



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

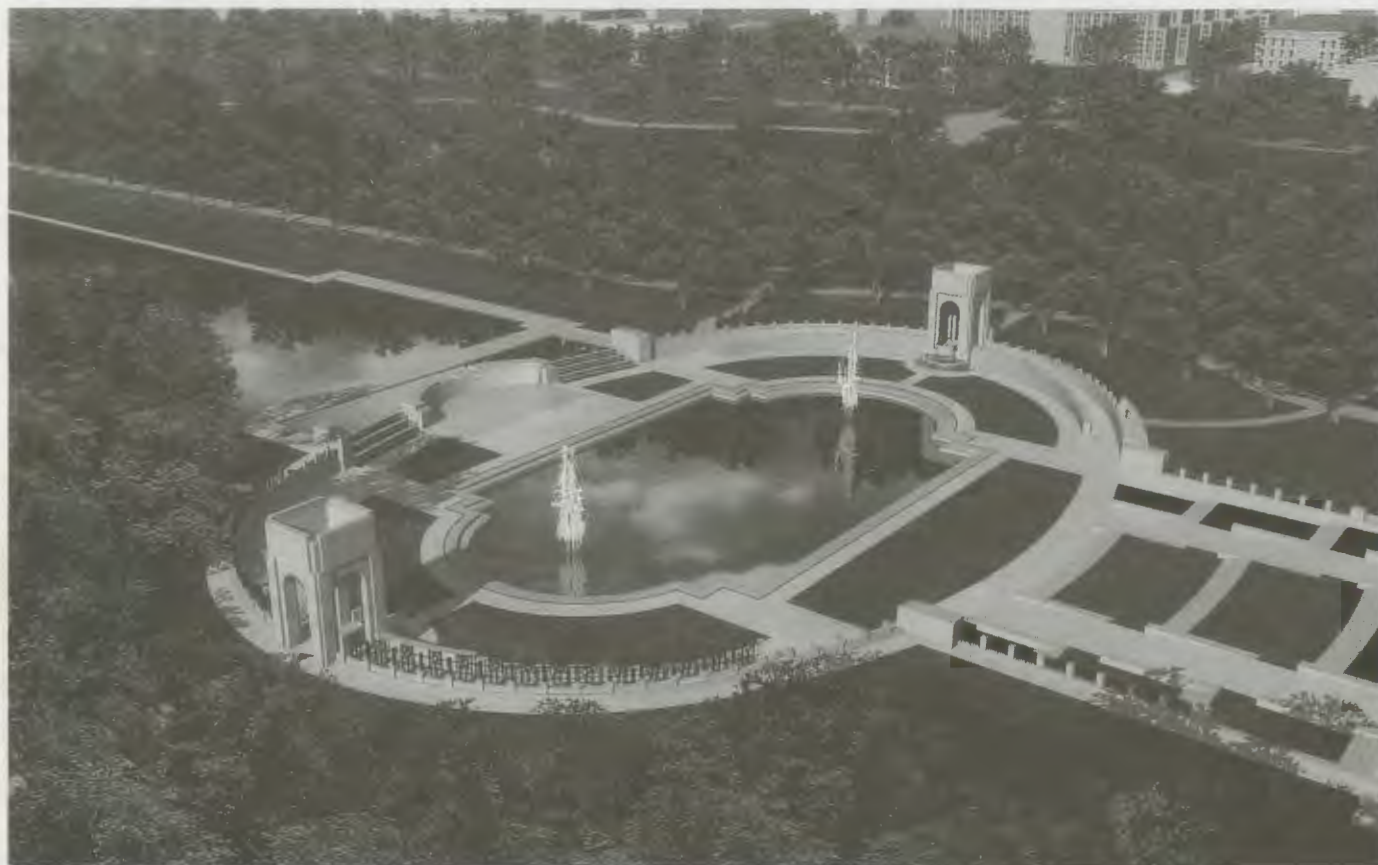
JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1999

Editor-in-Chief: James C. Buckle

Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller

Published Quarterly

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



★ ★ NATIONAL ★ ★
WWII MEMORIAL

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION 1999-2000 DIRECTORY

Commander X Edward W. Marsh Jones, MI 49061 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member Gary L. Noller Kansas City, MO 64114 [REDACTED]	Chaplain Rev. William T. Elliott Hope, MI 48628 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander South Midwest Region Ernest B. Carlson Fredericksburg, TX 78624 [REDACTED]
Sr. Vice-Commander X Ronald R. Ellis Henderson, TX 75652 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Austin J. Roth Westlake Village, CA 91362 [REDACTED]	Chaplain X Rev. Perry Woerner Fredericksburg, TX 78624 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander Great Lakes Region John Mathews Verona, WI 53593 [REDACTED]
Jr. Vice-Commander Malcolm P. East Lumberton, TX 77656 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Lloyd J. Morrell Redmond, OR 97756 [REDACTED]	Chaplain Rev. Richard J. Shannon Lemont, IL 60439 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander Far West Region Don Shebesta Rio Vista, CA 94571 [REDACTED]
Finance Officer X Rick Olson St. Paul, MN 55116 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Jon E. Hansen Orlando, FL 32839 [REDACTED]	Historian X Thomas G. Berrey Cottonwood, CA 96022 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander East Region Robert L. Granoff Collegeville, PA 19426 [REDACTED]
Adjutant X Bernard C. Chase So. Yarmouth, MA 02664 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Stephen N. Dennison Pittsburg, PA 15227 [REDACTED]	Vietnam Historian Les Hines Des Moines, IA 50312 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander Central Midwest Region Ronald L. Ward St. Louis, MO 63123 [REDACTED]
Editor-in-Chief X James C. Buckle Harwich, MA 02645 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Alfred R. Doig Westwood, MA 02090 [REDACTED]	Vietnam Editor X Gary L. Noller Kansas City, MO 64114 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander Northwest Region Dave Hammond Beaverton, OR 97005 [REDACTED]
Exec. Council Chairman James C. Buckle Harwich, MA 02645 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Les Hines Des Moines, IA 50312 [REDACTED]	Museum Curator Kenneth B. Turner Wakefield, MA 01880 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander Southeast Region Bob Kapp Oldsmar, FL 34677 [REDACTED]
Judge Advocate James G. Craig Longmont, CO 80503 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member John A. Bowley Joshua Tree, CA 92252 [REDACTED]	Scholarship Chair X Ron Ward St. Louis, MO 63123 [REDACTED]	Chapter Commander New England Region Roland T. Castronova Peabody, MA 01960 [REDACTED]
Chapter Coordinator John C. (Jay) Flanagan Cranford, NJ 07016 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member James G. Craig Longmont, CO 80503 [REDACTED]	Americal Foundation Treas X Joseph B. Chin Lincoln, MA 01773 [REDACTED]	Web Site (Internet) www.americal.org
Sergeant-at-Arms X Lawrence J. O'Boyle R. S. Margaurita, CA 92688 [REDACTED]	Exec. Council Member X Malcolm Cate, Jr. Waltham, MA 02154 [REDACTED]	Headquarters Americal Division Veterans Association Boston, MA 02104 [REDACTED]	

8/1/99

Spring/Summer Travels

With the start of a very busy summer and the snow now long behind us, I had better get to writing you to tell you what your Commander has been up to these past few months.

March 22: Battle Creek, MI, VA Hospital (1st photo)

My good friend and Americal veteran Michael J. Martin, 4/31st Inf., returned to the VA hospital to entertain those men and women who do not have the opportunity to get out very much. They got to laugh and dance and sing along together. I had a great time.

April 15-19: Melbourne, FL (2nd photo)

The nice warm April weather in Florida provided a break from winter for all who came down for the annual Melbourne veterans reunion. Many thanks to Bob Kapp and Jon Hansen for the tent and the goodies. Terry and Judy Babler and all of the 'gator hunt crew made this a reunion I won't forget.

May 7: Benton Harbor, MI (3rd photo, left)

I attended a town hall meeting with my U.S. congressman Fred Upton. I talked with Mr. Upton many times before regarding matters on behalf of all veterans. He has been a very strong supporter of veterans' bills and the POW/MIAs and against cuts in the VA. I look forward to his continued support. Take time to let your congressperson know how you feel about issues affecting veterans.

May 8-9 and 22-23: Kokomo, IN

A big job was ahead of us all but we had lots of help. The Howard County Vietnam Veterans fenced in their newly acquired 22 acres in Kokomo, IN. The property will be used for their annual reunion which is the oldest and the largest in the nation. Other ADVA members helping out were Dennis Crouse, Gerry "Bo" Borysiak, Terry Ivey and son Matt, and Vance Van Wieren.

May 29-31: Washington, D.C. (3rd right & bottom photos)

It was a busy weekend as I completed my fifth Rolling Thunder ride to Washington DC for Memorial Day activities. We had the booth on the Mall and we greeted ADVA members and prospective members. A lot of membership applications were passed out.

Wreaths were laid at the site of the new WWII memorial as well as the Korean War memorial and the Vietnam Veterans memorial. Helping with the wreaths were Jr. Vice-Commander Malcolm East, Beverly East, Southeast Chapter Commander Bob Kapp, Kevin Brawley, Douglas Uehling, and John Insani.

At 6:00 PM on Monday, May 31st I presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on behalf of ADVA. It was a great honor to say thank you to all our brothers and sisters that did not come home. It is with pride that I laid the wreath to all veterans of all wars. Accompanying me were Sr. Vice-Commander Ron Ellis, Malcolm East, and Bob Kapp. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a very special Memorial Day.

June 5-7: Indianapolis, IN

After a long 1,800 mile round-trip ride via motorcycle from Rolling Thunder in Washington, D.C., we arrived at Indianapolis, IN for Firebase Indy. We renewed old friendships once again, told stories of last year's reunion, and talked about this year's trip to D.C. Terry and Matt Ivey provided the campsite. Hope to see you there in June, 2000.

Upcoming Events

September 16-19, 1999,

Howard County Vietnam Veterans annual reunion at Kokomo, IN.

November 8-13, 1999

Washington, D.C. for Veterans Day activities.

For more information on these events please call Ed Marsh at [REDACTED]. We will need a little help in manning the information tents. We will also present wreaths at the D.C. memorials.



MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

September 11, 1999
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

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

TAPS	TAPS	TAPS
164 INF MED DET	196 LIB	
Howard P. Barton Vacaville, CA Novenber 1995find Ma	John A. Burns Manchester, MI December 31, 1997	
132 INFANTRY K CO.	182 INFANTRY	
Harry G. Byla Elmore, IL March 25, 1988	Charles Cavanna Dorchester, MA March 21, 1992	
97 F.A. BN (PACK)	132 INFANTRY I CO.	
John J. Coflesky Athol, MA October 15, 1998	Frank Sr. Conidi Schaumburg, IL May 29, 1999	
101 MEDICAL REG	UNIT UNKNOWN	
Henry A. Doherty Needham, MA August 1, 1999	Warren T. Forrest New Port Richey, FL Date Unknown	
132 Infantry Co. E	132 INF Co A-164 INF	
Robert A. Grens Chicago, IL Date Unknown	Christopher Italian Gloucester, NJ October 14, 1998	
164 Infantry	496 QUARTMASTER	
Anthony P. Klemko Harrisburg, PA	Raymond C. Kubie Lincoln, NE April 21, 1992	
132 INFANTRY I CO.	182 INFANTRY	
Norman Magar Illinois. March 30, 1999	Peter F. Mainguy Port Huron, MI October 11, 1998	
101 MED & 121 MED 52	132 INFANTRY K CO.	
Joseph G. McClintock Methuen, MA March 11, 1999	Frank Orrico Fountain Hill, AZ July 20, 1999	
182 INFANTRY F CO.	132 INFANTRY I CO.	
Robert Perry Bedford, MA May 11, 1999	Peter Simoniti Western Spring, IL June 21, 1999	

THE LAST ROLL CALL
164 INFANTRY REGIMENT

Andrew Wetermik - Cos Cob, CT - February 20, 1997
John R. Treider - Hawley, MN - September 10, 1997
Leland Swensgard - St. Paul, MN - July 31, 1999
Homer Bjornson - Valey City, ND - August 13 1998
Ralph Schnase - Minot, ND - October 13, 1998
John H. Tuff - Fargo, ND - December 9, 1998
Arthur V. Allen - Eyota, MN - December 15, 1998
Walter T. Johnsen - Fargo, ND - December 18, 1998
Anthony P. Klemko - Harrisburg, PA - Dec 23, 1998
Frank Passa - Red Lake Falls, MN - Feb 12, 1999
Ardell Engebretson - Mill City, OR - Feb 18, 1999
Melvin J. Kjera - Maxbass, ND - March 4, 1999
Donald F. Beaton - West Fargo, ND - March 6, 1999
Eli Dobervich - Devils Lake, ND - March 18, 1999
George E. Duis - M Company - March 20, 1999
Albert Hirsch - Bismarck, ND - March 23, 1999
John Ziegler - Devils Lake, ND - March 31, 1999
Rowland H. Bemis - Fargo, ND - April 2, 1999
Henry S. Anderson - Eagle Lake, MN - Unknown

Ltc. Joseph G. McClintock - March 11, 1999
101 Medical Regiment - 121 Medical Battalion

I am writing to tell you of the passing of Ltc. J. Granville McClintock, "Mac", as he was known to virtually everyone including his wife and my father, Col. John M. Barry who died in 1967. Mac and my father were very close friends and Mac recently described himself as my father's "Adjutant" on Guadalcanal.

I visited Mac on several occasions, as recently as the last six months, and found him to be active, alert, able to drive a car, and a willingness to share with me much of his military experiences.

Mac joined the National Guard in 1927 and served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1960. He served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, Germany, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, Great Lakes Naval Hospital, Fort Meade, Maryland, Taiwan and Korea.

He loved his family, his country, and the military he served so well.

I, and all who have had the pleasure to know him, will miss him.

Mac was 89 years old when he passed away.

Mike Barry

JOHN COFLESKY, PROFESSIONAL BALL PLAYER
LEAGUE FOUNDER
May 17, 1919 - October 15, 1998

John Coflesky died Thursday, October 15, 1998, died at the home of his daughter, Dr. Janice Saal, of Watertown, MA.

He was born in Athol, Massachusetts and was a life long resident of that town. He graduated from Athol High in 1937 where he had been an outstanding baseball player.

John played with an affiliate farm team of the St. Louis Cardinals and later he played for the Lebanon, New Hampshire baseball team and many years for the Vikings Athletic Club of the Athol Industrial League.

He also starred in hockey in high school and later

with the Lakeside A.C. Hockey Team. He was an enthusiastic golfer and member of the Nite Owl League of the Ellingswood Country Club.

Coflesky coached in the Athol Little League and Puppy League, for a number of years.

John entered the Army on February 11, 1941 and served with 97 Field Artillery, (Pack) of the Americal Division on New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji Islands and the Philippines. He was discharged as a Master Sergeant on May 12, 1945.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Adele, his daughter Janice, a son and daughter-in-law, John P. and Mary Coflesky, and two grandsons.

May He Rest In Peace

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Charles T. Bell
164 Infantry Band
Newport Beach, CA
#Memb. Committee

Mr. Raymond J. Dowd
182 Infantry M Co
Largo, FL
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Terry Wyrick
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Cabool, MO
#Don Ballou

Mr. James W. Zawatski
82 Arty C/3/82
Ridgeway, PA
#Craig Singer

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Wilbur Anderson
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Tacoma, WA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Luis A. Arroyo
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Lomas Verdes Bay, PR
#

Mr. Lynn D. Baker
198 LIB D/1/6 Inf
Tucson, AZ
Don Ballou

Mr. Cliff Barger
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
Acworth, GA
Jim Buckle

Ltc Allen Batschelet
82 Arty 3/82
3-82 FA 1CD APOAE
#Gary Noller

Mr. Mario L. Binda
182 Infantry M Co.
Stoneham, MA
#Dominic A. Lucci

Mr. Jerry D. Branch
11 LIB B/ 6 Sup
Houston, TX
#Larry Henry

Mr. Preston E. Bryan Jr.
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Century, FL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Luther Bugbee
754 Tank Bn
New Port Richey, FL
#Alfred Guttag

Mr. Gary T. Campbell
46 Inf A/B/E/1/46
St. Charles, MO
#Ron Ellis

Mr. Joel A. Cantrell
125 Quartermaster
Marlow, OK
#Robert R. Dye

MS. Cheryl 176 Carlson
Associate
Los Angeles, CA
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. James Chappel
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Hoxie, AR
#

Mr. Michael E. Cox
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf
Cornish, ME
#Portland Vet Center

Mr. William E. Dawson
14 Arty HHB/1/14
Highlands Ranch, CO
#Self

Mr. Gary L. Dent
196 LIB Hq/A/D/3
Watertown, WI
#Gary L. Noller

Dr. Peter P. Dettlaff
15 Sup Com HHC Amer
Washburn, ND
#G. Noller-R. Lee

Mr. Mike Donley
11 LIB E/4/3 Inf
St. David, AZ
#Jim Buckle

Mr. John S. Dunn
221 FA Ser Btry
Johnson City, TN
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bill G. Eberlin
82 Arty HHQ Btry
Silver Springs, MD
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Billy J. Eshler
182 Inf Anti-Tank
Valley Center, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Tommie Essex
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Demoplis, AL
#

Mr. Gordon C. Everett
164 Infantry D Co.
Duluth, MN
#VFW

Mr. William H. Fleming
132 Infantry D Co.
Hoopeston, IL
#Samuel Moeker

Mr. Dennis Fullerton
1 Cav H Tr/1/1
Columbus, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John A. Furbush
523 Sig Bn
La Plata, MD
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John Furgess
23 Div Hq Rad Div Su
Nashville, TN
#Not Listed

Mr. Michael C. Ghidoni
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Fairmont City, IL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. John R. Gilmore
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf
Rowlett, TX
#Not Listed

Mr. Ronald E. Griffin
82 Arty Btry A/1/82
Oskosh, WI
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Barry Harper
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Yoahs, GA
#

Mr. Bryant T. Harvey
245 F.A. Btry A
Dodgeville, WI
#William Trapanese

Mr. David C. Hathaway
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Mendota Heights, MN
#

Mr. Jack W. Hayden
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
Turner Station, KY
#Allan D. Conger

Mr. Tom D. Hottle
31 Infantry B/3/21
Fraser, MI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert W. Howard
11 LIB D/1Bn
Mooresville, NC
#Alan Conger

