extending their service in order to obtain retirement benefits.

With heavy use of Army reserve and National Guard units in the current war, the average age of deployed personnel has risen dramatically. In fact, the Army has announced that it is considering extending the maximum age for a new recruit from the current 35 years to 42 years.

Supporting Those Defending America

The Americal Newsletter would like to know of your family members currently in the service of our country. Please send information to the Vietnam Editor for use in a future issue. Include your service unit and dates. A sample entry is as follows:

Major Christopher M. Sartorius,
intelligence officer, USAF, Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, nephew of Gary L. Noller, Co. B, 1/46th Infantry, 196th LIB, 1970-71.

Army Announces Plans For Major Restructure: Is the old way now the new way?

The United States Army recently announced plans for the realignment of its major combat divisions. This marks the largest reshuffle of structure since before WWII.

According to an August 8, 2005 story in ARMY TIMES, the plan calls for the return of 50,000 soldiers from overseas bases mainly in Korea and Germany. It also establishes ten infantry divisions consisting of four combat infantry brigades per division. There will also be three independent infantry brigades in the active army.

Up until the present, Army divisions consisted of three brigades. Expanding divisions to four brigades is expected to ease the difficulty posed to soldiers by frequent deployments. More soldiers in a division will allow a brigade or brigades to be sent overseas while the other brigades remain at their host installation. An individual soldier might now be deployed one year out of every four years instead of one year out of every three years.

The divisions will be of three types and will be spread among sixteen bases in the United States. The division types will be light, heavy, and Stryker. The Stryker is the name of the rubber tire armored vehicle currently in use.

Returning to U.S. posts will be the 1st Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division. Also slated for return to the U.S. are three brigades of the 2nd Infantry Division. The 2nd ID has been in Korea for over 55 years.

The following is the plan for each division and brigade under the new structure:

1st Infantry Division; Headquarters and three brigades at Ft. Riley, KS. One brigade at Ft. Knox, KY.

2nd Infantry Division; Headquarters and one brigade in South Korea. Three brigades at Ft. Lewis, WA.

3rd Infantry Division; Headquarters and three brigades at Ft. Stewart, GA. One brigade at Ft. Benning, GA.

4th Infantry Division; Headquarters and four brigades at Ft. Carson, CO.

10th Mountain Division; Headquarters and three brigades at Ft. Drum, NY. One brigade at Ft. Polk, LA.

25th Infantry Division; Headquarters and two brigades at Schofield Barracks, HI. One brigade at Ft. Wainwright, AK. One brigade at Ft. Richardson, AK.

82nd Airborne Division; Headquarters and four brigades at Ft. Bragg, NC.

101st Airborne Division; Headquarters and four brigades at Ft. Campbell, KY.

1st Cavalry Division; Headquarters and four brigades at Ft. Hood, TX.

1st Armored Division; Headquarters and four brigades at Ft. Bliss, TX.
173rd Airborne Brigade; Vicenza, Italy.
2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; Vilseck, Germany.
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; Ft. Hood, TX
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; Ft. Irwin, CA.

It is expected that this transition will take five years and will be completed in 2010. There are provisions to expand this plan of 43 combat brigade teams to 48 BCTs if necessary.

The newly aligned divisions will fall under three corps headquarters. This compares with the current four corps headquarters composed of ten divisions and 33 brigades.

Troop strength in each brigade will depend on the type of brigade. Light infantry and airborne brigades will have 3,500 troops. Brigades employing the Stryker wheeled-armor vehicle will have 3,900 soldiers. Heavy mechanized and armored divisions with Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles will also have 3,900 personnel.

Division and corps headquarters will have 1,066 members. Each division will have an integral aviation brigade.

By the end of 2007 the army is expected to have 512,400 soldiers. This is 20,000 more than the current troop level.

Prior to World War II, U.S. Army infantry divisions consisted of four infantry regiments. This arrangement was known as the square division. In the last major restructuring the infantry division was reduced to three infantry regiments. This caused one regiment of each division to become "orphaned".

The American Division of WWII fame benefited from the move from a square division to a triangular division. The 132nd Inf. Regt. of South Dakota, the 164th Infantry Regt. of Illinois, and the 182nd Infantry Regt. of Massachusetts were spun off from their respective divisions, the 33rd Inf. Div, the 34th Inf. Div., and the 26th Inf. Div. The three regiments were eventually brought together at the South Pacific island of New Caledonia to form the Americal.

