



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

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2001

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



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

TAPS TAPS TAPS

182 INFANTRY
Arthur J. Benway
Jarrettsville, MD
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY
Perry W. Doyle
Phoenix, AZ
April 10, 2001

182 INFANTRY H CO.
Earl Hobart
Reading, MA
April 4, 2001

164 INFANTRY
Maynard F. Holmes
Carson, WA
January 16, 2001

182 INFANTRY H CO.
Samuel M. Hosmer
Scottsdale, AZ
December 12, 2000

164 INFANTRY
Russell R. Landgren
Roseville, MN
November 11, 2000

164 INFANTRY
William Mazzeo
Virginia Beach, VA
December 17, 2000

57 ENGINEERS
Henry E. Perkins
Merrimack, NH
October 9, 2000

132 INFANTRY
Richard J. Reisenbigler
Erie, IL
Date Unknown

164 INFANTRY
Frank Weisgerber
Bismarck, ND
January 19, 2001

MAY THEY
REST
IN PEACE

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Charles J. Arcoletti
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Pittsburgh, PA
#Memb. Com.

Mayo K. Gravett
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf
Blackstone, VA
#Bill McLaughlin

Roger E. Sudbury
23 M.P.
Winter Haven, FL
#Paul Stiff

Allen Feser
23 M.P.
Lindenhurst, NY
#Larry Gelnett

Jesse L. Helms
198 LIB 5/46 Inf
Greenville, SC
#PNC Gary L. Noller

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Richard Bellrose
196 LIB 1/6 Inf Rec
Barre, MA
#R. Castranova

Mr. Craig L. Herrick
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
Running Springs, CA
#Paul McSpadden

Mr. Kenneth A. Payant
198 LIB Hq
Tampa, FL
#Thomas Bedient

Mr. Donald J. Prochaska
11 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Davis City, NE
#Self

NEW MEMBERS

Gary Akers
196 LIB HHC M.P.
Medina, OH
#Paul Stiff

Jesse D. Barnhill Jr
23 M.P.
Charleston, SC
#Ed Costello

Gary W. Bjornstad
196 LIB HHC/2/1 Inf
Portland, OR
#Scott Smith

Nels T. Bolstad
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Kalispell, MT
#Don Ballou

Thomas Brewer
198 LIB 1/4/46 Inf
Grand Terrace, CA
#Don Shebesta

Daniel Coco
26 Sig Co.
Denver, CO
#John Rorabaugh

Robert L. Corey
196 LIB
Tivoli, NY
#Paul Stiff

Greg W. Cullins
23 M.P. Co.
Bullhead, AZ
#Rich Merlin

Jose Debera
Associate
Webster, TX
#E. D.

John S. Diggers
11 LIB Hq/3/1 Inf
Orange Park, FL
#Art Cole

Albert J. Eley
82 Arty D/1/82
Dunkirk, IN
#Don Ballou

Felix E. Dees
198 LIB A/1/6
Rattan, OK
#Ron Ellis

Dan Edwards
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Grove City, OH
#Richard O. Sommer

Thomas K. Emmons
198 LIB a/1/52 Inf
Canbury, NJ
#PNC Gary L. Noller

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Doug Franz
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Edmonds, WA
#Scott Smith

Thomas A. Frost
182 Infantry D Co.
Galion, OH
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Francisco Garcia
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Chicago, IL
#Art Cole

Michael Granito
196 LIB 17 Cav F Tr
Highlands Heights, OH
#Dennis Daniels

Gale Helser
39 Engineers
McFarland, WI
#Terry Babler

Steve Ice
198 LIB 3/82 Arty
Peru, IN
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Richard C. Keil
196 LIB E/2/1 Inf
Westminster, CO
#Roy Anderson

Donald J. Lamb
1 Cav Tr B/1/1
McMillan, MI
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Timothy G. Lennon
196 LIB B/D/1 Inf
Venice CA
#Art Cole

Leonard Mankowski
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Mountainside, NJ
#Jay Flanagan

William R. McMinn (R
23 M. P.
Cooperas Cove, TX
#Self

Kenneth A. Miklosy
182 Infantry Ser &
South Lake Tahoe, CA
#Harold Leuthard

Greg O'Neil
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf
Long Beach, CA
#Don Ballou

Steve Palmer
14 Arty 1/14
Ames, IA
#Frank Fortuna

Jim Rogers
198 LIB D+E/1/46
Santa Cruz, CA
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Patrick M. Salsman
523 Sig Bn.
Corpus christi, TX
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Michael R. Frisbie
23 M.P.
Cypress Creek Est. T
#Rich Merlin

Pierre M. Gagnon
198 LIB C Co.
Branford, CT
#David Bliss

Howard M. Goldberg
11 LIB HHC
Minneapolis, MN
#PNC Gary L. Noller

William A. Halunen
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf
South Carver, MA
#Self

Roland G. Herbert
14 Avn 176 Avn
Vine Grove, KY
#William Walker

John E. Jurica
23 M.P. Co.
Sweet Home, OR
#Rich Merlin

Mark H. Knepp
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Santa Maria, CA
#John W. Anderson

Jon LeVasseur
11 LIB Tr E/1/1 Cav
Evanston, WY
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Alan A. Little
174 Avn Bn - 14 Cav
Bellville, OH
PNC Ronald Ward

Brian J. Marsden
196 LIB C/2/1 Inf
Lindenhurst, NY
#Self

Robert D. Merryman
198 LIB 49 Sig Plt
Natick, MA
#Internet

Harold Moore
Associate
Frankston, TX
#Ron Ellis

Thomas R. Packard
23 M.P. 196 LIB
Galloway, OH
#Rich Merlin

Kenneth R. Parker
246 F.A. C Btry
Farmingdale, NY
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Hobart G. Salisbury
198 LIB
Wallback, WV
Dave Bliss

Georg W. Scherer
196 LIB A/3/21 Inf
Red Bank, NJ
#PNC Gary L. Noller

Walter S. Schmidbaue
16 Arty C/3/16
Baltimore, MD
#Art Cole

Ronald E. Shaefer
23 M.P.
Huntsville, AL
#Paul Stiff

George R. Sunderland
23 M.P.
Fayetteville, NC
#Paul Stiff

Robert Tuskey
182 Infantry B Co.
Oak Creek, WI
#Art Cole

Elbert M. Van Volken
182 Infantry Hq/3
St. Petersburg, FL
#Art Cole

Robert E. Voyles
11 LIB
Arlington, TN
#Terry Babler

John W. White
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Decatur, GA
#Don Ballou

Loren B. Young
23 M.P. 11 Lib
Quinlan, TX
#Paul Stiff

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Dola and John McKnown
in memory of
Sgt. Randy Less - Sgt. Gil Maestas
Spec. Jimmy Long - Spec. Gary Cooper
A/20/11 LIB

Ron:

I really appreciate the work you and your committee are doing with the Americal Division Veteran's Association Scholarship program. There can be no more fitting memorial to all people who served our Nation, than to help future generations of Americans. At the end of the long line of political and moral reasons we are given for defending our country, what we are really fighting for is making sure "the blessings of liberty upon ourselves and our posterity" are secure.

Dola and I are making this gift in the names of four men from the Division who did not make it home. They were young men at the time of their deaths and we feel the best way to honor their memory is to help some other young person have a better life. So on behalf of these four men please accept the enclosed check.

Warm regards.
John and Dola McNow

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

CHAPTER NEWS

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

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden death of our devoted member and treasurer, Al Barbieri. We express our deepest sympathy and gratitude to his widow Esther.

There has been smooth transition of the office of treasurer to Mark Deam. Esther has been forwarding dues payments sent to Al Barbieri. Future dues payments can now go directly to Mark Deam, 418 East Ruth St. Sidney, OH 45365.

Our Commander and Reunion Chairman, Dave Eichhorn, reports that Reunion plans have been finalized. We look forward to our annual gathering this year in Marietta, Ohio, September 11th through September 14th. Marietta, known as the Riverboat Town, is located at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. It is rich in history and has many attractions of offer its visitors.

Come and meet old friends and make new ones.

Joe Tunis
Secretary

NORTHWEST CHAPTER
AK WA OR ID MT WY

COMMANDER
Dave Hammond

Beaverton, OR 97005

Tel: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

It is with my regrets that the Northwest Chapter meeting, which was to be held March 3, 2001, had to be canceled because of lack of attendance. The positive side of this canceled meeting is that we now have the beginning of an active group to build upon and plans are now in process to schedule a meeting for later this fall. An email group is also being established to keep the lines of communication open. Anyone wishing to participate please send me an email and I will add you to the group. Those of you not on email will be notified of the fall meeting and activities by regular mail with plenty of time to make your plans. Again, thanks to all of you who responded concerning the Chapter and the meeting and I look forward to your assistance in keeping the Northwest Chapter active.

Dave Hammond
Chapter Commander
email: [REDACTED]

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES? Your Chapter depends on annual dues. This is their major source of income.

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

COMMANDER
Cameron Baird

Stonewall, TX

Tel: [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
Malcolm East

Lumberton, TX

Tel: [REDACTED]

Alfred (Bruce) Mobley - Sergeant-at-Arms
Rev. Perry M. Woerner - Chaplain

The creation of a Chapter base is progressing well, and hopefully will yield administrative benefits as well as providing maximum exposure of planned Chapter activities to all Americal ves in the region.

Chapter membership and activities are fundamental to our organization, and we are exploring ways of enhancing the value and accessibility of Chapter membership. During the next few months, we will be conducting Chapter activities in various part of the region so that more people will be able to participate without having to travel excessive distances or sacrifice too much of their precious time. I hope to organize events in South Texas, North Texas/South Oklahoma, and possibly Little Rock in the near future.

Chapter Meeting:

A Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1800 on 21 April in Henderson, (East) Texas. The meeting will be hosted by National Commander Ron Ellis, who promised to serve up some of his East Texas Roadkill BBQ. Details are in the current Chapter Newsletter. Attendees are eligible for a 12 month complimentary Chapter membership as well as a chance at a fabulous door prize.

Soapbox:

Black berets are a double insult! The decision by the Secretary of the Army to issue black berets to all Army personnel is a fine example of the stupidity at the highest level. Black berets have long been the distinction of the elite Ranger Corps. and while non-combat support personnel are essential to the overall mission, they certainly shouldn't be entitled to co-opt the headgear of highly trained combat soldiers who have volunteered for hazardous duty. The added insult is that much of this headgear is to be produced in CHINA!

Hug somebody!

Cameron Baird
Chapter Commander

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

COMMANDER
Roland T. Castranova

Peabody, MA 01960

SEC/TREAS
Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Tel: [REDACTED]

There is no National Election this year and as a result we will not have to count ballots. So we will not have a party at the Museum in May. Some of the members have suggested that we have a picnic in July or August in lieu of the May party. If you have any idea of a location that would be centrally located for most of the members let Bernie know.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER
IL, IN, MI, MN, WICOMMANDER
John MathewsSEC/TREAS
Terry BablerVerona, WI 53593
Tel: [REDACTED]New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [REDACTED]

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

The Great Lakes Chapter is just finishing up attending activities at the Winterfest R&R Reunion & Festival in New Glarus, Wisconsin on January 19-20-21, 2001. We had a great attendance for the entire weekend. Over 500 people attended activities. People were from 21 states and Canada. About seventy (70) Americal veterans were in attendance including PNC Ed Marsh, PNC John DeGroot and Dave Taylor, Chairman of the Americal National Reunion, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio on June 21-22-23-24, 2001 this year.

No Snow--but very cold this year. Our special guest for the banquet was Dianne Carlson Evans--Founder of the Women's Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. She was presented with a check of \$4000 from Winterfest for the Memorial in Washington, DC.

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

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

The Great Lakes Chapter is now in the planning stage for the Americal National Reunion to be held in Washington, D.C. on November 8-9-10, 2002, at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City.

Planned are: Banquet and Dance, Hospitality Room, Night River Cruise on the Potomac with a view of Washington, DC, Veterans Day Ceremonies at all Memorials, ceremony for the Americal Plaque in Arlington National Cemetery and MORE!

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, one of the units in the Americal Division, will hold their Reunion in conjunction with Americal in DC.

Hotel reservation may be made after November 11, 2001. More information will be available at the Americal Reunion in Cleveland in June.

The next meeting of the Great Lakes Chapter will be held on January 20, 2002 in New Glarus, Wisconsin for the 16th Annual Winterfest R & R All Veterans Festival and Reunion.

The main hotel for the Festival, the Chalet Landhaus Inn, will have new conference rooms and an indoor pool for next year's Annual Winterfest R & R All Veterans Festival and Reunion on January 17-18-19-20, 2002. We expect a very good attendance for this event, from the Americal.

Our Chapter will again be attending the 19th Annual Veterans Reunion being held in Kokomo, Indiana on September 13-14-15-16, 2001. We will be setting up a Hospitality Tent and will set-up in the Vendor's Tent with a sign up sheet and PX items for purchase. We will take a group picture at the main flag at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday. Last year we had over one hundred (100) Americal Veterans attend. The grounds itself had over forty five thousand (45,000) attend last year.

For information on camping call, 765-628-0297 or their email at frogbo6566@aol.com or their website at www.hevvo.org. You may also stay at one of the many hotels in the area. There is a shuttle service from the hotels to the grounds. This Reunion is filling up fast-if you are planning on attending-make reservations NOW!

Our next Great Lakes Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday January 2, 2002 in New Glarus, Wisconsin at the 16th Annual Winterfest R & R All Veterans Festival and Reunion.

Our Chapter dues are \$5.00 a year. There is two Newsletters a year. One in June and the other in December. The Newsletter fills you in with the details as to what is going on. To renew or join the Great Lakes Chapter, please send your check to:

Adj. Terry Babler
Great Lakes Chapter

New Glarus, Wisconsin 53574

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, UT, NM,COMMANDER
Larry O'BoyleSEC/TREAS
Gene McGrath

Ran Santa Margarita, CA Pahrump, NV 89048

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

REUNION - REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

The Far West Chapter invites all ADVA members and their guest to Reunion 2001 to be held at:

Edgewater Hotel & Casino
Laughlin, Nevada
September 30, 2001 thru October 3, 2001

Rooms and banquet MUST be reserved in advance.

Room reservations may be made by calling the Hotel at [REDACTED] and refer to Group Code 'WADVA' to obtain the \$17.00 (plus tax) room rate. Rooms must be reserved by September 1, 2001.

For banquet reservations and menu contact:

Gene McGrath

Pahrump, NV 89048

We are sorry to announce the death of Colonel James Filler. Colonel Filler served with the 182nd Infantry during World War II. He passed away on April 22, 2001.

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

Commander's Comments

Welcome from the Commander. I hope all are enjoying a good Spring and getting ready for the Summer months. As the first year of my term comes to a close I am looking forward to the challenge that lies ahead. It has been a very good year for the Americal Division. We have gained many new members.

We must remember those who passed away this year and remember their families. Doyle Mason, who lived only a few miles from my home, recently passed and he will be missed by all who knew him. He was a faithful member of the Association as well as the SMW Region.

The National Reunion will be in Cleveland soon. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

I would like to announce, that Wayne Bryant will be the new Product Sales Manager. Wayne lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, and I am looking forward to working with him in the future. His duties will start July 1, 2001. Due to illness, Ken Turner will not be able to continue with product sales. I would like to personally thank Ken and his wife Jan for their hard work and for the dedication they have shown to the Association. They have taken care of product sales and worked at the museum for many years.

See you in Cleveland and remember to Hug a Veteran.

TET Weekend in Ardmore, OK



Ronald Ellis presents donation to BG Tom Davis

Once again I was fortunate to attend the annual Vietnam veterans reunion in Ardmore, OK. The event brings together veterans from Oklahoma and Texas for a weekend of conversation and remembrance. BG Tom Walker is the reunion organizer. He is a Vietnam veteran and is currently assigned as an assistant to the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army.

This year I presented General Walker with a \$100 check on behalf of the ADVA. The funds were to help defray the costs of the reunion. The get-together has been running for several years and is timed to coincide with Tet, the Chinese new year. Contact me if you would like more information on next year's celebration.

Co. A, 1/46th Inf. and Kham Duc reunion

The combined reunion of Co. A, 1/46th Inf. and Kham Duc veterans will be held 5-7 Oct. 2001 at the Crown Plaza St. Louis Airport (formerly the Radisson). Make hotel reservations by calling [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and ask for special rate of \$62.00 a night plus tax. The Saturday night buffet is \$26.00. The Kham Duc meeting will be Friday or Saturday. If you have any questions or to make event reservations please contact Bill and Ann Schneider at [REDACTED]

Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. Reunion

The Co. C, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (Radisson Hotel St. Louis Airport), 1128 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044, on July 20-21, 2001. There are 15 rooms reserved at a special rate of \$69.00 + tax. Rooms are blocked until 6/20/01. Make reservations at [REDACTED]

Call or send an e-mail if you have any questions. Terry Wyrick, [REDACTED] Cabool, MO 65689, [REDACTED]

In Memoriam

I am saddened to announce the death of Doyle Mason of Kilgore, TX. He died in a work related accident on Saturday, April 21. Funeral services were held on April 24 in Kilgore. Doyle served with the 26th Engineer Bn. in Vietnam.

