



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

Published Quarterly

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1999

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

*Season's Greetings  
and  
A Happy New Year*



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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

## Vietnam Historian

Les Hines  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

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Gary L. Noller  
[REDACTED]  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
[REDACTED]

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Americal Division  
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[REDACTED]  
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## Chapter Commander

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## Web Site (Internet)

www.americal.org

11/1/99

## Windsor, Ontario: July 10

Our return to Canada this year was to see the re-dedication of the Canadian Vietnam Memorial. It was damaged by vandals on Dec. 21, 1998 with damage estimated to be in the range of \$20,000 to \$80,000. Money was donated for repairs and the memorial looks great again.

Most people do not know that the names of 113 known Canadians are on the Wall in Washington, D.C. and as many as 400 more names on the memorial may represent others born in Canada. Two of those listed on the memorial, Kenneth Lewis and Fidele Joseph Bastarache, were in the Americal Division.

About 40,000 Canadians joined the U.S. forces to fight in Vietnam. Thanks go to the Americal's and my new friend Joe Fernandez for telling the story of the Canadian vets. Author and Americal veteran Frank Anton was the keynote speaker at the re-dedication ceremony. I hope to see you next year at the North Wall.

## Kokomo, Indiana: September 16-19

Build it and they will come, and they did. One of the largest crowds ever to attend the annual Kokomo event enjoyed a weekend of clear skies and great weather. Most arrived three or four days early in order to have plenty of time to meet with old friends once again.

The 22 acres afforded room for campers and tents, vendors and food, and a great place to bring the family. We had a great turnout of Americal veterans this year. About 40 members signed in at the ADVA registration table and ten new members will soon be on board. Thanks again to those who helped me again this year. I would not be able to do it without them.

Those helping were Dave Taylor, OH; Gary Warn, MI; Terry and Judy Babler, WI; Jon Hansen, FL; John Wills, MO; Dennis Crouse, IN; Gerald Borysiak, MI; and the Van Wierens, MI.

## 176th AHC Vet Leads VFW

October 15, 1999

Mr. John Smart  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Kansas City, MO

Dear Mr. Smart,

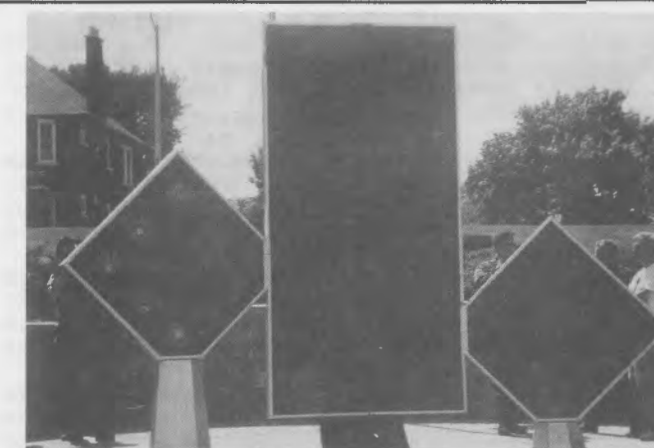
On behalf of the officers and members of the Americal Division Veterans Association, we offer our congratulations upon your election to Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I desire to extend my personal best wishes for your term in office. Also, I extend an offer of membership, at no personal expense to yourself, to the ADVA. Besides a "knock-out" national newsletter, you will become re-affiliated with your other Americal veteran friends.

Please return the application to me and I will process your application from my office. I enclose a pre-stamped and addressed envelope.

Sincerely,  
Americal Division Veterans Association

Ed "Top Gun" Marsh  
National Commander  
Jones, MI



## Holiday Greetings

On behalf of the officers of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I wish to extend to you Holiday Greetings. May you have a very merry Christmas and may the new year bring you joy and happiness.



April, 1999 alligator hunt at Melbourne, FL. Thanks go to Terry Babler for organizing a fine event. The alligators were caught and released live. Same for the hunters!

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

CHRISTMAS PARTY  
December 4, 1999  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:00 A.M.

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TAPS TAPS TAPS

182 INFANTRY 132 INFANTRY HQ/3 AT  
Jacob R. Astanian Ralph Custer  
Andover, MA Revere, PA  
June 7, 1999 August 13, 1999

132 INFANTRY H CO. 198 LIB 11 INF  
Walter E. Dengler Nathan A. Embry Jr.  
Auburn, IL Pittsburg, PA  
September 26, 1999 July 9, 1999

164 INFANTRY G CO. 164 INFANTRY AT  
William W. Freeman Ernest Houser  
Simpsonville, SC Fairdale, KY  
August 21, 1999 Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY 221 FIELD ARTILLERY  
Adam Martinuk Robert F. McGann  
North Andover, MA Woburn, MA  
Date Unknown September 28, 1999

132 INFANTRY A-T 198 LIB  
Leo Miller Francis P. O'Brien  
West Covina, CA Woodcliff Lake, NJ  
September 21, 1998 July 2, 1999

57 ENGINNERS 182 INFANTRY  
Carleton J. Poole Daniel P. Ramsay Jr.  
Medford, MA Norwell, MA  
April 1, 1998 October 1999

132 INFANTRY REG HQ 132 INFANTRY CAN CO  
William F. Saunders Alvin C. Wagner  
Peru, IN Moline, IL  
Date Unknown July 9, 1999

11 LIB C/3/1 INF 132 INFANTRY D CO.  
Charles R. Walter Joseph Balcazar  
Philadelphia, PA San Antonio, TX  
May 24, 1999 September 1, 1999

\*\*\*\*\*

SICK CALL

221 FA B Btry + Hdq 198 LIB B/1/6 Inf  
Robert E. Galpin William A. McMurtray  
Chandler, AZ 85224-2131 Knippa, TX 78870-0279

HEY GUYS - HOW ABOUT A CARD

COLONEL HENRY A. DOHERTY

Colonel Henry A. Doherty died August 1, 1999 at the Metro West Medical center in Natick, MA. He was 88 years old.

Born in Boston, he lived in Revere for forty years before moving to Needham twelve years ago.

He graduated from the Massachusetts Military Academy in 1939. During World War II he served in the Pacific with the 121 Medical Battalion, Americal Division



Following his retirement from the Military in 1971, Col. Doherty became supervisor of the South Postal Annex in Boston.

He was a member of the Needham VFW Post 2498, the Needham American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and the St. Josephs's Church Prayer Group.

He was the husband of the late Carmela C. (DiModica) Doherty. He leaves one son, four daughters, sixteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Burial was at the Woodlawn Cemetery, with full Military Honors.

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WALTER E. DENGLER  
COMPANY H - 132 INFANTRY

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of my Dad, Walter E. Dengler. He passed away on September 26, 1999 and was laid to rest, with full Military Honors, at Camp Butler National cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. He was 82 years old and had been in poor health for some time. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances, and four sons.

Dad served with Company H, 132 Infantry. He was a walking, talking History book when it came to talking about his Army days. We will miss those stories.

Sincerely,  
Steve Dengler

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
DO IT NOW!  
TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Mario L. Binda Mr. Arthur E. Boessneck  
182 Infantry M Co. 721 Ord 22 Ord  
Stoneham, MA North Olmsted, OH  
#Dominic A. Lucci #Bernie Chase  
Mr. Jerry D. Branch Mr. Stephen L. Cross  
11 LIB B/ 6 Sup 198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Houston, TX LeRoy, NY  
#Larry Henry #Robert J. Miller  
Mr. Dwayne E. Hancock Mr. John C. Hart  
1 Cav I Troop/1/1 198 LIB B/1/6 Inf  
Olney, IL Indianapolis, IN  
#Gary Warn #John Hansen  
Mr. Phillip G. Haymaker Dr. Donald V. Johnson  
198 LIB H/17 Cav 198 LIB 46 Infantry  
Waukegan, IL Easton, PA  
#John R. Geib #Fred Cowburn  
Mr. Harold K. McCall Mr. William B. Mounsey  
182 Infantry Hq/3 132 Infantry K Co.  
McAlester, OK Evergreen, CO  
#Capt. James Garigan #Art Cole  
Mr. Harold N. Robinson Mr. Richard Sweeney  
11 LIB B/6/11 Arty 196 LIB A/26 Eng  
Savannah, GA Laurel, MD  
#Don Ballou #Ed Marsh  
Mr. Edward A. Trifeletti Mr. Raymond D. Vargo  
246 F.A. BN 198 LIB 1/6 Inf  
Staten Island, NY Renfrew, PA  
#Jack Masucci #R. Castronova

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Michael C. Adams Mr. Victor Athias  
132 Inf E + Recon 164 Infantry HHC  
Owosso, MI Mill Valley, CA  
#Dale W. Adams #164 Newsletter-Jim  
Mr. John D. Barden Mr. Frederick A. Bauer  
39 Eng Bn HHC 132 Infantry E Co.  
Laredo, TX Fort Myers, FL  
#Don Ballou #R. Castronova  
Mr. Robert S. Bell Mr. Jeffrey A. Berg  
196 LIB A/1/46 Inf 11 LIB HHC/1/20 Inf  
Searcy, AR San Antonio, TX  
#R. Castronova #Bill Bacon  
Mr. Howard Lee Boller Mr. Virgil Box  
Belleville, IL Associate  
#Don Ballou Oxford, MS  
#Bernie Chase  
Mr. Lemuel D. Briggman Ltc. Milton E. Brown  
198 LIB D/1/46 Inf 25 Infantry 3/25 In  
Orangeburg, SC Phoenix, AZ  
#Jim Buckle #Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Michael A. Brown Mr. Stephen Brown  
196 LIB HHC/2/1 Inf 1 Cav A Troop  
Irvington, KY Cotati, CA  
#Ed Marsh #Terry Babler  
Pres. Graydon F. Cadwell Mr. Roland E. Carneal  
GCV President 23 M.P.  
Grand Rapids, MN Vine Grove, KY  
#Jim Buckle #Membership Comm.

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196 LIB B/4/31 Inf Associate  
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#Gary L. Noller #Self

Mr. Bruce A. Dukes Mr. Allen W. Fletcher  
523 Sig Bn Associate  
Continental, OH Worcester, MA  
#Don Ballou #Jim Buckle

Mr. Edwin A. Forrest Mr. Larry J. Goad  
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf 11 LIB D/4/3 Inf  
Putnam Valley, NY Linton, IN  
#Gary Noller #Don Ballou

Mr. Charles T. Hanson Mr. James E. Johnson  
23 Division Sig Co 1 Cav B Tr/1/Sqd 67  
Atlanta, GA Killeen, TX  
#Self #Terry Babler

Mr. Larry Jordan Mr. Don D. Kaiser  
Associate 198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Kansas City, MO BAYtown, TX  
#Terry Babler #Larry Watson

Mr. Kerry Landers Mr. Arthur H. Luse III  
23 M.P. 1 Cav D/1/1  
Burlington, KY Mahopac, NY  
#Gary L. Noller #George Grimes

Mr. Ron Mageors Mr. Bill Martel  
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf Associate  
Freeport, TX Millis, MA  
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Mr. Thomas J. McCarthy Mr. John M. Merrill  
1 Cav D Troop 1/1 6 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Coventry, RI Gray Court, SC  
#Terry Babler #George E. Watts

Mr. John P. Moore Jr. Mr. Thomas L. Motley  
23 Div Band 68-69 1 Cav C Troop 68  
San Antonio, TX Rochester Hills, MI  
#Jim Buckle Sent #Terry Babler

Mr. Steve Padoris Mr. Philip Reints  
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf 723 Main A Co.  
Meridan, ID Rockford, IL  
#Richard Parry #Jim Buckle

Mr. Raymond E. Roberts Mr. Robert L. Rosane  
11 LIB Trp E/1 Cav 198 LIB C/4/3 Inf  
Port Washington, WI North Platte, NE  
#Don Ballou #Self

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Santa Paula, CA Green Bay, WI  
#Jim Buckle-Echoes #Jim Buckle-Echoes

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#Gary L. Noller #Self

Mr. William E. Stucker J Mr. William D. Stutler  
1 Cav Tr A/1/1 39 Eng Hdq  
Hartsburg, MO Shinnston, WV  
#Terry Babler #Don Ballou

Mr. William P. Thomas Mr. Patrick L. Turner  
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf 196 LIB D/2/1 Inf  
Port Clinton, OH Austin, TX  
#Bill Dunphy #Art Cole

Mr. Rick Vigil Mr. Douglas Wables  
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf 196 LIB C/2/1 Inf  
West Lake Village, CA Soldier, IA  
#Gary L. Noller #Gary L. Noller

Mr. Spyder Wecal Mr. William Whittenberg  
198 LIB A/5/46 Inf 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Titusville, FL Minneapolis, MN  
#Don Ballou #Gary L. Noller



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247 F.A. Bn  
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#Jim Buckle

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198 LIB 5/46 Inf  
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#Lee R. Gunton

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23 Amer Div Hdq Spec  
Portland, OR  
#Jerry Martel &

Mr. Frederick W. Betters  
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf  
Lake Placid, NY  
#Edward Ostrosky

Mr. Denis R. Bourcier  
11 LIB D+E/3/1 Inf  
Kirkland, WA  
#Bernie Carroll

Maj George Bryant III (R)  
11 LIB HHC/4/3 Inf  
Hampton, VA  
#W.G. Reed

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196 LIB B/4/31 Inf  
Queensbury, NY  
#Helpline 12/96

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176 AHC 14 CAB  
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#Self

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#Col Matthew Hoey

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#K. Lewsi

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#Larry Dakken

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Boise, ID  
#David Recob

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#Gary L. Noller

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#Allan W. Forde

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Gladwin, MI  
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#R. Castronova

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#Brian Mulcrone

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#R. Castronova

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#Jay Roth

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#Castronova-Hines

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Fremont, NC  
#Larry Gelnett

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#R. Castronova

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1 Cav A Tr 1st Sq  
Sterling Heights, MI  
#R. Castronova

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Big Tujunga Cyn, CA  
#W.L. Dunphy

Mr. James L. Turnage  
11 LIB HQ Btry 6/11  
Utica, MS  
#Self

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Stillwater, PA  
#Dutch DeGroot

Mr. Howard B. Ward  
132 Infantry H Co  
Meridian, MS  
#Membership Committee

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196 LIB A/3/82 Arty  
Davisville, WV  
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Larry A. Young  
13 Infantry D/4/13  
Mayville, ND  
#Alvin Tollefsrud

## NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

In 1993, congress authorized the construction of a National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The cost of this Memorial will be one hundred million dollars. This money has to be raised by public donations. So far they have raised a little over half of the money needed. Plans are to start construction on veterans Day in the year 2000.

In June 1999 the Executive council of the Americal Divisions Veterans Association voted to donate \$2500.00 from the funds of the Americal to this Memorial. If you wish to add your own personal donation to this cause please send a check made out to the Americal to:

Adj. Bernard Chase  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Mark on your check WW II Memorial. Your donation will be added on to the \$2500.00 that the Association is donating.

Plans have been made to hold the National Convention in Washington, DC, in November of the year 2002. This will be the anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial and the WW II Memorial should be completed by this time.

If you plan to contribute please send your check as soon as possible so that we may make our donation by May of 2000.

By law construction cannot start on the Memorial until the entire one hundred million dollars has

been raised. Send your donation in NOW and help the Americal to be able to donate at least \$5000.00.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DONATIONS TO THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

PNC Bernard Carrol  
PNC Bernard C. Chase  
PNC James C. Buckle  
Ltc. Anton Hannel  
Robert Zorn

\*\*\*\*\*

2000 AMERICAL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2000

## Holiday Inn Select - Airport

San Antonio, Texas  
June 15-16-17-18, 2000

CLASS IN 2000 - Y2K or not, plan your vacation in Old San Antonio, home of the Alamo, The Spurs, and Class IN 2000, the Americal Division Veterans Association Annual Convention. The Dates are set! Thursday June 15, begins registration. Sunday June 18 is check out, and what an operation we have for you!

The headquarters hotel is the Holiday Inn Select-Airport, [REDACTED], San Antonio, Texas 78216. They can be contacted at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. A fax can be sent to [REDACTED]. Be sure to ask for the special room rate of \$75 per night plus tax.

Your travel can be arranged by the Alamo Travel Group, Suzan Carrillo, 9000 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas 78240. Contact them at [REDACTED], or fax at [REDACTED]. On the internet they can be reached by E-mail at [REDACTED] and they have a website at [REDACTED]. For a full vacation in South Texas including Austin, the Hill Country, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, on the coast or the Mexican border towns of Laredo, Brownsville or Eagle Pass, call Suzan for all the facts.

Here is a look at the lineup: Tour of the Nimitz War In The Pacific Museum, of which the Americal is noticeably apparent, in Fredericksburg, Texas. Or enjoy a tour of the historic sites in and around San Antonio, including Fort Sam Houston, the Alamo, the Missions and the Riverwalk. A scramble golf tournament. Demonstrations by the 1st Cav's Horse Platoon and the Buffalo Soldiers. Bar B Que and good ol' country music. Mexican food and mariachis. And reminisce to tunes such as Moonlight Serenade and String of Pearls. Or ride the San Antonio River with your buddies for a dinner on the river.

PURO SAN ANTONIO!! &amp; THE ADVA CLASS IN 2000!!

If you have a questions write, call or e-mail to : Bill Bacon, [REDACTED], San Antonio, Texas 78250-3553, or call [REDACTED], or fax [REDACTED]

Bill Bacon, A/2/1 Inf  
2000 Reunion Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?  
CHECK THE DATE ABOVE YOUR NAME  
ON THE ADDRESS LABEL

\*\*\*\*\*



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

COMMANDER  
Bill Gold

VICE COMMANDER  
David Eichhorn

Baltimore, MD 21209  
Tel: [REDACTED]

Fleming, OH 45729

Joe Tunis - Secretary  
Al Barbieri - Treasurer  
George Yates - Sergeant-At-Arms  
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

A very successful Reunion was held the end of September in Corning, New York. It was arranged and hosted by Jim Rains and his wife Alta. They did a great job!

Corning is a fascinating city. It is the home of the world famous Corning Glass Works and Glass Museum. Probably the largest and most complete museum devoted to glass in the world. It has another smaller museum - The Rockwell Museum, in addition to a fine glass collection, also has a large exhibit of western and southwestern art.



