



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor-in-Chief: James C. Buckle

Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller

Published Quarterly

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1998

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

WARMEST GREETINGS
OF THE SEASON
AND EVERY GOOD WISH
FOR THE COMING YEAR

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Chapter Commander Central Midwest Region Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

Chapter Commander Northwest Region Lloyd J. Morrell

Redmond, OR 97756

Chapter Commander Southeast Region Bob Kapp

Oldsmar, FL 34677

Chapter Commander New England Region Roland T. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

Web Site (Internet) www.americal.org

Seasons Greetings

On behalf of national officers and myself and our families, I wish to extend to each of you and your families our wishes that the holiday season brings much joy an happiness and that the new year is one of health and prosperity. See you all soon.

Veterans Day 1998

I had a very busy three days in Washington, D.C. for Veterans Day activities. It started off by saying hello at the Marine Corps 223rd anniversary observance on November 10. It was held at the memorial in Arlington, VA. Jon Hansen from Orlando, FL joined me and a friend at the DMZ to Delta Dance where we enjoyed good food and drink, a DJ from Run Around Sue, vendor displays, and a silent auction. Thanks to all who stopped by our table to say hello and to share a few laughs.

On Veterans Day John Insani (Col., USA, Ret.) and Jon Hansen helped me lay wreaths in memory of Americal Division veterans who have gone to eternity. We visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War memorial. Once again, Americal veterans were at the sites and we signed up some new members.

Later that night we had a great time at the dance honoring the fifth anniversary of the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project. We hope to soon have Pat Muehling as a new member. She served with the 312th Evac and with the 2nd Surgical hospitals in Chu Lai in 1968.

We are making plans to be in Washington D.C. for Rolling Thunder and other Memorial Day activities in 1999. I hope to see you there.

Kokomo, Sept. 18-20, 1998

Three days of great weather greeted a large turn-out of some 20,000 plus vets at this year's reunion at Kokomo, IN. When I visited the new Howard County site in July, I did not think that the 22 acres could be filled. Well, I was wrong.

The ADVA had a booth with membership information, t-shirts, and a registration sheet. I want to thank those who helped with the booth: Gary Warn, Dave Taylor, The Bear, Ron Ellis, John Wills, Dennis Crouse, Terry Babler, 1/1 Cav. Assn. members, ADVA Great Lakes Chapter members, and any others I failed to mention.

Thanks also to the 28 members who took time to stop by and sign our sheet. I like to know where our ADVA members come from and to try to make out booth better each year. We distributed many applications to prospective members and welcome them aboard.

I would like to obtain a copy of the group photo of all Americal veterans. If you have one, please send me a copy. I have some of the unit photos taken of the 1/1 Cav, 196th LIB, and 198th LIB veterans.

This had to be the largest turn-out of Americal veterans in some time. Thanks to Sgt. Ron Davis and the guys for the tent and food. As reported before, this event gets larger and larger each year. Make you plans to be there in September, 1999.



November 11, 1998: As I walked through the "Garden of Stone" on Veterans Day I came across this head stone from days so long ago. Lest we forget.



October 17, 1998: Terry and Judy Babler, 1st/1st Cav. Assn. and ADVA Great Lakes Chapter, at the POW/MIA March for Freedom and fund-raiser held at Somers, WI.



July 8, 1998: ADVA member Terry Ivey and I stand in front of the Moving Wall display at Battle Creek, MI.

Executive Committee Ballots

The ADVA Executive Committee approved several items in a recent ballot. The following individuals were nominated by National Commander Ed Marsh for the Nominating Committee: James C. Buckle, Lloyd J. Morrell, Roland T. Castronova, John DeGroot, and Ronald L. Ward. The nominees were unanimously accepted by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee approved an increase in the budget for the Americal Newsletter so that it can be mailed by an outside firm. A fund of \$2,000 was approved for the printing of membership recruitment materials. It was also decided to split the membership budget into two categories: recruitment and events.

ADVA 97-98 Financial Statement

Mr. Rick Olson, National Finance Officer, has provided a financial statement for the association at the close of business, June 30, 1998. It lists revenues for the year at \$41,276 and expenses at \$36,681. Assets are \$69,879 with liabilities of zero. The chief source of revenues are annual dues which amounted to nearly \$30,000. The largest expense was for printing and mailing the newsletter. Much of the surplus this year was generated by product sales.

Great Lakes Chapter News

John Mathews, Commander
Terry Babler, Adjutant/Treasurer

Our next annual meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. on January 16, 1999 at the American Legion in New Glarus, WI. Last year we had over 30 chapter members attend the meeting. The meeting will be held during the 13th Annual Winterfest R & R All Veterans Rally that includes a parade on Friday night and a group photo on Saturday afternoon. A dinner and dance will be held on Saturday night at the New Glarus Hotel.

We had a great turnout for our September 19, 1998 meeting at Kokomo, IN. Over 100 Americal veterans enjoyed the new facilities at one of the oldest Vietnam veterans reunion in the country. If you do not plan to camp out, you are advised to make hotel reservations now if you wish to attend Kokomo next year. This reunion will continue to get bigger and better.

We are a sponsor of the LZ-Oceanside All Veterans Reunion on April 15-19, 1999 in Melbourne Beach, FL. Hotel arrangements can be made at the Holiday Inn by calling [REDACTED]. A special discount applies for LZ-Oceanside attendees. Dance tickets are available for \$25 from Terry Babler. A special gathering of Americal veterans will be hosted by Bob Kapp, Southeast Chapter Commander, at Wickham Park's campground A from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on April 18.

Annual dues of \$5 are due should be sent to Terry Babler. We plan to have two newsletters per year. Chapter T-shirts are available for \$13 each. We plan to be in St. Louis for the 1999 reunion and will submit a bid for the reunion in 2001. Contact: Terry Babler, [REDACTED], New Glarus, WI, [REDACTED].

Website Begins Fourth Year

The ADVA website at <www.americal.org> began its fourth year of operation on December 1, 1998. It was one of the first internet websites for a division unit association. The site has a multitude of offerings to include unit history, association organization, membership information, reunion schedule, locator service, response page, electronic directory, hot news, and links to other sites of interest.

www.americal.org

Webmasters for the site are SFC Anthony Greene and Kevin M. Sartorius. In recognition of their fine efforts, both were made honorary life associate members of the ADVA. Greene is on duty with the U.S. Army in Germany and Sartorius is with MCI in Washington, D.C.

Hundreds of veterans visit the page each month. Many are surprised and happy to find a link to their past service with the Americal. One such visitor was Mr. Carmen J. Malizia who served in Vietnam with Co. B, 723d Maint. Bn. He wrote the following in the guest book:

"This web page brought me to a box on a shelf way in the back of the closet marked "do not open". That box was put there by me in November 1970 when I returned home from Vietnam. I've walked up to the box occasionally wanting to open it over the last 29 years, but was always afraid of the memories inside, so there it remained all of the treasures, good and bad.

"Since visiting this site I got enough courage to peek in the box, I expect to finally open it up all the way,.... soon, I guess it is time for closure. As other Vietnam Vets, I counted down the days to when I would get on that "Freedom Bird" home, but when the day came I had that is-that-all-there-is feeling.

I remember on one of my last days walking along the beach in Chu Lai, for miles it seemed, realizing that it was over, and then suddenly wishing it were not. I walked, talked to myself and cried as choppers and planes flew by, sad in a way about what was going on, but somehow feeling personally fulfilled having completed a year in Vietnam, almost feeling guilty.

It was over, and so I decided I would compartmentalize my year and put it away safely on a shelf, and never open it up. If anyone out there knows where I'm coming from can you help me open this box? I think it's finally time! Thank you for a wonderful web site!"

Carmen would like to share his souvenirs, including in-country audio tapes, with others that may have been with him in the 723d Maint. Bn. Write to him at [REDACTED] Roslyn, Pa. 19001-2431 or phone [REDACTED].

You are invited to visit the website and leave your comments in the guest book.

Taken from the web locator at <www.americal.org>.

Looking For: Anyone, LZ Center; 5/68-5/69, MARS.

Contact: Larry 'Johnny' Johnson, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Redmond, OR. 97756

Looking For: Anyone, 132d., Inf., Co A. My father was T/Sgt Geo.F.Kimball. He was at Guradalcanal, Fiji, Bougainville. He attended his first reunion Aug. of 1985 in Oak Brook, Illinois and passed away a week later.

Contact: Valarie Kimball Ullery [REDACTED]

Looking For: SGT Hover, Samsel, Roberts Griffith, Murphy, Packet, B Co., 723 Maint Bn. Contact: Carmen Malizia [REDACTED]

Looking For: Larry Miller, Co. D, 11th LIB, 68-70, he was a radio man for Captain O'Leary. Contact: Joe Aitken or Rock, [REDACTED]

Ferguson, Mo. 63135, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, 6/11th Arty, 1/69-11/69, LZs Cork, Pepper, San Juan Hill, Contact: Tom Ward, <prdftr@aol.com>, 2912 Philadelphia Pike, Apt. B-3, Claymont, Delaware, 19703, 302-798-1185

Looking For: Anyone, Co. D, 4th platoon, 5/46th 198 LIB, 6/68-6/69, Contact: Edward A. Davis, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Bdale, MI. 49026, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co.B 1/6 198th AB Co., 4th Inf. Div. 5/70 to 1/71, who transferred to different units of the Americal. Contact: Will Ascencio,

[REDACTED], Abilene, TX. 79603 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, HHC, H Troop, 17th Cav, April 1970-July 1970. Where is Lt. Zack? Contact: Johnny D. Johnson [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, C Co., 5/46th, 8/68 thru 8/69. Contact: Bill 'Gingus' Watkins, [REDACTED], Vista, Ca 92084

Looking For: Anyone, 198th LIB Signal Platoon from 9/68 until 8/69 at LZ Bayonet. Contact: Steve Monroe, [REDACTED], Cameron, WV 26033

Looking For: George Cabral, Gilberto Lopez, Jacob Armenta, Paul Lockett, Hector J. Murillo, Alan simms, Kirk Thornton, John Vigil. All left for Viet Nam and the Americal on the same day. Co. "E" 1/20th INF 11th LIB, 4/67-5/68. Contact: Steve Neff or Leonard Jackson, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, B Trp., 1/1st Cav., 6/69-6/70.

Contact: Rich Chambers, [REDACTED],

[REDACTED], Medford, OR, 97501

Looking For: Anyone, Co.A, 2/1st, 196th LIB, 69-70.

Contact: David Carter, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Lindale, GA, 30147

Looking For: Anyone, HQ&HQ, 196th LIB, Ft. Devins to Tay Ninh. Contact: Rev. Kelly McDuffie,

[REDACTED], Lambert, MS, 38643, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Robert Carr, A Co., 4/3rd, 11th LIB, 1968.

Contact: Alvester Burnett, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Plant City, FL, 33566, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Gary Dyson, Johnnie Hanson "tiny", Doc Ulen, John Shelton, Lt. John Kelly, Sgt. McKinney, Ferguson "Fergie", Walter Seawright, Rocky. C Co., 2/1st, 196 LIB, 69-70. Contact: Lawrence Mendez Jr., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Omar, WV, 25638

Looking For: Anyone who knew SSG Charles Freeman, 1/20th Inf., KIA 9/68. Contact: Doug Freeman, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Rick Garcia, B Btry, 6/11 Arty, 11th LIB, 4-69 to 4-70. Contact: Mike Dareing, 4742 Mesa Drive, Oakdale, CA. 95361, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Charles Carroll, came in-country March 1969. He may have been wounded during attack on LZ Stinson. I was in C/1/46th, LZ Professional. Contact: Alan Johnson, [REDACTED], Malta, MT, 59538, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Unit members, Co. D, 1/20, 11th Bde., 1st Plt., 10/69-10/70. Contact: Dennis Sperry, 19826 110th St., Danville, IA 52623 319-392-4738 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Members, B, 46th Inf., 198th, left on top of hill in Dragon Valley, 12/70. Contact: Jorge Hernandez, 200 W. 8th., Julesburg, CO, 80737 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Leland Miles, Macon, GA and Edward Miller Shell Creek, TN, 182nd Inf., HQ Co., 2nd Bn., 43-45. Contact: Alfonso M. Hidalgo, [REDACTED], Pearblossom, CA. 93553

Looking For: Crew Members, 132 Avn. Co., 70-71. Contact: Arnie Engelby, [REDACTED], Coon Rapids, MN, 55433, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Gary (Wildman) Hall, Det. A LRP and E/51 LRP, late 1967. Contact: Ramon Sanchez Garcia, 620 Nevada St., Newton, MA 02161, [REDACTED]

Looking For: 3rd Plt., C/4/31, 196 LIB, July 69-70. Contact: John Kuruc, [REDACTED], Evanston, IL, 60201, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Tom Gatie, Co. B, 1/46th, 196LIB, 9/69 to 9/70. Contact: John Lawson, [REDACTED], Napa, CA 94558

Looking For: Lloyd Davies, E Co, 3/21, 196th, 1970. Contact: Steve Horgan, [REDACTED], Scarborough, ME 47074

Looking For: Bill Varney, A Co., 123rd Avn., 3rd Plt., 11/68-12/69 & then a Blueghost with F Trp, 8th Cav. Contact: Roland Pelletier, [REDACTED], Biddeford, ME, 04005

Looking For: Anyone, B, 4/31st Inf., 1970. Contact: Gerry Pepper, [REDACTED], San Jose, CA 95136

Looking For: Harry Bob Coen, E Co., 2/1st, MIA 5/12/68 during Kam Duc operation. Contact: Tommy Poppell, [REDACTED], or Bev Malone, [REDACTED], St Cloud, FL, 34770

Looking For: Anyone, 2nd Plt., C/2/1, 9/70-11/71. Contact: Gary Capshaw, [REDACTED], Pottsboro, Tx. 750761, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Tony Blackwell, Co. C, 1/52, 198 LIB, 70-71. Contact: Bob Salstead [REDACTED], Springfield, MA, 01129, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Michael Hayducko, Co. G, 2nd Bn., 164th Inf., Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu. Contact: Warren Freeman, [REDACTED], Simpsonville, SC 29681-49311, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Co. E, 4/3 rd Inf., 11th LIB, April 68-69. Contact: Dave Morgan, [REDACTED], Cherry Hill, NJ, 08003

MONTHLY A. D. V. A. MEETINGS

No Meeting in January

No Meeting in February

March 6, 1999
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

May 15, 1999
Armed Forces Day
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

POWS/MIAs REMEMBERED
Bourne Memorial is first of kind
in National Cemeteries

Bourne - William Williams of Hyannisport remembered his 33 months in German prison camps during World War II after his ammunition ship was sunk off Norway in July 1942.

Norma Silvia remembered how her brother, Joe, missing in action in the Korean War, never returned to their Taunton home.

Venice-Vallery Hammack of Lynn remembered the 39 missing Gulf War veterans, including three from Massachusetts.

Everybody remembered somebody yesterday during the dedication of the memorial to prisoners of war and the missing in action in any war at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

The memorial is the first in the 132 National Cemeteries in the United States.