Mr. Joseph C. Howell Jr.
50 LRRP HHC Div
Ardmore OK
#Don Ballou

Mr. Ronald R. Janus
11 LIB D/4/21 Inf
South Plainfield, NJ
#Robert Thorton

Mr. Herbert L. Jensen
23 Div G-2 MI
Hilo, HI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Miller King
196 LIB C/1/46
Brownwood, TX
#Self

Mr. J. Larry Kinyon
23 Admin C Co Div A
Victorville, CA
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. Charles C. Knapp
164 Infnatry L Co.
Poplar Bluff, MO
#Ron Ellis

Mr. Robert Konarske
4 Infantry C/4/4 In
Ypsilanti, MI
#Gary L. Noller

Rev. James E. Madison
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Gunnison, CO
#

M.G. Lawson W. Magruder
11 LIB HHC B/31 In
Atlanta, GA
#Col. John Insani

Mr. Gregg H. Malicki
198 LIB C/1/14 Arty
Moline, IL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Cecil L. Malone
6 Infantry 1/6
St. Cloud, FL
#Jon Hansen

Mr. Thomas P. McAndrews
16 Arty C/3/16
Waltham, MA
#Les Hines

Mr. Michael F. Miller
198 LIB HHC/A/E/6
Mt. Laurel, NJ
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bruce Monaco
46 Infantry A/5/46
West Chester, PA
#Edward Marsh

Mr. Bobby Montgomery
1 Cav E Troop
Iampasas, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Dan R. Neal
198 LIB E/1/52 Inf
Statesboro, CA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Anthony G. Nutongh
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Second Mesa, AZ
#Ronald L. Ellis

Mr. William M. Oberle
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Phoenix, AZ
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Jack Oglesby
196 LIB H/3/21 Inf
Long Beach, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bruce E. Parish
Associate
Greenfield, IN
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Christopher K. Pelke
196 LIB HHB 3/82 FA
Fairfax Station, VA
#John Isani

Mr. Raymond F. Perry
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf
Wakefield, RI
#Ann T. Magee

Mr. L.C. Pressley
11 LIB A/1/3 Inf
Liberty, SC
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Luis Quinones
1 Cav A/1/1 2nd Plt
Chicago, IL
#Terry Babler

Mr. William R. Rawlings
11 LIB D/31 Inf
Eunice, NM
#Don Ballou

Mr. Juan S. Rodriguez
164 Infantry E Co.
San Marcos, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Homer L. Ross Jr.
Associate
Houston, TX
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Thomas P. Russell
198 LIB 17 Arm Cav
St. Paul, MO
#Bernie Chase

Mr. H. Edwin Simmers
23 M.P.
Bellingham, WA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Darryl T. Smith
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf
Gettysburg, PA
#John Anderson

Mr. Robert Snyder
132 Inf K Co. 125
Palm Desert, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Joel A. Surratt
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Lewisville, NC
#Self

Mr. Edward A. Trifeletti
246 F.A. BN
Staten Island, NY
#Jack Masucci

Mr. Henry (Hank) Van Horn
176 Avn Co
South Daytona, FL
#Bob Kapp

Mr. James Vogels
196 LIB
De Pere, WI
#Bill Bacon

Sgt. Owen R. Walker (Ret)
196 LIB C/4/3 Inf
Newark, AR
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. William R. Walker Jr
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Ida, MI
#Richard Toner

Mr. James D. Wentink
26 Engr C/B Co.
Bloomfield, NJ
#Jane Reider Terry

Mr. George W. Williams
82 Arty A Btry
Seaside, CA
#Self

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. Horace F. Nearhood
164 Infantry B Co.
Toledo, OH
R. Castronova

Mr. Roy W. Syring
523 Sig Bn C Co
Mosinee, WI
Bernie Chase

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

CONVALESECING MEMBERS

182 Infantry D Co

221 FA B Btry + Hdq

Ernest B. Carlson

Robert E. Galpin

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Chandler, AZ 85224-2131

182 Infantry D Co

182 Infantry E Co

Alfred H. Mobley

Kenneth R. Turner

San Antonio, TX 78229-29

Wakefield, MA 01880

HEY GUYS! HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD?

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1999 - 2000

COMMANDER

Edward W. Marsh

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Ronald R. Ellis

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Malcolm P. East

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

James C. Buckle - Chairman

Gary L. Noller

Austin J. Roth

Lloyd J. Morrell

Jon E Hansen

Stephan N. Dennison

Albert R. Doig

Les Hines

John Bowley

James G. Craig

Malcolm Cate Jr.

All Chapter Commanders are members
of the Executive Council

It was voted by the membership that beginning with
the fiscal year 2000-2001 elections will be held
every two years.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

In the year 2000 - San Antonio, Texas
In the year 2001 - Cleveland, Ohio
In the year 2002 - Possible - Washington, DC

DURLEY STEPS DOWN FROM HISTORIAN POST

Mr. W. Mark Durley, 164 Infantry Regiment, has
reluctantly stepped down from his post as Histor-
ian of the ADVA. Mark has held this position for
a number of years and has done a superb job. The
ADVA wishes to extend its gratitude to Mark for
his fine efforts and the commitment he has made
to research and preserve the history of the Divis-
ion. He has assisted many people in their quests
for information.

The Durley's have sold their home in Sonoma, CA
and are now living in Fresno. Durley will spend
more time tending to family needs and personal
projects. He has also been active in the Far West
Chapter and has served on the National Executive
Council. His new address is [redacted],
Fresno, CA 93704.

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

COMMANDER

Roland T. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

SEC\TREAS

Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Tel: [redacted]

The New England Christmas Party will be held on
Saturday, December 4, 1999, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
at the Americal Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.
There is no charge and all are invited. Coffee
and doughnuts at 10:00 A.M. - Lunch will be served
around 12:30 P.M.

If you plan to attend please notify:

Al Doig.

Westwood, MA 02090

Tel: [redacted]

This is necessary so that we can order enough
food.

Jim Flynn will provide the musical entertainment.

Last May 15, 1999 we had a similar party at the
Museum and 72 people attended. A good time was had
by all.

A member of our Chapter, PNC Kenneth Turner, is
recovering from recent surgery. Ken is a Past
National Commander of the ADVA and he has put much
time and energy into the Americal Museum. How
about sending a card? His address:

PNC Kenneth Turner

[redacted]

Wakefield, MA 01880

The Chapter Commander, Roly Castronova, has been
off and on the sick list. Roly has been a worker
for the ADVA, especially in the reruiting
department. He is also a Past National Commander
and has served on the Executive Council many
years. Please send a card to him at:

PNC Roland T. Castronova

[redacted]

Peabody, MA 01960

A reminder - Chapter dues of \$5.00 from May 1999
to May 2000 are now past due!

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

COMMANDER

Robert L. Granoff

Collegeville, PA 19426

Tel: [redacted]

SECRETARY

Joe Tunis

[redacted]

Lake Ariel, PA 18436

TREASURER

Al Barbieri - 31 Dubois Ave - Woodbury, NJ 08096

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

Everitt Williams - Chaplain

At the National Reunion held this past June, the
Eastern Regional Chapter requested to hold the
2001 Reunion in Cleveland, Ohio. This request was
accepted by the members present.

David Taylor has been elected Chairman and Larry
Watson will be the Co-Chairman. Further update in
the next Americal Newsletter.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER
AK WA OR ID MT WY

COMMANDER

Dave Hammond

Beaverton, OR 97005

Tel: [redacted]

CHAPTER MEMBERS: Dave Hammond has been selected as
the new Chapter Commander for the Northwest
Chapter.

A little over twenty five (25) years ago National
HQ contacted me and asked if I would start an ADVA
Chapter in the Western states. At that time it
covered all most all the States west of the
Mississippi River and as a result the Far West
Chapter was born. When I moved to Oregon nine (9)
years ago the Far West Chapter was split up and
the Northwest Chapter was born.

During those years we had some good times with
meetings on the Queen Mary and the SS Crescent
City which had transported many of us to some of
the Pacific islands during World War II. The
Crescent City is now the Golden Bear, training
ship of the California Maritime Academy. We had a
few good time at the Officer's Club at the Presido
of San Francisco and at Las Vega and Reno. Plus
two good National Conventions at Reno. So, all
told I think I have paid my dues to the
organization. I have made many friends in the
Association over these years, both from my era
vets of WWII and vets of the Vietnam era. It is
now time for me to pass the baton to a younger
Vietnam vet to carry on.

I tendered my resignation to the National
Commander at the National Convention, in June, and
it has been accepted. I recommended that National
HQ consider appointing my Vice Commander, Dave
Hammond as the Commander of the Northwest Chapter
and my recommendation was accepted. Dave was a
member of C/5/46 Infantry of the 198 LIB during
his stay in Vietnam. I am sure he will provide a
good agenda for the Chapter in the years to come.
I urge the members of the Chapter to get behind
Dave and support his activities.

Yours in comradeship,
Lloyd J. Morrell

On behalf of the ADVA Northwest Chapter I want to
thank Mr. Lloyd Morrell for his more tha twenty-
five years of outstanding service as Chapter
Commander. Lloyd tendered his resignation at the
National Reunion in St. Louis, but promised to
remain active in the ADVA and lend a hand with his
years of experience and knowledge. I first met
Lloys at the 1996 National Reunion the NW Chapter
hosted in Reno. What a special event it was. Who
can ever forget the emotion we all felt marching
through downtown streets to the applause of the
crowd. Thank you Lloyd.

I have set three goals for myself and the Chapter
to work on over the next year. Recruitment of
additional officers, new membership, and a series
of "whisltestop" meetings in some of the larger
cities in our Chapter area. If anyone can spare
some time to fill a position it would be greatly
appreciated. Even if only a few of us at a time
can get together over a pizza it will get the
ball rolling. I'll put more details to this in an
upcoming newsletter. Any help or comments are
more than welcome.

Dave Hammond

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

COMMANDER SEC/TREAS
Ernest B. Carlson Malcolm East

Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel: Tel:

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

July 4, 1999 in Texas was HOT! Since the 4th was on a Sunday, the Veterans Annual Parade was held at 1:00 P.M.. This, among other reasons, resulted in a smaller turnout. However, it was still a fine get-together.

At 8:00 A.M. we started on the float and as the morning progressed the troops began arriving at L.Z. FAY. Doyle and Brenda Mason, Malcolm and Beverly East, Debbie Bacon, Bruce Mobley Cameron and Lisa Baird and their two daughters and Cameron's mother-in-law, Pay, (my first Sergeant), myself and several of our kids and their kids returned after the parade.

Once again the float was driven by our daughter Kathy.

On the menu-Brisket, various sodas, tea, and etc, compliments of Cameron Baird. Deviled eggs, macaroni, salad, green pea salad, chips, chicken wraps, cheese bombers, and Pay's 'Armadillo Eggs'. Several of our kids furnished help with the food and we thank them all.

Pat Fulton, 1/82 Arty HHB (Vietnam), and Juan Rodriguez, B+E, 164 Infantry (WW II), joined us. Even though the turnout was smaller than usual, having these new Brothers with us made the day better.

Plans for the CLASS IN 2000, are going forward and our very capable general chairman will no doubt present more on this. Bill Bacon, A/2/1 Infantry, 196 LIB is doing a very commendable job for us. More Reunion news later this year.

Bruce Mobley is recovering from heart surgery.

Commander Ernie Carlson is recovering from bladder cancer surgery and is now undergoing a series of bladder injections. Prognosis is good. However, I have acquired a broken rib that makes me as gentle and as lovable as a bear with a toothache. I am due to have a nuclear bone scan on July 19th.

God Bless you all - Hug Somebody

Ernie Carlson

NORTHWEST CHAPTER
AK WA OR ID MT WY

COMMANDER
Dave Hammond

Beaverton, OR 97005
Tel: Tel:

CHAPTER MEMBERS: Dave Hammond has been selected as the new Chapter Commander for the Northwest Chapter.

A little over twenty five (25) years ago National HQ contacted me and asked if I would start an ADVA

Chapter in the Western states. At that time it covered all most all the States west of the Mississippi River and as a result the Far West Chapter was born. When I moved to Oregon nine (9) years ago the Far West Chapter was split up and the Northwest Chapter was born.

During those yeas we had some good times with meetings on the Queen Mary and the SS Crescent City which had transported many of us to some of the Pacific islands during World War II. The Crescent City is now the Golden Bear, training ship of the California Maritime Academy. We had a few good time at the Officer's Club at the Presido of San Francisco and at Las Vega and Reno. Plus to good National Conventions at Reno. So, all told I think I have paid my dues to the organization. I have made many friends in the Association over these years, both from my era vets of WWII and vets of the Vietnam era. It is now time for me to pass the baton to a younger Vietnam vet to carry on.

I tendered my resignation to the National Commander at the National Convention, in June, and it has been accepted. I recommended that National HQ consider appointing my Vice Commander, Dave Hammond as the Commander of the Northwest Chapter and my recommendation was accepted. Dave was a member of C/5/46 Infantry of the 198 LIB during his stay in Vietnam. I am sure he will provide a good agenda for the Chapter in the years to come. I urge the members of the Chapter to get behind Dave and support his activities.

I intend to remain active in the ADVA and don't be surprised to see me run for the Executive Council one of these days. If my name should appear on the ballot I would appreciate your consideration. I do not intend to just fade away and plan to see many of you in the future. So thanks for the memories and support so many of you have given me this past quarter of a century.

Yours in comradeship,
Lloyd J. Morrell

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

CHAPTER - Ronald L. Ward - COMMANDER
St. Louis, MO 63123

The Central Mid-West Chapter was the sponsor of the National Convention held this past June in St. Louis, MO.

The Convention was a huge success with largest attendance ever! My thanks to all the members that assisted me and a special thanks to the committee from the 196 LIB.

The Central Mid-West Chapter is always looking for new members. If you are interested please contact me at the above address.

PNC Ronald L. Ward

NOW HEAR THIS!

The Chapters are financially independent from National Headquarters. Any dues that are requested by a Chapter are up and above your National dues. It is necessary for Chapters to raise funds through dues in order to pay for postage and other office expense.

FINANCIAL REPORT - ADVA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On June 19, 1999, the Trustees of the ADVA Scholarship Fund held their annual meeting and announced the following awards:

Courtney Stankey of Belleville, Illinois placed first. She will receive \$3000 to be placed in her account at Loyola University in Chicago. She was sponsored by her father, Arthur Stankey, who served with the combat engineers of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam.

Jacquelyn Farley of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania placed second. She will receive \$2000 to be placed in her account at Penn State University. She was sponsored by her father, John Farley, who served with the 17th Cavalry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam.

Jonathan Larson of Fairfax Station, Virginia placed third. He will receive \$1000 to be placed in his account at the University of Iowa. He was sponsored by his father, Lars Larson, who served with the 1/6th Infantry of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam.

There were 16 applicants for the ADVA Scholarship Fund this year. That number is just about the average we have received since the program's beginning. We will be preparing a revised application for future entries. Should you be interested in competing, request an application early in the coming year. Your request should be made out to the Fund Chairman, Ronald L. Ward, 9619 Dana Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63123.

The current worth of the ADVA Fund is approximately \$58,000. Our assets are kept in certificates of deposit and the Vanguard Balanced Index Fund. This is our first year that we were permitted by the by-laws to invest in a mutual fund. We started our account with Vanguard by investing \$17,500.00 and have done quite well in that area. Vanguard has been paying an annual interest rate of approximately 13%. It took seven months to turn that \$17,500.00 into \$18,677.00 giving us a dividend of \$1,177.00. Your Fund Trustees will be considering an expansion of our Vanguard investment in the near future. Had we placed those funds in a 5% CD we would have received \$750.00 less than the Vanguard Fund paid. ADVA Fund by-laws mandate that the total amount awarded annually for scholarships shall be limited to no more than one half of the yearly income until we reach a balance of \$100,000.00. Thereafter, the total yearly income may be awarded.

Our main source of funds continues to be the annual raffle. Our 1999 effort gained us \$13,307.00, not counting the related expenses of the mailing. At the June reunion we held the drawing and the winning ticket was purchased by William Suvak of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Suvak received a check from us for \$250.00. Members may contribute to the ADVA Fund at any time of the year. Your contribution is of course tax deductible. Make the check payable to the ADVA Fund and send it to the Fund Chairman, Ron Ward.

Thank you,
Ronald L. Ward
Fund Chairman

DON'T FORGET TO REQUEST THE NEW APPLICATION FORMS
THEY WILL BE READY AFTER JANUARY 1, 2000

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The following list is of those making exceptional contributions to the Scholarship Fund. Most sent extra donations with the raffle tickets.

- Dantzler Smith
in memory of
Cpl. Dan smith
- L. G. Wichman
Joann Muehrcke
- Siegel Varner Jr.
in memory of
Gordon Silveth - F Co. 132nd Infantry
- Gerald O'Connor
Ray Dowd
Vern Pike
Thomas Dawson
- Allen Hoe
in memory of
Lt. Fred Ransbottom
& Recon Team Snoopy - 2/1st Infantry
- Ed 'Doc' Den Braven
in memory of
J. O'Brien
- Earl Cook
in memory of
Douglas L. Leaman - 26th Signal Co.
- Mark Durley
Edward Manson
Larry Watson
Grant Finkbeiner
Gabriel and Ruth Mongeau
Gordon Copeland
Bill Montgomery
Andrew Ash
Scott Birdsall
Rich Drapzuk
Evans Neumann
Dan Straight
Virginia Stoeckel
Dave Eichorn
Gerald Borysiak
Ernie Carlson
MSG Howard Walker
Leonard Graham
Gen. Arthur Brown (USA Ret)
Gerard F. McDonald
Scott G. Bernie

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Ronald L. Ward - Chairman
Joseph Chin - Treasurer
- TRUSTEES
John DeGroot - 1999
Edward W. Marsh - 2000
Austin J. Roth - 2001
Ronald R. Ellis - 2002
- Ex-Officio
Gary L. Noller
Rick Olson

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.

The term of John DeGroot expires in 1999 and he will be replaced by Richard Scales, 2003.

The 1999 St. Louis reunion lasted four days. But, to many of those in attendance, it seemed more like four hours. Such things happen when you are having a good time and as many will report, this year's reunion provided a great atmosphere for having fun.

Over 800 people registered for the event co-sponsored by the Americal Division Veterans Association and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association. The 196th LIB was one of the three infantry brigades that composed the Americal in Vietnam.

The attendance was beyond that which organizers had expected. No single cause was determined for the larger than normal turnout. However, the combined unit reunions, the central location, and the varied program all contributed to member interest.

Several company size groups promoted reunion attendance to their members and helped push attendance up. Top among these groups was Co. A, 1/20th Inf. with over 30 registered. The Ranger/LRRP units were well represented at this year's reunion.

