



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

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

January – February – March 2002

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



GREAT LAKES CHAPTER 16th Anniversary – Winterfest R&R

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Chapter Commander
East Region
David D. Eichhorn
Fleming, OH 45729-9643

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

Web Site (Internet)
www.americal.org

TAPS TAPS TAPS

164 INFANTRY

Arthur K. Amos
San Antonio, TX
September 30, 2001

182 INFANTRY E CO.

Robert K. Brown
Miami Lakes, FL
November 2000

AMERICAL DIVISION

Fred W. Burgauff
Hobart, IN
January 14, 2002

26 SIGNAL CO.

Charles H. Coughlan
Belmont, MA
January 23, 2002

164 INFANTRY 1BN

Maurice L. Hannum
Powell, WY
March 19, 2001

182 INFANTRY C CO.

Ivan G. Horst
Palm Harbor, FL
January 16, 2002

132 INFANTRY HDQ/2

Kenneth E. Kunstman
Chicago, IL
December 19, 2001

182 INFANTRY A-T CO

John F. McNulty
Holyoke, MA
Date Unknown

57 ENGINEERS HDQ

Joseph Piscopo
Staten Island, NY
November 15, 2001

132 INFANTRY K CO.

Mike Rios Jr.
Wyoming, MI
Date Unknown

198 LIB B/46 INFANTRY

Alfonso X. Soto
Brownsville, TX
January 28, 1998

182 INFANTRY D CO.

Joseph T. Visniewski
Lowell, MA
October 26, 2001

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Edward Woods
Hyde Park, MA
December 8, 2001

22 ORDNANCE MM

James L. Bertie
Willowick, OH
December 5, 2001

182 INFANTRY E CO.

Robert C. Brown
Wakefield, MA
January 12, 2001

ASSOCIATE

Edmar Costa
Somerville, MA
December 7, 2001

ASSOCIATE

Charles Doyle
Revere, MA
January 24, 2002

23 Div Arty HHB

David J. Harrigan
Traverse City, MI
May 2, 2001

164 INFANTRY

Donald H. Jackson
Bend, OR
Date Unknown

164 INFANTRY

C. J. Livingood
Grafton, ND
October 13, 2001

26 SIGNAL CO.

Joseph F. Motta
Fall River, MA
January 26, 2002

196 LIB 2/1 INFANTRY

Gerald A. Poyerd
West Islip, NY
July 12, 2001

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Everett D. Roper
Needham, MA
November 24, 2001

182 INFANTRY H CO.

Manuel Souza
Lexington, MA
November 10, 2001

246 FIELD ARTILLERY

James A. Williams
New Bloomfield, MO
September 26, 2001

LAST ROLL CALL -- 164th INFANTRY

James Aipperspach	- H Co.	- Jamestown, ND
Harry Burd	- B Co.	- Tucson, AZ
Glen Fleck	- G Co.	- Minot, ND
Lavern Greenace	- K Co.	- Freemont, CA
Raymond A. Griffin	- C Co.	- Wapeton, ND
Walter Happip	- WW II	- Williston, ND
Owen Heller	- WW II	- Williston, ND
Edward Hockholter	- WWII	- South Dakota
Maynard F. Holmes	- WW II	- Carson, WA
John R. Holt	- K Co.	- Brooklyn, NY
Fred O. Jessee	- WW II	- Freemont, CA
Art Johnson	- WW II	- Belle Plaine, MN
James A. Johnson	- WW II	- Fargo, ND
Clayton Kingston	- II Kor	- Union, WA
Martin Kloster	- WW II	- Clark, SD
Ben Kosanke	- WW II	- Lake Park, MN
Leonard Kretschmar	- Medic	- Minot, ND
Russell Landgren	- WW II	- Rosewell, MN
Charles Maxwell Jr.	- HHC/2	- Hubbard, OH
Court Marty	- WW II	- Moorhead, MN
William Mazzeo	- WW II	- Williamsburg, VA
Russell W. McCrea	- WW II	- Jamestown, ND
Donald H. Morken	- Korean	- Dubuque, IA
Forest Nearhood	- WW II	-
Robert Price	- WW II	- Williston, ND
Jack Shank	- WW II	- Indianapolis, IN
George M. Sveen	- L Co.	- Fargo, ND
Ervin Swapp	- WW II	- Det. Lakes, MN
Ellsworth Tracy	- Medic	-
Orval Volden	- WW II	- Isle, MN
Vernon Voss	- WW II	- Springfield, MO
Robert Well	- WW II	- Elgin, ND
Frank Weisgerber	- II Kor	- Bismarck, ND
Howard White	- WW II	- Bowman, ND

132 INFANTRY

In thoughtful memory of the men of the 132nd Infantry who answered the call of 'Taps' since our last 132nd Infantry Newsletter, dated Dec 1, 2000.

Peter J. Bukiri	- B Company
Laverne Capello	- 3/Hq. Co.
Frank J. Capos	- H Company
Leo J. Davis	- I Company
Joseph S. Dennewitz	- E Company
Clifford Erbentraut	- K Company
Thomas N. Herzog	- H Company
Eugene Koeppe Sr.	- B Company
Eldo La Fond	- D Company
Sam B. McAllister	- K Company
Glenn M. Mayo	- K & F Co.
Arthur C. Nelson	- A-T Co.
Robert T. Nelson	- I Company
Joseph Petito	- 2nd Batt.
Robert H. Pickett	- Reg. Hdq.
Mike Rios Jr.	- K Company
Charles A. Willis	- K Company
Chauncey Young	- B Company

Sent in by Rocco A. Solto-President

If you know of anyone that served with the Americal Division in World War II, Vietnam, or during the Koren War, that is ill or that passed away, please notify:

Adj. Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Marvin M. Allen
196 LIB B/4/31 Inf
Denton, TX
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John W. Babine
23 M.P. CID
El Paso, TX
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Nathan Bates
11 LIB D/3 Inf
Nashville, TN
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Larry Boetsch
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf
Bedford, TX
#Reunion-Newsletter

Mr. Michael Brennan
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Costa Mesa, CA
#Castronova & Hines

Mr. Gary L. Carlson
23 M.P.
West Jordan, UT
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Morris E. Eberts
23 M.P.
Pickerington, OH
#Rich Merlin

Mr. George E. Freeman
196 LIB A/2.1 Inf
Sunbury, OH
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Edward J. Gekosky Jr
Associate
Woodbridge, VA
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Ralph E. Greer
198 LIB
Pittsburg, PA
#Ltc Peter Messina -

Mr. Wilbur F. Hanson
198 LIB 23 M.P.
Warner Robins, GA
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Ernest A. Hopkins
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Port Clinton, OH
#Reunion Com.-

Mr. Paul P. Hutterer
723 Maint
Whitelaw, WI
#Art Cole

Mr. John Maier Jr.
182 Infantry A Co.
Lolo, MT
#Art Cole

Mr. Wesley Moss III
723 Avn Bn E Co.
Freeburg, IL
#Don Ballou

William S. Augerson M.D.
23 Med Bn Div Hdq
Millbank, NY
#Art Cole

Mr. Carroll Ballinger
23 M.P.
West Liberty, KY
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Jon W. Bilstrom
11 LIB A/4/21 Inf
Clayton, MO
#Don Ballou

Mr. Kenneth L. Bolton
23 M.P.
Hobart, IN
#Paul Stiff

Mr. Jimmy Campbell
23 M.P. Co.
Bettendorf, IA
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Stephen W. Dant
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Beaverton, OR
#Dave Hammond

Mr. Michael Feltes
11 LIB C/1/20
Elburn, IL
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Gary Gardner
1 Cav A Troop 1 Cav
Woodhaven, MI
#Bill Allen

Mr. Norman J. Gravino
23 Div Hdq
Oak Ridge, NJ
#Membership Committee

Mr. Ed Haag
23 M.P.
Vinton, IA
#Rich Merlin

Mr. John J. Hill Jr.
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf
Brooksville, FL
#Art Cole

Mrs. Thelma Horton-Rhone
Associate
Brunswick, OH
#Jon Hansen

Lt. Daniel J. Mack
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Argyle, TX
#Ron Ellis

Mr. David McCreight,
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Kahului, HI
#Vance

Mr. Joseph T. Novotny
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
New Prague, MN
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Douglas J. Oliver
25 Div 3 Bde R/1/35
Moss Point, MS
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Stanley C. Pijor
196 LIB 23 M.P. + 26
Grafton, OH
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Patrick Regan
11 LIB C/4
Lake Oswego, OR
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Vincent J. Rinella S
182 Infantry H/M Co.
Niskayuna, NY
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Jerry B. Royal
23 M.P.
Thomaston, GA
#Rich Merlin

Mr. Domenic T. Savini
132 Infantry
West Palm Beach, FL
#Art Cole

Mr. Tommy Smith
11 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Nacogdoches, TX
#Ronald Ellis

Mr. Joseph C. Suell Jr.
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf
Mount Washington, KY
#Don Ballou

Mr. Charles H. Tucker
182 Infantry AT
Clay, WV
#Bernie Chase VFW

Mr. Gene E. Wagoner
23 M.P.
Sand Ridge, WV
#Paul Stiff

Mr. Curtis Weins
1 Cav 1/1
Durham, KS
#John W. Anderson

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. William L. Annonson
221 F.A. C Btry.
Oak Creek, WI
#Leo Orfe

Mr. Davis C. Hathaway
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Mendota Heights, MN
#Vance Van Wieren

Mr. Alan R. Wilkins
11 LIB 3/1 Inf
Middleton, MA
#R. Castronova

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?
CHECK THAT ADDRESS LABEL
DO IT NOW!!!

Mr. Vernon D. Pesek
26 Engrs D Co.
Stanton, MO
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Paul B. Reeves
123 Avn Bn (Pelicans)
Valley, AL
#Self

Mr. George W. Rhoden Sr.
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Glen St. Mary, FL
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Kenneth E. Roberts
LSM 186
Riverside, RI
#Bill McLaughlin

Mr. Gilbert Sandoval
198 LIB
San Antonio, TX
#Rick Merlin

Mr. Russell Scott
198 LIB B/1/6 Inf
Brooklyn, NY
#Thomas Adams

Mr. Larry W. Stoner
123 Avn Bn B Co.
Garden Grove, CA
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Robert B. Thielen
245 F.A.
Los Angeles, CA
#PNC Bernard Chase

Mr. Wendall G. Waggoner
198 LIB 1/52 Inf
Newell, IA
#John Mackay

Mr. John Walker
26 Engrs B Co.
Harvey, IA
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bill Woodside
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf
Erlanger, KY
#Don Ballou

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Larry Barnett
11 LIB F.A.
Fritch, TX
#B. Allen-Jon Hansen

Mr. Gerald J. Butler
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
North Oxford, MA
#R. Castronova

Mr. Harold W. Fothergill
Task Frce Oregon
Grand Isle, NE
#Jack Cummings

Mr. Donald D. Hall
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf
Worland, WY
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Conrad Steers
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
Hicksville,
#Paul Terry

Mr. Glendon Bell
221 F.A. B Btry
Pilesgrove, NJ
#Leo Orfe

Mr. Edward A. Davis
198 LIB D/5/46 Inf
Springville, AZ
#PNC Ed Mrsh

Mr. J.P. Grice Jr.
11 LIB HHC 4/21
Houston, TX
#Don Ballou

Mr. George Salcido
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf
San Jose, CA
#PNC Gary L. Noller

#SPONSOR

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Mrs. Walter F. Heckman
in memory of
Walter F. Heckman

James R. Daly

NOW HEAR THIS!

If you are interested in applying for a
Scholarship send your request for an application
to:

Mr. Bob Short
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

DO IT NOW!!

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2002

There will be a party at the Americal Museum
located in Worcester, MA. All members are invited
to attend.

Coffee and donuts will be served at 9:30 A.M. and
lunch will be served at 12:30 P.M.

If you wish to attend please notify:

Bernie Chase
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
or call

This is necessary in order to get the right amount
of food to feed everyone.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY
WWII - KOREAN - VIETNAM

April 25-26-27, 2002

AT

Days Inn

Bedford, VA 24523

Room Rates \$40.00 plus tax

Bedford, Virginia is the site of the 'National D-
Day Memorial. The town of Bedford, population
3200, suffered, proportionally, the nation's D-Day
losses.

For more information please contact:

Elbert R. Horton

Timberlake, NC 27583-9191

COMPANY D - 1/20 INFANTRY - 11 LIB

REUNION

April 26, 27, 28, 2002
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

For more info contact:

Cliff Barger

Acworth, GA 30102

Tel

E-Mail

FIREBASE LADONNA PRESENTS
20th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion

JUNE 7-8-9, 2002

ILLINOIS LARGEST VETERANS REUNION

Staring: World famous disc jockey, Dick Biondi
A living legend and a member of Rock n Roll and
Radio Hall of fame.

Come listen, dance and remember the tune we grew
up with 'way back when'.

Call early for more information and to reserve
your site.

Lake LaDonna

Oregon, IL 61061

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY
VIETNAM ANS CAMBODIA

Reunion - August 9-10-11, 2002 - Reunion
Music City Sheraton Hotel

Nashville, TN 37241

Tel:

CONTACT

Stephen R. Page

Holyoke, MA 01040

Tel:

E-Mail

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC, DE, KY, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV, MD, NJ

COMMANDER
David Eichhorn
Fleming, OH 45729

SECRETARY
Joe Tunis
Lake Ariel, PA 18436

VICE COMMANDER
Jay Flanagan
Cranford, NJ 07016

TREASURER
Mark Deam
Sidney, OH 45365

Leo Orfe - Sergeant-at-Arms
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

Some arrived early, others checked in on the first day of our Reunion, September 11th. Who would have thought it would be another "Day of Infamy" as we gathered at a historic landmark, The Lafayette Hotel on the riverfront in Marietta, Ohio.

In spite of the devastating news, we were able to enjoy each others company and the activities planned for us by Chairman Dave Eichorn.

We had a large accommodating hospitality room. Our thanks to Warren and Adele Reed for the bag of peanuts. Our thanks also to Mary Ann Flanagan for her finger licking good homemade cookies. Thank you Elsie Trout for the lemon pastries. Everyone appreciated these special treats.

On Wednesday morning we boarded the Valley Gem Sternwheeler for a riverboat ride to Blennerhassett Island in the Ohio River and a tour of the colonial Blennerhassett Mansion. On the return trip we enjoyed a hot buffet lunch.

Several of the ladies drove to nearby Belpre, Ohio to tour the Lee Middleton Doll Factory. Spotted carrying around a very life like baby doll was Joyce Deam.

A trolley tour of historic Marietta included a trip across the river to West Virginia and the Fenton Glass Factory. We were escorted on a tour of the factory and let loose in the gift shop with discount coupons. Leo Orfe was delighted a with bunch of butterflies he bought. And we hope Warren and Adele's daughter likes the glass cats they got her.

Thursday evening after the banquet dinner we held our business meeting. All officers were re-elected. Mark Deam was elected treasurer.

A motion was made and approved to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Al Barbieri and John O'Keefe. Both were faithful in attending our reunions and both passed away this year.

It was decided to hold our next reunion in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Robert Cudworth is our reunion chairman.

Adele Reed added to the banquet festivities by holding a raffle of gifts for every lady in attendance. Adele, thank you for your generosity.

Joe Tunis,
Secretary

ARE YOUR CHAPTER DUES PAID?

DO IT NOW!!!

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER

IL,IN,MI,MN,WI

COMMANDER
John Mathews
Verona, WI 53593

ADJ/FIN OFF
Terry Babler
New Glarus, WI 53574

The Great Lakes Chapter will be your hosts to the Americal Division National Reunion in Washington, DC during Veterans Day Weekend-November 8-12, 2002. The planning stages are done for the Registration Form. This Americal Newsletter should have all the updates for everyone to make out their reservations for rooms, at the Doubletree Hotel and elsewhere in DC.

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry will also have a Reunion at the Hotel. The 1/1 Cav had a Reunion in Florida in 1999 and decided to go with the Americal in DC this time. The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry was attached to the Americal in Vietnam and consisted of APC's, Sheridan tanks and Blackhawk Choppers. The troop consisted of: HQ (at Hawk Hill & Chu Lai), A,B,C,D,E Troops. The Cav was attached to, besides the Americal, the 196th LIB, 11th LIB, 101 Airborne and the 1st Armored Division. Today the 1st Cav has not come home from Vietnam. It is headquartered in Germany and some of those soldiers are 1/1 Cav Ass. members. The Cav had the 1st KIA in Bosnia. Terry Babler, who was attached as a Medical Corpman from the Americal to the Cav in Vietnam now serves as President of the 1/1 Cav Association.

The Great lakes Chapter last function was in new Glarus, Wisconsin where Veterans gathered from nineteen (19) States for the 16th Annual Winterfest R&R All Veterans Festival & Reunion on Jan 17-20, 2002. The 23rd MP's and the 1/1 Cav had nineteen (19) guys each, in attendance as well as many other units from the Americal. This is billed as the 1st Veterans Reunion of the year in the Nation. We will do it again next year. The dates are: January 16-19, 2003. Our Chapter will have their bi-yearly meetings at Jimmies in downtown New Glarus on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at 9 AM. All Americal veterans, wherever they live, are welcome to join us.

Events planned for the Great Lakes Chapter this year, besides the National Reunion are:

July 4th Weekend-Dearborn, MI-Details later.
Bill Allen, 1/20 is in charge.

September 19-22, 2003 Kokomo, IN
20th Annual Veterans Reunion.

We will have a table in the big tent, in Kokomo, on information and a hospitality area in the camping area. 30,000 Veterans gathered last year-over 120 Americal veterans signed in. An Americal group picture will be taken on Saturday, September 21st at the Main Flag at 3 P.M. CST. See updated flyers in the Great Lakes Chapter Newsletter on these events that will be mailed in May to all members.

If you are not a member, the dues are \$5.00 a year which covers two (2) Newsletters a year. One in May and one in November. YOUR DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!

Please send renewals or to join us to:

Terry Babler-Great Lakes Chapter
New Glarus, WI 53574

FAR WEST CHAPTER

AZ,CA,CO,HI,NV,NM,UT

COMMANDER
Larry O'Boyle
Rancho Santa Margarita
92688

SEC/TREAS
Gene McGrath
Pahrump, NV

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

REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION FAR WEST CHAPTER officers and reunion committee invite you to attend the 2002 reunion to be held in Reno, Nevada from Sunday September 29, to Wednesday October 2, at the Atlantis Casino Resort.