"It will provide evidence to the world that our missing in action and prisoners of war will never be forgotten," said Mary Quinn of Quincy, a retired Army colonel who served as a combat nurse in a mobile Army surgical hospital in Korea and Vietnam. "We declare our allegiance to them, wherever they may be on this planet."

The moving, 90 minute dedication was part of the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Bourne cemetery. About 500 veterans and families gathered for speeches, music and prayers at the site of the new memorial, south of the main entrance drive and near the POW-MIA's dark flag.

"This is a wonderful thing," said Williams, a retired American Baptist minister who worked in Plymouth, Barnstable and Bass River. "Today's generation know very little about veterans or about war. Thank God. But they still need to know that the freedom we have come at a very high price."

There were 76,00 soldiers missing in action in World War II, 8177 in the Korean War, 2500 in the Vietnam War and 150 from the Cold War, according to master of ceremonies Francis Carmichael of Wareham, chairman of the joint veterans committee that arranges the annual ceremony.

"We will never give up on our efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting of every American missing in action," said Richard B. Holbrook, yesterdays main speaker. The senior manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based in Washington. Holbrook reviews any project in the national cemetery system.

By never giving up, he said, the country honors them and the families who feel "the anguish of not knowing the fate of their loved ones."

Many yesterday remembered Richard Gallant of Plymouth, formerly of Brewster, who created and led the push for the new monument. The 36-year veteran died in 1996, and his wife Helen represented him yesterday.

The new memorial was the work of sculptor Robert Schure, creator of the Irish Famine in Boston, and artist Steve Rosen, according to memorial committee chairman William "Red" Mason of East Taunton.

There many moments to remember during the chilly ceremony.

There was the space left in a formation of fighter planes as one pilot soared up, out of the formation and out of sight. The "missing man" flyover performed by four flyers in the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base. The booming volleys at the ceremony's end set off a racket of car alarms that lasted through the playing of "Taps."

(Cape Cod Times-November 9, 1998)
Susan Milton-Staff Writer

Ed Note: The Richard Gallant mentioned in the above story served with the 26th Signal Company during World War II. He continued in the service following the war and retired as a Major. He not only was instrumental in having the memorial placed in the Bourne cemetery but he was instrumental in bring the National Cemetery to Bourne. He was also the master of ceremonies for many, many years.

Our Adjutant, Bernie Chase, attended the dedication of the new memorial. Bernie has been a faithful attendant to both the Memorial Day service and the Veterans Day service since the cemetery was first dedicated. On both of these holidays he personally places a flag on the grave of any known Americal veteran.

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

If you have any questions about your dues or any organizational questions please contact:

Adj. Bernard C. Chase
[redacted]
South Yarmouth, MA 01880
Tel. [redacted]

If you have any article of general knowledge, or stories from the 'Old Guard', that you wish to have printed in the Americal Newsletter, please contact:

Editor-in-Chief
James C. Buckle
[redacted]
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470
Tel. [redacted]

If you have stories of general knowledge, or wish to have your story printed in the 'Vietnam News Network' of the Americal Newsletter, please contact:

Vietnam Editor
Gary L. Noller
[redacted]
St. Louis, MO 64114
Tel. [redacted]

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Robert R. Agans
198 LIB C/1/14 Arty
Manvill, NJ
#Don Ballou

Mr. Brian E. Benesh
566 Med Co 67 Med
Dickinson, ND
#Lynn Hart

Mr. Bill Bradley
23 SST T-Force Ore
Middletown, DE
#Joe Krisanits

Mr. James D. Buckley
82 Arty B/3/82
Fort Pierce, FL
#Bob Kapp

Mr. Norbert H. Bykowski
198 LIB HHC
McHenry, IL
#R. Castronova

Mr. Ralph Cole
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
West Hempstead, NY
#Brian Mulcrone

Mr. David J. Curtin
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf
Rockland, MA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Raymond Donsante
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Cleveland, OH
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Richard Dziekenski
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf
Rome, NY
#Don Ballou

Mr. David A. Foulk
196 LIB 48Inf Sc Dg
Norfolk, NE
#Richard Smith

Mr. Metzger (Mike) M. Go
708 Main B Com
Austin, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Russ P. Harvell
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Little Rock, AR
#Not Listed

Mr. John J. Head
11 LIB E/4/21 Inf
Columbus, IN
#Ed Marsh

Mr. James C. Hunt
196 LIB B/HHC/2/1
Springfield, MO
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Vince C. Lombardi
23 Support
Berkley Springs, WV
#Neil A. Burke

Mr. Reginald A. Almklov
26 Eng HHC 160 Det
Hannaford, ND
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bud Botts
196 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Joseph, OR
#Self

Mr. Joseph H. Broadus
31 Infantry 4/31
Greenville, SC
#Don Ballou

Mr. James M. Burton
198 LIB G/55 Arty Q
Redmond, OR
#Lloyd Morrell

Mr. Robert J. Chappell
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf
Plano, TX
#Don Ballou

Mr. Jack R. Cummings
16 Arty 3/16
Grand Isle, NE
#Richard Smith

Mr. Gerald J. Dinkel
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf
Great Bend, KS
#Don Ballou

Mr. Donald C. Duchow
132 Infantry G Co.
Bakersfield, CA
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Peter L. Everts
198 LIB A+C/1/46 In
Rochester Hills, MI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Joseph Genovese
11 LIB C/6 SPT
Las Vegas, NV
#Castronova-Hayes

Mr. David R. Hartman
198 LIB D/1/6 Inf
Barronesville, VA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Phillip G. Haymaker
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Waukegan, IL
#John R. Geib

Mr. Robert M. Holzinger
1 CAV 1/A Tr/1
Huntington, IN
#R. Castronova

Mr. Roger N. Lee
23 HHC Div Sup Com
Gilbert, AZ
#R.Castronova

Mr. Michael Mahoney
26 Engrs A Co.
Dallas, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Carman J. Malizia
11 LIB B/723 Main
Roslyn, PA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Michael W. Mershon
23 S&T (D.S.)
Springfield, OH
#Ed Marsh

Mr. Kevin J. Murphy
26 Engrs D Co.
Weymouth, MA
#Self

Mrs. William H. Olson
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
Bronx, NY
#Self

CSM Buford Parnell (Ret)
198 LIB HHC
Waynesville, MO
#CSM Jim Meade

Mr. Rick L. Plett
20 Infantry D/1/20
Bettendorf, IA
#Self

Mr. Allen K. Roberts II
11 LIB 4/D/21 Inf
Berkley, MI
#Self

Mr. Dan Sexton
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
Cincinnati, OH
#C. Sizemore

Mr. Charles E. Sparks
14 CAB 71 AHC
Marietta, GA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. David L. Stuber
6 Infantry HHC/1/6
Elkhart, IN
#Ed Marsh

Mr. James C. Volkenabd
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Navarre, FL
#Vance Van Wieran

Mr. Galen V. Wanderschei
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf
Bellebue, IA
#Gary L. Noller

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Jerry R. Comer
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf
Sulligent, AL
#Bernie Chase

Mr. William W. Freeman
164 Infantry G Co.
Simpsonville, SC
#William Maddox

Mr. James B. Lewis
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf
Saint Paul, MN
#R. Thornton

Mr. John McGraw
132 Infantry A Co.
Newburgh, NY
#Self

Mr. Glenn Morrell
Not Listed
Woodstock, GA
#Terry Babler

Mr. Ron Nereson
46 Infantry G Co.
Hayden, CO
#Self

Mr. Bruce D. Parker
11 LIB C/4/21 Inf
Mountain City, TN
#Don Ballou

Mr. Franklin Parsons
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Campobello, SC
#Don Ballou

Mr. Thomas Ramsey
11 Arty B/6/11
Hartford, CT
#Self

Mr. Michael Russell
Associate
Statesboro, GA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert S. Shaw
132 Infantry HHC
Chicago, IL
#Bernard Stellar

Mr. James W. Stein
523 Signal A Co.
LaGrange, IL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Gregory E. Vanderbos
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Carson City, NV
#Jay Roth

Mr. Roy Walker Jr.
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
Milwaukee, WI
#Kevin Kavanaugh

Mr. Lafayette T. Wilkins
196 LIB 3/21 Inf
Suffolk, VA
#R. Castronova

TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS

182 Infantry H Co.	182 Infantry MED DET
Samuel Albano Everett, MA July 25, 1998	Jerome S. Altieri Wakefield, MA October 4, 1998
132 INFANTRY K CO.	70 CA AA BTRY E
Carl W. Beckus Rockford, IL September 17, 1998	Herbert S. Danner Cincinnati, OH October 6, 1997
164 INFANTRY	247 FA A Btry
Donald D. DeLap Cape Coral, FL April 19, 1998	Robert S. Dokton Malden, MA September 9, 1998
182 INFANTRY G CO.	52 EVAC HOSPITAL
James A. Farley Acton, MA August 11, 1998	Elias B. Garfinkel Milwaukee, WI January 24, 1998
72 FIELD ARTILLERY	182 INFANTRY C CO.
Harold B. Holcombe Bonita Springs, FL February 13, 1998	Albert J. LeDuc Nashua, NH August 5, 1998
132 INFANTRY F CO.	182 INFANTRY
Ed McAuley Scottsdale, AZ September 13, 1998	August Obuchowski Chesapeake, VA September 1997
132 INFANTRY E CO.	182 INFANTRY L Co.
Frank Raymond Oak Park, IL July 6, 1997	Leo Renard Omaha, NE July 9, 1998
183 INFANTRY C CO.	182 INFANTRY K CO.
Robert G. Rondeau Nashua, NH April 2, 1998	David A. Scott Sunnyvale, CA October 20, 1998
101 MEDICAL BN.	182 INFANTRY
Ralph Serino East Boston, MA October 1, 1998	Leo J. Sullivan Milton, MA April 26, 1997
57 ENGINEERS CO A	132 INFANTRY K CO.
Henry H. Vroom Holbrook, MA August 23, 1997	Julius Ziesk Scottsdale, AZ October 4, 1998

IF YOU KNOW OF A MEMBER WHO HAS PASSED AWAY OR THAT IS SICK PLEASE NOTIFY:

ADJ. BERNARD CHASE
SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664

Ltc. Herbert S. Danner (Ret)

Col. Herbert S. Danner passed away on October 6, 1998 at age 86.

Col. Danner Was a member of Task Force 6814 and sailed on the Santa Rosa from Brooklyn Navy Yard on January 23, 1942 for New Caledonia and duty in the South Pacific.

Col. Danner was always proud to wear the Americal patch of blue with its Southern Cross of stars.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Danner
(Mrs. Herbert S. Danner)

James A. Farley Sr.

My Dad passed away on August 11, 1998. He was a proud member of Company G, 182nd Infantry, Americal Division and still got together with a few of his buddies from the Woburn, Winchester, Massachusetts area including his former C.O. Ltc. Elmer Mitchell (Ret) and Maj. Don Pray (Ret).

My Dad's funeral included the veteran's honors for W.W.II vets and we were very proud.

Dad married my Mom, his war time sweetheart, in May of 1947 and they had a wonderful marriage until her death in 1994.

He was the father of three sons and two daughters, ten grand children and four great grand children.

He was only sick for a short time and died peacefully at age 82.

Sincerely,
Linda F. Noone

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Mr. Robert G. Anderson 132 Infantry K Co Rockford, IL #Don Ballou	Mr. Frank J. Przybojewski 523 Sig Bn Daytona Beach, FL #R. Castronova
--	--

SICK CALL

182 Infantry E Co	101 Medical Bn.
James P. Nardone Wakefield, MA 01880	Herbert J. O'Brien Salem, NH 03079

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?

It is compulsory to be a paid up member of National before you can join a Chapter. However, Chapters hold regional get-togethers and this provides an excellent opportunity to meet members and also perhaps meet and old buddy.

It is also necessary for Chapters to charge dues because they are financially independent from National and must raise their own expenses.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?
Check that address label now!

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

THIRD PLACE WINNER



Terry-Ann Cabral

Her Response:

Dear Mr. Ward

I want to thank you for all that you have done in selecting me for the ADVA Scholarship.

Your generous award makes a long-term goal of continuing my education feasible. As you are well aware, the cost of a college education has soared over the past years. With a younger sister just a couple of years behind, college bills are going to cause a financial burden to my family, for many years to come. Your generosity cannot be more appreciated.

The ADVA Scholarship has also affected me in another way. The application stipulations of composing an essay about the history and contributions of the Americal Division gave me the opportunity to have a private interview with my Grandfather, Ken Turner. I have always looked upon him as a personal hero, but I was never aware of the specific heroic duties he performed during WW II. I would like to thank you for the opportunity that you gave me to learn more about my Grandfather's past.

With the generous aid from the Americal Division Veterans Association Scholarship, my dreams are now going to become a reality. I vow to apply myself with the utmost effort to my studies in order to meet, if not surpass, the expectations of the ADVA. Once again, I thank you with my highest regards.

Sincerely,
Terry-Ann Cabral

AMERICAL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Applications are now available for next years scholarship awards. For your application write to:

Ronald L. Ward
St. Louis, MO 63123

REUNIONS

13th ANNUAL WINTERFEST R&R
ALL VETERANS RALLY
January 15-16-17, 1999
New Glarus, WI

Activities begin at 6:30 P.M. on January 15, 1999 when Vets meet for hospitality at Swiss Lanes. We have yodeling, dancing, parades, helicopter rides, silent auctions, military displays, good food and great hospitality.

New Glarus, Wisconsin is a Swiss Community of 1800 known for its festivals year round and hospitality. What set this event apart from other festivals is that it is held in January-in winter in Wisconsin. SO - dress accordingly. Motels, hotels, bed and breakfasts are within walking distance to everything. If you go to the center of New Glarus and go any direction from there 6 blocks and you will be at the Village limits. There are plenty of bars, restaurants, gift shops, etc. to keep you entertained. Walk around to get where you are going. Park/leave car at hotel until you leave. You will have a great time in New Glarus

For more info or to receive a flyer contact:

Ron Lewis 1-88-498-6411

or write

Winterfest 1999
New Glarus, WI 53574-0014

OPERATIONS LZ - ALL VETERANS REUNION
Aprin 15-16-17-18-19, 1999
Melbourne, Florida

For more info call:

Terry Babler
Jim Bartlett

or write for flyer to:

Operations LZ-Oceanside
New Glarus, WI 53574

FLORIDA'S 12th ANNUAL VIETNAM VETERANS
IN WICKHAM PARK - MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
April 16-17-18, 1999

For more info write:

Vietnam Veterans of Brevard
Cocoa, FL 32993-0929

43rd INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Orlando, Florida
January 28-29-30, 1999

For More info:

VC Al Lendzian
Spring Hill, FL 34610-1042

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander Ernest B. Carlson
Secretary/Treasurer Malcolm P. East
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Tel. [redacted] Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel. [redacted]

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Mobley
Chaplain: Rev Perry M. Woerner

Everything is quiet on the "South-Mid-Western front!!"