After WWII the army made some slight variations in unit structure and naming. The infantry brigade replaced the infantry regiment. But infantry regiment lineage and traditions were kept alive in the naming of battalions that composed the brigades. Thus a designation such as 3/21st Inf. Bn. as used in Vietnam, is more completely designated as 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment.

The return of the army division to four brigades may be considered to be a return to the square division of pre-World War II. The old becomes the new.

William C. Westmoreland, Vietnam Commander, Stands Final Formation

General William Childs Westmoreland, 91, died July 18, 2005 of natural causes. He resided with his wife Katherine at a retirement home in Charleston, SC.

Westmoreland, an artillery officer, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1936. He served in Africa and Europe during WWII. At the end of the war he was the chief of staff of the 9th Infantry Division as a temporary colonel.

He rose through the ranks and earned his fourth star in 1964. He was commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) and U.S. Army, Vietnam (USARV) from 1964 to 1968. Although he echoed the "light at the end of the tunnel" line, the Tet offensive of 1968 was perceived to indicate otherwise.

Westmoreland wanted President Johnson to send another 200,000 troops to Vietnam. But Johnson was not agreeable to increasing the U.S. force in Vietnam. Instead, Johnson announced that he would not run for another term as president and he brought "Westy" home to be Army chief of staff.

He retired from active duty in 1972. In 1976 he authored his autobiography called A Soldier Reports. In it he rebutted his Vietnam critics. He never wavered from his belief that the Vietnam War helped keep communism from engulfing all of Southeast Asia. He was also unwavering in his support of the Vietnam veteran.

He spent his final years on the lecture circuit and attending Vietnam veterans' events. He was buried on the grounds of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

Editor's Note: I saw General Westmoreland at a Vietnam Veterans' homecoming event in Houston in 1987. He was in the reviewing stand as a group of fellow Americal Vets and I marched down the street.

A few years later I purchased and read his book A Soldier Reports. For some reason I was compelled to write him a letter and make a few comments of my own. I do not remember how I obtained his address but I sent him a note not expecting a reply.

A few weeks later I received a hand written letter from him. He thanked me for my service and told me that my efforts were valuable in halting the tide of communism. By this time the Berlin Wall had fallen and he said that Vietnam Veterans should share credit in this enormous event.

Since Westmoreland's death I have talked to other vets about him. I was surprised how many told me that they had met or seen Westmoreland at a Veterans' function and how supportive he was. I know I was pleased with his personal remarks to me. May he rest in peace. -gln-

Shortly thereafter I told other Americal veterans about my diagnosis. I belong to an e-mail group of Americal veterans. The e-mail group discusses a number of subjects to include our shared Vietnam experience.

Rich Scales, the Americal Division Veterans Association National Commander at that time, is also a member of the e-mail group. He told me I needed to file a claim with the VA for the prostate cancer.

My reaction was, "What for? I have good health insurance and don't necessarily want the VA to treat me."

Rich told me that prostate cancer and several other cancers were presumptive conditions of service in Vietnam. I found out later that this meant prostate cancer is presumed to have occurred from exposure to Agent Orange. Studies show Vietnam veterans have a greater incidence of prostate cancer than the general public.

A week after having the PSA test done, biopsies taken from the gland confirmed that I did have prostate cancer. The purpose of the CT scan was to determine if the prostate cancer had spread to other areas.

Three months earlier I started experiencing frequent urination. My doctor told me that my prostate gland was enlarged but not to worry about it. He said I could take a drug to help me suppress the urge to go to the bathroom so much. He also told me I could cut back on caffeine to see if that helped. I elected the latter.

A few weeks later I called his office and told them cutting back on caffeine hadn't done any good. He referred me to a urologist. This is when I first heard of the PSA test.

This simple blood test and digital examinations are recommended annually for males over 50. It should be done annually after 40 for African-Americans and for children of anyone who had prostate cancer. Early detection can greatly improve chances of survival.

The doctor finally entered the room where my wife and I had been waiting. He informed me that he had good news and bad news. The good news was it did not appear that the prostate cancer had spread. The bad news was I also had kidney cancer- a silver dollar sized tumor on my right kidney.