Rooms and and banquet dinner must be reserved in advance. A hospitality room will be available for members and guests as well as a program of optional activities in addition to the regular business meeting.

A dinner program will include featured entertainment and prize drawings. Possible activities being considered for those interested include a day trip to historic Virginia City and/or lunch at Tyson's Canyon Ranch, a Lake Tahoe Tour or visit to Harrah's Auto Museum may also be available. More information will be forthcoming.

Registration forms are available from Larry Levy, Reunion Chairman. Room reservations may be made by calling the hotel at [redacted] and referring to "Americal" to obtain the group rate of \$49 for the Lodge or \$69 for the Tower. (Regular rates are \$79 and \$99 respectively.)

Rooms must be reserved NOT later than August 30, 2002 for group rate.

REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Larry Levy
Reno, NV 95809-2989
Tel: [redacted]

Committee Members: John Bowley, Kurt McFadden,
Don Shebesta, Pat Tognoli

DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!

PRESS RELEASE: FAR WEST CHAPTER REUNION 2001

Over seventy members, spouses, and guests enjoyed activities and socializing amid warm temperatures and sunny weather as they gathered at the Edgewater Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada for the ADVA Far West Chapter annual reunion September 30, to October 3rd. There were many new faces as the Chapter gained 42 new members, mostly due to the hard work and dedication of the Membership Chairman and Chapter VC Don Shebesta.

A hospitality suite over looking the Colorado River proved an ideal place to renew old friendships and make new ones. There was also the opportunity to see some video tapes of recent visits to the Americal's area of operations in Vietnam.

Planned activities included a visit to the local

American Legion Post, a Flag raising ceremony, and a business meeting. Members donated many first class items for the raffle fund raiser. Everyone was a winner (even some who visited the Casinos!) The event culminated on the last night with a social hour followed by a floor show featuring the Nevada Silver Tappers. Our own Paris Tognoli also provided some wonderful vocal entertainment. After a sit down dinner, Commander Larry O'Boyle concluded by delivering a most inspirational and patriotic address.

Gene McGrath
Sec/Treas

Ed Note: Due to the break-down in my filing system this article on the Far West Chapter's Reunion failed to appear in the last issue. My apologies.

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

The Central Midwest Chapter is looking for a Commander. PNC Ron Ward has led this Chapter for several years and is looking for a replacement.

Ron served as National Commander in 1990-1991, the first Vietnam veteran to hold this office, and many other positions in the ADVA.

Ron states that he needs a vacation from any duties but promises to return to serve the ADVA in two years when he retires from his every day job.

If you are interested please contact Ron and he will fill you in on all the details. Contact him at:

PNC Ronald L. Ward
St. Louis, MO 63123-6510
Tel: [redacted]

ARE YOUR CHAPTER DUES PAID?

Each Chapter is self supporting and it is necessary for the Chapters to charge their members dues in order to pay for stationary and mailing costs to keep their members informed.

If you do not at present belong to a Chapter you should investigate the Chapter in your area and learn of the many functions and get-together they have. Read of their activities in the Americal Newsletter!

CENTRAL MIDWEST CHAPTER

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

The Central Midwest Chapter is looking for a new Chapter Commander. PNC Ron Ward has been Commander of this Chapter for several years and is looking for a replacement.

Ron states that he needs a vacation from any duties in the ADVA but promises to serve in two years when he retires from his every day job.

If you are interested please contact Ron at:

PNC Ronald L. Ward
St. Louis, MO 63123-6510
Telephone: [redacted]

Welcome from the National Commander

As we are well in to the Spring of the year I hope this finds all of you doing well and looking forward to the Summer months. As you know the National Reunion will not be in June as it has traditionally been. We have moved it to November 8-11 to be in Washington DC for Veterans Day. This will also be the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Although you may call it the Wall as I often do, we all know where it is and what it stands for. I am hoping this will allow many whom have not been there and seen it will do so at this time.

As we planned the D.C. reunion several years ago we anticipated that the WWII Memorial to be open. But it looks like same old song and same old story. I don't know the status of the memorial but all we can do is hope for the best.

The Old Guard has been very instrumental in keeping this organization to what it is today. My hat is off to them for a job well done and their dedication to keep working through some tough times. Several of our officers have been ill as of late, but they have not missed a beat.

I must also congratulate the New England Patriots of their Super Bowl victory as many of our members live in that area. I was in Fredericksburg, Texas in December for the Pearl Harbor Day Celebration. It was quite a day seeing the Pearl Harbor survivors riding in the parade and being recognized. I have recently appointed Tim Vail as the Finance Officer for the Scholarship Fund. I welcome him as a vital part of our team. We must not forget we still have a war abroad. Remember the young soldiers defending our country on foreign soil as we once did. Pray for our leaders that they make the decisions and finish it soon. Remember to Hug A Vet and I hope to see you all soon

Ronald R Ellis, 1/46th Infantry
National Commander
Americal Division Veterans Association

From the Senior Vice-Commander

I hope everyone's had the best holidays possible and that the winter months have been in your favor. The days are going by fast and it won't be long till the great days of summer are here. It won't be till after the long summer nights that we will all get together again. And I am looking forward to seeing everyone in D.C.. We have one of the greatest associations around with the greatest bunch of veterans as members. You have provided us with the freedoms that we, and the rest of the free world, enjoy today. We know what the price of freedom cost, so let us not forget about the men and women in the military today that are protecting are freedoms. With that I hope you have a great and safe summer and will be waiting to see everyone this fall.

Rich Scales, 3/21st Infantry
Senior Vice-Commander

From the Executive Council Chairman

You will soon receive a ballot in the mail for the election of ADVA officers. Elections are now held every two years. The slate of candidates will be presented by the Nominating Committee. Please take time to fill out your ballot and return it by the deadline. A maximum of four continuous years is the limit for these posts. This means that there is always ample opportunity for new

people to become part of the leadership of the association. The ADVA is always seeking members who are willing to contribute to the operation of the association. If you are interested in a post please contact any officer. The success of the association is dependent on those who will give of their time and experience to keep things running. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. I would like to close by extending my thanks to the nearly 4,000 dues paying members of the ADVA. Your interest in the association provides constant motivation to provide you with a quality organization. If you have suggestions on things that will make the association even better please let me know.

Gary L. Noller, 1/46th Infantry
Chairman, Executive Council

Reunion buddies?

This year the ADVA national reunion will depart from the traditional June date. It will be held November 8-12, 2002 in Washington, D.C. More reunion details can be found in the Americal Newsletter and on the ADVA website at www.americal.org/reunion.shtml. Many ADVA members have previously enjoyed visiting our nation's capitol. For others it will be the first time to see our well known monuments and government offices. It is destined to be a reunion that will stand out for a long time to come. Some members may like to attend the reunion are hesitant because of a variety of factors. The September 11 attacks on our country have increased anxiety about travelling. There is a way to help make the trip more enjoyable- find a buddy to enjoy it with. A buddy can help with things like navigating the transportation system, getting checked in and out of the hotel, making events on time, handling luggage, not getting lost, and just plain having some fun. Remember how necessary buddies were in the war? If this sounds like a good idea to you please contact Gary Noller at [redacted] Blue Springs, MO, 64014, [redacted]. He will assist in getting people together. Please specify if you are a seasoned visitor to D.C. or if you are looking for someone who is. Thanks for your help.

Get Well cards requested

Mr. W. Mark Durley, Historian Emeritus of the Americal Division Veterans Association, recently suffered a heart attack and is now on the mend. Cards and letters from fellow Americal veterans are greatly appreciated. Durley served with HQ and Co. L of the 164th Infantry Regiment. His interest in military history began while he attended ROTC training. He served as ADVA Historian for many years and resigned his post in 1999 due to family health problems. He has acquired a room full of documents and references about the war in the South Pacific and the involvement of the Americal Division. He compiled comprehensive listings of the order of battle, lineage, heraldry, and distinctive insignia of Americal units of all eras. At the national reunion in Reno, NV he presented a special display of the flags of all the countries where the Americal Division has served. Durley continues his interest in education and is a supporter of the Americal Scholarship Foundation. He is currently involved in an oral history project in his home state. Send your get well wishes to Mr. W. Mark Durley, [redacted], Fresno, CA 93704.

BETRAYED BY THE WHITE HOUSE

Japan's Former Prisoners Deserve Compensation
By Iris Chang

Last month, Congress overwhelmingly approved a provision, added to a spending bill, that would have prevented federal agencies from opposing civil lawsuits by former prisoners of war against the Japanese individuals or corporations. The White House succeeded in having the provision struck in a conference committee; the Bush administration feared it might interfere with gathering international support for the war on terrorism. A week later, on the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Bush and his father paid glowing tributes to the memory of World War II veterans. The President compared the Sept. 11 tragedy to Japan's surprise attack on December 7, 1941, while his father announced that "duty, honor, country" still prevail.

This behavior reveals a stunning double standard. The United States government aggressively supported claims of European victims of wartime forced labor. The end result was a \$5.2 billion fund to settle claims. But for American victims in the Pacific Theater the United States has taken the side of Japanese companies--including Mitsubishi, Mitsui and Nippon Steel--against the roughly 5000 Americans still alive of the 36,000 servicemen used as slave labor during World War II.

A California Superior Court judge, Peter Lichtman, made note of this when he permitted a slave labor lawsuit to go forward under California law. Mr. Lichtman wrote that he was "greatly troubled" by this "uneven" treatment: "This policy, if it is a policy, appears to be legally unsupportable."

There is an alternative to the Bush policy. In March 2001, two California congressmen--Republican Dana Rohrabacher and Democrat Michael Honda--introduced the Justice for the United States Prisoners of War Act of 2001 to permit American veterans to invoke Article 26 of the 1951 peace treaty between Japan and the Allied nations. This bill now enjoys strong bipartisan support and, if passed, will permit former prisoners to pursue reparations against Japanese individuals and companies in American courts without interference from the American government.

Article 26 of the peace treaty states: "Should Japan make a peace settlement or war claims settlement with any State granting that State greater advantages than those provided by the present Treaty, those same advantages shall be extended to the parties to the present Treaty." Because Japan has paid reparations to several other countries, including Switzerland and the Netherlands, it is now the responsible for making equal settlements with the United States. Above all, human rights attorneys argue that the 1951 treaty cannot block private litigation even if it was intended to waive reparations between governments.

The decision of the Bush administration to wage a legal fight against its own veterans is shortsighted as well as morally insupportable. A sustained assault against terrorism will require men and women who believe their country and their commander in chief stand behind them. Americans should be ashamed that the government is now prepared to sacrifice the interest of a previous generation of soldiers in order to woo their former enemy.

Our leaders in Washington must not be permitted to sell out the men who gave so much in the fight for freedom. Otherwise, what shall live in infamy will not be Pearl Harbor and Sept 11, but this unjust betrayal. If we are to have another "greatest generation" We must duly honor the rights of the first one. Iris Chang is the author of "The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II." It was carried in the December 24, 2001 issue of the New York Times.

(This article sent in by Homer Ross)

Ed Note: Everyone should read the above book. I cannot understand why our soldiers, who were prisoners of the Japanese, have not been paid reparations long before this. Maybe all those veterans driving Japanese cars should turn them in for an American car!

MORE ON THE INVASION

I read with considerable interest Mr. James Davis's article on American plans for the invasion of Japan. (Americal Newsletter Jul-Aug-Sep 01 issue). As an addendum to his perceptive article, I refer Americal Newsletter readers to two fairly recent books on American planning for the invasion and on Japanese planning for the defense.

John Ray Skates, The Invasion of Japan: Alternative to the Bomb. University of South Carolina Press, 1994, ISBN: 0-87249-972-3.

Richard B. Frank, Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire. Random House 1999, ISBN 0-679-41424-X

Ray Skates is principally concerned with the planned invasion and the Japanese defense. Skates study is based on extensive interviews with Japanese planners and visits to Kyushu and other planned landing sites. The Frank book is broader in scope, focusing high-level Japanese planning for its defense in the context of the bombing raids then underway. Freon has access to many recently opened archives in Japan, as well as an intimate knowledge of that country.

Both books provide solid insights into possible military operations in the fall and winter of 1945--and Americal Division veterans of that period can thank President Truman for his decision to use atomic weapons in August 1945.

Congratulations on an interesting and informative Newsletter. One complaint, however: There was no mention of the fine reunion veterans of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade enjoyed this past summer in Gettysburg, PA--perhaps in the next issue!

Sincerely,
William P. Snyder
3/21 Infantry
Vietnam 1968

Ed Note: Thank you for your kind remarks. Gary Noller deserves half of this 'Thanks' for his part in putting together the Vietnam News.

I am only to happy to receive and print stories from members of the Americal and also articles on coming Reunions and stories about these Reunions. However, someone must send them to me before I can print them. Please contact the Chairman of the 196 LIB Reunion and ask him to send in a story on that Reunion and any future Reunion.

57th ENGINEERS



Carlo A. Pola with two Pals - Guadalcanal 1942

The following are the names of veterans of the 57th Engineers that are members of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Henry A. Aubin	John August
Leroy J. Bourne	Daryl D. Brown
Joseph A. Bruno	James R. Carlin
Paul J. Chappell	Dean M. Christiansen
Jack R. Clarida	Charles F. Clark
Clyde R. Collins	Theodore F. Coughlin
John G. Coyne	Raymond J. Dorazio
Frank Dudek	Ernest P. Fenochetti
John E. Ferdinand	Harold E. Gray
Jacob Jacobsen	Carl E. Kohler
Henry E. Lague	Victor G. Lander
Pat Leccese	Robert McCulloch
James J. McGregor	John V. Medeiros
Gordon H. Morse	James A. Naugler
Joseph D. Paladin	Carlo A. Pola
Mark D. Reed	Edward J. Rockowitz
Robert A. Rutledge	Arthur H. Sagan
Matthew Struzzula	Geore C. Strom
Myles A. Sweeney	John C. Taylor
William D. Trubiano	Robert E. Van Osdol
Darrell Wardian	John D. Wood
Wayne G. Wood	Clint Zimlich

The following men have passed away and their wives are members of the ADVA:

Paul V. Barnes	William E. Boos
John E. Brennan	William Henderson
George E. Morash	Henry B. Morash
James A. Peoples	Henry E. Perkins
Joseph Piscopo	Leo R. Quirk
Robert Tinnell	

Patricia Donohue is the daughter of PNC Howard Elliott.

Ed Note: I am putting this list of members into the Americal Newsletter in hope of getting old buddies together again. I have succeeded in doing this several times in the past month and it has been most rewarding.

C COMPANY 132nd INFANTRY

When I read the December 2001 issue of the Americal Newsletter I came across a familiar name--Richard Heath.

I joined the Americal on the Fiji Islands in 1943. The Americal had been in combat on Guadalcanal and had been sent to Fiji for R&R. Richard and his buddy both served in the Guadalcanal campaign.

I can't speak for the other replacements, but I was treated real good as a green new member of Company C, 132nd Infantry. Most of the men of Company C were either sick or had been wounded.

I will never forget listening to them talk about their experiences in combat against the Japs. Richard was in the machine gun squad and very fortunate to survive.

I was "volunteered" to the 60 MM mortar squad and spent two years in the Americal on Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu and Lacao.

I saw that Richard was asking about other members of C Company. I had been in touch with Tony Martinez until his death a few years ago and I also wrote to Richard.

I often think about these men that I spent those years with and would like to know about their lives after their service.

Would like very much to contact the following men:

Ted Laurenti - Eugene Karraker - Woodrow Widner
Wayne Noll - Ceaser Decereaux

Monty Greene

Media, PA 19063-4603

Ed Note: Sorry to say there is nothing on the above men in the ADVA files. You could try waiting to the following name. Rocco is President of the 132nd Infantry Association and he may have something on them.

Mr. Rocco Solto

Roselle, IL 60172

Telephone: [REDACTED]

L COMPANY - 132 INFANTRY

I want to thank the staff of the Americal Newsletter for the great job that they are doing with every issue.

I deeply regret that I had not joined the ADVA year ago. I have really enjoyed the Newsletter.

Since I was a member of the 132nd Infantry I would like to know if they are still putting out a Newsletter, and if so, who would I contact to get on the mailing list.

Ed Note: Thanks for the compliments. They are really appreciated by the staff. The man to contact is:

Mr. Rocco Solto

Roselle, IL 60172

THE BATTLE FOR BLOODY HILL 260

Bougainville is one of the larger islands in the Solomon group. The island is a very good example of what deep jungle is like. It is long and shaped like a skinny string-bean with a thick mat of tall branchy trees and tenacle-like veins. Most of the island is very swampy, but the best part of it is the fine beaches of sand which extend about eight miles.

On this island the Americal Division, of which I was a member at the time, had its front protective lines formed in a pattern of a half-circle so that both ends touched the beach. The line, at its deepest point, was measured at eight miles. Hill 260 was just fifteen hundred yards beyond our front lines. On the Hill stood the tallest tree on the entire island. From the top of this tree, where we maintained an artillery observation post, one could see and command out front lines and airfields. This hill, because of its particular characteristics on the map, was known only as Hill 260. It was 260 feet high and five hundred feet long, and was so thickly covered with undergrowth that the soil was always wet and cool. The Hill was very steep and the damp ground added to the tremendous difficulty one encountered in climbing and cutting his way to its crest. There was no available water, therefore water and food had to be carried up on the backs of the men.

The island had fifteen feet of rainfall annually. This tremendous amount of rainfall seemed a blessing to us for satisfying our thirst, but the misery that it brought to our comfort and living never did compensate for it. The ground, when wet, would turn to black sticky mud and give off an odor such as the stench of the dead.

During the past month, our patrols had been advancing beyond Hill 260 for a distance of about five thousand yards. Fifteen Jap prisoners had been brought in and interrogated, and each one gave some information. The Japs were planning an all out and final banzai attack in an attempt to push us off the island and into the sea. The attack was to begin on the 10th of March, just two days away. It appeared as if all our long preparations, such as the digging of fox holes and gun emplacements, cutting of firing lanes, and setting up barbed wire entanglements, were finally going to pay off.

On the evening of March 8th, we were sitting in our fox holes writing our last letter home before we were to leave the next morning. The next morning was the day that our company was to relieve the men that were maintaining the security of Hill 260. We knew that we were to be on the Hill at the time of the expected attack. We also knew that '260' would be the first point of contact made with the enemy. With our letters completed and our personal belongings taken care of, we broke up into groups for some quiet conversation and reminiscing.