A special thanks goes out to those who helped staff the registration table. They include Linda Ward, Robin Smith, Beverly East, Gina Watson, Larry Watson, Jason Smith, Lloyd Morrell, Tommy Poppell, Jan DeGroot, James Murphy, Alice Murphy, Ann Schneider, Larry Noller, Greg Noller, and Kevin Sartorius.

COL Thomas Bedient, 4/3rd Inf., spoke at the Friday night banquet. He gave an eloquent salute to our WWII veterans and also paid a special tribute to the men that served under him when he was a Platoon Leader in Vietnam. Bedient is now at his new post with the Southern Command at Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

At the Saturday night banquet COL Richard Carvell (Ret), former Commanding Officer of the 1/46th Inf., recognized the members of his Vietnam battalion to include his long-time LOH pilot. He also commented on the current state of military readiness and encouraged all to promote a strong armed force with capable leadership.

Chuck Carlock and Ron Seabolt of the 71st Assault Helicopter Company Association provided a static display of a UH-1H Rattler "slick" and a UH-1C Firebird gunship. The 71st AHC was closely associated with the Americal Division and the 196th LIB in Vietnam. The helicopters were accompanied by a portable Vietnam War museum which attracted much attention.

Michael J. Martin, veteran of 4/3rd Inf., was the special entertainment for Friday night. He sang many of his original works as well as well known songs from all eras. Martin was Bedient's pointman in Vietnam and theirs was just one of the very personal reunions within the reunion and the reason why these events are held.

Saturday afternoon entertainment was provided by the Eagles Elite Drill Team of Granite City, IL. This all-girls team won the 1998 Illinois State Junior Color Guard Championship. They performed precision drill routines and paid tribute to America's veterans. They hope to go to Washington, DC for the groundbreaking for the WWII memorial in 2000 and are raising money for its construction.

Vietnam War authors Frank Anton, Chuck Carlock, and Keith Nolan signed copies of their books and chatted with reunion guests. Anton and Carlock were with the 71st AHC in Vietnam. Nolan is not a veteran but has authored ten books about the Vietnam war.

Vic Bandini provided a slide and video program about his experiences as a helicopter pilot with the 71st AHC in Vietnam. Rich "Doc" Mosher, a Vietnam medic with the 196th LIB, provided popular recorded music and songs at the Saturday night dance.

Add to this the great hospitality rooms, a comfortable hotel, two special tours, plenty of time to sit and talk, and a group eager to see old friends and make new ones, and you have one great reunion.

Special note: A reunion guest was stricken with a severe heart attack on the first night of the reunion. James Robertson of Springfield, MO underwent several hours of surgery the next morning. He is now recovering at home. About \$1,200 was contributed to Robertson's get-well account by those at the reunion. He hopes to see everyone next year in San Antonio.



(Top to Bottom) Lloyd Morrell, Beverly East, and Jason Smith open registration table. David Taylor at St. Louis Soldier's Memorial. Doc Mosher's militaria table. Registration activity.



Authors Frank Anton and Keith Nolan the banquet. UH-1H Firebird on lawn in front of reunion hotel. Americal veterans of the war in the Pacific. 2000 Reunion Chairman Bill Bacon, San Antonio, TX. CSM James Meade (Ret), Rev. Perry Woerner, Rob Cook, Don Ballou, Jay Roth, and Bill Bruinsma gather for business meeting. National Commander Ed Marsh and good friend Michael J. Martin. Sr. Vice Commander Ronald Ellis.



Spencer Baba and 71st AHC Association Firebird. PNC Gary Noller and COL Thomas Bedient, Friday speaker. Special guest Nick Bacon, MOH recipient. PNC Gary Noller and COL Richard Carvell (Ret), Saturday speaker. PNC Bill Maddox and PNC Ron Ward, reunion host. Prof. Tommy Poppell. Veterans of Co. C, 5/46th Inf. Linda Ward and Robin Smith at registration table.

I just wanted to tell everyone that my wife Judy and I had a great time at the reunion in St. Louis. Ron Ward and Gary Noller and the rest of the staff did a great job. I have chaired many reunions in the past, but mine were never as well organized as this one. They should be commended for taking care of the 800 people who showed up when only 300-400 were planned for. This will be a hard act to follow. Everyone planning a future reunion should follow this reunion to a tee. Again, a job well done and appreciated by all.

**Terry Babler, Trp. A, 1/1st Cav
New Glaus, WI**

Great reunion! Ron and Gary did a tremendous job! I believe everyone had a great time. Many of my friends from past reunions were not present due to the passing of the years. This was a sad note for me. However, the happy side was to see so any of the young members in attendance. The work that some of us "old-timers" put into the organization and the efforts that were made to interest the Vietnam era veteran in the ADVA is now paying off. Our reward for our efforts is in knowing that the Americal will live on for many years after we are gone.

**Jim Buckle, Co. E, 182nd Inf.
Harwich, MA**

I have been a life member of the ADVA for nearly twenty years, but I never was able to attend an annual reunion until this year. I made to St. Louis. Over the years, I had only located three men I had served with in Vietnam. As a direct result of the ADVA Home Page, I was able to find two more in the months just prior to the reunion. Four of us, from the same company, met in St. Louis. It was the first time we had seen each other in 31 years. I find it very difficult to describe how I felt but it was very rewarding experience to see them again and to review our service together in Hawaii and Vietnam. We are proud of what we did and we know we accomplished our portion of the mission. Thanks for setting up such a great reunion.

**Larry Henry, 6th Spt Bn, 11th LIB,
Forseyth, MO**

I Just wanted to drop you a note of thanks for all the work you did to make St. Louis such a wonderful experience for everyone who came. I know everyone from Alpha 1/20 thought it was a super place and a super time for them and their wives. A lot of the fellows weren't sure about coming, now they can't wait for San Antonio. Thanks again.

**John McNown, Co. A, 1/20th Inf,
Overland Park, KS**

I want to thank everyone at Americal for helping me after my heart attack. I am alive today because of their quick action. I am at home on R & R for a few months and hope to see all of you next year. Thank you for the cards, the visits in the hospital and the contribution all of you made to help my family since I will be unable to work for a while. I am proud to be associated with such a great group of people. My thoughts are with all of you. Thanks again.

**James Robertson, 2/1st Inf.
Springfield, MO**

I just want to personally thank you guys for a great reunion. I know you really put your heart in it. I can't tell you what a great time we had, 19 guys showed up from our company. What a reunion, thanks so much!!!

**Mike Colligan, C, 5/46th Inf.
Wild Rose, WI**

I just wanted to say thanks to Ron and Gary. They really know how to throw a great party.

I also want to tell you about four guys from the same hometown who went to the reunion and ended up sitting at the same table at the Saturday night banquet. Only two of us were in contact before that night. Jim Craig, Tom Wayne, Terry Dickson and I are all from the Decatur, IL area and knew a lot of the same people. We played baseball and shot pool with one another before going into the army.

All four of us were in Vietnam with the Americal Division. Jim and I were together in 3/21st Infantry and have been in contact for several years. We did not know that the others had also been in Vietnam with the Americal until meeting them at St. Louis.

It couldn't have turned out any better if we had planned it. So don't let people say that they will never meet any one that they know at a reunion. Here is living proof.

It was nice seeing you and the rest of the guys and gals and I hope to be able to do it again next year. Keep On Hump'n.

**Rich Scales, B, 3/21st Inf.
Oakley, IL**

Thanks for the wonderful job you did at St. Louis. I have to tell you how especially gratifying it was to again see Bob Tullos, an Echo recon, 1/46th vet, who I helped treat in Vietnam.

He was hit by a smoke round called on his position by a ground commander. The smoke was to aid in a breakout from a spot where he had been pinned down.

Bob lost his foot and was literally smoking from the round. I first thought the other guys had set him down on a

burning cigarette. He was so matter-of-fact and calm about it at the time.

He had tied on his own tourniquet from his boot laces. Dave Williams, another medic that also treated him, remembered Bob saying (in a play on a Winston TV commercial of the day) "I'm smoking more now, but enjoying it less."

On Saturday night, Bob, Dave, and I posed for a picture with our arms around each other. If I could have only that one moment to remember from the reunion, the reunion would have been a tremendous success for me. As it was, I have many other happy times to remember.

We especially liked having Colonel Carvell there. Though none of us FSB Professional era 1/46th vets served under him, we found ourselves taking an instant liking to him. He's a remarkable man. I had the pleasure of an hour-long conversation with him on the first day of the reunion.

Again, I wish you well. I congratulate you on the reunion. If you ever need some help or information, give me a call.

**Alan Johnson, HHC Medic, 1/46th Inf.
Malta, MT**

I want to thank you personally for all the work you put into the reunion. It was the best so far. I only hope they get bigger and bigger.

I lost a large white envelope with the name Miers Photos on it. Inside were a few photos from Vietnam and also a bunch of me driving a race car in Las Vegas. If anyone found them PLEASE let me know. I will pay for any postage, etc. They mean a lot to me. Contact me at Thanks again,

**Bill Allen, Co. C, 1/20th Inf.
Taylor, MI**

I was stunned that I was the only member of a whole battalion attending the reunion. My unit was Co. B, 23rd Med. Bn. We were a MASH unit attached to the 11th LIB at LZ Bronco.

I've always wondered what happened to the men I served and worked with side by side. While we were not a field unit, we saw Americal Division veterans at a time when names and developing relationships were secondary to saving lives.

If you have a roster of members from the 23rd Medical Battalion would you please forward it to me. Maybe I can find some members of my unit so a reunion can be held.

**David Banister, Co. B, 23rd Med. Bn.
Farmington, IL**

REUNIONS - REUNIONS - REUNIONS - REUNIONS

164TH INFANTRY - 54th ANNUAL REUNION

September 24 - 25 - 26, 1999

Radisson Inn
Bismarck, North Dakota

For Information
Ben Kemp
Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

September 18, 1999

For information:
Robert Doucette
Lynn, MA 01904
Tel: [redacted]

All members of the 182d Infantry Regiment invited.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

September 3 - 4 - 5, 1999

Marriott Airport Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee

For Info:
Raymond V. Lyons
Phoenix, AZ 85028

FAR WEST CHAPTER - AMERICAL

October 17, 18, 18, 20, 1999

Gold Coast Casino/Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact:
Paris Tognoli
Isleton, CA 95641

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The ADVA is starting a drive to raise funds for the World War II Memorial that is to be built in Washington, DC. The Executive Council has voted to contribute \$2500.00 to start the drive off. This fund will be donated in memory of the Americal Division. Please send your contributions to:

Adj. Bernard Chase
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

LIVING WITH SPAM

Many of our veterans, from various wars, have been honored for their devotion to duty, bravery under fire and their love of country.

Some of these former G.I.'s went above and beyond

their call of duty, by accepting and actually enjoying, that "Infamous Delicacy" that the people were sometimes served, known as "Spam".

Now Spam should never be construed as a junk product, manufactured from what many were led to believe were left over slaughterhouse or meat packing house by products or left-overs. By carefully reading the content label, you will find that pork shoulder, ham, and various spices, are combined to make a very nutritional and fairly tasty canned meat product. It rates several points above that other 'Notorious' canned meat known as 'Corned Beef or Bully Beef.'

We should commend the talented mess cooks who had to come up with various menus to serve those ravenous servicemen, without any amenities necessary to produce an acceptable meal. I specifically remember the day I was assisting our mess cook Jones'y, and he was practically in a state of shock when he found that all he had left in the ration supply tent were several 5 lb tins of canned spam.

I told him about how my mother would prepare Spam, shortly after the depression years, when everyone had to conserve on their food budget. A 12 oz. tin of Spam, with a few additions could make a decent meal for a five member family. She would slice the Spam in thin slices, dip them in egg batter and bread crumbs and bake. We enjoyed them!

Jones'y immediately went to work slicing the Spam, avoiding tendons that most SPAM sent overseas contained, and dipping the slices in dehydrated egg liquid and bread crumbs, he made from some left over stale bread. He popped them into his portable gasoline stove and shortly afterwards their tempting aroma was wafting through the jungle clearing.

Jones'y was a little apprehensive when the guys lined up to be served. He has posted the menu at the mess hall entrance as breaded pork fillets, with mashed (dehydrated) potatoes and canned peas. When I inquired later, as to how the "disguised" Spam had gone over with the gun crews, he was ecstatic with joy, and answered :My God Sack", some of the guys even came back for seconds"!!!

Needless to say I received special treatment when I appeared in Jones'y chow line.

Leonard Owezarsak
746 AAA Gun BN -Btry D

THAT OLE DEMON RUM

I would agree that the American soldier in World War II was probably the best equipped, best dressed, best armed, in the conflict, but in certain respects I take issue. Food of course, was the most obvious; spam, corn willy, instant eggs, along with C rations, most men struggled along with, but when it came to libation, we were sorely lacking. The English had their rum, and of course, their tea. Australians had their warm beer, Europeans had various vintage wines, we had whatever the ingenious mind concocted.

I'm not talking about rear echelon or officers or pilots who had booze to their hearts content, I mean the dog face who stumbled along day after day, reaching for the mirage of ice cold beer or a frosty highball.

Non-existent. So of course, as usual, you fall

back on the resources at hand. On islands like New Caledonia, you had your choices of several rot guts, Butterfly Brandy, Fantasia Rum, Vin rouge.

The vin rouge was a dark red, sour tasting concoction that had to be the dregs of the grapes they fed the pigs before the Americans landed. That it graced the dinner table of the French was as far fetched as running across a Dottie Lamour in a native village.

The rum and brandy was something else. It was probably called Butterfly because after a few drinks you suddenly found yourself flitting around like a butterfly or a drunken fairy, not caring where you went, who you bumped into, or which gutter you decorated. What a sight it was to see a big, tough sergeant doing a ballet and flitting toward the mess hall. All this, of course, in addition to that cheap imitation of having taking four or five cascara pills.

It was not unusual to have a man go berserk and, drooling saliva like a mad dog, go after the enemy with a bayonet, and the only way to calm him was to pin him gently against a wall with the battering ram of a half track.

The change these fiery fumes wrought on men was fantastic. A veritable milquetoast would imbibe, then stalk into the mess hall, pound his fist on the table and issue a challenge: "Me name is John L. Sullivan, and I can lick any man in the house!" And he'd stick his tongue out to prove it! In other men, accustomed to demon rum, the change was slight.

I have in mind an old yard bird named Pop, (he was at least 30), who was known to be quite an imbibor in civilian life, spending almost every Saturday night in the local hoosegow being hosed down. Pop disappeared into the brush one afternoon with a quart of precious rum. As most good soldiers did, we held retreat every night, rain or shine, and the flag was dutifully lowered and folded. As we stood there at attention and saluting the colors, who should stagger out of the brush, stark naked, spattered with mud and giggling like a school girl, but ole Pop. He took a fit of laughing, grabbed his privates and yelled, "Here! Salute this you ---".

I think Pop got a section eight after that.

Of course, if these concoctions didn't appeal to you, or you were on an island devoid of civvies, you could always fall back on Aqua Velva, GI alky, (until they dyed it purple), or the old standby, fruit juice fermenting in the hot sun. In situations like this it was definitely a plus to have a rebel in your outfit, because it was well known that all rebels had a still back in the hills at home and could rig up a contraption that would keep a full company drunk when necessary.

Now and then you could relish some native brew, notably Kava, on the Fiji Islands. They said Kava was made from the roots of a plant, squashed to a pulp by those tough feet, which left a distinct aroma on the liquid. Maybe yes, maybe no, but you could get quite a jag on, especially when a native took a liking to you and wanted to be your blood brother by cutting his and your thumb, squirting blood into the bowl, and you both drank, until the huge bowl was empty. It was a custom.

The most civilized drink on Fiji was gin, but it was rigged against the dog face, as usual. You could only buy it by the shot at the bar. Of course, we got around that by tucking a bottle

under the fatigue jacket, ordering doubles one after the other, and dumping the stuff into the bottle until it was full, then take it back to camp and have a ball. All this, of course, had to be done without getting caught by MPs, the nemesis of the enlisted man. The best part of this maneuver was the look of sheer amazement on the Indian bartender's face as he scurried back and forth filling glasses and watching you lick your chops as if you just drank it.

It was really discouraging to see thousands of cases of beer and coke and hard stuff being unloaded from ships, and all you could do was stand there helplessly and ask, "Where's mine?"

Follow that heavily guarded truck to the Officers Club.

Now and then, as salt in the wounds, you were ordered to help unload the stuff, and the ole brain would start working and between the twelve of you, by hook or by crook, you would find a way to requisition a couple of cases. I wonder how many cases are still lying on the ocean floor because guys didn't get a chance to dive in and recover them.

On Bougainville, there was another way of acquiring beer or whiskey, but I have to save that for another story, on that only those with the sharpest memory will recall the important faucet of this tale. And since I also know there are several thousand memorabilia fans out there, I'll wager one of them will come up with a piece of paper verifying one part of that story. I should tell it someday.

E.V. Correale
Combat Recon

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

I have been a member since the ADVA first came into existence but this my first letter to the Newsletter. This is IN reference to an article submitted by SFC Harold Kadonick claiming he has 30 years of Regular Army and Reserve time and known by his friends as "OLD MAN". I believe I can beat that record. Here is my resume: 31 years of Active Duty, 2 years of National Guard, plus 15 years with the MD State Guard for a total of 48 years. I am still active in the MD State Guard and hold the rank of Major. Here is my record:

1. Joined NY ANG 17 Oct 39 - 156 FA
2. Guard Federalized 16 Dept 1940
3. Joined Americal ID Jan 1944
4. Discharged 21 Nov 1945
5. Joined L Co. 71st Inf 42nd ID NYANG 12 Jan 1946 to Nov 1947
6. Went active duty Nov 1947 up to Oct 1972
7. Saw action on Bougainville with B/247 FA
8. Korea with a MASH unit.
9. Vietnam was acting 1/Sgt with Drug Testing Lab at Cam Bay. Was known as PAPA SUN. At that time I was 51 years old.

In closing I will say that all the people who put so much time and labor keeping the ADVA running should be highly praised.

Yours in comradeship,
Carlo De Porto

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

39th MILITARY POLICE

In the April-May-June 1999 issue of the Americal Newsletter, the Taps section, I was saddened to read about the demise of Sidney Borgia, of the 39th M.P. platoon and the article by his buddy Ralph Antonelli. I was also in the 39th M.P. platoon and would like to hear from some of the guys, if they are still around. I realize that we are not 'Spring Chickens' anymore, as I will be hitting the BIG 80 on my next birthday.