I had been diagnosed with two different types of cancer. I felt like I had just stubbed my toe and then someone had hit the other foot with a hammer. The toe didn't hurt anymore.

What a terrible feeling. My wife and I didn't know what to think. I was in the best shape of my life. I had just gotten back to my pre-Vietnam weight by running over 30 miles a week. How could this happen to me?

Before I left the doctor's office he gave me a shot of Lupron, a drug I found out later on I would be taking every three months for the next two years. Prostate cancer cells thrive off of testosterone and Lupron suppresses its development.

at least six months after my last treatment for prostate cancer.

This was great news since I had not been able to work regularly for the last few months. I also had two months of radiation therapy facing me. I got my first check from the VA for four months back pay in early June.

I completed radiation in July 2003 and continued periodic PSA testing, CT, and bone scans until recently. Ever since the surgery, my PSA had been less than the detection limit of 1.0. This was always encouraging, however, with the Lupron shots, it was expected to be non-detected.

At the end of July 2005, six months after I had my last Lupron shot, I had another PSA test and CT scan. This was my first PSA test without the result being influenced by the shots. I was elated to hear that it was less than 1.0 and the CT scan showed no signs of either cancer.

Two and half years ago I did not expect to be here. My prognosis is now very good. The kidney cancer has been resolved and the prostate cancer has not spread.

I encourage all of Vietnam veterans to have a doctor complete an annual digital exam and PSA test. This simple blood test can save your life. With early detection and advances in treatment, cancer is not necessarily a death sentence.

Bob Cowles served in the Americal Division as a track commander with E Troop 1st Cavalry, 11th Infantry Brigade, from March 1968 through February 1969. After serving in Vietnam he graduated as a Civil Engineer from the University of Illinois and resides with his wife of 35 years in Springfield, Illinois. His email address is [REDACTED]

These are the diseases which VA currently presumes resulted from exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange:

-Chloracne or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne. (Must occur within one year of exposure).

-Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

-Diabetes Mellitus, Type II

-Hodgkin's disease.

-Multiple myeloma.

-Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

-Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy. (For purposes of this section, the term acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy means temporary peripheral neuropathy that appears within weeks or months of exposure to an herbicide agent and resolves within two years of the date of onset.)

-Porphyria cutanea tarda. (within one year).

-Prostate cancer.

-Respiratory cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea).

-Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

Gold Star Mother Becomes ADVA Member

By Roger Gilmore

During the annual convention of the Gold Star Mothers of America this past June in Dallas, Texas, an associate membership in the Americal Division Veterans Assoc. was presented to Mrs. Ann Herd.

Ann is the mother of Ronnie Herd, whose story was published in the September 2003 ADVA Newsletter. Ronnie, a member of Co. B, 4/21st Infantry, 11th Brigade, was killed in action on August 5, 1970. Ms. Herd's letter to Ronnie was on Memorial Day 2003 was including in the article.

As ADVA National Adjutant, I presented Mrs. Herd with her ADVA membership card, lapel pin and decal during a brief ceremony at the convention business meeting.

Mrs. Herd is past president of the Gold Star Mothers of America. At the June convention, she turned her duties over to the incoming president.

Also attending the Gold Star Mothers of America convention were several members of Co. B 4/21st who served with Ronnie Herd, including Carl J. Zarsyski. Carl was instrumental in arranging and scheduling the membership presentation with the Gold Star Mothers leadership.

Welcome, Ann, to the Americal Division Veterans Association!

ADVA Forges Link with TTU Vietnam Center

National Commander Jon Hansen recently signed an agreement between the ADVA and The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University that will prove beneficial to both organizations. The agreement allows the Vietnam Center to offer greater access to the ADVA and its members.

Dr. Richard Verrone, Vietnam Center Assistant Archivist and Head of Oral History Project, made a detail presentation to the Executive Council and general membership at the Kansas City reunion. He spent much of his time at the reunion talking with members and explaining the mission and objectives of the Vietnam Center and its various branches.

In return, the ADVA Executive Council approved two motions relative to cooperation with the Vietnam Center. The first will authorize the scanning of past and future editions of the Americal Newsletter for use on the Vietnam Center's Virtual Archive. This means that newsletters will be available on the internet for anyone to view. This is especially helpful for those wishing to research past editions.