Many of the Chapter members will have taken part in the Veterans Day activities across the Nation. Hope everyone had a chance.

Allan C. Duglash, A/2/1st Infantry, 196 LIB is recovering at home from back surgery. I'm sure he would welcome as card etc. His address: P.O. Box 1273, Kerrville, TX 78021.

I have been asked to try to find anyone that remembers PFC W.J. 'Jack' McLeod who served with G Co., 182 Infantry. According to his sister A letter was returned to her family in 1945 and on the envelope was written, 'Deceased 3/13/45' and it was signed by J.T. Murphy Capt. Inf.. He was killed on Leyte. Please contact me if you remember this man.

Have a BIG Thanksgiving dinner and a Merry Christmas. God Bless You All.

Hug Somebody,
Ernie Carlson

P.S. DUES ARE COMING DUE

NORTH WEST CHAPTER

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

Lloyd J. Morrell David Hammond
Redmond, OR 97756 Beaverton, WA 97005
Tel. [redacted] Tel. [redacted]

We have finally found a member who is willing to give of his time and energies to help get the Chapter back on track. We have been derailed the last couple of years. I have appointed Dave Hammond as Vice Commander to assist me in future plans for the Chapter and to eventually take over my job. I am sure he will have some fresh ideas and enthusiasm to help us get an agenda for future activities. As we get our act together we will be looking for more members to fill our Chapter positions, so if any of you are in the mood for some extra work and participation, please let either of us know.

For those of you that do not know Dave, he was a member of C/5/46 Infantry, 198th LIB and is a mover and a shaker among our members of the unit. He has attended the last three reunions and is anxious to be come involved in the organization. For you Vietnam vets who might feel more comfortable with one of your own age group please do not hesitate to communicate with Dave. We will be working together and we will all benefit by the effort.

Lloyd Morrell
Chapter Commander

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, UT, NM

Chapter Commander Sec/Treas
Don Shebesta Paris Tognoli
Rio Vista, CA 94571 Isleton, CA 95641
Tel. [redacted] Tel. [redacted]
Vice Commander: Victor Lopez
Sergeant-at-Arms: Howard Walker
Chaplain: John Bowley

The FWC 1998 Reunion was held in Las Vegas, Nevada October 25-29, 1998.

Dignitaries present were Gary Noller, PNC, FWC member, Executive Council Chairman, Jim Buckle, PNC, Executive Council Member, Editor -in-Chief of the Americal Newsletter. PNC Noller presented and Americal Division flag to the FWC.

John Bowley and Paris Tognoli were applauded for their efforts in bringing about another successful Reunion.

The 1999 FWC Reunion will again be held in Las Vegas, by vote of those present. Details will be forthcoming ASAP and all ADVA members are welcome to attend.

Elected officers for the coming year are:

Commander - Don Shebesta
Vice Commander - Victor Lopez
Sec/Treasurer - Paris Tognoli
Chaplain - John Bowley
Sgt-at-Arms - Howard Walker



Past Com. John Bowley Com. Don Shebesta

We have a good mix of officers in that two are from WW II, one from Korea, one from Vietnam and one (Joh Bowley) from WW II and Vietnam.

See You In St. Louis.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Shebesta

EACH CHAPTER'S FINANCES ARE SEPARATE FROM NATIONAL FINANCES. CHAPTER SET THEIR OWN DUES AND FUND THEIR OWN REUNIONS.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER SEC/TREAS
Robert L. Granoff Bill Gold
Collegeville, PA 19426 Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone [redacted] Phone [redacted]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

Our Chapter Reunion was held this past September 15-16-17, 1998 at Harpers Ferry in the beautiful hills of West Virginia. Most of us stayed at the Cliffside Inn But because of an unusually large turnout some of us had to be housed at a nearby Comfort Inn.

After check-in Tuesday the rest of the day was spent with "Helloes and How are you" and renewing old friendships in the hospitality room.

Wednesday, after a leisurely breakfast at the Inn, we gathered for a great lunch at the Charles town Race Track/Casino. During lunch and after - most of us did some betting on the horses. You have heard the old saying, "horses don't bet on people, they have to much sense" - well, it's a bit of wisdom to remember. However, some of us came away with money in our pockets and smiles on our faces. Our Chapter Commander, Bob Granoff, and his wife,, Helyn, showing their usual acumen both came away winners. Warren Radacker and his wife. Mayr, both proved that slot machines don't have to be one-arm "bandits" found slot machines that gave instead of took.

Thursday we had a great day, mostly at Harpers Ferry National Park. We had a guided tour of the lower town which is crammed with history. Our guide, Park Ranger Michael Dixon, was both knowledgeable and personality plus. He made what could have been dusty and dry into an exciting visit into our past - some of it dark and not to be proud of. After our tour we separated and found a variety of eateries for lunch.

Later that evening we had our banquet followed by our business meeting. Most importantly we chose Corning, New York for our 1999 Reunion. all members of our Chapter and other - TAKE NOTE - You are all welcome to join us at this get-together. corning is a city with probably the greatest museum in the world devoted to glass - plus another fascinating museum specializing in the art of the old west.

We ended our 1998 Reunion Friday morning with many fond farewells and promises to keep in touch. We all look forward to next year's reunion and particularly hope to see more of our Vietnam veterans members in attendance.

My Best,
Bill Gold

THE OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

WISHES EACH AND EVERY MEMBER A

A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

CHAPLAIN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As one of your Chaplains I was asked to write a Christmas message to the Americal Alumni for the coming Holiday Season. Some of our alumni, I am sure, are not Christians yet we all share the feeling and spirit found in this season and the roots of these eternal truths touch each and every one of us.

A thought went through my mind as I thought of the Americal and Christmas. I saw and felt the image of "Christmas from a foxhole". Most everyone who reads this message can remember at least one Christmas where you were in or very near a foxhole. The foxhole symbolized the separation we felt from our homes and loved ones. The safety of the foxhole so that one day we could return to the safety of home and the warmth of being with our loved ones. For some that Christmas was in the Solomons, for others Korea or Nam. The separation and distance seemed intensified at Christmas as memories of home flooded over us.

Whatever religion plays in your life, the truth and spirit of Christmas can be held and treasured during the holiday season. The whole sense of birth and life and a new beginnings and a return to meaning and peace replays itself in this yearly drama of divine redemption. We can remember how special that first Christmas was when we returned from the wars and we could sense how our sacrifice had somehow helped preserve something very special.

Christmas is a yearly reminder of how humans fumble our way through life, yet in our striving, how our struggles and battles lead us, once again, out of the darkness into light, our of death and into new birth.

May God Bless us all this season and Bless us one by one as we are called to the final roll with our comrades who went before us. Amen

The Rev. William T. Elliott
Americal Alumni Association Chaplain

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SOLICITS MILITARY MAPS

The Library of Congress is undertaking an initiative to identify and acquire for the national map collection cartographic materials which document military operations. The Library is committed to preserving these national treasures and making them available to the widest possible audience.

While the Library holds the largest map collection in the world, including an extensive collection of topographic maps issued during war time, it lacks examples of maps actually used in war planning and combat operations. Maps that record the military experiences of our nation's heroes are an important addition to the Library's collections and help tell the complete story of how maps were used during our nation's wars. Each donated map will be preserved and cataloged with full credit given to the donor.

If you have cartographic materials that you wish to have considered for this preservation program, please contact:

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Chief James A. Flatness
Geography & Map Div. Geography & Map Div.
Phone: [redacted] OR Phone: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted] Fax: [redacted]

The Deer

Editors Note: This excerpt is from a story by Lee Basnar, a former C.O. of Co. C, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, 1970-71. He tells of a combat assault via helicopter into an area where his mission was to locate an enemy hospital.

I remained near the LZ where I could easily control the company, talking with my platoon leaders on the radio, plotting their progress on my map, sweating in the merciless sun, and looking frequently into the bowl below me to the north. The chemical smell of burning heat tablets, mixed with the scent of instant coffee and C-ration peaches, came from the vicinity of my RTO. I never did figure out how he could drink hot coffee in the smothering tropical heat that consumed most of my energy just to breathe. Smoke fouled the air from the cigarette of one of the nearby riflemen, and I moved to get out of the slight current of air that brought the smoke to me.

Several hours passed, boring, slow. Combat is like that--fear, intense action, relief, boredom--all mixed up in no particular order. Each day brought new fears, more boredom, and one less day to spend in that danger-infested country. I moved slowly to a better viewing position, careful to look for snakes in the tall grass, and found a small mound that presented an excellent view of the bowl. I sat down and inhaled the damp odor of decaying vegetation, and the hay-like scent of the dry elephant grass. This was a country of contrasts and contradictions-- beauty and ugliness, dryness and dampness, silence and ear-drum-rupturing noise.

It was then that I saw the deer.

The movement caught my peripheral vision and I bounded to my feet, swung the muzzle of my M-16 rifle in that direction and flipped the safety off, ready to kill. The deer bounded erratically through the elephant grass, now in sight, now invisible. The waving grass telegraphed its progress, and I began to evaluate the possibility of venison steaks cooked over an open fire, replacing the tasteless C-rations for at least one meal. Could I divide the deer into enough pieces to give every man a taste?

Closer and closer she came, swerving around obstacles not visible to me, but always closer. I sighted my rifle on a small opening in the brush and grass about 60 yards away. Perhaps the deer would come through that area and I could get a shot. My RTO stood by my side, eagerly waiting for me to shoot.

The deer sprang into the very clearing I was watching, took two smaller jumps, and stopped. She looked back over her right shoulder, presenting me with a clear shot. I sighted on her neck, using the base of her left ear for an aiming point, then slowly lowered my rifle. "Shoot, C.O.," my RTO whispered.

"No, something's wrong," I said. "Something spooked that deer. Let's wait and see what's behind her."

The deer leaped over a small bush, passed within 30 yards of me, and ran out of sight.

Twenty minutes later I got a radio call from the patrol on top of the hill. "Six, this is One. We have activity in the bowl to your north. Looks like one Victor Charlie with a weapon, moving southwest. Over."

"One, this is Six. Roger. Keep me advised. Out," I replied. I gave the handset to my RTO, only to hear the First Platoon leader calling again.

"Six, this is One. He's changed direction and is moving toward your location. Over."

"This is Six. I can't see him through the brush and trees. What's the range from your location? Over."

"This is One. About 900 meters. Over."

An M-60 machine gun has a maximum effective range of 1100 meters. "This is Six. Shoot him with your Mike-Six-Zero. Out."

One of my machine guns opened up, firing down into the bowl from a position atop the jungle-covered hill. The tracers passed about 200 yards in front of my location, impacting into the elephant grass. Suddenly the enemy soldier came into view, barely 100 yards from me, running, dodging, desperate to reach cover. The only real cover available to him was the mound I occupied. The machine gunner high on the hill to my left had a tough time with the deflection caused by shooting downhill, and the extreme range didn't help matters. The rounds impacted close to the enemy soldier, but failed to bring him down.

Commanders don't shoot often. Their job is to command, not fight as an individual riflemen. Usually when a commander has to fire his weapon the situation is critical; he shoots as a last resort. That wasn't the case here, but I wasn't about to let that VC move into my company headquarters. I picked up my M-16, flipped the selector to full automatic, or "auto-get-'em," as the troops said, and aimed.

The VC presented a tough target, still dodging and ducking while the M-60 peppered the ground around him. He didn't realize that I was on the mound, watching his approach. Finally, deciding the M-60 gunner couldn't hit him, I took aim and squeezed the trigger. The burst caught the VC full in the chest, and he was dead before he hit the ground.

"One, this is Six. Cease fire. One Victor Charlie Kilo India Alpha," I radioed, notifying the patrol that the Viet Cong was killed in action. The bullets stopped raining down from the hill above me.

I ordered my medic to accompany me, along with a couple of riflemen, and we approached the body lying in the grass. I could smell sour rice and sweat and blood as I bent over the dead enemy. His weapon, an American M-16 rifle, lay beside him. I wondered about the fate of the former owner. I didn't find papers or identification of any kind on him, not even any extra ammunition. He had two loaded M-16 magazines taped together and inserted into the rifle, but no grenades. The weapon, plus the black pajamas he wore, were his only possessions. I directed the riflemen to dig a grave, and we buried the body.

Back at my command post in the little saddle between the knolls, overlooking the enemy's grave, I told my RTO to call in the spot report on the action while I sat down to review the recent action.

If I had killed the deer the VC would have heard the shot, and probably lived. He quite likely was a member of the 48th VC Battalion, a unit we had done battle with for months. Perhaps he was one of the men who set booby traps along trails and planted land mines in hedgerow openings. My troops encountered those booby traps and land mines all too frequently. Should I have attempted to capture him? Past experience said no. Too many times we sent VC suspects to the rear for interrogation only to have them released to fight again.

Furthermore, any capture attempt could have resulted in casualties to my men. Even though the enemy soldier didn't have much chance against the machine gun and my M-16, neither did my men have much chance against the insidious booby traps, an invisible menace that frustrated the hell out of us and killed or maimed many fine men.

I got paid to make decisions. I decided not to kill the deer. I decided to kill the Viet Cong soldier. I wonder why I can't decide, after all these years, to put the incident out of my mind.

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Army Security Agency Units Assist the Americal Division in Vietnam

If you peruse the Americal Division Order of Battle from the period of Task Oregon, you will see listed on it references to several units having the title "Radio Research". These were Army Security Agency units attached in support of the division and engaged in intelligence operations. You can guess what kind from the title of the unit.

Just as Task Force Oregon, and indeed, the Americal Division, was formed from disparate units, assigned and attached, so too was the radio research support.

A Radio Research Company (Provisional) was formed in support of Task Force Oregon. It was composed in part of a detachment from the 374th Radio Research Company (RR Co) (apparently supporting 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div) and the 408th Radio Research Detachment (Det) (supporting the 196th Bde). It is unknown whether the 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div had a radio research detachment attached in support of it at this time.

Note: ASA units serving in Southeast Asia were redesignated "Radio Research" in lieu of using their "ASA" designations. To quote a phrase: "There is no ASA in Vietnam".

The troop list for the Americal Division as of November 1968 indicates that the provisional company then consisted of:

408th Radio Research Detachment;
415th Radio Research Detachment;
601st Radio Research Detachment.

These were separate detachments raised and attached in support of the 196th, 11th and 198th brigades respectively. The company, if you could call it that, comprised several officers and NCOs drawn from these detachments. It had, at that time, no company TO&E nor Headquarters Platoon.

The commanding officers not only commanded their particular detachment but also the provisional company as a whole. For example, during 1968 Cpt Dennis Huffman was the commander of the 415th RR Det "and" the provisional company commander.

The 408th RR Det was formed during the summer of 1966 and underwent pre-deployment training at Ft. Devens, MA. The unit arrived in Tay Ninh, Republic of Vietnam in August 1966. The 408th comprised, in 1966, about 48 personnel. This detachment was based at Chu Lai near the Marine compound and the S2 TOC area.