During the night the usual enemy air attack proved beyond a doubt that they still had plenty of bombs to drop. The next morning, the 9th, we were roused from our fox holes with speed and impatience. The Company Commander assembled us all together and informed us that the Japs had begun their attack, and that they were firing on Hill 260. There had not been any report from the Hill as to how conditions were there, except to say they were being fired upon. We allowed ourselves a hasty breakfast, packed our field packs, and replenished our ammunition belts. The

sun was beginning to rise now and we were striking out for our objective.

The sun was high, and the day was beautiful as we reached the foot of the Hill. We could now hear the firing of rifles and an occasional burst of mortar fire. We halted to prepare for the climb to the top of the Hill. As we started to climb the Hill, with one scout forward, we had gone only twenty yards when we made contact with three wounded Americans on their way down the Hill for medical aid. For many of us this was the first time that we had seen a man who had just been shot. We made our way up the Hill in good spirits, helping each other with our loads. We had advanced up to within one hundred yards of the top, when we were received with a burst of enemy machine gun fire. We hit the ground and began to crawl for the cover of a tree trunk on land depression. Soon the report came back that two of our scouts and one officer had been killed. I had seen combat before, but I had never walked so easily into an ambush. Soon we were on our way gain, but with more caution and more fear. We moved another fifteen yards and were fired on again. This time the Company Commander ordered all troops to deploy and seek cover. Months of training made this command an easy one.

The officers were called together for a short briefing and orientation of the present situation. Soon we learned that the Japs had taken over the Hill at dawn and had the men that we were to relieve trapped in their holes. Knowing what this meant, we prayed for their safety for we realized that each shot we fired might be hitting our own men. The order we were expecting came, and the attack was on. I fixed my bayonet and began to run, creep, crawl, and jump toward the top of the Hill. I had moved about twenty yards when the whole countryside seemed to open with a roar. I found myself with my face in the mud, and the three fellows next to me were dead. I raised my head slowly and looked up the Hill. There was no one ahead of me. I looked around and could see my buddies motioning me to crawl back. I began to crawl, and had made a few feet successfully, when I felt something hit my pack and send me rolling down the Hill. When I reached my buddies, they counted fifty holes in the remains of my pack.

Our first attack had been halted before we really got started. Badly frightened and very much afraid, we made temporary camp for that night. Soon orders came that we were to lay down a mortar barrage, and immediately attack again. Being a mortar squad leader, I knew that I would have to go forward to observe my firing. I assembled my squad together, checked our ammunition, and reported to the Company Commander. He told me my mission and asked me if I thought I could do it. I told him I would try and proceeded to carry out his orders.

I had to advance my gun and crew farther than I expected in order to get a clear overhead fire. Moving with caution and a prayer on our lips, we crawled forward until we reached the position of my calculations. I deployed my squad to assure our own protection. I set my gun into position and was ready to begin firing, when I discovered that I had neglected to collect ammunition from my squad before I deployed them. I began to crawl back to get the ammunition when suddenly I was lifted off the ground only to come down with twice the ascending force. Looking around I saw the gun that I had just set in position--now only a pile of twisted metal--the result of a direct hit from a Jap knee mortar shell. Assembling my squad together, we rejoined our company. I reported my

failure to the Company Commander and received his blessing.

After many attempts, the Company Commander made contact, by radio, with the artillery which was supporting us. After the fire order had been translated successfully, the big shells soon began coming our way. We moved back down the hill a short distance, out from the path of our own artillery shells. The big guns began their fire and the projectiles soon were screaming over our heads. Soon the entire top of the Hill was gutted and torn. It was good to see the destruction going on, but I felt a tightening knot in my stomach when I thought of our boys, who were trapped in their holes being blown to bits.

After the big guns had completed their firing mission, we began to advance back up the Hill. Moving slowly through the underbrush and whistling bullets, we advanced until we were twenty yards farther than we had been before, only to be stopped by machine gun fire. The sun was beginning to go down and we were ordered to take the Hill at all costs before dark. Word was passed through the Company that anyone that knew how to operate a flame thrower should report to the Company Commander. Upon reporting, I learned that one large pillbox, directly in front of us, had halted our entire Company. The Company Commander told me that it would be a difficult task, and that I could decline if I wished. The pillbox looked so near and insignificant that I decided to go.

Strapping the flame thrower to my back, I began to crawl forward toward my objective. Within a few yards of the pillbox, my buddies opened fire over my head to keep the enemy down. I adjusted the valves of the flame thrower and began moving closer. Within twenty feet of my objective, I pressed the button to ignite the fluid in the gun. The gun resounded with a loud pop and flame shot out with terrific heat and with force directly into the opening of the pillbox. Feelings of joy surged through my body as two Japs came running from the inflamed pillbox bathed in fire. Their screams of pain and the smell of their flesh burning left me unmoved. When the fuel in the tank of the flame thrower was exhausted, I began to crawl back to join my buddies.

I had crawled for about ten yards when I heard a loud explosion, saw a flash of light, and felt a pain in my back as though it had been broken. I slumped to the ground and lay still for what seemed hours. I tried to move my legs, and to my surprise I found them responding sufficiently to crawl back to my Company, tired, weak, and dizzy. The pain in my back, which was caused by a knee mortar shell landing there and striking the flame thrower, began to fade away. The wound inflicted by the shell was not serious, but loss of blood left me weak.

The inky darkness of the tropics melted down around us and we could do nothing towards advancing our position until morning. The firing had all but ceased as we formed our perimeter, dug our trenches, and lay down to rest and wait. I was very tired and sleepy, but could not close my eyes. I lay on my back looking up at the stars and praying to the Lord that I would come out of this alive. I could see my mother and family waving good-bye to me the day I left for the Army. Tears came to my eyes, my lips began to quiver, and I was overcome by fear. Yes, I was afraid, not of the penetrating darkness, nor of what might happen during the night, but afraid to see the daylight

come again. When daylight came, we would try to take the Hill again. I prayed to the Lord to let this night be the longest night the world had ever known. Soon I was asleep.

A voice shouting awakened me. It sounded as if it came from the top of the Hill. The voice was calling a name. The second time it called one of my buddies answered. A shot from the top of the Hill pierced the air. My buddy lay dead. The Japs were shouting at us in an effort to make us disclose our position.

Daylight was ushered in, in a cacophony of noise. The air was filled with discharges of rifle, machine guns and mortars. The orders came to prepare for attack. We shoved off for the top of the Hill, but we were soon halted. This time we began to receive firing from the rear, from both sides and from the front. The Japs had surrounded us during the night. We were trapped! Our casualties were mounting up to a dangerous toll. The order came to break through in a downward direction. It was every man for himself to get out of the trap and to safety. My squad volunteered to stay behind and return fire on the enemy for ten minutes, then run for their lives. Five minutes passed. My gunner and I were the total remains of my squad of six. We started down the Hill and soon he was out of sight. As I ran down the Hill avoiding all trails, the vines and limbs struck my face and coiled around my legs. I struggled through their grasp for another thirty yards. A blinding explosion knocked me to the ground. My efforts to rise to my feet were in vain. I began to crawl with little success. As I continued crawling down the Hill, the inky blackness closed in around me. Tired and having lost all sense of distance, I lay down exhausted, and soon was asleep.

The next morning I was awakened by a hand shaking my shoulders. Opening my eyes, I looked up, expecting to see a little brown face with slanting eyes and buck teeth. Tears of joy rained down my face when I looked into the eyes of a white man--eyes filled with mercy. I had been found just twenty yards from our own front lines by a patrol.

Back behind our own lines, receiving special treatment in a medical aid station and enjoying my first food for sixty hours, the only thing dampening my spirit was being told that only fourteen men were alive from a Company of 140.

(Written by S/Sgt. Estel F. Campbell in 1945 while attending the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.)

Ed Note: Sgt. Campbell was a member of E Company, 182nd Infantry. After fifty years I succeeded in locating his family only to find he had passed away in October of 1990. His wife sent me the above story and I told her I would publish it in the Americal Newsletter.

The official count of casualties for E Company during the assault on Hill 260 was seventeen (17) enlisted men 'Killed in Action' and eighty-six (86) 'Wounded in Action. One (1) Officer was KIA and six (6) officers were WIA.

With about twenty-five (25) men still fit for duty E Company made an orderly withdrawal while under fire.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

A MILLION "DOLLAR" TREE ON HILL 260

The War Situation Elsewhere

In March 1944 the Japanese crossed the border of India. The German troops swept into Hungary, and the Allies were planning the invasion of Normandy, while on Bougainville during 10-27 March 1944 at Hill 260, some of the Pacific theater's fiercest infantry fighting occurred. Within an area approximately one city block, measuring 825 yards in length and 450 yards in width, the Japanese and American Infantry slugged it out.

Hill 260 was hourglass in shape, consisting of two knobs; a north knob, separated by a saddle, and a south knob. A dense rain forest of Banyan trees and jungle stretched to the edge and over the twin knobs. Strategical Hill 260 rose from the Torokina River to the east and the Eagle River to the west.

Building The Observation Post

In early March 1944 the Japanese were planning their offensive against the American perimeter. To prevent a "surprise attack," Capt. Edward Roeder of the 247th Field artillery wanted a forward observation post built on Hill 260. This hill was east of the main Bougainville perimeter at the edge of the Eagle River. From Hill 260's observation post one had excellent visibility of

the entire American perimeter.

Capt. Roeder met with Lt. Victor Lander and Sgt. William Nickerson. They had a security detail of Company 'A' 182nd Infantry.

The group left from the Eagle River perimeter; crossed through the double apron fixed, barbed wire and cleared the mine fields. The patrol crossed the Eagle River and laboriously climbed to the top of Hill 260 and met the reinforced platoon containing three officers and 80 enlisted men from 'G' Company, 182nd Infantry. The security patrol brought them a warm meal carried in Marmite (Thermos) cans.

Capt. Roeder selected a tall 135-foot banyan tree on the forward east slope of the south knob. His troops carried in the lumber and Lt. Lander of the 57th Combat Engineers constructed the stairs with wooden cross strips up to the 130-foot level. There they built a platform. This observation post platform was large enough for around the clock surveillance. It contained two cots, telephones, radios, and long range artillery scopes.

According to Lt. Lander the view from the platform was spectacular. To the east one saw the scoured out plains of the flooded Torokina River which had swollen to 1,500 feet wide. To the south was the Pacific Ocean stretching to the horizon. To the northeast was the smoking, rumbling, earth-shaking volcano--Mount Bagana. One could see Hills 309 and 608 with its ridge known as "Snuffy's Nose." The entire American perimeter was clearly visible in the other direction. One could distinguish the road network, the airfields, the bivouac area, the numerous supply dumps and the American fleet at anchor. The observation post on Hill 260 was not camouflaged.

The Strategical Value Of Hill 260

On Hill 260, especially in the shadow of the observation post banyan tree, the Americans and the Japanese fought one of the most intense and fiercest battles on Bougainville. The observation

post Banyan tree became a symbol to both fighting men. Whoever held the tree, "held Hill 260." This Hill was the key to the American perimeter. The Japanese were ordered to take the hill at "all costs."

"Hold at all costs," the Americans were ordered by XIV Corps Headquarters.

Throughout the course of battle the observation post exchanged hands several times. So significant was the battle of Hill 260 that Gen. William A. McCulloch took personal command. Unfortunately, he committed his troops to action in a "piecemeal" manner.

Initially, 'G' Company 182nd Infantry occupied a perimeter around the tree's base to protect the artillery observers. The remainder of the Second Battalion 182nd Infantry occupied a defense line west of the Eagle River. The river formed a natural moat between the perimeter and Hill 260. In addition, at the Eagle River, they were protected by a double apron barbed wire and a large anti-personnel mine field.

Hill 260 The Japanese Key To The Piva Airfields The Japanese Bougainville Island command was determined to occupy the hill. The Third Battalion of the Japanese 136th Infantry Regiment, 6th Division was committed to take Hill 260. The Japanese battalion commander was Maj. Hokonuhara. The Japanese plan was to reach their objective rapidly and with surprise. Other Japanese troops would drive through the center of the Americal Division's main line of resistance, to the American's heavy installations and the Piva Airfields.

The Japanese planned to occupy the Piva airstrips seven days after Hill 260 was taken. The observation post tree was to be used by the Japanese in directing their own artillery fire onto the Bougainville perimeter. This observation post tree became a symbol to both the Japanese and the Americans. During the battle of Hill 260 it was lost and retaken by the Americans several times.

To capture and hold this hill took sheer guts. As individual infantry men from the 132nd Infantry and the 182nd Infantry, they rose above themselves in toughness and determination during the battle around the tall observation post banyan tree. It was here the Japanese and Americans slugged it out "toe-to-toe" for an 18 days and nights fight. Orders from XIV Corps Headquarters was to "hold Hill 260 regardless of the cost in American lives."

During the battle every available type of American jungle weapon was used, including flame throwers, rocket grenades, bazookas, bangalore torpedoes and even homemade modification of the 60 mm mortar. It was used as a knee mortar and was designed by 1st Lt. Sam LoPorta. In addition, gasoline cans were catapulted. Included in the armament was a 200-foot pipeline constructed and pushed through to the Japanese position at the base of the observation post tree. Gasoline was poured into the pipe and delivered to the Japanese position. White phosphorous grenades ignited the gasoline. Above all, the skills, the "guts," the determination, and most of all the steadfastness of the American infantry was the "secret weapon" to take the hill.

The Battle Starts

The battle of Hill 260 started on 9 March 1944 when Japanese infiltrating action began. At 1940 hours 'G' Company 182nd Infantry received

scattered mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire. Unfortunately, just previously an American ambush post was moved from the southeast slope of Hill 260 to the northeast slope. This empty area was exactly where the Japanese attacked. The infantry was prepared well in advance for the attack.

The Japanese quietly crossed the Torokina River. They avoided prior American patrols as they moved into position. The American ambush outpost was called in for the night. This area was covered by our artillery fire. At 0550 hours on 10 March, Japan's Army Day, the quiet of the jungle suddenly exploded into a green hell.

With swiftness and in battalion force the Japanese launched their attack at the southeast corner of the perimeter. A small American force, consisting of a single platoon of 36 riflemen from 'G' Company, reinforced by a nine-man squad of the 60mm mortar section, and 15 men from the LMG section. They were entrenched around the observation post tree and the southeast spur of Hill 260. Included in the perimeter were two mortar observers from 'H' Company's 81mm mortar section, two radio operators, four men from the battalion's intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, six artillery observers (one officer) from 'A' Battery. 246th Field Artillery and two battalion aid men. 2nd Lt. John Roush was in command of the ground units.

At 0550 hours the sun started to rise like any other day on the outpost perimeter. Before the sun set that evening the vast majority of Americans on Hill 260 would be either dead or wounded. Sgt. Felix P. Lickoral gave the first warning of the Japanese assault. He accidentally observed the enemy starting to deploy for the attack. The sergeant was wounded, and later evacuated.

Sgt. William D. Holland, another squad leader, heard the warning and alerted the perimeter. 2nd Lt. Earl E. Excell and Pvt. William C. Creno from the Field Artillery were on the observation post platform. Lt. Excell sent Pvt. Creno down the tree and he remained to direct artillery fire. The Japanese occupied the area around the tree. Lt. Excell ordered artillery fire to drop directly on his position; both men were killed. Another artillery man, Pfc. John J. Zamlen was ready to climb up the tree to relieve Pvt. Creno when he too, was killed.

The Japanese unleashed a concentrated artillery shelling of Hill 260 prior to the infantry assault. At 0630 hours 2nd Lt. John D. Hogan, second in command, moved out of his mortar command post toward the fire fight; this was the last time Lt. Hogan was ever seen.

The Japanese split the American garrison into two groups; one on the north slope and one on the south slope. The Japanese struck with lightning speed and cut American telephone communication wires. The Japanese got inside the American barbed wire, over ran the American positions, and even occupied the American alternate positions. They also secured the water point in the bamboo patch. The Japanese swarmed about the roots of the gigantic observation post tree and dug in.

Five hours after the attack began, the Japanese reinforced their significant tactical penetration. The 20 Americans of 'G' Company defending the south perimeter were believed killed. Only 42 men occupied the northern end of Hill 260; they prevented the Japanese from taking the north knob.

The Japanese Gain A Foothold:
At 0730 hours Lt. Stone of 'F' Company found the

entire south perimeter over-run by Japanese troops. He used his men to reinforce the north perimeter. The Japanese were now using captured American grenades and throwing them back at the Americans. The 182nd Infantry Second Battalion Commander greatly underestimated the Japanese attacking strength.

At 1000 hours 'F' Company's two platoons with Company 'E' were led to the saddle. There they met Col. William J. Mahoney and Lt. Willard. The First Platoon faced the observation post banyan tree. Sgt. Barlitus and his squad, with Company Headquarters, went to the left of the First Platoon. The Third Platoon completed the perimeter and secured its rear. Later in the morning two men from 'G' Company's Weapon Platoon crawled to the south knob and removed the back plate of two heavy machine guns to prevent the Japanese turning them on the Americans. Company 'E' and Company 'F' pulled back to form a perimeter on the north knob for the night. At 2100 hours the Japanese launched a bayonet attack; it was repulsed by the Americans.

Japanese Reinforcements Occupy The Hill
Throughout the night 10-11 March the Japanese were able to strongly reinforce their positions and withstood the American intense artillery and mortar barrages, flame throwers, bazookas, thermite grenades, white phosphorous grenades and the coordinated American attacks.

On 11 March 1944 two men of 'F' Company, 182nd Infantry crawled forward, exposed to Japanese fire, and dragged out ten cases of American hand grenades from the south knob. They were in full view of the Japanese because they could see the Japanese.

The fighting exhausted both sides. Casualties were extremely high. The Japanese were well re-inforced with large numbers of light and heavy machine guns. They frequently fired heavy barrages of both knee and 90mm mortars, especially at night. A direct hit wiped out six men of 'F' Company's mortar sector. American casualties were extremely heavy, especially for 'G' Company. Company 'E' had all three officers wounded and 15 out of 33 enlisted men were wounded. They were depleted in man power to the point that they were ineffective for battle.

Lt. Col. Dexter Lowry, Second Battalion Commander, 182nd Infantry, went to Hill 260 to take charge. He was extremely emotional and was believed by some men (not) to think clearly. Fix bayonets was ordered by him. He planned to charge up the hill and take the Japanese position. Lowry wanted no man to leave unless he personally gave the orders or if he (Col. Lowry) was killed. Gen. McCulloch now commanded the campaign. He recalled Col. Lowry back to 182nd Infantry Headquarters.