South-Midwest Chapter members had a chapter meeting scheduled in the area for Saturday evening. Doyle was looking forward to attending the meeting. Chapter Commander Cameron Baird, Bill Bacon, Roger Gillmore and I visited the family at the home. Doyle's wife Brenda and the rest of the family are doing fine. Doyle was a fine father, husband, and dedicated ADVA member. He will be missed.



Wayne Bryant and National Commander Ronald Ellis

I recently visited Wayne Bryant in Greensboro, North Carolina. This was the first time Wayne and I have seen each other since we were together with Charlie Co., 1/46th Inf., 196th LIB in 1971. We had a very good visit talking about old times and looking at photo albums. We had been in contact for several years but this was the first face to face visit. It was a day Wayne and I will never forget.

I hope we will have many more visits in the future. Wayne and I were best buddies in Vietnam and I plan on this meeting to continue the relationship for a long time. Don't give up looking for an old friend as I often did. When you find the person you are looking for it will have been well worth the effort. I want to thank the Americal Division Veterans Association. If not for my involvement with the ADVA this special reunion might not have taken place.

Ronald R. Ellis, National Commander

196th LIB Association Reunion

The 196th LIB Assoc. is holding a reunion at Gettysburg, PA on July 26-29, 2001. Registration and hospitality room open on July 26. A membership meeting, memorial service, and dinner and dance (\$25) are set for Saturday. Registration is required (\$10).

The reunion will be held at the Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center, Gettysburg, 1-[REDACTED], room rate of \$89 plus tax. Contact Warren Neil for reunion reservations, [REDACTED], e-mail at [REDACTED], or write to [REDACTED] Cicero, IN, 46034.

It is not unusual for father and son to both be veterans. It may not be unusual for father and son to have served in the same division. But it is quite novel that father and son take separate paths to serve in the same division at the same time. CSM James D. Rogers and his son, 1LT Jim Rogers, served in the Americal Division in Vietnam at the same time. The following is an account of their service.

Father and son: Americal veterans

By Jim Rogers

My father was James D. Rogers. He was born February 8, 1933 in Davenport, IA and entered military service in 1939. He spent time in the Canal Zone and went Airborne Infantry upon his reenlistment. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and was promoted to Master Sergeant in December, 1942. He served with the 82nd Airborne during and after World War II.

After the war he was stationed at Ft. Bragg and later assigned to Korea. In 1954 he went to Language School in California. He then established an Airborne School for the Ecuadorian Army and returned to Ft. Lewis. This was followed by various TDY and advisory assignments including trips to Iran and Puerto Rico. In January, 1968 he left Ft. Benning to become Command Sergeant Major of the Americal Division. He served under Generals Koster and Gettys.

My father originally new Gen. Koster during WWII and they later served together at Ft. Benning. I am not clear if Koster asked for my dad as CSM of the Americal Division or if my dad asked Koster. My father returned from Vietnam and was assigned as CSM of the 1st US Army. He spent his entire life in the Army and retired in 1974 to Monterey, California. He died in 1991 of service connected disabilities.

I was born at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Jan. 10, 1948 and entered the service in February, 1966 at Ft. Benning, GA. I had basic training at Ft. Benning, GA; Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Jackson, SC.; and Officer Candidate School at Ft. Knox, KY. After Armor OCS I was assigned to an AIT Company at Ft. Jackson, SC.

I went to Vietnam in January, 1968 on the same plane that my father was on. I was assigned to Co. D, 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB. Later on I was assigned to the 1/46th Recon platoon. After Vietnam I had assignments at Ft. Hood, in Korea, and at Ft. Benning. I attended Jump School and Ranger School and branched transferred to Infantry from Armor. My last assignment was with the Ranger Department at Ft. Benning. My enlistment in the military ended in 1973.

My father and I arrived in Vietnam on January 16, 1968. My father had his assignment prior to leaving the U.S. When we arrived in Vietnam he immediately went to Saigon and I was sent to the replacement depot. I left the same night for Chu Lai. From there I was sent to the 1/46 Inf. and received orientation with Co. C. After Tet I was assigned as XO in Co. D.

I did not want to be the XO, I wanted to be a platoon leader. Monte Wolff, the C.O. of Co. D, finally put me in as a platoon leader. I stayed with Co. D until sometime in the spring of 1968 when I went to the Recon Platoon. This is what I really wanted. I stayed with them until the fall of 68.

After the original boat people went home my father was in a plane incident in Saigon. The airfield hit by rockets and the plane he was on crashed on take off. I went to visit him in the hospital and when I returned I was assigned to the 198 LIB TOC. In late December I was assigned to Americal Division HQ to finish my tour.

My dad went home in late December or early January due to his assignment to 1st Army at Ft. Mead, MD with Lt. Gen. Seaman. He received the Legion of Merit for his service in Vietnam. I left Vietnam in late January, 1969. I received the Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V and Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart.

It did not seem unusual at the time for me to be in Vietnam at the same time as my dad. I was an Army brat. I had friends who also



CSM James D. Rogers and 1LT Jim Rogers outside the CSM office, Americal HQ, Chu Lai; May, 1968

either served in Vietnam with their father or served in Vietnam with their brother. Many other of my friends had close relatives that served in Vietnam but at different times from my friends.

My father had two sons and two daughters. One daughter died in 1983 and Dad's wife died in 1992. My brother, sister, and I all currently live in the Monterey Bay area of California. I have two sons and one granddaughter. I have been married to my current wife for 20 years and I own four beauty colleges. I am looking forward to retire.

Medical library dedicated to Sharon Lane

Readers sent clippings about the dedication of a medical library in the honor of 1LT Sharon Lane. Lane was killed in combat in Vietnam while assigned to the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai. The 312th was located near the Americal Division headquarters on the South China Sea. Lane had been in Vietnam approximately six weeks.

The Army dedicated the military library at Ft. Carson, CO in Lane's memory. The February 22, 2001 dedication coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps. Lane was the only service woman to die in Vietnam as a result of combat action. She was killed in a rocket attack on the morning of June 8, 1969.

Sharon Lane was born in 1943 and attended schools in Canton, OH. She was trained at Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. She was assigned to Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, CO prior to her Vietnam assignment. She is buried in Canton, OH and is survived by her mother.

For further reading I suggest HOSTILE FIRE: The Life and Death of First Lieutenant Sharon Lane by Philip Bigler. This book was published by Vandamere Press and has a cover price of \$21.95.

A Reunion of Heroes

By Rachel Monserrate

January of 2001 marked the reunion of two of Vietnam's forgotten heroes. Jorge Hernandez and Nolan "Doc" Borel, soldiers who served in Company B, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, were reunited thirty years after they saw combat in Dragon Valley. Though it took three decades for these men to find each other, the events that occurred that January day in 1971 have not faded with time, and they will forever bind the friends to one another and to the memory of that fateful day.

On January 10, 1971, the platoon in which Hernandez and Borel served was patrolling into Dragon Valley with the dog handler, Rex Allen Vogelpohl, in the lead. The dog and handlers were sent in ahead of the rest of the soldiers to locate trip wires that may signal an ambush. Hernandez was walking point that day, and the platoon managed to make it into Dragon Valley safely. Mid-morning the following day, Captain Templar took his men out for another walk, and that is when the lives of some men were taken and the lives of others changed forever.

The platoon, which went by the call name of "Scotch," was hit with a booby trap that left only nine of the nineteen men standing. Hernandez stated that when they were hit, he didn't hear anything, but merely saw a flash of light. He then stood for what seemed like an eternity, but was only a matter of seconds. Reaching toward the RTO, Hernandez realized that he was down. Hernandez then grabbed the radio off the fallen RTO's back and called for help. He was able to reach Lt. Kenney, who was the Lieutenant of the platoon "Scotch." Fortunately, Kenney knew exactly where "Scotch" was located, and he radioed for choppers to come to the aide of his wounded men.

After the first of five choppers arrived to take the wounded soldiers to safety, Hernandez was the only man left to offer cover to Doc Borel, who had taken it upon himself to load the injured men onto the choppers amidst enemy gunfire. Hernandez, who was armed with only an M-16 rifle and an M-79 grenade launcher, would fire one round from the M-79 and one clip from the M-16 each time that Doc was prepared to take another man out. Hernandez would then rush to help Doc carry the wounded to the chopper. The two men single-handedly rescued the men that had fallen during the frightful ambush. Hernandez estimated that 200 rounds were fired at Doc each time he went out, amounting to approximately 1,000 rounds that somehow fortunately missed.

The soldiers of "Scotch" sustained critical wounds that would have most likely killed them had the brave action taken by Hernandez and Borel not gotten them to safety.

Captain Templar was the placed on the first chopper; he had lost both legs. Another soldier, Ralph Wilson, was left behind after the first chopper left, and when asked why he was there, he replied that they had taken the most serious first. Wilson had a back full of shrapnel.

After they had gotten the wounded soldiers out of Dragon Valley, the remainder of "Scotch" waited anxiously for another platoon to come take them back down the hill. The platoon waited most of the day without water or chow until "Pepper" platoon arrived and took them back down the hill. Had "Scotch" backtracked the way that they had come, they would have run into five more booby traps that had been set behind them.

Following the incident at Dragon Valley, Doc put Hernandez in for a Medal of Honor, and Hernandez gave a recommendation for Doc to receive a Silver Star. However, nothing came of either request, and both men's effort went unrecognized.

Two missions later, "Scotch" platoon was patrolling when they spotted a child in the middle of the jungle. They set up the perimeter, not knowing what to expect, when they heard a round go off. Doc had been hit in the foot. Though no one knew what had happened, Doc was injured, and this meant that he was to be sent home. That was the last time that Hernandez and Doc were to be in contact for thirty years.



Hernandez, lower left, Borel, upper right, and buddies in Vietnam



Hernandez and Borel at their recent reunion in Louisiana

Though Doc had left, the soldiers of his platoon did not forget him and what he had done at Dragon Valley. Hernandez and a medic, John Hofer, searched the Internet and every resource they could find to locate Doc, and they were finally successful. In January of 2001, the friends reunited in Doc's Louisiana home to catch up on old times and to recapture the friendship that had been absent for decades.

The events that took place at Dragon Valley had a profound impact on Hernandez and Doc. "I would never have spent the last thirty years looking for him if we hadn't done what we did on that hill," stated Hernandez. Without the actions of these two soldiers, more lives would almost certainly have been lost. Though they were not well equipped, Hernandez and Borel did everything possible to get their fellow soldiers out safely, and in the process they risked their lives.

Though neither received official recognition from the United States government, their bravery, camaraderie, courage, and force of will in a time of sheer terror has made them heroes to all who know them and who are aware of the story that will forever tie them to one another.

I would like to thank Dr. John Hofer of Crossplains, WI. He was a tremendous help in finishing doc's and my trip. I also send thanks to Rachel Monserrate for being just twenty years old and having the courage to listen to us and being able to express what we felt that day and how we feel today. Jorge Hernandez

Still looking for "Whispers"

Dear Editor,

After the last newsletter came out I had a telephone call from Steven Leventhal. He remembered "Whispers" real name. It was Dick Cavett. I remembered Steve because we had a conversation out in the field one day. He mentioned that he was the only Jew and I was the only Indian in the bush.

My new address is [REDACTED], Wichita, Kansas 67217, new phone number is [REDACTED], new email is [REDACTED]

I'd greatly appreciate it if you would change my email address, physical address, and new phone number. Does anyone have contact with Dick "Whispers" Cavett? Thanks.

Ken ("Chief") Shunatona, Co. B, 1/46th Inf.

Newsletter article brings many responses**Terry Wyrick and Irene Corp**

Dear Editor,

Many veterans of Co. C, 1/52nd Inf. have contacted me since the last issue. They read the article about Irene "Mom" Corp and saw the notice for our July reunion in St. Louis. Thanks for printing the article. The Corps family were very pleased.

Terry Wyrick, Co. C/52nd Inf.
Cabool, MO**3/1st Inf., Hill 4-11 Association**

I've noticed letters in recent newsletters where people are searching for vets from 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB. A year ago, the Americal website locator was used by a buddy of mine, Mike Manke, to locate me. My posting was the result of the efforts of another buddy, Patrick Gauthier, who located me along with several other friends.

Patrick also discovered an organization that consists primarily of vets of the 3/1st Inf. It is called the Hill 4-11 Association. Several of us from E/3/1 reunited after 30 years, at the group's bi-annual reunion last July in Washington, D.C. It was a great event. A total of 60 vets attended along with 52 other guests.

The Hill 4-11 Association is named after the fire support base from which the 3/1st Inf. operated. It was located in Quang Ngai Province and began in July, 1969. All 3/1st vets serving after the battalion's

December, 1967 Vietnam arrival at LZ Broncho (near Duc Pho), are encouraged to join. The same goes for the battalion's support units.

The website (www.hill4-11.org) is excellent. It maintains continuously updated company rosters. There are 173 names listed for Co. A. This list may be of particular interest to Robert J. Miller who submitted a letter to the last edition of the newsletter and is looking for more of his friends. The Hill 4-11 Association has a mailing address of 630 Woodside Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.

Both the ADVA and Hill 4-11 Assoc. are great organizations that can each provide resources to help locate old friends and renew friendships. Many of us choose to maintain memberships in both.

Terry Sula, E/3/1 11th LIB

Ft. Leavenworth posts

COL Thomas Bedient assumed his new post at Ft. Leavenworth, KS effective May 15, 2001. His last post was in Puerto Rico. He served with the Americal Division in Co. C, Co. D, and Co. E Recon, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, from November, 1968 to October, 1969. Bedient gave a memorable presentation for the Friday night banquet at the 1999 St. Louis ADVA reunion.

Also posted to Ft. Leavenworth is COL Lynn Rolf. COL Rolf served with Co. B, 1/46th Inf. in 1971. Rolf is nearing the end of his active service and is scheduled to retire in June, 2001. Your editor is planning on getting a photo of Bedient and Rolf for the next edition.

Seeking information on Tien Phuoc battles

The following story was originally posted to the Vietnam Helicopter Flight Crew Newsletter. It was forwarded to the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER by Les Hines.

Dear Gary Roush

Hello, I'm Ky Nguyen. I came to the United States five years ago with my parents in a program called HO (Human Organization). The people who are allowed to come to the U.S. with this program must have been in the prison of communists for at least three years. My dad was one among them. That is why we came to the U.S.

In Vietnam I lived in Phuoc My village, Tien Phuoc district, Quang Tin province, in the south of Vietnam. I lived there for twenty three years. I left in 1995. Tien Phuoc is the place where I was born and raised, the place I will never forget because it bears a lot of terrible memory during the war.

The reason I am writing to you is because I just read your web page about the battles and saw some photos of the Tien Phuoc district. I read about the battle and the capture in Phuoc Tan village. My dad was a commander in Phuoc Tan village. I don't know if you knew him by any chance, his name is Doan Nguyen.

One of the very interesting story that the people in my village sometimes talk about it is the story of an American lost in the battle somewhere between Phuoc Tan village and Phuoc My village. I don't remember the time. The story was that there was a young American soldier lost in the jungle and one of our villagers, whose name is Huynh Vien, helped him get out of the jungle to his house and gave him food and finally led him to his unit. Frankly, I don't know very well about this but I think my dad knows it very well.

Mr. Gary Roush, if you know this story, or you know your friend who got lost in this story please email me so I can contact my villager, Huynh Vien, who helped him back then because he misses that young American soldier and would like to talk to him.

Contact me at [REDACTED] you can call me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Hope that we can find something interesting about the Tien Phuoc battles.

Ky Nguyen <[REDACTED]>

Author seeks help: 123rd Avn. Bn.

Dear Gary,

I am an ADVA member and served in 1968-69 with Co. C, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB. I transferred later to the 123rd Avn. Bn. (signal & door gunner with the Warlords) at Chu Lai. I was in Vietnam for both Tet '68 and Tet '69.

I am now a freelance writer. I have been gathering information to write a history of the 123rd Avn. Bn. I have been in touch with Les Hines and I am getting an update of his database.

I intend to write the story of the unit from the soldier's perspective with lots of personal accounts of the unit's operations. All our stories need to be told in a form that our future generations can understand with feeling.

Being an avid reader of Keith W. Nolan I liked your review of his new book, *Ripcord* in the *AMERICAL NEWSLETTER*, JAN-FEB-MAR 2001. He has great writing skills and a good feel for what went on in that war.

What I really need is a way to contact 123rd members to request interviews. Trust is a big thing--I mistrust most people who approach me. We have been through hell ("once bitten; twice shy"). I will continue to work with Les. I would also like to know of anyone else from the 123rd who wishes to consider contributing to this project. I would appreciate it very much.