New Officers of the Eastern Regional Chapter  
L-R Bill Gold, David Eichhorn, Eileen and Joe Tunis, Al Barbieri.  
(Thanks to Leo Orfe for the picture)

Many of the members, after visiting Corning, went on to the Aircraft Museum where we saw close-up the planes that flew over us during World War II.

Another day was devoted to a winery visit, in the morning, which included wine and beer tasting to get our day started in good spirits. This was followed by a luncheon cruise on beautiful Lake Seneca. Along with our delicious lunch we had a running lecture on the history and sights along Lake Seneca and this was followed by some musical entertainment.

There was a good turnout for the Reunion but unfortunately we missed a couple of our members who could not make it for health reasons. Pete and Julie Messina were not with us nor were George and Rose Yates. Our get-together was not the same without them.

At our business meeting our Commander for several years, Bob Granoff, stepped down and your correspondent, Bill Gold, was elected Commander. In addition we elected Dave Eichhorn to the new office of Vice Commander. Joe Tunis was re-elected Secretary, Al Barbieri, Treasurer and George Yates, Sergeant-At-Arms.

My Best,  
Bill Gold

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

COMMANDER  
Ernest B. Carlson

SEC/TREAS  
Malcolm East

Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Tel: [REDACTED]

Lumberton, TX 77656  
Tel: [REDACTED]

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

Now that the ADVA and 196 LIB have given us an idea on how to put together a Convention, we of the South Midwest Chapter, are ready to show you some "Class IN 2000"!!

Every year, we hear the praise of the members for the gang putting on the Convention. A noticeable fact is that our good Buddies from the '50's - '60's - '70's etc. are joining us, and their numbers have surpassed the World War II members.

This is great, because our numbers are waning daily.

It makes me proud to sign up a Vietnam Vet, or at least to point him in our direction. Even if you meet a Vietnam Vet, and he is not one of ours, he will no doubt be a candidate to join his Buddies in some group.

One thing that I have run across is - some family members needs to connect up with a father's, (or grandfather's) Buddy, for the purpose of putting together a loved ones military history. I have been pretty lucky in obtaining ribbons, medals, and some records for several such families. However, you need to be very persistent with these Records people. I have found that a telephone call, after several months, sometimes will wake someone UP!

Last week we held a Mini-meeting of the Chapter at Cameron Baird's, "Aldorf Cafe", in downtown Fredericksburg. Baird, Alfred 'Bruce' Mobley, Convention Chairman Bill Bacon, myself, and a new Chapter member, Jeff Berg of San Antonio, had a very pleasant and productive get-together.

In September we lost a great Buddy--Joseph Balcazar, Company D, 132 Infantry, passed away. He died on September 1, 1999 in San Antonio. He was a wonderful friend and a FINE soldier. Joe was buried at Fort Sam Houston with full military honors. He was 85 years old.

Also, in September Doss Kornegay, B/2/1 Inf 196 LIB, lost his seventeen year old son, Sean. This shows that there is NO age limitations for the big C-Cancer of all types.

They will both be greatly missed by their friends and families.

I rode over to the Kerville V.A. with Bruce Mobley this morning. He went for an eye examination and I for a flu shot. While there we met a retired Air Force Chief of twenty two (22) years with service in Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, and the Caribbean, and Oh Yeah, SHE got to board John Glenn's capsule when they brought it to Clark field after its recovery.

Glad to report the my chemo-therapy is coming along fine. Besides--who needed all that hair.

Ernie Carlson

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

Regional Commander  
John Mathews

Adj/Finance Officer  
Terry Babler

Verona, WI 53593

New Glarus, WI 53574

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER ANNUAL REUNION  
January 14-15-16, 2000  
New Glarus, Wisconsin

This will be our 14th Annual Reunion. The activities will begin on Friday night, where we will be entered in the Friday night parade. John Mathews or Terry Babler will be calling cadence for the troops. The will be a Hospitality Area before the parade at Swiss Lanes. A dance will be held after the parade.

On Saturday there will be a silent auction at the New Glarus Hotel. Later, at 2:00 P.M., the Great Lakes Chapter and the 1/1 CAV will gather at the Ott Haus Pub. Group pictures at Puempels Old Tavern at 4:00 P.M..

On Saturday night there will be a banquet, Veterans program, and a dance at the New Glarus Hotel.

For flyer e-mail: Terry Babler-[REDACTED]  
or call [REDACTED] or write:

Winterfest R&R  
[REDACTED]  
New Glarus, WI 53574

Yes, its the middle of winter in Wisconsin, so dress accordingly. You will have a good time!

Our Chapter dues are \$5.00 a year. Two Newsletter are put out every year, one in December and one in June. We welcome all Americal Vets to join us. Send you check to:

Terry Babler, Adjutant  
Great Lakes Chapter ADVA  
[REDACTED]  
New Glarus, WI 53574

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2000 AMERICAL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2000

Holiday Inn - Select  
[REDACTED]  
San Antonio, TX  
June 15-16-17-18, 2000

Chairman Bill Bacon, 9335 Laurel Grove, San Antonio, TX 78250-3553. Call [REDACTED] or fax [REDACTED]

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CLEVELAND AREA TO HOST 2001 CONVENTION

This confirms the exploratory discussion I asked for at our annual meeting in St. Louis where there was a great amount of support from the floor for the 2001 Convention to be held in Cleveland, OHIO. Larry Watson and I are Cleveland area residents and have met to begin the planning process. We are very excited and believe we can host an excellent event.

I called Bob Granoff, Eastern Regional Commander, and he endorses our effort to hold a Cleveland Convention. We can begin the process of notifying

Cleveland-area members to see if they would like to volunteer to help at the event.

By early Fall we expect to have a hotel site selected. It will be close to the airport. Key attractions will include the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Football Hall of Fame, Crawford Auto Museum, NASA Lewis Space Museum, and much more. I believe we have some great ideas for speakers and entertainment as well.

You can expect to see some major promotional materials at the San Antonio Convention to get the excitement going. Updated information on the Convention will be available on the internet at <www.americal.org/reunion.htm>.

Convention Chairman  
David Taylor 5/46 Inf 198 LIB  
[REDACTED]  
Medina, OH 44256

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2002 CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC

ADVA members voted to hold the 2002 Convention in Washington, DC. The Convention will depart from the usual June dates and instead be held in conjunction with Veterans Day activities in the Nation's capitol.

Mr. Terry Babler of New Glarus, Wisconsin volunteered to be Chairman of this special Convention. Babler Has extensive experience in planning Reunions to include LZ-DC in Washington, DC two years ago. Tours to the major military monuments in Washington will be a highlight of this Convention. Planning is now underway and additional details will be made available in future Newsletters.

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ADVA SUPPORTS WW II MEMORIAL

The Executive Council of the ADVA voted to contribute \$2500.00 towards the construction of the planned WW II Memorial in Washington, DC. The Memorial will be the first National Memorial dedicated to service members and supporters at home.

The National Memorial is expected to cost \$100 million. About \$57 Million has been raised to date. Ground breaking on a site between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial is scheduled for November 11, 2000. The site was dedicated on November 11, 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Former Senator Bob Dole is heading the fund raising effort. He was wounded in combat while serving with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy.

The Americal Convention is planned for Washington, DC for November 11, 2002. This date will mark the the anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial and the expected dedication of the World War II Memorial.

Your contribution to the Memorial will be put in a special fund and will be added to the \$2500 contributed by the ADVA. Make your check out to the ADVA and note on it that it is for the Memorial Fund. Mail it to:

Adj. Bernard C. Chase  
[REDACTED]  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664



## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR 1999

## First Place Award - Courtney A. Stankey



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for awarding me 1st place. It was an honor to receive recognition from an organization such as yours. Thanks to the scholarship money, I will be able to continue my education at Loyola.

Sincerely,  
Courtney A. Stankey

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2nd Place Award - Jacquelyn A. Farley



I am so fortunate and excited to have been chosen as the second place award winner of the ADVA Scholarship this year. I would like to show my tremendous appreciation for not only the award itself but also to the ADVA members handwork. The \$2000 that has been placed in my account at Penn State University will be extremely helpful in paying for my education. Once again I would like to let them know that I am sincerely grateful.

Sincerely,  
Jacquelyn A. Farley

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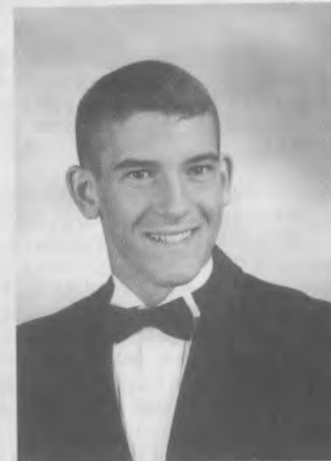
## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Malcolm East  
in memory of  
Joseph Balcazar - 132 Infantry

Terry Maloney

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## Third Place Award - Jonathon B. Larson



I would like to thank you and the members of the Americal Division Veterans association for your generous support of my college education. During the process of applying for the Americal Division scholarship, I was able to gain a better understanding of the impact and works of the Americal and its soldiers in Vietnam.

The Americal Division scholarship will help me fund my education as I pursue a degree in business administration and management information systems at the University of Iowa. With my twin brother also in college, this is a nice addition to my family's college fund. This generous award attests to the association's care and interest in the education of the youth of its veterans.

Thank you again for this scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Jonathon B. Larson

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## FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

A revised application form is being prepared for the coming year 2000 Scholarship Awards and will be available after Jan. 1, 2000. All children and grandchildren of Americal Veterans are eligible.

CONTACT  
Chairman Ronald L. Ward  
[Redacted]  
St. Louis, MO 63123

The decision on the awards is made, after reviewing the applications and resume of the applicants, by three Nuns from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Louis, Missouri.

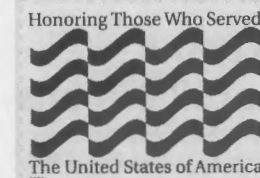
Our main source of funds continues to be our annual raffle. Members of the committee wishes to thank all the ADVA members that have supported the raffle in the past. Also our thanks goes to all members that have made individual contributions to the Scholarship Fund.

## OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ronald L. Ward - Chairman  
Joseph Chin - Treasurer

## TRUSTEES

Edward W. Marsh - 2000  
Austin J. Roth - 2001  
Ronald R. Ellis - 2002  
Richard Scales - 2003



Dear Readers,

The United States Postal Service has issued two stamps with veterans' themes. The Vietnam War stamp is part of the '60s commemorative set and cannot be purchased singly. These stamps will be very limited so ask for them soon.

-Vietnam Editor-

To the editor,

When the Japanese quit we loaded up the ship USS Bland, APA134, at Cebu, Philippines with Americal troops and took them to Yokohama for a little R&R. I wonder if any of you still exist? I have found some old picture albums with things about the Americal Division. I would like to hear from you. James C. (Jim) Johnson, [Redacted], Humble, TX, 77338, [Redacted]

To the editor,

I am trying to find information on my uncle, Forest Volkmar. He was in the Americal Division and was killed in the battle of Bougainville. I would appreciate any information you could give me. Jon Volkmar, [Redacted], Glen Carbon, IL, 62034, [Redacted]

To the editor,

I am trying to find any military records, action reports, or any other information about my great uncle, S/Sgt William Krotosky, U.S. Army, Serial No. 33167522, T43, who was killed in action on Mar. 28, 1945 at Cebu, Philippines. This is all the information I have. I am not sure what unit he was with, but the Americal Division was fighting in the Philippines at the time. I would be thankful for any information that could be furnished. James M. Horvath, 125 Carwyn Drive, Johnstown, PA, 15904-3322, [Redacted]

To the editor,

I have been looking for information about Wilson Giles (Bill) Gilmer, born August 11, 1944, died Quang Tin Province, May 14, 1969. Of the fourteen members of the platoon, twelve were killed on that day. Bill

was a medic in HHC, 1/46th Inf., 198th LIB. I have had a search for on the web for him for nearly a year now but to no avail.

I am writing a book about 17 men connected to Preston County, WV who were killed in Vietnam. Bill was born while his mother was living with her parents in Kingwood, WV during WWII. They lived in the house next to me. I am looking for anybody who might have known him. Do you have any information on what was happening with that unit on that day?

Dorothy B. Snyder, [Redacted], Dover, DE, 19901, [Redacted]

*Editor's Note: It appears that this action was near FSB Professional and may be the same action that resulted in the award of the Medal of Honor to MAJ Kern Dunagan. See a related article by Rick Olson in the APR-MAY-JUN 1999 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.*

To the editor,

I have been trying to reconstruct my father's service during the war. At his funeral in 1985 my uncle told me that my father had been assigned to one of the squads that dug the Japanese out of their bunkers and caves. I am hoping to find as much history as I can about the campaigns and battles that my father's unit was in during World War II.

My father was Marvin Oston Payne, Tech Sergeant (T/4), service number 34185189, SV Company, 147th Infantry. The 147th was transferred from the 37th Infantry Division in April, 1943, and attached to the Americal Division. My father was on Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, Saipan and Iwo Jima, among others. Paul A. Payne, [Redacted], Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, 90275, [Redacted]

To the editor,

I would like to contact anyone who was with the 198th Lt. inf., 1st of the 6th, between Sept. 67 to Feb. 69. I was wounded Feb. 6, 1969. If anyone around remembers me or this action please contact me.

Howard (Billy) Leleux, [Redacted], Jennings, LA, 70546, [Redacted]

To the editor,

I am an adjunct Professor of History at Montclair State University in New Jersey. After many years procrastination I have begun work on my Doctoral Dissertation. My focus is the story of the women who waited on the home front as their men were in Vietnam.

Specifically, I am interested in speaking and/or corresponding with women who were either engaged or married to men who

shipped over to Vietnam. I would like to know where they were living, what they thought about the Anti-War Movement and what impact if any the Feminist Movement of that time had upon their lives.

I would greatly appreciate your putting me in touch with women who might be willing to assist me. Jeanne Gaiamis, [Redacted], fax 973-736-8749, [Redacted], West Orange, NJ, 07052.

To the editor,

Enclosed is a photocopy of my Zippo lighter with CIB and my unit engraved on it. It reads:



VIETNAMESE NAME  
1971-1972  
CASTANEDA  
{ CIB }  
B 4/31  
AMERICAL

I was also in B, 3/21st Inf. in 1971. Fred Castaneda, B, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB [Redacted], Austin, TX, 78729

To the editor,

I read in the newsletter that you had some requests from relatives of WWII veterans to help with the identification of ribbons and the medals that they represent, and insignia that you were not familiar with.

I can identify all the WWII stuff that was made. I have several books on the subject. Please feel free to direct any questions about this subject to me and I will do all I can to help anyone looking for help.

Dave Myers, Records Recon, [Redacted], Stewartville, NJ, 08886, [Redacted]

To the editor,

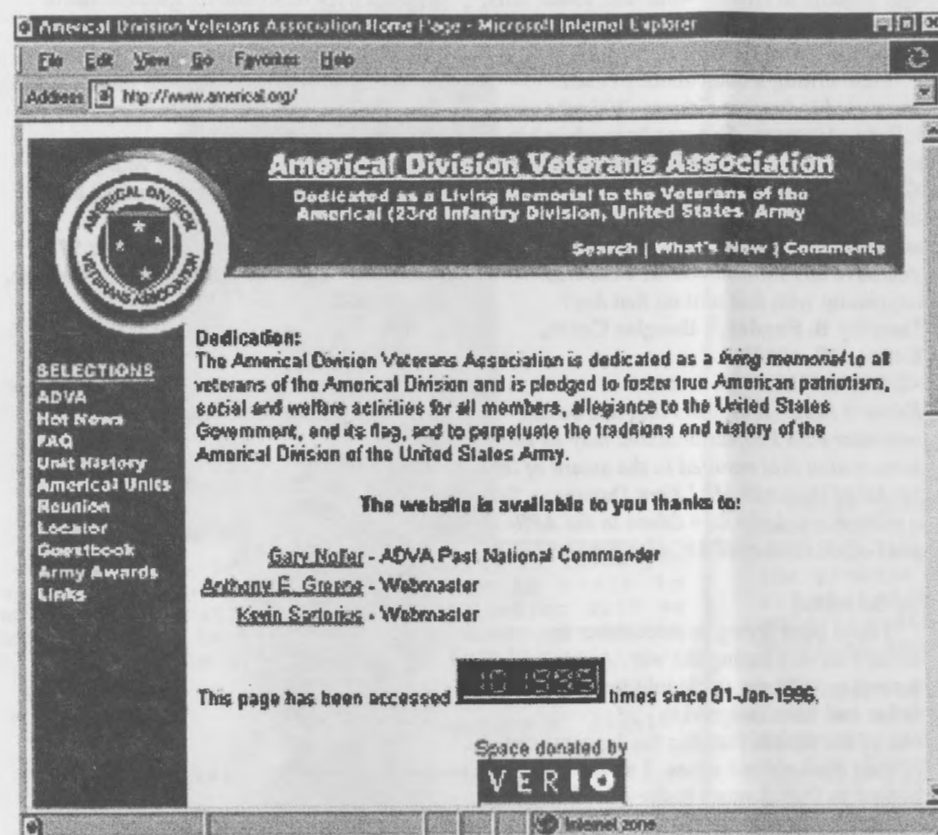
I am looking for information to help process a claim with the VA. I was assigned to the 1/46th Inf. on FSB Professional in 1969-70 in the commo shop.

I helped man the bunker line in front of the 105 artillery pit. I need to find someone who remembers that switchboard operators were assigned to this duty.

I would like to contact MAJ John T. Moore, CPT Jerome G. Hersh, CPT Joseph D. Mott, or any other battalion officers who can verify my assignment.

Danny R. Heller, HHC, 1/46th Inf., 69-70 179988 BCCCC [Redacted], Texarkana, TX, 75501





## Internet road map

The graphic above depicts the homepage of the ADVA website. This is the screen that will appear on the computer monitor when the web browser opens [www.americal.org](http://www.americal.org). The ADVA logo is displayed along with its name and its dedication.