The 415th ASA Detachment was activated on 10 July 1967 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii with an authorized strength of 3 officers and 74 enlisted men. Personnel were drawn from Hqs, ASA Pacific at Helomano; A Co, USASAPAC and from volunteers drawn from elsewhere in the Pacific Theater. The detachment was assigned to support the newly formed 11th Infantry Brigade (Light).

The 415th arrived at Qui Nhon, Republic of Vietnam under cover of darkness on 24 December. At dawn, it conveyed to Duc Pho. The following day, the 415th continued its journey to Chu Lai and joined the 408th and 601st RR Detachments. Left behind at Duc Pho were one officer and 5-6 enlisted men who remained to constitute Det 1 of the newly formed provisional company.

The 601st RR Detachment was activated at Ft. Hood, TX in April 1967 and re-deployed to Vietnam later that year. The 601st was assigned to support the 198th Infantry Brigade which arrived in Vietnam in October 1967.

By April 1969, these RR detachments ceased to appear on the troop list being replaced by the 328th Radio Research Detachment. This appears to have been a consolidation effort preparatory to formal establishment of the 328th Radio Research Company.

As this process was unfolding, the Commander of the Provisional Company requested that the new unit be designated the 323d Radio Research Company, to match the numerical designation of the Americal Division. This request was denied and so the numerical designation became 328th.

The 328th Radio Research Company appears on the Troop list later in 1969 and carried on through the deactivation of Americal. The formation of the 328th ASA Company was likely carried out using assets from the 408th, 415th and 601st RR Detachments.

When the Americal Division stood down and withdrew from Vietnam, the 328th Company was inactivated as well although the 328th RR Det was reformed from company elements to support the 196th Bde, which remained in Vietnam, tasked with security duties in the area of Chu Lai, and later moved to Da Nang. The detachment was deactivated with the withdrawal of the 196th in June, 1972.

During its tour of duty in Vietnam, the 328th Radio Research Company earned three Army Meritorious Unit Commendations, five Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and Det 2 of the 328th earned a Valorous Unit Award.

As a footnote, the 328th's lineage tracks back to a radio intelligence platoon of the 29th Inf Div during the early days of WW II. Later it was raised to company status and supported V Corps in Europe. It was inactivated at the end of the war and reactivated as the 328th Communications Reconnaissance Company in the 1950s. It was recalled to active service with the Americal Division during Vietnam. It was inactivated at the end of the war but was reactivated in Germany once more in 1974, this time in support of the 7th Army.

Editors Note:

This information was provided in a communication from ASA Vets USA. Thanks to Mark Scott for permission to use this report in the **AMERICAL NEWSLETTER**.

THE FACE OF VIETNAM TODAY

Editors Note: The photos presented here were taken by ADVA member David Taylor during a recent trip back to VietNam. His thoughts and Observations are reflections of a Vietnam seen after 28 years.



(Above) One of many pagodas in the ancient city of Hoi An, near the City of Hue. The city was occupied or influenced through the centuries by the Chinese, Japanese and many Vietnamese dynasties.



(Left) Street vendors selling fresh fish in the market area of Da Nang. The Han River, which flows through Da Nang, is behind them.



(Right) Military Cemetery for the Viet Cong in Da Nang. Cemeteries, large and small, dot the countryside throughout VietNam.



(Above) School children walking home for lunch in the ancient city of Hoi An. All school children in the country wear the same clothes for school similar to parochial schools in the United States.



(Right) Women on Highway #1, just North of Qui Nhon, bagging rice. Up and down Vietnam it is not unusual to use portions of the highway to dry rice before it is bagged. Women and young girls cover their faces and necks with a cotton cloth to protect their skin from the harsh sun.

VIETNAM MAPS AVAILABLE

Recently declassified topographical maps of Vietnam are now available for purchase from the US Geological Service. They are exact copies of the maps used in Vietnam at the platoon and company level. They are the original Defense Mapping Agency L-7014 series, 1:50,000 scale maps. It takes about 300 separate L-7014 series maps to cover all of South Vietnam.

The L-7014 Series Maps are \$4.90 US each and there is a shipping and handling charge of \$3.50 US for each order. Ordering instructions and assistance can be obtained from USGS Information Services, [REDACTED], Denver, CO 80225-0046, e-mail at

Sheet Number - Name

TL-7014-6243-1 Co Trang
TL-7014-6243-2 Lang Mo
TL-7014-6243-4 Ben Karai
TL-7014-6342-1 Cam Lo
TL-7014-6342-2 Thon Doc Kinh
TL-7014-6342-3 Huong Hoa
TL-7014-6342-4 Nguon Rao
TL-7014-6343-1 An Dinh
TL-7014-6343-2 Qui Hau
TL-7014-6343-3 My Duc
TL-7014-6343-4 Dong Hoi
TL-7014-6440-1 Ta Ko
TL-7014-6440-2 A Ro
TL-7014-6441-1 Ap Lai Bang
TL-7014-6441-2 A Sap
TL-7014-6441-4 A Luoi
TL-7014-6442-1 Thon Ngo Xa Dong
TL-7014-6442-2 Hai Lang
TL-7014-6442-3 Ba Long
TL-7014-6442-4 Quang Tri
TL-7014-6443-3 Vinh Linh (Ho Xa)
TL-7014-6537-1 Poliei Breng
TL-7014-6537-2 Plei Mrong
TL-7014-6537-3 Polei Yome
TL-7014-6537-4 Polie Jar Seing
TL-7014-6538-1 Kon Honong
TL-7014-6538-2 Dak To
TL-7014-6538-3 Dak Mot Lop

Other maps of note:

L-7014-6539 4: Border area with Laos; Tinh Quan Nam and Tinh Quang Tin province border shown.

L-7014-6639-?: LZ Prep Northern center edge of map, Tien Phuoc, LZ Bowman, LZ Professional, LZ Clifford, LZ Boxer, Old Hau Duc-LZ Mildred, New Hau Duc-LZ Lonely Boy, Rice Bowl, and LZ Ranger.

L-7014-6640-? Tam Ky: Hill 29 marked. Area includes LZ East, Thang Binh, Tam Ky, LZ Young and Barrier Island. Detailed map of area around Chu Lai

L-7014-6739-4. Appears to include Chu Lai/Tam Ky.

[REDACTED], phone [REDACTED], or fax [REDACTED]

Although the USGS will sell you the L-7014 maps, they don't seem to have a very good guide or index. However, you can get an L-7014 Index map copy from the Library of Congress. Contact the Library of Congress, Geography & Map Division, Washington, DC 20540, [REDACTED], or [REDACTED] (FAX).

The following list is only a PARTIAL listing of L-7014 maps. It covers the top one third of South Vietnam (roughly from the DMZ south to the 14th Parallel at Qui Nhon.) Some L-7015 maps are also listed.

Sheet Number - Name

TL-7014-6538-4 Dak Sut
TL-7014-6539-1 Kason Mai
TL-7014-6539-2 G Rieng
TL-7014-6539-3 (unkown)
TL-7014-6539-4 Peta Pac
TL-7014-6540-1 Thong Duc
TL-7014-6540-2 Ben Giang
TL-7014-6540-3 Muang Bac
TL-7014-6540-4 Atiun
TL-7014-6541-1 Q Phu Loc
TL-7014-6541-2 Bach Ma
TL-7014-6541-3 Nong Truong Nam Dong
TL-7014-6541-4 Hue
TL-7014-6637-1 Kon Mahar
TL-7014-6637-2 Plei Troeh
TL-7014-6637-3 Plei Neh
TL-7014-6637-4 Kontum
TL-7014-6638-1 Dak Ninh Kola
TL-7014-6638-2 Chuong Nghia
TL-7014-6638-3 Kong Roman
TL-7014-6638-4 Mang Buk
TL-7014-6639-1 Tien Phuoc (Phuc An)
TL-7014-6639-2 Gi Lang
TL-7014-6639-3 Lac Trom Dong
TL-7014-6639-4 Hua Duc-Tien Tra
TL-7014-6640-1 Hoi An
TL-7014-6640-2 Tam Key (West)

Sheet Number - Name

TL-7014-6640-3 Hiep Duc
TL-7014-6640-4 (unknown)
TL-7014-6641-2 Khu Pho Nam Tho
TL-7014-6641-3 Da Nang
TL-7014-6641-4 (unknown)
TL-7014-6737-1 Hoai An
TL-7014-6737-2 Tien Thuan
TL-7014-6737-3 Kan Nack
TL-7014-6737-4 Kon Giong
TL-7014-6738-1 Mo Duc
TL-7014-6738-2 An Lao
TL-7014-6738-3 Gia Vuc
TL-7014-6738-4 Ba To
TL-7014-6739-1 Binh Son
TL-7014-6739-2 Quang Ngai
TL-7014-6739-3 Son Ha
TL-7014-6739-4 (unknown)
TL-7014-6740-3 Tam Ky (East)
TL-7014-6740-4 Tan Hiep
TL-7014-6837-3 Phu My
TL-7014-6837-4 Bong Son
TL-7014-6838-3 Tam Quan
TL-7014-6838-4 Phuoc Dien
TL-7015-6243-3 Ban Vang-Ala
TL-7015-6440-3 Ban Tangyoun
TL-7015-6440-4 Ban Alot
TL-7015-6441-3 Ban Ko

This information is copyrighted by Mike Kelly and is provided as a service to veterans with his permission. The information is believed to be correct. There may be some typographical errors in the listing and not all maps are described.

Kelly is the author of a soon to be published book titled Vietnam Lore- Where We Were. The book lists firebases, base camps, airfields, heliports, military facilities, terrain features, battle sites, and minutea of the American war in Vietnam.

For more information on this book, contact Mike Kelly, [REDACTED], Sacramento, CA, 95817, or e-mail [REDACTED]. The ADVA wishes to thank Mike for his permission to re-print this information.

Americal Veterans Still Serve

Charles N. (Click) Bailey
Alabama National Guard

Just before Christmas of 1990, SFC Charles N. Bailey voluntarily filled a slot in an Alabama National Guard unit and left his family for the sands and battles of the Persian Gulf war. Many of the troops headed for the Gulf had never seen war before. But, for SFC Bailey, it would be the second time he put his life on the line while in military uniform.

Bailey enlisted in the military in April, 1969 and was trained at the Artillery School in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He became a member of the permanent party but he soon decided that he wanted to see the "real thing". He and a few of his buddies volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

He arrived in Vietnam in April, 1970 and completed a tour lasting 20 months. He served as an Artillery Ballistic Meteorologist with HHB, 3/18th Artillery, Americal Division, and with 3/82nd Artillery, 196th LIB, after the division stood down. He calculated weather related deflection and windage for 8 inch and 175mm artillery located at Cherry Hill. Of his service in Vietnam, Bailey reflects that "I always have thought that what we were doing was right."

Bailey ended his active duty shortly after his Vietnam tour and became a police officer in his hometown of Mobile, AL. However, this did not end his military career. He soon joined the 31st Engineers (Combat) of the Alabama National Guard and is now in his 29th year in military service.

Most of his service in the National Guard may be regarded as routine, handling hurricane duty and such. However, when the call went out to fill an Ammo Specialist opening in the 440th Ordnance Battalion, Bailey once again stepped forward. Within a few weeks he was at King Khalid Military City in Saudia Arabia, preparing for Desert Storm. He was assigned to help coordinate the largest ammunition supply point in the world.

Bailey used his experience and training to assist in the planning, building, and inspection of fortifications and defenses of the compound perimeter. He would make frequent inspections of the constructions and act as a resource for the younger troops. They recognized Bailey as having experienced this once before and they looked to him for leadership. He was sometimes called "Bunker Bailey" and when questions arose about sandbag reinforcements, the answer often was "Go ask Bailey."

The troops looked to him for things other than his skills in preparing defenses. Often times a young soldier would ask Bailey what he would do if he would meet the enemy. Some lacked the necessary training and experience for combat. Bailey could do things like show them how to shoot and care for the M-60 machine gun. As the reality of the war came home to the new warriors, they looked upon Bailey with admiration for his experience in Vietnam. Several came to him and told

him that they were glad that he served during that difficult time.

When asked to reflect upon the differences of the two wars he served in, Bailey did not hesitate to reply. There was a stark difference, he said, between the public attitude during Vietnam and Desert Storm. "When we left home for Saudia Arabia we had a parade out of town that was led by the high school band. Merchants gave us refrigerators and video cameras to take with us. We were sent off the right way."



1SG Fred Sheffield (L) and SFC Charles Bailey on duty in Saudia Arabia during Operation Desert Storm.

None of this, of course, happened to Bailey when he departed for Vietnam. "We went over like cattle," he said, "the push was to just get over and get back." The situation was just as different upon his return after the war. "After Vietnam, we were sent home alone" he said. "We could be in the war one day and back home three days later. There was no time to cool off." But upon returning from the Persian Gulf, Bailey relates that the reception was fantastic. "It was like everyone was trying to make up for the wrong that was given Vietnam veterans when they returned."

While in Saudia Arabia Bailey met other veterans who were in the Americal in Vietnam. He remembered "There were not too many, but there were a few." He also recognized an artillery unit in Desert Storm, the 3/82nd, as being the same one that was with in Vietnam.

His family has strongly supported his military career but he admits that "They probably would not be very happy if I volunteered to go to war again." He believes in military service, saying "I believe that every physically fit young man should serve two years in the military." However, he said that his sons would have to make their own choices and acknowledges that the trend for the United States to be the world's policeman is troubling.

Bailey retired from the Mobile Police Department after 22 years and is now a Crime Scene Investigator with the local Sheriff's Department. He lives in St. Elmo, AL with his wife, Iris, and two sons, Nathan and Joshua. He plans to continue his military career as a Rear Battle NCO with the 226th ASG until at least early next year.

I commanded the U.S. Army Special Forces Camp at Tien Phuoc A-102, RVN, I Corps TZ, November 1968 until August 1969. During this time the Americal had a 155mm Arty Btry (B Btry., 3/16th Arty.) inside my camp for direct support of our operations. The Americal Division was our reinforcing unit in the event of an all out assault on the SF Camp. Cpt. Reginald Fontenot was the 155mm Btry Cmdr., BG Wallace L. Clements was Asst. Div. Commander, and MG Gettys was the CG.

I am trying to contact some of the men who served during this period of time for the Americal, Special Forces, and aviation support. (Army & Air Force). Without the artillery battery, the Americal, and the air support, none of my men, nor I would be alive now. Our camp was hit during the "Siege of Tien Phuoc" (23 Feb 69 to 15 Jul 69) by an estimated three NVA Divisions.

The Americal did it's job, but at a terrible price. The casualties were tremendous. After months of fighting the aviation brigade that supported the siege was almost wiped out and the Americal's units were so depleted that the 101st Airmobile was called in for reinforcements.

Thank you for any help you can give in this request. The story needs to be told of the brave men of the Americal, Special Forces and aviation units during this incredible battle. Maybe you already have a history of this event you can share with me! Write to [REDACTED], Redding, CA, 96001 or call [REDACTED], e-mail to [REDACTED].

John E. Cleckner, Sr.