The second motion authorizes the Vietnam Center to be the repository of official documents of the ADVA. These are

documents usually kept by the National Adjutant. Association items of current and past interest are now allowed to be preserved in proper archives. This includes such things as meeting minutes, letters and correspondences, and legal papers.

Future editions of the Americal Newsletter will detail the various programs of the Vietnam Center. This issue will describe the Oral History Project.

Hardly a week goes by without the ADVA being contacted by a relative of an Americal veteran wishing to know about the soldier's military service. Many times the veteran is deceased and can no longer describe life in uniform.

But every living veteran has the opportunity to tell his or her unique story and have it available for posterity. The Oral History Project provides a much-needed means to collect and preserve each story.

Dr. Verrone provides his comments on this effort: "The historical record of the war will be left unbalanced and with gaping holes if we do not act NOW to preserve your individual experiences and memories of the war.

"To that end, the Vietnam Oral History Project, the largest and most dynamic Vietnam-related oral history project in the U.S., is seeking those who are willing to sit for an interview with us (usually conducted over the telephone).

"We invite all ADVA members to participate in the Oral History Project and follow the lead of those ADVA members who have already completed an interview with us, like Dave Taylor, Steve Dant, and Dave Eichhorn, or who will be starting their interviews soon, like Gary Noller and Dutch DeGroot.

"We will conduct recorded interviews at your convenience so that, many years from now, researchers as well as your great, great grandchildren will be able to listen to you tell your history in your own words and in your voice. This is a wonderful and powerful legacy for all to leave for your descendants and future generations who are interested in learning from you."

The interview can be as long as the veteran desires and can cover topics of interest to the veteran. Preliminary questionnaires gather information about the veteran's biography and military service. The interview can take place in as many sessions as required and can be spread out over time.

The Oral History Project will provide the veteran with copies of the sessions to include audiotape, electronic file, and printed page. The veteran can share his or her story with others as may be fitting. The story can even be posted on the internet via the Virtual Archive.

To learn more about participating in the Vietnam Center to be the repository of official documents of the ADVA. These are

Vietnam Historian Seeks Members' Assistance

Les Hines, Vietnam Historian has received funding from the ADVA to begin collecting division TOC records from the National Archives. These records will be added to the thousands of files he has collected over the past decade.

"I have a five year plan to obtain the Division TOC reports from the archives," he says. "This year we have budgeted \$1,500 to obtain the reports for 1968. Next year, 1969, then 1970, 1971, then back to 1967.

"The problem I am facing now is getting volunteers to process the materials we obtain. I spend time making copies of CD-ROMS, videos, and maps, and researching questions, and scanning materials." Les needs assistance with the proof reading of the transcribed documents. If you are able to help please contact Les. Your assistance will be appreciated.

The 23rd Infantry Division and the Korean War

From time to time members ask about the connection between the Americal Division and the Korean War. This is an attempt to briefly summarize this era.

The Americal Division was not known as such during the Korean War. It took the name 23rd Infantry Division. But it adopted the lineage, heraldry, and traditions of the Americal Division of WWII. However, the Americal Division of WWII was never referred to as the 23rd Inf. Div.

Members of the 23rd Inf. Div. wore the same "Southern Cross" shoulder patch as Americal veterans of WWII and Vietnam. Thus 23rd Inf. Div. Korean War era veterans are included in all ADVA historical references as being a reactivation of the division but with a different name. This happens all the time in the military.

The Korean War began in 1950. But the ending date is more difficult to determine. Hostilities were ended by a cease-fire agreement in 1953. But this cease-fire was rather shaky so American forces remained and still remain in Korea.

For purposes of determining certain military related issues, the Korean War era has been determined by the VA to extend into 1956. We know that the 23rd Inf. Div. was activated in December 1954. The division was deactivated in 1956, the same year the Korean War ended.

The 23rd Infantry Division was never in Korea and never saw combat and was not a fully manned division. It was stationed in Panama, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean locations. The main mission of the division was to be on stand-by and ready for full manning, conduct the jungle training school in Panama, protect the Panama Canal, and assume other important duties.



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Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel who have served with the 23rd (American) Infantry Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods of service:

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

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 American 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 American Division of the United States Army.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AMERICAN DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION PNC Ronald Ellis [REDACTED] Henderson, Texas 75652

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