The words along the left margin are hot buttons. This means that clicking on these words with the computer mouse will open subsequent pages of the website. The same is true for sending e-mail to one of the three persons whose name appears on the home page. The counter automatically registers how many times the page is opened.

The webpage is stored on a computer provided free of charge by Verio. Verio is an Internet Service Provider and has generously provided its services to the ADVA since the beginning.

The ADVA is grateful to those who have helped create and maintain this valuable feature. Visit the site soon and learn of its many benefits.

## Summary of ADVA website features

The following gives a brief summary of the features of the ADVA website.

### ADVA:

<[www.americal.org/assoc.htm](http://www.americal.org/assoc.htm)>

Officers names, By-laws, Region states, Membership eligibility and application, PNC list, Scholarship information, Product sales.

### Hot News:

<[www.americal.org/news.htm](http://www.americal.org/news.htm)>

Timely items of special interest to veterans of the Americal Division, news announcements.

### FAQ:

<[www.americal.org/faq.htm](http://www.americal.org/faq.htm)>

Frequently asked questions about the ADVA or how to obtain information of general interest to veterans.

### Unit History:

<[www.americal.org/history.htm](http://www.americal.org/history.htm)>

Heraldry, Lineage, Citations, Medal of Honor recipients, Orders of Battle, Museum, Book reviews, VN FSB locations, VN history narrative, WWII history narrative, Bibliographies, Short articles, Links to other unit pages.

### Americal Units:

<[www.americal.org/units.htm](http://www.americal.org/units.htm)>

Links to other internet sites of units that comprised the Americal Division.

## ADVA Website surpasses 100,000 hits

The ADVA website surpassed the 100,000 hit mark in early October, 1999. This means that the website's homepage was opened by internet browsers at least 100,000 times.

It is not known how many individual visitors have viewed the website. Many visitors view the page on a regular basis. However, there are some ways that new activity can be measured.

The website features a guestbook that logs one new entry about every day. The same is true for the electronic directory where Americal veterans list their names, units, and e-mail addresses. Many more visitors seek lost buddies through posts on the locator page.

Using these measures it is estimated that as many as 10,000 individuals have viewed the website since its beginning in December, 1995.

Anthony Greene and Kevin Sartorius continue to share the role of webmasters. Greene keeps a special focus on the ADVA Locator while Sartorius keeps the site updated with graphical effects. Some web maintenance is also performed by PNC Gary Noller.

### Reunion:

<[www.americal.org/reunion.htm](http://www.americal.org/reunion.htm)>

Information on future ADVA and unit reunions as well as photos and news from past events, lists of reunion attendees.

### Locator:

<[www.americal.org/locator/](http://www.americal.org/locator/)>

Requests to locate lost buddies of Americal Division units as well as other military units. Additional information on obtaining records from the archives and personnel center and how to find maps, Electronic Directory of Americal Division veterans, and links to other resources for locating veterans or information.

### Guestbook:

<[www.americal.org/response.htm](http://www.americal.org/response.htm)>

Posts from visitors to the website with their comments on what they found of interest or other comments related to the Americal or military service.

### Army Awards:

<[www.americal.org/awards/](http://www.americal.org/awards/)>

Color photos and brief descriptions of Army medals, ribbons, decorations, and badges for WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

### Links:

<[www.americal.org/links.htm](http://www.americal.org/links.htm)>

Selected links that lead to other internet sites that are of general interest to veterans and website visitors.

## Under the Southern Cross: The Korea Era

The Americal Division, or, alternately, the 23rd Infantry Division, was activated on three different occasions. While many know of the existence of the division in WWII and Vietnam, very few are familiar with the activation during the Korean War.

Elements of the division were activated in 1954-1956 and stationed in the Caribbean theater. Their mission was to safeguard the Panama Canal and to garrison American installations in the region. They also conducted jungle training in Panama. Americal soldiers were not assigned to combat forces in Korea during the hostilities.



### Howard Boller shortly after arriving in Puerto Rico

Howard Lee Boller was born on May 8, 1934 in Mascoutah, IL. He entered the U.S. Army on August 3, 1954 and was sent to basic training at Ft. Chaffee, AR with the 3rd Armored Division. After completion of basic training he was sent to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO for additional training with the 1st Armored Division.

Boller completed training just before Christmas, 1954 and was given a ten day furlough to spend the holidays at home. He reported to Ft. Dix, NJ on December 30 and set sail for Puerto Rico with 500 others on New Year's Day, 1955. He and about 100 others were dropped off on the southern side of the island on January 3. The remaining soldiers continued on to the Canal Zone.

"As soon as I entered Puerto Rico I was wearing the Americal patch," recalls Boller. He took up duty at a military post called Camp Losey. The camp was located near the city of Ponce and was home of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

Boller describes that "the 65th Infantry Regiment was made up of mostly Puerto Ricans. There were only five stateside soldiers there when I arrived. Lt. Col. Perrin was the highest ranking officer on post. He had a staff of majors and captains. A little later stateside lieutenants joined the cadre." During its peak the regiment had about 500 soldiers.

The 65th Inf. Regt. had its beginnings in 1899. It was known as the Puerto Rican Regiment until it was renamed in 1920. The unit secured Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone during much of WWII. The regiment was sent to North Africa and then to Europe in the closing years of WWII.

During the Korean war the 65th Infantry was again fitted for war and was assigned to the Third Infantry Division in Korea. Troops of

the 65th participated in several combat actions before returning to their island home in 1954. Near the end of its Korean assignment the regiment was being integrated with "stateside" or "continental" soldiers.

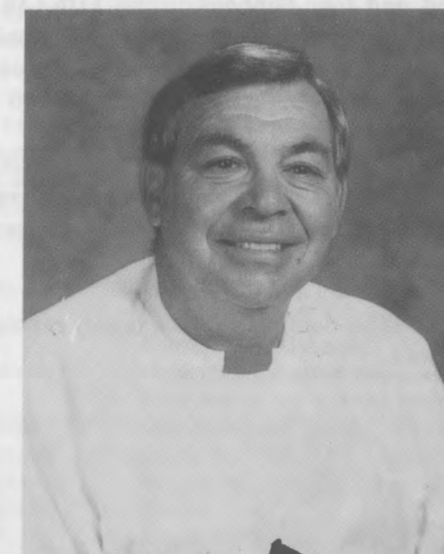
Boller enjoyed his assignment in Puerto Rico. "I met many wonderful Puerto Ricans and stateside soldiers alike. I hated to come back to the mainland," he said. "My main job while there was to be the chauffeur/driver for Lt. Col. Perrin. This duty afforded me a lot of perks."

But the duty was not always easy. The unit spent weeks in the field on maneuvers. This was made difficult by the long rainy season and two dangerous hurricanes. "Being from the Midwest I had never experienced this type of weather before," Boller remembers. "We slept, trained, ate, and bathed in the rain. I was somewhat scared."

Boller also remembers how customs in Puerto Rico were different than what he had been used to. "The Puerto Rican girls couldn't date you unless a chaperone went along," he said. "It was a real bummer." He and others began to learn to speak Spanish and enjoyed Puerto Rican food for all meals. He also marveled at the beauty of the island and the quaint Spanish towns.

By the end of his first year in Puerto Rico the number of stateside soldiers on the island had decreased to only 250. Boller considered himself lucky to still be there. But at the end of January, 1956, Boller was assigned to Ft. Riley, KS.

Upon leaving the service Boller became a junior high school teacher and coach. He retired after 34 years of teaching. He is married to Patty Tinoco and has one daughter, Kimberly Ann Pope.



### Howard Boller

Reflecting on his military service, Boller said "All in all, I was very fortunate to have been in a military outfit of which few people, much less the veterans of the Korean War, have ever heard. At the time I didn't realize I was making history. I will always have a warm feeling for my years as a soldier and as part of the 65th Infantry."

Editor's note: For more on the history of the 65th Inf. Regt., see the internet site at <<http://www.frontiernet.net/~john/index.htm>>. COL Thomas Bedient, a Vietnam veteran of the Americal Division, reports that "the 65th Infantry Regiment heraldry and colors continue to live in the current 65th USAR Regional Support Command here at Fort Buchanan." COL Bedient is currently on duty in Puerto Rico and proudly displays the Southern Cross on his shoulder patch.





**"Together again"....Kokomo Indiana's 17th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion is a "Healing Experience"**

Clockwise from top left: Larry Chilcutt, Ed Marsh, unidentified, and John Gibbons display 11th LIB colors in front of Old Glory. Vets from many units (including the Americal Division) gathered around Old Glory for group photos. RVs, campers, and tents covered the reunion site with flags of Old Glory, divisions, brigades, regiments, and special units. Women veterans and Red Cross volunteers shared the excitement of a ride on a Vietnam era Huey helicopter.

**"We are all one big family...this is a family reunion"**  
-Army veteran



The following is a listing of a few of the recent posts on the ADVA internet locator site:

Looking For: Anyone, D/4/3, 11th LIB, 11/68-11/69. Contact: Larry Joe Goad, [REDACTED], Linton, IN 47441-9587

Looking For: Lanny J. (Cap) Miller, 1969-1970, HHC, and anyone, Co. C, 1/6th, 198th LIB. Contact: John M. Large (Doc), [REDACTED], Cowpens, S. C. 29330

Looking For: Evan Harris, Max Fry, or Anyone, E/3/21, 196th LIB, Mortars, 1969-1970, or Anyone in C/3/21, 196th LIB from Lt Haines platoon. Contact: Patrick Walker [REDACTED], Perry, MI, 48872

Looking For: Anyone, 1st platoon, 'E' troop/17th Cav., attached to 2nd platoon/C company/75th Rangers, also attached w/ the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Contact: Ed J. Murphy, [REDACTED], Charlotte, NC, 28273

Looking For: Anyone, D Btry, 6th/11th Arty. Contact: Bob Corsi, [REDACTED], Quinnesec, MI, 49876,

Looking For: Anyone. My father Jerry Carstensen served between Aug 69'-Aug 70' in Co. D, 5/46th, 198th LIB at LZ Gator. I'm looking for anyone that knew him I would like to reunite him with some of the guys he was in-country with. Contact: Jake Carstensen, [REDACTED], Holden ME, 04429

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 2nd plt., 11th LIB, 1/67- 11/68. Contact: James Emerson [REDACTED], Hudson, ME, 04449,

Looking For: Bill Stevens (BIG JOHN), A Co., 1/20th, 11th LIB, Contact: Eugene Gainey, UNIT 26137, CMR 449, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 1/6th Inf., June 1969-July 1970. Contact: Jim Davis [REDACTED], Pasco, WA, 99301,

Looking For: 'Doc' Jim Raftery or Raftery, platoon medic with 1/6th, 198th in 69-70. Contact: Jerry 'Doc' O'Connor, [REDACTED], FL, 33711,

Looking For: Anyone from HF site in Chu Lai, Net control, 68-69. Co. A, 523rd Sig., attached to B/3/1, 11th LIB. Rick 'Red' Ames, Ray Fullam, Al Kozleski. Contact: Gerald 'Buhda' Seifert, [REDACTED], Macomb, MI, 48044,

Looking For: Anyone, A Btry, 1/82 Arty., Feb 69-Oct 70. Also went to Kham Duc. Contact: Robert Forester, [REDACTED], Ft. Worth, TX, 76111,

Looking For: Anyone, E-Troop, 11th LIB, Dec. 1967 - Nov. 1968. Contact: Bob Montgomery, [REDACTED], Lampasas, TX, 76550,

Looking For: Anybody, B Co. and E Co., 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, Jan 69 to Mar 70. Contact: Wild Bill Andrescavage, [REDACTED], Rock Cave, WV, 26234,

Looking For: Anyone, H Trp., 17th. Cav., 198th LIB, 70-71. Sgt. Jim Mann, Dr. Skagg, Sgt. Six. Contact: Ed Krukowski, [REDACTED]

Looking For: MSG Pettingill and crew, HHC, 39th Engr. Bn., 1/68- 1/69. Jack Durant, Larson, Saunders, Clevenger, and Minor. Contact: John Barden, [REDACTED], Laredo, TX, 78045

Looking For: Anyone, C/5/46, 198th LIB, 70-71. I have located 64 former members and still searching. Twenty made the St Louis reunion and hope for another great showing in San Antonio. Roster available on request. Contact: Dave Hammond, [REDACTED], Beaverton, OR 97005,

Looking For: Anyone, HHC, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 6/69 to 11/70, for the names of the Colonel KIA and others KIA. Contact: Raymond G. Adams, [REDACTED], Plainfield, MA, 01070,

Looking For: Anyone knowing Albany A. Doucette, 182 Inf. Regt., KIA on Guadalcanal. Theodore J. Doucette, [REDACTED], Pocasset, MA, 02559-1930

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 1/6th, 4th. Plt., 8-70 to 3-71. Contact: Ray Findley, <rfindley@cdtechno.com>, [REDACTED], Plymouth Meeting, PA, 19426,

Looking For: Btry C, 1/14th FA, Mar 1970-Nov 1970. Contact: Gary Biehl, [REDACTED], Kelso, WA, 98626

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 2/1st, 196th LIB, that remembers ambush of Sept. 19-20, 1967. The following names were KIA: J. Covey, Thomas Daniels, Elmer Neal Davis, Collin Farley, and Charles Milton, wounded Leonard Partiss, Clifford Green, and myself. Contact: Jerry Burger, [REDACTED], Auburn, NY, 13021

Looking For: Anyone. My father was Dominick Amoroso, PFC, Co. E, 164th Inf. Regt. He served in the following campaigns, 1943-1945: Bougainville, Philippines, (Leyte, Cebu, Negros), Japan

(Yokohama, Tokyo). He recieved the Bronze Star for something he did on or about March 30, 1944. Contact: Dominick Amoroso Jr., [REDACTED], Howell, NJ, 07731

Looking For: Timmerman or Zimmerman, Co. D, 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, 3/69. Contact: Wendell Strode, 212 Mizpah Rd., Bowling Green, KY, 42101-9550, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 2nd Plt., B Co., 1st/6th, 198 LIB, July 1970 to July 1971. Contact: Arthur 'R.C.' Casto, 19 Meadow Dr., Culloden, WV, 25510,

Looking For: Anyone, C Btry, 1/14 Arty, Nov. 67-Oct. 68. Looking for Don Hicks, Dave Kuhn. Contact: Terry R. Fisher, [REDACTED], Bedford, PA, 15522,

Looking For: Anyone, A/1/82 Arty, Oct. 70 - Oct. 71. Anyone who went to Quang Tri for Lam Son 719. Contact: Ron Griffin, [REDACTED], Oshkosh, WI, 54901,

Looking For: Anyone, E Troop, 1st Cav, 11th LIB, 3/68-11/15/68. Contact: Al Sneary, [REDACTED], Beulah, MI, 49617,

Looking For: Sgt. John Sallee, Co. D, 1/20th, 11th LIB, 1/70-10/70. Contact: Dennis Sperry, [REDACTED], Danville, IA, 52623,

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 3/1st. Inf., 11th LIB, July 69 - 70. Contact: Ron Mageors [REDACTED]

Looking For: Lynn Palmer (Rosie) & others, Co. D, 2 /1st Inf., July 1970 to July 1971. Contact: Ron Makaruk, [REDACTED], Minneapolis, MN, 55405-3471,

Looking For: Robertson Laurence Dowell III, 2nd Plt., D Co., 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB. Contact: John Arias, <www.jra.com>, [REDACTED], Oxnard, CA, 93030

Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, July 69 to May 70. Contact: Ray Vargo [REDACTED], Renfrew, PA, 16053,

Looking For: Anyone, 3rd Plt., B/3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, Sept 70-Sept 71. Contact: Dave 'Doc' Crawford, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO, 64106,

Looking For: Terry Fletter, Bruce Veltry, June 69-70, B Co., 5/46, 198 LIB. Contact: Edward Thorne, [REDACTED], Bangor, ME, . 04401

More locator requests can be found at  
<[www.americal.org/locator/](http://www.americal.org/locator/)>



Hi Gary,

I just wanted to drop you a note about the ADVA Eastern Chapter Reunion held in Horsehead, NY in September. This is the first reunion that I've attended.

Through the ADVA web page locator, I got in contact with Wade Rodland from PA. We were in the same platoon together in Viet Nam. We both attended and hadn't seen each other in 31 years. I just can't express to you how really great it was to see Wade again after all of these years, and to meet his wife.

There were eight other Viet Nam vets at the reunion, and probably about 20 or so WWII vets. This was the first reunion for most of us Viet Nam vets. We were really made to feel welcome by the other vets, and all of us really had a great time. It was kind of like a family reunion. I wish it hadn't taken me so long to attend this reunion, and am really looking forward to next years reunion in New Jersey. I am also looking forward to meeting old friends along with some more new friends, and seeing the new friends that we made this year.

Take care, and thanks for your hard work on the newsletter. I always look forward to getting it.

Mark Deam, Co. C, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB (Feb. 68 to Feb. 69)  
[redacted], Sidney, OH 45365

Dear Mr. Noller;

I have a suggestion for the ADVA home page. For many years I have been trying to learn the name of a comrade from my battery (A/1/82) who was killed in Vietnam. He was the first American KIA in Lam Son 719, however he had only been in our battery a short time and I never met or new of him. In visiting some of the other vet links I saw that the Ranger Co. attached to the Americal has its own page with a listing of comrades that fell in combat. Why not do something like that for both WWII and Vietnam? Thanks.

Ron Griffin, Btry. A, 1/82nd Artillery  
Oshkosh, WI

Dear Gary,

I was wondering if there is some way to find a listing of the casualties both living and dead and date and place of actions. I was a medic with the 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, and am wanting to find peace within myself and honor the memories of those I served with.

A small group of Co. B veterans met for the first time in over 30 years on May 21, 1999 at Taos, NM. We all seem to suffer this loss of memory of those we miss so keenly. We are also trying to get the rest of our company together for our next reunion. We have a web page at < www.geocities.com/~marjon98/>.

Thanks for all the help you have already provided with the Americal web page. It led me to at least a small group of buddies. Any help or suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Gary C. Stolp, HHC & Co. B, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB  
Muskogee, OK

Editor's Response: Many unit associations have researched casualties and provided the information on the internet. Such a page would be a great addition to the ADVA web site. I do not know of a resource that has all Americal Division KIAs identified and available in a format readily useable for web pages. Given such a source, it would be possible for the lists to be added to the web site.