My unit was incorrectly identified in a previous edition. I was with the 31st PID (Public Information Detachment). After spending five months as a grenadier in C/3/1, they made me a combat photographer and correspondent. Then, two months before my DEROS, when I'd had my fill of bush beating, I accepted the HHC, 11th LIB 1st Sgt.'s offer to become company clerk.

I went to OCS in 1978 and was commissioned in Feb. '79 as an armor officer--the same day they handed me orders to make me a Sergeant First Class. I kept the gold bar even though it meant a loss of prestige. . . .

Later, after serving as a cavalry platoon leader, a couple of staff jobs, and two company commands, they selected me to teach at West Point, sent me to grad school (where I got an MA and Ph.D. in history), and I retired after three years on the USMA faculty in 1991.

By the way, you missed another Americal general officer. Col. Warner S. Goodwin, who succeeded John Insani as our commander in the 11th LIB, went on to become a Brigadier General. God Bless.

Dale Wilson

Please add the following to the list of Americal veterans who are or were Generals: BG Michael Scotti, MG Larry J. Lust, and Gen. Dennis Leach.

Tony May

(Apologies to Tony May, 196th Locate-A-Brother, for spelling his name wrong in the last edition. He is a new life member.)

While going through 29 years of stuff I found this photo of the Americal TOC in Chu Lai taken in 1969. I was the PsyOps NCO with the 1st Combined Action Company, USMC, and worked with the Americal. Maybe there is an Americal PsyOps guy out there.



I am also trying to find anyone who knows about the Batangan peninsula. I am researching that area circa 1965. I was there as a LCPL infantry rifleman. Write to me at [REDACTED], Kendalia, TX, 78027. God bless.

Ed Nicholls

I would like request your assistance in finding some of my friends that I had in Vietnam. I am looking for anyone in Co. B, 4.3rd Inf., 11th LIB, from May 68-69. They can write to me at 3 Lime St., Wilmington, MA 01887 or phone [REDACTED]. Thanks for the help.

Larry Toppi

I am looking for Charles (Chuck) Saveley, a chaplain of the 4/3rd Inf, 11th LIB, wounded in March, 1969. I am also looking for any medics who served with Ferguson, McGraw, Drake, or Bastille on LZ Buff, LZ Cork, or San Juan Hill from late 68 until May, 1969. I was the Battalion Surgeon. Write to 251 Richmond Hill Rd., Staten Island, NY, 10314 or call 718-761-2800.

Lawrence F. Wasser, M.D.

I have been conducting a search for one of my husband's buddies from HHC, 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, 1967. His name is Buddy Hall and his home state is Arkansas. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. Write to 300 Station Rd., Gwinn, MI, 49841 or call 906-3346-3753.

Bea Pupak

Editor's Notes

The Vietnam Editor wishes to thank Ms. Fran Fierson and Mr. Larry Henry for their assistance in transcribing articles into computer files. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please send Vietnam related items to Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO, 64114 or email to [REDACTED]. Items that are typed or electronic format are helpful. Photos should be copies and cannot be returned.

REFLAG RETURNS HISTORIC COLORS TO ARMY

By: Lt. Col. Randy Pullen
USARPAC Public Affairs

A ceremony at Fort Shafter Tuesday returned the colors of the Army's last combat brigade in Vietnam to the active rolls. The Training Support Brigade - Pacific was redesignated as the 196th Infantry Brigade during a ceremony on Palm Circle at 9:00 a.m., May 26. The 196th Infantry Brigade was the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave Vietnam. It departed on June 29, 1972.

The new 196th, headquartered at Fort Shafter, works with Reserve Component units in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, American Samoa and Japan, to assist these units in staying trained and ready at all times. About one soldier in three of U.S. Army Pacific is in the Reserve Components. The focus of the 196th's training support is on those more than 13,000 soldiers.

Although the redesignation adds no personnel to the unit nor changes its mission, it does return a great deal of history to the Army in the Pacific.

The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Infantry Division. Then, as now, its mission was to train soldiers. During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944 and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu.

In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii. It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in 1946.

On September 10, 1965, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was re-activated as an Active Army unit at Fort Devens, Mass. Intended for deployment to the Dominican Republic, the brigade was instead sent to Vietnam, arriving there in August 1966. The brigade earned 14 campaign streamers during its six years in Vietnam. Four of its members received the Medal of Honor. One thousand of the "Charger" Brigade have their names engraved on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC. The brigade was inactivated at Oakland, Calif., on June 30, 1972.

The new 196th Infantry Brigade inherits the lineage, battle honors and colors of this history-rich unit. As part of the redesignation activities, the commander of the 196th who took it to Vietnam in 1966, retired Col. Francis Conaty, participated in the ceremony. Conaty, a veteran of combat in the Pacific during World War II, as well as multiple tours in Vietnam, assisted Lt. Gen. William M. Steele, commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific; Col. Randy Tucker, the current 196th commander; and 196th Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Cambra in unfurling the colors before an audience which included several 196th veterans from the Vietnam War.

Speaking to the soldiers of the new 196th, Conaty rendered a salute to them, both literally and with words.

"I salute you," Conaty said. "We'll be watching you, we old soldiers."

196th LIB REFLAGGING CEREMONY

by: Ken McKenzie, Editor
196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

The 196th Association was notified of the reactivation of the 196th Infantry Brigade, and on short notice several of the officers and your editor made private arrangements to attend. The Army was extremely accommodating to us and treated us well during our visit to Hawaii. Special arrangements were made which allowed all of us to stay at the Hale Koa Hotel, at Fort Derussy on Wakiki Beach.



Through our efforts, COL Conaty was invited to take part in the reflagging ceremony, in which he assisted in unfurling the Colors and transferred them to Col Tucker, the new Brigade Commander. COL Conaty formed the Brigade in 1965 and took it to Vietnam. He served as its commander twice during its duty in Vietnam. We are very proud to have our Honorary President, and one of the founders of the 196th Association, be given this honor.

After the reflagging ceremony and reception, we were invited on a private tour of Pearl Harbor, and the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, aboard the barge of the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Daniel Martinez, curator of the memorial for the Park Service, gave us a stirring narration as we passed sites of historic significance. We paused at the memorial for a moment of silence in tribute to those who lost their lives.

Following our return from the memorial, we attended a dinner at the U.S.S. Bowfin, a submarine memorial and museum, along with former and current members of the 196th Brigade. We were also given an informative overview of the Brigade's current mission and direction.

COL Tucker presented COL Conaty with several mementos, and presented each of the attending former members of the Brigade with plaques thanking them for their support.

In the future it will be nice to know that the proud traditions of the "Charger" Brigade will carry on. We welcome the new members of the of the 196th Infantry Brigade, and wish them well.

Note of Appreciation

The Americal Division Veterans Association wishes to express its appreciation to the United States Army for reactivating the 196th Infantry Brigade. The 196th LIB, along with the 11th LIB and the 198th LIB, were the three infantry brigades of the Americal Division during the Vietnam War. Appreciation is also extended to Ken McKenzie, Editor of the 196th LIB Association Newsletter, for providing the reports on the reactivation ceremony.

Co. C, 5/46th Infantry

The national reunion in Orlando was once again an opportunity for members of Co. C, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB to get together for the third time in as many years. Since our group's first meeting at the Reno reunion in 1996, we have located forty of our comrades from 1970-71, and, we are still searching. Contact me for a current list of members or to send information on someone from the unit. We will see you next year in St. Louis. Dave Hammond, [REDACTED], Beaverton, OR, 97005, [REDACTED].

(L to R) Bob (LT) Amass, Mike Colligan, Scott Longhurst, Dave Hammond, Andy (LT) Ladak



H Troop, 17th Cavalry

In early October nine members of 1st Plt., 17th Cav., 198th LIB held their first reunion in over 30 years in Spencer, IN. Thanks to the help of Mike (Doc) Moehrke and Al Query, the weekend was a great success. Members came from as far away as Colorado, New York, and Texas. Terri Adams made the guys t-shirts with the H Troop insignia and Linda Query did a wonderful job with the food. Tom Adams, [REDACTED], Wantagh, NY 11793, [REDACTED].

(Back row, L to R) Gary Peyton, Al Query, Denver LaPierre, Mike (Doc) Moehrke, LT Doc Benning, Larry Frazier, Tom Bartels. Holding flag are Tom Adams (L) and Jimmy Nix.



ADVA 1999 Reunion- St. Louis

The 1999 Annual Reunion of the ADVA will be held at the Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel on June 17-20, 1999. Co-Chairman of the reunion are PNC Ron L. Ward, Commander of the Central Midwest Region, and PNC Gary L. Noller.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association will also have its reunion at the same time and place. This is the first time that the two associations have had a joint reunion. All activities will be open to members of both associations.

A maximum of 275 rooms have been reserved at a special reunion rate of \$69 per night plus tax. Attendees are urged to make reservations early to ensure a room at the special rate. Call the hotel directly at [REDACTED]. Reservations can be canceled without charge if done so in advance.

Registration will begin after noon of the 17th and continue through out the reunion. A tour of St. Louis highlights is planned for Friday. Business meetings and the banquet are scheduled for Saturday. Sunday is open for individual activities.

The hotel is located at the junction of I-70 and US 67. The hotel is just one mile from the airport and a free shuttle service is offered to guests.

Several groups of Americal and 196th LIB veterans are planning reunion stops in St. Louis for 1999.

More information and a registration form will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Operation LZ Oceanside, April 15-19

Operation LZ Oceanside All Veterans Reunion will be held in Melbourne, FL on April 15-19, 1999. Planned activities include time on the beach, deep sea fishing, alligator trolling, hospitality parties, a banquet and dance, and Britt Small and Festival.

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association will meet during the reunion. The events coincide with the 12th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park. Planned attractions include the Traveling Wall, military vendors, and food and drinks. For more information contact Ron Lewis at [REDACTED].

New Glarus Winterfest, January 15-17

The 13th annual Winterfest R&R All Veterans Rally is held in New Glarus, WI and attracts hundreds of veterans from around the region. It features a night parade, silent auction, dinner and dance, poker run, and special guests. Call Jim Bartelt at [REDACTED] for more information.

1-46 INFANTRY - VIETNAM - REUNION AND FSB MARY ANN MEMORIAL SERVICE

This past March 27th and 28th was the annual Firebase Mary Ann Memorial Service and reunion of personnel of the 1-46th Infantry regiment, Vietnam.

Each year we meet at Camp Carlsen on Fort Knox, Kentucky. The lodge hall at the camp is excellent for our purpose. It has a large industrial kitchen. We have our very own mess sergeant, "Mikie" Brown, MSG. (Ret.), that oversees, and because of that, also does most of the dirty work. K. P.! "Mikie" keeps us "food on the table." No one fusses with the cook here, that's the only law. He does a wonderful job each year. The man can make some gravy.

Bill Walker and I went to the 1-46 Headquarters and picked up the flags, colors and streamer, standards and regiment crest to put in the lodge. Now, if you know what Walker and I look like, just picture the two of us walking into that building and leaving with their most sacred ceremonial objects. As we were leaving the area the young trainees just stared at us, "what the hell are those long haired freaks, (me with a beard almost to my belt buckle) doing with that stuff?" The officers and staff treated us with great respect. They consider us historical relics. Now ain't that something to be in your middle age.

People began arriving the morning of the 27th. A sandwich buffet was placed out with various beverages for all. Conversation, memories, greetings and fellowship was in the air. No lies/tales were being told. Representatives began showing up from Companies A, B, C, D and E, the 91st EVAC-Chulai, 176th Assault Helicopter Company. The weather was beautiful and everyone was in fine spirits.

The 1-46 had assigned us one of its drill sergeants to assist us in relations with battalion headquarters. SSG Franklin seemed to enjoy his two days of duty with us. He didn't get hungry or thirsty, we did keep him in line, and he could not yell at us. He did a fine job.

At 3:30 p.m., buses arrived at the lodge to carry us to watch a live fire training exercise of Co. D 1-46 basic trainees. It was firing from a defensive position. It had been a long time for most of us since we watched those pop-up targets, not to mention hearing hundreds of M-16s firing full ammo. That sound is unforgettable, to say the least. But the amazing thing was watching these young trainees turn around after finishing firing on auto. You could see the pride and adrenalin high in them. As they moved out of the foxhole bunkers and the next wave moved into the positions, they had to pass by us sitting in the bleachers. Watching those young men trying hard to look at the young women in our group was fun because as one would turn his head just a little, a drill instructor would be up in his face quick! Oh, what memories. After the exercise was over and we boarded the buses, one of the main topics of conversation was how young and baby-faced those trainees looked. We asked ourselves, "did we look like that 30 years ago?" Indeed we did, a scary revelation.

On the way back to the lodge the bus drivers went onto a base air field so we could see all those beautiful helicopters. You know how an infantryman feels about a helicopter. Boys! We are going to set on our rump and ride! Don't make no difference where it is going.

Back at the lodge everyone was scrambling for their favorite beverage, which incidentally wasn't hard to find, but you know how lost a grunt can get. But, we have Bill Walker. He can sniff out a beverage at 1, 2, maybe even 3 clicks. Even SSG Franklin was having a problem. But someone gave him a two minute block of instruction of what a civilian cooler looked like and he was set.

6:00 p.m.- the opening ceremony. Peter Doyle gave an eloquent speech and the "Veterans Prayer." Peter in 1970-1971 was Lt. Peter Doyle of Co. C 1-46 Vietnam. Today Peter is a vocational rehabilitation specialist of the Department of Veterans affairs in Brockton, MA. Thank you Peter.

Representatives of the Post 1-46 Infantry Association gave an award to Michael Brown, MSG (Ret.), for his mess hall services to our reunion. Michael served with the 196th Infantry Brigade, Vietnam. Michael is a most important person to the reunion. He is respected by all of us. Thank you, "Mikie", for your food planning, preparing and presentation. Your dedication and service is both noticed and appreciated.

Cheri Hawes, RN, spoke to us about what it was like on the morning of March 28, 1971 at the 91st EVAC. Hospital=Chulai. Cheri was head nurse on duty when all the wounded started coming in. "Chopper after Chopper, loaded with wounded. It's impossible to describe the scene in the ER, OR, Pre-op, Post-op, and ICU during the first 72 hours - something that I can't forget." It was truly an honor having Ms. Hawes attend and be a wonderful part of the reunion. She worked as an RN in private hospitals after her service in the army and is now back at school working on a degree in the medical education field. She told me in a letter after the reunion that on her drive from Fort Knox back to Connecticut, she stopped and placed on her pretty little sports car, the bumper sticker, "Proud Vietnam Vet." For the first time she's allowing others to know where she's been. Thank you, Cheri from all of us, the veterans, our families and friends. We love you.

Tim Carmichael said the regimental prayer. Tim began in Co. C 1-46 as a rifleman/grunt but ended up as a very good medic through his in the field/on the job training. His smile and caring will never be forgotten. Thank you Tim.

The rest of the 27th and onto the 28th was spent eating all the B-B-Q Chicken, along with all kinds of fixin's, that you could hold. I'm not going to name names, but some folks can eat, not me! On into the night, looking at pictures, telling story after story, sitting around the camp fires at the cottages, adjacent to the lodge, where some stay. Others have hotel rooms at Radcliff, Kentucky, which is just off post and not far from Camp Carlsen.