Douglas J. Waples, 123rd Avn. Bn.

[REDACTED] Soldier IA 51572-6210, [REDACTED]

**BG James P. Collins, new commander of the 96th Regional Support Command (L) and Larry O'Boyle, Far West Chapter Commander**

On 24 March 2001 Brigadier General James P. Collins assumed command of the 96th Regional Support Command at Fort Douglas, Utah. The 96th carries the lineage and honors of the 96th Infantry Division that along with the Americal Division served with distinction in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

BG Collins is an Army Reserve general with 36 years of service including one year with the Americal Division in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969. During that time he commanded Co. C of the 26th Engineer Battalion and supported the 11th Infantry Brigade at Duc Pho.

Larry O'Boyle is currently the president of the Far West Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association and he made the trip to Salt Lake City to witness the Change of Command and show support for one of the few Americal veterans still serving on duty. Larry served with the 182d Infantry Regiment during World War II as an infantryman.

The 96th has 7,000 soldiers and over 70 combat support and combat service support units spread across a six state region that includes Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. General Collins will be busy working with his units spread so far across these western states.

Collins also served in the Arabian Desert during the Gulf War. In 1994 he was the guest speaker at the ADVA Far West Chapter reunion in San Diego, CA. He presented a slide show depicting the devastation of that war and its effects on the soldiers who fought it.

Through the Valley at a discount price

Lynne Rienner Publishers distributed a sales flyer in March, 2001 with a discounted price for the book *Through the Valley: Vietnam, 1967-1968*. This fine account of 196th LIB operations in 1967-1968 was written by COL (Ret.) James Humphries. He gives vivid accounts of the battles in the Hiep Duc and Que Son valleys and surrounding areas.

The 340 page book originally listed at \$49.95 and was being discounted at \$25. Contact Lynne Rienner Publishers at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Boulder, CO, 80301-1026, or phone [REDACTED]

Humphries is writing his second book on the 196th LIB. It covers the period beginning mid-1968 and extends through 1970. He served as S-3 for the 196th LIB during part of this time. For more information or to offer assistance write to Col. James Humphries, [REDACTED] 83677 Riechersbeuern, Germany, [REDACTED]

Quote from the sixties

Dear editor,

I thought members would find this passage from an old history book to be of interest.

"For a long generation after the war of the sixties, its veterans talked. They talked of its camps and marches, its battles and campaigns, its supplies and the lack thereof, of anything and everything connected with that experience of their youth which to them remained always and simply The War."

The sixties they are talking about are the eighteen sixties from the Civil War. The quote is from page 18 of a book about Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest titled "First With The Most". I thought the parallel was interesting. I guess some things never change.

Tony Parcoskie, 178th Door Gunners
Desert Hills, AZ**More information on Hill 103**

Dear editor,

The Jan-Feb-Mar 2001 issue of the Americal Newsletter had a request for information about Hill 103 from James Moser. I was able to locate a photo of Moser and me taken on Hill 103. I will make contact with him and see if I can be of assistance to him.

From time to time several different companies of the 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, were assigned duties on Hill 103. It was just off Highway 1 near LZ Snoopy. I have several photos taken there. About 20 infantrymen at a time were on the hill for perimeter security. I remember a Quad 50, radar sets, artillery scopes, and radio gear.

John Finch, Co. C, 1/20th Inf.

Please submit your items to the Vietnam Editor via postal mail to Gary L. Noller, 1305 SE Willow Tree Dr., Blue Springs, MO, 64014. Articles can be hand written, typed, or sent via electronic file on a diskette or e-mail attachment. Please save electronic files as text. Send e-mail to [REDACTED]. Thanks for the assistance.

Assistance requested for new book on the 1/46th Infantry operations, Vietnam, 1967-1971

Colonel Richard Carvell, one of the battalion commanders of the 1/46 Infantry in combat in Vietnam, is soliciting input for a book that he plans to write about the unit. He would like to compile a book of about 40 brief stories, one to four pages in length, that depicts varying experiences of the unit in combat.

Here's a unique chance to relate your experiences and impressions and have your name shown as the writer. Colonel Carvell will accept up two stories per person. He would like to see input on battles and experiences of the following areas: Duc Pho/Quang Ngai, Kham Duc, LZ Professional, Hiep Duc, Que Son, Fire Base Mary Ann, LZ Judy and LZ Young. Please try to provide one photo per story.

There is much to tell about our experience--individual stories of the line units, recon, sniper teams, "dirty dozen"; our great chopper support; the employment of sensors, BPS's, quad 50's, supporting artillery and radar; firebase defense, night alerts and "mad minute" firings; life in the bush; heroic actions; humane experiences; reaction to lack of respect and national support; medical evacuation; successes and encouragement; tragedies and disappointments. The unique successes we enjoyed in conducting our heliborne--combat assaults would be a good story.

You may write about yourself or others, your subordinates or your leaders. In the final analysis, we want a book of the 1/46 that captures the bravery, love, humor, fear, unity, sadness, loneliness, camaraderie, successes and disappointments of our unit in combat.

Individuals who supported the 1/46, i.e., LOH and Dustoff pilots, artillerymen, engineers, etc. are encouraged to submit stories.

In addition to the story inputs, each writer is requested to include a brief autobiography of approximately 50 to 60 words. The autobiography should provide name, rank, duty assignment, unit and inclusive dates of tour. Also, provide current data such as address, job and schooling accomplishments, employment and marital/family data.

Please send your stories to:

Colonel (USA, Retired) Richard F. Carvell

Saint Albans, WV 25177-2856

1/52nd Inf. unit rosters and morning reports

Greetings.

So much has happened. We have located our Daily Staff Journals. Bill Miller and Gary Judy will likely have them copied before our reunion this year. These are housed at the National Archives in Maryland.

Our company Morning Reports and our unit rosters (1/52nd Inf.) are being reproduced on microfilm for 1967 and 1968. This could take 90 days or more, but it is being done. With all the requests we have made to our congressional members (about 20 in this matter), we somehow got their attention. Duane at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis is handling this personally for us.

The NPRC cannot provide us the 1969-1971 records because they have SSANs on them. They don't have the staff to print the records out and then black out the SSANs.

Duane will print out the unit rosters for 1969-1971 for us, and have the SSANs blacked out. We should receive these in about two weeks. Duane will also print out one month's worth of a company morning report so we can view it. I requested July, 1970 for Co. A so we can verify when Alex Lipton was wounded.

What is left? Duane is mailing request to see if there is some way to get us the remainder of the company Morning Reports (A, B, C, D, E, and HHC) for 1969-1971.

I urged Duane to be creative but stay within the law. He doesn't think the SSANs can go to a member of Congress. I asked about a retired Colonel. He said no. I asked about an active Major, no. I asked about the VA, no. I asked about George Bush, no.

I offered that four of us would go to St. Louis and print out the pages ourselves in June this year. He didn't like that. However, I believe we are going to get most of what we want. And, I want to share this good news. We will soon have the names of almost everyone who served in the 1/52 from the beginning to the end of our unit's history in Vietnam.

I ask each of you to hold a positive thought, that we will acquire our records this Spring with ease and grace. I want to personally thank Phil Verlee for persevering and acquiring the phone numbers that led to this success. As a reward for Phil, Duane will likely process your requests from now on as he is in charge of those who pull our records.

I am still requesting donations to cover the cost of procurement and reproduction of 1/52nd Infantry records. To copy the original Daily Staff Journals by going to Maryland and doing it ourselves cost \$1,350. These are on 11X14 paper and when we return we plan to copy them onto 8.5X11 paper so we can then use automatic copy feeders. Good happens.

Dan Young, 1/52nd Inf.

[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, 99517 [REDACTED]

Post from the 196th Infantry Brigade

Gary,

Thanks for sending copies of Sappers in the Wire and Through the Valley. I've started reading Through the Valley and I know why you gave it such high praise. We will get much use from it in our professional development.

I recently had a discussion with GEN (Ret) Dave Bramlett. He told me how happy he was that the 196th was still in the active ranks. He served with the 101st in Vietnam and knew of the solid reputation of the 196th LIB. He was FORSCOM commander prior to the decision to reactivate the brigade and was very happy about the decision. It is a way of keeping a distinguished unit alive in our current structure.

He also applauded our effort to designate an "honorary Colonel" and CSM. We have the certificate for Colonel Conaty, and I intend to issue it to him at the reunion as part of my opportunity to update everyone on our current mission and organization.

Thanks again for your kindness and willingness to share the history of the unit with our soldiers.

COL Kim Kadesch, Commanding Officer
196th Infantry Brigade, Ft. Shafter, HI

Letters Home From Vietnam

Dear Editor,

I received the Americal Newsletter the other day. Another fine job! I read that the movie, "Dear America - Letters Home From Vietnam" will be shown at the ADVA reunion in Cleveland. I wanted to let you know that the 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, has a 15 - 20 second clip in it. About 8.5 minutes into the film the following 4 guys are pictured: Ron Krul, Ray Jiminez, Dennis Lane - KIA, Ed Sozcienski.

A relative of Dennis Lane was instrumental in getting the movie produced. If you'd like any additional information, please let me know.

Ron Krul, Co. A, 4/3rd Inf.



Chaplain (CPT) Biegane, Mrs. Kern Duangan, COL (Ret) Underhill, LTC Armstrong



CPT Kern Dunagan (MOH)

The CPT Kern Dunagan Teamwork Development Course (TDC) was officially opened at a memorial ceremony at Ft. Knox, KY on March 27, 2001. Dunagan received the Medal of Honor for action while assigned to Co. A, 1/46th Inf., on May 13-14, 1969. Despite severe wounds and intense enemy fire, Dunagan remained at his command and personally rescued several wounded soldiers.

The newly completed training site consists of six separate obstacles. LTC Mark H. Armstrong, 1-46th Infantry Battalion Commander, stated "Each obstacle presents soldiers with a tactical scenario that causes them to work together to develop a plan and successfully execute the task. It is a perfect training event to teach today's soldiers the importance of selfless teamwork, cohesion, and cooperation. CPT

Dunagan embodied these principles, so we dedicate this site in his honor." LTC Armstrong led the effort to construct the novel training site and to have it dedicated in Dunagan's honor. The memorial ceremony included a twenty-one gun salute and the playing of Taps. Current 1/46th troops demonstrated aspects of the development course.

Dunagan remained in the Army until his retirement as a Colonel in 1987. He died of illness in 1991 and is buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery. Members of his immediate family attended the dedication ceremony. Guest speakers included Colonel George R. Underhill, Dunagan's battalion commander during the May, 1969 action, and Bob Tullos, one of the men that Dunagan saved. About 50 veterans of the 1/46th Inf. were present for the special event.

nine weeks of AIT I received two weeks leave and then had to report to Vietnam.

I flew from California to Cincinnati on leave. The two weeks went by fast and back to California I went. We flew over the top of the world and landed in Cam Ranh Bay on October 28, 1968. Is their anyone who ever got off that air-conditioned plane and didn't think they were going to collapse?

On about the third day I was assigned to the 1st Air Cav., but before I actually went out into the field was reassigned to the Americal Division because they had lost a bunch of guys. I found that short timers didn't try to mess with anyone but I always thought that they felt happy for themselves and at the same time felt sad for the new guys.

The next day I flew up to DaNang and was assigned to Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB. When I met the First Sergeant, a rather large and intimidating man, he shook my hand and said "Boy, you are going to be an RTO". Too bad I had slept through most of those classes!!!

I think that I will end this chapter here, but would like to leave you with one thought, remember how they beat it into you to keep your head down when getting on and off of the chopper? Well.....

Vietnam Bound

by Charlie Wilkie

I graduated from high school in June, 1966 and began working full time for my dad. Life was rather easy, not many responsibilities. I had a car but I didn't date as I was very shy. I just hung around with some friends working on cars for fun

I got my draft notice and went to get my physical. The scary part was they were beginning to draft into the Marines and I was on their list. Keep in mind that I had never spent more than a few nights away from my home. I was pretty scared.

A friend of my brothers knew of a medical reserve unit nearby that had an opening. They needed a medical corpsman. Everyone believed that President Johnson would never call a medical unit to active duty. On April 11, 1968 I reported to the 311th Field Hospital Army Reserve Unit in Sharonville, OH. I raised my right hand and within fifteen minutes the Pentagon called to inform us that we had just been activated. We had one month to prepare for active duty.

In my last week of basic I received orders for infantry training at Ft. Ord, CA. I was in total shock. Me? Infantry? That wasn't what I signed up for, but then nothing else had gone according to plan.

The doctors had to find someone to treat their patients. We had to report to the unit every weekend to prepare to go to Fort

One of the Old Guys

By Patrick Lee Turner
U. S. Army, Retired

I signed into Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB at Ft. Devens, MA on 8 September 1965. I had been home from Korea for four months. Since I previously had a radar section at Ft. Hood, TX and in Korea I fully expected to have radar section with the 196th. But this was not to be the case as I was assigned to be a squad leader in the recon platoon.

We would not begin to fill the remainder of the company for a couple of weeks. The officers and NCOs were busy getting everything squared away. We worked from sunrise to beyond sunset, seven days a week, arranging barracks with wall lockers, footlockers, and bunks.

Then the training began. We started with basic training and everyone trained together, the young and the old. The brigade commander, Colonel Conaty, and the assistant brigade commander, Colonel Murray, were always checking our training. We put in long days and there was no such thing as weekends off. We trained at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, MA. We made two or three trips to the Cape, a week at a time. When Christmas arrived we were given a week to get home and back.

On 3 January 1966 we began our company level training. We moved to Camp Drum, NY for six weeks of training in long-range patrol, ambushes, map reading, POW, and E and E. The last ten days at Camp Drum was a mock FTX with the 5th Special Forces Group stationed at Fort Devens, MA. We won the FTX, as everyone knew we would.

We went back to Fort Devens to qualify with the new M-16 rifle. We had been issued them upon our return from Christmas leave. Before Christmas we had the M-14 rifle. We would be the first U.S. combat unit to carry the M-16 into combat.

On 1 July 1966 we were given a ten-day leave for married men to move their families. I moved my family to a small town in Illinois. Moving was the easy part. Leaving the family behind was hard.

I took a train to Chicago and then to Boston. When we arrived at Boston we boarded waiting buses for the thirty-five mile trip to Ft. Devens. For the next few days we were kept busy filling out paper work such as wills, next of kin, etc.

On 15 July 1966 we took a bus to Boston Harbor where the USS Darby and the USS Retch were waiting for us to board. We had already sent a 1,000 man advance party by plane. In the two ships there were 3,124 troops. We arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 13 August 1966. We had set a new record by making the longest point-to-point troop lift in MSTS history.

We sailed 12,358 miles with only one 12-hour stop to refuel and restore supplies at Long Beach, CA. The night of the 12 August 1966 we sailed to within a few miles of the mainland of Vietnam. We waited while our leaders went by helicopter to a meeting in Saigon. We had a briefing on their return. We were told that the area around Tay Ninh was the hottest area in South Vietnam and that there were enough bad guys to go around. The odds were ten VC enemy to our one friendly.

The next morning we were up early. I had not gotten much sleep during the night. Daybreak came and we were moved to the decks. Ammo was passed out, 20 rounds per man. I was thinking that this was not going to be a good day- my 20 rounds would not last the whole day.

Around 0700 we boarded the landing craft and headed for the beach. As we closed on the beach we heard music. As the ramp was dropped we saw high school students on the beach with banner stating Welcome 196 LIB America Number One Jungle Fighter. If they only knew.

We were loaded in 2 1/2-ton trucks and transported to the airstrip. We were loaded into C130 airplanes and flown to Tay Ninh. It was about a two-hour flight. Our base camp was an open field with nothing on it. Since it was the monsoon season most of the area was a foot deep in mud. The first night we slept in foxholes. They were not too deep due to the water. We lined the bottoms with our ponchos to stay dry.

Within a day or two we had our tents. We had to carry them from the airstrip to our battalion area. It was not easy. We made a lot of trips and used a lot of manpower. Our battalion commander, LTC Weddle, did not want the trucks inside the battalion area due to the ruts and holes.