I can remember Sid and Bernstein running the crap game after payday, and naturally I would lose everything I had. I hung around with Tom Day and Ronald Henry. The three of us were ex-artillery men who were transferred to the MP's when the Americal was formed in New Caledonia. Tom passed away in the 50's from a massive heart attack. We had kept in touch after the war and I went to his funeral. I was also in touch with George Medieros in St. Pete, who also passed away.

We shipped out of New York as Task force 6814 and our artillery outfit was on the J. Ericsson, nee the Kungsholm, a former cruise liner made into a troopship. After an eternity we arrived in Melbourne, Australia. I believe we were just there for one or two weeks, and we were billeted in the town of Bendigo.

I remember being on a date with a nice girl, in a Pub of course, when she remarked that she was a "bit knocked up". I hurriedly replied, "I barely know you honey". I later learned that she meant she was a "little tired".

From Melbourne we sailed to New Caledonia where the troops were trained in jungle warfare. We shipped out from New Caledonia and reached Guadalcanal in December of 1942. We were not involved in any of the heavy fighting as our duties consisted of directing supply trucks, guarding the Brass, airport, supplies on the beach and guarding Jap prisoners. In between this we had our share of shelling, bombing and strafing. Also good ole "Washing Machine Charlie" at night.

One of our enjoyments was listening to 'Tokyo Rose' on the radio. She played the best music. Two songs come to mind, that we had our own words for. The first one was 'Tangerine' which for us was 'Atabrine' and the second was Bing Crosby singing 'White Christmas' -- to us this was 'I'm Dreaming of a White Mistress'.

The bad part was having a few bouts of malaria. One bout in Fiji almost did me in. After Fiji came Bougainville. Just a few months there and with fungus infection in both ears, I was picked to go stateside on rotation.

These are a few of my recollections of my stay in the lush and beautiful Solomon Islands. HA!

I would sure like to hear from some of the guys from the 39th MP platoon. I can be reached at:

Walter Kopernik
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
Tel: [REDACTED]

Yours in comradeship and God Bless you all.

Walt Kopernik

THE AMERICAL

Final Edition
Published by Americal I&E Section
Sunday, November 4, 1945

Mr. Homer L. Ross Jr. has sent in a copy of this final Newsletter put out by the Americal as they closed up shop in Japan at the end of the war.

Mr. Ross's father, Homer L. Ross served with I Company of the 132nd Infantry and this copy of The Americal was found in his belongings after he passed away.

If any member is interested Mr. Ross will supply them with a copy for \$6.00. This is just to cover the cost of a reproduction and the mailing.

You may contact him at:
Homer L. Ross Jr.
[REDACTED]
Houston, TX 77049

Ed Note: I will place articles from this Newsletter in the Americal Newsletter from time to time and then it will be placed in the Museum in Worcester, MA.

Below is a copy of a Citation sent to T/Sgt. Ross and signed by President Harry Truman.



T/SGT L. A. HOMER ROSS 38477242

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Harry Truman

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY MARTEL

When I saw Jerry Martel's parody of the song 'Tangerine' in the last Americal Newsletter it reminded me of a couple of other parodies Jerry wrote. Such as:

My Dear Mr. Shane
(to the tune of Bei Mir Bist du Schon)

'Twas in a hospital where a father,
Gave the nurses a whole lot of bother.
And when they told him that he,
Was a father of three,
He almost went out of his head.

Then came one more and then came another,
That made five and to such a young mother
The man's chest filled with pride.
And when he went inside
The young mother looked up and she said:

"My dear Mr. Shane, I'd like to proclaim,
That you are the greatest man alive.
I know one and one make two,
Two and two make four,
But I never knew that one and one make five.

One at a time I don't mind,
Having kids of my own.
You say your name is Shane,
I'm convinced it's Papa Dionne.
Now, if married life, is this hard on a wife,
Our engagement is OFF, Mr. Shane.

SPAM, THE ILLEGITIMATE HAM

All day long we work and sweat,
Building roads, unloading cargo nets.
Digging fox-holes, toting rations,
Strictly in the "GI" fashion
Set up the camp, break it down,
KP today, CQ tomorrow.
Tote that barge, lift that bale,
Get a little drunk and you'll land in jail.
What am I saying?

Ah, but when our daily work is done,
We sit back and relax,
And think of good things to eat.
T-bone steaks with onions galore,
Ice cream, lobster thermidor,
Corn beef and cabbage, corn on the cob,
Oysters on the half-shell,
Clams from Cape Cod
Boston beans and Pickwick stout,
Weiner schnitzel, sauerkraut.
Don't mind me fellows I'm only dreaming,
But can't you hear the Mess Sergeant screamin'?

Come on now Sam, get out the crackers and jam,
We're serving Spam, the illegitimate ham.
Get me an axe, so I can open the can,
Tonight it's Spam, the illegitimate ham.
Monday baked Spam, Tuesday fried Spam,
Wednesday Spam on toast.

If I don't eat a piece of real meat soon,
I'll soon be a ghost.
So Uncle Sam, won't you please ration Spam?
We would rather have lamb,
Than that illegitimate ham.

I didn't know Jerry personally, but our paths crossed occasionally. He was assigned to the Special Services section at Division Headquarters and I was assigned to the Division Finance Office.

I thought Jerry was exceptionally talented and I chuckled at many of his parodies. I especially like the last line of his parody of 'Bei Mir Bist

du Schon.

Only a person who has eaten as much Spam as we did can appreciate, "Spam, The Illegitimate Ham".

Roy W. Buckley
Div Finance Office

FIRE IN THE HOLE

In December of 1944 the Bougainville campaign was winding down and the members of the 132nd Regimental I and R platoon were not always busy. During this slack time platoon members were given various details and jobs of maintenance to perform in the Headquarters area.

One of the details was the burning out of the latrines. The latrines in the Headquarters area were made of a partially sunken fuel barrel with a wood top fashioned into a toilet seat. The latrines were cleaned by pouring fuel in them and igniting them.

One day while on latrine detail a couple of I&R guys ran out of flammable mixture after treating one of the receptacle in the officers latrine. While the guys were gone to get more fuel the Regimental Chaplain came to use the latrine. He threw his lighted cigarette into the toilet and promptly seated himself. The fuel ignited with a BANG and the Chaplain learned a new meaning of FIRE IN THE HOLE.

Later the I&R platoon leader gave some precise, yet mirthful orders, about leaving the job unsecured.

The Chaplain was forgiving but his fellow officers made some hellish jokes and banter about the "Fire in the Hole".

For this episode of , "A Day With The Troops", the cast was, Pfc. Frank Heller, Pfc. Harold Saathoff, Lt. William Deloney. The Captain and Chaplain's names are not remembered.

Everett Arnold
132d Infantry
I & R Platoon

NOW HEAR THIS

The letter of Ernest Correale regarding the mosquitoes on northern New Caledonia triggered many memories by my neighbor, Jack Pellegrini, who was in the Navy small boat pools in Americal territories. New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Esprito Santos, Leyte, etc. most of his work was maintaining the boats shuttling troops and cargo from the transports to the beaches. He enjoys the copies of the Americal Newsletter which I share with him, and extends his regards to the entire outfits he supplied in his operations.

Cordially,
Peter Chelemedos

Ed Note: Peter served as a crew member aboard the UNAT John Ericsson during World War II and later became a Captain in the Merchant Marine. He is also an associate member of the ADVA.

Captain Chelemedos is also the author of a book, "Peter, the Odyssey of a Merchant Mariner".

TEARS FOR SOUVENIRS OF BATTLEFIELD'S PATHOS
(By John Wright)

I remembered the track well, the way it cut up the steep jungle incline from the village on to a high clearing, strewn with coral and shrapnel, marked by a weathered Japanese shrine dedicated to the fallen.

I'd stood on that clearing 10 years before, gazing out over the mountain slopes of northern Guadalcanal toward Iron Bottom Sound, while a group of middle-aged men from Tokyo cried and lit candles for the dead.

They had labored all day on the mountainside below, digging and then scratching at the earth with rakes and hoes, sweating with fatigue and the passion of near-obsession.

They dug up four bodies in the morning and two in the afternoon, placing the remains in plastic bags as they went. The long-dead soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army's 228th Company were finally going home.

Over more than a half century, annual bone digging pilgrimages like this have unearthed for proper burial the remains of thousands of Japanese soldiers killed in one of the fiercest campaigns of the Pacific war.

More than 23,500 died in the 1942-43 battle for Guadalcanal - one of the pivotal land battles of the war - against American losses of 1600. The Japanese dead were often thrown into mass graves or left by the hundreds where they fell.

The six I saw unearthed by the bone diggers were killed by US Marines early in 1943 on a mountain shown on war time maps as Hill 27, a few kilometers from the infamous Bloody Ridge near a village called Barana. Their bodies along with almost 300 others, were bull-dozed over a cliff and left to rot.

A pathetic inscription on the simple Japanese Memorial at the site highlights the horror of the Imperial Army's ill-fated campaign on the island: "There were not foods for eating and the ammunition to fire. The battlefield was (sic) sure to hell".

Incredibly, human remains and war time artifacts are still being unearthed on Hill 27 and at other Guadalcanal battle sites when I visited them a second time a few months ago. 55 years after the six-month land battle ended in February 1943.

They remain a key, if macabre, attraction for tourists to the Solomon Islands, where the combination of World War II nostalgia, spectacular scuba diving (including war time wreck diving) and a growing village-stay and soft-adventure holiday industry adds up to one of the most exotic destinations in Melanesia.

Village Stays offer visitors a chance to get to know locals by living with them briefly. Facilities are basic and travelers have to be both inquisitive and adaptable to enjoy the experience.. The same might apply for any holiday in Melanesia. A stay arranged for me in one Guadalcanal village had to be canceled by embarrassed organizers when we arrived to find it deserted. Everyone was kilometers away in Honiara watching World Cup soccer.

Battlefield tours have been popular tourist attractions for years for travelers who have a day

or a half-day to spend in the capital, Honiara. And if current moves by private interests to preserve the battle sites and present them more effectively to visitors go ahead, the war-time nostalgia industry may be set for a revival.

Current tours include many of the best known sites connected with the Guadalcanal campaign, including Henderson Airport, Mt. Austen, Hill 27, Gifu, and Bloody Ridge. There is also an American Memorial whose inscription - barely legible when I saw it only six years after it was engraved - reads prophetically. "May this Memorial endure the ravages of time until the wind, rain and tropical storms wear away its face but never its memories."

PThe Japanese Memorial are more poignant. One at a site known as Hill 35 - a cream monolith ringed with frangi-pangi and hibiscus - has weathered the tropics well, its four pillars symbolizing love, trust, bravery and wisdom - a stark contrast to the marbled American version.

On Bloody Ridge itself, where village children will try to sell you bullets, corroded grenades and other unexportable souvenirs, a brief stop at the Japanese Shrine at Mukade Hill is worth the trouble, if only for another touchingly- written tribute to the war dead:

"During six months since the end of August 1942, at the south far out from the Fatherland, under offensive by the superior Allied forces, had not the ammunition for firing also not the rations for eating," it reads. "There were the misery beyond the limitations as could not say, those who died the victims - 3179 soldiers of the Kawaguchi Brigade.

Ed Note: The above article was printed in an Australian newspaper and was sent in by Geoff Tierney. He has visited Guadalcanal several times and after viewing the Japanese Memorial high up on Mt Austen and the Americal down below on Ridge 13, he quipped, "How come the Japs got the high ground?" Geoff is an Associate member of the ADVA. He saw service in Vietnam with the Royal Australian Air Force. Geoff and I have corresponded for many years.

GUADALCANAL DECLARES AN EMERGENCY AMID UNREST

The South Pacific island of Guadalcanal has declared a state of emergency to quell growing ethnic unrest that has left three dead, houses burned and forced thousands to flee to the capital. "In the interest of preserving public security and peace, the state of public emergency is declared," Governor-General Sir Moses Pitakaka said in a statement issued Tuesday. Guadalcanal is part of the Solomons Islands, northeast of Australia. Guadalcanal islanders are waging a campaign to have squatters from other islands in the Solomons removed. They also want compensation for social problems such as rising crime, which they say is a result of the capital Honiara being established on Guadalcanal. The International Committee for the Red Cross estimates 5,000 people have arrived in Honiara seeking to return to their island homes because of growing tensions with native Guadalcanal islanders.

(A recent clipping taken from a local newspaper and sent in by Felix Walsh)

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

COMPANY I - 182nd INFANTRY
March 26, 1945

Ships of the Victor II attack group, screened by the Seventh Fleet's Task Force 74, steamed into the southern limits of Bohol Strait and swung north.

I was in an LVT along with the rest of the First Platoon of I Company, and came out of the mother ship headed toward the beach ahead of us. I will never forget the feeling that we were safe as there wasn't a spot that wasn't hit by gun fires and the many bombs, mortar rounds and all that the Navy could use to hit that beach. I thought that everyone would be safe and we could walk in and take over Cebu City without any interferences. That wasn't the case as we found out later.

We hit the beach and noticed many explosions to our right as the Japs had placed many 500 pound bombs with firing devices and about ten of the LVTs were demolished on the beach.

Our LVT with the First Platoon made it through the mines and we took the lead advancing about 1800 yards inland before we realized that the beach head had been halted from all the LVTs that had been hit.

We encountered a platoon of Japs running from the area and we killed them all. They put up no resistance as they were trying to evade the area with heavy loads of communication equipment. We searched them and then tried to make contact with others on our right to find that we were alone-- way out in front of other units that were supposed to be with us.

Off to our right and up Babag Ridge to the front was about hundreds of Japs evacuating the area and headed toward Babag Ridge that was their defensive area that took over 20 days later for us to take. We called for artillery, only to receive information that all guns had fired their ammunition and did not have any to place on the Japs. Had we received artillery we could have saved many Americal men's lives as it took us many tries to take Babag Ridge.

I was on the third attack for that Ridge when I was wounded by a Jap grenade and evacuated. I stayed in the hospital in Leyte for over a month, returning to the Company and being promoted to Sergeant. I had all new men as the Company had lost many on the attacks that followed after I was hit.

This all started at 0730 AM when the Task Force 74 trained the heavy guns on the beach at Talisay. I will always remember how God must have had his hands on us as we made it through that area without being blown to bits.

Honor & Courage
Ray E. Poynter 1 Sgt Ret
WWII, Korea and two tours in Vietnam
All in infantry and proud of it.

BOUGAINVILLE TO DAY

The former Historian of the America, Mark Durley, has returned to the Pacific many times over the years. He writes of the situation in Bougainville:

The revolution on Bougainville still continues but without much fighting. The Government troops are sadly defeated time and again. The coasts are

patrolled by Australian and Papua, New Guinea war craft but still more supplies come in from nearby Solomon Islands. No repairs have been made to the airport at Kieta after the natives blew it sky high. The Company operated hospital has no electricity or medicine and no doctors--they were kicked out, too. Even if they were natives. The supermarket was burned down, the schools were wrecked and the books destroyed. There is word that an Asian corporation wants to buy the copper mine, but they want all the income.

The Prime Minister of New Guinea had to resign when it became known he had hired mercenaries from Europe and South Africa to raid the hinterlands (not to far from where we were stationed in WW II) to kill the ring leaders. Whaat a mess!

Ed Note: Thanks for the insight Mark. I do hope you will still send some of your interesting letters to the Americal Newsletter. Missed seeing you at the Reunion this year. I always enjoyed the brief times we managed to get together for conversation. I wish you the best.

Jim

THE AMERICAL GENERATION

Bill McLaughlin, a well known name in Americal circles has authored a book entitled, "The Americal Generation".

Ed Note: These stories are not only the good ones from 11 years of 'Cannoneers Posts', but also stories never published by Navy men, Air Force pilots and Marines...even one from a Merchant Marine sailor.

The book is a 6x9 paperback. White cover, heavy duty non curl. Prepublication price is \$17.50 -- later copies will be \$19.50. Marks your checks, 'For Books'. Mail to:

Mr. William McLaughlin
[Redacted]
Marston Mills, MA 02648

Bill is a prolific writer and has many articles published in the Americal Newsletter, 164th Infantry News, 1st Bn. 182nd Newsletter any many area newspapers. Recently there was a article by Bill in the Cape Cod Times telling of his exploits as a seventeen (17) year old joining the 110th Cavalry here in Massachusetts.

Ed Note: Bill is also the Editor and publisher of the "Cannoneers Post", put out for the Artillerymen of the Americal Division

TO THE EDITOR

Thank you very much for the name of a man who may help find certain records that I am seeking.

You are a very thoughtful person to whom each and every one of the ADVA members owe a tremendous debt for your long time dedication and servitude that we may all be kept abreast of current happenings and read of past experiences of all Americal veterans beginning with those of you who first landed on New Caledonia.

Dick Bayman
D Co. 182nd Inf

Ed Note: Thanks for your kind words Dick, they are much appreciated. A great deal of credit goes to the handful of workers that keep the ADVA running.

DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?

182nd Infantry - G Company

I wish to contact anyone that knew my brother, Gene McLeod. Gene was in G Company, 182nd Infantry and was killed March 5, 1945 on Leyte Island. If you have any information please contact:

Jack McLeod
[redacted]
Licking, MO 65542
Tel: [redacted]

132nd INFANTRY

Looking for men from the 33rd Division, Headquarters Company, that trained at Camp Forrest in Tennessee, went overseas in Task Force 6814 and became members of the Americal Division on New Caledonia and served with the Americal in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and the Philippines.

Please contact:

Edward Wyncott
[redacted]
Tampa, FL 33615

164th INFANTRY - D COMPANY

Looking for anyone from this unit that served in Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, and Japan, 1943-1945.

Please contact:

Karl Halle
[redacted]
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33325

MORE ON THE JEEP

The clue to why a Jeep is a Peep lies in the last paragraph of the letter of Ernest Correale (Page 27 of the October-November-December 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter). He wrote: "Peep or Jeep, it was a fantastic vehicle that tamed the Pacific jungles, and the only thing we couldn't get it to do was to sit up and beg.

Are you too young to remember the newspaper cartoon strip called "Pop-Eye the Sailor Man?" His girl-friend, named Olive Oil, had a wonderful dog who was smarter and more effective than anyone else in the strip. His name was "JEEP."

In the Carolina maneuvers of 1940-1941 the Army used what was officially known as a "Command Car." It was praised for its utility and convenience, and was commonly referred to as a JEEP because it fitted perfectly the description given it by Correale. Those of us who were in the maneuvers and lucky enough to have one assigned, loved them. But by the time the rookies and draftees were learning to do squads right on to line, the 1/4 ton, lighter and more versatile vehicle replaced the command car. Most of the youngsters who comprised the vast majority of our troops never got to see a command car. But they heard of the jeep and thought the little 1/4 ton was it.