Editor's Note: Rich Totten, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, is the unnamed person referred to as a 1/46th Inf. M-60 gunner in the letter by Joe Fernandez on page 25 of the JUL-AUG-SEP 1999 issue of the Americal Newsletter.

## THOUGHTS OF A CHRISTMAS PAST

By Chuck Gifford, Btry. C, 3/18th Artillery

It was the decade of the '60s with love, peace, Beatles, and the Vietnam war.

Young boys were called to duty and few knew what for.

Boys quickly turned into men in that land so far away.  
We all counted the days, longing for the end of our 365 day stay.

Life was so different there with the jungle, heat, and the Viet-Cong. Home, birthdays, holidays, and family were greatly missed and long.

Christmas, 1968, is a lasting memory for me.  
Instead of a special day, it was like every other day to be.

With no glitter, tree, or presents around, it was difficult to celebrate the Savior.  
As this special day wound to a close, I wondered about our G.I behavior.

Sure enough, there would be a flicker of life as our sergeant pulled out a surprise.  
It was a 5th of Black Velvet which brought much gleam to our eyes.

It was such a dark, lonely night 10,000 miles from home.  
Our hearts and minds were with those we loved but felt so alone.

The sergeant passed his bottle around and each took a swallow in our group of eight.  
It wasn't the Christmas of childhood past, but those few moments of camaraderie were great.

Our leader reminded us it was time to hit the sack and turned out the lantern light.  
We all laid in our bags thinking about the meaning of that night.

My thoughts turned to next Christmas and how great it would be.  
I'll be happy, I'll be good, nothing will bring me down, you'll see.

I often think about that Christmas night so long ago and so far away.  
In a way I cherish those lonely moments but the true meaning of Christmas was in my heart to stay

## Editor's Deadline

The Americal Newsletter is published each calendar quarter.  
The Vietnam Editor's deadline to the Editor-in-Chief is:

First Quarter	January 31
Second Quarter	April 30
Third Quarter	July 31
Fourth Quarter	October 31

Your contributions to the newsletter are encouraged. Be sure to state that your give your approval for publication in the newsletter. The editors will select items for publication and any material submitted may or may not be used.

Submissions and photos will not be returned so be sure to send copies. Computer files via diskette or e-mail attachments are welcome and encouraged.

Send Vietnam related articles to:  
Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor  
[redacted]  
Kansas City, MO 64130

## Kokomo Reunion 1999

Americal vets were well represented at the 17th annual Vietnam Veterans reunion located just outside Kokomo, Indiana on September 17-19, 1999. Sponsored by the Howard County Vietnam Veterans, the 22 acre site reserved for this event continues to grow each year. It is, perhaps, the largest Vietnam veteran reunion in the country.

Veterans began arriving early in the week. The official opening was Friday morning, September 17, as four F-16 fighter jets from the 181st Fighter Wing in Ft. Wayne thundered over the reunion grounds. Veterans from the United States and as far away as Australia and Ireland cheered and roared as the jets streamed across the sky. One jet broke formation to signify those missing in action.



Scene from 1999 Kokomo Vietnam veterans reunion

Throughout the three days vets walked the grounds eating, drinking, listening to music, and reminiscing. Total strangers became friends through one common bond: they were Vietnam vets. Music was played on a large stage and food concessions served every food imaginable. Among the many RVs, trailers, and tents, groups of vets who served together gathered to cook and eat together, just as they did many years before. Over fifty vendors sold everything from books to patches, pins, clothing and posters.

Money raised each year from the concessions (admission is free) is used by the local organization to purchase more land and to improve the grounds. Reunion organizers estimated this year's attendance at 40,000.

Contributed by David Taylor

## LZ Gator 1969

As I was reading my newsletter from April-May-June, 1999, I could not help but to sit down and write something in retrospect from the article "A day in the life of a battalion."

The day was May 5, 1969 and the place was LZ Gator. I was with Company B, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB assigned to the 81mm mortar platoon. Along with the rest of the company, we were providing base camp security for the month of May on the LZ.

That day happened to be my 21st birthday and I was considered one of the old guys in our platoon. I remember asking if we could have a mad minute to help celebrate. Amazing, command said no. Well there was no cake or ice cream, but peaches and pound cake hit the spot.

One thing really bothered me back then. You could die for your country, but you could not legally buy an alcoholic beverage unless you were 21 (at least in my home state of Massachusetts.)

When I turned to page 16 of the newsletter the poem "LZ Gator" by James Fuller brought back more memories. May 19th, 1969, Ho Chi Minh's birthday, LZ Gator made the front page of Stars and Stripes. Co. B, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB took more incoming rockets

and RPGs (over 200) than any other place in Nam that night. I got my mad minute, only four days later, and it lasted a couple of hours and it was for real. Sappers got into the perimeter and threw a satchel charge in the Colonel's bunker and he became a KIA. I am not sure but I think we lost four men as KIAs that night.

I was in the FDC (fire direction control). We only had two tubes set up in the pits and our gunners, Murphy Parkhurst and Curtis Minchner, did an outstanding job firing DTs and illumination. Our platoon leader, SSG Henry, came into the FDC in a panic. He was pouring water on the tubes because they were glowing red from firing so man rounds and they were causing short rounds from cook-offs. I suggested that he take the tube from behind the hooch and set it up to shoot illumination and use the other two tubes just to fire HEs. He said it was a good idea and it helped us out of a bind. Somehow our platoon made it through the night with only one minor casualty, Fred Whitehurst sustained an injury to his hand.

The next day the company sent out recon squads to assess for enemy casualties. I can't remember what the enemy body count was, but in one area of our DTs there was a report of a lot of blood. No one will ever know, but the DTs that were shot that night may have prevented more sappers from getting into the perimeter of the LZ and may have saved more U.S. casualties.

I think one of the reasons I'm still here today is because of Doug Johnson. He took me under his wing when I was a FNG and taught me the ropes. When I got hit later in the end of June, 1969, he was by my side. I was sent home and he stayed and finished his tour. I did keep in touch with him for about ten years and lost contact. If you read this article Doug, write me so we can reestablish contact.

SP4 Carmen Santoro, Jr. Co. B, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB  
[redacted], Quincy, MA 02171

## 1/52nd Inf. Reunion

The first 1/52nd Inf. reunion was held in June, 1997 to coincide with the ADVA in Worcester, MA. We had 11 guys and a roster of about 15 names or so. After that reunion all were psyched! We all started searching for others to let them know of this. The list of wounded supplied by Don "Cowboy" VanEstenbridge helped us to find even more of our outfit.

In 1998 another reunion was held once again camping out in the woods. This time we had 23 guys in attendance and a roster of some 100 names. At the 1999 reunion we had 33 in attendance and a roster of some 150 names.

It is a wonderful feeling to see these guys again, and to get back a little of that camaraderie we all once shared. It's also interesting to see how all have changed over the years and what all our lives turned out to be. Some have gotten fatter, balder or grayer, but one thing has never changed. The eyes of these vets are still the same and the love and respect we have for each other will never change.

The old pictures we look at, seem like a different place and time now, and some of the missions we shared back then still bring a tear to our eyes. But it all just lets us know that Vietnam was not a bad nightmare- it was very real.

We all stay in contact and around each May or so we all find ourselves excited again about coming to the reunion in June. Out of the original group of 11 from 1997, I don't think one has missed a reunion yet. Believe me when I tell you that this really does work.

Using the internet, the ADVA website, Don VanEstenbridge's database, and lots and lots of phone calls, we have put a lot of the 1/52 back together. We hope to put even more together as we go into the next century. Reunion 2000 is already being planned for a camp-out once again. This year we have planned a small ceremony in honor of our battalion chaplain who was KIA on 10/13/70. His family will also be attending this ceremony. So all of you from the 1/52, we hope to see you there.

Bob Salstead, Co.C, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, 70-71, 191 Pine Acre Road, Springfield, MA 01129 [redacted]



## Through the Valley: Vietnam, 1967-1968

By James F. Humphries

Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999

340 pages, \$49.95 hardcover

James F. Humphries served two tours with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam. In 1967-68 he commanded the reconnaissance element and Co. D, 3/21st Inf. Bn. In 1970-71 he served on the brigade staff and as 3/21st Operations Officer (S-3).

Humphries' diverse experiences certainly qualify him to write about the combat actions he witnessed. However, he does not rely only on his own observations. His thorough research and attention to detail result in a work that is scholarly as well as compelling.

Official military records help bring authenticity, completeness, and clarity to the combat narration. Humphries is able to name and describe the VC/NVA units opposing the Allied forces. He also goes through great pains to provide maps and sketches of the battles.

Military documents do not tell the personal stories of those that fought and died in the jungles and paddies. Humphries calls upon the soldiers who were there to give their accounts of what they endured. Their gripping tales of horror and bravery are equal to anything that has been written about Vietnam combat.

In 1967 the three battalions of the 196th LIB, the 2/1st, 3/21st, and 4/31st, were sent to the northern part of the newly formed Americal Division's Area of Operation. Hiep Duc valley and Que Son valley were longtime strongholds of hardened enemy forces. The mission assigned to the Americans was to locate and destroy the enemy and to secure Hwy. 1 and the provincial capital of Tam Ky.

The mission was not easy. Large enemy units moved in broad daylight to attack American firebases and infantry units. Humphries describes the January 1968 battles in Hiep Duc valley that lasted for eight days. The enemy took heavy casualties and finally broke off the advance. However, the Americans had also suffered severely including the taking of several POWs.

Battles large and small were fought throughout Humphries' tour. He describes the combat of Phu Binh and March 11 in the Hiep Duc valley. Later, units of the 196th were sent north of the Cua Viet River to assist the U.S. Marines near the DMZ. Fierce and deadly fighting resulted in the villages of Nhi Ha and Lam Xuan.

Humphries does not fail to recognize the contributions of combat units other than the infantry. The exceptional efforts of aviation, artillery, and cavalry are well noted. Air support was critical and crews of Rattler, Spooky, Helix, and Moonglow aircraft provided it.

On June 12, 1968 Humphries was wounded in a battle on Hill 104. He was on his last scheduled combat mission. He served another twenty years in the Army and retired as a Colonel. He now lives in Germany and is researching another book on Vietnam.

*Through the Valley* is another piece in the puzzle of the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam. It is a must-read for anyone claiming to be knowledgeable about Vietnam combat. Humphries is to be commended for the excellence and professionalism he exhibits in his superlative work. With it he honors those who served.

### On March 11, 1968

My twin brother and I were born on October 13, 1947. We were six weeks premature and underweight so we had to stay in the hospital for a while to gain our strength. At the end of the first week of November another baby joined us. He was James Nufer.

My brother and I grew up with James in Dodge City, Kansas. We attended the same church and schools and ran around together during our teenage years. James was my lab partner in 10th grade

Biology. The first time I bought hard whiskey I was with James- we were eighteen at the time.



James Leo Nufer, 1965

James was a good friend and we had a lot of fun running around together. His father owned an auto repair business and we spent many nights in the shop working on James' 57 Ford or 66 Mustang. He raced the cars on weekends at area drag strips. I was his pit crew.

James left college after our first year and was drafted into the Army in 1967. He was home for Christmas and left for Vietnam just after our New

Year's celebration. His assignment was infantryman, Co. B, 3/21st Inf. Bn., 196th LIB, Americal Division. James was in the field by late January 1968 and wrote that he was doing well.

In June 1999 I received an e-mail from COL James Humphries announcing the publication of his book *Through the Valley*. He said that he wrote about the 3/21st Inf. in 1967-68. I asked him if he was going to include March 11, 1968 in his book. He replied that he was.

I acquired a copy of the book as soon as it was published. When it arrived I immediately went to Chapter 20. It was titled "11 March". I quickly read the description of the battle that took place that day.

On page 182, SFC George Fritz's words simply said, "I had one dead and one shot through the jaw. When I asked what happened, I was told they decided to expand the perimeter and had stepped up on the next terrace for a better view of the situation. That's when Charlie opened up, killing one while wounding another."

Fritz didn't give the name of the dead soldier. He didn't have to. I already knew who it was. It was James Leo Nufer.

I literally knew James my whole life. I could not believe he was gone. I never allowed myself to grieve for him, for to do so would require my admitting to the truth. For years I had dreams that he finally returned home, that his reported death was a tragic mistake.

I am glad that James served with good soldiers like George Fritz and Jerry MacDonald and Tony May. Years ago they told me about March 11 and how they wish they could have brought everyone back. Those of us who were there, we all feel that way. We will always feel that way. We always wish our dreams would come true.

Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor

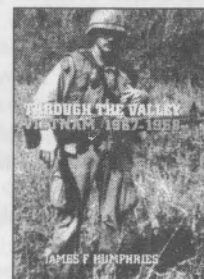
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Vietnam, 1967-1968

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## Hell in A Small Place: The Blue Ghost Incident Of 3 June, 1969

### The Mission

The mission seemed simple enough. 1LT David Taylor's, 2nd platoon, C Company, 5/46th Inf., 198th L.I.B. would air assault onto a section of a dirt road, south and parallel to the Tra Bong River, northwest of Quang Ngai and west of Binh Son. They would then sweep the road east for mines so an engineer contingent could be extracted from the Tra Bong Special Forces camp in the mountains to the west.

Taylor's platoon would push east to link up with a similar element, pushing west from Binh Son. At 0630 hours on 3 June 1969, the platoon air assaulted onto their sector of the Tra Bong road. The assault was accomplished without incident, no incoming fire. But the platoon found the walk east to be very slow, the attached engineers were finding more mines than anticipated. After moving 400 more meters on the road, the platoon came under continuous sniper fire from a wood line 300 meters south of the road.

### Bird Is Down!

Taylor received a call from a Blue Ghost (F Trp, 8th Cav) mission commander arriving overhead. "We understand you are having some problems. We will be in the area awhile, can we help?" "Roger", Taylor replied, "There are bad guys south of my position about 300- 400 mikes, can you take a look?"

Captain Richard Wayne Watson, "Blue Ghost Red", of Goldsboro, NC piloted the light observation helicopter (LOH), OH-6A, that would sniff out the area while his support (AH-1G Cobras) circled above. With him was door gunner PFC Paul Wayne Miller of San Diego, CA and an unidentified rifleman from the aeroscout platoon, along for the ride.



Watson radioed another message as he flew a short distance inside the tree line, "I see NVA uniforms hanging on a clothes line. I'm going in for another look". In a matter of seconds the radio cracked again, "I'm taking fire!" as he made a frantic attempt to evade multiple bursts of automatic weapons fire. Suddenly a big bang shook the air and a large cloud of black smoke was seen. The LOH pitched straight in on its top. "Bird is down!, bird is down!" radioed the mission commander and immediately the cobra's began circling the ground around the downed craft, firing everything they had to protect the crew.

Watson tumbled out of the OH-6A and, although seriously wounded, helped the rifleman out of the burning craft and began crawling to safety. When he realized that his door gunner was not with them he moved back toward the flaming wreckage while still under heavy fire.

Watson found the burning door gunner and extinguished the fire with his own hands. As he carried him away from the aircraft, they were both cut down by automatic weapons fire.

Not more than a minute after the crash, the 5/46th's battalion commander, along with Taylor's company commander, landed on the road in his command & control (C&C) UH-1D. The battalion commander's orders to Taylor were given with a look of grave consequence: "I want you to take some men on my bird and go in to protect that crew until I can get some reinforcements in."

Taylor surveyed his platoon and the selection began. "Italiano!" (Harry Italiano, Suitland, MD - machine gunner), "Sandman!" (Mitchell Sandman, Syosset, NY - assistant gunner), "Scherf!" (Michael Scherf, Golden, CO - squad leader).

Taylor then turned to his RTO, "Let's go!"

As they moved towards the UH-1D another squad leader, Randy Backovich of Vallejo, CA ran up to Taylor. "Need some extra help?" Surprised that someone would volunteer, Taylor welcomed the help. "Yea, get on the bird". It was a decision that was to save the platoon leader's life and live with him forever.

### The Rescue Team Goes In

As the 5/46th's C&C flew the short distance to the crash site Taylor yelled instructions over the noise of the aircraft, "get behind something when you hit the ground and cover me. I'll check out the crew". Knowing for sure



that the NVA were waiting, but not sure how many, he did not want his men wandering around offering themselves as targets.

With the downed LOH in sight just inside a small open plot of ground, the rescue ship headed straight for the crew lying next to it. The cobras lined up in trail behind the C&C as it descended into the open area. The bird immediately came under automatic weapons fire. In the last seconds before landing, the gunships told the C&C, "left turn!, left turn!". Touching down, the pilot saw a small ditch about 30 meters from the LOH and came to rest beside it. At the same time the cobras let loose with 40mm cannon fire to cover the rescue team.

Taylor was the first one off the bird and ran to the crashed LOH, the 40mm cannon exploding around him. The RTO, Backovich, and Scherf followed him out and jumped into the ditch. Encumbered by the M-60, Italiano and Sandman exited the opposite side. The NVA lifted their heads, and both soldiers were cut down by automatic weapons fire.

The pilot of the C&C had hoped to get the crew on board with the team and depart. That hope was lost when



the pilot was shot in the foot while the team was jumping out. Afraid he would be shot down on top of the men in the ditch, he ordered his co-pilot to pull out. **Hell in A Small Place**

Taylor ran to the downed LOH. Both Watson and Miller were lying side by side, their bodies burned from the crash. Under automatic weapons fire, Taylor moved to the rifleman who was 10 feet away. Lying face down, he had been shot in the stomach and neck, and was being used for target practice until the rescue team arrived. Taylor thought he was dead and turned to leave when he saw the soldier's right hand slowly making a fist, twice. He was signaling he was alive but was too weak or afraid to move. Taylor then received a burst of fire from his front and returned the fire, emptying his magazine.

While this occurred, Sergeant Backovich saw the machine gun lying in the open and knew they needed it to survive against the heavy fire around them. He leaped from the ditch to retrieve it and met a NVA soldier coming out of the bush with the same idea. Backovich was quicker on the draw and downed him with his M-16. Grabbing the M-60 he leaped back to the ditch, pouring out fire in all directions to supplement the fire of Scherf and the RTO.