SSG Patrick L. Turner
Co. D, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB
Recon Platoon, 1966

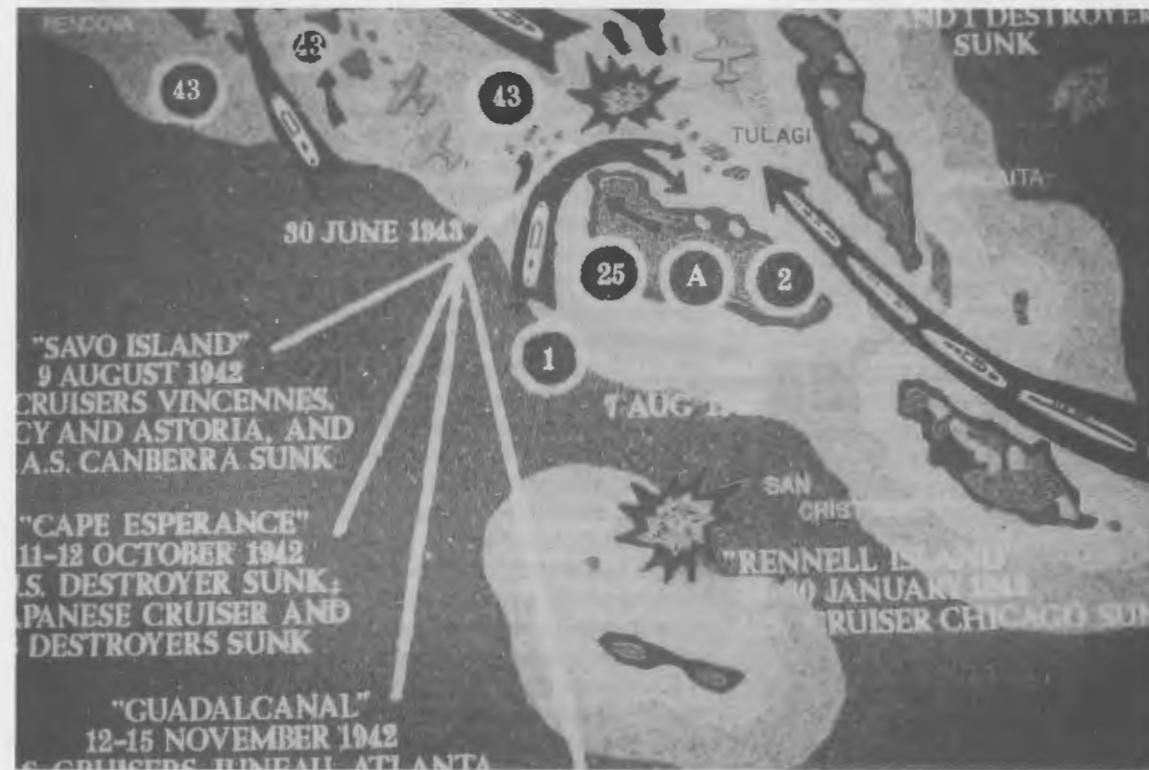
Within a few days Brigadier General DeSaussure replaced Colonel Conaty. This did not set well with the troops. Colonel Murray was given a job within the brigade staff. Murray was a Medal of Honor winner from WWII.

We were attached to the 1st Brigade, 25th Inf. Div. until we got our ducks together. This did not take long. Within the next few months we had accomplishments and successes within the brigade in such operations as Attleboro, Cedar Falls, and Junction City I and Junction City II.

On 7 April General Knowles, a brigadier general from the 1st Cav. Div., replaced 1967 General DeSaussure. We were ordered for movement to the Chu Lai area with Task Force Oregon. For the next two and half months we had long-range ambushes. Our battalion area was on Hill 69 about three miles from Chu Lai. I was by now the highest ranking person left in the platoon. The Lieutenant and Platoon Sergeant had gone home. On 20 June 1967 I departed Hill 69 for home.

This was not the last time for me in Vietnam. I would have two tours with the 1st Cav. Div., two tours with MACV TM 17 and 15, and three months with the four party Peace Keeping Commission. At Hue we exchanged 2,700 NVA POWs and received only 300 ARVN POWs back. No US men were exchanged at our location at Qung Tri.

On 29 March 1973, my birthday, at 1200 hours, when all the combat soldiers had to be out of Vietnam, I left for good. It was the only war I had.



Hawaii has much to offer military history buffs

Robin and I spent our honeymoon in Hawaii at the end of January, 2001. The islands are rich in military history and no visit there would be complete without visiting historical sites. I am lucky that Robin is also a military veteran and interested in history.

Many visitors see the prominent military sites such as Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base. Top sites of historical interest include the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Bowfin (submarine) and the USS Missouri. The USS Arizona Memorial can only be reached by water and rests directly over the sunken vessel. Guided tours of the USS Missouri are available although some parts of the battleship are still off-limits due to security restrictions.

Hickam AFB is one of the most beautiful Air Force bases in the United States. However, a drive along the main road reveals buildings that have not been fully repaired from the December 7, 1941 attack by Japanese air forces. The exteriors of former barrack buildings still show the scars of blasted concrete. These scars are intentionally left as a reminder of what happened that fateful day.

Up the hill from Hickam AFB and Honolulu International Airport is Ft. Shafter. Vantage points at Ft. Shafter offer great views of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. The post is also the home of the 196th Infantry Brigade. The 196th carries on the lineage of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, component brigade of the Americal Division in Vietnam. I will tell of the current 196th in a follow-up article.

Further inland on the island of Oahu is Schofield Barracks. There is a museum on post but we did not have time to stop and see what it has to offer. Maybe they house historical artifacts related to the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, another of the Americal's Vietnam brigades. They surely have many items about the 25th Infantry Div.

Back downtown we found many fine attractions along Waikiki Beach. Tucked along the beach at Ft. DeRussey is Battery Randolph. Battery Randolph was a coastal artillery installation built in 1911. In the late 1960s the Army decided to demolish the battery in order to make room for new construction. The fortifications were

GUADALCANAL
The photo shows part of one of the ten murals at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Guadalcanal is in the upper center of the photo. The circle with the letter A indicates the Americal Division. Other units are shown by similar circles.

The murals tell the story of the war in the Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay. Several murals feature the action of the Americal Division. The cemetery is open to the public and is a short drive from downtown Honolulu.

too strong for the demolition experts and the battery was left standing. It was refurbished in 1976 and reopened as the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. It is adjacent to the Hale Koa military hotel.

The museum tells the story of the Army in Hawaii and the Pacific area, the military history of Hawaii, and the contributions made by Hawaii's citizens to the nation's defense. There is a section on World War II that describes the war in the South Pacific. A plaque on the wall lists the U.S. Army divisions that served in the theater. The Americal Division is prominent on the list. Another section of the museum depicts the Vietnam era.

A short walk from the museum is a recently dedicated memorial to the veterans of the 100th Bn/422nd RCT. These units were composed of Americans of Japanese decent that entered the Army after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The highly decorated veterans of the 100th Bn/422nd RCT were not allowed to serve in the South Pacific but spilled their blood in some of the toughest battles in the European theater. The unit was known as the "Purple Heart Battalion" because of the 4,500 Purple Hearts earned by its members. They lost great numbers while rescuing the 1/141st Inf. "Lost Battalion" in France.

One of the most somber places in the Honolulu vicinity is the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl Cemetery). This dormant volcano crater was used for burials for local citizens for many years. In 1949 it was opened as a military cemetery and contains nearly 40,000 graves. The graves are arranged in concentric circles on the floor of the crater. Ernie Pyle, a popular writer killed on Okinawa with the U.S. Marines, is buried in this cemetery. A monolith in the cemetery names MIAs from the Pacific theater for all wars.

The cemetery also features a chapel flanked by a gallery of ten large murals. The murals are maps which depict the progress of the battles of the South Pacific. Text on either side of each map tells of the heroic efforts of the Army, Navy, and Marines to defeat the formidable enemy. Several of the maps show the locations of the Americal Division on Guadalcanal, the Solomons, and the Philippines (see photo at the top of this page.)

-GLN-

Update from the Vietnam Historian

By Les Hines

This past year and a half I have been working on transcribing the Southern Cross newspapers (Americal Division Information Publication). At this time we have completed over 100 issues. We have twelve partial copies and we have 48 issues that are being sought. I consider these a priority type of document as they are pretty much pure Americal material and they cover everyone (unlike battalion journals which only cover one unit).

The next level of material I would like to seek out are named Operational Reports and Historical Summaries. These are condensed documents with a lot of information available for a minimum amount of transcription work.

I believe that we have all the Task Force Oregon and Americal Operational Reports and Lessons Learned transcribed. The same goes for all of the colorful quarterly Americal magazines and the stand-down book. Dutch DeGroot and Al Andzik have been working on scanning and preparing CD-ROMs of the Americal magazines.

I recently worked with Ron Leonard of the 25th Avn. Bn. who lives near the military archives. I have sent him \$150 to make copies of editions of the Southern Cross for us. Someone going to the archives can make copies for \$15 each versus having the staff do it for \$.50.

This past year we have had many contributors. Colonel Leslie Stottle contributed a historical summary he prepared of the 3/1st Infantry. It is a very exciting document to read for D Btry., 6/11th Arty., and 3/1st Inf. Dan Young has been outstanding for the 1/52nd Inf. COL Tom Bedient has provided several outstanding documents. Ron Griffith is pulling together pieces of operations by Americal units in Lam Son 719 in 1971. Bill Oberle, PNC Ed Marsh, Dave Taylor, and Jay Roth continue to do a lot. CSM Wayne Finkral has provided personal items that included a 198th LIB map used in 1971 as well as some AWOL editions of Southern Cross.

I have obtained a copy of Operation Benton's CAR (TF Oregon/1967). They have some details of the 1/14th Inf. and the 2/1st Inf. Also the 71st AHC, 161st AHC, 178th ASHC helicopter units. A Btry. 3-82d Arty., B Btry. 2-9th Arty., B Btry. 3-16th Arty., 2/11 ACR, B Btry. 3-18th Arty., 498th Med. Co. (AIRAMB) and 2/9th Arty., 8th Support Battalion, 156th Signal Platoon, 48th Scout Dog Platoon, 196th LIB LRRP Det., 175th Engineer Co. This list may have units that are not previously identified as Americal Division units in Vietnam. This document is proof that they should be on Order of Battle list. The 1st Marine Air Wing, and the 7th Air Force was also mentioned as a participant in this operation, but I am not sure that we would list them, although I think that we would certainly welcome anyone who participated in this action to join the ADVA.

We have more material than I can transcribe by myself. I have provided Dr. Ramon Gordillo a pretty large pile of documents to transcribe. We have one named operational report completed. We could use more volunteers to transcribe or edit documents. This seems to be more of a problem than obtaining documents from archival sites and from members personal records..

Lloyd Morrell sent a cassette of musical selections to include the Americal March. Kevin Sartorius converted this to electronic files and they are now included on the compact disc. We have over 15 reports from named operations transcribed in our database. I have three in my hand or on their way from Ron Leonard now. We also have a short document made from two interviews after General Knowles had left Vietnam. It was with material related to Operation GADSSEN. Apparently General Knowles flew his own C&C chopper.

I have gotten some materials from the 196th LIB association after St. Louis, but have not gotten much since. I would like to get closer connections to this fine organization. It sounds like there is a lot of materials to share.

Col. Humphries has shared many items from his research for his second book. There are several books in progress at this time, but I at times get impatient wishing to see them. I have contributed to a new video which has not come out yet. Ed Marsh provided me with a copy of a new video that was narrated by Harrison Ford that includes Americal Division helicopter pilots. I have always wanted a video to be produced for the ADVA.

I am currently transcribing some smaller document sets. I soon expect to receive microfilm copies of Pacific Stars & Stripes interlibrary loan from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. I have had this on order for a number of weeks.

I have also worked some this past year with the 164th Rgt. Association. I provided some copies of the Americal Division Big Picture video and the CD-ROMs and cassettes of Americal Division songs. I also provided printouts of articles related to the WWII action of the Americal Division.

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association has taken most of the materials from our CD-ROM and they have placed on their CD-ROM. I estimate half of their CD-ROM is Americal Division documents, which is wonderful for the Americal Division Association!

Our CD-ROM is filling up. I need to think about splitting materials out now to make things fit. I never did get the documents indexed, which is probably a drawback. I have not had the resources and I put my priority on transcribing materials first. I am still looking for volunteers to help with the transcriptions and proofreading.

If you would like a CD please let me know and I can make one for you. The cost to cover the supplies and handling is \$15. Send your order to Mr. Les Hines, Vietnam Historian, 817 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50312. Please let me know your unit and dates and I will personalize a label for the CD. Also indicate the word processor you use such as MS Word, WordPerfect, etc.

Availability of unit rosters

By Dan Young

I have spent years trying to get my unit rosters. I have yet to receive one, but the latest word is "they are in the mail" as April 15. Apparently unit records are at the Carlisle Barracks and New York public library, although I haven't yet confirmed it.

I found and confirmed that the 1/52 unit rosters and company morning reports are at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Records Reconstruction Branch. The information is on microfilm, and the film may be of poor to very poor quality. NRPC is reluctant to provide these records. I believe they charge \$13.50 as a base fee, and \$0.15 per page. For morning reports, this will go into the thousands of dollars, but unit rosters should be relatively inexpensive, as they were usually revised about two times a year.

The reluctance to provide our records is due to the fact that the NRPC is understaffed and that the records contain Social Security Account Numbers (SSANs.). The NRPC has to black out all the SSANs. I suggest that each unit get one person to keep trying to get these records until we have every unit. Make these available to the ADVA, so any of can have our records with minimal effort.

I am trying to have all the microfilm copied. Nine rolls hold all the 1/52nd morning reports and unit rosters. The total cost is \$160. However, since Congress passed the privacy act, the NRPC will not do this for any member of Congress. They are now requiring me to get the Army to release these to me so NRPC can reproduce the film.

I still have a few strategies left before I go to the FOIA officer at the Army. This could save years of trying to locate the records. Oh yeah, for those adventuresome enough to travel to St. Louis, they have to get permission with their FOIA officer in advance. Then they have to schedule to be there on a day when a clerk will be available. I suspect this process takes about two months of planning.

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Gen Mataxis is new ADC

By PFC Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - In ceremonies here, Brigadier General Theodore C. Mataxis assumed the position of assistant division commander, maneuver. General Mataxis is replacing Brigadier General Edwin L. Powell who has been assigned to Headquarters, United States Army, The Electronics Command (TECOM), Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland as the ADC of TECOM.

"We are very fortunate and privileged to have assigned to us today Brigadier General Ted Mataxis," Major General A. E. Milloy. "General Mataxis comes to us after having served a tour in Iran as the chief of the Army section for MAAG." General Milloy continued, "He is a highly decorated veteran of three wars having served in various command capacities to include battalion commander in World War II, regimental commander during the Korean War and this is his second tour in Vietnam having served as the advisor to II Corp and also with the 101st Airborne Division for almost two years in 1965 and 1966. In addition to a lot of command experience, and troop duty, General Mataxis has also held a number of responsible jobs from high level staffs such as being the military assistant to General Lemnitzer and also the military assistant to General Maxwell D. Taylor in India. General Mataxis, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I extend to you a very hearty welcome on behalf of all of us here at the Americal Division. We are very happy to have you and we look forward to a very pleasant association in working with you."

General Mataxis stepped to the microphone and said that he was very pleased to be with the Division and that he looked forward to working closely with the staff and commanders. General Mataxis makes his home in Seattle, Washington, with his wife Helma and three children.

While in Vietnam he was awarded two Oak Leaf Clusters to the Legion of Merit, the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster with V to the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal with V and 17 Oak Leaf Clusters, the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster with V to the Commendation Medal, and the 3rd award of the Combat Infantry Badge. He also received six Vietnamese decorations. The National Order 5th Class, four awards of the Gallantry Cross (two with palms, two with gold star) and the Honor Medal 1st Class.

General Mataxis was promoted to brigadier general March 1, 1967. 24Jul70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 27 Page 3

Darling new Division CSM

By PFC Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Command Sergeant Major Fred E. Darling, Arlington, Va., has been selected as command sergeant major of the Division by Major General A.E. Milloy, Commanding General.

Sergeant Major Darling replaces former Sergeant Major Same S. Borrelli who has been assigned as Sergeant Major to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, United States Army Training Center, Ft. Dix, N.J.

After having served as brigade sergeant major of the 196th Infantry Brigade since January of this year, Sergeant Major Darling is in Vietnam for the first time. Before arriving in Vietnam, he served as brigade sergeant major of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in Germany from January, 1967 to November, 1969.

Upon being assigned to his new job, Sergeant Major Darling says, "I'm sincerely proud to have been selected sergeant major of the Americal Division by General Milloy. I assure that I will never give reason to destroy his trust in me and I intend to set the example for every NCO in this division by my actions."

On this tour of Vietnam with the Division, Sergeant Major Darlings says, "My responsibility will be to guide the NCO in the execution of his work and to correct the mistakes he will make as he learns. Our leadership can be no less than the best here in the Americal where performance is counted in lives saved."

Sergeant Major Darling's military awards and citations include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, and numerous other awards.

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Soldier's life saved by a little ditch

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) - If you're not in a Sherman tank, chances of surviving the blast of a VC grenade eight inches away from your head are extremely slim. But it happened to a Division soldier, and he walked away with only an earache.