In New Caledonia this was resented by the old-timers and they called the little cars "PEEPS" and the word even got into the French language. The

locals spoke of a mountain trail as being "pipable" if a Peep could make it.

That "JEEP" comes from "general purpose", is like explaining that a soldier in World War II was called a "GI" because he was "government issue," and like the 55 gallon cans in which we washed our mess kits, were called "GI cans", rather than "galvanized iron".

Finally, the "rip-snorting colonel who raced around the front lines screaming for a Jap prisoner" was not trying to practice his Japanese as reported. I knew him well, and had many differences with him, but all he wanted was a prisoner whose unit he could identify for G-2 information. The only Japanese word he knew was "Sayanera."

Arthur G. King M.D.
Division Surgeon

247th FIELD ARTILLERY

I read in a recent issue of the Americal Newsletter about the Americal veteran who relates a story of fishing for pleasure during the Cebu island campaign. It is my opinion that he was not in a line outfit. I was a field artillery forward observer who lived, slept and fought with A Company, 132nd Infantry.

We will start at Fiji where 12 of us artillerymen were named replacements as forward observers with 132nd Infantry. During the battle for Bougainville we went through hell directing field artillery fire on the Nips for 7 1/2 months. Between the Nips, swamps, rain, mud, malaria and dengue fever, Bougainville was a real nightmare. We killed 7,000 Japs there. But the 94 day battle for Cebu Island, in the Philippines, was the valley of death over and over again. General MacArthur put us ashore against "only 7000 Nips". There was supposed to be only two regimental combat teams there. But in truth, there were 17,000 Nips on Cebu against our 132nd and 182nd regimental teams. The following is my personal experience.

The 132nd Infantry was in the first wave and so was I, with A Company. The Japs were dropping mortar fire on the beach -- General MacArthur called it 'light resistance. Not in the first wave where I was! It was murder!

Three days into the campaign, I was awarded my first Bronze Star. We had almost dug in at about 7:30 P.M., just out side of Cebu City, when about 500 Nips "banzied" us. Two of my forward observer buddies were 50 yards in of the front perimeter when the Japs attacked. They were hit and screaming in pain from their wounds. I rescued both of them, preventing the Japs from killing them. This was at La Hug airport, just outside of the city. We then, with Lieut. Chimaluski, from Massachusetts, directed 105mm fire to break up the attack.

This was March 1945. We then battled the Nips in the Bag Bag mountains behind Cebu City. We took about 500 caves and 50 pill boxes in a month only to have the Japs blow up a hill on Bag Bag ridge and kill about 100 men from the 182nd Infantry. The Nips were not strapped to the 500 lb bombs. They planted them to blow themselves up too.

There were three guys with me, Barrett, Sporbeck and Stone, when I got my second Bronze Star. They were also awarded a Bronze Star at this time. It

was in April when we defended a church steeple against 65 Nips. We killed 25 of them with grenades and our carbines. I finally got wounded on June 19, 1945 in northern Cebu. So, my Americal buddies, we never got to go fishing on Cebu!! The rest is history.

According to 'Yank Magazine' we had 3,000 killed and wounded and the Nips had 13,000 killed. 4000 surrendered when the war ended. Only 6 of us 12 Forward Observers survived--the rest were casualties.

The 164th Infantry landed around 4/25/45 and had a tough fight driving the Nips off of the southern part of Bag Bag ridge.

In summary, it wasn't 'Sgt. J.J. McGraw -hero' it was my entire generation, especially the Americal Division. In September of 1996 we Reserves had a Reunion at Missouri University. Of the 150 original Reserves who went to the Americal on October 19, 1943, only 95 of us were still alive.

I'm 75 years old now, probably 'heading out', but I'll never forget the combat on Bougainville and Cebu. I hope my buddies,, Barrett and Sporbeck or Stone read this. They were the best. I'm aware you can't print all of this but please squeeze the true tale somewhere in the Americal Newsletter.

The greatest honor we F.O.'s received was when we were given the Combat Infantry Badge by Colonel Sagadech of the 132nd Infantry. I still have mine.

Sincerely,
John J. McGraw

Ed Note: Thanks for your article John. I would like to run that story from Yank if you have a complete copy.

NATIONAL CALL FOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS
SHARE THEIR STORIES

Glendale Industries is launching a nationwide effort over the next 12 months to reach as many World War II veterans as possible in an effort to encourage them to record on paper recollections of their war experiences, then send them to Glendale for compilation and publication. This book will be available in stores and in Glendale's catalog and to schools and libraries. The profit from this project will be donated to The National World War II Memorial.

Americans owe an extraordinary debt to the men and women who, in world War II, marched forth in the service of their country united in a common cause. They left their families, endured hardships, experienced hardship and despair, gave all they had to give, and saw the best and the worst of human nature. They liberated Europe, restored peace in the Pacific, then returned home to strengthen our economy, enrich our society, and create opportunities for the generations that succeeded them. We owe it to these veterans to preserve their indomitable spirit, exceptional commitment, and willing sacrifice.

This we will do. To honor the 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. during World War II and to acknowledge the achievement of an entire nation, the National World War II Memorial will be built on the National Mall in Washington, DC, encircling the Rainbow Pool. It will be flanked by two of America's most cherished landmarks, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

World War II veterans owe something additional to us, as well: to share their memories for their children, their grandchildren, and for future generations, so that we may gain insight from their recounted experiences and not forget the wrenching events of a war or risk its repetition. Senator Bob Dole, National Chairman of the World War II Memorial Campaign has stated that "...in another 50 years...there will be no one left who heard those voices. It is important that we remember the voices and deeds of those young men and women who liberated whole continents from tyranny..."

World War II veterans wishing to be included in this important historical project should send their comments and narratives-short or long, paragraphs or pages-directly to Glendale:

Glendale Industries
[redacted]
Northvale, NJ 07647-2016

fax them to [redacted]
e-mail them to [redacted]

Glendale is an international catalog company that outfits military, police, and fire units honor guards, color guards, and drill teams. The American Battle Monuments Commission, and independent agency of the Executive Branch of government, is responsible for design and creation of The National World War II Memorial and has endorsed Gendale's book project. For more information the American Battle Monuments Commission can be reached at 1-800-639-4W2W.

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

In the Oct-Nov-Dec 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter, on Page 31 was a poem dedicated to James Carfora. I was about 75 feet from Jim when he was hit. How well I remember.

I was drafted into the service at Monroe, North Carolina -- the day the Carolina maneuvers ended! I then spent a few weeks at Fort Bragg and then on to Camp Edwards and Task Force 6814.

FOR THE OLD GUARD: Monroe, NC has grown some since you visited there in 1941. A four (4) lane highway cuts through the edge of town. The Peedee and Yacskin River areas have not expanded a great deal. Charlotte is now one of the largest trucking terminals in the U.S.A..

While in the Fiji's I was transferred out of the Americal for medical reasons and returned to the States and Fort Bragg. Here I was assigned to B Battery, 154th Field Artillery Battalion. This unit was sent to Washington, DC, and served as an Honor Guard at Franklin D. Roosevelt's funeral.

My medical records were lost in the St. Louis fire. Does anyone know of any other source of medical records? If so please contact me at:

James Hartis
[redacted]
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Ed Note: I have read recently where a huge block of medical records were uncovered. I would write to them again.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

AUGUST 14, 1999

Today is August 14, 1999 and it should be a day for celebrating. A very important event happened fifty (54) years ago today--a very important event in the history of our country.

I scanned the front page of the Cape Cod Times--nothing there--and then slowing, page by page, I thumbed through the entire newspaper but I did not see a word about this important event.

Maybe I had the wrong date--nope--the calendar reads August 14, 1999.

The next paper I searched, the Boston Globe. Absolutely nothing on the front page. So page by page, I searched from front to rear.

There must be something wrong, only a few short weeks ago a tragedy happened off the coast of Massachusetts and both of these papers had pages and pages, day after day, telling the story.

Now I am talking of an event that effected millions and millions of people. The world had been in total chaos. Untold millions of people had perished.

I must search these papers again. Ah! Here it is in the Boston Globe, on the comic page under a title that says, This Day in History--"Fifty four years ago today Japan surrendered".

Now I'm sure the Cape Cod Times must have remembered this date. Yup, there it is under, 'Today in History'--President Truman announced today that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II. Wow, that's a bigger write up than the Boston Globe gave us.

I feel so much better now that I will be able to sleep tonight. Our deeds were not forgotten!

164 INFANTRY

HISTORIAN CREDITS HARD WORK ETHIC
FOR GETTING TROOPS THROUGH BATTLE
Steven P. Wagner
The Forum

The French phrase "Je Suis Pret," a motto adopted by the North Dakota National Guard during World War II, defines the unit's service in United States military history.

In English, the phrase means "I Am Ready."

From the beginning, settlers in North Dakota proved their willingness to serve as citizen soldiers. That willingness was later tested in the Pacific during World War II when the 164th Infantry Regiment fought on Guadalcanal and Bougainville islands. (Also the Philippines and occupation duty in Japan).

Maj. Pete Conlin, command historian for the North Dakota National Guard credits the second amendment--the right to bear arms--for the strength of the Guard in the state.

In March, Conlin wrote an abbreviated history of the Guard for the state Legislature, condensing much of the information in the 1986 book, "Citizens As Soldiers."

The Guard's standards in combat have matched the Army's track record. "In North Dakota, we have a

history of not only meeting, but exceeding, that standard," Conlin said.

"We are a state of conservative people with a real hard work ethic. We see that in people who drive on and get the job done."

HUMBLE ORIGINS:

By the time Congress created Dakota Territory in 1861, Regular Army posts already existed on the prairie.

The North Dakota National Guard was born out of the Dakota Territorial Militia of the 1860s. Territorial Gov. William Jayne issued a proclamation in December 1861 to form two companies of volunteer cavalry after regular troops were re-assigned for the Civil War.

In April 1862, Company A, 1st North Dakota Cavalry, gained federal recognition and Company B was formed the next year. The militia struggled however, with mis-management of arms and uniforms.

There were 1,000 officers and men in the Guard by 1885. In 1889, the territory was split into North and South Dakota, and the state's military code authorized one regiment of 10 companies. There was little money left for the Guard, making recruiting and preparation difficult. Training was all but abandoned in the mid 1890s.

Events in Cuba in 1898, and the conflict with Spain, led to North Dakota's call-up for duty. Eight companies were chosen to become the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The Regiment arrived in Manila Bay in July 1898. Less than two weeks later, the soldiers were on the trench lines surrounding Manila and played a modest role in a firefight which led to the surrender of the city.

The United States originally went to the Philippines to protect the islands from the Spanish, and the North Dakota Regiment assumed occupation duties before facing hostility from locals during an insurrection.

In April 1899, the volunteers encountered their most costly combat mission. Eight men were killed during one skirmish. Private Thomas Sletteland won the Medal of Honor, the first for a North Dakotan, for carrying one wounded soldier to safety and defending three others who were killed. By August of that year, the 1st North Dakota was back in the United States.

"They took on an identity of their own," Conlin said. "These early soldiers, their valiant efforts and bravery, set the standards for the 164th. I don't think they came home thinking they were heroic."

BORDER PATROL AND WW I:

The National Defense Act of 1916 guaranteed the Guard's permanent service as a reserve unit for the Army.

President Woodrow Wilson ordered a troop call-up to pursue raiding bands of Mexican troops along the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona borders. By July 1916, North Dakota's regiment arrived in Texas, endured grueling training but saw no action. In January 1917 the Infantry returned home.

Another call-up, less than three months later, was initiated for World War I. A draft board was

established in July 1917, and approximately 3,700 North Dakota men went to war as National Guardsmen. Many who went for border patrol refused to show up for World War I service, "They felt a little used and abused," Conlin said.

All units were given new numbers to eliminate state names, and the 1st North Dakota was now a part of the 164th Infantry Regiment. The Regiment left in November 1917 and was one of the first divisions to go to France, and men became frustrated by the travel conditions, food and constant re-organization within the American Expeditionary Force.

The 164th Regiment lost 278 men in the war while nearly 650 were wounded. The Infantry returned home in 1919.

THE PACIFIC CAMPAIGN:

The Regiment entered Federal service again in February 1941 when President Roosevelt called up the National Guard. The 164th went to Louisiana for training as one of four regiments of the 34th Division, which also included units from Minnesota and Iowa.

In March of 1942, the 164th left the United States for Melbourne, Australia, where they boarded small ships for New Caledonia to protect Pacific Naval supply lines and prevent a Japanese invasion.

"The actions of the 164th has brought them into the limelight in military history," Conlin said.

The Regiment became part of the Americal Division, (and was the first Regiment of the Americal to see combat) landing on Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942.

Members of the 164th became known as 'Jungle Fighters' in the U.S. media, named for the terrain in which they fought. The infantry was also given the nickname "164th Marines" for their bitter fight against the Japanese (and in support of the Marines) in the battle for Henderson Field and the battle of the Matanikau on that island and became the first U.S. Army unit to take offensive action during World War II.

During the first five days of the 164th landing at Guadalcanal, 117 men were killed.

During the battle for Henderson Field an estimated 1700 Japs were killed, while the 164th suffered 26 killed and 52 wounded. The 164th continued with other battles and patrols through February 1943 and the unit saw 147 men lose their lives. The Regiment received the Navy Presidential Unit Citation. (For their service on Guadalcanal)

The 164th left Guadalcanal and moved on to Bougainville, Northern Solomons, (after a nine months stay on Vita Levu, in the Fiji Islands) where it served until November 1944. (From Bougainville the 164th headed for the Philippines and many arduous battles until its final stop of the war--Japan).

During World War II, the 164th Spent nearly 600 days in combat and 325 men were killed in action while 1,193 were wounded in action.

Conlin said the soldiers saw themselves as 'ordinary people doing ordinary things.' Others, he said, saw their service as extraordinary, even heroic.

THE 1950'S AND 1960'S

President Harry Truman, in an attempt to contain communism, initiated a partial call to arms and ordered a limited National Guard mobilization in September of 1950.

The 231st Engineer Battalion was North Dakota's first unit called up for action. The 164th Infantry and the 188th Artillery were also called into action and the three units began training exercises in the United States.

More than 2,000 North Dakota guardsmen served during the Korean War, with about 800 going overseas. Of those, 16 were killed in combat.

Again the Guard was slated for active duty in October 1961 as part of President Kennedy's mobilization during the Berlin crisis. The 164th Infantry served at Fort Riley, Kansas and returned home after 10 months active duty.

THE GULF WAR

When Iraq President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in the summer of 1990, another crisis was at hand. President Bush ordered Federal mobilization of 200,000 National Guard and reserve troops.

Initially, North Dakota units receiving alert notification in August 1990 were the 136th Quartermaster Battalion and the 132nd Quartermaster Company and three Quartermaster Detachments: 132st, 133nd, and 134th. They provided supply, distribution and purification of water.

The 191st Military Police Company, which provided support for security and POW processing, and the 818th Medical Battalion, which provided command and control for medical companies assigned to it, were alerted in November 1990.

Operation Desert Storm started January 16, 1991 and the North Dakota National Guard remained in the Persian Gulf while the drawdown of troops took place.

The history of the North Dakota National Guard can be compared to a common scene in the State. If you drive down the road during planting season and you see farmers out there planting, despite the time of day and conditions, you are seeing the 164th," Conlin said. "Some see it as incredible, we see it as getting the job done."

(Steven Wagner interviewed, Major Peter Conlin, Command Historian for the North Dakota National Guard, for The Forum.) Sent in by Donald Berg.

BOUGAINVILLE SIDELIGHTS AND BACKGROUND

Hill 260, with its 150 foot banyan tree (The \$1,000,000 Tree) was about 1500 yards right front of our lines on 'Snuffy's Nose'. On March 10, 1944, the Japs suddenly over-ran the key positions on Hill 260. From our vantage point we observed the battle as units of the 182nd Infantry and the 132nd Infantry tried to regain the Hill. The battle lasted until March 24th. Some of the small arms fire spilled into our area. To the left of our positions, the 37th Infantry Division was being engaged by the Japs 6th Division, which was trying to crack the U.S. perimeter.

On our Snuffy's Nose position we well prepared to "Hold at ALL Costs" as ordered by higher HQs would the need develop. We were prepared with three day supply of food and water in our

positions. We were also advised that should we be over-run to hold in place so that our 'friendly fire' artillery could try to stop any serious penetrations. In front of our lines we planted a couple dozen 'Bouncing Betty' mines, which we later had to remove but not without casualties.

Believe it or not, our Company screened Kitchen had pure spring water, via hollowed out bamboo poles put together in sections. When not on patrol and as soon as our main line of resistance was secure, the raisin jack people went to work making raisin jack in limited quantities, and it served its purpose. The C.B. units within our perimeter, in rear areas, had already started vegetable gardens on a modest scale, considering the size of units and available land. The fruits of their labor were shared only as far as they could be, considering priorities.

On February 24th, a patrol from the 182nd Infantry killed a Japanese officer near the East-West trail, then rushed his dispatch case to Division HQs, with startling results. The officer was identified through personal papers as an artillery officer. In his dispatch case were field orders issued to artillery units of their 6th Division and to the Jap 17th Army. At first our intelligence people thought this may be a deliberate plant since these orders were so thorough. However, when events began to check out this proved to be a jackpot. This major big prize came into our possession 13 days prior to the enemy general offensive. The general offensive began in force in the 37th Division sector, taking Hill 700, the lynch-pin in a desperate battle; this action against it did not end until March 13th, when the Jap offensive failed.

Prior to our Americal Division movement to the Philippines, I received a transfer to HQ Special Troops where I was promoted to Captain. On 1/7/44, Capt. Conlon and I as his XO were the only two combat-experienced officers in C Company, 164th Infantry.

Ltc. Anthony A. Hannel (Ret)

B BAG

You have already been told what you will wear and what you will place in your pack, in preparation for your 'Cruise'. You know what to have in your A Bag--the one you will drag along behind you.

Now Hear this! The following will be placed in your B Bag for storage in the hold:

- 1 Garrison Belt
- 1 Breaches-Cotton
- 1 Blouse-Serge
- 1 Pair Gloves-Leather
- 1 Campaign Hat
- 1 Jumper
- 1 Pair Leggings
- 1 Black Tie
- 2 Chino Shirts
- 1 O.D. Shirt
- 1 Pair Shoes
- 1 Denim Trousers
- 2 Chino Trousers
- 1 Pair Socks
- 2 Cotton Towels
- 1 Comforter

Now when you have all your ear stowed--lay below for muster.

Thanks to William Porter for reminding us what to pack--how did we carry all of that?