Outstanding Junior Officer Leadership
Junior officer leadership was outstanding, especially by such officers as Lts. Oertle, Karl, Willard, Stone, Ricker, Hammett and Roush. Lt. David O'Rourke of Fond du Lac, WI demonstrated outstanding, fearless leadership qualities. He was a true "professional soldier." Later he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for exceptional bravery. His counterpart from the 132nd Infantry was Lt. Fred A. Kaps who later led Company 'A' in retaking Hill 260.

Companies 'E' and 'G' launched an all out attack from the west. Simultaneously the Japanese attacked from the south and southeast. Both American companies fell back. The observation post tree's

broad base was fortified by the Japanese. Implanted among the banyan tree's roots were several Nambu machine guns. The Americans placed trail blocks of one squad on the new 'B' Trail as well as at the old trails. The fighting men of the 182nd dug in on the north knob of Hill 260 for the night. At 1800 hours 11 March a concentrated artillery barrage supplemented with an 81mm mortar barrage rained down on the Japanese. In spite of the devastating barrage throughout the night the Japanese re-inforced and strengthened their hold on Hill 260.

The 132nd Infantry On Hill 260

Lt. Thomas R. Allen of the 132nd Infantry and one squad of flame throwers reported to Gen. McCulloch. Eventually flame thrower operators from the 164th Infantry joined in on the battle. They moved forward to Hill 260 with one platoon of 'B' Company of the 182nd Infantry.

At 1830 hours two flame throwers blanketed the base of the observation post tree. The flame burst was short. It reflected across and through the trench network. After the flames died down, the advances continued towards the observation post tree only to receive heavy Japanese machine gun fire. Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge re-inforced his order that the 182nd Infantry hold Hill 260 at "all and any possible cost."

Companies 'A' and 'B' from the 132nd Infantry with the First Battalion communications section and Pioneer Platoon were placed in mobile reserves and assigned to Gen. William A. McCulloch.

On "Bloody Sunday." 12 March 1944, after a relatively quiet night on Hill 260, the Americans started their assault. Lt. Thomas R. Allen's squad of flame throwers and one platoon from 'B' Company made an attack in a southeasterly direction. Unfortunately, the flame was short and the men with the flame throwers were exposed to deadly enemy fire. In spite of great risk they destroyed two pillboxes 75 yards from the observation post tree.

The First Battalion 132nd Infantry Pioneer Platoon started to cut an alternate trail (the C-Trail) across the Eagle River north of the northwest knob of Hill 260. The trail was farther north than the old trail and ended on the northwest finger of the north knob. Shortly after 0700 hours, the Japanese opened with a barrage of mortar shells and several rounds of artillery fell among the American positions. American ammunition supplies became low on Hill 260.

Company 'B' 182nd Infantry with six flame throwers attacked the south knob. Company 'F' was a base of fire and Company 'B' moved out in a column of platoons. Concealed Japanese infantrymen caught Company 'B' in a cross fire producing many casualties. They withdrew to safety.

That evening the 132nd Infantry's 'A' Company was committed to battle. Capt. Frank A. Nehls led the company up the old south trail. Darkness did not permit a prior reconnaissance. However, Lt. David O'Rourke of the 182nd Infantry personally directed "A" Company's advance toward the south knob. The men moved forward in single file.

At 1730 hours Capt. Nehls was advancing forward to set up a trail block on the southwest hill. As darkness approached, O'Rourke in the lead, guided Capt. Nehls, his company unknowingly into an ambush. All officers, except O'Rourke, were killed or wounded. Some were reported missing in action. During the ambush, T/Sgt. Nicholas M. Grimaldi and 14 men were killed.

At 1900 hours a sergeant who was in the company 'B' ambush action volunteered to set up a trail block on the east-west trail at the Eagle River. Col. Daehler knew of the adverse conditions at the front; respected the man's judgement and he put in for a battlefield commission for the sergeant. It was immediately approved and that night he joined Lt. Kaps in Company 'A'.

By verbal order, Gen. McCulloch had 1st Lt. O'Rourke briefly take command of 'A' Company. At 1900 hours 'A' Company withdrew from Hill 260 and returned to the main line of resistance with the 182nd Infantry at the Eagle River for the night to reorganize.

At 1930 hours 1st Lt. Fred A. Kaps, then a First Battalion Staff Officer, (S-3) was asked by Maj. Raymond Daehler "Are you ready to take command of 'A' Company?" Kaps replied, "As ready as ever, Sir."

Within 12 hours Lt. Kaps returned 'A' Company into battle at Hill 260. Company 'C' 132nd Infantry led by 1st Lt. George Haycock with the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon had improved the new trail named "C" Trail leading to the north knob of Hill 260.

During the ensuing eight days, Lt. Kaps was wounded twice and refused evacuation. One wound penetrated his body in more than 30 places. He remained in command for the following intense and bitter fighting. His runner, Pvt. Robards was always by his side. His officers were outstanding. They included: Lts. Walter S. Lanford, Jr., Gideon Russell, Laurie S. Robertson, and Ralph N. Karam. Lt. Kaps' leadership was instrumental in defeating the Japanese and in securing Hill 260. For his outstanding performance at Hill 260 he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor.

At 0715 hours 13 March 1944 Company 'A' secured the new north trail. Gen. McCulloch ordered Company 'A' and Company 'B' to Hill 260. Maj. Raymond Daehler, now a retired Colonel of Infantry, residing in San Antonio, TX, held responsibility for trail security. He was relieved by Maj. Marsiren of the 182nd Infantry and assumed command of Hill 260.

Many activities started to occur. A carrying party from the First Battalion brought up much needed ammunition, water, and food to Hill 260. Maj. Daehler made reconnaissance for new routes to Hill 260.

At 1335 hours Company 'A' relieved Company 'I' 182nd Infantry. At 1355 hours Company 'B' commanded by Capt. Arthur Hantel crossed the Eagle River and moved forward to attack Hill 260.

Throughout the morning another terrific artillery and 4.2 mortar barrages was placed on the Japanese. The artillery was able to move their fire to cover several targets most effectively. Company "B" attacked and moved a short distance before they were stopped.

Company 'B' troops were under attack by heavy Japanese mortars. The American and Japanese infantry encounters at Hill 260 were escalating in an extremely intense manner. The opposing adversary made every attempt to "push" each other off the Hill. At 1610 hours the Japanese launched a counter attack around the north flank of Company "B". The reserve platoon was committed. Company "B" fell back to the Hill 260 perimeter.

Lt. Kaps of Company 'A' sent one platoon led by 1st Lt. Gilbert H. Siderberg to the right and

another led by Lt. Robertson to the left of the observation post tree. The Japanese used this tree as a natural fortification. Unfortunately, there was no covered approach to this tree. Now both Company "A" and Company "B" joined together in the attack. Both Companies were attacking the southern knob of Hill 260. At day's end, 'A' Company's 1st Lt. Gilbert H. Siderberg and Pfc. John Peroglia were killed and 21 men were wounded including 'A' Company's Commander, Lt. Kaps. In addition, two officers from Company 'A', Lts. Laurie S. Robertson and Lore T. Hargis, were wounded. The officers and men felt frustrated, especially in the face of high casualties.

How The Brave Die;
On 13 March 1944 the day after "Bloody Sunday", Pfc. George McGovern of Las Vegas, NV. with another member from Company 'A' 132nd Infantry moved forward to destroy a pillbox on Hill 260 near the observation post tree. The Japanese spotted the two American infantrymen and sprayed their area with a knee mortar barrage. One shell exploded near McGovern's right leg. The wound was extremely painful and prevented him from moving.

The Japanese observed this and were moving in for the kill. Pfc. John Peroglia of Rock Island, IL., spotted his close friends and saw the Japanese ready to annihilate them. He left his protective firing position and ran forward to an abandoned Japanese position. The Japanese concentrated their heavy machine gun and knee mortar fire on Peroglia. He raised himself above the parapet of the foxhole and delivered well-aimed automatic rifle fire, taking a heavy toll of enemy. This permitted McGovern and his fellow soldier to crawl back to safety. Kaps asked McGovern if he could stay because he needed him. On further examination of McGovern's wound, Lt. Kaps knew he had lost a key soldier. The company Commander wished McGovern well.

During this extreme act of heroism to save two lives, Pfc. Peroglia sacrificed his own life. For his valor in combat, Pergolia was awarded the Silver Star.

The Fearless Flame-Throwing Operators
The night of 13-14 March was quiet with Maj. Daehler in command at Hill 260. The fighting appeared better organized for the Americans. On 14 March men operating the "flame throwers" were assigned to rifle Companies 'A' and 'B'. The "torch men" were commanded by Lt. Thomas R. Allen. They attacked one Japanese pillbox after another.

American flame throwers brought a horrible and swift death to the stubbornly resisting Japanese in strong dug-in pillboxes. It takes a brave fearless person to risk crawling up to a "Hornet's Nest" of machine guns and release a short lived flame. Once the flame died down the operator was a "sitting duck" target. The men with flame throwers were always a vulnerable target. In one 48-hour assault, Lt. Allen's men destroyed eight Japanese pillboxes. Although completely out of fuel, for two hours, the men with flame throwers held part of the hill.

Lt. Steere, the First Battalion's supply officer, performed outstandingly in providing needed supplies to the fighting men. In addition, the battalion chaplain, Capt. J. Francis Gorman constantly visited the troops and provided needed prayer as well as toilet articles.

Company 'A' moved a squad close to the observation post tree. A platoon followed but was immediately pinned down by intense machine gun fire. The flame

throwers could not get forward enough to help the men. The advance elements were recalled.

Mortar fire was constantly exchanged by Americans and Japanese. At 1235 hours a Japanese flanking machine gun platoon was stopped by Company 'B'. At 1530 hours the Japanese laid down a heavy knee mortar barrage. In thirty minutes the Americans answered back with a heavy 60mm mortar barrage. At 1650 hours Maj. Daehler felt the Americans were gaining control of Hill 260. This day's brutal fighting was done by "B" Company led by Capt. Arthur Hantel. They repulsed several Japanese counter-attacks. Exceptional leadership was noted by Lts. Howard Davies, Robert J. Boyd and Charles R. Hannan. They led their platoons against heavy fire. At day's end 'B' Company was depleted; it had 46 casualties including two officers, eight non-commissioned officers and 36 enlisted men.

The Japanese continued heavy mortar fire harassment throughout the night as they re-inforced their troops. Much activity occurred near the observation post tree. The Japanese fighting troops exchanged machine gun and rifle fire all night with the Americans.

On 15 March 1944 the fighting escalated in intensity aimed to destroy the observation post tree. Cannon Company, the 182nd Infantry's heavy 75mm pack howitzer weapons, were brought up. Lt. Geiger's platoon from Company 'A' with four flame throwers attacked the Japanese at the base of the observation post tree. White phosphorous grenades and bazookas were used; prolonged concentrated 81mm and 4.2 mortar barrages were laid down on the Japanese. Lt. Kaps had Company "A" dig a trench extending forward to the observation post tree.

At 1900 hours Gen. John Hodge visited the front. He reviewed the battle situation with Gen. McCulloch and Maj. Daehler. The use of a tank infantry attack was discussed. Unfortunately, for the Americans, the tanks could not get across the Torokina River. Lt. Geiger and his platoon assaulted the east area of Hill 260 aided by Lt. Allen's flame throwers.

Valor At Hill 260
On 15 March Pfc. Oscar L. Grover 'A' volunteered to search for his squad leader missing since forced withdrawal. Grover crawled forward and found the missing squad leader lying unconscious 15 feet from a Japanese pillbox. Disregarding the extreme danger of death, he crawled to the injured squad leader and helped him back. First he pulled and tugged and finally carried him to the battalion aid station. For this heroic deed he was awarded the Silver Star.

Japanese mortar and machine gunfire was extremely heavy. Pfc. J.L. Swenson and other squad members were in a large emplacement. A Japanese knee mortar shell landed in the emplacement. Swenson threw himself on the shell and absorbed the full impact of the explosion. This act of valor saved the lives of his buddies. His wounds were severe and near fatal. For this exceptional act of heroism, Pfc. Swenson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Lt. Kaps had the 75mm howitzer fire directed at the observation post tree in an attempt to blast it down. At 2030 hours all 'A' Company opened fire with all its weapons. Lt. Kaps used the assigned 81mm mortars of Company 'H' 182nd Infantry. The Japanese returned machine gun and rifle fire. Whenever Japanese movement was heard a 60mm mortar barrage was placed in the area. The American casualties were 12 wounded, and one killed.

AMERICAL DIVISION NATIONAL REUNION

REGISTRATION FORM

November 8-12, 2002

All updates on exact times on all events will be in your registration packet when you arrive at the hotel at the registration desk. Hours will be posted when we will be open. Locator board available

Any Questions/Contact: Terry Babler (Evenings) [redacted]
John Mathews (evenings) [redacted]
John Murphy (Evenings) [redacted]
Ron Lewis (Days) [redacted]

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2002

Noon Registration opens - Pick up tickets, gift, name tags, sign in, general information
Welcome Area - Vendors - Military Displays, etc.
Americal and 1/1 Cav Hospitality room open up- room for 160 seating(some beverages and snacks furnished or bring your own. Balcony view of Washington, DC.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2002

8:00 a.m. Registration/information table, Vendors, military displays, Hospitality area opens.
8:30 a.m. Americal Executive Council Meeting
9:30 a.m. Americal Membership meeting (same room)
11:30a.m. 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry meeting
5:00 p.m. Hospitality rooms close for banquet
6:00 p.m. Banquet, Veterans Program and dance - Special guests & Music by Doc Mosher
8:00 p.m. Hospitality room and balcony open up

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2002

8:00 a.m. Church Service
8:30 a.m. Registration table opens (Vendors, exhibits, etc??, Hospitality area opens)
10:00 a.m. Bus Tours load up and leave. Stops at: Arlington Cemetery - Dedication Americal Plaque & Wreath Laying at Tomb of the unknowns, etc. Ft Myers stop for lunch, Group picture at Lincoln Memorial steps.
2:00 p.m. Buses return to hotel
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED SUNDAY EVENING - FREE TIME TO DO AS YOU WISH
12:00a.m. Hospitality room close

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2002

10:00 a.m. Bus to Memorials or parade. or take metro, taxi or own transportation.
11:00 a.m. Wreath laying ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
2:00 p.m. Bus returns to Doubletree Hotel.
4:00 p.m. Hospitality room opens up
4:00 p.m. Vendors in Registration area- on going.
6-11 p.m. Operation LZ/DC II All Veterans Dance with Britt Small
12:00 a.m. Hospitality room closes for good

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2002

Check out of hotel

Send this form with check to: Terry Babler, DC 2002 REUNION, [redacted]
[redacted], New Glarus, WI 53574 (You will receive your registration confirmation in your Welcome Packet at the registration/info desk at Doubletree Hotel) **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OPERATION LZ/DC 02**

AMERICAL DIVISION NATIONAL REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM
November 8-12, 2002

HOTEL INFORMATION

Accommodations

- . 630 Guest Rooms
 - . 12 Deluxe Suites with Whirlpool Tub
 - . 144 Executive Suites
- . 345 Double/Double rooms
- . 128 King Rooms
- . 461 Non-Smoking Rooms
- . 13 Handicap-Accessible Rooms

Restaurants

- . The Cafe
 - . Traditional Menu
 - . Breakfast - 6:30 AM - 11:00 AM
 - . Lunch - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - . Cafe Closed - 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 - . Dinner - 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM
 - . Cafe Express - 6:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Meeting and Banquet Rooms

- . 18 Meeting Rooms, 24,825 Square Feet
- . 12 to 700 people capacities
- . 2 Ball Rooms
 - . Plaza Ballroom, 7004 Square Feet
 - . Washington Ballroom, 3204 Square Feet
- . 2 Washington DC View Rooms
 - . Potomac Club, 1334 Square Feet with Balcony located on the 15th Floor
 - . Potomac View Room, 1260 Square Feet located on the 14th floor
- . Convention Services Department
- . Full Catering Services
- . Excellent Food and Beverage Reputation

Window's over Washington

- . Steak and Seafood Menu
- . Spectacular View of Washington DC Skyline from the 14th floor
- . Open Tues, through Sat., 6:30 PM to 10 PM
- . Piano Entertainment - Friday & Saturday
- . Reservations are Recommended

Other Facilities

- . Heated Swimming Pool
- . Health Club
- . Free Shuttle Service Reagan's National Airport every 1/2 hour
- . Free Shuttle Service to Fashion Center at Pentagon City Mall every 1/2 hour
- . On Site Covered Parking Facility
- . No Access Fees for 1-800 or Credit Card Calls
- . Room Service - 6:30 AM to 11:00 PM
- . Laundry Services - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- . Business Center
- . Complimentary In-Room Coffee Maker
- . Hairdryers in Each Room
- . Iron and Ironing Boards in Each Room
- . Steelcase Work Stations
- . Personalized Voice Mail
- . Specific Rooms with views of Washington DC Monuments

Location

- . Minutes away from the Nation's Capital
- . 2 Blocks from Fashion Center at Pentagon City
- . 2 Blocks from Pentagon City Metro Stop on Blue/yellow Lines
- . Convenient Access to I-395 and Route 1
- . 3 Miles from Reagan National Airport

Lounges

- . Lobby Bar
 - . Open 11:30 AM to 11:00 PM
 - . Lite Bite Menu and Large Screen TV
- . Skydome Bar - Open Daily 4 PM
 - . Revolving Rooftop Lounge with a view of Nations Monuments
- . \$2.75 Hungry Buffet Buffet, Monday through Friday 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM with purchase of beverage
- . Cover charge after 9 PM on Fri. & Sat.

General Information

- . Parking is \$3.00 for every 24 hours
- . Guest Room Square Footage - 337 Square Feet
- . Virginia Room Tax, 4.5%
- . Banquet Service Charge, 19%

Send this form with check to: Terry Babler, DC 2002 REUNION, W5889 Durst Road, New Glarus, WI 53574 (You will receive your registration confirmation in your Welcome Packet at the registration/info desk at Doubletree Hotel) **MAKE CHECKS**
PAYABLE TO: OPERATION LZ/DC 02

AMERICAL DIVISION NATIONAL REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM
November 8-12, 2002

Hotel Reservations: Make hotel reservations directly with the Doubletree Hotel.

The hotel is located on [REDACTED], Arlington, VA.