Sergeant Gene Derrickson, Gotham, Wis., from Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, of the 11th Infantry Brigade was sleeping near a mortar tube in a night defensive position one miles north of Duc Pho when VC terrorists lobbed three grenades into the perimeter. Hours before, while preparing a place to sleep he had covered his dug-in position with a poncho for shelter. Because it was raining, he added a shallow drainage ditch around the hole to catch water running off the poncho and keep it out of the depression. The two-inch ditch saved his life later that night by stopping the momentum of a rolling grenade that would have dropped into the hole and onto his head.

"For five minutes I didn't know what happened," said Sergeant Derrickson. "I didn't even know it was a grenade." His poncho was shredded by shrapnel from the blast, but he wasn't wounded because the fragments from the grenade passed over his sleeping position. He only had a slight earache and was ready for duty the next day.

Staff Sergeant Vincent Burk, Bellefourche, S.D., checked the area in the morning and found the spot where the VC had thrown the grenades. "It looked like they were trying to damage the mortar tube because they threw the grenades from about 35 yards away," said Sergeant Burk. "They probably watched us as we moved into the position and knew where the tube was set up," he said.

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Doctor removes grenade

By SP4 Peter Sorensen

CHU LAI (11th INF BDE IO) - An armed 40mm grenade round was surgically removed from the right arm of a 2nd ARVN Division soldier in a recent emergency operation performed at the 91st Evacuation Hospital. The successful 15 minute operation was executed by Doctor (MAJ) Paul C. Vose, Denver, Colo., and Captain Elizabeth G. Gorman, Jr., Army Nurse Corps.

"A medical evacuation helicopter from Quang Ngai City radioed ahead that it was bringing in a patient with a M-79 round lodged in his arm. Immediately, a square of sandbag blast walls was built on the hospital helipad, and an EOD (explosive ordnance disposal team was called in from the 133rd Ordnance Detachment," recalled Captain Gorman.

When the patient, Pham Van Hoa, arrived he was carefully carried by stretcher to the make shift, open-air surgery. The heat of the afternoon was compounded by the hyper-tense situation and the medical personnel's apparel-flak jackets and steel helmets.

Doctor Vose made a two inch incision above the right elbow and carefully lifted the projectile out of the wound. Once freed, the round was gingerly passed to the EOD team of Captain William Pedley, Chicago, and Staff Sergeant Edmond Kent, Paris, Tenn., who hand carried it in a cradle of gauze across the helipad to an adjoining cliff where it was blown in place.

Commented Doctor Vose, "The biggest problem, other than detonation of the round which I tried not to think about was the repair of the brachial artery which had been severed. After the round was removed with the use of a local anesthetic, the patient was wheeled into the operating room where the artery was tied off."

Concluded Captain Gorman, "The patient was kind of shaken. We were all strangers to him, and I imagine he didn't quite know what was going on. When we heard the explosion, he looked up and you could tell by his face that he was mighty thankful."

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A Soldier's Second Time Around

CHU LAI One of the first things you notice about SFC Henry F. Howard (Valiant, Okla.) is that he wears the Americal Southern Cross patch on both shoulders of his jungle fatigues. Second tour of Vietnam? Nope. SFC Howard was with the Americal Division during World War II, more than 26 years ago on Guadalcanal.

A twinkle of the past reflected off his eyes as he looked at the wall in the comfort of the office he now occupies at the 14th Combat Aviation as NCOIC of the S2 section. "I went on some of the scariest patrols you've ever seen back then and I never got hit," he remembered, as the walls in front of him became transparent. He was there back in the jungle of the South Pacific Theater, living the experience again.

Howard, a veteran of nearly 27 years in the Army, experienced his first combat action on Guadalcanal with the Americal in February 1943, before most of the men serving in Vietnam were born.

"I was really lucky on some of those days. I came this close to getting hit a number of times." His eyes closed a little as if to better focus on the memory and he held his thumb and forefinger about an inch apart to show how close he came to falling prey to enemy fire.

He was assigned to D. Co., 182nd Inf. as an 81mm mortarman. The stay on Guadalcanal was short but by no means his last confrontation with the Japanese. With the Americal, he trudged from island to island in the push to stop the enemy. The Fiji Islands after the "Canal", then to Bougainville in the northern Solomon Islands and eventually the Philippines toward the end of 1944.

A subtle smile sparked the edge of his lips as the story unwound in his mind. "I think the invasion of the Philippines stands out as the biggest moment in the war as far as I'm concerned. We made a beach assault under fire..."

"I had been promoted to sergeant prior to our landing in the Philippines and I was working as a communications sergeant in small patrols. Our job was to clear out the remaining pockets of enemy."

From the Philippines, Howard the division moved in for the final invasion and occupation of Japan in September 1945. He left for the States and a discharge three weeks later after spending two and a half years with the Americal.

The reels of memory appeared to have run out as his eyes refocused on the typewriter in front of him. But his eyebrows lifted as one more thought crossed his history filled mind.

"You know, we took a lot of casualties on Guadalcanal, but it was malaria that really hurt us. When we pulled out almost 90 per cent of our company was laid up with it."

He received his discharge in October, 1945 and because of the job scarcity decided to reenlist the following year.

"There were seven million of us looking for jobs after the war and there just weren't enough to go around. The Army offered me a good job and I decided to make it a career."

He filled a number of positions in the ensuing years but his fondest memories came from working with basic trainees.

"I worked with basic trainees for many years I really enjoyed working with those youngsters." In January, 1970 he found himself reassigned to the division he had left 25 years ago.

(Please let me know if you have information on Henry Howard's life subsequent to his Vietnam service. -Vietnam Editor)

Vietnam War Era Selective Service Classifications

This is your Notice of Classification, advising you of the determination of your selective service local board that you have been classified in accordance with Selective Service Regulations. The various classifications are described on the reverse side of this communication. You are required to have a Notice of Classification in your personal possession. When a subsequent Notice of Classification is received you should destroy the one previously received, retaining only the latest. For information and advice go to any Local Board.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

A registrant who was deferred on or before his 26th birthday should ascertain from his local board if his liability has been extended to his 28th or 35th birthday.

Class I

Class I-A: Registrant available for military service.

Class I-A-O: Conscientious objector registrant available for noncombatant military service only.

Class I-C: Member of the Armed Forces of the US, the Environmental Science Services Administration, or the Public Health Service.

Class I-D: Qualified member of reserve component, or student taking military training, including ROTC and accepted aviation cadet applicant.

Class I-S: Student deferred by law until graduation from high school or attainment of age of 20, or until end of his academic year at a college or university.

Class I-W: Conscientious objector performing civilian work contributing to the maintenance of national health, safety, or interest, or who has completed such work.

Class I-Y: Registrant qualified for military service only in time of war or national emergency.

Class II

Class II-A: Occupational deferment (other than agricultural and student).

Class II-C: Agricultural deferment.

Class II-S: Student deferment.

Class III

Class III-A: Extreme hardship deferment, or registrant with a child.

Class IV

Class IV-A: Registrant with sufficient prior active service or who is a sole surviving son.

Class IV-B: Official deferred by law.

Class IV-C: Alien not currently liable for military service.

Class IV-D: Minister of religion or divinity student.

Class IV-F: Registrant not qualified for any military service.

Class V

Class V-A: Registrant over the age of liability for military service.

(Editor's note: The above information was found on the internet. I was classified II-S during my college years and reclassified I-A upon graduation. I have no idea where my draft card is.)

Looking For: Eugene (Gene) Ruthman, 11/70

- 11/71, 523d Sig. Bn. I was with 723d Maint. Bn. at same time. Contact: Mike Nawrath, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Manchester Center, VT, 05255-0057

Looking For: Ron Morgan, Co. B, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB. Contact: Richard Jones, [REDACTED]

Clarkston, MI, 48348, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone in Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn., May 1968 - May 1969. Contact: Marvin Rous, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], San Francisco, CA, 94105, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone knowing my father, Terrance L. Maxey, of Minneapolis MN, January 1967-December 1968, 11th LIB, C or B Co., 3/1st Inf. Some friends were Joe Scotty of Philadelphia, Fred Crabtree of Pigstroph, Ar, and Frank R. Wilder of Milwaukee, WI. I am his daughter and I

have been doing searches for several weeks but I have not found much. Contact: Alicia Swenson, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Hastings, MN, 5503362

Looking For: Paul King, C Co., 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 5/68-5/69, from San Francisco. Contact: Jim Lion, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Huntley, IL, 60142

Looking For: First Sgt. Harpin E. Myers, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB, 1968-69. Contact: George J. Hawkins, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Santa Cruz, CA, 95065

Looking For: Billy G. Murray or anyone, DSP, HHB, 6/56th Arty., June 68 - Aug 69. Contact: Stan Adler, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Chula Vista, CA, 91910

Looking For: Donald McCray, 23rd S & T Bn., 1969-1970. Contact: Jeffrey Fishman, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Middletown, NY, 10941

Looking For: David Mitalski and others, D Btry., 3/82nd Arty., 1968. Contact: James E. Robinson Jr., [REDACTED] Ash, NC, 28420, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Bob Olverson or anyone, H Trp., 17th Cav., 1970-1971. Contact: Doug Moore, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Roanoke Rapids, NC, 27870

Looking For: Anyone, HHT 1/1 Cav., (Blackhawks), Sep 69 to Sep 70. Contact: Russell E. Harriman, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Belton, TX, 76513, Phone: [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who knew Russell Gover, my father, at DaNang, ChuLai '69-70. He was with S&T. Contact: Russell Gover Jr., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Swanton, MD, 21561

Looking For: Tex, Co. B, 1/6th Inf., 1968/69. Contact: Tom Brizendine, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Silverhill, AL, 36576, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. E, 164th Inf. Regt., Bogainville, Solomon Islands, Jan. 1, 1944 - March 8, 1944. Contact: Millard E. Clark, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Leakesville, MS, 39451, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Louisville, KY, 40207

Looking For: Anyone, 2nd Plt., B Co., 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, July 1970-July 1971. Contact: Arthur R. 'R.C.' Casto, Sr., [REDACTED]

Culloden, WV, 25510, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Glen W. Stinson, A Co., 39th Engr., 1967-1968. Contact: Troy E. Wilburn, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Del Rio, TN, 37727

Looking For: Anyone knowing Sgt. Bill (Billy) Wilson, 132nd Inf., Co. K, KIA about March 1945, overseas between 10.28.43 and 11.7.43 from Calif. Originally from Bradford, TN. Contact: J. Gumpman, [REDACTED], Westover, MD, 21871, [REDACTED]

Looking For: LTC Pilk, BN CO, or CPT Southall, Svc. Btry. CO/S-4, 3/16th Arty., Apr-Jun 69. Contact: LT Emmitt Clark, [REDACTED]

Henderson, KY, 42420-9721

Looking For: Lewis Santos, medic, & Gary M. Young, Co. D, 3/1st Inf., 1969-70. Contact: Brad McLain, [REDACTED]

South, Elkhart, IN, 46516

Looking For: Lee Basner or anyone, 70-71, C Co., 1/52nd Inf. Contact: Jim Pace, [REDACTED]

Baxter, MN, 56425, [REDACTED]

Looking For: LT Clark, F Trp., 17th Cav., 196th LIB, 70-71. Contact: Stephen A. Chavez, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Arnold, MD, 21012

Looking For: Anyone, 2nd or 3rd Plt., B Co., 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, 1968. Contact: Dave Carter, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Butte, MT, 59701

Looking For: Jerry Collins, 3rd Plt., C Co., 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, Sep. 68 to Sep. 69. Contact: Gary Franklin, [REDACTED]

Lubbock, TX, 79424-2408

Looking For: Recon, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, Dec. 67-Nov. 68. Contact: Nick Surratt, [REDACTED]

Jacksonville, IL, 62650, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who new my Dad, Martin J. Edwards, 164th Inf. Regt., Nov. 43-Nov 45, Fiji, Bougainville, Philippines, Japan. T-5 Corporal. Dad died on Dec 7th, 1982. As with so many he never spoke of his war experiences. I would very much like to hear from anyone that remembers my Dad. He was a wonderful man.

Contact: Lance J. Edwards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], La Junta, CO, 81050

Looking For: Eugene Lyons, MSG, Operations NCO, 3/21st Inf., Jun 68-Jun 69. Contact: James C. Trepoy, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Salina, KS, 67401-6663, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: AL GORE IN VIETNAM

Having posted a little tickler in last week's Digest about Al Gore's 141 days in Vietnam, the Federalist Editorial board was inundated with inquiries from Vietnam vets. Most went something like this:

Gore claimed in his Convention speech, 'I enlisted in the Army because I knew that if I didn't go, someone else in the small town of Carthage, Tennessee would have to go in my place.' Since he wasn't KIA or wounded, how was it that his Army tour was far shorter than all the rest of us?"

Our astute veterans took the bait!

Gore's campaign launched a multimillion-dollar ad campaign to tell his "life's story." The ads will include references to his service in Vietnam--however brief.

Gore spent less than five months of a typical twelve-month tour in Vietnam. He spent every minute of his "tour" as a "rear echelon..." (Call any combat veteran and they can complete that phrase for you). He was classified as a military journalist after telling recruiters he was a "newspaper trainee" (read copy boy) for the New York Times. while a student at Harvard. He was assigned as a non-combatant "information specialist" to the Army's 20th Engineer Brigade Headquarters at Bein Hoa military base near Saigon.

Gore's immediate supervisor in Vietnam has confirmed that his posting there came with explicit instructions to "baby-sit" him and make sure he was never in any danger. The fact notwithstanding, Gore has claimed to the Washington Post that he was "shot at" and "spent most of my time in the field." He later told the Baltimore Sun that, "I, pulled my turn on the perimeter at night and walked through the elephant grass and was fired upon."

He has since backed off these exaggerated claims.

On May 27, 1971, not five months into his "tour of duty," Gore was given special dispensation and a one-way ticket home to attend Divinity School in Nashville. He dropped out of Vanderbilt shortly thereafter.

As for the seven months cut from Gore's tour of duty in Vietnam, we suppose "someone else in the small town of Carthage, Tennessee" had to finish his tour "in his place."

(I have held this story for sometime because the Newsletter is a apolitical. However, I felt that the Vietnam veterans should know the truth. Jim.)

COLORADO VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION

We are the Colorado Vietnam Veterans Association. We would like to have an opportunity to meet with you. We are having a reunion for Vietnam Veterans, Vietnam Era Veterans and Veterans of ALL WARS.

This Reunion will take place June 15-17, 2001. The registration will be held at the Elks Lodge, 430 State St., Fort Morgan, CO beginning at 8:00 A.M. on the 15th of June. All of the activities, workshops, entertainment and most dinners will be held at the Elks Lodge.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Sunday May 24th was a beautiful, warm and sunny New England day in the foothills of the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts. Winding through the hills and valleys there is a beautiful new Interstate Highway designated I-91. Near Holyoke there is a very delightful scenic area that overlooks the valleys of Holyoke and Hadley on one side and the foothills of the Berkshires to the north and west.

This is the place where veterans and their families of our Americal Division gathered to dedicate this highway in the memory of all our comrades, both living and dead. Over 300 members and guests of the Association attended the ceremonies, from many states and as far away as Georgia. Prelude to the official ceremony started at 11:30 A.M. as the 26th Infantry Division Band, under the direction of WO John Shea, began its concert of military and patriotic tunes. The ceremonies commenced at 12 noon with posting of the colors by a color guard from Co. A, 1st Bn, 104th Infantry, Westfield, Mass.

The band then played the National Anthem which was followed by an address by our National Commander William McGoldrick. The National Adjutant Daniel Merlin then read a Proclamation by Governor Francis W. Sargent proclaiming May 24th as Americal Division Day in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Following the Proclamation the 26th "Yankee" Division Band played the "AMERICAL DIVISION MARCH" which was written many years ago by Ltc. Chester Whiting, a former Americal Division Band leader.

Past National Commander, Brig. Gen. Howard V. Elliott then read the official act designating the highway as the "Americal Division Highway". The unveiling of the Memorial Sign came next as Mrs. David Fonseca, escorted by Past National Commander Henry Morash, removed the covering from the official highway memorial sign. Mrs. Fonseca is the widow of the man who named the Division, David Fonseca.

Following the unveiling came the placing of the Memorial Wreath by Mrs. Richard Carney, escorted by the National Commander. Mrs. Carney is the widow of the man who was instrumental in having this highway named in honor of the Americal Division, our late Finance Officer, Richard Carney.

The blessing of the highway and a memorial tribute to our departed comrades, was rendered by our National Chaplain, Rev. John S. Franklin. At the conclusion of the blessing, "Taps" was sounded and floated through still air, through the valleys and over the hills, tugging at our hearts and stirring our blood. As Taps faded away, the colors were retired and the band struck up the "United States Army March".

This concluded the dedication part of our ceremonies and as the gathering prepared to leave the band played on with stirring march music.

One of the most impressive sights were the hundreds of cars, with headlights turned on, leaving the scenic area in convoy formation and escorted by Massachusetts State Troopers, along "our" Americal Highway, enroute to the reception hall.