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

Just read the April-May-June 1999 issue of the Americal Newsletter and was surprised that Everett D. Roper claims to be the oldest member of the Americal Division Veterans Association. It now appears that three of us are the oldest members.

I, Karl A. Corliss was born September 17, 1917 and I will be ninety-two (92) September 17, 1999. That would make me the oldest member!

I first enlisted in the 102nd Field Artillery in 1927. In the summer of 1930 I joined the CMTC Coast Artillery, Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island. Lt. Henry McGowan, Coast Artillery Reserve commanded the CMTC Association in Lowell. We had beautiful blue uniforms and beat other branches of the service in manual of arms and special drill competition.

After this tour I joined the 182nd Infantry and next enlisted in the 101st Medical regiment permanently.

As a member of the 101st Medical Regiment I left for overseas with Task Force 6814 and this unit soon became part of the Americal Division. After the Guadalcanal campaign the 101st Medics became the 121 Medical Battalion.

After Guadalcanal I made Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte and the Philippine Islands. Left for home on rotation on March 25, 1945.

I am a Life Member of the ADVA. I am doing very well but of course I need a little help.

Karl A. Corliss
Lowell, MA 01850

QUINN SEEKS NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO COMMEMORATE PEARL HARBOR DAY

March 21, 1999 (Buffalo, New York) Area veterans joined Rep. Jack Quinn (R-30th/NY) today at the Buffalo Naval and Military Park in downtown Buffalo for Quinn's announcement that would designate December 7th as a Federal Holiday in recognition of the hundreds of lives that were lost at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor and for the survivors of the December 7, 1941 Japanese airstrike.

"Pearl Harbor marks one of the most significant dates in American history," said Quinn, Chairman of the Veterans' Benefits Subcommittee and the only New York member to serve on the Veterans Affairs Committee in the U. S. House of Representatives. "It put the U. S. into World War II and as a result of America's involvement in the war, it established our country as a dominant world power.

The legislation, H. R. 985, would designate Pearl Harbor Day as a Federal Holiday in the same manner as November 11, Veterans Day.

New York veterans take note.

(Article sent in by James A. Rains)

Ed Note: It would be one giant step forward if we could just get the news media to recognize December 7th--"the day of infamy".

Americal Division Veteran Governs Pennsylvania

The following information is based on an Associated Press story written by Peter Durantine. It appeared in the April 23, 1999 edition of The Times Herald of Montgomery County, (Norristown), PA. The article was sent to the Vietnam Editor by an ADVA member.

Staff Sergeant Tom Ridge earned the Bronze Star with "V" device for action with the Americal Division in Vietnam. The squad he was leading surprised a small enemy force near the village of Vinh Lac. Ridge fired the first shot and killed one of the enemy soldiers. His squad then began firing and the enemy fled.

Ridge was also awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross. He was assigned to Co. B, 1/20th Inf., "Sykes' Regulars", 11th LIB, in 1970. He does not often talk about his service in Vietnam and he declined to be interviewed for the newspaper article.

There is speculation that Governor Ridge may be tapped for a future position on a national Republican ticket.

Dear Editor,

I served in Vietnam in 68-69 for a period of 18 months. I was with the Aero Scouts of the 123rd Aviation Battalion and operated all over the area with the 11th LIB, 196th LIB, and 198th LIB. I had many friends there. Some made it back but many didn't. I would like to find those that made it back or find the parents of those who did not. I am interested in any information about the Aero Scouts. Contact me at [redacted], Tomah, WI, 54660 or call [redacted].

Jesse D. Herrera, 123rd Avn. Bn.
Tomah, WI

Dear Editor,

I am a former member of the ADVA and I am now reinstating. I deployed with the 198th LIB from Ft. Hood in 1967 and married up with Task Force Oregon at Chu Lai as the Americal Division was being formed. I was with the ASA unit from October, 1967 to October 1968.

My active duty was from 1965-1970 and I served 23 more years with the Tennessee National Guard, retiring as a Colonel in 1993. I was a 1LT and CPT in Vietnam. I am proud to have been the first Vietnam veteran to have served as the VFW State Commander in Tennessee in 1978-79.

I am very proud of my service with the Americal Division in Vietnam. I am also proud of the division's service during World War II. I am glad to be back among

the Americal Division Veterans Association's troops! Best wishes.

John Furgess, ASA, 198th LIB
Nashville, TN

Dear Editor,

Thank you for having such a wonderful website on the world wide web. I learned about the site from LTC (Ret) Robert C. Proctor, S-3, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 70-71. I served in a variety of positions in the 1/6th Inf. from August, 1970 to July, 1971. I was a Platoon Leader in Co. B, Co. C, and Recon; CO of Co. C; and S-3 Air. I had an interruption of duty for a short stay in the 249th General Hospital in Japan as the result of an OH-6A crash.

As a result of information on the website and with the synergistic effect of contacting a few people who provided leads to others, the past few days have opened the window on events from 29 years ago. In those few days I was able to find an FO from the unit, my old RTO, and my former XO. I was also able to contact the widow, mother, and brother of WO1 Harold C. Woods who died in the LOH crash. I also contacted the platoon leader who called in a medivac for several of us. We all had no contact with each other since 1971.

Keep up the good work.

Wayne R. Johnston, COL, US Army
Falls Church, VA

Dear Editor,

I found an entry from Jerry Stasiak on the 3/1st Inf. locator page on the ADVA website last December. We have been "catching-up" on our lives by phone these past few months. We have not seen each other since 1970 when we were both in the 2nd platoon of Co. B. We will be meeting at the reunion in St. Louis. A big thanks to the ADVA and their website for making this reunion possible.

Gary L. Coppen, Co. B, 3/1st Inf.
Gladstone, OR

Dear Editor,

The 11th annual DMZ to Delta Dance is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 1999 in Washington, DC. The dance is open to all veterans, their families, and their friends in observance of Veterans Day. Our dance salutes all those that served our country. The proceeds from the dance go to supporting our veteran services and scholarship programs.

The dance will begin at 8:00 PM at the Doubletree Hotel, National Airport-Pentagon City, [redacted], Arlington, VA, 22202. Admission to the dance is \$25. A special room rate is

avialable for those wishing to stay the night at the hotel. Make lodging reservations at [redacted].

For more information contact VVA Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter 227, [redacted], Arlington, VA, 22205, or call [redacted]. Visit our website at <[redacted]>.

C. Hollender, Editor
VVA Chapter 227 Newsletter

Dear Editor,

Freedom Fest 99, a celebration of America's freedom, will be held on September 10-12 at Skidmore, MO. The Moving Wall will be on display from Sep. 6-10 at the Nodaway-Holt Elementary School.

For more information contact Freedom Fest, Inc., [redacted], Skidmore, MO 64487

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information for my PTSD claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. I was told that you may be able to help me contact buddies for assistance. I was in Vietnam from April, 1969 to February, 1970. I was a truck driver and then a gunner on a gun truck for convoy control. I was also a gunner on the jeep for the convoy commander. LT Collins. Contact me at [redacted], Portland, OR, 97204 or call [redacted] evenings.

Tom Urban
Portland, OR

Dear Editor,

I was a SGT E-5 in Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB, in 1970-71. I have just had my VA service connected disability raised from 10% to 70% due to PTSD. I am trying to get it raised to 100%. I need to contact guys that were in my platoon to act as witnesses to my service. I do not have their addresses and I am asking for your help in locating them.

Everyone in Vietnam called me by my nickname Kentucky. I can be reached at [redacted] Keavy, KY 40737 or phone [redacted]. Hope to hear from you.

Joe Tyree, Co. C, 4/21st Inf.
Keavy, KY

Letters and stories to the Vietnam Editor should be sent to Gary L. Noller, [redacted], Kansas City, MO, 64114 or e-mail text to <[redacted]>. Accompanying photos should be prints and not digital files. Photos selected for use cannot be returned- please send duplicates.

Left to Right: Roy Wilson, USMC, WWII; Dr. John Hofer; 5/46th Inf., Americal Division, VN; John Booth, 4/21st Inf., Americal Division, VN. On April 26, 1999 Wilson and Booth were inducted into the "Hall of Heroes" at the VA Medical Center in Chillicothe, OH. Hofer created the special recognition to honor area veterans



Hall of Heroes Dedicated

Dr. John P. Hofer, veteran of Co. B, 5/46th Inf. and 23rd Med. Bn., has tended to the medical needs of U.S. military personnel and veterans for a long time. He was drafted for service in Vietnam and fulfilled his duties as a 91B combat medic. Today he is Assistant Chief of Dental Service at the VA Medical Center in Chillicothe, OH. He is also a Commander (O-5) in the U.S. Navy reserve as Dental Officer for NMCB-15 Seabees in Kansas City, MO.

His close association with veterans inspired him to create the Hall of Heroes at the Chillicothe hospital. Dedication ceremonies to mark the opening of the hall were conducted on April 26. He hopes his actions will inspire like action in other VA facilities around the country so that veterans can have the recognition that they deserve.

One of the veterans inducted into the Hall of Heroes was John F. Booth of Grove City, OH. Booth served with the Americal's 4/21st Inf. Bn. in Vietnam. He was the squad leader of an element that came under intense enemy small arms fire while on a mission near Quang Ngai City. Although wounded early in the battle, Booth directed his squad to safety and then fell to the ground and remained motionless. As two enemy soldiers approached within feet of him, Booth jumped up and eliminated them. Booth then used a hand held signal mirror to direct gunships to fire on the remaining enemy positions. For his heroism Booth was awarded the Silver Star.

The other veteran inducted on April 26 was Roy Wilson of Logan, OH. Wilson, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, is also a recipient of the Silver Star. He received his

award for action on April 30, 1945 on the island of Ie Shima, near Okinawa. Japanese soldiers pinned down Wilson's squad by firing from a hidden cave. Wilson crawled close enough to the enemy to silence them with hand grenades. He then carried out a wounded American soldier. Wilson also served in the Korean War and lost a leg to an enemy land mine in 1953.

Hofer and his wife Beverly are the parents of 11 year old triplet girls. Originally from Chicago, they are relocating to Madison, WI. Hofer serves as Post Surgeon and Service Officer with VFW Post #2505 and may soon be the CO of a Navy Dental Clinic.

Doc Hofer Comments:

Here is some "unofficial" news regarding VA health care that is dismal for the future care of our veterans. The VA budget it is a true national disgrace and has been flat-lined for several years. The VA is closing beds and attempting to provide more treatment to more veterans as outpatients.

Veterans groups have some voice concerning this but it has been splintered by each group. It will take a coalition of all veterans groups and grass roots efforts by all veterans to retain and improve health care to our aging veterans.

I strongly urge all members of the ADVA to contact their congressional representatives and senators and insist on adequate funding for the VA. It is an absolute shame but just when our WWII vets are reaching an age of more increased inpatient care or nursing home beds they will be turned away. The hard working vets that have sacrificed in combat for our country and paid taxes for years will be punished by the absolute shell game is played in Washington.

Here are examples of eligibility and care: Vet A spends 2 years serving in WWII, is wounded, and contracts malaria. He receives 20% service-connection for scars or residuals of malaria. If he has an income from life savings and hard work he can be denied treatment or a bed in a VA hospital.

Vet B spends less than six months in the service in the 70's, never going overseas, and is awarded 100% service-connection for schizophrenia or anxiety disorder. He will be receiving over \$2000 a month tax-free for life. It is sad, but, as a VA employee, I see this too often. It's a national disgrace!

As a health care provider in the "VA system", I speak with many former combat veterans and they are furious that this is allowed to occur. But no one does anything about it. I have personally brought this up with the former Under-secretary of Health in the VA several years ago. His response is unprintable.

No veterans' families life-savings should be spent for catastrophic health expenses such as an unexpected stroke or a heart attack. I have contacted the office of Illinois Congressman Lane Evans and spoke with a staff member who served in Vietnam with the 199th LIB. I am sending further information to his office in regards to these matters. The bottom line is if we do not get the word out concerning these matters it will be the end of veterans benefits for our aged and future veterans.

If other members of the ADVA have similar stories please send them to me. We are in this battle together. I can be reached by e-mail at <[redacted]> or postal mail at [redacted], Grove City, OH, 43123-9060, [redacted] x7807.

Dr. John P. Hofer
Co. B, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB

VIETNAM WOUNDED, INJURED, AND NON-COMBAT RECORDS

Americal Division: 1965-1972 Vietnam Records Recon

I had the privilege of serving with the Americal Division from September, 1970 to March, 1971. I served with the 23rd Military Police at LZ Hawk Hill. I have in my possession records pertaining to the Americal Division. Over the past several years I have placed these records into a data-base containing approximately 10,000 names. The data-base is constantly growing.

These records include wounded or injured, but are not restricted to wounded or injured. Some records were taken from documents for medals, traffic tickets, and just plain rosters. The time period now includes from 1965 to 1972. All records include NAME, RANK, SERVICE NUMBER, MOS, UNIT, DATES. The casualty records include TIME OF INCIDENT, DAY OF INCIDENT, MONTH OF INCIDENT, YEAR, WOUNDS RECEIVED, WHERE TREATED, and CODE indicating condition of individual.

This information could be useful for anyone trying to find a long lost buddy. The service number could be used for a FREE forwarding service of the Veterans Administration. As of 1969 our service number became our Social Security Number, and could be used for a FREE forwarding service offered by the Social Security Administration. The first 3 digits of our Social Security Number mark the state the card was issued in before we enlisted or were drafted. This is helpful when trying a phone search.

There are also private organizations out there that will find anyone with a Social Security Number for a FEE. For more detailed information on any of these search options, drop me an e-mail, I have addresses and phone numbers.

If you are interested in a search of your unit or a friend's unit, you can contact me by e-mail at <[redacted]>. When you make your request include your name, rank, service number, unit to include company, dates of service, and any names you might want searched.

I have been taking the time to read all the requests from the ADVA web locator and responding to them one by one. The number of people my data-base can help is unbelievable, yet no-one is taking the time to go to the Locator web site and do some research. In June alone I sent out about 150 inquiries to members trying to locate information.

Members are taking the time to e-mail the Locator with a request, but not taking the time to e-mail me. Nobody wants to reunite veteran with veteran more than I, but you guys could make it easier. Go to my web page at: <[redacted]>. If you aren't able to access a computer, you can get the information through postal mail by writing to: [redacted], Waymart, PA 18472.

Donald Van Estenbridge, 23rd M.P. Co.
Waymart, PA

3/82nd Artillery Alumni Invitation

The 3/82nd Artillery served in the Americal Division during Vietnam and has continued to travel the world's hot spots to do its duty. It is currently supporting the 1st Cavalry Division at Camp Eagle in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The battalion is scheduled to return to Ft. Hood, TX in late September, 1999.

LTC Al Batschelet, Commanding Officer, invites all 3/82nd veterans to join the battalion for a special dining out on October 16, 1999 at Ft. Hood. They are also forming a Red Dragon alumni association and are interested in contacting all 3/82nd veterans. Send add your name to their mailing list and send you a newsletter.

an e-mail to the Alumni Officer at <[redacted]>. More information can also be found on the battalion web page at <[redacted]>. If you request they will

Mr. Mike Twomey, a 3/82nd Vietnam veteran, has agreed to be a point of contact for veterans seeking information on the alumni association. Write to him at [redacted], Tallahassee, FL, 32310, or e-mail him at <[redacted]>.

Canadian Veterans Honored

My name is Joe Fernandez and I am a not a veteran. I am a supporter of Vietnam Vets from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I would like to tell you about four Americal Veterans who have gone the distance to honor their Canadian brothers.

Between 30,000-40,000 Canadians served with the US military in Vietnam, including at least three in the Americal Division: Howard Walker, 1/6th Infantry, 198th LIB; Fidele Joseph Bastarache, 1/6th Infantry, 198th LIB; and Kenneth Lewis, 11th Bde LRRPs, 2nd Bn, 196th LIB. One hundred and ten Canadians KIA's have been confirmed, including Fidele Bastarache, on 27, May 1968. Seven Canadians are still MIA.

I saw two Americal vets at the re-dedication of the North Wall, the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Windsor, Ontario (just across the river from Detroit) on July 10, 1999. The first vet marched in the Veteran's parade, carrying an M-16 as part of the colour guard. He was an M-60 gunner with the 1/46th Infantry in Vietnam. Unfortunately, I did not get his name.

There was a vigil at the North Wall that evening, and that is when I met the second gentleman. He was a large man, very polite and soft-spoken. He was quite concerned, not only about the welfare of Vietnam veterans, but also about the safety of US troops currently serving in the Balkans. He gave me his card, and I saw his name; Ed Marsh, National Commander, Americal Division Veterans Association. (Memorial photos will be in next edition- Editor.)

Another Americal vet who has honored his Canadian brothers is William "Mac" McMurtry from Texas. Mac knew Fidele Bastarache, and he sought out Fidele's sister to tell her about Fidele in Vietnam. In the process, he brought up very painful memories. It just goes to show you what kind of man Mac is to go through that all over again just so his buddy's sister would know...

I am also very fortunate to be able to call my friend Sergeant Don "Rat" Luker, who was a Tunnel Rat with the Americal in Vietnam. Rat has made the long trip from Jersey to the Canadian Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Melocheville, Quebec (just southwest of Montreal, and north of Plattsburgh, NY) to honor those Canadians who served, died, and went missing in Vietnam.

To the 1/46th M-60 gunner, to Mr. Marsh, to Mac, to Rat, and to all who served and are serving with the 23rd Infantry Division, the Americal, THANK YOU. I am partially deaf, so I could never serve in the military. Because of your bravery and your sacrifice, I am FREE today !!!

Warmly,
Joe Fernandez.

P.S. There are three books about Canadians who served in Vietnam; Unknown Warriors and Cross Border Warriors by Fred Gaffen, and I Volunteered: Canadian Vietnam Veterans Remember by Tracey Arial. All three are available from the Rovend company in Montreal. Rovend also sells books, patches and pins on the POW/MIA issue. Rovend's contact info; Rovend, [redacted], Montreal, Quebec H3X 2M1, Canada, fax: [redacted] e-mail: [redacted]

Looking For: Sgt James Dutcher, C Co., 1/46th Inf., 1970-71. Contact: Peter Doyle, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Randolph, MA 02368, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Any former members Delta Co. (Black Death), 3/21st Inf, 1969-1970. We are having a Reunion next year. Contact: Daniel Phillips, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED].

Eclectic, Alabama 36024, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, C Co., 5/46th Inf., 69-70. Contact: Michael Kunik, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Sheridan, WY, 82801.