Make your reservations by calling toll free [REDACTED] or hotel direct - [REDACTED]

Ask for: OPERATION LZ/DC 02

Reunion room rate is \$99/night plus tax for 2 people to a room - Kids free -each room has 2 doublebeds. The special room rate is good Nov 6 thru Nov 13. Reservations will be taken up to Oct. 18, 2002 or when the hotel block is full. Please make your reservations early so you don't get left out.

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

Spouse or Guest name: _____

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

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

(Friday thru Monday, November 8-11, 2001)

REGISTRATION FEE: _____ Number of people _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Registration fee provides gift, nametag, hospitality rooms with free items in room, free events, meeting rooms. ONE Reunion shirt included in Registration (Advance Registration Required)
Your size shirt is: _____ An additional gift (to be determined) will be provided to guests.

(Saturday, November 9, 2002)

BANQUET/SATURDAY BANQUET: 6:00 PM-11:00 PM

Number of people _____ X \$35 = \$ _____

Special guests, music by Rich Mosher-196th Infantry buffets meal & other surprises.

MEMORY BOOK: Remembrance Book of your weekend _____ X \$15 = \$ _____

Check registration on your photo shot of your group. All photos will be taken all day Saturday and at Banquet

(Sunday, November 10, 2002)

BUS TOUR: 10:00 am-2:00 PM _____ Number of people _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

Tour includes trip to Arlington Cemetery for ceremony at Tomb of the unknowns, Dedication of the Americal Plaque, includes brunch at Ft Myers price of meal included, group picture at Lincoln Memorial steps, 1 hr around the memorials, and other selected sites on the tour as time allows.

(Monday, November 11, 2002)

BUS TRIP TO THE MEMORIALS: 10:00 am -2:00 PM

Number of people _____ X \$15 = \$ _____

Trip to the wreath laying ceremony and other memorials events on the Mall grounds. Trip there and back. If time allows we will stop at Union Station for lunch for 1 hour (Meal not included in price)

(Monday, November 11, 2002)

OPERATION LZ/DC ALL VETERANS DANCE: 6:00 PM-11:00 PM

Number of people _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Music by Veteran -Britt Small from Skidmore, MO - well known veteran for entertaining veterans at many reunions Some free beverages, snack food, special guests, Presentations, surprises, etc. Music starts at 7PM till 11PM Seating for only 600.

ADD UP AND THE FINAL TOTAL IS: \$ _____

Send this form with check to: Terry Babler, DC 2002 REUNION, [REDACTED], New Glarus, WI 53574 (You will receive your registration confirmation in your Welcome Packet at the registration/info desk at Doubletree Hotel) **MAKE CHECKS**
PAYABLE TO: OPERATION LZ/DC 02

AMERICAL DIVISION NATIONAL REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM
November 8-12, 2002

HOTEL INFORMATION

Double Tree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA - Reservations call: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED] (Book Nov 11, 2001 to Oct 18, 2002 for reunion rate
Ask for: OPERATION LZ/DC 02 - Rates good 2 days either way for above dates
Single or Double rate is \$99.00 per night / Children under 18 are free

American Airlines Group Rate

American Airlines - 10% off from anytime in Country, when you lock into a fare 60 days before, 5% when 30 days before. Call [REDACTED] Meeting Services Desk, Reference "Operation LZ/DC with Authorization. No. A21N2AA

United Airlines Group Rate

United Airlines - 10% off from anytime in Country, when you lock into a fare 60 days before, 5% when 30 days before. Call [REDACTED] Convention-Meeting Services Desk, Reference "Operation LZ/DC with Meeting Tour code # 594SY

When you register we want a photo of you when you where in Vietnam and a photo of you now. We are going to run the photos as a slide show for the reunion. This will give everyone who can't remember names but never forget faces a chance to connect. A photo of then and now in any form, electronic or hard copy (copy of original photo) and snail mail them or email them to one of the three names below.

Please have an original photo copied by scanner or go to local businesses that has a color copier and have your photo's copied. We will then scan them and put them into electronic format. We will not return any photo's, that's why we want them either in a electronic format such as a JPG, GIF file or color copy. You can email them to the following email address.

We also want to Photo's of men, our friends who were killed in Action KIA if you have them. This will be a memorial to our fallen friends. We can also provide their picture to the Vital Wall, so every name on the will have a Face. Company's like Kinko's and others are copying our beloved KIA's and putting their pictures out there with their names!

If you can't attend, please send in your photos of your friends' photo for the reunion.

If your last names begins between A through H , send your picture to [REDACTED] or John Murphy [REDACTED], Yonkers NY 10710

If your last names begins between I through O , send your pictures to [REDACTED] or Michael McDonald, [REDACTED], Mechanicsville, MD 20659

If your last names begins between P through Z , send your pictures to [REDACTED] or Bob Johnston, [REDACTED] Marshfield, WI 54449

Send this form with check to: Terry Babler, DC 2002 REUNION, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], New Glarus, WI 53574 (You will receive your registration confirmation in your
Welcome Packet at the registration/info desk at Doubletree Hotel) MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO: OPERATION LZ/DC 02

After a quiet night on 16 March any remaining men of Company 'B' 182nd Infantry were relieved from Hill 260. Every weapon of First Battalion 132nd Infantry had fired at the observation post tree. These included the 75mm howitzers, the .50 caliber machine guns, all calibers of mortars and the continuous, prolonged use of flame throwers. A fire was finally started at the observation post tree's base. Pillbox communication trenches were extended toward the "tree" by the Americans.

Maj. Daehler exposed himself repeatedly to secure first hand information. He was always exposed to Japanese 90mm mortar or machine gun fire. He remained in the front line to encourage his officers and men. His inspiration aided the victory at Hill 260. For this outstanding action he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Maj. Franklin R. Brickles, the executive officer, was always with Maj. Daehler. He was wounded while making a reconnaissance of the battalion's area. He was evacuated off the Hill. Replacement officers from the Third Battalion were transferred into the depleted rifle companies of the First Battalion. This day the casualties were two men killed and nine wounded.

The Famous Observation Post Tree Falls
On 17 March 1944 the 75mm pack howitzers were firing "point blank", the observation post tree was burning freely. Continuous .50 caliber machine gun fire was placed into the tree trunk. Finally, at 1910 hours, the famous observation post tree fell. Only a 35-foot black remnant, loaded with lead and steel, protruded skyward and was burning freely. The destruction of the "tree" was a symbol of victory for the Americans and the 'turning point' of the battle. As it fell the Americans loud cheers reverberated over the entire hill.

This tall observation post banyan tree was the most expensive "tree" in the world; it was paid for in both American and Japanese blood. In spite of the tree falling the Japanese were still holding on in desperation among the tree's roots. For some unknown Godly reason of fate on this day, there were no American casualties.

A Shot In The Dark
During the night one member of Company 'B' spotted a Japanese creeping up the hill toward his perimeter foxhole. One blast from his M-1 rifle killed him. The next morning the dead Japanese was found and identified as an officer. In his hand was a super souvenir--a Samurai sword. The sword was retrieved. Later at Bougainville, the infantryman traded the sword to a quartermaster officer for a refrigeration unit to benefit Company 'B'.

At 0740 hours on Saturday 18 March 1944 Company 'B' moved south from the north knob. They attacked northeast. Company 'B' advanced over difficult terrain. Lt. Daniel L. Ganan and his platoon attacked wide around the east side of the tree. The Japanese defense was slowly weakening; the battle appeared to favor the Americans. This attack of 'B' Company was observed by Lt. Kaps, as his company laid down supporting fire.

Emil Pavlovich--Pitcher of Grenades
Meanwhile, gasoline-filled cans were thrown at the base of the fallen observation post tree. Japanese mortar fire was extremely heavy. Pvt. Emil Pavlovich pf Company 'B' rose to a standing position to throw white phosphorous grenades at the Japanese positions. He threw 75 grenades to destroy four pillboxes at the base of the Banyan tree. He recieved wounds during this action that

were fatal. Pavlovich was awrdded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross. At day's end the American casualties were one man killed and nine wounded.

The Unmerciful Pounding of Artillery

A new observation post banyan tree was set up by the Americans on the south end of the north knob. 'A' Company's smnipers in the tree were freely 'picking off' Japanese soldiers. During the night the American artillery fired one round every two minutes all night long. About 1,800 rounds were fired on the Japanese on a normal night. During the Hill 260 battle the 105mm howitzers fired more than 10,000 rounds. the 155's fired 500 rounds. The artillery pounded the Japanese positions unmercifully until the enemy was driven off the Hill.

After a quiet night, on Sunday 19 March 1944 Company 'A' moved back to a new perimeter on Hill 260; Company 'B' resumed the attack. They left the line of departure 100 yards southwest of the fallen observation post tree and reached the Japanese barbed wire positions. The Japanese had mutually covering pillboxes making any approach to them difficult.

S/Sgt. Frank F. Castano--A Man of Courage
During the morning of 19 March 1944, using his skills and courage, S/Sgt. Frank F. Castano, the First Battalion aid man rescued a seriously wounded Company 'B' rifleman. The soldier laid in an enemy lane of machine gun fire. In full view of the Japanese, Castano crawled, ran, zig-zagged and slowly edged his way to the wounded soldier. S/Sgt. Castano calmly proceeded to stop the massive leg hemorrhage.

It appeared as though the Japanese permitted him to attend this fallen soldier. Through heavy mortar fire, he brought the soldier back to waiting stretcher bearers. For his valor in the face of the enemy, S/Sgt. Castano was awarded an Oak Leaf cluster to his Silver Star. Later in the Philippines he received a field commission as second lieutenant. There, on Cebu, he was wounded.

Maj. Franklin R. Rickles, Battalion Executive Officer, was wounded while making a reconnaissance of A Company area. Lts. Vernelle J. Ness and Howard Davies were wounded while cleaning out the south end of the saddle. Lt. Fred Kaps suffered a second wound with more than 30 grenade fragments in his body, he refused evacuation to remain with his company and fight.

The Japanese attempted to withdraw from the Hill. S/Sgts. John H. Beau and Paul L. Fish fought valiantly. Sgt. Sam Nicosia was wounded a second time. In this fierce fighting the Americans lost six killed and 37 wounded.

Men Inspired By Bravery And Valor

There were many individual acts of bravery and valor. One such aggressive act of courage was as follows: On 19 March 1944 S/Sgt. Paul L. Fish of Company 'B' engaged the Japanese during a fiercely defended counterattack. When his platoon was temporarily halted by intense fire, Sgt. Fish picked up a wounded soldier's automatic rifle and moved forward of the line to a crest on the southern slope of Hill 260. There, fully exposed to heavy Japanese fire, he took up a firing position killing six Japanese. He then ran along the crest alternating delivering automatic fire, hurling grenades, and encouraging stalled troops to advance. He inspired his troops to resume the attack. A Japanese pillbox was destroyed killing

several Japanese. They rescued the Hill. For his act of courage Sgt. Fish was awarded a Silver Star.

One of the wounded was Frank "Chief" Lawes. He received multiple and severe 90mm mortar wounds to his back. He was a full blooded American Indian. Men in 'B' company respected him as a "true warrior".

Tom F. Hardman, Savior Of men

On 19 March 1944, Pfc. Ton F. Hardman of Company 'A' left his secure position and dashed 30 yards through continuous intense Japanese machine gun fire. He went to the aid of three wounded men. Exposed to heavy fire, he made three separate trips over the hazardous terrain to rescue each man. Hardman's alertness and bold action not only saved three human lives, but was an inspiration to those who witnessed the heroic deed. For his voluntary heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star.

The Day Of Japanese Treachery

AT 0600 hours on 20 March 1944 Company 'B' led by Capt. Arthur Hantel with attached troops from 'G' Company 182nd Infantry moved out along the east side of the saddle and within sight of the Torokina River. They attacked westward up the steep east side of Hill 260. It was the same route the Japanese took to gain a foothold. The Americans were effectively using their new observation post tree with successful sniping at the Japanese. On this day they killed five.

Gen. Hodge placed men with a powerful base of fire on "Snuffy's Nose" at Hill 608 including Cannon Company's howitzers. Large numbers of heavy machine guns were there. A single shot from a 40mm gun could knock a small tree over at 1,300 yards. Hill 608 was a "Rock of Gibraltar."

At 110 hours Japanese were seen leaving their positions on Hill 260 and moving southeast along the Torokina River. Company 'B' and Company 'G', 182nd Infantry were advancing through Japanese and sniper fire and knee mortar fire. The two Companies pushed up the southeast slope.

At 1340 hours a half dozen Japanese stood up in a trench near their pillbox, indicating a desire to surrender. Capt. Hantel motioned for them to lay down their arms; this they did. Quickly they jumped back into their trench. A heavy knee mortar barrage landed on the Americans. Before Capt. Hantel could reach cover a knee mortar fragment tore through his neck. He died quickly. At the end of the day American casualties included 14 men wounded including 1st. Lt. Caps and 1/Sgt. Francis T. Franklin of 'A' Company. This act of Japanese treachery resulted in one officer killed, Capt. Hantel of 'B' Company.

After nine days of fighting on Hill 260, at 1700 Companies 'A' and 'B' were relieved by Companies 'A' and 'B' from the 182 Infantry. Both 132 Infantry Companies had lost more than 85 percent of their strength. They were depleted so severely that they had lost their combat effectiveness and were relieved. The next day the proud but exhausted men of 'A' and 'B' Companies received 123 new infantry replacements to replace the 149 men killed, wounded, or missing at Hill 260. The fighting on Hill 260 gradually tapered off. During the night 27-28 March 1944 the Japanese silently withdrew from Hill 260.

The Battle For Hill 260 Ends

The bitter fighting on Hill 260 blasted the Japanese hopes of piercing the American perimeter and assaulting the three Bougainville airstrips.

The Japanese artillery was completely destroyed. Bodies of their dead and brave soldiers were scattered, not only on Hill 260, but by the thousands along the Eagle River, the Torokina River, Hill 700 and the twin Hills 500 and 501.

The tall banyan (observation) tree on the south knob of Hill 260 became one of the most expensive tree fought-for during World War II. It was paid for by the flesh and blood of hundreds of Americans and Japanese. The tree stood as an American and perhaps Japanese symbol, much like the Stars and Stripes at Fort Sumter.

At dawn on 28 March 1944 three patrols from the 182nd Infantry searched out the base of Hill 260. Except for the occasional whistle of overhead American artillery shells and their distant explosion, the battle torn rain forest silent. To the pleasant surprise for the patrols, during the night, the last soldier of the 4th South Sea Garrison and the Second Battalion of the Japanese 13th Infantry withdrew. The Japanese had enough of "Bloody Hill" 260. Only the stench of their 507 decaying soldiers clung to the jungle floor at the south knob. Thus ended one of the most and concentrated battles on Bougainville.

Most of the 152 enlisted infantrymen replacements filled the ranks of Companies 'A' and 'B' 132nd Infantry. That was where most of the battle casualties occurred. One replacement was Pvt. Orville Hutchison of Tucson, AZ. By chance he was assigned to 'B' Company; the same Company his brother was a member when he fought at Guadalcanal. Pvt. Hutchison was to fight with the Regiment through the remainder of Bougainville, all of the Philippine campaign including the Japanese occupation, and the inactivation of the Regiment on 27 November 1945.

(This article was taken from the book, "Orchids in the Mud" edited by Robert C. Muehrcke and sent in by SFC Jack C. Henley (Ret.)

Ed Note: I am always interested in reading of the battle for Hill 260 because my unit, Company E, was involved. I, once again must come to the defense of Ltc. Dexter A. Lowry---

The Second Battalion of the 182nd Infantry was the reserve Battalion of the 182nd Infantry at this time and place in Bougainville. As such it was this Battalion's duty to garrison Hill 260 with a reinforced platoon, which was rotated regularly within the Battalion, and to provide all patrols forward of the Battalion sector.

At the time the battle for Hill 260 started 'G' Company of the 182nd was providing the garrison for the Hill. When the shooting started Colonel Lowry ordered the remainder of G Company to be ready to move out at dawn. When the Colonel started his move to counter attack G Company was not ready. E Company was so he took E Company.

The 2nd platoon of E was sent to the right of the Hill and immediately ran into heavy fire. The 1st scout was killed, the 2nd scout was wounded and Lt. George A. Karl the platoon leader was wounded. (There was a Division order at that time that all patrols were to be led by and officer and the officer would be the third man in the patrol.) The platoon withdrew under the command of the platoon sergeant, Harry E. Mohla.

The remainder of E Company had started up the trail with the 1st platoon in the lead. About this time the Company Commander, 1st Lt Melvin A. Calson, was wounded and Colonel Lowry took command

of E Company. I was the communication sergeant at that time and my position was with the Company Commander--Ltc. Dexter A. Lowry. Colonel Lowry was one of the most courageous and brave men I have ever met.

As E Company approached the top of the knob the fire fight began, with Colonel Lowry giving the order for the deployment of the men. From the outset Company E began taking casualties while slowly gaining ground. By nightfall The Tree was in sight and I heard Colonel Lowry requesting that the rest of G Company be sent up to support E in the attack the next morning. This request was denied as E Company's strength was slowly being drained.

Apparently the Japanese had been reinforced during the night because the fire became stronger as E Company tried to advance and the attack ground to a halt and slowly E Company was pushed back and finally was forced to withdraw. At this time the remainder of G Company had been released but it was too late. About the last man to leave the Hill was Sgt. Jim Simpson. He set up a light machine gun on the trail to act as a rear guard.

I do not remember Colonel Lowry ever thinking about a bayonet charge nor do I remember him ever NOT being in charge of the situation. Also, he did not underestimate the enemy. He was ordered to attack and was not given the troops needed.

The Army always has to have a 'fall guy' when things do not turn out right and Ltc. Dexter A. Lowry was the 'fall guy' for this debacle. He was relieved of his command, reduced to his permanent grade of Captain and sent home.

To my knowledge of the battle for Hill 260 about all attempts to retake the Hill, few gains were made. An attack was planned for about every day--men were killed and wounded and the attack was called off.

On March 27, 1944 the remainder of the men in E, F, and G Companies were organized into a composite Company and were in position to take their turn at attacking the Hill. This was to take place the next day. About dawn of the day of attack a call was received from an artillery OP saying they had just seen two Japs walking off the Hill. This composite Company moved out and lo and behold--the Japs were gone.

One question that has always stuck in my mind is:

Why was an Artillery General sent over to take charge of the attack? Where was Colonel Long the 182nd Regimental Commander? I believe he was the fly in the ointment. He was relieved shortly after the battle.