The days activities continued at the Benjamin White VFW Post in South Hadley where a catered buffet was spread out and cold drinks were waiting the thirsty guests. There was plenty of food and

drink and ice cream for the children.

We know that everyone present enjoyed this special day very much and will remember it for a long time to come.

Many other veteran organizations were represented that day including the American Legion, V.F.W., United Spanish War Vets and the Marine Corp League. Representing the State was the Deputy Secretary, Raymond Lavalle.

PNC Thomas McQuade and Jim MacHarrie served as the Honor Guard and SVC Harold Goslin and JVC Alex Mitchell served as VIP Aides. Ed Vieira was in charge of communications and did a superior job. Mike Lopardo acted as our genial Bar-Tender and was kept very busy.

The winner of the Gallon O'Joy was Margaret Hayes of Northampton. "Bottoms Up".

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and especially to members of the committee who did a top-notch job. Thanks fellows, Tom McQuade, Ed Vieira, John Newman, Ed Goodfield, Harry Marrewa and Dan Merlin.

(Taken from the June 1970 Americal Newsletter)

ARTHUR POPE REMEMBERS



The above picture of the Americal Highway Memorial Marker that designates Interstate Highway 81 as the Americal Division Highway, was taken by Arthur Pope.

Arthur has taken on the task of placing a wreath on this Memorial every year in observance of Memorial Day and he has done this for many years.

Arthur served with Company C, 182nd Infantry during World War II.

Thanks Arthur, from the officers and members of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

DID YOU HONOR OUR COMRADES ON MEMORIAL DAY?

Visit a cemetery - Say a prayer
Call that Buddy?

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

COMPANY E -- 164th INFANTRY

An article I wrote entitled "E Company - 164th Infantry" was published in the October-November-December 2000 issue of the Americal Newsletter on Page 24. I appreciate your publishing that short article, but you had my name wrong--you had me listed as 'Bob Kiker' when actually it should be 'Bill' Kiker.

I am enclosing another article from my memoirs:

Many years ago when my sons were all in grammar and middle schools, one of them asked me if I ever got into fights while I was in the Army. He quickly qualified that by saying; "I don't mean like fighting Japs in World War II like you did, but fist fights like I sometimes have at school". I was tempted to say no, but then I remembered one particular "fight" that I was involved in that was non-World War II combat.

Joe Ramos is a typical Hispanic name, but this Joe Ramos was anything but typical. Joe Ramos was the toughest man that I have ever known. He stood about three inches shorter than lanky old me--weighed around one hundred and eighty five pounds and was built like the proverbial brick shipyard. To put it mildly he was short tempered, combative and everybody in the entire Company was afraid of him--and that of course included me. He had fierce black-brown eyes, a hawk nose, black mustache and a birthmark that extended from the right side of his neck upward to just below his ear. This he was very sensitive about, and I was told that if you mentioned it to him you risked being "nailed" right there and then.

At that time I had no rank unless you called a Pfc rank. He was a Pfc in another squad, but we were both in the same section. Once while we were in a defensive position in "Jap country" on the island of Cebu I saw him put down one of his "brothers" who had acquired some cheap Filipino beer and was making enough noise to attract the wrong people. It just took one punch. The guy didn't move from his slit trench for eight hours.

After the island of Cebu became partially secured we were sometimes allowed to go into Cebu City to use an Ordnance facility that had set up showers and a laundry unit. We would shed our filthy fatigues and underwear, and step into the shower. After we had finished we could pick up exchange fatigue shirts and pants in our sizes that had been previously laundered. While there some guys in our platoon learned of a Seabee machine shop near the beach that was making knives for sale (illegally of course) from steel used in the repair of ships. These knives would be machined to razor sharpness, the blade was six inches long and the handle was shaped to fit your hand. There was also "knuckles" on the handle that you could slip your fingers through to help you grip the knife.

In the previous combat that we had endured, we were subjected to the typical Jap tactic of infiltration. If a Jap got into your slit trench with you the best weapon that you could have would be a sharp knife that you could hold on to. On one particular heavy infiltration night a couple of members of our platoon got pretty badly cut up by a Jap infiltrator because they could not hold on to the sorry GI trench knife that we were all issued. After cutting both of the soldiers the Jap jumped out of the slit trench, but was cut down by my sergeant, with his "Thompson" sub machine gun.

When Joe Ramos heard about these knives, he wanted

one in the worse way--I was somewhat interested, but I wanted a shower and a change of clothes first. At this point Joe still did not like anyone. since I was the only one in our platoon that received a pass to go to the showers, he reluctantly said that we would meet me at the Seabee shop after I finished at the showers. We both rode the deuce and a half truck into Cebu City.

After I had finished I started down the beach toward the Seabee facility which was about one hundred yards from the showers. There was some yelling and commotion that attracted my attention. There were several sailors and some guys from our platoon watching a fight. Believe it or not, Joe Ramos was fighting three sailors. Upon asking what prompted the fight, one of our guys said that a sailor had made a remark about Joe's birth mark. While Joe was occupied by the two sailors in front of him the third sailor had worked his way around Joe and was about to grab him from behind and, I assume, hold him while the other two pummeled him.

Why I did it I don't have a clue. Although I was not a fist-fight type of guy, I jumped into the fray and grabbed the sailor and pulled him off of Joe's back. Amazingly I held my own through a flurry of punches with the sailors--I even managed to land a few good ones. The sailor was pretty big and I began to wonder if I had gotten into something that I couldn't handle. In the meantime Joe 'decked' one of the sailors and the other one decided that he didn't want to fight Joe. Joe then turned to my aid and hit my opponent so hard in the mid section that I thought Joe's fist would emerge from the other side. The sailor collapsed into a doubled up, groaning, gasping blob on the ground. One of the guys yelled that a Navy Shore Patrol was approaching, so we high-tailed it to our Army truck.

Needless to say that Joe never got his combat knife, but I made a friend for life. After that day I was his buddy, his only friend and he was my protector. Later he might have saved my life in a particular fire fight during a recon patrol, I won't go into the particulars, but his quick eyes and reflexes might have saved our entire section.

The last time that I was with Joe was shortly after he was wounded in the arm and legs by a mortar shell fragments. This was during our units last full scale attack to push the Japs into the sea or surrender. Joe's wounds could have been serious. but probably not fatal.

The last thing he said to me, before the Medics placed him in a barge destined for a hospital ship was "hermano--come and see me in San Antone". I have never been able to locate him there by telephone. There are a lot of Ramos' there. One of these days I will go to San Antone to one of the places he told me about and if it is still there, ask about a special friend named Joe Ramos!

William (Bill) Kiker

P.S. after the "Bomb" was dropped we arrived in Yokohama seven days after the surrender. spent one year in the occupation of Japan.

I am interested in hearing from anyone that served in "E" in early 1944. Write to:

William (Bill) Kiker

Creekplace 3
Abilene, TX 79605

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

VETERANS HONOR FALLEN SOLDIER ON PATRIOTS DAY
("This is something we always wanted to do.")
Veteran Joe Papa

Nearly 60 years after falling in battle at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, Private First Class, Lawrence J. Murphy returned home yesterday. His name did at least--thanks to a little help from his friends.

Murphy's fellow soldiers, along with city officials and a crowd of on-lookers, gathered in the Patriots Day sun at the corner of Lexington Street and College Farm Road to erect a memorial plaque in the soldier's honor. Just a few yards away from the yellow sign stands the modest pink house where Murphy grew into a young adult before heading off to war.

He died in action Nov. 21, 1942 while serving with Company F of the 182nd Infantry Americal Army Division. Murphy was 23.

"Lawrence J. Murphy Square," as the street corner is now known, brings a feeling of satisfaction to Joe Papa.

Papa also served in Company F and was a friend of Murphy's. Last year Papa asked the City Council to name a square in Murphy's honor. Several other Waltham, MA. squares and points of interest are named in honor of former residents who died serving their country. For the families and fellow veterans, the signs remember soldiers who may have otherwise slipped into anonymity.

"This is something we always wanted to do," said Papa.

(Taken from the Waltham Daily News Tribune--by Patrick Golden.)

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS REUNION

the GVC Reunion held in Louisville, Kentucky in September 2000 was a smashing success, thanks to Reunion Chairman Charlie Farmer. Activities went along like clock work.

Churchill Downs was visited, but a luncheon cruise on the "Bell of Louisville" on the Ohio River was superb! A scrumptious buffet on board was enjoyed.

The Reunion Dinner and Dance was another feather in his cap for Chairman Charlie Farmer.

Member Joe Micek, 132 Infantry Regiment, Americal, is the new Editor of the "Guadalcanal Echoes", following the death of Ted Blahnik on December 4, 2000.

Americal members that served during the Guadalcanal Campaign are eligible to join the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans organization. If interested write:

Graydon E. Cadwell
[REDACTED]
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-4230

Next GVC Reunion will be held at the Ramada Inn, Wilmington, NC on September 13-14-15, 2001.

(Sent in by Dom Pantaleo)

REUNION - 132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT - REUNION

Marriott Hotel - Oak Brook, Illinois
August 24-25026, 2001

CONTACT

Joe Micek - Chairman
[REDACTED]
Norridge, IL 60706-3231

Telephone: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

COMPANY G - 132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

My father, George Wojtko, was assigned as a machine gunner with Company G, 132nd Infantry and was wounded on January 2, 1943.

I am looking for information about medals he is entitled to. He will be 82 in August and I would like to give him his medals for his birthday. Please Contact:

James H. Wojyko
[REDACTED]
Rapid River, MI 49878

email: [REDACTED]

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR MILITARY MEDALS

Medals that were awarded while in active service will be issued upon individual request to the appropriate service. Requests for medals pertaining to service in the Army should be sent to:

Army Commander-U.S. Army Reserve Personal Center
ATTN: DARP-PASEAW
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran (or a signature of a next of kin if the veteran is deceased). Include the veteran's branch of service, service number and dates of service (at least approximate years). Include a copy of discharge or DD Form 214 if available.

If possible, send the request on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records." These forms are generally available from V A offices or Veterans Organizations.

182nd INFANTRY - 2nd BATTALION HQ.

I enjoy reading the Newsletter very much, especially the 'Old Guard' section.

I like to read the letters about Cebu for that is where I served. I did a lot of marching, crawling and wading on Cebu until I was taken sick in July of 1945 and was sent to a General Hospital on Leyte.

Thanks for a good Newsletter.

George W. DeGrange
2 Hq/183 Infantry

A TALE OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION MEDICS

The following was written in answer to a letter from Mr. Ray Aguirre. Ray's letter requested information regarding the operation of Clearing Company "G" of the 101st Medical Regiment, Americal Division and the information and duties of the 52nd Field Hospital which had taken over the operation of the Clearing Co.

Dear Ray,
I was surprised and very elated to receive that huge package of material regarding the 52nd Field Hospital. At the time of the formation, I was the only Med. Administration Officer assigned to the Unit. My other duty was as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of the 101st Medical Regt. The Battalion was made up of a Collecting Company, an Ambulance Company and Company "G" Clearing Company. A second identical Battalion was also part of the Regt. Headquarters and a Service Company, also a Band, made up the rest of the Regiment.

Our mission was to supply Medical support for all the units of the Division. The main task was to support the three Infantry Regiments. This we did and the mission expanded to take care of the Marines, Airforce, Navy, Prisoners and any one else that required Medical care. "G" Company, later the 52nd F.H. did most of this type work. It could have been called the Island Hospital. Our Hospital evacuated patients to the 20th Station Hospital, that I believe came in as part of Hqs. IV Corps. The Marines, Navy and other military organizations came with their own Medical support, but in the beginning, Co. "G" carried the load.

Major John M. Barry, M.D., who was in command of the 1st Battalion, became the Commanding Officer of the 52nd F.H. when it was formed. I stayed with the new 52nd F.H. until May 1943, when I transferred to New Caledonia for re-assignment.

The transfer happened in late February 1943, when a lot of shuffling was going on in the Military organizations. The 101st Medical Regt changed to the 121st Med. Battalion and moved on to the Fiji Islands with the rest of the Americal Division. The new 52nd stayed behind at the Canal and up until I departed, the duties had not changed much.

After a short stay in New Caledonia, I rejoined the 121st Medics and the Americal in Fiji. Recurring attacks of Malaria and Dengue reduced my strength and weight so much that there was talk of sending me back to the States. Instead, I wrangled a deal to return to New Caledonia where I rejoined now Lt. Col. John M. Barry. Barry was now in command of the 109th Station Hospital. I admired Col. Barry since I first met him in the 30's. As a Sgt., I was his instructor and adviser when he first entered the Mass. N. G. I know that Col. Barry was very popular and a good military man while with the 52nd. In fact, the men in the 52nd awarded him a beautiful and valuable watch when he left the outfit.

I knew and served with Capt. Nash, Capt. Eramo and Capt. Moorma. All these officers were mentioned in one of the reports that you had sent me. Capt. Moorman later joined the 109th Station Hosp. and assumed command. I believe he returned to the Solomons with the 109th. The last address I have of Moorman is: J.D. Moorman. M.D., [REDACTED], Huntsville, Alabama 35807. Perhaps the Doc can help you in your search for history of the 52nd. He is a great guy.

Others mentioned in the records were Major Baker and Capt. Terrell. Both were with the Clearing Co. and the 52nd. Baker was an outstanding Surgeon and Dr. Terrell had been a member of one of Alabama's great Football Teams.

There was more than enough manpower to operate a Clearing Co. when I left. The personnel transferred to the new 52nd. My replacement was on the way, so I am sure they could still operate. I do not know of the table of organization and equipment of a Field Hosp., so I do not know if they were ready for future operation. One of the reports noted that there were shortages. The original Clearing Co. was loaded with supplies and equipment because we picked over stuff from the Marines and Navy which we added to our stuff. I do know that at the time and place that the Medical Facility was performing above and beyond normal assigned duties. I was proud to be a member of the team.

Among the many patients that we treated was Joe Foss who later became government minded and was elected Governor of North Dakota. Joe was an ace flyer and downed quite a few of the enemy. Also we had Barney Ross who was a member of the Marines. Barney, who drove around in his own Jeep had been a World Champion Boxer that held titles in several Boxing Divisions. At the Canal, he was all over the place. On Christmas Eve, 1942, Barney came to the Clearing Co. and surprised everyone as he sat down to an organ and played Xmas Carols. He was good and brought cheer to all in the area. It was said later after the war that Barney had become hooked on narcotics. Stories told said that Barney claimed to have picked up his habit from morphine injected at an Army Medical Unit. I know that we treated him and I also know that morphine was not part of the treatment. There was some talk among our Medics about him being on dope but all believed that he obtained the stuff from sympathetic Marine Aid Men.

Headquarters Americal Div. was located at a bend in the Lunga River. The Division was commanded by Gen. Alexander Patch. Just across the river from Div. Hqs. was the Hqs and Service Co. of the 101st Med. Rgt. The Med. Rgt. was commanded by Col. Dale G. Friend, MD. On the same side of the river and across a narrow road was Company "G" Clearing Co., which later became the 52nd Field Hosp. To one side of the Clearing Co. was a Jap bldg that our people had named the M A N Ice House. The title stood for Marine--Army--Navy. Our troops made good use of the building. To the West of the Clearing Co. was another Jap building that was used by them to store food supplies. It contained canned goods, candy and some unknown type of food. An open can revealed fish heads in oil. Ugh! I spotted a white and black animal with a long rat type tail. The animal and I ran in opposite directions.

Major Barry and I had an animal in our tent that became a pet. Some soldiers had picked the thing up in a rubber tree grove and presented it to us. It was a small rat that we placed in a cage made out of a large tin can. That thing would run around and make a whistling sound. We did not see many birds or animals on the Canal. There were a few hungry looking horses that had belonged to some Jap officers. Some of the boys did capture a crocodile and some large lizards were seen from time to time. The 52nd was not far from Fighter Strip #1. It was between the Lunga and Matanikau Rivers. Some fierce fighting was done along the Matanikau. It was here near the seashore that our Marines wiped out the attacking Japanese Imperial Marines. This Jap group was a

select bunch with it's members six or above feet tall.

Our boys in the Clearing Co. were a busy group but at times they would sneak off to join the excitement. I am sure that our boys took a few pot shots in the direction of the enemy. I recall a day when Major Barry and I went to the front to check on the situation. We climbed a muddy slippery slope along with the Infantry unit. It was difficult to climb but when we peered at the other side of the hill, we saw a gang of our own members of the Clearing Co. They were looking for souvenirs.

Those pictures you sent were really something. I could smell the jungle all over again. When the Clearing Co. established the Hosp. in the area, a large bomb crater was between it and the Jap Ice-House. That crater appears to be the same as that at Hamilton Bridge. I don't remember the person that the Bridge was named for. During night drives, several of our Military vehicles plunged into the crater. No lights were permitted on vehicles that operated at dark of night.