At 6:45 a.m. on the 28th, post buses arrived at the lodge, along with SSG Franklin, to carry us to breakfast at Co. E 1-46 mess hall. Now, I'm going to tell you, some were dragging a--. Many were not as hip to this eating thing as some, after the previous evening of entertainment. But, most everyone was there because who would dream of missing that wonderful army chow and especially that coffee! If it's been a while since you've been in a military mess hall, you are in for a shock. Food, food and more food...and this was breakfast!

A fruit bar with all types of fruits, cereals of your choice, ham, bacon, sausage, fried potatoes, grits, eggs to order (that's right, any way you

want them), pancakes, toast, biscuits, and gravy, that good thick stuff you remember, SOS. Along with the coffee you could have orange, grapefruit, apple or tomato juice, sodas, and white or chocolate milk (which was a hit). As we gathered outside the mess hall after breakfast, the young people with our group were playing on the chin-up bars. Not to be outdone, Ed "Fig" Newton, not one of the young people, entertained us and the trainees doing PT in the area with a painful show of him doing chin-ups and yes, he did do some.

Back at the lodge area there was more fellowship, comradery, and preparation for the memorial service. At 10:00 the memorial service began. Our guest speaker was Larry Arnet LTC. (Ret.). In Vietnam Mr. Arnet was a dust-off chopper pilot with the 176th Assault Helicopter Company, "Minute Man." He spoke about the early morning of March 28th, 1971 when he and other members of his company were put on alert at their choppers to come to Mary Ann. But, due to the clouds and heavy fog, they could not land there. He expressed how he and the other pilots were concerned and wanted so badly to get help to FSB Mary Ann, but could not. When they did get to move, he told them how hard they flew those choppers, knowing they had a lot of work to do. Thank you, Larry. Presently Larry runs a V.A. Vet Center in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Major Peterson, 46th Regiment Chaplain from the post, spoke to us about "togetherness during death." He read some scriptures pertaining to death in battle. In closing the service he read the names of our fallen brothers that night of March 28, 1971 on FSB Mary Ann. God Bless Them All.

After the service everyone enjoyed the sandwich buffet and warmed up B-B-Q chicken and whatever else was in the refrigerator. I'm telling you they don't go hungry here, it's that "Mikie." Some serious beverage hugging went on the rest of the day and for many, on into the night. It was Saturday, after all.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone that has attended some or all of these reunions, to thank William "Bill" (Skidrow Joe) and other names that can't be put here, Walker. William Walker, SFC. (Ret.). Thank you from all of us for your vision years ago to get this thing started. It is therapy for all of us. May the light of life shine bright upon you and yours. Thank you.

If you were in 1-46 Regiment in Vietnam, or have interest in this reunion for any reason, and need more information about attending, please contact:

William Walker or Lanny Gilliland
Vine Grove, KY 40175 Rougemont, NC 27572

PS - If you need to call collect, call Walker. You can repay him by giving him a haircut. Thanks

H TROOP, 17th CAVALRY

As I prepared to depart Vietnam in April 1968, I faced the prospect of what items legal and illegal I wished to take with me or send on. I never considered drugs or weaponry, but I was sorely tempted to try and get home some purloined items like a brand new mummy bag in plastic wrap. In the end I played it straight and left almost everything behind even those items I might have had legitimately shipped home if I really wanted to pursue the matter.

One thing I truly regretted not taking was a map or maps of our operational area. Over the years I have continually felt the need to see on paper the places we were and how everything fit together.

Recently I have discovered that maps of Vietnam in the tactical scale we used (1:50,000) are available from the US Geological Survey, USCG Map Sales, Box 25286 Federal Center, Bldg. 810, Denver, Colorado, 80225, at a reasonable cost, \$4.90 a sheet.

These maps carry all the grid coordinates that we used, but they may not be exactly what was encountered in the field. Some of the sheets have been updated even into the mid-eighties so that I found the "Dragon Valley" I knew no longer exists and had been flooded in a massive reservoir. I understand this may not be the "Dragon Valley" many people knew. The "Dragon Valley" I knew was west of Hill 68 at BT316131. I can't help but wonder why our government saw fit to continue mapping Vietnam so long after the conclusion of our involvement there. Maybe it was just a good drill for the military cartographers or were they thinking they would be useful in POW/MIA recovery efforts.

Maps are also available from "archival services" that would be the exact editions in use during the conflict with significant military locations marked, but these seem to be rather costly, \$50 for black and white copies.

Once I had my maps in hand, it was of course fascinating exercise to see just how far off my memories were from reality. I had made some renderings shortly after coming home and I found I was generally pretty accurate, but there were some surprises and some things I'm still looking seeking. For instance, I can't find Hill 707, which I remember as the highest mountain you saw from Chu Lai. I know it existed having seen it referred to in Friendly Fire. Also the village of Nuoc Mau, that always seemed an important landmark on Route 1, next to LZ Gator (which I remember being called Gator Defense) doesn't appear on the map. Was that never the correct name? Did the new government wipe it out?

Many of the old base areas around Chu Lai are printed in gray and marked "destroyed". I wonder how they define "destroyed". I suppose these areas are somewhat barren and strewn with munitions and petroleum waste. The Chu Lai airport itself seems to have been preserved and made use of by the new tenants. I was amazed to find that OP 213 was located only about 2 kilometers from LZ Bayonet, which by the way was a term I never heard during my tour. We always just called it "Base Camp" or really "Bravo Charlie. Even then we were really only talking about our part of the compound.

The rest of the Brigade camp was just kind of "there". LZ Bayonet is a term I've come to know from the stories I've heard or read, but it still has a foreign feel and I can't incorporate it in my Vietnam memories. I see it in print and think I know what is meant, but I'm somehow not absolutely certain.

On another topic, do the readers remember Col. Tommie Trexler, the XO of the 198th at its inception? Perhaps Col. Trexler is even a reader himself. I never had any direct dealings with the man myself, although he was the ranking officer on board the USNS Upsher, when we went over. He had an awesome reputation as a stern disciplinarian and someone it was best not to run

afoul of. After returning home I ran across a book in the library (don't remember the title or author) by a grunt in the Korean War. In the course of an often rambling account of his war experiences (aren't everyone's), he had occasion to relate an incident during Chinese Offensive in the bitter winter of 1950-51, when he saw a Lt. Trexler of North Carolina take off his boots and give them to a GI who seemed to be in worse shape than he was. I felt certain this was our Col. Trexler and felt a measure of pride to have served with him in any small way.

Felix Westwood
Formerly H Troop, 17th Cav.
1967-1968

COMPANY C - 3rd BATTALION - 1st INFANTRY - 11 LIB

Looking for anyone connected with the C/3/1 Infantry, 11 LIB. Possible 68-69 to include LZ Charlie Brown, Duc Pho and the Rice Bowl region.

I am searching for David Dimeco of New York state.

If you have any info contact me at:

Michael Burr
Breaux Ridge, LA 70517
Tel. [REDACTED]

A MAN'S TRUE PEACE
By Chaplain (Ltc) James E. Shaw
Americal Division

Christmas speaks of peace. To emphasize this peace in Vietnam appears to be hypocritical anachronism to some. Can our soldiers sing "peace on earth good will to men" and mean it while at the same time being engaged in a protracted conflict of death?

The son of a carpenter and the King of the universe who was born in a little village in the Middle East called Bethlehem, did not come to bring earthly peace. Conflict, strife, injustice, and war will always exist on this earth because we live in a world filled with greed, covetousness, and man's inhumanity to man.

Those who fight these injustices have often been victimized, attacked, and killed. The God man Jesus Christ experienced this tragic truthfulness more personally than any other in history. Nations too have had to fight for what is right. Perhaps this is part of thinking behind Christ's words when He said there would be "wars and rumors of wars" until the end of time. This same Christ also said, "Peace I leave you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

The Christ Child did bring peace, not a worldly peace, but a peace of heart, mind, and soul to all those who know Him. He lived a perfect life for every man who ever lived and paid for all evils he committed so that by trusting in Him the peace of heaven which He proclaimed might be ours.

We can sing of peace this Christmas! It's the peace the Christ Child brought, the peace of which the angels sang, and the peace which brought more happiness and joy to the earth than any other source. May this peace be yours this Christmas.

(Taken from the "Southern Cross" Vietnam - written in the spirit of the Holiday season).

1st CAVALRY DIVISION BOSNIA BOUND

It appears that President Clinton's open ended Bosnia mission is beginning to tax U.S. military readiness. This, fall, elements of the 1st Cavalry Division will deploy to the former Yugoslavia to provide headquarters for forces in the U.S controlled sector.

Not only will the Bosnia deployment be the first time a U.S. based division has led a task force there, some defense experts say it could also be a sign that the military is being stretched too thin.

"It's obvious that the Bosnia mission is putting a strain on the military's resources," said Bruce Harder, VFW's director of National Security and Foreign Affairs. The deployment of the 1st Cavalry indicatates that U.S. units based in Europe are having a difficulty handling the commitment in the Balkans.

Undoubtly, the Bosnian deployment will affect the 1st Cav's status and readiness as one of America's premier war-fighting divisions. Harder noticed that since the 1st Cav will be preoccupied with its peace-keeping duties in Bosnia, it obviously will not be able to train for multiple missions, as it would normally do at its home base at Fort Hood, Texas.

During the 1st Cav's six month or year long stay in October, which should begin sometime in October, approximately 7,000 to 8,000 of its troops will see duty there. However, "only about 6,000" will be there at any one time during the deployment, according to Gen. Wesley K. Clark, supreme allied commander in Europe.

The force now stationed in Bosnia is the 1st Armored Division, which is based in Germany.

Overall, the U.S. presence in Bosnia is shrinking, perhaps a recognition that the mission is straining U.S. military readiness. Two years ago, U.S. strength in Bosnia was around 20,000 and current authorized personnel is 8,500.

"We're continuing to see a reduction and, therefore, a proportionate decrease in the burden it puts on the Armed Forces," Clark said.

But some think a re-valuation is necessary.

"We need to determine if we can maintain the tremendous level of involvement around the world at our current force strength and funding level," said Sen. Pat Roberts (R.Kan), a former Marine and current member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I don't think we can."

Keep in mind that all U.S. Bosnia veterans are eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal--qualifying them for VFW membership --and veterans preference once they leave the military.

(Taken form the August 1998 VFW magazine)

THE OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

WISHES EACH AND EVERY MEMBER A BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

TAPS

TAPS

TAPS

182 INFANTRY L CO.

1/Sgt. William Magmuson

Raynham, MA

November 13, 1998

CONVALESCING

Robert E. Doucette

██████████

Lynn, MA 01904

Bob is now well on the road to recovery following recent surgery. Bob is well known around 182nd Infantry circles for the semi-annual get-togethers he holds at his home in Lynnfield.

The next get-together will be held in March 1999 at Bob's house. The day and time will be in the next issue of the Americal Newsletter.

MEMORIES OF A WORLD WAR II SOLDIER

PORT DIX N.J.
Soldiers shouting "watch the hook" to us in line waiting to get our medical shots. My home in Beverly is only 15 miles away and I wonder if and when I will see home again. I go on Garbage Detail and go down the same road my Dad and I used to take to go fishing. Oh Well.

PORT SILL, OKLAHOMA
Field Artillery School and wide open spaces and Jack Rabbits. Went to Easter Sunrise service in the Wichita Mts. Beautiful Sun Rise and Service Pageant. Graduation and Passing in Review to great military band music. Very proud feeling to be serving my country.

CAMP SWIFT, TX
Hot and dusty and Armadillos. I ate rattlesnake meat for the first time and it tasted like chicken. Went on pass to Austin, the Capital. The Texas girls I met in town were in College. One girl I liked was named Beverly and she did not believe me when I told her I was from the town of Beverly in N.J. until I showed her my I.D.

PORT ORD, CA
Marches along sandy beaches to fire one clip, 8 rounds of pop up Jap targets. Ate cold C rations on cold beach. Had fun time at the Million Dollar Soldiers Club, and drank good cold beer. Went to a great swim party and barbecue on a ranch, put on by a nice family who wanted to do something for us Troops going overseas. Met a really beautiful and very lovely girl again.

SAN FRANCISCO BRIDGE
Going under it on way to the South West Pacific. Had fun walking the plank at crossing the Equator party. The ship we were on was really crowded, but the 30 days it took went by with not much to do.

NEW CALEDONIA
Cease firing ordered with 1903 Springfield rifles as Deer crossed our line of fire. It was great to see the Deer as I hunted Deer back home.

GUADALCANAL
Frustration and despair at not being able to locate my brother-in-law in another outfit. WASHING MACHINE CHARLIE with the crazy sound of his plane.

FIJI ISLANDS
In town to buy pretty silver and turtle shell jewelry for my Mom, sisters, girl friends. BULLA JOE, BULLA JOE. Big beers but not cold.

BOUGAINVILLE
Jap attacks, bombings, shellings, counter battery fire, forward observations posts. Hill 260 all blown up, with no trees of vegetation left standing, only brown colored soil, an unbelievable sight to behold. Too many men killed and wounded with much suffering and horror. We were told over one million dollars worth of ammo was used on Hill 260 to stop the Japs, thus called the Million Dollar Hill. On top of one forward observation post our telephone line severed and myself and 2 other men kept trying to re-establish communications to call in fire missions on the Japs. I never felt so alone and concerned in all my young life. The only good part of the whole mission was the food carried up to us from the rear of the hill.

MANUS, ADMIRALTY ISLAND
Form up convoy to Philippine Islands. Get off ship and stretch our legs on beach and drink warm beer. Back on board ship days later and off the coast of Corregidor Island a young soldier came next to me at the rail of the ship and said that the last he had heard from his father, also a soldier, was that he was on that Island fighting the Japs and he didn't know the fate of his Dad.

LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Native people wave V for victory sign as we pass them. Native sold me a beautiful looking cooked chicken but it was too tough to even bite into. I got took and men and I all had a good laugh about it.

CEBU ISLAND INVASION
Invasion bombardment a great sight, also first time to see rockets fired from craft. The day was clear and calm. A Jap sub came at our ship and scared the hell out of us. A loud voice said "All troops over to the other side" and the Jap sub missed us. We later learned that Jap sub was later sunk. When we landed on the beach just a very short time after the bombardment, it was very sad to see the dead on the beach. One of the dead was a red-headed soldier I can still remember so clearly. The beach had white tape where it was safe to go through. Don Russo saved me from Japs shooting at us. I was mad at the Japs for shooting at us and did not take cover until Russo got me next to him under good cover. He was a very brave man that day. I tried to show my love and appreciation just a few years ago by giving him an original oil painting of a beautiful country scene.