E Company lost one officer killed and six wounded, seventeen (17) enlisted men killed and eighty six (86) wounded. After the battle E Company had approximately twenty five (25) available for duty. A Medic was also KIA.

The above article, 'The Million Dollar Tree on Hill 260', was taken from 'Orchids in the Mud' and was sent in by Jack Henley and is printed in this issue to honor those men that gave their all.

The battle for Hill 260 took place fifty eight years ago this March. Many brave men from the 182nd and 132nd Infantry gave their lives to "Hold At All Costs".

I flew over this Hill back in the 80's and it has now gone back to the jungle. Some of those brave found an eternal resting place on Hill 260 and still sleep beneath the jungle cover. Ed.

AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY
WWII - KOREAN - VIETNAM

April 25-26-27, 2002

AT

Days Inn
921 Blue Ridge Avenue
Bedford, VA 24523

Room Rates \$40.00 plus tax

Bedford, Virginia is the site of the 'National D-Day Memorial'. The town of Bedford, population 3200, suffered, proportionally, the nation's D-Day losses.

For more information please contact:

Elbert R. Horton
[REDACTED]
Timberlake, NC 27583-9191

REUNION - E COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY - REUNION

May 15, 2002
Kernwood Restaurant-Lynnfield, MA
Social Hour 12:00 Noon - Dinner 1:00 P.M.

All Americal members invited.

CONTACT:

James C. Buckle
[REDACTED]
East Harwich, MA 02643-1270
Telephone: [REDACTED]

REUNION - F COMPANY 182nd INFANTRY - REUNION

April 17, 2002

Waltham Americal Legion Post 516
Waverly Oaks Road
Waltham, MA

Buffet Luncheon
1:00 P.M.

Contacts:

Frank Rourke - [REDACTED]
Joseph Papa - [REDACTED]

This building is handicap assessable

Free parking

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

Please check the address label on this Newsletter and if a Jan01 or a May 01 follows your name you are delinquent in your dues and this will be the last Americal Newsletter you will receive.

Send your \$12.00 check to Adj. Bernard Chase immediately to prevent this from happening.

THIS SAYS IT ALL

On Page 26 of the last Newsletter there was an article entitled, 'This Says It All'. The only mistake I made in printing this letter was not identifying the proper source. It was stated that this article was taken off of the internet. This is untrue. The article was taken from Military Magazine and it was written by Steve Krasowski. He may have taken some of his information from the internet. My apologies to Steve for not giving him credit for this article.

I received several comments on this article. The first was from CW3 Bill McDonald USA Ret. He states among other things: "I am so sad to have found 'hate mail' reproduced in 'Letters From the Old Guard', Page 26, Newsletter, Oct-Nov-Dec 2001 entitled . 'This Says It All'. It really breaks my heart to see that some ignorant, sadist, trouble instigator, is having an orgasmic experience because his trash has managed to slip into another respected organizations news letter.

First off, the four items listed condemning four institutions slanderously with false inferences and twisted information came to me by email quite some time ago.

My reply: The fourth item stated in the article, 'Florida--In an 'act of intolerance' the head of the public library at Florida Gulf Coast University ordered all "Proud to be an American" signs removed so as to not offend the community. This did happen although it was corrected, as a following letter will explain. I believe all these stories appeared in the news media.

How can it be said that Senator Kerry was 'blasphemed' when it was stated that he voted against the flag amendment? That is a matter of public record. Senator Kennedy also helped him kill the flag amendment.

Mr. McDonald was right when he said it was the Americal's fault when the flag amendment failed in the Senate. It was not only the Americal's fault but ever veteran's organization and every individual veteran in the United States.

Enough said. Following are the other three letters that were received on this subject.

Mr. James Buckle
Editor-Americal Newsletter
Re: Americal Newsletter Oct-Nov-Dec 01
Page 26 This item says it all Item 4

Please be advised the President of the University was out of town when the Librarian did this. When he returned he immediately rescinded this act and the Librarian was suspended, with an apology in the newspaper, 'The Naples Florida News.'

Dr. William Mervin is the President, who is doing an excellent job in building a new University in south florida and needs all the help he can get from us.

Herbert Seuss
182nd Infantry B Co.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Mr. Buckle:

I am writing in response to the article "This Says

It All" in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter. As a retiree I belong to a Coffee Club that meets 5 or 6 days a week, and we are all long time friends and veterans of World War II. I circulated this article among them. and they are unanimously supportive of the sentiments expressed.

so much of the current multicultural pap that is thrown at us these days had its origin in the draft dodgers and druggies of the 60's & 70's. Unfortunately, these liberal, leftist ideas received a big boos in the 90's with the support of Bill and Hillary Clinton, themselves prime examples of the 60's culture.

As tragic as the events of Sep 11, 01 have been for our country, perhaps some good will result if it brings people back to an appreciation of freedom, basic American values, and respect for our great country

Al the uproar about references to "God" seems ridicules when our Constitution guarantees us the right to worship any God of our choice. To me it makes no difference what our personal concept of a greater power is, as long as you adhere to basic moral principles, the rule of law, and a determination to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself.

Someone has said that ethnocentricity an xenophobia are among the greatest threats to harmony within the human race. Emphasis on one religion or another only fosters this problem. We can still be proud of our heritage and our American way of life, at the same time learning about and respecting other cultures. We don't need to subject our society to the warped ideas of "multicultural liberals" who would like to make patriotism a dirty word. Too many of our young people are so ignorant of our history that they are susceptible to every demagogue that comes along.

Perhaps, as I look at the world from the perspective of 79 years and the terrible wars of the 20th century, there is no possibility that mankind can ever live in peace, but I continue to hope.

Keep up the good work with the Newsletter. I enjoy the letters from the "Old Guard".

I served with the 31st Portable Surgical Hospital, attached to the 182nd Infantry.

Respectfully,
Stan Allen M.D.

NOW HEAR THIS!

The article in the last issue of the Newsletter entitled , "This Says it All" is right on target. It is about time we stopped being 'Politically Correct' and tell it like it is. If we don't stop soon, we will be replacing fact with fiction.

The Newsletter, thanks to the work of you and your staff, is a great feature. I look forward to it's arrival and read it from cover to cover.

Joseph Papa
F Company, 182nd Infantry

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

MY LUCKY NUMBER

Here is one for the Ripley Book! I have read about the number 13 being unlucky but to me I think I am very lucky after 13 became a real part of my life.

The following is the reason that I am sending this letter: They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a world wide belief. You will rarely see a room numbered 13 or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor.

But think about this: 13 original signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid on the dollar bill and also thirteen letters in the Latin above it-- 'E Pluribus Unum'. 13 stars above the feathers on each span of the eagles wing, 13 bars on the shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for the minorities--13 Amendments.

Now to associate this with me. I was wounded on Cebu on the 12 April 1945 receiving the Purple heart at the 44th General Hospital APO 1003, on General Order #13, on Friday 13th, 1945. This was the first time that number 13 came into my life but not the last. Nineteen years later while stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky I made a parachute jump on Friday he 13th and hit a tree after coming down and broke my shoulder bone. That was the second time I had a problem on Friday 13th but not the last. On Friday 13 in Vietnam I was notified that I was to go home because my mother was dying. I got home in time to see her.

I have wondered if Friday 13th was my unlucky day but I have not let it worry me as I just take Friday 13th in stride. I am not superstitious. I have never worried about the number 13 being a thing to worry about in my life.

I am 77 years old and healthy and live a good life. I hope I make it to 100. I have been married to the same woman for 55 years, have 13 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Enjoying life every day that comes along.

I served in World War II, Korea and two tours in Vietnam--All under fire.

Honor and Courage,
Ray E. Poynter 1/Sgt.Ret.

RESTRICTED
Headquarters 44th General Hospital
APO 1003

General Orders
Number 13
20 April 1945

Under provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Purple Heart is awarded by the Commanding Officer, 44th General Hospital, to the following enlisted man:

Private First class RAY E. POYNTER, 38429441m Infantry, United States Army. for wounds received in action on Cebu, Philippines Islands, on 13 April 1945. Home address: Mrs. F.S. Poynter (Mother) 1518 Barry Avenue, Dallas, Texas.

F.L. Weston
Lt Col, MC
Commanding

57th ENGINEERS

I was reading the article, in a recent issue of the Newsletter, about Frank Taillon receiving his Purple Heart after fifty eight (58) years. What a Wait! But he deserved it and it got me to thinking about my injury that I got from of the jungle and they did not know what it was.

I got a growth on my feet, legs, hands and arms. The Medics did not know what it was or how to treat it, so they sent me from Bougainville down to Guadalcanal. The doctors there did not know what it was or how to treat it. They did nothing for it and it itched so bad I was using my knife to scratch it. I had to be careful as this caused it to bleed.

Finally, I was sent me to New Zealand and here I had doctors all over me, and they did not know what it was. Many different pills and salves were tried but nothing worked. And then one day they came into my room and they were all smiles. They told me they had a new salve called Lichen Planus Ruper and it would cure the growth. They went to work with bandages and the salve and slow but sure I was healed.

I was happy because I could now go back to my outfit which was still on Bougainville. My happiness was short lived for now the doctors told me I couldn't go back because I had an allergy. I finally went into the Captain's office and convinced him to send me back as I knew we would be going to Japan sooner or later. He said if that was what I wanted he would have me sent back.

I arrived back in Bougainville in time to head for the Philippines. We landed on Leyte, took that island and then it was on to Cebu. Here the Japs were driven to the far end of the island and they surrendered. The prisoners were hauled back in a convoy of trucks and placed in a POW camp and we continued training for the assault on Japan.

Then the 'Bomb' was dropped and I got to go to Japan, then home and back to college.

That is what happened to my body because I was in the war. I could have returned home earlier because of this ailment but I didn't. That was almost like being shot which I could have been at any time. Everything turned out all right and I am thankful for that.

I came home alive and the rest of my life has been good. However, I will always remember the day on Cebu when I was standing with a friend in front of a church, among some palm trees, having a drink of water. A shot rang out and our boys started shooting at the bell tower on the church and they got the sniper that was hiding there. I got up and the friend I was talking to didn't--he was the one the sniper had fired at. How lucky can you be?

I count my blessings and have enjoyed life. I played eight years of pro football and was inducted into the "Hall of Fame" in 1991.

I married a wonderful lady and have three lovely children so who could ask for anything more? I am so happy the way everything turned out.

When I am in church on Sundays, I think of myself in that damned foxhole on Bougainville, when I made a promise to the Lord. I have kept mine and HE has fulfilled his. So what could be better than that.

Darrell Wardien
57th Engineers

COLORADO VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Reunion - Reunion

Fort Collins, Colorado

June 6-7-8-9, 2002

For more information contact:

Kathy Covey-Secretary

Fort Morgan, CO 80701

Telephone: [REDACTED] Home

FAX [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY
WWII - KOREAN - VIETNAM

April 25-26-27, 2002

AT

Days Inn

Bedford, VA 24523

Room Rates \$40.00 plus tax

Bedford, Virginia is the site of the 'National D-Day Memorial'. The town of Bedford, population 3200, suffered, proportionally, the nation's D-Day losses.

For more information please contact:

Elbert R. Horton

Timberlake, NC 27583-9191

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY
VIETNAM AN CAMBODIA

Reunion - August 9-10-11, 2002 - Reunion

Music City Sheraton Hotel

Nashville, TN 37241

Tel: [REDACTED]

CONTACT

Stephen R. Page

Holyoke, MA 01040

Tel: [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

The Central Midwest Chapter is looking for a Commander. PNC Ron Ward has led this Chapter for several years and is looking for a replacement.

Ron states that he needs a vacation from any duties but promises to return to serve the ADVA in two years when he retires from his every day job.

If you are interested please contact Ron and he will fill you in on all the details. Contact him at:

PNC Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

Tel: [REDACTED]

CHANGE OF COMMAND - REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

Brig. General Ostenberg recently assumed command of the 63rd Regional support command. Currently, two of the three Western Regional Support Command are commanded by Americal veterans. The 63rd Regional Support Command is headquartered at Los Alamitos, CA.

The 96th Regional Support Command is headquartered at Salt Lake City, UT and is commanded by Major General Collins.



Left to right: LTC Tom Lassiter, SGM Lynn Follitt, BG (now MG) Robert Ostenberg, MG James Collins, MAJ (CH) Gerry Fox and LTC (Ret) Milton

This news item and picture was sent in by Ltc. Milton Houghton (Ret).

COMBAT UNIT CLAIMS MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH ARTILLERY
AND INFANTRY

Chu Lai--It's not everyday that a combat unit can claim membership in both the Infantry and the Artillery. However, it recently happened to an artillery battery in the Division.

LTC Robert C. Bacon, CO 3/21 196 LIB extended honorary membership in his battalion to A/3/16 Arty.

Col. Bacon was impressed by the day and night fire support the artillerymen provided for his unit.

In presenting the battalions' crest, LCT Bacon said, "Despite hours of continuous firing, lack of sleep and physical duress your battery maintained its high level of proficiency of providing, close, continuous and effective fire support. The action of your unit helped inflict a costly defeat on the enemy and saved many American lives".

(Taken from 'Southern Cross' December 19, 1969)

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

Please check the address label on this Newsletter and if a Jan01 or a May 01 follows your name you are delinquent in your dues and this will be the last Americal Newsletter you will receive.

Send your \$12.00 check to Adi. Bernard Chase

Submit oral histories for ADVA website

The Americal Division Veterans Association website <www.americal.org> recently surpassed the mark of 300,000 visits. This is an outstanding achievement and shows that there is a huge interest in the Americal Division and the ADVA.

Your assistance is being requested to make the website even better and to preserve the great history of the division. We would like to begin collecting oral histories for the website. The only requirements are that the stories be from Americal veterans, be printable in a family forum, and be the truth. Stories will be edited for length and readability but will not be further altered.

You can provide your information in a variety of ways: hand written, typed, electronic file, e-mail, e-mail attachment, voice recording, video recording, or any other technique that is applicable. All stories will eventually be in digital form and converted to individual web pages and posted to the internet website.

The internet is growing very fast and is becoming an easy way to gather information. Your service in the Americal Division is unique and must be recorded and preserved. It will long outlast all of us and be of use for generations to come. Please take a few minutes of your time to record your experiences.

The list below has some questions that you may answer to help tell your story. Answer any and all that you like. Feel free to add things that are not listed below. Make the story your story. If this seems like a difficult task it may be easier if you have someone ask you the questions and record the session on a tape recorder or video recorder.

Questions for oral history

1. What is your name, age, and place of residence?
2. When and where were you born?
3. When and where did you enter military service?
4. Why did you enter the military?
5. Where did you receive military training?
6. What type of training did you receive?
7. When and where did you leave the US for overseas?
8. How were you transported overseas?
9. When and where did you first arrive overseas?
10. What were the name of the unit(s) you served with?
11. What were your job duties?
12. What were the locations where you served?
13. What were some memorable places that you were at?
14. What were some memorable people that you met?
15. What were some memorable things that you did or saw?
16. What was a difficult time or activity?
17. What was a happy time or activity?
18. What were the living conditions like?
19. How do you feel about your war service?
20. What awards and decorations did you receive?
21. What was your highest rank?
22. When and where did you leave military service?
23. Where did you go after leaving the military?
24. What did you do after leaving the military?
25. What occupation(s) did you have after military service?
26. What are the names of your spouse and children?
27. What are your hobbies?
28. Do you stay in contact with army buddies?
29. Do you participate in veterans activities?
30. Do you have other comments you would like to make?

Send your completed information to Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Blue Springs, MO 64014. E-mail can be sent to [REDACTED]. If you have questions please call [REDACTED] and leave a message. Thank you for your time and consideration. It is a valuable contribution to the history of the Americal Division.

Support our troops more than a slogan



Bill Allen (center) and other Co. C, 1/20th Infantry "walking wounded" recuperating in Duc Pho in January 1969. Two of those with Allen in the photo were killed on May 31, 1969.

The September 11, 2001 attack on America has caused many Americans to examine their own patriotism. Many have been motivated to act in support of our men and women in military service. This is especially true for those who have been there before.

William "Bill" Allen served with Co. C, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB in 1968. He was an infantryman serving in a bad place at a bad time. He has always had an affection for those fighting on the front lines.

After the September 11 attack Allen decided to extend his support to the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division at Ft. Drum, NY. The 10th Mountain Division is one of the first U.S. Army units to be deployed in time of war. They have been involved in almost every land combat effort since the Vietnam War. Members of the 10th Mountain Division have recently been deployed to the combat zone in Afghanistan.

Allen is an active member of the Michigan VFW and the Americal Division Veterans Association. Through the financial support of local businesses and organizations, the VFW was able to obtain various small items for the troops. Support from The Greentown Casino in Detroit was especially helpful in this worthwhile project.

Getting the items distributed was not as easy as it would appear. This is where Allen stepped in. He found that he needed contacts at Ft. Drum in order to get approval to send the items. The military is understandably security conscious of anything sent to U.S. forces in a time of war.

Through a personal contact he was able to make a proposal that was finally accepted. A special code was developed to identify the items and to thwart possible hoax or dangerous mailings. Allen noted that "The VFW could not get clearance from the Department of Defense but we (ADVA) got the stuff through."

Allen remarked that he worked with the 10th Mountain Division for obvious reasons. "They are grunts like me," he says. "They are in the mountains like we were."

MAJ Ken McDorman, Public Affairs Officer, sent Allen a message that said, "Sir, thanks again for the items. We gave them away to the troops as they boarded the aircraft. They were much appreciated. Thanks again for your patriotism and thoughtfulness."

In the coming months Allen expects that he will continue his efforts in support of troops deployed on the battlefield. He is currently collecting items for the 127th ANG Wing from Selfredge ANG Base in Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

1/46TH Infantry Torchlight Ceremony

Dear Editor,

Please inform your readers of the annual 46th Infantry Regiment Torchlight Ceremony at Ft. Knox, KY. This year's Torchlight will be run by the 2nd Battalion 46th Infantry and will again be on 27 March. Please contact us for further details. Write or call:

Commander; 2-46 INF, IATB
ATSB-BAF (Torchlight)

Fort Knox, KY 40121

e-mail: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

MAJ Kevin Osborn; Battalion XO

87th Chemical Detachment

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading the ADVA website information on the 198th LIB. I found my unit, the 87th Chemical Detachment, in the Order of Battle. The 87th Chem. Det. supported the 198th with people sniffers, defoliation, flame drops, and tear gas (CS) drops. We were small, about ten at full strength, but proud nonetheless.