Taylor kept firing to his front to protect the wounded rifleman. But he was outgunned. As he loaded a third magazine he was hit in his left side, pitching him backward. A bullet ripped a hole in his left side 6 inches wide. Making a dash to the ditch, he yelled, "cover me!" Two feet from the ditch he was hit by an AK-47 round in the lower right leg, the bullet entering one side and exiting the other, smashing the tibia and fibula. He tumbled into the ditch.

Backovich, Scherf and the RTO kept firing. The team was now fighting for its own life. A grenade was thrown into the ditch but Backovich threw it out in time. 1Lt Robert Wiggins, "Blueghost 26" flying above recalled, "I saw the NVA hit the rescue team with automatic weapons fire. The contact was so close we had a hard time using our rockets. We made pass after pass to get the NVA to shoot at us instead of those on the ground."

Scherf crawled to Taylor who was in intense pain. The tibia and fibula were sticking out of his leg, the leg throbbing from the impact of the AK round. Scherf stabilized the leg by taking a boot-lace and tying both legs together. Scherf then assured him "I'm going to get you out of this mess". At that moment he was hit in the head by an AK round, lowered his head on Taylor's feet, and died.



By this time a Forward Air Controller was circling overhead. Fighters with 500-pound bombs had scrambled at Chu Lai. The FAC asked Backovich where to drop it. Backovich, not one to waste words and counting the seconds he could hold out, answered "anywhere and everywhere, they're all around us!" The bombs were dropped at close range. The pilots saw groups of NVA running in every direction.

#### Another Rescue Team

By now another rescue element entered the fray. Three armored personnel carriers, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, H troop, 17<sup>th</sup> Cav. were supporting the road clearing operation with the element heading west from Binh Son. Depleted in strength, they had to grab cooks and clerks for the mission. PFC Larry Baker from Benton, Ill recalled, "there were only two of us on the three tracks who had any experience". This was not a mission Baker wanted to be on. The next day he was scheduled for R&R, to see his wife in Hawaii.

After the rescue team had dropped into the area the three tracks were also tasked to go in and get the Blue Ghost crew. They were unaware another team had gone in and was fighting for its life.

In the ditch the RTO, new to the field, was unable to do much. Taylor could not move with Sgt. Scherf laying on his feet. It was, at this time, Sergeant Backovich against the NVA. Backovich was firing as fast as he could but was running out of ammunition.

The tracks broke through high elephant grass, into the tree line and into the small plot of hell. The enemy fire had subsided but was still coming in. As Baker departed his track he heard screaming from the ditch, saw the dead machine gun team lying in the open, and realized others had been trapped as well.

Baker and his men quickly pulled everyone into the tracks. Backovich got into the same track with Taylor, the dead were piled on the ramp to protect the living from incoming fire and the tracks pulled out. Baker felt lucky, "I think the elephant grass was too high and too thick, the NVA could not get a bead on us with their RPG's". The tracks headed back to the Tra Bong Road and a medevac waiting to land. During the brief ride Taylor told Backovich, "I'm going to put you in for a medal". Backovich replied, "I'll trade it for a few days in the rear".

#### Aftermath

1LT David Taylor spent a year recovering from his wounds at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. He served a tour of duty at Ft. Jackson, SC, then entered the Army Reserve Special Forces, where he pursued a 22-year career, retiring in 1993. He lives in Medina, Ohio.

Sergeant Randy Backovich completed his Vietnam tour in October 1969, wearing Staff Sergeant Stripes and earning the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars. He resides in his hometown of Vallejo, California.

1LT Robert Wiggins, "Blue Ghost 26" is very active in the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and resides in Panama City Beach, Florida.

The status of the rescue team's RTO and the wounded rifleman from the LOH, are unknown.

PFC Larry Baker of H Troop got his R&R the next day. A month later, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1969, his track hit a mine and he lost his right leg. This was his third Purple Heart. Baker resides in his hometown of Benton, Illinois, with his wife of 31 years.

The following was sent by Gary Warn, Co. C, 26th Engr. Bn.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COMPANY C, 26TH ENGINEER BATTALION 23D INFANTRY DIVISION (AMERICAL) APO San Francisco 96217

ADF-EB

21 September 1970

#### Company C, 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat)

#### An Historical Account of Major Operations, 1968-70

Company C, 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was activated in December of 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Formerly the 6th Engineer Company of the 11th Infantry Brigade, it was organized as par of a Combat Engineer Battalion with the mission of providing direct combat engineer support for the Americal Division's Jungle Warriors. Thus continuing its support for the 11th Infantry Brigade, Company C was instrumental in the construction of Fire Support Base Bronco, the brigade's headquarters.

During the period January through March 1968, the White Lions of Charlie Company built, renovated, and relocated 50 WABTOC tent kits, constructed four TOC bunkers, and hauled several thousand cubic yards of fill for the interior roads, motor pool areas, and containment areas on FSB Bronco. Concurrently, the unit was responsible for minesweeping operation along the Carentan Beach Road and the across road from Hwy 1 to LZ Liz.

Engaged in the numerous construction projects inherent in the development of a brigade fire supports base, Co. C erected troop billets, bunkers, and staff buildings. Hauling, spreading, and grading of the earth and crushed rock formed interior base camp roads. Roads and helipads were penepripped to prevent dust and soil erosion problems.

When the brigade's maneuver battalions began operating, squad-size engineer elements accompanied them. They constructed TOC bunkers, personnel bunkers, fighting bunkers, and mess halls. In addition, they mineswept roads and provide infantry elements with demolition teams.

Specific construction assignments within the Brigade base camp varied greatly. The POW compound for the Military Police consisted of building interrogating huts, latrines, light poles, guard towers, and several buildings for the housing of prisoners. The hospital project involved construction of an 80 bed hospital with an operating room, a dispensary, and laboratory facilities. The helipad for the 11th Light Infantry Brigade aviation section require grading and penepripping of a 100,000 square foot helipad. 5,000 square feet of M8A1 were used to construct seven individual helipads. Additionally, 30,000 gallons of penepripping and 15,000 cubic yards of fill were utilized in completing the project.

Charlie Company was also responsible for the construction of the dog kennel of the Scout Dog Platoon. The completed the Bronco Library, developed the sanitary fill pit, and designed and constructed the rifle range at Bronco. However, the White Lions take special pride in the construction they performed when they completed the Colonel's Mess in July of 1968. The Mess would stand as a tribute to the effort and capabilities of a construction engineer company, but even more so to a combat engineer company.

Road building and upgrading operations accomplished by this unit too extensive to enumerate on all of them. However, the more significant projects would include the upgrading of the Liz Across Road to permit future paving and construction of the Montezuma Road, which required extensive blasting for rock removal, to permit vehicular traffic to reach the top of Montezuma.

Another major effort was Mo Duc Road a very costly project, purchased at the price of both men and equipment. However, once completed, the road was invaluable artery that permitted an east-west route that would link up with the north-south Hwy 1. Similarly, the Fishing Village Road just north of FSB Bronco provided another branch off Hwy 1 and improved the overall network.

It was this road, in fact which precipitated the company commander's directive that there would never again be another 5-ton dump truck with the bumper number of C-14. When C-14 hit a mine in July 10, 1969 and was declared a combat loss, its replacement was labeled C-14. When that vehicle hit a mine on the Mo Duc Road in January 1970 and was declared a combat loss, it was thought to be a coincidence, and its replacement again labeled C-14. However, after that vehicle hit a mine on the Fishing Village Road in May 1970, and was declared a combat loss, the CO issued his directive that its replacement be labeled C-15. Not that anyone is at all superstitious. But to this day, all the 5-ton dump trucks in Co. C have an even bumper number, with one exception, C-15.

One of the most significant contributions made by the White Lions to assist the 11th Infantry Brigade, occurred when the Land Clearing Platoon came under Charlie Company's control. Clearing large sections of enemy occupied territory, the land clearing operations leveled numerous Vet Cong command posts, capture of scores of enemy documents and caches of food and equipment. Such operations, in conjunction with the road building operations have allowed thousands of Vietnamese nationals to build new homes, find new jobs, and establish a new life in a land no longer dominated by VC guerrillas and their intimidating schemes.

No history of Charlie Company would be complete without mention of the opening of the road to Minh Long in August 1970. The mission was to minesweep and upgrade an old French road through the Minh Long Valley, to allow a convoy of two dusters and several supply vehicles to get into Minh Long and then get the empty supply vehicles out. Coming closer to being a company size mission that most other efforts, it involved all their line platoons, one starting at each end of the road, minesweeping and road upgrading until they linked up and then sweeping back out. The other platoon providing additional minesweeping support and pre-assembling culvert to be airlifted into place as needed. Additional support was provided by two Armored Vehicle Launched Bridges; Special Forces; CIDG; E Troop, 1st Cav; Co. D, 3/1st Inf.; and four RFPF platoons. The convoy was taken in and brought out safely on time. The mission was accomplished successfully after overcoming numerous obstacles, removing several mines and booby traps and recovering a few quagmired tracks.

The spirit, dedication, and engineering abilities displayed on this mission were typical of the men of Charlie company, whether on company, platoon, or squad level missions. Indeed, Charlie Company is the pride of the White Lions of the 26th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Stewart. H. Bornhoft, 1LT EN, Historical Officer

#### Vietnam Maps:

If anybody is interested in getting copies of the four B&W maps I have of the Americal AO, let me know. They are copies of a map that a 176th AHC pilot used in country. I also have a couple more detailed maps that are marked up nicely that cover a smaller area.

Each map costs \$2.54 to copy at Kinkos. They are 24"x36" maps. If you want them mailed postage is \$3.20 for 1-4 of the maps. I can also send you a scanned image of specific areas if your E-mail accepts attachments, you can view JPG formats, and you request it. Leslie Hines; Vietnam Historian, Des Moines, IA 50312-2609. Phone (evenings).



REUNIONS

WINTERFEST R & R ALL VETERANS REUNION

January 14-15-16, 2000  
New Glarus, WI

Contact: Terry Babler  
W5889 Durst Road  
New Glarus, WI 53574  
Tel: 608-527-2444

Call Commander John Matthews - 608-845-8988

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REUNION 1st SQUADRON - 1st CAVALRY REUNION

Hanalei Hotel  
San Diego, CA  
February 20-21-22-23-24, 2000

For more info: Ken Bouche'  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [REDACTED]

B Troop is the sponsor. All persons serving in Vietnam with the 1st Cav Squadron in 1969 are all invited. HQ-A-B-C-D Troops.

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MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT L. MENIST

General Robert L. Menist is a fourth generation Californian, educated in the San Francisco Bay area and graduated from the University of California's School of Business Administration at Berkeley. He holds the degrees of master of business administrator and doctor of business management. General Menist attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia; is an honor graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and, in 1981, graduated from the prestigious National War College in Washington. D.C.

General Menist's initial active duty assignment was at Fort Ord, California, an infantry training center, where he served as platoon leader, Battalion S-3, Company Commander, and Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General. His next assignments were with the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, both in Hawaii and in the Republic of Vietnam. He served as Battalion S-1 and Company Commander in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry (Old Guard); and later as the Brigade's assistant adjutant as well as Commander of the 59th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon.

General Menist, a decorated combat infantry veteran of five campaigns in the Vietnam War, served nine years in the Regular Army before resigning his commission in 1974 to join the Army Reserve. Among his awards and decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two bronze stars, the Purple Heart, six Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals, and four Army Commendation Medals. Along with an additional 18 U.S. and foreign decorations. General Menist has earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

(General Menist's name has been added to the list of Generals that have served with the AMERICAL).

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VFW HELPS SPONSOR NATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT ABOUT the VIETNAM WAR

On November 11, 1999, the VFW, together with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), Exxon Corp., Pepsi Cola USA, the Staubach Foundation, Phillips Petroleum and United Technologies, to name a few, are promoting a "state-of-the-art educational package" that was mailed in September to 25,000 public and private schools throughout the country.

Titled "Echos from the Wall", this free material will hopefully be used as a teaching tool in the 1999-2000 school year. This monumental undertaking will fill the void of balanced information dealing with the Vietnam War. According to educators, it is extremely difficult to acquire such resources for today's classrooms.

The curriculum was developed by VVMF, the non-profit organization that built the Wall, and WinStar for Education, to help students fully understand the impact the Vietnam War had on our country.

To assist and guide the VVMF in assembling and putting together such a wide variety of information, an advisory board was established. Among those selected was Mike Gormalley, national director of Citizenship Education and Community Service for the VFW. The VFW is the only veterans organization represented on the board. "Besides supplying 25,000 copies of the Vietnam War Combat Chronology (a 12-page booklet developed by the staff of VFW Magazine)," Gormalley says, the VFW donated \$50,000 to the project."

Subject lessons developed include the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, the Common Foot Soldier, Tet and 1968, POW Experience, the Legacy of War and Beyond the War, Hollywood and the Vietnam War.

Teachers and students alike will be able to go to an interactive website to further aid them in their quest for knowledge about Vietnam.

This interactive website (www.teach vietnam.org) will feature oral histories from veterans, official government and military documents, photographs, cartoons, video clips and newspaper archives. This unique website will allow teachers and students to "electronically publish their own research projects, oral histories of those who lived through the Vietnam War era, and even their own personalized school papers." The website is still under construction: October 1, 1999 is the tentative completion date.

Project sponsors hope that the country's educators will take advantage of this opportunity to teach their students--our future leaders--about the Vietnam experience.

As one high school senior recently said to a Vietnam veteran he was interviewing, "The Vietnam War has always fascinated me. I want to learn more about it by reading books, talking to veterans, and watching movies and videos. I try to gather all the information I can. But above all I want the truth."

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members visiting high schools during November's "VFW Veterans in the Classroom" month should offer support for this curriculum by volunteering to be speakers about their experiences in Vietnam and the homefront," says VFW Commander-in-Chief, John Smart, a Vietnam Army veteran.

JANE FONDA REMEMBERED

Unfortunately many have forgotten and still countless others have never known how Ms Fonda betrayed (not only the idea of our "country") but the men who served and sacrificed during Vietnam. Please take the time to read and forward this to as many people as you possibly can. It will eventually end up on her computer and she needs to know that "we will never forget". Lest we forget..."100 years of great women" Jane Fonda should never be considered.

The first part of this is from an F-4E pilot. The pilot's name is Jerry Driscoll, a River Rat. There are few things I have strong visceral reactions to, but Jane Fonda's participation in what I believe to be blatant treason, is one of them. Part of my conviction comes from exposure to those who suffered her attentions.

In 1978, the Commandant of the USAF Survival School was a former POW in Ho Lo Prison-the "Hanoi Hilton". Dragged from a sinking cesspit of a cell, cleaned, fed and dressed in clean P Js, he was ordered to describe for a visiting American "Peace Activist" the "lenient and humane treatment" he'd received. He spat at Ms. Fonda, was clubbed and dragged away. During the subsequent beating, he fell forward upon the Camp Commandant's feet, accidentally pulling the man's shoes off, which sent the officer berserk. In '78, the AF Col. still suffered from double vision-permanently grounding him, because of the Vietnamese Col's frenzied application of a wooden baton.

From 1983-85 Col. Larry Carrigan was 347FW/DO (F-4Es). He'd spent 6 years in the "Hilton"--the first three of which he was "missing in action". His wife lived on the faith that he was still alive. His group too, got the cleaned/fed/clothed routine in preparation for a "peace delegation" visit. They however had time and devised a plan to get word to the world that they still survived. Each man secreted a tiny piece of paper, with his SSN on it, in the palm of his hand.. When paraded before Ms Fonda and a cameraman, she walked the line shaking each man's hand and asking little encouraging snippets like: "Aren't you sorry you bombed babies?" and "Aren't you grateful for the humane treatment from you benevolent captors?"

Believing this HAD to be an act, they each palmed her their sliver of paper. She took them all without missing a beat. At the end of the line and once the camera stopped rolling, to the shocked disbelief of the POWs, she turned to the officer in charge--and handed him the little pile.

Three men died from the subsequent beatings. Col. Carrigan was almost number four. For years after their release, a group of determined former POWs including Col. Carrigan, tried to bring Ms Fonda and others up on charges of treason. I don't know that they used it, but the charge of "Negligent Homicide due to Depraved Indifference" would also seem appropriate. Her obvious 'granting of aid and comfort to the enemy,' alone, should have been sufficient for the treason count.

However, to date, Jane Fonda has never been formally charged with anything and continues to enjoy the privileged life of the rich and famous. I personally think that this is shame on us, the American Citizenry. Part of our shortfall is ignorance, most do not know such actions ever took place.

Thought you might appreciate the knowledge.

Francis Paris  
(A testimony of Frank Paris's personal experience as a POW follows.)

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I was an economic development advisor in Viet Nam and was captured by the North Vietnamese Communists in South Viet Nam in 1968, and held for over for 5 years. I spent 27 months in solitary confinement, one year in a cage in Cambodia, and one year in a "black box" in Hanoi. My North Vietnamese captors deliberately poisoned and murdered a female missionary, a nurse in a leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot, South Vietnam, whom I buried in the jungle near the Cambodian border.

At one time I was weighing approximately 90 lbs. (My normal weight is 170 lbs.) We were Jane Fonda's "War Criminals." When Jane Fonda was in Hanoi, I was asked by the camp communist political officer if I would be willing to meet with Jane Fonda. I said yes, for I would like to tell her about the real treatment we POWs were receiving, which was far different from the treatment purported by the North Vietnamese, and parroted by Jane Fonda, as "humane and lenient." Because of this, I spent three days on a rocky floor on my knees with outstretched arms with a piece of steel rebar placed on my hands, and beaten with a bamboo cane every time my arms dipped.

I had the opportunity to meet with Jane Fonda for a couple of hours after I was released. I asked her if she would be willing to debate me on TV. She did not answer me, her husband, Tom Hayden, answered for her. She was mind controlled by her husband. This does not exemplify someone who should be honored as "100 Years of Great Women."

After I was released, I was asked what I thought of Jane Fonda and the anti-war movement. I said that I held Joan Baez's husband in very high regard, for he thought the war was wrong, burned his draft card and went to prison in protest. If the other anti-war protesters took this same route it would have brought our judicial system to a halt and ended the war much earlier, and there wouldn't be as many on that somber black granite wall called the "Vietnam Memorial." This is democracy. This is the American way.