ORIENTAL NEGROES ISLAND
We were supposed to clear the Island of the Japs in ten days but it took us over 30 days because the Japs landed more men. The problem was we had food for only 10 days and we were moving along pretty quickly. Capt. Fred Williams and I and one more man go out to kill Japs coming in to blow up our guns. After a lot of fast shooting Capt. Williams told me to run fast as I can and bring back more ammo and grenades. I almost got shot by my own men running back to our outpost. I ran back up to the Capt. who was leaning against a tree shooting at the Japs and there was a Jap laying not too far from him and I shot the Jap 2 times and the Capt. turned real fast. I remember saying just two words, HE MOVED.

CEBU ISLAND
Back to clean guns and learn Jap commands and

study areas we are to invade in Japan. My best buddy is killed and bleeds to death in my arms--horrible. His death haunts me to this very day, that his Mother thinking that her son survived the war, not knowing yet that he was killed just one day before the war ended. A bomb drops on Japan and surrenders.

JAPAN SURRENDER AND OCCUPATION
Our landing ship passes off the bow of the Battleship Missouri, a huge ship compared to ours. As we approach the shore line we could see white sheets all over the many coastal guns. We had loaded guns and were told we were not sure what to expect. We all remembered the many times the Japs surrendered only to kill our men. We had learned not to trust them. One lonely Jap civilian dressed in a gray suit and hat carrying a suitcase met us on shore. Capt. Fred Williams marching us all in combat gear with loaded rifles down Main St. in Yokohama and ordering us to count cadence count and the Japs along the sidewalks jumping back afraid of us. We were so few troops marching at half strength and no other American troops around as we were the first Troops to land by sea. So alone, but not afraid. Most of the city was bombed and burned out and people living in make shift tin and wood shacks. We did not feel sorry for them as we had a terrible long time of many battles and loss and suffering of so many of our friends. We occupied the city of Kamakura along the coast, a resort and shrine city with a huge bronze statue of a Buddha, one of the biggest in the world. I climbed up inside it and looked out it's eyes to the delight of my buddies. We occupied the city of Kamakura with many duties among which was the apprehension of war criminals, which led later to my becoming a police officer at home. I remember apprehending a big Jap War Criminal as he got off the train at the Kamakura Train Station, and taking him to the Jap police station we worked out of. Another of our many duties was the guarding of big coastly guns pointed out to our many ships. Later we put blocks of TNT in the barrels to blow them up. Also using Jap labor to load up many shells and other ammo and dump it all into the Ocean.

We had Jap interpreters and the Army Intelligence was on the ball. Just before we left Japan my Jap girlfriend was sad to see me leave. She said, "The two of us should jump off the cliff we were on so the Jap papers could read--American soldier and Jap sweetheart kill each other." Boy, am I glad I never took her up on that Lovers Climax.

FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON
Back in the good ole U.S.A. after 7 day boat ride. We were handed fresh milk and donuts after stepping off the ship. Enjoyed steak in mess hall served by German P.O.W. We each bought our own case of beer and proceeded to drink it.

FORT DIX, N.J.
My sister Mary Jane who worked at the Fort takes me home in her Packard in a snowstorm to my Mother, Dad, Sisters and Brothers waiting for me.

I am quite sure if President Truman didn't order dropping the A Bomb on Japan, I and many others would not have made it back home.

Well friends, that was all a long time ago and most of it was interesting, remembering and writing it all down and offering it to you.

In World War II I served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater with the 221st F.A. Bn. and was stationed in New Caledonia, Fiji, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Negroes and participated in the surrender and occupation of Japan.

My awards include the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the WW II Victory Medal. I earned three Battle Stars and one Arrowhead for my part in the Bougainville, Leyte, Oriental Negroes and the invasion of Cebu. My time overseas was 2 years and 28 days with 507 Combat Days.

Well, my Americal Friends, take care and God Bless you all.

Leo W. Orfe
██████████
Burlington, N.J.
08016
Would appreciate any comments from our Americal Family

WHY THE 164th INFANTRY REGIMENTAL INSIGNIA IS ON THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WALL

In the year 1940 the 164th Infantry regiment was the only unit in the North Dakota National Guard. The unit was inducted to active service a few months prior to U.S. involvement in WW 2. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor the activated 164th was sent from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, to the west coast, thence to Australia and finally, New Caledonia. When the Marine Corps invaded Guadalcanal they had tough opposition and it was feared they were about to be overrun and captured, as happened in the Philippines.

A priority message was sent to the 164th Infantry (the nearest combat unit-five days away) and the transports Zeilin and McCawley moved the 164th to Guadalcanal. The landing was made early in the morning of October 13, 1942 amid frequent bombing raids by enemy aircraft. That night the American troops were subjected to the heaviest bombardment of the war. The Japanese fleet with two battleships Kongo and Haruna leisurely cruised offshore with impunity. They fired over 900 fourteen inch shells into the perimeter in seventy minutes, accompanied by their escorts who fired approximately 1000 rounds of five and eight inch shells. (This moment of crisis found our naval carrier group built around aircraft carrier Hornet refueling north of New Caledonia. Scott's Task Force 64 was at Espiritu Santo licking its wounds. Neither could possibly reach the scene of action in time to intercept the Japanese shelling the island.)

The Commandant of the Marine Corps placed two battalions of the 164th on the perimeter of the line, just back of Henderson Airfield. The 2nd Battalion on the right and 1st on the left. The 3rd Battalion was held in reserve. The 7th Marine Regiment was to the right of the 2nd Bn 164. On the evening (at dusk) on October 24, the Japanese attacked at the juncture of the 2nd Battalion of the 164 and the 7th Marine Regiment. E Company of the 164th, on the right flank of the 2nd Battalion was supported by eight machine guns and six 81 mm mortars of H Company. The right flank machine guns opened the ball.

The 3rd Battalion of the 164 was moved into the 7th Marine Regiment's line at 2:00 a.m. as the Marines were being overrun. The battle, the largest mass scrap on Guadalcanal, was the turning point, things were looking up! After three days and nights of fighting, over 1000 enemy dead lay in front of the 2nd Battalion line. About an equal number of enemy perished in the thick jungle occupied by the 3rd Battalion's front line.

The following message was sent to the commanding officer of the 164th Regiment from General Alexander Vandergrift of the First Marine Division; Subject: Congratulations.

1. Little did we realize when we turned over our "quiet sector" to you that you would bear the brunt of the attack so soon. I'm sure you are very proud of the fighting ability by your unit and our hat is off to you.

(Note - the 164th Infantry Regiment received a Presidential Unit Citation for the Guadalcanal action.)

The North Dakota National Guard 164th Infantry was disbanded after the Korean War. Our veterans meet once each year in October -- there are many of us yet alive! Two years ago we decided to place our name and insignia on the North Dakota State Wall, accompanied by the names of many surviving veterans. If you want interesting and enlightening reading, try "Guadalcanal" by author Richard B. Frank. or "The Battle for Guadalcanal" by Sanuel B, Griffith.

The regiment lost 325 men killed in action with 2000 Purple Hearts awarded to individuals wounded in action. The 164th actually fought in combat for a total; of 600 days. You can be proud that we have a North Dakota National Guard.

Written by Charles Walker
(Sent in by Zane E. Jacobs)

1st BATTALION BUDDIES ASSOCIATION - 182 INFANTRY

The 1st Battalion Buddies Association held their annual reunion on the Elliot Carey farm, Billerica, Massachusetts. Fifty two (52) veterans showed up of which twenty seven (27) were members of the 1st Battalion. The average age of the group was eighty (80). All but one went overseas with Task Force 6814.



Pictures that members brought with them that had been taken at Camp Edwards and the South Pacific, were posted on a large bulletin board for all to see. All the members liked the Americal Newsletter and copies were made available.

The Reunion will again be held in August 1999 at the Carey farm. All Americal members are welcome.

Yours in comradeship,
Elliott Carey

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

182nd Hdq Co 2nd Bn 1943-45
Leland Miles from Macon, GA
Edward Miller from Shell Creek, TN
Contact:
Alfonso Hidalgo
Pearblossom, CA 93553

Company E - 132nd Infantry
Arnold Godbey
My father Arnold Godbey served in Co. E, 132 Infantry and was assigned to the weapons platoon. He joined as a replacement on Fiji in late '43 and served on Bougainville, Leyte, and Cebu. He would appreciate any info or contact with anyone in this unit. Contact:

Arnold Godbey
Science Hill, KY 42553

Americal Division Headquarters - CWS Section
Looking for Maser Rex, Billy Robinson, Mario Herce, George Pals, Andy Ash, Russell, Wilson and Roy Stewart. Contact:

Jerry Roberts
North Hollywood, CA 91602

A Company - 182nd Infantry
Looking for Walter Fritz

My Dad, Eugene Kull, has been searching for Walter Fritz for many a year. If you know of him please contact:

Kathy Kull
New Albany, IN 47150-2913

132 Infantry
Looking for S. Gardner, E. Harris, D Weeks, or any former member of the 132nd Infantry. Contact:

Frank J. Kreisel
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

G Company - 164 Infantry
Looking for Michael Hayducko
We were in the same rifle squad on Bougainville, leyte and Cebu. Would enjoy catching up to him again. Contact:

W. Warren Freeman
Simpsonville, CA 29681-4931
Tel.

L Company - 132 Infantry
Looking for Gordon Smith
Gordon was my platoon sgt. on Leyte, Cebu, Japan and he hailed from Detroit, Michigan.

Contact: Jim Thompson
Weidman, Michigan 48893
Tel:

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

THE DAY REMEMBERS...



On Memorial Day 1942 an Americal Division artilleryman, killed in the line of duty, is buried following a memorial service for the dead of World War I and the present war. This service took place at Noumea Cemetery, New Caledonia, in the Pacific Theater. (Photo: National Archives)

(Note that the publication blacked out the name appearing on the foreground marker).

Ed Note: The first man killed in the line of duty on New Caledonia was Sgt. Parker Kimball, E Company, 182nd Infantry. Sgt. Kimball was killed on March 16, 1942, four days after we landed. He was Sergeant of the guard on a detail protecting the French hospital and he was shot and killed by a drunken sailor who he had placed under arrest. He came from Reading, Massachusetts.

When I returned to New Caledonia in 1992, with a group from the Americal, I had the honor of placing a wreath in this cemetery, at a marker for the Americans that died on New Caledonia.

I believe the count was about thirty six (36) Americans that died on this island. Most of these men were truck drivers who died trying to negotiate the roads of New Caledonia in a large Army truck.

Many thanks to Jack Warkow and Bill Maddox for sending in the above picture. It was taken from the DAV Magazine.

WAS THIS YOUR INDUCTION CENTER?

A-I or 4-F

When entering the service, by enlisting or being drafted, the experience that most service people remember vividly, was that required physical exam. Your government had no intention of spending thousands of dollars on training, and then transporting your body parts by land, sea or air, to various exotic & romantic locations around the globe, unless they could be reasonably assured, that your flesh, bones, internal and external organs were capable of tolerating and surviving, the shelling, bombing, torpedoing of rifle fire, that some angry enemy was determined to inflict upon your person.

Those enlisting might have been given the privilege of having only 15 or 20 fellow enlistees joining them in these exams, usually in a

comfortable room or building. On the other hand those draftees might be expected to share this humbling experience with 500 to 1000 reluctant fellow draftees. If you were unlucky enough to be drafted during the winter months, you could be having your exam while shivering in your shorts, or even buck-naked for several hours in a drafty factory, or warehouse building.

If you found this whole procedure of being poked, probed or prodded in various parts of your anatomy, by a gamut of aged & cranky physicians, physchiatrists, podiatrists or proctologists, ardors & demeaning pity those poor "SPECIALISTS" who were bemoaning the loss of their generous fees while plying their nefarious trades on civilian patients, at their offices or clinics.

The Eye Nose & Throat Man

This pushy little guy is obviously annoyed at having to see you at all. He operates with a battery of lights and a number of tongs. He flashes the lights in your eyes, and while you blink, inserts one of the tongs in your right ear and the other in your left nostril, giving each a sharp wrench. He scrawls on your chart 20/20, sinusitis, palsy and shouts "Go to the next section!"

The Tooth Man

The tooth man or dentist is in the next section with a card in front of him. The card has little squares each one indicates a tooth you ought to have but probably don't. He is very angry as it is almost his lunch hour and he has a date with an old girl friend from Butte, named Hilda-von-Houlihan. Her husband may be able to get him some hot bridgework on the black market. He slashes a vicious X in each of the squares, write "Gingivitis" at the bottom of the card and passes you on to the next booth.

The Heart and Body Man

He is the next booth and his territory is everything below the neck and above the waist. He listens to your heart and gives you a long low whistle. He takes your blood pressure and gives a longer and lower whistle. He takes your pulse and pales visibly. "Keep the line moving" he says, and you stagger on your way.

The Psychiatric Man

He asks you with a wink, "How are you with girls?" If you say "Fine," he sneers. If you say "So-So" he sneers. Whatever you say, he sneers and marks "Manic Depressive with Sexual Fantasies" on your card and passes you on to the next expert.

The Privates Man

This one deals with everything below the waist. He looks to see if you have flat feet. Then he begins a pincer campaign on all you hold dear, he prods and you cough in his face. This makes him mad and he sends you about your business. If you cough away from him he will continue prodding indefinitely, whispering all the while in a low, mean voice to a doctor friend who has dropped in to see the freaks.

The Scorekeeper

He adds up everything that everyone else has written down on your card. He looks at the total and shakes his head and then adds everything up again. He wonders why you passed with grade four

flat feet, but what he doesn't know is, that when you went into your final foot exam with the podiatrist, you forgot to take off your shoes. The podiatrist got angry and said "YOUR A-I."

The total came out the same and he continues to shake his head, and makes you turn around a few times. Then he says "I GUESS WE CAN USE YOU."

You put on your clothes finally and go back to your assigned barracks. You start sending post cards to all of your relatives, friends, heirs and proudly proclaiming "THEY WANT ME."

Leonard Owczarzak

I'VE BEEN WAITING ON THE RAILROAD

The following story was sent in by Al Barbieri, who attended the Eastern Region Chapter Reunion.

By todays standards Harpers Ferry is a very small town, probably not more than 500 residents compared to 4000 during the Civil War. One thing most interesting about the town is that it was here the development of the rifle, as we know it today, with interchangeable parts took place.

I arrived there with a round trip ticket with Amtrak. So did associate members Alice Mullen and Evelyn Saunders. We Spent two days at the Georgetown Race Track; there were some who placed bets and some who just enjoyed watching the horses run. We also lunched there and had a great time.

The next day we visited the town of Harpers Ferry and got a real history lesson about the Civil War and John Brown.

On Friday we said our good-bys. The Cliffside Inn provided us with transportation to the Harpers Ferry railroad station in time to catch the 12:58 Amtrak. Hopefully we were to arrive in Philadelphia about 6:00 P.M., after a stop in Washington, DC.

The Harpers Ferry station is really unbelievable. It reminded us of the old western stations in the cowboy movies. The only bench available for the ladies to sit on was an old dilapidated antique that probably had not been cleaned since the station was built during the Civil War. There was so much bird droppings all over the bench there wasn't an inch of space to sit on.