I was a Chemical Corps officer who commanded the unit. We flew with the air cavalry (mostly D Troop, 1/1 Cav, The Sabres) every day it didn't rain. Earlier in my tour we flew with the Warlords and some with the Blue Ghost. I reported directly to COL Richardson and later COL Smith, and received my missions from BDE S-2 in the evenings.

Tom Sneeringer: 87th Chemical Detachment, 198th LIB

Tony Percoskie, RIP

Dear Editor,

After a long and valorous battle with cancer, Tony Percoskie (Door Gunner, 178th Aviation, "The Boxcars") passed away last November 23rd. He was buried with full military honors at the Veteran's Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona. Tony was instrumental in getting the word out to Vietnam Veterans about the value of CT Scans for lung cancer instead of the "normal" chest x-ray. A collection of Tony's last communications can be viewed at: <http://www.lrrpranger.org/index1.html> by clicking on "Health Issues" and then "E-mails from Tony." The family has requested that donations be sent to Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members "Tony Peroskie" Cancer Fund (VHCMA-TPCF for short), [REDACTED] Memphis, TN 38175-2512.

[Obituary sent by Stephen C. Crabtree]

Dear Editor,

I noted a letter from Tony Percoskie in the Oct-Nov-Dec. newsletter about Agent Orange. For his information and any of the other members who served in Vietnam, the VA recognizes multiple disabilities as being related to Agent Orange exposure. Any Vietnam veteran who served in Vietnam for as little as one day is considered to be exposed to Agent Orange. Any VA Regional Office can tell you if a specific disease has been linked to Agent Orange exposure. The toll-free general telephone number for VA benefits is [REDACTED]. Remember, if you served in-country, you don't have to prove exposure, just that you served in country. Anyone interested should contact the VA for more specifics.

Bob Mitchell; Co. D, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 1969

Melbourne, FL Vietnam veterans reunion

Dear Editor,

I hope you had a great holiday. Will you please put a note in the newsletter about the upcoming southeast region get together. It will be held at the annual Vietnam veterans reunion in Melbourne, FL on April 26-28, 2002. We will meet at one o'clock on April 27th and then have a group picture at two o'clock. We will be in the middle of campground "A" under the blue tent. Come on down to Florida and warm up after a long cold winter. We had a great time last year and met a lot of old friends. We hope to meet a lot more this year. If you have any questions give me a call or send e-mail.

Bob Kapp; 198th LIB

Tom "Bone" Herrington, RIP

Dear Editor,

Tom "Bone" Herrington recently passed away. He served in Vietnam with the 176th AHC (Minutemen, Muskets, and Blacksmiths). The following is taken from his death notice in the Sarasota newspaper:

Thomas "Tom" Robert Herrington, 55, Sarasota, died Jan. 18, 2002. He was born Jan. 5, 1947, in Charlotte, N.C., and came to the area 20 years ago from Birmingham, Ala. He was an air traffic controller for the FAA for 20 years and a pilot with Air Scan. He was a warrant officer in the Army during the Vietnam War and received the Air Medal, Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Perry, Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association and was a U.S. swimming official.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Pamela; sons Thomas J., Robert and Michael, all of Sarasota; a brother, James W. Jr. of Perry; and his mother, Anna W. of Perry. He was buried at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell with full military honors. Memorial donations may be made to Disabled American Veterans, Sarasota County Chapter No. 3, 2445 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34237.

Tom Herrington served in Vietnam with my brother CW2 Ralph Bigelow. Ralph was killed-in-action and Tom helped provide some very useful information about Ralph's military service. I also have a brother Wayne who served in Vietnam with the 548th Engineer Bn. I also joined the Army in order to fly but I was a little late.

Congratulations to those taking care of the ADVA website. It is a job well done.

Ken Bigelow; Buffalo, NY

US Naval Home [USNH]

Vietnam Editor's note: ADVA founding member Al Cota gave me a special guided tour of the USNH a few years ago. Al keeps folks on their toes and is a great tour guide. If you are in the area stop by and see the place. It may not be too soon for us VN vets to be thinking about a nice place to spend retirement.

More than 150 years ago, Congress established a home for destitute Navy officers, sailors and Marines in Philadelphia. Some 20 years later in 1851, with money demanded as booty from the Mexican War, Congress established an asylum for "old and disabled soldiers" in Washington, D.C. Through the proceeding years, the USNH, now in Gulfport, Miss., and the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH), still in D.C., have operated under separate legislation, undergoing many changes. One of the biggest changes established the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH), which

combined the USSAH and the USNH under the unified management of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Board.

Regulations such as resident eligibility and resident fee, operating funds, oversight, etc. now are standardized for both Homes. The AFRH is an independent federal agency. Each Home has a local advisory board, administered by the AFRH Board appointed by the Secretary of Defense. Funding for the Homes comes from a Congressional trust fund that is fed by monthly, active-duty payroll deductions of 50 cents, fines and forfeitures from military disciplinary actions, interest earned on the trust, and resident fees. Both Homes are model retirement centers, where residents can maintain an independent lifestyle in an environment designed for safety, comfort and personal enrichment.

USNH is situated on 39 acres fronting the Gulf of Mexico. Visitors or potential residents are welcome. There are accommodations for 550 private resident rooms. Each room has a half bath and basic furniture for the comfort of the resident. Showers and laundry facilities are provided in each of the two residential wings on each floor.

The first floor of the residency building includes a fine, full-service dining facility that provides three meals a day; an accredited health care facility that provides quality health and dental care; and a wellness center for activities on fitness and health needs. Also, on the first floor is the Fiddlers Green ballroom and recreational activity center; full post office lock box service; bowling center, 24-hour library, and Navy Exchange convenience store. Other services available are: Hancock Bank USNH branch; barber and beauty shop service; and the Lord's Cabin -- a small chapel prayer oom adjoining the main lobby. A full-service bar and lounge are available, complete with large-screen TVs.

The Home has a fleet of vans and buses that provide scheduled transportation to special events, shopping trips and other recreational outings. Local bus transportation is available at the main entrance on a regular basis to all the coast city centers. The Naval Home has on-campus medical facilities including a pharmacy, clinical services and a dental clinic. Additionally, there are 60 long-term care beds, and plans were approved to build a new medical center that will expand the capacity of long-term care.

Veterans are eligible to become a resident of either the USNH or USSAH if their active duty service in the military is at least 50 percent enlisted, warrant officer or limited duty officer and who are:

- Veterans with 20 or more years of active duty service and are at least 60 years old, or

- Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to a service-connected disability, or
- Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to non service-connected disability, and who served in a war theater or received hostile fire pay, or
- Female veterans who served prior to 1948 or
- Coast Guard veterans who had service during wartime while the Coast Guard was operated as part of the Navy who meet one of the aforementioned criteria.

Applicants must be free of drug, alcohol, and psychiatric problems, and never have been convicted of a felony. Married couples are welcome, but both must be eligible in their own right. At the time of admission applicants must be able to live independently. As an example of this, they must be able to take care of their own personal needs, attend a central dining facility for meals and keep all medical appointments. If increased health care is needed after being admitted, assisted living and long term care are available at both Homes.

Residents pay no entrance deposit, down payment or application fee. Once admitted, they pay a monthly percentage of all their income [i.e. 40% non-assisted or 65% assisted living]. This

includes three meals a day; a private room with bath; recreational activities, including bowling, golf, fishing, gardening and many trips; and health care, including dentistry, optometry, podiatry, etc.. For more information review www.afrh.com/navyhome.htm or email [REDACTED] and/or call the USNH at [REDACTED], or the USSAH at [REDACTED].

[Source: www.afrh.com/navyhome.htm JUL 01]

Submitted by: Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret)

Director, Retiree Activities Office & U.S. Embassy

Warden Baguio City RP

Fathers/Sons oral histories needed for book

Dear Editor,

My name is Alexandra Cann and I am a research assistant to Michael Takiff, an author working on a book of oral histories, to be published by HarperCollins.

The reason I am writing to you is that I am in the process of searching for Veterans who fit the following description and who might be interested in being interviewed by the author for possible inclusion. The book will feature father-son pairs (both living), where the father is a veteran of WWII and the son a veteran of Vietnam. The book will include abroad range of people: from every geographic, ethnic and economic background, every military specialty, every branch of service, every rank, every point of view. The book will have no particular slant -- it's about THEIR stories, not the author's opinions.

If you know of anyone who, along with his father or son, fits the above description -- or if you know someone else who might - please contact me. I particularly welcome hearing from Chaplains who served, homeless or formerly homeless, incarcerated or disabled veterans; it is essential that the book include them. I also welcome suggestions about other places to search for such vets. And please pass the word -- the more people who know about this project, the better the book will be. Thank you.

Alexandra Cann

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

Michael Takiff

[REDACTED] (voice); [REDACTED] (fax); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; New York, NY 10025

Your personal stories are in great demand!

Please send me your stories for the newsletter. It is a great way to capture the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam. Photos are also welcome although they need to be copies as they will not be returned. Stories of your current activities and events are needed too. The newsletter would be empty without your contributions.

Each quarter when I begin editing the newsletter I fear that I will not have enough items to print. There is plenty of historical information available from the archives to fall back on. But it is important that you tell your individual stories in order to put the human touch on the historical accounts. The success of the newsletter depends on the stories we receive from you.

I am happy to help edit your writings. At the current time there is no backlog in stories to print so it is likely your item would appear in the next edition of the newsletter. If you have been waiting to tell you story please do not wait any longer.

Items can be sent by postal mail or by e-mail. Mail to Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor, [REDACTED] Blue Springs, MO 64014. [REDACTED]. Thank your for your interest and your cooperation. -GLN-

www.americal.org/locator

Looking For: Anyone who served with the **101st Medical Regt.** or the **121st Medical Bn.** I am doing research on both of these medical units from the time they formed and trained to when the unit became the 23rd Medical Bn. during Korean War. Contact: SFC John Crespi US Army Retired [REDACTED]

Looking For: LTC Ron Zahm, AG 1967. **Project Oregon, Task Force Oregon** and Americal Division. Contact: Jerry Ladd, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] San Pablo, CA 94806. [REDACTED]
Looking For: Any of the following men listed on a roster with my father: S.L. Gonzalez, H. P. Simmons, Richard L. Roy, J. G. Morton, H. K. Norman, Fred Van Valkenburd, C. Bartosik, Joseph Shultz, Michael Grochowski, Ray Sandera, Gaylord Richardson, Eldon Smith, Joseph Poduka, Howard Moritz, Earl Meyers, Samuel Pigg, Richard Petz, John Shay, John Owens, Clayton Nelson, James McCollum, Haywood Norman, Arthur Pollard, LeLand Sande, Elzie Scott, Erwin Losich, Olan Rheams, Robert Burd, Ustin Powell, William Taugtes, Bobbie Lee, Adam Solesmeyer, Lawrence Schieffer, Bert Welch, Joseph Kryk, John Showalter, Donald Warner, Richard Pond, John Schiller, Walter Rodgers, Earl Schoonberger, Albert Proffitt, Cecil Shelton, James Tasci, Alvin Stosiak, James Twombly, Mario Latino. They were WWII Roys Raiders, 182nd Infantry, Company G, 2nd Platoon. I believe these are my fathers groups. He served in Bougainville, Philippines, Japan and appeared in NY Times photo of **Roys Raiders** dated December 12, 1944. Contact: Edward J. Gekosky, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Woodbridge, VA 22192
Looking For: Anyone, **flamethrower Co 132nd Regt. HQ.** My grandfather, Max Hartswick, started out in K Co., 132nd Regt., 3rd Bn. in 1944. They needed volunteers for the flamethrower unit and he volunteered. He eventually returned to K Co. with the weapons platoon. He was from State College, PA and entered the service in 1943, basic training in the 86th (Blackhawk) division in Gainesville, TX. He would like to hear from anyone he served with. Contact: Steve Dreibelbis, [REDACTED] State College, PA 16801, [REDACTED]
Looking For: Anybody, **Btry. D, 1/82nd Arty.**, 10/69-7/70. Sgt. Rodreguz, Edmon Santiago Vaga, 'Pierre' Leblanc, Hodge Hallick, Tom Dever, or others. Contact:

WEB LOCATOR

Bob Miller, [REDACTED] Farmington, NY 14425. [REDACTED]
Looking For: Bob Anderson, **198th LIB.**, 1968-69. Phil Gifford, 6271 Newville Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89103, [REDACTED]
Looking For: Willie Rogers, Porkey Burkoff, and all **Co. E, 1/46th Inf.**, 4.2 mortar, 5/69-4/70. Contact: Mike Conard, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Monmouth, IL 61462
Looking For: Butch Parker, **11th LIB.** Contact: John Gary Thomas [REDACTED]
Black Mountain, NC 28711-1109
Looking For: Sgt. Belforte, **101st Quatermaster, A Co.**, Guadalcanal 1942-43. Contact: Larry Arone, [REDACTED]
Billerica, MA 01821. [REDACTED]
Looking For: Sgt. Hampton, **723rd Maint. Bn.**, 68-69. Contact: Thomas McCauley [REDACTED]
Beaumont, TX 77705,
Looking For: Anyone servomg with PVT Joe Rodriguez, **Co. C, 182nd Inf.** He was a replacement and joined the Americal in March, 1945. He was wounded on Cebu Island April, 1945 and later returned to his company. He also served in Japan. Contact: David Rodriguez, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chula Vista, CA 91911.
Looking For: Anyone, **Quad 50s**, early 70-early 71: Contact: Little John Encel Harwood, [REDACTED] Fort Bragg, NC 28307
Looking For: Anyone knowing my uncle Edward Duff. **Co. B, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB.** I believe he was in Vietnam from 12/67 to about 6/68. Contact: Brian Spencer [REDACTED] Franklin, IN 46131, [REDACTED]
Looking For: Anyone **3/16th Arty, HHQ.** 68-69, Motor Pool. Michael Vale, Sgt. Jackson, Rogers. Contact: Elroy Turrentine [REDACTED] Pittsburg, TX 75686. [REDACTED]
Looking For: Staff Sergeant Hollis Neal and Sgt Hite or others, **C Co. 723d Maint Bn.** - 1969/1970. Also, looking for the 15 men advance party who was assigned with me on Hawk Hill. Contact: SFC Wesley Montgomery [REDACTED] Mason, OH 45040,
Looking For: anyone, **B Btry., 6/11th Arty,** or A, C, or D Co., 4/3 Inf., 1970. Contact: Tom Ganoe [REDACTED] Auburntown, TN, 37016. [REDACTED]
Looking For: Anyone, **HHQ & FDC, 1/14th Arty.**, 1967 - 68 and A Co. 1/52nd Inf.

There were 4 KIA and 16 WIA on June 23, 1968. Contact: Robert Pinto [REDACTED]
Burlington, NJ 08016-4510
Looking For: Shorty, Oz, & Others, **Co. C, 4/3rd Inf.**, Sep 69 - Oct 70. Contact: Frank J. Hensley [REDACTED] Arlington, VA 22202
Looking For: Robert Hernandez-San Antonio, TX, Ricky Mashall-North Carolina, Larry Riggle-North Carolina, stationed with **HHC** in Chu Lai as perimeter guards, Jun-70/Sep 71. Contact: Eduardo Garcia [REDACTED] Houston, TX 77234, [REDACTED]
Looking For: Anyone that knew my father, MSG Louis Sullivan, nickname Sully. He was in Chu Lai in 1968-1969, **Americal HQ.** the personal chef of the general. Contact: Lynda Vanderford [REDACTED] Raleigh, MS 39153. [REDACTED]
Looking For: G. Fox, D Schmeltr, G. Givens, any others, **Co. A, 123rd Avn. Bn.**, 6/70-6/71. Contact: Leo Koziel, [REDACTED] Dr., Omaha, NE 68118
Looking For: James Scott, **B Co., 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB,** Mortar Platoon, 1968-1969. Contact: Archie Archuleta [REDACTED] Phoenix, AZ 85035
Looking For: Donald Williamson Mitchell, 1966 and 1970, **1st Sqd/1st Cav.**, Contact: R Verschuur [REDACTED] Netherlands
Looking For: Anyone, **C Btry., 3/16 Arty.**, Dec 67 - Nov 68. Fire Direction Center. Contact: CW2 Steve Fitts, USAR, Retired [REDACTED] Ringgold, VA 24586. [REDACTED]
Looking For: Bill (Gramps), **1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB.** 1970. Contact: Michael Williams [REDACTED] Candor, NC 27229, [REDACTED]
Looking For: Kucera, Overby, van Overloop, Salyers, Ronald Crouch; **Co. B, 6th Support Bn., 11th LIB,** Dec 67-July 69. Contact: Shelton Beach [REDACTED] Blackfoot, ID 83221, [REDACTED]
Looking For: Anyone, **182nd Infantry, Anti-Tank Co.**, 11/43-12/15/1945 New Caledonia, Fiji, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Guinea, Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Japan. Contact: Richard {Dick} C. Lovett [REDACTED] Albany, OR 97330. [REDACTED]

VIETNAM NETWORK**MG Dollar leads the 80th Division (IT)**

Like many Vietnam veterans, Douglas Owen Dollar was raised in the shadow of World War II veterans. He was born just before the end of WWII and grew up in the rural Cookson Hills of eastern Oklahoma. Here he learned to admire the values of the soldiers whose service and sacrifice kept America free. World War II veterans were his heroes. As a youth he often thought of fulfilling their special values through a military career.

After graduating from high school in Tahlequah, OK he attended a local college. He then transferred to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK and joined the ROTC program. Here he solidified his commitment for a future in the army. In May 1968 he completed the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant. He achieved recognition as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

In July 1969 he was assigned to Vietnam as a Platoon Leader in Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. When Dollar arrived the area around LZ Stinson was heavily infested with deadly booby traps. He recalls, "When I first arrived in the field I was frightened. But my fear subsided when I met the men in my company. It was a group I knew I could count on."

CPT Terry Gordon commanded Co. C. Gordon was popular with his men and morale was high. Co. C received the nickname "Happy Company." Their unit pride included special black kerchief with the letter C sewed on it. About six soldiers wore the scarf as an armband during the moratorium on the war in the States.

The armbands lead to an erroneous conclusion by an uninitiated reporter. A journalist accompanied the unit on a mission that ended in a firefight and some members of Co. C wounded by booby traps. The reporter saw the Americans wearing black armbands. "The journalist's news report gave the impression that the black armbands were worn by the company in support of the anti-war movement in the Untied States," said Dollar, adding, "As a trained journalist, I understood it made a great human interest story, but it was not accurate. It shows why the war has been so misunderstood in this country."