Looking For: Robert Turner, C Btry, 1/82 Arty, May 1969 to April 1970. Contact: Steve Ellis, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Martinsburg, WV 25401, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Toby Tyler, B Co., 1/20th Inf, 11th LIB, 1969-1970. Contact: Ken Dilanian <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Sgt. Richard Blu and "Tripflare" Shultz or anyone, C Co., 1/20th Inf. 11th. Bde., Mar 71. Contact: Dan Ickler <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Piney Flats, TN 37686.

Looking For: Robert Dunn, Co. A, 1/20th, 11th LIB, 68-69. Contact: John Weber <[REDACTED]>, Ft. Worth, TX, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Hugh Walton, Co. A, 1/20th, 11th LIB, 68-69, Contact: Clarence { BJ } Holoman <[REDACTED]>, Dallas, TX [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, C Btry., 1/82nd Arty, who might served with my dad, Jack Lancaster, from 11/68 - 11/69. Contact: Janice Harper <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Gadsden, AL 35901.

Looking For: Anyone who may have known my uncle, CPL Peter Binstock. He started his tour 8/2/68, died 1/3/69, Quang Nam, non-hostile vehicle loss, crash. Contact: Russell Pachl <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Vancouver, WA, 98684.

Looking For: Juan Rodriguez Rigual, Co. B, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB; 68-69. Contact: Michael Dale <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Mission Viejo, CA, 92691.

Looking For: Anyone, Dec., 1967 to Dec., 1968, 3/16 Arty., LZ Ross, LZ Baldy, Arty Hill. Contact: Jim {Doc} Hurd, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Lakewood, OH, 44107 (216) 521-8201.

Looking For: Any members, Co. A, 2/1st Inf., 196th LIB, 2nd Platoon, May 68 to March 69. Contact: RON MCMILLAN, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, 164th Inf., Co. D, 1943-1945, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu and Japan. Contact: Karl Halle,

<[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33325.

Looking For: Eugene Murphy, 1/46th Inf. Bn Signal Officer, 1970/71, graduated West Point M.A. 1969. Contact: Peter Doyle, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Randolph, MA 02368 day [REDACTED] ext 1658 evening [REDACTED].

Looking For: John Spoon & Lawrence Carreras, A Btry, 1/82nd Arty, Jan. 1970-Mar. 1971. Contact: Andrew Grey, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Tuba City, AZ, 86045, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, HQ Co., 1/52nd Inf., 1/68- 1/69. Contact: Dennie J. Perin, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Peoria, AZ. 85345.

Looking For: Veterans of Co. C, 4/31st, 3RD Plt, 1968. Contact: Jim Fitzgibbon, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Camp Hill, PA 17011, 717-731-6056.

Looking For: Rickey Whitfield, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, 68-69. Contact: Stan Patterson, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Terry Duncan and Tim Webber, 5/70-2/71, Co. C, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB. Contact: David R. Culver, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Sisters, OR, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Robert J. (Bobby) Foreman, 1969-1970, Platoon Sgt. 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB. Contact: James R. Wood, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99712 [REDACTED].

Looking for: Anyone, 523rd Signal Bn., HQ Co., 7/70-7/71. Contact: Bruce Davis, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Simpsonville, SC, 29681.

Looking For: Vincent Ricco, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, 1st Plt., 1968. Contact: Joe Pellegriti, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Islip, NY, 11795.

Looking For: Anyone, F Troop, 17th Cav, 196th LIB, Mar 68-Mar 69. Contact: Larry Faglie {Bandera}, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Looking For: Jimmy Johnson, Medic with Americal Div., 1968-69. Contact: Rich Mason, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Georgetown IN. 47122, [REDACTED] Home, [REDACTED] Day Time [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, Co. C, 1/52nd, 198th LIB; Nov 68 to July 69. Contact: William Oberle, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Phoenix, AZ 85029, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Jerry Whisman, 1969, D Co., 1/52nd Inf. Contact: Jay Schrom, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED].

Looking For: F Trp., 8th Cav Pilots, 5/68-5/69. James Sheridan, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Greely, CO, 80631.

Looking For: Anyone, 523rd Sig. Bn., Co. A, 9/68-10/69. Contact: Bruce Dukes, <[REDACTED]>, Continental, OH, 45831, [REDACTED].

Looking For: WO Timothy Booth, loach pilot 69-70, Div. Arty. Contact: Mike Scruggs, <[REDACTED]>, Landrum, SC, 29356<[REDACTED]>.

Looking For: Ira Houser, WIA 6/71, D Co., 4/3rd Inf, 11th LIB. Contact: John Conners, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Rome, NY 13440.

Looking For: Carl Rhoads, 6th Spt. Bn., 11th LIB. 1967 Hawaii, 1967-68 Duc Dho. Dan Bates, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Florissant, MO 63031, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 10/67-8/68. Contact: Larry Wilcox, <[REDACTED]>, Marion, OH, 43302, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, BTOC HHC, 4/31st Inf, 196th LIB, 10/69-10/70, Contact: Steve Caballero, 3703 N. Studebaker Rd., Long Beach, Ca. 90808, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>.

Looking For: Ray, Co. A, 123 Avn. Bn., 16th Group; 8/69-8/70. Contact: David Steven Cockrill, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Caneyville, Ky. 42721-0336 [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, 26th Eng., HHC, S-4, Nov. 67- July 68. Contact: Kent Beeman <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Manitowoc, WI. 54220 [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone, B Troop 1st Cav., 1966. Contact: Gary L. Boogs, <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], El Paso, Texas 79924.

Looking For: MacArthur or anyone, A Btry., 2/11th Arty., 3/67-3/68. Contact: Micheal Miller <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Elwood, IN 46036, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone who knew PSG Maurice Williams, SR., my father. He served with Co. B 4th Bn, 3rd Inf in 1967/68. He was KIA 17 Feb 68. I am not sure of the area in which he served but he arrived in country sometime in the fall of 67 out of Schofield Barracks. Contact: Myles Williams <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Sacramento, CA 95821.

Looking For: Anyone, Co. D, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 6/68-6/69. Contact: Edward A. Davis <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Bloomington, MI 49026.

Looking For: Anyone, A Co., 5/46th Inf., March 68. Contact: Ray Phillips <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], Niles MI 49120, [REDACTED].

More locators can be found on the internet at www.americal.org/locator/.

46th Infantry Regt. News

The 5/46 Infantry is being cadred up right now to handle summer camp training at Ft. Knox.. The 46th Armored Infantry Regiment now has three battalions at Knox, the 1/46, 2/46 and the newly activated 5/46.

COL Richard Carvell (Ret)
Honorary Regimental Commander

Dear Editor,

I was with HHB, 1/82nd Artillery in Vietnam from Nov., 1969 to July, 1970. I was med-evaced out of country. All my buddies got an Americal coin but I didn't. I was wondering if I could get one. Anyone with information can contact me at [REDACTED], Austin, TX 78744, phone [REDACTED] or e-mail at <[REDACTED]>. Thank you for any information you can help me with.

Pat Fulton, HHB, 1/82nd Artillery
Austin, TX

Americal Brothers,

I look forward to getting each newsletter and read it from front to back. I am a Americal Vietnam vet and like all the Nam news in the newsletter, but always read the news from our WWII vets as well. I have been an association member for about 10 years and it just struck me as I read the latest newsletter taps section at the number of WWII vets that have passed on since I have been a member.

I lost my dad this March, he too was a vet though not with the Americal. These men gave great sacrifices at the time our world was threatened with world wide destruction. Their generation are owed so much from all of us and sometimes I think that even though they were welcomed home their service has not been appreciated enough.

We as Vietnam and Korean vets are becoming the largest group of veterans left. I am proud to call the veterans that served in WWII especially my Americal WWII vets my brother. I am sure that somewhere in your life there is a WWII vet and if he's still alive be sure to thank him for his service to our country. I hope that we all remember the ones that have died and remember them also.

This past Memorial Day I asked 8 people all under the age of 25 why we had Memorial Day and not one knew the reason, that's scary knowing that in the future Memorial Day may just be what most think of it now just a great way to have a long weekend. God Bless all my Americal Brothers!

Lynn "Doc" Hart, H Troop, 17th Cav.
Benton, AR

Dear Editor,

My husband, MSG Jack Oglesby, was stationed in Vietnam July '68 to Aug '69. He was with the 3/21st Infantry, stationed near Tam Ky (LZ Center). He has a photo taken outside of the Gimlet Inn (mess hall) of SFC Okey Blankenship and himself. Blankenship was Operations Sergeant and my husband was Intelligence Sergeant. Sgt. Blankenship was from Panther, WV. We have scanned some photos and can send them via e-mail.

There was an article in the local newspaper at that time, written by Peter Arnett, telling about Blankenship giving a pep talk to the men and talking them out of backing down and retreating from the scene of battle. Shortly before my husband returned to the states his commanding officer, LTC Eli Howard, was killed in a helicopter crash. Many others were lost too. My husband is still haunted by that and other things that happened there.

My husband would love to be in contact with anyone that might have been stationed with him at that time! He is Jack Oglesby, [REDACTED] Long Beach, CA 90808-1906, E-mail at <[REDACTED]>.

Shirley Oglesby
Long Beach, CA

Dear Editor,

My dad, Joseph (Dodie) S. Carder Jr., served in WWII in the first Americal Division ever formed. I am trying to look up the ship "El Cheeva" (sp?) that was bombed on Guadalcanal on 11/28/42. He says it got a citation for this event?

My Dad turned 75 in February and he's still in great mind and health! He's told me quite a bit about his time in the war but I'd like to find some write-ups for his benefit. He was in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji's, Bougainville, and the Philippines.

Anyone having information on the bombing of the ship can write me at [REDACTED] Salem, NH 03079 or [REDACTED].

Thank you.

Lauren Bradley
Salem, NH

Memorial Day Activity

The Americal Division was represented during the Rolling Thunder Ride to the Wall in Washington, DC on Memorial Day weekend. Ed Marsh, Bob Kapp, Ron and Donna Ellis, John Insani, and Beverly and I manned the Americal informational booth. We were there on the 30th and 31st of May.

The weather was hotter than normal with the high in the middle 90s. Rolling Thunder was great. There were approx. 300,000+

bikes in the run. Several thousand more lined Constitution Ave. They were parked everywhere. We talked to a lot of Americal vets and other interested people. We handed out a lot of membership applications.

On Sunday we presented wreaths at the Korean War Memorial, the future site of the WWII Memorial, and at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. At the Wall General Haig and General McKaffrey were speakers as well as Jan Scruggs, Diane Evans and a few more. At 6:05PM we proceeded to Arlington Cemetary and presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. A good time was had by all.

Malcolm East, Co. B, 723rd Maint. Bn.
Sr. Vice Commander, Lumberton, TX

Operation LZ-Oceanside

Americal Division veterans were highly visible at Operation LZ-Oceanside held in Melbourne, FL in late April. An estimated 80 Americal veterans were in attendance including National Commander Ed Marsh and Executive Council Chair Gary Noller.

The event was organized by ADVA Great Lakes Adjutant and 1/1st Cav. Assn. President Terry Babler. It was held in conjunction with the annual Florida Vietnam Veterans Reunion. ADVA Southeast Commander Bob Kapp and Jon Hansen provided a hospitality tent.

The first night of the program found 22 people on three airboats in the swamps near Camp Holly. Their task was to catch and release live alligators. Seventeen alligators were caught, photographed, and then returned to their habitat.. A banquet and entertainment by Britt Small and Festival finished off the weekend Sunday night.

Vietnam Poetry

Forwarded COL Thomas Bedient

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond's glint in the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle Autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,
for I am not there, I did not die.

Origin unknown, poem found among remains of a crash in Central Highlands, Republic of South Vietnam, 1969.

Editor's Note: The Apr-May-Jun 1999 edition of the Americal Newsletter contained an article written by Rick Olson about the action of Kern W. Dunagan in Vietnam. Below is the citation for the Medal of Honor that was awarded to Dunagan as a result of this action. Dunagan survived Vietnam but died of illness a few years ago. The editor has been in contact with members of Dunagan's family. Excerpts of correspondences from his daughter and half-brother are printed below.

Medal of Honor

DUNAGAN, KERN W.

Rank and organization: Major, U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, Americal Division. **Place and date:** Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, 13 May 1969. **Entered service at:** Los Angeles, Calif. **Born:** 20 February 1934, Superior, Ariz.

Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Maj. (then Capt.) Dunagan distinguished himself during the period May 13 and 14, 1969, while serving as commanding officer, Company A. On May 13, 1969, Maj. Dunagan was leading an attack to relieve pressure on the battalion's forward support base when his company came under intense fire from a well-entrenched enemy battalion. Despite continuous hostile fire from a numerically superior force, Maj. Dunagan repeatedly and fearlessly exposed himself in order to locate enemy positions, direct friendly supporting artillery, and position the men of his company. In the early evening, while directing an element of his unit into perimeter guard, he was seriously wounded during an enemy mortar attack, but he refused to leave the battlefield and continued to supervise the evacuation of dead and wounded and to lead his command in the difficult task of disengaging from an aggressive enemy. In spite of painful wounds and extreme fatigue, Maj. Dunagan risked heavy fire on 2 occasions to rescue critically wounded men. He was again seriously wounded. Undaunted, he continued to display outstanding courage, professional competence, and leadership and successfully extricated his command from its untenable position on the evening of May 14. Having maneuvered his command into contact with an adjacent friendly unit, he learned that a 6 man party from his company was under fire and had not reached the new perimeter. Maj. Dunagan unhesitatingly went back and searched for his men. Finding one soldier critically wounded, Maj. Dunagan, ignoring his wounds, lifted the man to his shoulders and carried him to the comparative safety of the friendly perimeter. Before permitting himself to be evacuated, he insured all of his wounded received emergency treatment and were removed from the area. Throughout the engagement, Maj. Dunagan's actions gave great inspiration to his men and were directly responsible for saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers.

Maj. Dunagan's extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to an article written by Rick Olson in the Apr-May-Jun 1999 edition of the Americal Newsletter. The article was about action involving my father, Kern Dunagan. I would like to correspond with anyone who knew him while he was in Vietnam.

I have 3 children, aged 18 to 25, and they are all very interested in learning about their grandfather. They did not have the opportunity to meet him much when he was alive. I have an older brother named Kern who is also interested and I forward all information to him. He has 6 children that knew their "Opa" just a little. My nephew Kristoffer received the flag from my dad's casket when we went to the funeral at the Presidio.

I have always thought of my father as a hero even though he hated that word. I think that his attitude towards his experiences helped shape my outlook on life. I believe that people are heroes every day and I have been fortunate that one of the most important things my dad taught me was a strong sense of responsibility. He was never able to see how immensely he affected other people and I want my children to understand what kind of man he was.

I can be reached by e-mail at [redacted] or send postal mail to [redacted], Tustin, CA 92780.

Jennifer Jackson

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your interest and time. My interest is in leaving some record of Kern's military experiences beyond the official record to his four children and many grand-children.

I am in a unique position to compile such a record. I served under Kern while I was a student in jump school at Ft. Benning in 1966. Kern did his first tour in VN Dec 67 - Dec 68. I went over in Jan 68 and Kern went back again in Feb 69. Kern was 14 years older than me but we had something of a bond because of those shared experiences.

Years later, 1985, I worked at the Presidio of San Francisco as a computer programmer while Kern was Director of Logistics. He was diagnosed with cancer, melanoma, in 1984. He retired from the Army in 1986 and died in December, 1991.

In his last months, I saw a hint of his guts and endurance. Our mother had been hit by a hit and run driver while she was jogging in Tucson, AZ. I got a flight out of San Francisco and Kern got a flight out of Sacramento, CA. I was in Phoenix waiting for a connecting flight when I looked up and saw Kern walking across the lobby.

He had been fighting cancer for 7 years. Among other things, he had lost a jaw bone and his voice to cancer. The cancer had come back and was in his hip so he was walking with a limp. He didn't see me so I just sit and watched him and thought how much he looked like an infantryman carrying too heavy a load up too steep of a hill and gonna make it no matter what. He stayed with our mom for three months to ensure she got decent treatment from her HMO, and died two weeks after she was out of danger.

Part of what has disturbed me about this search is that it is something that Kern would not have wanted. He did not want to be remembered as a hero. In fact he requested no burial at all. Ilene, his wife, and I decided, after his death, that the living had greater priority than the dead and had a military funeral at the Presidio. His great-grandchildren will need a place to go and will need a hero.

But the fact is - Kern always thought more about the deeds of the privates in his company than he did about his valor. He told me that in that battle, as they were trying to break contact and link up with friendlies, the pointmen were being killed within 10 or 15 minutes. He said he would gesture to the next man to take the point and the man would look into his eyes and nod once and move out.

I will say that if there is an after life Kern is going to kick my ass for writing stuff like this. Take care and thank you for the work you are doing. The real history of Vietnam is being written by guys like you in this new medium where publishers with agendas have no say.

Greg Hudson

[redacted] San Diego, CA 92117

REUNIONS

WINTERFFEST R&R ALL VETERANS RALLY
January 14 - 15 - 16, 2000
New Glarus, Wisconsin

WRITE TO

Winterfest 2000
[redacted]
New Glarus, WI 53574

CALL

Ron Lewis [redacted] (Day) [redacted] (Night)
Bart [redacted]

B TROOP - 1st SQUADRON - 1st CAVALRY

Sunday thru Thursday February 10 - 24, 2000
Hanalei Hotel
San Diego, California

For Information:

Ken Bouche [redacted] Brea, CA 92821 Tel: [redacted]	Col. Davis Staley Jr. [redacted] San Diego, CA 92126 Tel: [redacted]
---	---

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

June 15 - 16 - 17 - 18, 2000

Holiday Inn Select - Airport
[redacted]
San Antonio, Texas 78216

Bill Bacon A/2/1 Infantry is the Chairman of the year 2000 Reunion. Contact him at:

Bill Bacon
[redacted]
San Antonio, TX 78250-3553
Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
<[redacted]>

D CO. - 46th INFANTRY - 5th BATTALION - 198 LIB
E CO. - RECON
1967 - 1970

I would like to hear from any of my buddies that I served with in the above units and time frame.

Gary L. Weaver
[redacted]
Johnson City, TX 78636
Tel: [redacted]

CORRECTION

In a previous issue Aime Thomas was inadvertently listed in the wrong unit. It should have read:

1st Sgt. Aime Thomas - A/1/46 Infantry 196 LIB

The 46th Infantry at one time was part of the 198 LIB. In February of 1969, due to a change in command it became part of the 196 LIB.

VIETNAM HISTORIAN REPORT

I would like to request a copy of Vol. 1, No 12 of the Southern Cross from late 1968. I have all the other copies for that year. I am only lacking this one and would like to add it to the set.