The above reminds me of another accident that happened on a road that separated the Clearing Co. and the 101st Med. Hqs. A U.S. Truck that was headed to the front blew up. The truck was carrying Ammo and it either hit a mine or a defective piece of ammo caused the explosion. No trace of the vehicle could be found. Just the skin of a face and a leg was found. That explosion could have wiped out both the Clearing and Regt'l Hqs. Div. Hqs was close enough to suffer too. We were lucky at this time but then again we were lucky to escape Jap bombing and strafing as the Japs struck often.

One time I was at a Navy Shore Station, when a Jap plane suddenly appeared. It was barely above the road and it's bullets were raising a cloud of dust. I could almost reach up and touch the plane. I jumped into a nearby embankment and as I huddled there something or somebody jumped in along side of me. When all clear sounded, I glanced at my fellow survivor and to my surprise that survivor turned out to be a dog. This was the only dog that I ever saw in the South Pacific.

During one severe Jap night raid, the Med. Rgt. Area was hit with many large hunks of metal. The one piece that I picked up was red hot. Across the Lunga River and behind Div. Hqs. was a unit that contained many mules. Some of those mules were hit and their screams could be heard far into the night. I had an experience with those mules that sticks in my memory. Although many stories denied that mules were on the Island, they were there all right and prior to the Canal they were in New Caledonia. On this particular day, Thue Guy Lam (Jimmy Lam) and I met up with the mules. Lam was one of 17 Chinese American soldiers that was with the 101st Med. Rgt. Jimmy was forever planning to go to the front but up to now our Chinese were not allowed out of the Regimental Area because there was a fear that they would be mistaken for a Jap and get shot by our soldiers. The ban was now lifted so I agreed to take Jimmy along. Somehow, we got on the wrong track and ended up behind a group of Marines that were ready to jump off in an attack against the Japs. We tried to turn back and find another route to our own Medics. We found the return route blocked by a bogged down ambulance and those pack mules that were headed towards the front. The animals were spread in all directions. We had to turn back to where the Marines had been. On our way we spotted two Japs that were hiding. With the help of the

Marines, we loaded the Japs into our Jeep. One of the Japs was an officer and neither of the two spoke English. While we were trying to figure a way out of the place, one of the Japs pointed to the other side of a clearing that led towards the sea shore. Since we had no other choice, we followed his directions to the shore. We offered him a pack of cigarettes for his efforts. At the shoreline, we had to cross a swift flowing stream that caused us to hesitate. One of the Japs tapped me on the back and indicated that it was O.K. to proceed. He offered to show us that it was all right. He walked out across the waters and I moved our Jeep cautiously behind him until we landed safely. In the meantime, Jimmy held a rifle trained on the Japs. Later I realized that I had three things to fear. 1. The Japs and possible treachery. 2. The stream and 3. Jimmy with the gun. I do not believe that Jimmy had ever handled a gun before and it appeared to me that he had the gun aimed at me most of the time.

We also had the Jap Lone Ranger who flew his plane high over us every night. We dubbed him "Maytag Charlie" because the plane had the sound of a washing machine. Others had different names for the guy and his plane. I don't recall him ever dropping a bomb. Our side would get him in the sights of our search lights but he was always too high for our guns to make a hit. That Jap and his plane were just nuisances that drove us underground into our bomb shelters. Perhaps the Jap gained a point because once we were underground we met a second enemy in the form of mosquitoes. This pest gave many of us Malaria and took many out of the fight for long periods. After a few raids, I got fed up with the skeeters and I stayed above ground and chanced getting hit.

Our Clearing Co. had others for patients besides the friendly people. We took care of the prisoners. We used one of them as an interpreter, his name was Suski and he claimed that his brother was in the States and that he worked for Universal Picture Studios.

In addition to Jimmy Lam we had 16 other Chinese Americans assigned to our Regt. They spoke little or no English. Most of these soldiers were kept in rear areas and used mostly as Mess Personnel. Nearly all wanted to see action but because of their Oriental appearance they were not permitted to circulate away from assigned areas.

Between air raids, one of these Chinese sprayed their bomb shelter with gasoline to stave off the mosquitoes. Later during a raid one of them lit a match resulting in the injuries to many, and I believe that at least one died. I also know that some of these had been badly hurt in a vehicle accident in New Caledonia prior to duty on the Canal.

In New Caledonia the roads were very narrow in mountainous country. Members of our Regt. were involved in motor accidents in many instances. Jimmy Lam and I landed in one of our own hospitals when a vehicle in which we were riding was forced off the road and over a mountain side. This gained us both a couple of weeks in the hospital. I never found out what happened to two others that were in our vehicle. I no sooner got out of the hosp. when a horse that I was riding got hit by a 2 Ton Truck. My knee was banged up and so was the horse. I went back to the hosp. for another 3 weeks.

Yes, the Medics had horses on New Caledonia. In addition to my other duties, I was in charge of about 35 horses that had been shipped to the

Island from Australia. The horses were a wild looking bunch that needed grooming and a good meal. At first, the horses were difficult to handle but once we got acquainted things ran smoother.

We picked up the horses just outside Noumea and some of our men rode the horses to our different Med. Units that were spread out over New Cal. None of our men were horsemen so they found the ride back as long and tiresome. We got the horses to their destination in late night darkness. Men and animals were sore and hungry. One of our riders, named Merrit Bell was badly injured while making the journey. He eventually lost a leg because of an accident between his horse and a truck.

In New Caledonia the units of the 101st Med. Regt. were split up and sent to all parts of the Island where they performed as Hospitals or Med. Aid Stations for all types of Military Organizations. The horses mentioned above were divided between our Med. Units and were to be used for evacuation of patients from areas not reachable by road. Our Med. Units covered the 182nd Inf., the 132nd Inf. and the 164th Inf. as well as the rest of the outfits of the Americal Division. We also had a Hosp. in the heart of Noumea. Other Medical Units and Hospitals came to New Caledonia after we landed but I learned little of their functions as our Units kept us busy.

As to records and record keeping, there is little information, in the reports that you sent to me of the 52nd. There were many changes going on in the Armed Forces at this time and the appearance of the 52nd was one of these changes. As you noted, the Guadalcanal Campaign was more or less a testing ground for future combat in the Islands. Changes were needed and corrections made as we moved to the North step by step. Up to this time I had never heard of a Field Hospital. I was informed that this type Hosp. was formed to replace Div. Med. Units so that those Units could move on with their Divisions.

Units of our Div. kept records in 1941 and 1942. We used Morning Reports that covered news of previous days. We also had Sick Reports to cover illnesses of the Units men. Together these reports were a sort of history. I believe that the Reg'l Hqs kept Histories in New Cal. and at the Canal.

Perhaps your Dad remembers the night that the Japs got some men to the Fighter Strip and blew up some of our planes. Some of the resulting debris landed in the area of Ambulance and Collecting Companies. No one was hurt but some of our men put on a campaign of their own in which they requested everyone to contribute razor blades to their cause. The plan was to stick the blades into the trunk of the Palm trees and the Coconut trees. The blades were to give pain to any Jap sniper who climbed a tree in order to pick some of us off. It was said that the plan did get a few of the Nips and the howls of the wounded could be heard in the neighborhood of Fighter Strip #1.

About this time there were rumors of Japs appearing in U.S. Mess lines for food. Nips were also reported in lines at the Post Office and other places where U.S. lines were formed.

It was no rumor about Admiral Yamamoto. Some U.S. Airforce men came to my tent and told me that on the following day some of our planes were going after Yamamoto, and they told me of the time and

place they would get him. I forgot the time and place. I was told, for the first time, that our side had broken the Jap Code and that we would get Moto as he became airborne. The following evening, the Airmen came to me and declared Mission Accomplished. History shows that the Airmen were correct with the story. I believe it was early April 1943 when the deed was done.

Now, I will try to recall as much as I can about the 101st Med. Regt. In the beginning I will say that the 52nd Field Hosp. picked up where the Co. "G" Med. Clearing left off. When the 52nd was established the battle for control of the Island had become quieter. The Japs had folded their operation and undetected had sneaked off the Island. Air raids continued but we no longer received action from Tokyo Express which had been coming down the Slot. The Channel between the Canal and Florida Island was known as the Slot. The Australians had scouts on the surrounding Islands, who kept us informed of the Japs movements by sea. We were ready for the Japs although they did manage to sneak in under cover of darkness and/or weather.

My first contact with the 101st Med. Regt. was on June 6, 1927. I walked into the Lawrence, Mass. Armory and signed up with the 101st Veterinary Co. of the 101st Med. Regt. 26th Div. Mass. N.G. Each year, until 1940, the Div. was Federalized and sent out for Field Training at some Post, Camp or Station. At this earlier time many organizations within a Div. used horse drawn transportation for their wagons and Artillery pieces. My unit took care of the sick and ailing animals. In the mid and late 30's changes began to occur throughout the Military. Horses vanished and motor vehicles appeared. Our Veterinary Co. was converted to Troop "A" and assigned to a motorized Cavalry Organization. We had Scout Cars and Motorcycles. After a year, we were back to a changed Med. Regt. We now became the Collecting Co. and placed in the Methuen, Mass Armory as Company "A". I was soon transferred to Company "B" Collecting Co. in Lawrence, Mass. War had broken out in Europe in the meantime and we began to drill more often. It was now two nights a week and three weeks at Summer Camp. Along about Oct. 1940 some of us Nat'l Guard Divisions were Federalized and placed on active duty.

From my entry into the Military in 1927 until 1940, the Med. Regt. and the Mass. N.G. had trained at Ft. Devens, Mass., Indiantown Gap, Pa. White Plains, N.Y. Camp Edwards, Mass. and in upper New York State. During this time I had managed to move up in the ranks, from Private to 1st Sgt. Along the way I learned that the Regt. had served on the Mexican Border and in World War II. In those days it was known as a Sanitary Train. As a member of the 26th Div. it was among the first to enter Europe in W.W. I. The Medical Regt. received many awards and decorations and so did a number of its personnel.

In 1940, the Regt. was made up of Hqs and Service Co., 3 Collecting Companies, 3 Ambulance Companies and 3 Clearing Companies and a Band. There were three Battalions with one Battalion consisting of three Collecting Companies, one Battalion consisting of 3 Ambulance Companies and one Battalion consisting of 3 Clearing Companies.

On Dec. 23, 1940, I was called to the Exeter St. Armory in Boston, informed that I was now a 2nd Lt. I also learned at this time, that the Div. would soon be activated into the Fed. Service for a period of one year. We were federalized, soon thereafter and the members of the organization

were inducted into the Federal Service. All members were given a chance to withdraw from the Service but the majority elected to stay on.

On January 16, 1941, the 26th Div., now in Federal Service, moved into the newly prepared Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, in Massachusetts. The Division Units did normal routine housekeeping and preparing of the units for the years stay. Equipping, feeding and drilling became part of each day. I took part in those chores for the first two weeks. The first of February, I was hospitalized for an appendix operation. The Hospital was freezing and I developed Pneumonia. When my physical condition worsened the then Capt. John W. Barry rushed around to make sure that I got covered with G.I. Insurance. As long as I knew Barry, he always looked out for the men under him.

Upon release from the Hospital I was given a months sick leave so in all, I had missed the most of the first two months of training with the Regt. Upon my return to duty, I was dispatched to the Army Med. College in Carlisle, Pa. for a refresher course. Just as summer approached, I returned to the Regt. in time to take part in the up coming Carolina maneuvers. All of the Medical Units were now strengthened with new Draftees and were considered to have a full complement of personnel. During my absence the Medics had been viewed by some British Officer. Some of us started to wonder and our thoughts were of the War raging in Europe. We suspected that we would soon become involved.

I was issued a motorcycle and placed at the front end of the column of Div. vehicles. I lead the Div. from Cape Cod to the maneuver area in North Carolina. Our Med. Regt. set up in North Carolina at Ellerbee, which was not far from the famous Golf Course in Pinehurst. Training began in earnest and at the same time, we were looking forward to our committed year of service to end. We could taste being back into Civilian life, back home with our friends and families. This joyful bubble of joy anticipation faded in October when we were informed that we were all frozen in place. Nobody would leave the Military as promised. The length of service was now indefinite. Most soldiers were stunned at the news and the cry "OHIO" was heard around the country. The word meant "Over the Hill in October." It was in effect a hint that some men might just disappear from the Military without a formal Discharge. They would go A.W.O.L. (Absent Without Leave). However the men took it in stride and remained loyal.

The maneuvers were the usual, Red against the Blue with no real winner declared. With the maneuvers over, early Dec., the Div. returned to Camp Edwards in the early part of Dec. 1941 and started to prepare for Furloughs and Leaves. We all wanted to be home for the Xmas and New Years holidays. The Government owed us earned time off. It was years before this leave was granted.

On Dec. 6, 1941, all furloughs and leaves were canceled. No one was allowed to leave Camp. Later this cancellation seemed odd because of the timing. To shake off my disappointment, I took a motorcycle and circled the Camp in an attempt to pick up more information. On my trip I reached a railroad siding and gazed upon lines of flat-cars that were loaded with vehicles and other equipment. This all brand new stuff resembled the same type things that we had just used on maneuvers. Something was surely in the wind.

The following morning was Dec. 7, 1941. It was

Sunday, 7:00 AM and the radios were blaring everywhere. The Jap attack on Pearl Harbor was in progress. This attack was the spark that involved our Nation in what turned out to be a Global War.

Up to this time the Div. consisted of four Infantry Regiments and other supporting elements that included the 101st Med. Regt. The Companies in the Inf. had two aid men each assigned. The aid men treated and supervised the evacuation of the injured to a Regimental Aid Station which was approximately 200 yards to the rear. Patients requiring further treatment were taken over by our Collecting Co. for evacuation to our Clearing Co. The Clearing Co. was usually stationed near Regimental and Div. Hqs. The purpose of the units of Medical Regt. was to get the patient well in minimum time and back to his organization. Should the patient need further treatment he would go further back into a Corps area or other places set up to render Med. care. Among these rear Med. Units were Clearing Companies (Sep), Field Hospitals, Evacuation Hospitals, Station Hospitals, General Hospitals and Convalescence Hospitals. The assignment and deployment of all Medical Organizations depended on whatever situation was present at the time.

On New Caledonia and on the Canal, the operation of the Medical Regiment, and its units, depended on the situation, terrain, quirks of nature and in many cases, movement of the enemy. Other organizations within the Div. usually had their own source of Med. Care. These other organizations included Signal, Quartermaster, and Artillery and they had Aid Stations, Dispensaries and trained Medical Personal.

The Medical Soldier adjusted well to many changes and he did his job in the best possible manner with the least amount of complaint.

I returned to the 26th Div and the Med. Reg. as of Dec. 8, 1941. All were alerted to a movement of troops. Parts of the Div. were left at the Camp location while the majority of the Div. was readied for a move overseas. The Med. Reg. minus a Collecting Co., an Ambulance Co. and a Clearing Co., was now part of a Division that was to depart from the Camp for the Brooklyn, NY, Port of Embarkation. At the Port we joined some other Military Groups and now became known as Task Force 6814. The 101 Med. Regt. became 6814-F of the Task Force. Other Medical Units within the Force were the 4th General Hosp., 52nd Evac Hosp. and the 109th Station Hospital.

The 101st Med. Regt. moved from Camp Edwards to the Port of Embarkation on Jan. 19, 1942. The moral of our officers and men was exceptionally high. The Pride, Devotion, Dedication and commitment of the personnel was the best and remained so throughout their service. When we boarded the waiting ships, repairs were still being made to accommodate the men and equipment that was about to be loaded. Repairs continued to be made long after we departed the Port. Our voyage was to be long and boring. Many of us got seasick as we sailed the Atlantic, Pacific and Tasman Sea. Rumors had us landing on some different named Islands but these targets were always taken over by the Japs. In the end and on the morning of Feb. 26th 1942, we entered the Harbor of Melbourne, Australia.

In our Convoy of Ships were the following: The Barry, the Argentina, (The flag Ship), Cristobal, Santa Elena, Santa Rosa, McAndrews and the Erickson. This Convoy was escorted by Cruisers, Destroyers, Blimps and other Aircraft. The 101st

Medical Regt. was aboard the Santa Elena although some of the Regt. may have been on the McAndrews along with the Catholic Chaplain, Father Edward Flaherty.

Once ashore in Melbourne, we were marched to the grounds of what appeared to be a University. We slept on the grounds of that place until morning. We were all given a cup of hot tea and that was our meal for the day. Our troops were again assembled and marched along the streets of Melbourne until we reached the railroad station. The Medics boarded the train and were transported to the City of Ballarat. This time we were marched to the oval of a Race Track. We must have looked a bit foolish as we stood in a Battalion formation. We had left the USA in our winter clothing and here we stood in the sweltering weather of Australia where it is now summer.