Dollar saw the young soldiers that served under him as normal kids doing unusual and remarkable things. Sometimes they were heroic. One soldier acted bravely and saved the life of a baby. Dollar put the soldier in for a Silver Star that was downgraded to a Bronze Star for valor. "He was a great soldier," says Dollar. Unfortunately, the soldier was killed shortly after returning home and leaving the army.

"I looked at my job as trying to keep soldiers from getting killed. It was my commitment," recounts Dollar. He expected the war experience to transform him and indeed he was forever changed by the experience. Looking back he says, "Going to Vietnam was an obvious obligation to me. I did not relish it, but it was my duty. I did not dwell on it." He returned to the United States in July 1970.

Looking back, he describes the soldiers he served with as coming from a wide spectrum of society. "They were capable and intelligent. They were not the disadvantaged portrayed in the media," he says. He acknowledges the strong kinship that existed among the soldiers and he wishes to do more to stay in touch with them. "We did not come back as a unit," he says. "We came back individually. We wanted to put it aside."

Dollar left active service in 1972 and entered the Army Reserves in his home state of Oklahoma. Here he began a long association with the 95th Division (Training). He also received a MS degree in Mass Communications and an EdD degree in Higher Education Administration from Oklahoma State University.

A highlight of his service in the 95th Division came in 1999 when he was Acting Commander of the division. He traveled to Metz, France to observe the 55th anniversary of the liberation of the town from Nazi control. Veterans of the 95th Division are known as the "Iron men of Metz" for their stubborn fight to free the fortress city from the desperate hold of the Germans. The fight for Metz was finally won in November 1944.

**Major General Douglas O. Dollar**

Being with the World War II veterans was a memorable occasion. He describes the older veterans as being "close knit, tied to a specific event, a common experience." He felt fortunate and honored to spend time with a group of veterans that were his heroes in his youth.

In May 2001 his tenure with the 95th Division ended as he began duties as the Commander of the 80th Division (Institutional Training) headquartered in Richmond, VA. The 80th Division is a reserve unit that is comprised of over 3,000 reservists in 40 units throughout Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

The division consists of eight brigades. Six provide classroom and hands-on training in the areas of Combat Support, Combat Service Support, Professional Development, Medical Service, Initial Entry Chemical Soldiers, and Initial Entry Military Police Soldiers. One brigade is designated as Training Support, and one as ROTC training. Upon mobilization, the division is slated for Ft. Gordon, GA. to provide Basic Combat Training (BCT) and MP and Chemical One Station Unit Training (OSUT).

To go along with his new assignment in the 80th Division he was recently promoted to the rank of Major General. On December 20, 2001 he received his second star. He notes that there are at least three other Americal Division veterans currently serving in the 80th Division. One is the division Command Sergeant Major, CSM Michael S. Phoenix.

Among the awards and decorations earned by MG Dollar are the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, and Ranger Tab.

In addition to his military duties MG Dollar serves as the Executive Officer of the National Society of the Scabbard and Blade, an all-service military honor society for Reserve Officer Training Corps graduates. The society was first formed in Wisconsin in 1904. Dollar became a member while a student at Oklahoma State University and has helped revive current interest in the honor society.

He is also President of New Forums Press, Inc. of Stillwater, OK. His company specializes in the development, production, promotion, and distribution of academic books, journals, and newsletters for administrators and faculty in higher education.

MG Dollar and his wife Gayla reside in Oklahoma. They have one son Rodney and two daughters, Karen and Katherine.

Dear Editor,

My name is Sal Mantia and I am from St. Louis, Missouri. I am sending this e-mail for my brother-in-law, Patrick E. Bullock. He was in the 198th Infantry stationed in Vietnam from 1969-1970. He is attempting to locate a book called "198th Infantry." Are you aware of such a book or any other related material on this topic? He has attempted to locate the book through various booksellers. His mother believes that she ran across it last year on some web site. However, she is not able to recall the information, except that the book is out of print. Pat currently belongs to VFW Post 2184 in St. Louis, Missouri. Can you help us out or at least refer us to someone who may have knowledge in this area?

Sal Mantia, [REDACTED] or
Mr. Patrick Bullock, [REDACTED]
St. Louis, Missouri 63125

Dear Editor,

I am writing this email for my father-in-law, Fred Jimenez. He was stationed with Charlie Company, 5th Battalion 46th infantry, 198th brigade from September 1970 to January 1971. He is interested in finding information and pictures of his comrades and peers who were stationed with him during this time. Fred was a machine gunner and he was known by his comrades as "Chico". A combat infantry film or news team was with the company for two weeks in the field and he was wondering what ever happened to the story and pictures of his platoon? Any information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

John Prejean, [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I am currently trying to find someone who knew my uncle, David Lawrence Napier, during his service in Vietnam. My brother and I are putting together my uncle's medals, as well as a scrapbook, as a gift for our father. I would love to get in touch with someone who knew him and could provide some memories or photos that we could present to my dad.

Here is some information about him:

NAME: David Lawrence Napier, 5/46th Inf., Co. C

HOMETOWN: Glen Allen, Virginia

NICKNAME: "The Zodiac"

SERVICE: From about July 1969-November 3 1969

KIA: November 3, 1969.

Cause: Stepped on a mine in Van Thien

Below is some information/anecdotes about my uncle which we have taken from his letters:

In mid/late July of 1969 Nape was part of an operation 15 miles northwest of Quang Ngai. His company discovered a Viet Cong hospital and 15 "hootches". Two people who were part of this operation with Nape is 2LT Thomas W. Wheeler from Atlanta, Georgia. Also, a certain MAJ Krause was present in this operation.

On July 26, 1969 he began training in a special school called the "Recondo School" to become a "Ranger".

On Aug 22nd through mid-September 1969 Nape was part of an operation in the Que Son Valley. There was some serious fighting during this time. They trapped the NVA on a hill.

On Oct. 28 night, someone in Nape's platoon was keeping night watch and heard rustling in the bushes. The guard ran to get a grenade. Another guy woke up and thought the guard was an NVA and shot him in the butt.

On Nov. 3rd Nape dies in a village near Van Thien. He enters a booby trapped hut. He steps on a "bouncing betty." Apparently he recognized that he had triggered it. He stood still and ordered his men to evacuate while he tried to disengage the trap but was not successful.

That is most of the specific information I have. It is possible that he was stationed at a fort called LZ Gator but I'm not sure.

Thank you for your time! Best regards.

Allison Puckett
[REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I am looking for Scott Davinney from Santa Cruz. We served together at Ft. Sam. medic training, 1967-68. He went to Vietnam; I went to Denver. Next year I arrived in-country and heard that his Americal unit had been overrun. I have tried to find him ever since.

Joseph K. Mitchell, [REDACTED]
Sonora, CA 95370; [REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

I am looking for Lt. Tierney, Battery B. 3/82nd Artillery. He was our FO when we got wounded on February 28, 1968.

Tony "Doc" La Palio, Co. C and Co. D, 4/31st Inf.
[REDACTED], Long Beach, CA 90808

Dear Editor,

I am looking for any original members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. I served as brigade chemical NCO from September 1965-March 1967. I was a SP5 in Tay Ninh and went over on the Alexander Patch from Boston Army Base. The VA has lost my records and cannot prove I was ever in Vietnam. I have insulin dependent diabetes and heart disease but they tell me it is not service related because I cannot prove my Vietnam service. If you remember me please call [REDACTED] or write Rev. Kelly McDuffie, [REDACTED], Lambert, MS. 38543.
[REDACTED]

Looking for a special WWII Army patch. Can you help?

Dear Editor,

Please help me find a special patch for my 84 year old uncle. He was in the 147th Infantry at Guadalcanal. The patch is a rectangle, blue, with a red number one on the patch with the word Guadalcanal superimposed on the number. The Southern Cross constellation is on the blue field surrounding the number. The patch is not a diamond- that is for the Marines and my uncle was in the Army.

I really want to get that patch for my uncle. I have exhausted my searches and you are my last hope. Please help me. Thank you.

Christina Abramowski
[REDACTED]
Belmont, MI 49306

VN Editor's note: I have heard of this patch before. I assume this patch was somehow associated with the Army troops that were closely associated with the 1st Marines in the South Pacific.

Fellow Veteran in Olympic Torch Run

In military lingo, it was 1846 hours. The date, 18 December 2001. The location, South Charleston, West Virginia. It was time for another mission. But this time a different mission from the type experienced as an Airborne Ranger in Korea, or as a "Commando" in Latin America, or as a Special Forces or infantry commander in Vietnam.



Colonel Carvell poses with his Olympic Torch running mates prior to the December 18, 2001 run.

This time, Retired Colonel Richard F. Carvell, former commander of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, was on his home turf. South Charleston is where he met his wife 48 years previously upon his return from nearly two years in combat during the Korean War. This time the weather was cold but clear. This time the streets were lined with friends, family, bands, streamers and cameras. Like Don Counsell, an Americal vet from Illinois, Carvell was selected to participate in carrying the Olympic Torch across America. He had been nominated to run by former Ranger comrades of the Korean War, by a former football teammate, and by friends and family. Coca Cola, an Olympic sponsor, made the selection based on the nominee's inspiration to others and his state of physical conditioning.

For over 30 years Colonel Carvell served in combat with ten different front-line units. He served in every position from rifleman to brigade staff level. Following his retirement from the military, he served in humanitarian causes as a volunteer in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The Olympic Torch run began in Atlanta on December 4 and zigzagged through towns across the continental US and Alaska. The run covered a distance of 13,500 miles before reaching its final point, Salt Lake City, on February 8, 2002. Of the 210,000 persons nominated, approximately 3,500 persons were selected to participate in the run. Colonel Carvell was selected as a Torch Bearer Support Runner and was told by the Committee to be able to run up to two miles at a brisk pace. Each night, starting at 6:46 PM, he would run his exact route twice in preparation for the task. He got a feel for the weather, the winds, and the lay of the land. He prepared for six weeks. "The trials were tough and a bit of a drag, but it put me in the groove for the main event", he recounted. Carvell said, "On the eve of the run, I felt great. My wife was encouraging and proud. The blue running uniform given to me by the Olympic sponsor was impressive. As we moved through the crowd to the starting point, my juices began to flow. It was exciting. Eight of

us were to run through my hometown. Two of us ran three segments each, the other six ran one. I ran my first segment with a 27 year old aerobic enthusiast. What a great competitor! It was a very fast pace. She and I were so charged up. She dropped off after running .2 mile and I continued on with a local football player for .3 mile. I ran my final segment, with a local competitive runner in her late 20's covering .4 of a mile. I carried the torch about half way. By the time it was over, I was glad. It was a brisk .9 mile. Amazing how adrenaline kicks in." The Colonel stated, "It was a high honor. I thought of those who have been scarred by war as I see a torch that is symbolic of peace. I felt inspired to dedicate the moment to those who fight and serve causes higher than their own self interests, to the heroes who lie quietly in the shadows of turmoil and our daily life."

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let you know that I received the ADVA newsletters (Oct-Nov-Dec 2001) in the mail today. Thank you so much for sending them. What a fantastic article about my dad Don Counsell! Just so you know, my dad dedicated his leg of the Olympic Torch relay to all Vietnam veterans...the ones who made it home and the ones who didn't. Thanks again!

Darcy Moder



Dear readers,

The USPS has a good record of issuing commemorative postage stamps to honor the service of America's veterans. The stamp above was issued last year. I kept seeing the stamp on posters in the post office but when I asked for them I was always told that the stamp was sold out. I finally went to the main post office and visited the special store for stamp collectors. They had it in stock. It is unfortunate that such a handsome stamp was not more readily available at local post offices. A veterans stamp ought to be on hand all the time. -GLN-

Dear Editor,

I am interested in the formation of an association of veterans of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade. I would like 198th veterans who share this idea to contact me for so we can determine the level of interest. I can be reached by e-mail at [REDACTED].

John Hacker
Co A, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB 1967-1968

Dear Editor,

I would like to tell you about two websites that have information about Agent Orange and disability benefits. It may be that newsletter readers will be interested in these sites.

One website is hosted by the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) at <http://www.nvlsp.org/spina.htm>. This site has information about Type II diabetes related to Agent Orange. It also has information about the AO class action lawsuit in the US 9th District Court. It ruled in favor of a couple of Nam vets this past November. A press release telling about the court's decision is at http://www.tlpi.org/tlpi/pressreleases/56397_1.htm.

Greg O'Neil; Long Beach, CA
Co. C, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB & 23rd MP Co., 4/70-4/71

RATTLER HISTORY

On 6 August 1964, the Third Aviation Company (AML) was activated and assigned to the Third United States Army for eventual movement to Vietnam. The company was attached, for logistical and administrative support, to the Eleventh Air Assault Division at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Major Lewis J. Henderson, Artillery, and Captain Curtis S. Crouch, Jr., Artillery, were assigned as CO and XO respectively. The company received an equipment readiness date of 21 October, a personnel readiness date of 27 November and the APO of Bien Hoa, Vietnam. Pre-overseas leaves were given in early November. The unit departed Fort Benning on 27 November and arrived at Bien Hoa on 2 December 1964.

The 151st Transportation Detachment was organized at Fort Eustis, Virginia in 1964 under the command of Major Thomas E. Connell with a full compliment of assigned personnel in November, 1964. This detachment arrived at Bien Hoa on the same day as the Third Aviation Company (AML). The Detachment Maintenance Officer, the person who came up with the call sign "Snake Doctor", was Chief Warrant Officer Joseph P. Holland. Major Connell and CW2 Holland were Snake Doctor I and II respectively.

Upon arrival in Vietnam, approximately 75% of the Company was infused with personnel from other companies of the 145th Aviation Battalion to equitably spread CONUS rotation dates. The Company was billeted in Bailey Compound at Bien Hoa with the 118th Assault Helicopter Company (the Thunderbirds). On 14 December, the Third Aviation Company (AML) was redesignated as Company A, 501st Aviation Battalion. On 26 December, Lt. Col. Robert K. Cunningham, CO of the 145th Aviation Battalion, declared the Company operational.

Prior to CONUS departure the Company and platoons selected call signs for use in Vietnam. Thanks to Captain Cliff Ohlenburger and his alma mater, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas (the Rattlers), the Rattler call sign for the Company was chosen. Major Henderson's wife, Ramona, gets credit for the Firebird call sign (from Stravinsky's ballet). Captain Ohlenburger designed the Rattler emblem/patch for the Company and the Firebird for the gunship platoon. Captain Marvin Schwem originated the Esquire patch for the 1st lift platoon. Captain Jesse James the Phantom patch for the 2nd platoon. Captain Ray Young the Snake Doctor patch for Maintenance, and Major Thomas E. Connell/Captain Billy W. Taylor was the patch for the 151st Transportation Detachment.

On 1 September 1966, the Company name was changed once again, and the Rattlers and Firebirds became the call signs of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company.

On 18 April 1967, our unit was moved from III Corps at Bien Hoa and the 145th Aviation Battalion to I Corps at Chu Lai and the 14th Aviation Battalion as part of Task Force Oregon. This Task Force later became Americal Division (23rd Infantry). The Company remained at Chu Lai, except for several weeks of TDY, until 30 September 1971 when it was deactivated.

During the 6 years and 10 months our company served in Vietnam, we lost 54 men KIA. Our first door gunners were provided by the 25th Infantry Division out of Hawaii. Platoons were sent to us for 90 day duty. Our first KIA, Jerry Wayne Osborn, was one of these TDY men. Another of our gunners during this time, Daniel Fernandez, returned to Vietnam when the 25th Division was sent to war in late 1965. On 18 February 1966, Fernandez was killed in action and later awarded the Congressional

Medal of Honor posthumously. Our unit went TDY to fly cover for the forces that were preparing the area in Central Highlands to receive the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the fall of 1965. There were many major operations that we participated in such as Attleboro, Junction City, and Lam Son 719. The Rattlers and the Dolphins of the 174th AHC inserted the troops at My Lai on 16 March 1968.

We had three men who were POWs for 63 months. WO Frank Anton, Sp/4 Robert Lewis and PFC Jim Pfister were shot down in a Firebird gunship on 5 January 1968 and captured the next morning. All three men stayed in the Army and are now retired from the service. On 10 January 1970 we had a Firebird aircraft with a crew of Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, WO George A. Howes, SP/5 Wayne C. Allen and SP/4 Francis G. Graziosi to disappear while returning to Chu Lai under adverse weather conditions. The aircraft and crew were never located.

[Submitted by Charlie Sparks, 71st AHC]

"Only Sons" and the draft

From the Selective Service website.

Contrary to popular belief, "only sons," "the last son to carry the family name," and "sole surviving sons" must register and they can be drafted. However, they may be entitled to a peacetime deferment if there is a military death in the immediate family.

Provisions regarding the survivors of veterans were written into Selective Service law after World War II. Details have varied over the years, but the basic premise remains the same; where a family member has been lost as a result of military service, the remaining family members should be protected insofar as possible.

It is important to keep in mind that the provisions are directly related to service-connected deaths. The mere fact that a man is the only child or only son does not qualify him for consideration - he must be the survivor of one who died as a result of military service.

The present law provides a peacetime exemption for anyone whose parent or sibling was killed in action, died in line of duty, or died later as a result of disease or injury incurred in line of duty while serving in the armed forces of the United States. Also included are those whose parent or sibling is in a captured or missing status as a result of service in the armed forces during any period of time. This is known as the "surviving son or brother" provision. A man does not have to be the only surviving son in order to qualify; if there are four sons in a family and one dies in the line of duty, the remaining three would qualify for surviving son or brother status under the present law.

The surviving son or brother provision is applicable only in peacetime. It does not apply in time of war or national emergency declared by the Congress. The original law, passed in 1948, exempted the sole surviving son of a family where one or more sons or daughters died as a result of military service. No restriction existed at that time to limit the exemption to peacetime. The provision was intended to protect families which had lost a member in World War II.

In 1964, recognizing that sons of World War II veterans were reaching draft age, Congress changed the law to include the sole surviving son of a family where the father, or one or more sons or daughters, died as a result of military service. At this time the peacetime-only restriction was also added to the law. A further change was made in 1971, expanding the exemption to any son, not necessarily the sole surviving son, of a family where the father, brother or sister died as a result of military service. This provision was recently expanded to include mothers.

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

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

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