Also, I am experimenting with substituting CD-ROMs for the diskettes primarily as a cost saving plan. The cost of the diskettes and postage now nearly equal to our pricing at \$10. The CD-ROMs allow us to provide a lot more information and keep the cost down.

From the St. Louis Reunion I have made some additional contacts and located additional information. I would like to thank Harold Lutz, Colonel Tom Bediant, and William Cox for providing materials and assistance. Harold Lutz has agreed to locate Named Operational Reports in the Archives.

Also, Mr. Al Andzik has offered to help prepare/transcribe some historical materials. William Cox is working on a book about the 1/52nd Infantry. He has been sharing information from battalion journals the he has obtained from the Archives.

Les Hines
[redacted]
Des Moines, IA 50312
Tel: [redacted]

VIETS AMASS NEWS

LZ Hawk Hill--The 3rd, 21st Infantry, has found the local Vietnamese civilians to be valuable friends. recently the villagers brought the 196th LIB unit some interesting news. A group of NVA had been seen moving up a trail west of Binh Lanh Village.

The battalion immediately called artillery in on the suspected NVA location. For two minutes shells burst over the area, ripping enormous gaps in the jungle undergrowth. Shortly afterwards the Division infantrymen searched the site of the shelling. Seven NVA lay dead in the brush.

The Americans found documents on one of the bodies which revealed the location of a major enemy supply route a few miles to the north.

"The villagers usually give us information about, say, the location of a VC mortar position or a small weapons cache", explained the CO.

"However, sometimes they provide us with more valuable information, such as the location of enemy troop concentration and important supply routes", added the Captain. (196th IO)

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

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The ADVA is starting a drive to raise funds for the World War II Memorial that is to be built in Washington, DC. The Executive Council has voted to contribute \$2500.00 to start the drive off. This fund will be donated in memory of the Americal Division. Please send your contributions to:

Adj. Bernard Chase
[redacted]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

4th PLT - B CO. - 1ST BN - 6 INFANTRY - 198 LIB

In memory of Bob Wenzell, Fidele Bastarache, and Dennis Shively, three members of the 4th platoon, B Company, 1st Bn, 6th Infantry, 198 LIB. These three men gave it their all and they died in 1968, I Corp. S.V.N.

In May 1968, touching down at the Long Ben/Bien Hoa airport, you step off the plane and the first thing to hit you is the heat and humidity--like a brick wall! The next thing you notice is the sickening sweet smell in the air. You can't really distinguish what it is, but then maybe it's best that you don't know what it is.

I was at the reception center there for a few days, then I got my orders to join my unit, 4th platoon 81mm Mortars, Co. B, 1st Bn, 6th Infantry, 198 LIB, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

A group of us were loaded onto a C-130 transport plane and flew to Chu Lai where we spent another few days going through the motions, getting checked out, making sure we had our shots, pay records in order, etc.

We went through a couple of orientation classes to try to get prepared for what was about to happen.

From the reception center at Chu Lai we went off to our particular units. I went to LZ Bayonet, located my Company, saw the 1st/Sgt. and drew my gear, i.e., weapon M-16, rucksack, rations, etc. It was late in the day after all that so they assigned me a hooch to sleep in for the night, and then I would go out to join my platoon the next day. The 1st/Sgt. said to enjoy sleeping in a bunk because it would probably be the last one I would see for a while. And boy, he wasn't kidding!

The next day I hung around the company area a while and soon got tired of that so I went out to the Helipad to wait for my bird to fly me out to the bush.

When I got to the Helipad I was standing around watching the Choppers fly in and out for a while, then I got tired. I saw a bunch of boxes stacked up with a big tarp over them. I sauntered over and crawled up on them and began to sun myself and take a cat nap. Every time I looked up I would see G.I.s preparing supplies to go out to the bush and I noticed they were looking at me and laughing. I guess I did look pretty silly on top of that pile of ammo, 105 and mortar HE.

I finally got on the Huey UH1D that took me out to the bush where my platoon was. It was about 5:00 P.M. and so there was only a couple of hours of daylight left to try to orient myself. My platoon Sgt. Bob Wenzell came up to me, shook my hand, and said, "Stick close to me kid and you will be alright."

He took me under his wing and taught me most of what I needed to survive.

That night we were harassed by grenade and rifle fire so there was no sleep at all. The next morning at day break we got up and moved out to another AO.

All the guys there, they looked like the walking dead, their eyes were gaunt, they looked as if they had not had a decent meal or seen a clean bed in months. Besides the enemy we had the elements working against us. Leeches, mosquitoes, ants, snakes--you name it, they got it.

There was this one guy in my platoon, he was KIA in a fire fight. He was from Canada. His name is Fidele J. Bastarache, AKA "Frenchy". He did not have to be there but he gave it his all because of a sense of duty. He set an example for the rest of us to follow.

After a few weeks in the bush we were assigned duty on this hill, Hill 270. It was a bald spot when we first got there. A few holes were dug in the ground from where the VC used to fire rockets at Division Headquarters. Of course everything was booby-trapped but we took care of that.



William McMurtray -- Standing on Hill 270

We spent many days filling sand bags and digging trenches to fortify this hill and turning it into a first class fire support base.

When we would rotate off the Hill to go to the bush, Delta Company would take over where we left off.

We hung many a mortar round off that Hill and the VC tried many times to knock us out but never quite got there.

My platoon Sgt. Bob Wenzell died on that Hill, July 1968. Another platoon member, Dennis C. Shively, was shot down on his way back to the rear to begin his DEROS.

I left Vietnam in July of 1969, I had extended my tour of duty to get an early out. I left however, with a sense of unfinished business. Why had we been there? What was our mission? What was the purpose of being there?

Sincerely,
Sgt. William A. McMurtray
B/1/6 Infantry 198 LIB

Ed Note: Very interesting story, Bill. Thanks for all those names. I'll check them against our roster.

PHONY WAR HEROES DEBUNKED BY REAL THING
Dennis McCarthy

The last Mitchell Paige heard, the guy was up in the Seattle area somewhere, running up thousands of dollars in hospital bills he couldn't pay for.

He didn't have any money, but he told people he had something of value in his knapsack--something

he was very proud of: the Medal of Honor he was awarded in Vietnam.

His story touched the handful of hospital staff and others who heard it. A war hero fallen on hard times. Sad.

"Before you knew it, his hospital bills were paid for him, and the guy took it on the lam again." Paige said. "But I'll find him. You can be sure of that. I'll find him."

Find him because the guy's a phony--just like 500 other Medal of Honor phonies whom the 80 year old Paige, a real Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, has tracked down in the past forty years.

Men who have paid \$500 to \$1000 for their medal on the black market and become instant heroes on their resumes.

Men who had streets and schools named after them, cut the tape on new highways and were grand marshals in their hometown Fourth of July parade.

Men from all walks of life--local businessmen to judges, politicians, and even an astronaut in training.

Paige, a retired Marine Corps colonel, found them all--by himself for the first 35 years, and more recently the help of FBI.

In 1994, Congress passed a federal crime bill stiffening the penalties from a \$250 slap on the wrist to a year in jail and \$100,000 fine for anyone caught fraudulently making, buying, selling or wearing the Medal of Honor.

He exposes phonies in the name of the real heroes. Paige says--the GIs who fought and often gave their lives for their country, but seldom, if ever got any recognition for it.

"I do this for the guys who stayed behind and gave up their lives holding off the enemy while their squad or platoon escaped, the guys nobody ever recognized because nobody knows their names," Paige said.

"They're the real heroes. to have these phonies take the glory is a disgrace."

There are 160 living Medal of Honor recipients, all of them listed in files Paige keeps with their pictures and identification information. If you're not in that file, you aren't the real thing, Paige said.

Phony, like the grand marshal of a Fourth of July parade in Twentynine Palms whom Paige exposed a few years back, or the judge in Illinois who upgraded his Purple Heart to a Medal of Honor, or the New Jersey mayor who resigned in disgrace after Paige debunked him.

The list is long and ugly--phonies who got their hands on unauthorized copies of the Medal of Honor that were sold on the black market by HLI Lordship Inc., the Long Island company that had the government contract for producing the real medals.

The company was fined \$80,00 in 1997 for selling 300 unauthorized copies of the medal, and lost its government contract.

But it's too late to get those 300 medals--and probably more, Paige thinks--out of circulation. They're already hanging around the necks of phonies. "After they're caught and I talk to them, most of the guys say they just got in over

their heads," Paige said. "They'll start by telling some lies to people in their communities about their war record, how they were heroes.

"Then, they get invited to speak at some function, and they embellish it even more. Pretty soon, they've built themselves up to be a Medal of Honor winner".

"Before you know it, they're in the local newspaper cutting ribbons or having streets named after them." he said.

Someone in the communities, usually a veteran, will smell a rat and send the story to Paige. He'll check his files, and if the local hero isn't there, he'll catch the next plane to the guy's hometown.

As he says, he does it for all the men who never got recognized for their heroism.

"When I got my medal I dedicated it to everyone of the 33 men in my platoon who were killed or severely wounded holding off hundreds of enemy charging the hill to overrun our position." said Paige, who earned his medal at Guadalcanal in October 1942. "They were real heroes."

Paige said this with his customary humbleness. He doesn't mention that when Hasbro Inc., maker of the famous GI Joe dolls, went looking last year for one Marine to honor as the new GI Joe action figure, representing all Medal of Honor recipients, it was the name Mitchell Paige that went on the box.

The real thing. Not one of those phonies.

(Taken from the Guadalcanal Echoes)

Ed Note: I thought this might be of interest to our Vietnam veterans. There are many, many men, that hid from the Vietnam War, that are now claiming to be Vietnam Veterans. There is one story on this particular issue that I am trying to get permission to print.

Your public library will have a copy of, 'The Congressional Medal of Honor', The Names and the Deeds. This book covers all Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War through Vietnam.

IT'S JUST MY OPINION, BUT...

So many thoughts were going through my mind when it was announced that Reverend Jesse Jackson had successfully gotten our POWs out of Yugoslavia. I really never thought that they would be counted in the thousands of POWs that are still not home. I never thought that because of the times we live in -- too many people knew the government could not keep these three men a secret -- the media would not allow it.

But with the joy came countless questions. Why was it a civilian with no State Department clout or title that was able to procure the release of these men? Why did our government actually try to stop Reverend Jackson from making the trip? Haven't they learned anything over the years about how to handle these issues? Where was the media 30 years ago? they were quick enough to label us "baby Killers" -- why were they not as diligent in finding out where the men that did not come home actually were? I want to know why, with the numbers of presidents we have had since Johnson, shouldn't one of them have learned from previous

mistakes? Obviously not! What is it going to take for our leaders to stop playing God with other people's lives, and not just our servicemen -- their wives, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and children that never knew their father.

We as a Nation who elect our officials have come way short of the mark when it comes to determining who we feel are good leaders for this country. People complain about Clinton, especially after they voted him in, knew right away what they were getting -- a draft dodger -- a womanizer and a liar. However, he got in anyway -- TWICE! So...it is my opinion...that we have made a few mistakes of our own and can't blame it all on our government -- we elected them! Now what are we going to do about it? Can we fix it at this late date? I certainly hope so, but we will probably not see the benefit of it, maybe our grandchildren will have a better life but not unless we try and straighten out the mess our government is in now.

I have no crystal ball nor do I have all the answers and sometimes I am not sure I have any answers. But this much I do know...we must find people who will care about our Nation...people that are not afraid to buck the system...leaders who will listen to what the people have to say. so far we only have a handful of politicians who actually care about us. We must make more of an effort in the future to elect the right people. Maybe we will get it right one of these days...but its just my opinion...

Thanks for listening,

Don Pape

Ed Note: Don is the Editor of the 'Forward Observer', VVA New Jersey. If you have any comments or wish to contact the 'Forward Observer' the address is:

Forward Observer

Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734-0518

ROCKY BLEIER ON SPORTS AND THE MILITARY

"Rocky" Bleier, former infantryman and Pittsburgh Steelers running back, related combat to football saying: "The whole aspect of a fire team is that you support each other. You have your area, and, hopefully, the guy next to you will cover and overlap. But you can't worry about him, you have to take care of your own field. It's the same with organized teams, especially football."

Bleier learned the grunt trade while a member of 1st Plt. C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Infantry, 196 LIB, Americal Division from May to August 1969. He was wounded in the Heip Douc Valley on August 20th.

Despite severe leg wounds suffered in Vietnam, Bleier recuperated to play football when few believed he could make it back in 1975. Bleier, a life member of VFW Post 5756 in Sewickley, PA, received the VFW's Hall of Fame Award for his concern for veterans.

"There are a lot of similarities between sports and the military," said Bleier. "The ability to take instructions and believe in your leaders, for example--in the military you have to react to instructions; don't question, just react. It's the same thing in sports. You have to be able to trust in your coaching staff, do your job and let them do theirs."

(Taken from the VFW Magazine)

1st PLT - DELTA CO. - 1ST BN - 20th INFANTRY 11 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

The First Platoon, Delta Company, 1/20th Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, had their 30th anniversary and first ever Reunion from May 7th through the 9th, in Pidgeon Forge, Tennessee. Most of the members were located by Cliff and Sherry Barger who also organized the Reunion. Of the 25 members located, 14 were able to attend. Men came from as far away as Idaho, New Jersey and Colorado. The men were in Vietnam from September, 1968 through June, 1970.

Everyone had a great time together, lots of laughs, certainly some tears, friendships renewed and memories relived. Each one of the men, upon arrival, was presented with a white tee shirt and baseball hat with the Americal patch and "Viet Nam Veteran forever Friends" sewn on.



Back Row Top: Cliff Barger, Bob McClennan. Second Row: Gary Phillips, Bill Howard. Third Row: Bill Toffing, Bob Hatten. Fourth Row: Steve Padoris, John Stankus, John Rosebrook, Alan Conger. Bottom Row: James Yearly, Jack Hayden, Dennis Sperry, Tom Cole.

On Friday night all the men and their wives had front row seats at the Lee Greenwood concert in Pidgeon Forge. For his last song, Lee had the whole Platoon and their wives stand up and the Platoon received a standing ovation from the audience. Lee then dedicated his last song to the Platoon. It was very rewarding and emotional for all and quite an honor for the men. All the members are looking forward to our next Reunion, and hoping to have some of the other men there too.

Many of the men in this Platoon were wounded in Vietnam and to be together again was a very emotional and rewarding experience.

Alan Conger

Boulder, Co 80304

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER
PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER
GIVE IT TO A V. A. HOSPITAL
PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Hq, 1st Sqdr. 1st Cav. (First Reg. of Dragoons)
Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96374

ADVF - AR-SC

TO: ALL UNITS THIS COMMAND

1. REFERENCES:

- Americal Regulation 525-4
- XXIV Corp Reg 525-4

2. The enclosed Rules of Engagement are provided for dissemination of all members of this command.

3. Combat Leaders will be thoroughly familiar with the content of this enclosure.

FOR THE COMMANDER;

ROBERT L. WEATHERS
CPT, Armor
Adjutant

SUBJECT; RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

2 Aug 1970

ADVF-AR-SC

1. The use of unnecessary force resulting in non-combatant casualties and property loss will embitter the population and make the long term goal of pacification more difficult and costly. The VC/NVA exploit incidents of non-combatant casualties and destruction of property by RVNAF/US?FWMAF to foster resentment and to alienate the people against the government.

2. The circumstances of the conflict call for restraint not normally required of a soldier on the battlefield. Commanders must strike a balance between the force necessary to accomplish the mission, with due regard to the safety of their commands and the importance attached to minimizing non-combatant casualties. This requires the highest order of leadership and judgment.

3. An unusual requirement is placed on junior leaders to carry out sensitive combat operations, often in an environment where large numbers of civilians are present. The determination of right and wrong in the heat of battle requires a keen, swift and decisive analysis of all contributing factors and must be based on a thorough understanding of the legal and moral principles involved.

4. Villages and hamlets not associated with maneuver of ground forces will not be fired upon without prior warning by leaflets and or speaker systems or by other appropriate means, even though fire is received from them, provided that friendly troops are not placed in jeopardy in the interim.

5. Villages and hamlets from which hostile fire is being received, may be attacked without prior warning, and without prior clearance, if the attack is in conjunction with a ground operation involving maneuver of ground forces through the area, and if, in the judgment of the ground commander, his mission or troops would be jeopardized by such warning or delay.

6. A written set of rules cannot be provided that will apply in every situation. Therefore, the final decision on engagement will be at the discretion of the senior tactical commander present who must consider the mission and the situation as well as he/her responsibility to minimize both friendly and non-combatant casualties and destruction of private and public

property. In cases where doubt exists concerning application of firepower, the commander will request guidance from higher headquarters. If the commander cannot contact higher headquarters or time does not permit contact higher headquarters, the commander will take action he deems appropriate and notify higher headquarters of his decision and subsequent actions as possible.

Doug Wood
C Trp 1/1 Cav

(Comments from Doug Wood: "Do you believe this paper. This War is so politically run that they even issue rules of engagement. When and how to fight Charles. There's men dying here and they tell us not to kill Dinks. Read these rules and tell me if this War isn't politically run.")

NOW HEAR THIS!

Dear Americal Association:

My name is Mike Gottschalk, I am a Life Member of the Americal Division Veterans Association and a combat Vietnam Veteran. I am also a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

I work as a Disabled Veteran Outreach Worker for the State of Michigan.

My concern is this: With one thousand WW II vets dying everyday and also a lot of other vets, it is well past the time for ONE major veterans organization.

Each organization has there membership drive every year. I'm sorry gentlemen, but we are running out of troops.

VFW Posts are going belly-up and so is the DAV and every vet group is down in membership. I know this does not sit well with our National Commanders, Presidents, the great Poh Pahs of these organizations, because they are getting nice wages. But it's time to get humble gentlemen, and remember the BIG picture--the future of Veterans.

I work and talk to Veterans every day--just struggling to get by--get some kind of a job.

I we could pool six or eight major Vet groups, we then would have a very strong voice in Washington. The time has come!

This letter is going to other Vet Groups. Thanks for your time.

God bless,
Veteran Mike

If you know of a member that has passed away, or know of a member that is ill, please notify the Adjutant as soon as possible.

Adj. Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

SEND IN YOUR STORY NOW!

Lets hear about your adventures in Vietnam. Send the article to: Gary L. Noller

Kansas City, MO 64114

Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

Occupation _____ Name of Spouse _____

Date _____ Signature _____ Enclosed DD-214 Y N

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



Editor-In-Chief
James C. Buckle

[REDACTED]
Harwich, MA 02645

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID

Harwich, MA 02645
Permit No. 62

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Jan01
MS. East Beverly Ann

[REDACTED]
Lumberton TX 77657-7401