Jane Fonda on the other hand, chose to be a traitor and went to Hanoi, wore their uniform, propagandized for the communists, and urged American soldiers to desert. As we were being tortured, and some of the POWs murdered, she called us liars.

After her heroes--the North Vietnamese communists--took over South Vietnam, they systematically murdered 80,000 South Vietnamese political prisoners. May their souls rest on her head forever. Shame! Shame!

(History is a heavy sword in the hands of those who refuse to forget it. Think of this the next time you see Ms Fonda-Turner at a Braves game.)

Francis Paris

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?  
DO IT NOW!



LOOKING FOR:

Looking for any info on Tony Garcia. He served with the 123 Avn Areo Scout and was wounde on September 16, 1968.

Last Known area was El Paso, Texas. Contact:

Jesse D. Herrera

Tomah, WI 54660

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31st INFANTRY - 196 LIB - OCT 70 - NOV 71  
FORT SHERIDAN

If you served with this unit at this time please contact:

Jack Rowley

Winnebago, IL 61088

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THE GRIM REAPER SAYS

Reunion BLUEGHOST Reunion

Holiday Inn

Rocky Mount, NC

March 31, 2000 - April 2, 2000

There has been a lot of interest in a full blown BLUEGHOST REUNION. John Alnderson and Paul Reitchel, along with their wives, volunteered to get this Reunion off the ground. John picked the Holiday Inn in Rocky Mount, NC because he will be there displaying the Vietnam Moving Memorial Moving Wall. For those who don't know it, John and his wife are employed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund and travel with the Wall all over the U.S. and more recently, Europe.

John was a Medic for the Blues in 1969. Paul was an avionics repairman working in Ghostonics in 1969-1970. In the last couple of years John 'Doc' Anderson has contacted and met numerous Blueghosts in his travels and all mentioned that we should have a Reunion sometime. Well. the time has come, the year 2000 is upon us and its been a long time since we were together.

F Troop has a lot of history and we were part of it. Though we were not all there at the same time it was the same unit. Time has eroded memories and before they all disappear totally we should get together so that the time we spent with Blueghost will not be forgotten.

CONTACT

Paul Reitchel

John Anderson

Augusta, ME 04330

Paso Robles, CA 93446

e-mail

e-mail

BLUEGHOST WEB SITE

<http://www.geocities.com/pentagon/quarters/2349/>

Make that call immediately -- Reservations for have to be in by January 15, 2000.

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

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1st SQUADRON - 1st CAVALRY ASSOCIATION  
Terry Babler - President

e-mail:

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, will hold a Mini-Reunion in San Diego, CA on Sunday, February 20 through February 24, 2000. B Troop is the sponsor. Persons serving in Vietnam with the 1st Cav Squadron in 1967, HQ, A,B, C, or D Troops are all invited. The site is the Hanalei Hotel. Telephone number is [REDACTED] The cost is \$82.00 a night. For more information call: Ken Bouche' at [REDACTED] or e-mail: HawkOneOne@aol.com

We will have a Mini-Reunion at the Winterfest R&R Annual Veterans Festival in New Glarus, Wisconsin, on January 14-16, 2000. We will be doing most of our activities with the Americal Division. This Reunion is truly the fun event of the year and it is for all veterans. For more info about this event call: [REDACTED] days, and ask for Ron Lewis.

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association is pleased to announce that we will be having our next National Reunion with the Americal Division in 2002 in Washington, DC. This will be the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and for the dedication of the World War II Memorial. Details later.

Any 1/1 Cav veteran interested in joining the 1/1 Cav Association please write to:

President Terry Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574

Dues are \$12.00 a year. Three (3) Newsletters are put out each year. We have over four hundred (400) members.

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THE COVER STORY

The picture on the cover of this issue was copied from a Christmas Card distributed by the Americal Division in Vietnam in 1968. Inside of the card is a map of South Vietnam with a star marking the location of Baldy, Chu Lai, DucPho and Saigon. The inscription reads, "Sends You Seasons Greetings from the Republic of South Viet Nam".

Thanks to Jack Olgesby, 3/21 Inf 196 LIB, for sending in the card.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This morning's mail brought a packet from the VVMF with a copy of the material on the educational program that is noted on Page 20 of this Newsletter.

"It's called *Echoes From The Wall, Learning and Leadership Through The Lens of The Vietnam War Era*, and is a state-of-art educational program that will be sent to classrooms across the Country.

The Fund Committee is asking for donations. I will forward this information to your Vietnam Editor, Gary Noller, for further action.

Jim Buckle

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The Americal Division Veterans Association was well represented at Veterans Day activities in Washington, D.C. Approximately sixty Americal veterans stopped by the ADVA information tent on November 10 and 11. Almost half were current ADVA members.

A wreath was placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial by Commander Ed Marsh, assisted by Tommy Poppell. Later in the afternoon a contingent of ADVA members placed wreaths at the Korean War Memorial on the Mall and at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Clockwise: Jerry Anderson, Ed Marsh, and Jon Hansen await visitors at the ADVA information tent. COL John Insani (Ret.), former 11th LIB commander, visits with Mr. and Mrs. Nick Prevas and Mr. and Mrs. Marcel (Frenchy) Lettre. Prevas and Lettre were lieutenants together in 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, in Vietnam. Tony May sponsors an ADVA membership for Bill Ochs. Ochs was May's sergeant in Co. B, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB. Warm weather allowed short sleeved attire for visitors at The Wall. ADVA tent location at 20th and Constitution Avenue.





'G' COMPANY 132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

To: Jim Buckle, Editor, Americal Newsletter

RE: Americal Newsletter, July, Aug. & Sept. 1999 Issue, Page 16. Article by John Wright, Hill 27, Guadalcanal. Sent in by Geoff Tierney.

As we enter the twilight zone of our life, I want to be sure that the historically accurate facts covering the assault on Hill 27 (Mt. Austen, Hill 31 and the GIFU) are firmly embedded in the Americal Newsletter.

To begin with, the U.S. Marines were not involved in the capture of Hill 27 in January 1943, it was a total U.S. Army show! The 132nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, fought at the GIFU for 26 days. Repeated frontal assaults were carried out by the 132nd Inf.

The 2nd Battalion of the 132nd Infantry carried out the final assault on Hill 27. On New Years eve 1942, the 2nd Battalion dug-in close to the base of Hill 27 while the 247th Field Artillery pounded the Japs on Hill 27. (It was quite a New Years eve party with an occasional artillery shell falling short into our area.) On January 1 and 2, 1943 the 2nd Battalion launched it's attack on Hill 27 bypassing Hill 31. During the fierce fighting that followed the 2nd Battalion faced six Jap banzai attacks which were successfully repulsed. The 247th Field Artillery did a magnificent job dropping shells a short distance from our defensive lines near the top of Hill 27. On January 10, 1943 the 132nd Infantry Regiment was relieved by the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division and continued on to destroy the GIFU which was the most heavily fortified Jap position on the Island of Guadalcanal.

It's important that the accuracy of the battle for Mt. Austen (Hill 27, Hill 31 and the GIFU) be clearly cited as this was the beginning of the end of the strong resistance by the Japs on Guadalcanal.

I was a Platoon Sgt., Co. G., 2nd Battalion, 132nd Infantry Regiment and fought in this particular battle.

In 1986 I was instrumental, with Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, a former member of the 132nd Infantry Regiment, in establishing a public Foundation, raising \$500,000 with an additional \$500,000 contributed by the U.S. Government (the American Battle Monuments Commission) and we built a magnificent American Memorial on Skyline Drive near Honiara, Guadalcanal.

As the Treasurer and Project Manager of the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation, I visited Guadalcanal nine (9) times from 1987-1995. We had a beautiful 50th Anniversary dedication of the huge Memorial on Guadalcanal, August 7, 1992. Over 25,000 people appeared, including local inhabitants, military units from the U.S.A., New Zealand, Australia, Fiji Islands. High ranking military and civilian dignitaries from many countries etc.

On each of my trips I visited every battlefield on Guadalcanal including Tulagi, Gavutu and Tananbogo. I spent a lot of time walking around GIFU, Hills 27 and 31. Near the base of Hill 27 I found an unexploded 60mm mortar shell. On the top of Hill 27 I found many foxholes (including my own) with expended .30 caliber ammo clips, C-ration cans, barbed wire, etc. (All this after 50 years!)

The Jap monument near Mt. Austen pales in comparison to our large beautiful American Memorial. I often wondered why the Japs selected Mt. Austen for their monument considering their total defeat in the areas. The Jap monument is a good distance from Honiara the capital of Guadalcanal.

Hope this sets the record straight recognizing the significant offensive actions taken by the Americal Division in defeating the Japs on Guadalcanal.

I have established a WEB site and soon will have many photos and narratives on the Guadalcanal Campaign built into the WEB.

My Web Site is: <http://www.inergy.com/jmicek>

My E-Mail address is [REDACTED]

Joseph G. Micek  
Co. G, 132 Infantry  
Americal Division

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THE FORGOTTEN VICTORY

While in Kansas City at the National Convention, I had occasion to pursue several local newspapers, watch the news on TV, and listen to the local radio news.

The National Convention (VFW) was in full swing by August 15th, which, in case you hadn't noticed was also the anniversary of V-J Day. The Japanese had been brought to their knees, and WWII for all purposes was over. Yet, not one word in speech or printing came out, on this 100th Anniversary year of the VFW.

Have you noticed that it has now become politically incorrect to refer to this historic occasion as V-J Day. Accordingly, the Japanese government has been asking other nations to find some less Japan-specific nomenclature to describe this hard fought victory. Their effort has had some success. Australia's government has agreed to use the term "Victory in the Pacific Day" in all commemorative activities of type.

The Clinton administration has stated that our whole effort in this thing is to commemorate the event, not to celebrate a victory, so they have assured the Japanese government that nobody in the U.S. government or its military will use the term V-J Day.

It would be interesting to note, that nowhere in history could the linguistic terminology V-J Day be noted if there hadn't been an attempt at V-USA Day by the Japanese government (Victory over the USA) initiated by the bombing of the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor, or the shelling of the West Coast by Japanese submarines. And remember the old cliché "There never would have been a Hiroshima, if there hadn't been a Pearl Harbor."

(This article was written by Frank J. Tucker, PSC Public Relations Officer, and taken from VFW Massachusetts newspaper.)

Ed Note: Let's hear what our membership thinks about this policy. I noticed this with the news media in this area also. No doubt you have received a year 2000 calendar from some veterans organization by now. Skim through it and see how many battle dates are noted. Forget about the

minor one, although they were big to us, but look for D Day, the landing on Guadalcanal. The landing on Japan, or any of the many landings in between. I intend to return all that I receive. If you do not want to do this, do not send them any money for the calendar. That will make them sit up and take notice.

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FROM THE JUNGLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC  
TO THE GOLF FAIRWAYS OF LEO MARTIN GOLF COURSE

Four World War II veterans of F Company, 182nd Infantry Regiment are still together.



Pictured above, from left to right are, Joe Rando, Paul Miele, Frank Rourke, and Joe Papa, from Waltham and Newton, Massachusetts.

Can you imagine these, old, balding grandfathers striking fear into the heart of the enemy fifty six (56) years ago?

World War II awards among them are: Bronze Star, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badges, Presidential Citations, Asiatic Ribbons with Four Battle Stars, Philippine Freedom Medals, and to their former school teachers disbelief, the Good Conduct Medals.

Their golf scores are a closely guarded military secret.

Joe Papa

ED Note: The Leo Martin Memorial Gold Course is located in Weston, Massachusetts.

Thanks Joe, for the heart warmer.

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AMERIKA, EH?

Pledge of Allegiance is neither mandatory nor a sign of fascism.

The following article appears courtesy of The Free Lance-Star, written by Paul E. Akers.

Each morning as the Pledge of Allegiance is recited in a Seattle high school, a group of students thrusts their stiffened arms into the air in the Nazis salute and mangle the words. This show of disrespect purportedly has a higher aim than mere tweaking of authority, says Mariner High

School student body president, Sheila King. It's a form of protest.

Miss King who takes advanced placement classes and captains the swim team, calls the pledge "brainwashing" and contends that "you can't pound someone into patriotism." The latter statement at least is true. Oppressive regimes such as the former Soviet Union and modern China enforce patriotism as a means of social control.

Yet what this gang of comfortable malcontents fails to see is the utter inappropriateness of using the "Seig Heil" in a display of rebellion. Thousands of American men were cut down in their prime--some were even of high school age--to save the world from a regime that would have forced people to snap heels and swear their souls to evil upon pain of death. To mimic that salute regarding the American flag is not to be cleverly ironic. It is to perpetrate an obscenity.

Gov. Jim Gilmore signed a law last month that makes the Pledge of Allegiance a part of every school day in Virginia--not a bad idea when the primary loyalty of many vacuous teens seems to be to Tommy Hilfiger. Yet, here, as in Washington state, students are not compelled to say the pledge. The U.S. Supreme Court has rightly ruled that those whose consciences are violated by such mandatory recitations may keep silent while their classmates are being "brainwashed". No school in the Fredericksburg area should interpret the new law as a license to coerce love of country from its students.

But any local students inclined to ape the Seattle free thinkers should contemplate this: While American citizenship is acquired simply by being born here, duties accompany that blessing. One of the most important, said patriot Samuel Adams, is to learn about our system of government:

"It is necessary that the utmost pains be taken by the public, to have the principles of virtue early inculcated on the minds even of children and moral sense kept alive--(for) when people are universally ignorant, and debauched in their manners, they will sink under their own weight without the aid of foreign invaders."

Seattle is the home of grunge music. Grunge thought seems to be doing well there, too.

Sent in by Bill Laurie  
(Taken from the Virginia Legionnaire)

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247th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

My unit left the States on March 4, 1942 from Brooklyn Navy Yard. Perhaps my sadness was felt more deeply than some -- I came from Brooklyn.

While going through the Panama Canal there were blimps stationed overhead to block the view of the locks from enemy aircraft. We were on four ships from the Grace Line. I can only remember three of the names. They were the Santa Lucia, Santa Maria and Santa Clara. I cannot remember the name of the fourth troop ship. There was a destroyer in the center of the convoy

Water was being rationed, 1/2 cup canteen a day. We washed shaved and drank from that amount. The food was unbearable. Almost everyone got the runs. I only ate what I thought was safe, like hard boiled eggs, mashed potatoes, buns and rolls. One day I saw a load of chickens being taken out of the refrigerator and they were covered with green



mold. I didn't eat chicken that day!

My bunk was next to the kitchen window and I would ask the soldier on K.P. duty for a piece of bread. Some would oblige and some would not. This went on from March 4th to April 6th, which was when we arrived in Australia.

I was on the last ship in the convoy, when the ship gave 5 blasts on the horn. I soon found out that meant trouble. The destroyer turned around and just as it passed our ship, it dropped some depth chargers. When it was satisfied that we were safe, it turned around and went back to the center of the convoy.

We made a quick stop at the Island of Bora Bora on the way to Australia. It was the most beautiful sight I had ever seen, I just had to get on that island. I put on my life jacket, my friend Smitty didn't use one. We went over the side of the ship into the water. We didn't get very far when a speed boat came over to us with some Naval officers in it. They yelled at us to get back on the ship as these waters were shark infested. I later saw some sharks at the back of the ship eating whatever was dumped overboard.

In Australia they had tents set up for us on a racetrack. The name of the race track was Escot. I was always one that went AWOL. I found a way out through a large sewer. When I got out I heard someone yell out, "Not that way soldier the MPs are there, come through my house!" When I got to her backyard I heard another woman call, "This way soldier." She also asked if I wanted a spot of tea. I didn't want tea, I was hungry and wanted to leave and go to town.

In town I went to a restaurant and had a nice steak, pie and coffee. I called the waitress over and told her to start over. She asked "Coffee and pie?" I said, "No, start the entire meal over." When it came time for me to pay the bill I gave her a five pound Australian note, which was given to us earlier. When she came back with the change she blocked the view from the other table. There were two young girls sitting there and she did not want them to see the money.

We were in Escot for two days and then went on a train. We went to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in about a week. On the way they stopped to feed us. Everything was done like clock-work. I said to someone, "This can't be the Army feeding us, who is behind this?" The answer was, "The Salvation Army. I never did see the Red Cross while I was overseas."

Jack Masucci

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GUARD the AMERICAN FLAG, a SYMBOL of FREEDOM  
by Francis X. O'Neil, Jr.

Reference is made to a recent article titled "Veterans stand firm but divided." Several veterans expressed their opinion concerning the American flag--some laudatory, others not so. One in particular from Cole Morton deserves comment.

A flag, not only in the United States, but in all countries of the world, is symbolic of what a country stands for. In our case it stands for freedom.

We are not a perfect society as our Native American and African American brethren can attest to, but the American flag is a symbol of what is good and right.

Throughout the world, the flag stands for a people who have given their lives that others may live, who have endured all types of hardships and torture to allow Morton and yes, Sen. John Glenn, express their ideas in an open society without fear of reprisal. To destroy the symbol is to destroy a sense of freedom to a large percentage of the people of the world.

Several years ago, during the time of the Communist rule in Eastern Europe, I was walking across the Vistula River in Prague via the Charles Bridge. I could see the American flag flying high above the American embassy. A man in back of me, surmising I was an American, said, "I cross this bridge every day and when I see the American flag flying high on the hill above the American embassy, I know that there is hope for the world. American people are so fortunate to have such a flag as a symbol of freedom. Always guard it."

As with our Statue of Liberty, the flag is symbolic to the world that there is one country where freedom is paramount. To destroy that symbol is to destroy hope and, quite frankly to encourage others to do the same.

Why stop with destroying the flag? Why not our other symbols, such as crosses and menorahs?

You say the Supreme Court gives you the right to burn the flag as freedom of expression! A study of history will note that the court has been wrong many times in its interpretation of the Constitution. Congress and subsequent courts have corrected earlier mistakes.