As we stood at attention, the good citizens of Ballarat trooped the line selecting soldiers to stay at their homes. Capt. Barry and I went to the home of Dr. Podger who was a dentist. At the Dr.'s home we met his wife and young son and daughter. I assure you that the entire group of Medics enjoyed Ballarat. At the end of one week we were back on the train and heading back to Melbourne where we were again put aboard a ship, the Kungsholm, and we left port rather quickly. In about three days we arrived at the harbor of Noumea, New Caledonia. For the first time our soldiers went over the side by the way of rope netting. It was quite a job and fortunately no one was hurt. The water was pretty choppy which cause our ship to sway, rock and roll. We loaded into small boats and were taken ashore.

Our greeting committee consisted of a man and a very young girl. Neither spoke English and seemed confused with all that was going on. Perhaps the rest of the citizens had gone into hiding.

We landed at the Grand Quai Docks where we assembled for a march to a place just outside of Noumea. We settled on a sloping hillside that was covered with some Eucalyptus trees and many mosquitoes. The Pup Tents that we set up were on a slant and we all had trouble sleeping in the tents. Their position caused us to slide out into the mosquito infested night. Several days later the regiment moved further up the island to a place called Ouchambeau. Soon our Medical Companies were sent to different parts of the Island to back the 164th, 182nd and the 132nd Infantry Regiments with medical care.

Up until 27 May 1942, we were still within the 26th Division of Task force 6814. On this date General Order #10 issued by Hdqs United states forces was issued designating that our Division be named the Americal Division. The name was selected in a contest that was run at that time. PFC. David Fonseca of the 26th signal Co. had submitted the name and for this he was given a trip to New Zealand for recreation.

In the Fall of 1942 the Medical Units in the Field were recalled to the 101 Medical Regiment and together the Regiment moved closer to Noumea. In October 1942, a Battalion of the Medical Regiment which consisted of a Collecting Company, an Ambulance Company and a Clearing Company joined with the 164th Infantry Regiment and departed for Guadalcanal to assist the US Marines in staving off a Jap attack against Henderson Field. This Medical Battalion did a remarkably credible job and we were all proud of them.

In November the rest of the Medical Regiment moved

north to the 'Canal. On the first night, this group slept in slit trenches that had been used in an early battle against the enemy. The enemy met at this time was swarms of mosquitoes. The following day the Regiment, with its remaining Battalion, moved to the banks of the Lunga River. Hdqs. was set up across the river from Div. Hdq. and the Medical Hdqs. stayed at this spot for the duration or until the whole Division moved to the Fiji Islands. Co. "G" Clearing (later the 52nd F.H.) was across a narrow road from the Med. Regt. Hqs. The Collecting and Ambulance Companies were in a coconut grove that was between the Lunga and the Matanikau River. They were close to Fighter Strip #1. These Companies saw much action as the Japs put on a final drive to take a ridge on the other side of the Matanikau. Fierce fighting raged here in January 1943 and in early February 1943. All roads and other land approaches were closed to all but ammunition carriers as they rushed aid to the front. I could not get through to check on the needs of our Med. Units, so I went to a Navy Shore Station where I got a small Navy boat which came complete with a sailor operator. Lt. John McLaughlin of our Regt. and I took the boat along the shoreline in the direction of Cape Esperance. After passing Savo Island, we passed over what looked like a large fish. We turned back for a second look and we all agreed that the supposed fish was a Jap one or two man sub. (We reported this upon our return, to the Navy Station. We heard no more of the matter). We continued our trip west toward Cape Esperance and at one point, just before the Cape, we were hailed by some friendly Marines who were preparing to jump off in an attack on the Japs. We found no casualties but I did manage to obtain a Jap flag. Some day I may find time to get someone to translate the Jap writing that was on the flag. When I find the meaning of the writing, I intend to give the flag to a Vets organization. I had better hurry as I am now 82 years old and 100% disabled.

In late January 1943, the action up front had quieted down. The 2nd Battalion, 132nd Infantry, was preparing to go on a mission that would take them behind Jap lines on Cape Esperance. Volunteer members of the 101 Medical Battalion, as well as other volunteers from the Americal Division, were included in the operation. Captain David Bain, M.D., was in charge of the medical members.

The group landed at Beaufort Bay on the west coast and moved toward the Cape. They met little or no resistance. The Japs had fled the Island without being detected by our side. Their equipment had also disappeared.

At 1625 hours, February 9, 1943, word was received that all Jap resistance had ceased. The ground operation was now history. The American Forces had done their job. The 101st Medical Regiment now converted to the 121 Medical Battalion soon left the island along with the rest of the Americal Division. The 52nd Field Hospital took over from Company G and continued to receive patients. Replacement personnel from the Infantry took over from the Medical personnel that left the unit or they added strength to the staff. The Infantry soldiers soon learned to become Medical, Surgical and "Ray Technicians".

On the day after we landed on the 'Canal, we were told of a civilian Missionary, Father Duhamel, had been taken prisoner by the Japs. He had been lashed to a tree and brutally bayoneted to death. The Father was from my home town of Methuen, Mass.

Sometime later, while at the edge of Cape Esperance, one of our Aid Men brought a skull, with dog tags, to me. The tags revealed the name Dubois, 147th Infantry Regiment. He too came from Methuen, Mass. A relative of his lives next door to me. I do not know if the rest of the boy was ever found.

Just before we landed on Guadalcanal our Subs had rescued Bishop Wade from one of the islands to the north. Medics at one of our newer hospitals on New Caledonia took care of the Bishop. He looked well when I talked with him. Shortly after our arrival on the 'Canal our Subs came down from Bougainville with Father Flust, that they had taken out. This Father was from Lawrence, Mass., a neighboring town of Methuen.

About the same time as above a woman appeared on the 'Canal with some of our military. At first I thought she was the first military nurse assigned to the island but rumors said that the woman was Amelia Earhart who had become lost during an attempted air flight around the world. She did resemble the woman flyer when I saw her. Still later, it turned out, she was a member of a team of Australian Coast Watchers that were located on islands above the 'Canal. I did not hear any more about this incident.

The 20th Station Hospital came onto the 'Canal with the IV Corps Headquarters sometime after we arrived. We evacuated patients to them. The 52nd continued to do the same after we left. Our unit and the 52nd also would mend patients and return them to duty as fast as possible. Psycho patients were handled by the 20th Station Hospital. Other organizations such as the Marines, Navy and Air Corps had their own medical support with them. But still, we took care of everybody.

I enjoyed the package with the pictures, reports and clippings. I will be sure that Col. Barry's family get to see the contents of the package. If you have more send them on and I will do my best with them.

I recall your father being with the 52nd but I never did see him all dressed up as in the pictures. He dressed in fatigues like the rest of us.

I did not know the priest in the picture. Father Edward Flaherty was the Catholic Padre with the 101 Medics.

A Red Cross person named Montgomery was assigned to our unit and he installed a library.

Mac

Ed Note: This story was sent to me by the son of Ltc. (Then Major) John M. Barry M.D. mentioned in the letter. McClintock. or Mac as he like to be called, passed away on March 11, 1999.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES

This from a Canadian newspaper, and is worth sharing. Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional Record.

This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous people on all the earth.

Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries to help. This spring fifty nine (59) American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so why don't they fly them? Why do all the International airlines, except Russia, fly American planes.

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or a woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy and you find men on the moon--not once, but several times--and home safely again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everyone to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them unless they are breaking Canadian law, are getting American dollars from Ma and Pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you five thousand (5000) times when the Americans raced to help people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake. Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I am one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their noses at the lands that are gloating over their present trouble. I hope Canada is not one of those.

Stand Proud America!
Wear It Proudly.

This is something I received on my email. (It has been around for some time but bears repeating) I do hope you will print it in the Newsletter.

Dennis R. Ferk
164 Infantry

Ed: Dennis, thanks for your kind words about the Americal Newsletter.

F COMPANY MEN HONORED AT SILVER STAR LUNCHEON

On Saturday March 24, 2001, two WWII Company F, 182nd Infantry Veterans were honored at a "Silver Star" luncheon, hosted by Al Arena of the Massachusetts National Guard Veterans Unit 14 of Waltham, Massachusetts. The luncheon took place at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts. The two honorees were Ltc. Salvatore Vincuillo and 1/ Sgt. Paul Miele.

Col. Vincuillo earned his Silver Star for his leadership in the taking of a Japanese position in Cebu, Philippines in 1945.

Sgt. Paul Miele, then a squad sergeant, earned his Silver Star for leading a platoon through heavy Japanese mortar and rifle fire to its objective on November 28, 1942, during the battle for Guadalcanal.

The luncheon was attended by many dignitaries, including the Mayor of Waltham, David Gately, Brig. General Albert Mangone, Comdr. Robert Gould, John Groppi, WWII H Company, 182nd Infantry, Father Dennis Wheatly and Brother Damian Johnson of the Sacred Heart Church, Joseph Papa and Frank Rourke of Company F, 182nd Infantry of WWII and a group of 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry men headed by Elliot Carey.

Mayor Gately proclaimed March 24, 2001 to be Ltc. Salvatore Vincuillo and 1/Sgt. Paul Miele, Silver Star Day of Waltham, Massachusetts. Sgt. Miele's sister, Mrs. James La Cava, accepted his proclamation as Sgt. Miele was unable to attend.

Col. Vincuillo joined Co. F 182nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard, in 1933. He graduated from the National Guard Military Academy in 1940. In 1942 he was promoted to a First Lieutenant and became Executive Officer of F Company, 182nd Infantry. Col. Vincuillo was one of the few men of the Regiment who went all the way from landing in Australia in March 1942 to landing in Japan on August 1945. His comments on the defense system set up by the Japanese, in the event of an American invasion, were awesome and frightening. He is thankful for President Truman's decision to drop the "BOMB"; thereby saving thousands of American lives.

Sgt. Paul Miele joined Company F, 182nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard in August 1940. His entire military career was spent with F Company, 182nd Infantry, from a Company F Private to 1/Sgt. of F Company. He served in the South Pacific in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, and Bougainville. Sgt. Miele was an old down and dirty Foxhole Warrior with little patience for military decorum.

Sgt. Miele is a Waltham native. He is married to the former Mary Patti. They are the parents of two daughters and one son, grandparents of four boys and the great-grandparents of three girls and a boy.

Col. Vincuillo is a native of Waltham. He was the husband of the late Marguerite Loughry Vincuillo. They are the founders of the "Vincuillo Insurance and Real Estate Agency".

A huge salute to both men for their illustrious military careers. Those of us who served with these men are proud and fortunate to have done so.

Joseph Papa
WWII Co. F Committee

MORE ABOUT THE COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

1/Sgt.(Ret) Ray Poynter's comments about the CIB awards in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2001 issue of the Americal Newsletter explained something I've wondered about. I've heard Vietnam vets say they didn't think much of the CIB--"everybody got one." that wasn't my experience with the Americal in WWII,

There is one quirk about CIB awards that may be unique to the Americal. Toward the end of the fighting on Cebu a carrot was dangled in front of those who had more than enough points for rotation home. In retrospect, General MacArthur was certainly planning the invasion of Japan and felt that he needed all the experienced infantrymen he could get, and he wasn't going to get many from the European theater. The carrot was a second award of the CIB for those who would volunteer for a second tour of combat duty--with no break between tours.

I wonder how many of us wear the badge with a star because of that quirk. Did other Pacific Divisions do that also? Later, of course, regulations allowed only one CIB award for WWII combat service, even for the few who might have earned it in Europe and later were in combat in the Pacific.

Fifty six (56) years later I am amazed that a promise of a second CIB award could tempt anyone to volunteer for more combat. A tour of overseas duty then included something like twenty (20) months--much longer than in subsequent wars. I, a lieutenant, stayed on and led the last element of K company, 132 Infantry Regiment, out of combat. We were six (6) enlisted men, all armed with BAT's, twelve Philippine boys carrying our light machine guns and 60mm mortars.

A couple of days before that, my best friend, Lt. Bowersox, who had also volunteered to stay on, bought the farm. He never got to wear his Blue Badge with a star back to Alabama.

Another Americal oddity in awarding CIBs: In the Americal Newsletter, (third quarter 1999 issue, page 19,) St. John J. McGraw, 247th F.A., (presumably with an artillery MOS) wrote "The greatest honor we F.O.'s received was when we were given the Combat Infantry Badge by Colonel Sagadech of the 132nd Infantry."

Probably most combat infantrymen would approve of an award of some sort for our F.O.'s who were with, and sometimes in O.P.'s ahead of our main positions in many rough combat engagements.

However, the CIB is awarded not only for being under fire, but also because of the infantryman's primary duty twenty four (24) hours a day is to close with and kill the enemy and capture and hold ground, and because the infantryman's lot is to always exist under the most adverse conditions. F.O.'s do get back to their relatively secure and comfortable artillery positions between periods of front line duty.

William B. Mounsey
K Co. 132nd Infantry Regiment

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?
CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER
YOUR DUES ARE PAID UNTIL THE DATE SHOWN

TO THE VETERANS OF THE PACIFIC WAR

I am currently at work on a book on the Pacific Theater of Operations in World War II. Tentatively entitled Citizen Soldiers of the Pacific, it will follow on the heels of my work in the European Theater. Many have felt that the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines of the PTO have not been given their proper due by historians. I aim to rectify this, but to do so, I need your help.

As you know, I set up my books so the guys who fought the battle, the veterans, tell the story as much as possible. I need to hear directly from you about your experiences. I respect them. But as a historian, it is my job to find those who have a story to tell and will share it. Those of you who have had the hardest time talking are the people I need to hear from most. You have my word that the book will honor the record of service of all veterans; that your time and efforts in assisting with this work will not be in vain.

I welcome all copies of letters home, photographs, oral histories, memoirs, books and anything else you feel would aid me with research on this book. One thing that would help me greatly would be a brief synopsis of your service record: Major engagements, citations earned, etc. When you are done, send your material to the:

Office of Stephen Ambrose,
[REDACTED],
Helena, MT 59624.

If you are interested in making an oral history, but are unsure about how to get one recorded, please consult my website or telephone:

Website: www.stephenambrose.com,
Telephone: [REDACTED]

By helping to leave this record you will have done your country one more good turn. You will have left a record that will serve future generations as they try to understand the War and the legacy it left. As time passes, new questions about the War will arise, I don't know what will be asked, but asked they will be. If future historians can get the accurate information, from one who was there, then we together have done a wonderful thing for our nation's history, and the history of the United States Armed Forces.

Your Biggest Fan,
Stephen E. Ambrose

LT. OWEN R. MATTHEWS - 182nd INFANTRY
(Did You Know This Man)

My Dad was a replacement officer and I believe he joined the Americal Division on Cebu July 2, 1945 as a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to the 182nd Infantry, possibly the 1st Battalion.

My father landed on Japan on September 7, 1945 and when the Americal left Japan to be deactivated my Dad was transferred to the 321st Infantry, 81st Division and later to the 511th Parachute Infantry.

If you knew him please contact:

Daniel B. Matthews
[REDACTED]
Apple Valley, MN 55124

email: [REDACTED]

A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN O. LINDON

Marty, as we knew him, has for the past fifty eight (58) been the mainstay in keeping us in touch with one another. We have held Reunions at members seaside homes in Florida and have held annual Florida meetings in Plant City, Florida.

He has published an annual roster listing those members who have passed on or on the sick list.

He and his wife, Violet, made annual treks from New Hampshire to Florida and stopped along the way to visit with members and then keeping the rest of us posted on what was going on.

Marty started his Army career with Company E, 101 Quartermaster Regiment at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. He served with the Provisional Ordnance Co. in Noumea, New Caledonia and the 3142nd Ordnance Company in New Guinea.

He is eighty six (86) years young and is the glue that has kept us together the past fifty eight (58) years and we are grateful for his friendship and loyalty.

Thank you Marty for all you've done for the rest of us.

Jim Foley

[REDACTED]
Southbridge, MA 01550



AND WE WERE SO YOUNG!

Above is a picture of Lt. John P. Trauger taken some fifty years ago on the island of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands where he was assigned to F Company, 182nd Infantry.

Lt. Trauger did not know the ADVA existed until a few months ago. I was asked by a member if Lt. Trauger belonged to the ADVA. I had to answer in the negative but then I did a computer search on the national telephone directory and I came up with his name. I was told that he lived in Lancaster, PA and fortunately he still lives there making the search less difficult.

Because of the computer age two long lost friends were brought together and the ADVA has another member.

Many thanks to Joe Papa, a former member of F Company for coming up with the picture.

Jim

Eligibility for Membership

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

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.

Dedication

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant

[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Americal Unit Rgt/Bde _____ Bn _____ Co _____ Other _____ Associate _____

Dates of Service _____ to _____ Serial/SSN No. _____

Occupation _____ Name of Spouse _____

Date _____ Signature _____ Enclosed DD-214 Y N

Sponsored by _____ Please enclose dues: One year: \$12, Three years: \$30
Send to Attn: National Adjutant Life dues: 75 years of age or over \$75, Under 75 year of age: \$165



Editor-In-Chief
James C. Buckle
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