I have served my country in the military in two wars and fought in New Guinea and the Philippines. I worked in three branches of government. I know from personal experience the thrill and feeling of prayerful thanks upon seeing the flag once again raised where the flag had been torn down and burnt by a vengeful enemy.

Destroy symbols and you destroy the conscience of the people. Those who wish to burn are to be pitied. They have failed to see the forest for the trees, no matter how patriotic they might think they are.

(Taken from the Cape Cod Times)

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#### 754th TANK BATTALION

I wish to thank the staff of the Americal Newsletter for all the "Golden" hours I've had, throughout the years, in reading the Newsletter.

For the record--the Jeep came into existence I March 1941 at Fort Riley, Kentucky. It never was a 'Peep'. I turned a Jeep over at Pine Camp. NY in December '41, in eight inches of snow. Neither the Jeep or I was hurt.

Of the 760 men I sailed with, from the 754th Tank Battalion in January of 1941, I only know of eight that are still alive.

I guess I am ready to go to--I am now 85 years old. Thanks again for the Newsletter. It has been a source of joy to me.

Capt. Al Guttag

Ed Note: Thanks Captain for the booklet on the 754th Tankers. I will keep it handy for a reference.

#### GUADALCANAL UPDATE

This is a follow-up on the clipping that Felix Walsh had in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter stating, 'Guadalcanal Declares and Emergency Amid Civil Unrest'.

When Dan Ramsey and I visited Guadalcanal with other members of the ADVA for the dedication of the Memorial in August of 1992, we had the opportunity to visit a Marist Mission and talk to a Father Galvin. Father Galvin arranged for me to meet old Tom, a native I had not seen since our departure for Fiji in 1943.

I am enclosing a paragraph from a recent letter from Father Galvin which was dated Sept. 5, 1999:

"The wave of civil unrest and ethnic tension which started in earnest on June 9th is still with us after three months. It has been difficult to continue normal activities. A large group of Guadalcanal militants have taken control of the whole island, apart from Honiara. Their main goal was to chase all the Malaita people back to Malaita, and they have succeeded in doing that, often in a cruel manner. There is still a police roadblock right near our church here in Tanagai. Beyond the roadblock is the area controlled by the militants and the big village nearby is abandoned. For year the people of Guadalcanal and Malaita lived together in peace, but no longer. Even the Guadalcanal people have fled to the bush, fearing retaliation from the Malaita people. It's very sad that such a thing had to happen. Fortunately for us, there is no negative feeling against expats, in fact we church personnel feel completely safe. Even during the days after the shoot-out which took place near here in mid-June I was able to go and visit old Tom. You could tell he felt very bad about the matter, and I have no doubt that the whole thing had an effect of hastening his death"

Father David Galvin

(The above letter was sent in by Al Doig and he will keep us informed of future developments on Guadalcanal).

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#### A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY A COMPANY - 57th COMBAT ENGINEER BN.

In the July, August, September edition of the Americal Newsletter, I read the article by R.V. Correale, Combat Recon., and it reminded me of an incident where we did much the same thing.

This was on Leyte, in the Philippines, in the Ormoc Valley, just two miles from Valencia. We were bivouaced in a ravine, that came down from the mountains and ran into the Pasan River, where it crossed the road the bridge had been destroyed. We took a dozen Japanese two man tanks, that had been destroyed and piled them on top of each other until we had a bridge. Then we took our bulldozers and put dirt on top to complete the road.

While we were building this bridge, the convoys coming through had to stop, then we would hook the bulldozer to the first truck in line and pull it across the bridge we were building and around a curve, out of sight of the other trucks in the convoy, then we would unhook the truck and go back and get another one.

Well guess what one of our sergeants came up with? Right? Just as we got around the corner one guy would jump on the back of the truck and grab a

box, and hand it to his buddy on the ground, who would then hide it in the bush. They would get a couple of cases off each truck, which carried everything, canned goods, coffee, bacon, flour, liquor. Everything a hungry GI could want.

We never got too greedy and the cooks were in on it, so we ate pretty good. Our officers never said a word about it, except to compliment the cooks.

Incidentally, that bridge was never completed until we were leaving, then it was finished before we left the valley to go to Japan.

We just enjoyed a simple opportunity that came our way and made fighting for our Country a little easier. I don't think Uncle Sam would mind as we helped save the World.

Darrell Wardien

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#### LIVING HELL AT CAMP #3

It was just a few minutes short of noon, judging by the sun, when we heard the commotion break out at the other end of the clearing. There were fifteen of us -- human skeletons, wearing the ragged remnants of Australian uniforms. We were digging out the white gritty face of a hill, shoveling it into skips, pushing the skips through the blazing tropical heat to the other side of the strip and emptying them along its swampy, jungle-choked fringe where hundreds of other skeletons, some of them roped together, were filling in and leveling. We were separated from these other men working on the airfield and from thirty-two Jap guards by the hill itself.

Our own guard, a short, runty ape with gold teeth and spectacles, stood near the top of the hill, leaning on his rifle, screaming, "Yazume nei! No! No rest!"

When the commotion broke out, I glanced over my shoulder. Duckworth winked at me. A few seconds later Harris appeared, pushing his empty skip. He nodded. The guard had climbed to the top of the hill to see what was going on. His back was to us. Putting down my shovel I started up the hill toward him. "Benjo-ka?" I asked.

He glanced around impatiently. "Benjo bei," he grunted. Permission granted. To reach the twenty square feet of maggot-ridden mud that served as our latrine I would have to pass close to him. He had turned back to watch the commotion. When I was right behind him, I shot out my arm and caught him around the throat. He tried to cry out. I slammed my knee in the belly, and sent him crumbling down the hill where the others finished him off with their shovels.

We were all gasping from exertion when I reached the bottom of the hill. "Lovely, my lad," chuckled Duckworth. "Here you go." He handed me some grub rolled up in a shirt. I shouldered the sentry's rifle. Harris was unhooking the Jap's canteen and holster. "Almost full--we're lucky," he said, shaking it experimentally. "And this. I almost forgot," he pulled the precious pocket compass out and gave it to me. "Better hurry," he whispered.

I nodded, strapping the equipment on. With a last brief handshake with each of the men, and a few whispered "Good lucks!" I climbed through the barbed wire fence that they stretched apart for me, and disappeared into the jungle....



This was my first time outside the fence in twenty three months. I was one of the oldest residents of fifty acres of living hell known as Security Work Camp 3 or Numa Numa on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. The Australian War Camp Commission later branded it as the most murderous of all the Jap POW camps. And believe me, digger--they weren't exaggerating. During the time I was there, between eight and ten thousand men died. From torture, beatings, starvation, disease--mainly disease. That's what killed more than any. Lack of drugs. Drugs which the Japs had and could have given us. But Colonel Ichito Kamburi, commandant of Numa Numa, was a greedy pig as well as a fat, sadistic one and he would only part with quinine and sulfa drugs for hard cash.

We were a motley crew at Numa Numa. Mostly Australians, plus a smattering of New Zealanders, British, and even a Yank or two. There were civilians as well--a few British civil servants from the Solomons, Australian planters and Chinese from Kieta, Bougainville's largest port. Most of us Aussies had been members of island militia groups, caught by the Jap onslaught in January, 1942. We had escaped singly and in groups into the jungle--only to be betrayed and handed over to the Japs by the natives.

I was the only one from Bougainville itself. A professional soldier, I'd commanded the garrison of native troops at Kieta since 1937. Governed by Australia since World War I under a League of Nations mandate, Bougainville had been under martial law since 1927 when a native uprising claimed the lives of a number of missionaries and white officials. The Bougainese have always hated the whites. So it was with particular glee that they hunted down their former masters, like animals and turned us over to the Japs.

MY INTRODUCTION to life at Numa Numa was Colonel Kamburi's riding crop slashing across my face. I had just watched two guards suspend a British corporal by his ankles, and poured urine down his nostrils. I was new enough to camp life, and innocent enough to step forward and yell about the Geneva Convention. Kamburi brought the crop down again and again, slashing my face to ribbons. When I came to I was hanging suspended by my thumbs out under the blazing tropical sun. Some bunkmates told me it was four days before I stopped raving. My face was terribly battered. It was hideous to look at and the flesh, like greenish lace at the raw edges, stank sweetly of death. But there were no drugs...

But what happened to me was nothing to what I saw during the next months. I saw men tied to the whipping triangle and beaten with bamboo canes until they were just one frightful wound from their shoulders to the soles of their feet. Others were filled with water and then jumped on or made to stand for hours with a heavy stone held above their heads. The wife of Bougainville's Commissioner was raped before our very eyes by three guards, then bayoneted to death slowly, limb by limb.

Every once in a while the guards would amuse themselves by burning someone alive. Once they set fire to an Aussie sergeant's head. As his hair blazed and he screamed the sort of screams that only burning men can scream they offered him water with which to extinguish the flames. When he seized the can of water it was boiling hot. He flung it over his head. The flames hissed out and he screamed even more piercingly. Gasoline was poured on his roasting scalp, then a match applied, then more boiling water applied. He was

dead quite a while before the Japs stopped laughing.

As ghastly, in their way, were the diseases that men died of. Every morning we piled those who'd died during the night like cordwood outside the barracks. We all suffered from "Happy Feet." This condition, due to lack of vitamins, consisted of a persistent series of searing stabs in the soles of our feet. The pain was like fire. The flesh literally dropped off the bones. Berberi was spreading rapidly among us also. First there was an angry swelling of your feet which made them look like purple balloons with sausages for toes. The swelling spread up the legs so that ankles and knees vanished into two water-filled columns of fat. Then the trunk began to swell with that same ominous suggestion of liquid beneath the skin tissues, and eventually even a man's eyes became merely two slits in a puffy sphere. All this amused the Japs no end. They could hardly look at us without laughing.

In August, 1942, Colonel Kamburi decided that it would take our minds off our suffering if we worked, and so began the construction of an airfield that was never completed and that I think the Japs had us build just for the hell of it. The new regulation was food only for those who worked. Consequently, thousand of men too sick to drag themselves from where they lay, now began to starve. Day and night we could hear their moaning and then their death rattles...

New blood came into the camp that autumn--more Australian troops, members of the crack 7th Division who'd served with the British in North Africa and who'd been captured by the Japs in New Guinea. They were fresher than the rest of us, still able to offer a bit of resistance. Those of us who had enough hope and energy left joined up with them, absorbing some of their confidence. Among them were Harris and Duckworth, who later became the originators of our escape plan.

In October, 1943, the U.S. Marines landed on nearby Choiseul Island. A couple of Dutch Indonesian soldiers who understood Japanese heard the guards talking about it. Hope surged through us! Maybe we were next! And we were--on October 31, 1943, a force of U.S. Marines landed at Empress Augusta Bay at the other end of the island! When the news reached us we burst into cheers. But our excitement was a little premature. A month passed, then another--and still the Americans didn't reach us. They were way off at the other end of the large island, battling their way slowly inland. Maybe they didn't even know of our existence! Maybe they weren't going to trouble to examine this end of the island! Weeks passed. The schedule never varied at camp. The Japs seemed to ignore the fact that the Marines had landed!

Prisoners were dying like flies. If the Yanks didn't hurry there wouldn't be one of us left alive. Cerebral malaria was now spreading through the camp--the most ghastly and painful disease known to man. It makes them scream like baboons. All over the camp the wreckage of men, mere bones, skin and hair, stood clutching at the barbed wire, their mouths wide open, screaming, mad, inhuman. Sometimes when the Japs got tired of the racket they would bayonet them--the only decent thing I'd ever seen them do. That's the kind of disease cerebral malaria is...

"There's only one thing left," said Harris one day. "One of us will have to escape, head across the island and tell the Americans we're here. All

they have to do is send a couple of hundred men around by sea and march in. But if they don't hurry..." "In that case, I'm the logical choice." I said. "I know this island better than anyone else here. I've been through it on Constabulary Patrol. I can speak the native's language--although I'm a dead man if I meet one."

The others nodded. They knew what I meant. The Bougainese are pretty vicious customers. Lest you think it's only I who am prejudiced against them, listen, to what the Encyclopedia Britannica has to say: "The Solomons have proved to be among the less hospitable of the Oceanic groups to foreigners, in more ways than one. The natives, who are Melanesian stock, have proved cruel and treacherous; and the unexplored interior regions of the group are one of the few places where cannibalism may still be prevalent." And to make things even worse, the Japs had posted a standard reward of a thousand yen for each white man brought to them--enough money to sweeten any warrior's old age.

But we went ahead preparing for my escape, the sentry and escape spot chosen, a homemade map drawn up. Harris had a pocket compass he'd managed to hide from the Japs. A bit of each day's rations were hidden in a shirt so that I'd have food on the journey. The men shared the rest of their rations with me so that I'd have enough strength to make the grueling, forty mile trip.

Then, finally--on December 22, 1943--the plan went into action. A couple of POWs at the other end of the field staged a fight that rapidly turned into a free-for-all. Guards left their positions to bring it under control. During the confusion we killed our own guard and hid his body under a pile of rubble. Then, armed with his rifle, canteen and holstered 8 M/M Nambu automatic, I headed into the jungle...

I made pretty slow progress the first day. Jap patrols and native villages that I had to keep circling around held me back. And so did the fact that I hadn't used my legs for anything but standing during the last twenty-odd months. I'd say that all in all, I covered at most three miles when at nightfall I sank wearily to the ground near a stream, refilled the canteen, unstrapped my holster and immediately fell asleep...

The sound of something moving through the underbrush awoke me. Grabbing the rifle, I slithered into thicker vegetation and waited. Nothing. No sound now. Then I saw it. Damn! I'd left my canteen and holster out in the open by the bank of the stream. Too late now to get them. Whatever it was, it was moving again--slowly, cautiously. Raising my rifle, I waited. Then--by the dim light of early dawn--I saw him come crawling out of the underbrush. He was a big, ugly looking fellow with a dangerous looking sword in his hand. A Bougainese warrior, complete with bushy, bleached hair-do, perforated nose and ears and monkey-tail loin cloth. He crawled to where the canteen and holster lay and then crouched there studying them intently. Suddenly he looked up and grinned directly at where I was hiding. Centering my sights on him, I waited. He examined the equipment again, then suddenly reared up and came at me, sword raised...

I pressed the trigger. There was a sharp explosion and he spun to the ground, blood bubbling from his neck. When I reached him he was dead. I was trembling all over. That bloody bastard must have sighted me yesterday and been following me all that time, hoping to catch me while I was asleep.

Were there any others around? If there were that shot would certainly bring them running. I pulled the body into the underbrush and waited. No more sounds. As I waited I noticed the "royalty cuts" on the warrior's right arm. He must have been some one pretty important--there were five, seven, NINE of them! He was a chief's eldest son and heir! Suddenly it hit me--I knew what to do. This journey through Yank lines wouldn't be necessary.

Taking the warrior's own sword, I hacked his head off. It was a pretty bloody, messy affair--and castrating him was even worse. Biting my lips, I hacked away. When I had finally finished, I stuffed his sex organs into his own mouth, and stripped some "batuvi" bark off a nearby tree. On the inner, milky-colored side, I spelled out a message in Melanesian, writing it with my finger dipped in his own blood. The message - admittedly crude - read: "This is the punishment awaiting islanders who steal equipment from the Imperial Japanese Forces. Signed: Colonel Ichito Kamburi."

I was sure it would work. Up to now the Japs had been handling the trigger-tempered Bougainese with kid gloves. But this - this was not only the deadliest of all insults, but a triple one. To cut off any Melanesian's head is the most serious possible crime. It means he will enter the next world without his soul and brains. To do it to a chief's son is even worse. And then to stuff his own sex organs into his mouth--that would be the culminating blow!

I waited until late that night, then--with my bloody trophies and equipment under my arm, I sneaked into the compound of the nearest village and quietly dug a hole. When it was deep enough I jammed the rifle into it, pushed the dirt back in, then forced the warrior's head down over the muzzle and attached the message to the exhibit. Then I stepped back and took a look at it. If that didn't enrage the Bougainese then nothing would! Quietly I retreated into the jungle and waited!

I was awakened by screams. Drums were throbbing on all sides, conch shells blowing weird signals. A sound of wailing came from the village. All that day I saw long columns of warriors wearing full battle regalia moving down the trail to the village, and that night the distant crackle of small-arms fire reached my ears. I rushed along the trail toward Numa Numa. Ahead the sky was red with flames.

When I reached Security Work Camp 3, I saw that the Bougainese had things well in hand! They had trampled down the stockades and swept in, slaughtering every Japanese in sight. I saw their bodies on all sides, impaled on spears, horribly mutilated. They had caught Colonel Kamburi as he was trying to escape to a motor launch he kept in the lagoon. They stripped him of his uniform and dragged him over to where they'd built a small fire. They forced him to squat over it. His screams echoed from one end of Numa Numa to the other. Finally they went to work on him with their swords, cutting off his fingers one by one, then his toes and finally castrating him.

Kamburi's screams were no longer human, just a high pitched, gurgling screech. And this time it was the Bougainese who were laughing. Long after he had died, they were still imitating his squealing and roaring with laughter.

Some of the camp's inmates, led by Harris and Duckworth had managed to send off a message, and the next morning a U.S. destroyer anchored off Numa Numa and sent ashore a couple of boatloads of



Corpsmen to look the situation over. As they entered the camp, every inmate who could still stand struggled to his feet and cheered.

"Cot , an wot a bloomin' lovely Christmas present you are, Yanks!" shouted a British tommy, and there were surprised cheers on all sides. We'd forgotten - it was Christmas Day, 1943. Somewhere a voice began to sing "Good King Wenceslaus" and suddenly--tears of relief and homesickness flooding down our faces--we were all singing it.

The nightmare was over at last.

By Paul Acland

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COMPANY A - 132 INFANTRY

CEBU: It was a slaughtering ground filled with the unexpected.

My buddy comes crawling back and says, "I want to show you something." He was smiling. The 10 of us got down and followed him. What you have to know is chickens were wild in the Philippines. My buddy said, "Look, there are 400 chickens down there, are you thinking what I'm thinking?" We opened up on those sobs. We killed about 100.

We took off our shoe laces and tied the chickens around our necks. The Lieutenant comes up and says, "What is it this time, McGraw?" I said, "fresh meat." He said, "These are grounds for court martial but in the meantime get to the kitchen."

People don't know this but we had 60,000 casualties in the Philippines--20,000 killed in action. We hated those (Nip) bastards. The Philippines was the valley of death. I hated every day of it. For a week after a campaign nobody talked to each other. It was another world. It is still painful. On Bougainville we had to go pillbox by pillbox. It took maybe two or three days to move 100 yards.

Cebu in the Philippines was hell. We had started digging our holes 6:30 at night, across from a race track like Monticello, only much larger, with no fences. The call came down from intelligence to move out another 500 yards and I said to the Lieutenant, "Jesus, are they crazy, those Japanese must know we're here?"

So out around 500 yards, we see around 400 heads in this trench and they come out yelling "Banzai." A couple of my buddies were in houses up forward. I ran to get them. I kicked down what was left of the door. The house was on fire. They were wounded. I dragged them back.

That was his first bronze star.

He got another for defending a church steeple lookout against a horde of Japanese.

I finally got nailed when we came up a hill that was supposed to be secured. All of a sudden we hear huhuhuh---that was the damn Japanese mortar. I woke up in the 716th Field Hospital. It killed two of my buddies. I couldn't hear worth a damn and my arm was in a sling.

I was groggy. I heard someone screaming, "The war is over!" I said, "Jesus, I've died and gone to Heaven!" People were crying and grabbing alcohol, it was some celebration!

Sick, depressed, their bodies drained, mid-Hudson combatants geared up for what everyone said would be the greatest blood bath of all, the invasion of Japan itself.

Then there was the big bomb.

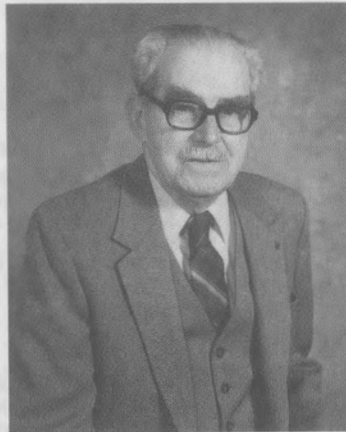
And their war was over in a monstrous flash.

John J. McGraw

(Taken from the Newburgh Times Herald-Record and written by Wayne Hall)

\*\*\*\*\*  
GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS REUNION  
by Dom Pantaleo  
101st Medical Regiment Band

The GVC held it 18th annual Reunion Sept. 7-11. 1999 at the Omni-Severin Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Approximately 270 members plus wives and guests attended. This was my first GVC Reunion and I was greatly impressed. I plan to attend all future Reunions.



Dom Pantaleo receiving his creditials from Pat Nureneberg, registration chairwoman.

Tours included the Indy 500 track, Fred's Militay Armor display, tour and lecture of tanker planes crews from Grissom AFB.

On September 10th the GVC annual memorial service was held at the Indiana War Veterans Memorial Building. Colonel/Chaplain Edwin N. Griffin, Americal Vietnam Veteran, gave the invocation and delivered the eulogy. A soloist sang 'The Battle Hymm of the Republic'. Representatives of the Army, Marine Corp, U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, called the roll of the dead. The U.S.M.C Color Guard posted the Colors. With spot lights on the Color Guard, members and guests stood at attention and said the Pledge of Alligence--quite an emotional scene. 1st. Lt Eva Marie Kelly, U.S. Medical Corp Reserve, recited Theodore O'Hara's, 'Bivouac of the Dead'. This was followed by a recitation, in unision, of the words to 'Taps' led by Chaplain Griffin.

That evening the GVC's 18th annual Reunion dance was held featuring a Big Band playing music of the Big Band era.

The annual business meeting was held on Saturday afternoon and the election of officers was held for the coming year.

That afternoon the annual GVC church service was held at the hotel, conducted by Fr. Murphy.

In the evening the annual Dinner -Dance was held. Out-going President Joe Kiwak handed over the gavel to in-coming Bill Carol.

Ted Blahnik, Editor of the Guadalcanal Echoes for many years, was given a purse of money in recognition for his services, as he retired from the job he has done so well.

The Americal was a part of the mighty team effort at Guadalcanal and its members are welcomed into membership of the GCV. Remember, "It isn't the cost of belonging, it's the price you paid to be eligible.

\*\*\*\*\*  
I & R PLATOON - HEADQUARTERS - 132nd INFANTRY

During the second week of September 1945, the I & R Platoon, Headquarters Company, 132nd Infantry Regiment was busy on details of cleaning and securing living quarters for the occupation personnel.

My detail was to use three elderly Japanese carpenters to make the quarters more livable and convenient. We were located in the quarters of a small military base that was a permanent base for Japanese sailors.

The permanent latrine area was pre-occupation and classic Japanese. There was running water and porcelain bathroom receptacles. The receptacles were set in a marble floor, but were slit trench type. The user had to straddle and squat to use them. This needed to be altered.

When we were looking at the job site and changes to be made, my three carpenters became quite upset. We were going to convert the slit trenches to Americal style toilets seats. The language barrier was great so drawings and demonstrations were used to get the toilet seat across. My carpenters were objecting because they thought I wanted them to be plumbers.

The latrine was soon outfitted with boxes without bottoms with a shaped hole cut in the top. The seating problem had been solved and the latrine became a rest room.

During the time we were placing the boxes in position, one of the carpenters seated himself to demonstrate to his co-workers. They enjoyed the moment--laughing and gesturing-- relaxing in my presence.

They had created a throne for the Conquerors. Later projects became more enjoyable, easier and fun. My first month of occupation duty was much different than I expected.

(The above is a brief account of an experience I had during the first days of occupation duty. My classification at the time was O.P. Commander. My squad was given details-like patrol-searching etc. They were doing soldierly things. I was working with the local population and its efforts to recover. The Japanese that I worked with were cordial, good workers and wanted to please).

Everett Arnold  
Bougainville-Cebu-Japan

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUE? CHECK THAT LABEL.  
\*\*\*\*\*

AMERICAL DIVISION  
Ships Used During World War II  
Total Number of Ships 55

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. USAT Argentina          | 29. USAT Cresent City  |
| 2. VICHY French Lighter    | 30. USAT Formalhaut    |
| 3. USAT Barry              | 31. USAT Sea Barba     |
| 4. USAT Cristobal          | 32. USAT Lew Wallace   |
| 5. USAT Ericsson           | 33. USAT Talamanca     |
| 6. USAT McAndrew           | 34. USS Adams          |
| 7. USAT Santa Elena        | 35. USS Zelin          |
| 8. USAT Santa Rosa         | 36. USS Alcon Florais  |
| 9. USAT Shawnee            | 37. USS Goodale        |
| 10. USAT John Pen          | 38. USS Hyde           |
| 11. USAT Sea Witch         | 39. USS Etolin         |
| 12. USAT Rochimbea         | 40. USNT Goodhue       |
| 13. USNT Alchiba           | 41. USNT Gen O. Squier |
| 14. USNT Libra             | 42. USAT James O'Hara  |
| 15. USAT Symal Dyke        | 43. USAT Robert Grier  |
| 16. HOSP Lurline           | 44. USNT Gen Fuller    |
| 17. USNT American Legion   | 45. USNT Heyward       |
| 18. USAT Lib Trylon        | 46. USNT Oconto        |
| 19. RNZN Leander           | 47. USS George Clymer  |
| 20. USNT President Adams   | 48. USS Tower          |
| 21. USNT President Jackson | 49. USNT Union         |
| 22. USNT McCawley          | 50. USAT Santa Barbara |
| 23. USNT Hunter Liggett    | 51. USAT Kungsholm     |
| 24. USNT Harris            | 52. USS Blanding       |
| 25. USS Admiral Coontz     | 53. USS Bracken        |
| 26. USS Gen John Pope      | 54. USS James Kinkaid  |
| 27. USS Gen Lang Fitte     | 55. SS India Victory   |
| 28. USAT Pal Aulaut        |                        |

After extensive research, Museum Director Kenneth Turner, assembled the above list of ships that the Americal members were aboard at one time or other during the war against Japan.

\*\*\*\*\*  
OPERATION Z

The Japanese plan for the attack on Pearl Harbor was code-named " Operation Z." It was interwoven and inseparable from the events leading up to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Here are some of the highlights of those events which launched Operation Z

December 1940--Admiral Isosoku Yamamoto reveals Operation Z in discussion wit his Chief of Staff

January 1941--U.S. Ambassador Joseph Grew reports a rumor that the Japanese are planning a surprise attack against Pearl Harbor.

August 1941--The Japanese propose to make no advances beyond Indo-China if the United States will restore free trade with Japan, discontinue aid to China, and persuade China to recognize Japan's authority in Indo-China.

September 1942--The Japanese Imperial Conference decides war is necessary if the United States and Japan cannot come to agreements before October.

September 1941--Spies in the Japanese consulate in Honolulu are ordered to report on U.S. warships in Pearl Harbor.

November 1941--A "final" Japanese proposal is presented in Washington.

November 1941--A Japanese Task Force sails in secret from Tankan Bay in the remote Kurile Islands.

December 1, 1941--The Japanese Privy Council authorizes an attack on Pearl Harbor.



December 2, 1941--The Japanese Ambassador in Washington is ordered to destroy all code books.

December 7, 1941--At 5:30 A.M. Hawaii time, Washington is alerted to the possibility of attack and warns the Pacific Fleet, a warning which did not arrive in time.

December 7, 1941--At 3:45 A.M., Hawaii time, the USS Condor sights a periscope and makes an alert signal to the destroyer USS Ward.

December 7, 1941--The Japanese unleash a surprise attack on the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

(Taken from the 164th Infantry News)

Ed Note: The battle cry became, "Remember Pearl Harbor." Four years later and many thousands of casualties, Japan surrendered. Should this "Day of Infamy" be written out of American History, anniversaries not mentioned in the news media, and references to this date removed from all calendars? That is what YOUR President wants.

\*\*\*\*\*

DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?

I am trying to find information on my uncle, Forest Volkmar. He was in the Americal Division and was killed during the battle for Bougainville. Please contact:

Jon Volkmar  
[redacted]  
Glen Carbon, IL 63024  
[redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*

I am trying to find information about my great uncle. He was KIA on March 28, 1945 at Cebu, Philippines. Please contact:

James M. Horvath  
[redacted]  
Johnstown, PA 15904-3322  
Tel. [redacted]  
[redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*

When the Japanese quit we loaded up the ship USS Bland APA 134, at Cebu, Philippines, with Americal troops and took them to Yokohama for a little R&R. I wonder if you still exist? I have found some old picture albums with things about the Americal Division. Contact me:

James C. Johnson  
[redacted]  
Humble, TX 77338  
Tel: [redacted]  
[redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*

182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT  
Looking for anyone knowing Albany A. Doucette, 182nd Infantry Regiment. KIA on Guadalcanal.

CONTACT:  
Theodore J. Doucette  
[redacted]  
Pocasset, MA 02559-1930  
[redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*

COMPANY E - 164th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Looking for anyone that knew my father PFC Dominick Amoroso. He saw duty on Bougainville, Philippines, and Japan. CONTACT:

Dominick Amoroso  
[redacted]  
Howell, NJ 07731  
<[redacted]>

\*\*\*\*\*

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

Another successful L Company Reunion was held September 18, 1999 at the home of Bob Doucette.

Attending from L Company were Bob Doucette, Jim McCarthy, Jim Standish, Joe Kirby, Ted Milgroom, John Patterson, Ray Kinnon, Bob Contant, Al Greer, Tom Ward, and Dick Pratt who was given a great welcome. It was the first time we had seen him in fifty (50) years.

Another highlight was the telephone call from Larry LaCau, from Anchorage, Alaska.

From M Company Dom Lucci, Fred Wanson, Ted Mathey, Art Huddell, Joe Chin, Marty Binda, Mike and Mike Imbracsio.

Also present was Jim Buckle from E Company, Carl Halupouski-A Company, Doug Surette-I Company, and Maj. Don Pray-G Company, who is a legend in himself after serving his country for thirty three (33) years.

Barbara Chin and Jeannie Huddle also attended with their husbands.

Our thoughts and prayers were also with Ken Turner of E Company, who was recently operated on for eye surgery.

The next meeting will be held at Bob Doucette's house on March 25, 2000. To reach Bob you may call him at [redacted]

Bob Doucette

Ed Note: Bob and his wife do a great job of keeping the L Company members together. The gathering is beginning to look like a 182nd Infantry Reunion. Bob extends and invitation to all 182nd veterans. Many thanks to Bob and his lovely wife.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER WISH EACH AND EVERY MEMBER A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

AS YOU SIT BY THE FOOD LADEN TABLE, THE FIRESIDE, OR THE CHRISTMAS TREE, SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, REMEMBER THE CHRISTMASSES SPENT FAR FROM HOME. REMEMBER THE HEAT, THE RAIN, THE MUD. REMEMBER THE FEAR AND THE SMELL OF DEATH. REMEMBER THE BUDDIES THAT DID NOT MAKE IT HOME.

YOU SACRIFICED THEN FOR WHAT YOU HAVE NOW. FREEDOM DOES NOT COME CHEAP--YOU PAID YOUR DUES!

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

Dear Editor,

Please forgive me for being so late with this. The enclosed is something that I concocted after attending my first ADVA reunion in San Antonio in 1992.

Your buddy,  
Ernest Carlson, 182nd Infantry

A jungle is a jungle. Was it on the "Canal", Bougainville, or Guinea? Or was it Korea? Maybe it was in Vietnam?

Who was that behind that tree, under that shack, in that hole, or in that tunnel? Was that trail rigged, that enemy body over there booby-trapped? Can you sneak a drink of water out of that pothole over yonder? What kind of bug is that chewing on the back of my neck that I don't dare swat? When the hell can I take a bath, change my socks, and eat a meal that someone fixed today?

What's the date today? Is it '42, '42, '44, or '45? Or is it the '50s, the '60s, or the '70s? What's the difference?

Was that me out there- cold, hungry, scared, confused, angry? Yeah, that was me. Or was it that skinny guy with glasses? Or was it that plump, balding guy plodding across the room? Or was it the guy filling up the bath tub with beer and ice? Or was it that "tunnel rat" who called me "brother" while giving me a bear hug?

Yeah, you know me, don't you? Look, I'm in that car over in the next lane. I'm in the seat along side you at the ball game. I'm that old man with a half dozen of his grandchildren waiting their turn at the hot dog line. I'm sitting there on the river bank just thinking and remembering and hoping that the fish don't bother me too many times. Maybe I'm that woman over there with the dark lines under her faded, knowing eyes. Remembering, waiting, praying.

Hey, maybe that's my marker along the trail, my helmet hanging up in that Banyan tree, that scrap of my uniform laying there charred, smelling of blasting powder.

In 1992 I had the extreme pleasure of meeting John Weber, Tommy Acosta, and a whole bunch more of the Vietnam vets at the 50th anniversary Americal reunion in San Antonio, TX. In the two days I was there I had a chance to close the gap between two wars, a generation or two, and to clear up a world of misunderstanding about Vietnam. Let me correct that, a misunderstanding about my brothers, the Vietnam vets.

In our war, "the big one", that Archie Bunker and I and a few others won, things and events were the same, yet, different. But only as today is different than yesterday.

**Vietnam Editor's Commentary**

A while back I received an e-mail from a Vietnam vet who found my name through the internet. He is someone that I do not know but he had been in the Americal Division. He made some good observations about the ADVA and offered some suggestions for improvements.

One of the things that he suggested was that the Vietnam vets and the WWII vets have separate reunions. After all, he said, there really wasn't that much they held in common. Maybe more Vietnam vets would participate if they could do their own thing. It would be better that way.

In WWII we didn't have the burden of having to make decisions for some big shot sitting in Washington, D.C., in Austin, in Helena, or in some other carpeted, leather seated office. We were told we were going to war. The parallel we were not allowed to cross was somewhere north of Japan.

What's the difference whether it is a Jap bullet or a Vietnam bullet? A different nationality of dung on the end of a bamboo stick? A short artillery round in the South Pacific or in the South China Sea?

The end result is that a guy is just as dead no matter who shoots him or where. He is just as sick from all those bugs, those thorny bushes he crawls through, the mud he lives in, and Agent Orange or DDT he is sprayed with. A fever of 105+ will do the job in Vietnam, Mississippi, Europe, Japan, Guadalcanal, Texas or anywhere else in the world, including Korea at -30 degrees.

So, what's the difference? Could it be that our WWII section of the twentieth century was not blessed with television and satellite coverage? In WWI there was the "shot heard around the world." In WWII there was the shot that Japan took at us at Pearl Harbor. These shots were not heard in later our wars.

In Korea, and later in Vietnam and every conflict to follow, for every rifle shot, every artillery round, every bayonet thrust, there are numerous of long-range, zoomed-in shots from television cameras that are bounced off satellites and across the living room floors of the world. Each rifle shot comes from one angle. Each television shot from who knows how many angles?

Why is it that a "hero" is someone that a news reporter feels will come over good on a television screen? Bull! The heroes are those guys that were there at Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, Shiloh, France, Italy, the English Channel, the Bulge, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Fijis, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Leyte, Cebu, Samar, Mindanao, Yokomana, Toyko, Sagami, Fuchinobe, Korea, DaNang, Chu Lai, Nha Trang, Long Binh, An Long, the Persian Gulf, and so many more.

A lot of our heroes, too many, are still there, occupying a little section of the earth. But, you know, at the reunion in San Antonio, I spent a couple of days right smack in the middle of a couple hundred heroes. They didn't tell me that they were heroes. I didn't realize they were heroes. In fact, it took me several months to realize that I see a hero or two just about every day. It should not be hard for you to tell who are my heroes. They are my buddies.

It did not take me long to draft a reply. Briefly, it was NO! I really tried to be nice in my reply. I explained how much I have been helped in my understanding of what happened in Vietnam by talking with WWII veterans. As Ernie Carlson points out in his article above, "What's the difference?"

I had three uncles who served in WWII. One was killed on Okinawa while serving with the 6th Marine Division. I wish I would have known my uncle Fred. But, I know many others that I suspect are much like he would be. They are my WWII buddies. They are my heroes. I'll be seeing them at the next reunion, if not before. I can hardly wait.



## 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**

**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

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[Redacted]  
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