Later, some towns people gave us some newspaper, when they learned we had been waiting several hours for our train. The only modern utility was a pay phone. At least I was able to call Amtrak to inquire about the delay. I was told a mishap had occurred near Pittsburgh and would be six hours late. Pittsburgh was a six hour ride to Harpers Ferry.

The entire station was covered with so much soot, dirt and plenty of grime, cobwebs probably packed in for a century of use. The windows were also full of grime, it was impossible to look inside. Only the Station Masters windows were clean and so was the waiting room. But, a sign on the door said the office and waiting room will open at 5:30 P.M. Now we had to wait for the Station Master to open up. At this point we were already there a total of 4 hours. By this time the two ladies and I were in real need for a rest room and a cool drink of water. When the Station Master finally opened the waiting room doors, you can bet there was a rush to the rest rooms and the water cooler.



Now we had nothing else to do but wait, so we sat on the newspaper covered bench. Finally our train came in at 7:05 P.M.; a six hour wait for a 12:58 P.M. departure. On the train we were told we would arrive on track 26 in Washington just before 8 P.M. and a train would be waiting for us on track 24 because of the long lost hours we had at Harpers Ferry. As our train rolled in on track 26, the train on track 24 was pulling out.

Now, customer service made some excuses on the pull out, so we had to settle for a 10:30 P.M. train to Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. Another two hour wait. We arrived in Philly at 12:40 AM. That made it a 12 hour wait to get from Harpers Ferry to Philly, when the total ride was about 3 1/2 hours, including changing trains in D.C.

I'm sure everybody had a good time visiting with friends they had not seen in years. I wonder how many will come next year? Amtrak!! never again.

Al Barbieri
TF 6814 22nd ORD MM

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

It was time to return to "action" again, this time, Bougainville Island, where the Japs had many troops hidden the mountains. But now, I had advanced to beach-heading with Regimental Supply company, or S-4. It was our job to see that supplies were issued fairly, and adequately to all of our fighting companies.

I kept all the supply records. Knowing the governmental and Army record keeping method that were in vogue (and I believe to this day and age). The amount of non-sensical papers kept piling up. At packing and moving time, as we hopped from island to island, I notices small firs popping up before we left, and a lot of my papers "accidentally" disappeared.

My mother had sent in one of her "care" packages, a package of radish seeds. I had planted some, and through the coral, after a few weeks, the radishes popped out. Frances Langford came to entertain the troops in the field across from our supply depot. We supplied her with an Army blanket, and it came back with a real lipstick imprint.

MORE ON THE JEEP

The article in the April issue on the Jeep deserves, I think, a bit more in-depth discussion. I thought perhaps one of the old troopers would slip in a few words on this, but I guess its up to me. Could I be the only one left? I also don't know where the term jeep came from, but I do know it was not called jeep initially, but Peep. That's right, Peep. Like creeping around the corner to take a peep and slipping back to report what you saw. Reconnaissance.

On New Caledonia in 1942 a call went out for volunteers to form a new outfit that would become the Americal Division Mobile Reconnaissance Squadron, equipped with Peeps and half tracks and supporting vehicles. Gun mounts were mounted in the rear for machine guns and tow bars welded to haul .37s. Two racks for ammunition boxes, one rack on the rear for a five gallon gas can, and we were off to the races.

The function of the outfit, over 500 strong with three troops plus one made up of New Caledonia natives who spoke French and were commanded by American Officers and Non Coms who also spoke French, was to race to any part of the almost indefensible island to repel, or stall, an invasion.

I think the Navy put the kibosh on that with the battle of the Coral Sea. I remember we dashed up North to Kumac to guard the air strip and lend our support to anyone that needed it. But the only support we gave, vocal, of course, was to the stallion, in heat, who chased a mare all over the strip.

Anyone remember the flying fort that landed there and that baby faced Colonel getting out and asking "Is this that Goddam New Caledonia, soldier?" Is it possible you guys have forgotten all this, or is it selective memory? Like I'll forget all about those two Chinese girls who owned the store at Kumac, or that infamous Pink House in Noumea. Or the many times some of us went beserk after drinking Butterfly Brandy, rot gut rum and Kava. And those hunting expeditions in the hills of New Caledonia, hunting deer for the mess hall; of course, we spelled deer with an "A", but we still hunted.

We fought as a unit on Guadalcanal, as an infantry, except for the last push when we re-united with the peeps and raced around to cut off any retreating Japs. In the Fijis the outfit was trimmed drastically to one troop, and I and most men with me went into the 132nd Infantry for the Bougainville campaign.

I don't believe that there isn't some old guard out there who does not remember this outfit, what with ten months on New Cal and five on the Canal, with that rip snortin' Colonel who raced around the front lines screaming for a Jap prisoner so he could practice his Japanese.

I have several letters I had sent home and my return address at that time was Troop A, Peep Patrol, APO 506. San Francisco.

But Peep of Jeep. it was a fantastic vehicle that tamed the Pacific jungles, and the only thing we couldn't get that thing to do was sit up and beg.

Ernest Correale
Peep Troops

The battle for Hill 260 was goin on, it was fierce. Our men went up with flamethrowers to try to dislodge the Japs. Many of our men were felled by heat exhaustion. I was fortunate to be down below at headquarters, getting the reports of the action. (Down below...meant in a large tent dug six feet (6) into the base of the mountain, and covered with huge coconut logs.

The Commanding General decided to give the fighting men some R and R (rest and recreation). He ordered that 2 soldiers from each regiment be invited to go fishing on his yacht. I received the letter. Who else wants to go? We were cruising along the South Sea Islands, watching the poofs and smoke from the fighting on the Bougainville hills. And believe it or not, I actually caught a fish. It was a small bass type. Had it for supper that night.

Another time,I was wandering around with my camera looking for action. Who drove up but the General in his jeep. "Take your picture, sir?" I asked. Of course.

What is your name soldier," he asked. "Private Bindi, Sir!" (he was the only authorized camera person of our outfit.)

Time passed and another cruise. This time to the Philippines. Some of our soldiers were pushing the Japs around (thank goodness). First we had to stop at New Guinea, and more jungles to conquer. Our Chaplain had to renew his supply of movies for the troops. He stepped on the launch that was taking him ashore. "You need someone to help carry..." I said as I jumped aboard also. We circled around in his jeep for a while, but I did manage to capture a coconut to bring back on board.

The Philippines. Another beautiful tropical island. We disembarked on Leyte on LST landing craft. Of course we had to wade ashore. But it wasn't too bad. The troops were fighting further up the coast.

Now our Supply Depot is located on a nice shaded area, and after 3 1/2 years, the first supply of fresh steak and real eggs arrived in our back yard, just down wind of the Colonel's tent. You can get sick of steak and eggs, three time a day. I know.

My final pleas were about to be answered..."stay with me, we'll go to Tokyo...I'll make you a Warrant Officer..." fell on deaf ears. "I want to go home, a person can get killed in this war." I was put on the list, at last.

I don't remember much about the final voyage on another of the President Line ships, except that the view of the Golden Gate bridge as we approached, is ever inscribed on my feeble brain. A short stay at treasure Island for 'delousing'? etc., and then a train across the Southern Route nonstop, except for a brief stop in a deserted area of the New Mexico ? desert where a group of natives were trying to sell us trinkets. Must have slept all the way.

(to be continued...someday!)

Milton Freeman

HEY GUYS HOW ABOUT YOUR STORY?

LEYTE GULF

"THE GREATEST SEA BATTLE EVER FOUGHT"

Fifty four years ago in October of 1944, the seas around the Philippine Islands, witnessed the greatest sea battle ever fought on earth. MacArthur's pledge of, "I shall return" was about to become reality. Thousands upon thousands of American and Filipino servicemen and civilians who had suffered a disastrous and humiliating defeat at Bataan and Corregidor and the deadly death march were about to breathe the fresh air of freedom.

In April of 1944, several months before the invasion began, an almost unknown historical event transpired off the coast of Cebu, in the Central Philippines, that would have a direct bearing on MacArthur's planned invasion. Admiral Mineichi Koga, commander of Japan's Imperial Navy had taken over this position upon the death of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto in April of 1943, when Yamamoto had been shot down by American fighter planes while on an inspection tour in the Solomons.

Koga and over a dozen high ranking officers were aboard several large seaplanes in route to Mindanao, when the planes mysteriously exploded, and crashed into the sea off the coast of Cebu Island. Philippine guerrilla forces converged on the site, and were able to rescue ten Japanese survivors, and several attache cases holding military papers. When informed of the incident, MacArthur asked for the immediate delivery of these papers. They revealed Japan's defense plans for Mindanao, where the Japanese assumed the American landing would take place, and placed little concern about Leyte. The rest is history! MacArthur chose Leyte instead of Mindanao.

The invasion of Leyte, in October of 1944, precipitated the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The American, Japanese and Australian ships engaged in this massive battle, numbered 282 capital ships and numerous smaller support vessels. Over 200,000 men participated in this battle, that covered more than 100,000 geographical square miles. Some of the largest and most powerful ships ever built, with the largest naval guns in history, blasted their opponents and sunk them, taking thousands of sailors from both sides to a watery grave. Every facet of naval warfare, air, surface submarine and amphibious were involved in this battle. Kamikaze attacks wreaked havoc and death on American ships and sailors. Bravery on both sides was beyond description.

Besides the many top Japanese admirals involved, Admiral Nimitz, Halsey, MacArthur and even Roosevelt used every evasive tactic, communications, strategy and intelligence to attain victory. This was the first time an American aircraft carrier was sunk by gunfire and a prototype of a guided missile was tested. One sad incident marred the American cause. An American admiral left the scene of the battle, exposing smaller ships and carriers to two superior Japanese naval fleets converging on Leyte Gulf. Kamikaze Pilots were having a field day! Only the bravery and determination of the American sailors prevented a major catastrophe or defeat!

Note:
Information on the Koga Papers supplied by Colonel Manuel Segura(ret.) Philippine Army and Cebu Forces.

Leonard Owczarzak

NOW HEAR THIS

There has been something stewing in the back of my mind for over fifty years.

I was with B Company, 132nd Infantry, 33rd Division, Illinois National Guard, when it was Federalized. While this unit was training at Camp Forrest in Tennessee, I was one of the lucky (?) ones selected to go to the Pacific as part of Task Force 6814. After a brief stay in Australia we became part of the Americal Division on New Caledonia. I served with the Americal on New Caledonia, Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

I'm sure you do not want to hear my life's history so I'll get to my gripe--I just wonder how many time the correspondants have referred to us as an American Division--instead of the Americal Division. How much publicity have we lost out on because of the name AMERICAL?

It is my opinion that we would have been better off being referred to as the AMERICAN TASK FORCE OF THE U. S. ARMY. This may sound petty but it still bugs me.

Respectfully,
Eugene Koeppe
B/2/132nd Infantry

Ed Note: As you know our name, Americal, came about through a contest and the winner was selected by General Patch.

I do understand you concern for I always become up-set whenever I see articles refer to us as an American Division. No respect.

However, an Australian film maker is working on a film about an Army unit on Guadalcanal. There is a good chance that the 164th Infantry will be used as a typical Army unit that served there. Also, the History Channel is working on this subject and we should see our beloved AMERICAL mentioned in the script plus some interviews with ARMY veterans who served in that conflict. Perhaps after all these years people will finally get to know that it was not only Marines that fought on Guadalcanal.

I COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

It was about June 1944 when this event happened:

There were times that the Quartermaster called for help in moving rations and we linemen were called on for a detail to do this. I was on one of these work details once and the Japs came over on a bombing raid. We were working at night and immediately the area lights were blacked out.

This blackout gave us time to sneak a couple cases of pineapple on to the vehicle that would take us back to our area.

We got away with the pineapples and on returning to the I Company area we proceeded to gouge ourselves on pineapple. There were twelve (12) number ten cans of pineapple--and we tried to eat them all before anyone knew we had them.

Well, I over did it. To this day I don't care for pineapple.

1/Sgt. Ray E. Poynter (Ret)
I Co., 182 Infantry

A YEAR TO GO

I joined Battery F, 123rd Field Artillery, 33rd Division. Illinois National Guard, on February 5, 1941. I had already passed my physical and was ripe to be drafted. So, I figured it best to go with guys I knew.

We left Alton, Illinois on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1941 and went to Camp Forrest, Tullahoma, Tennessee for training.

In the fall the Division went on maneuvers in a Arkansas and Louisiana. (2nd and 3rd Armies).

On December 7, 1941, I, along with several buddies, was sitting in the Drum Room of the Andrew Jackson Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, having a few drinks and enjoying a week-end pass.

The Drum Room had a combo playing music, and during their break would turn on the radio. Suddenly the radio announcer broke in with a news flash saying the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor.

We all looked at each other and asked, "How long before we will be in it"?

Well, forty seven (47) days later we sailed out of New York harbor on board the SS John Ericsson (nee Kungsholm). You know the rest.

Jack Folmer
247 Field Artillery

I'LL BE BACK IN A YEAR!

I was drafted in March of 1941 and after induction was put on a train that headed for Camp Edwards, Bourne, Massachusetts. Here I was assigned to E Company, 182nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division.

Our days at Camp Edwards were taken up with hikes, drills, details, day and night problems and shots. The middle of August we moved to Fort Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts for a few weeks of living in tents and maneuvers. Then it was back to Camp Edwards for several weeks. Then, once again we were loaded on trucks and headed south to North Carolina for Army maneuvers.

We arrived back at Camp Edward looking forward to a few more weeks of Army life--and a discharge. The date was December 6, 1941--.

The war began with my unit doing beach patrols on the coast of Maine. The 182nd Infantry was detached from the Yankee Division and then a train ride to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Here we boarded the transport Santa Elena and on January 23, 1942 sailed forth --destination unknown.

After many weeks at sea, and a scenic trip through the Panama Canal, we arrived in Melbourne, Australia. After about a week here we reloaded transports, this time the Argentina, and headed toward our destination--New Caledonia.

Many months were spent on New Caledonia perfecting the defenses of this island, manning these defenses and training for offensive warfare.

On August 7, 1942 the Marines landed on Guadalcanal and we were to follow shortly after. Here my Company received its baptism of fire, learned about air raids, and saw the pyrotechnics from war ships that battled in the night. We suffered relatively few battle casualties but malaria and jaundice took its toll. We also

suffered much from the heat, the rain, and living in foxholes.

After being relieved on Guadalcanal we sailed for the Fiji Islands. We spent nine months training, receiving new equipment, and filling our ranks with replacements. These replacements were the first of the eighteen year olds to be drafted.

Our Christmas present for 1943 was the island of Bougainville, in the Northern Solomons. For several months the war on this island was fairly quiet, with the exception of frequent air raids and an occasional artillery shell. Our time was used on security patrols and combat patrols. This all changed in March when the Americal became engaged in a life and death struggle with the Japs for control of the island. My Company suffered dearly in helping to defeat the Japanese--one hundred (100) casualties in the opening battle.

In January of 1945 we again put to sea heading north to the Philippines. We saw some action on Leyte. The war ended for me after Leyte. I was to the hospital with my sixth attack of malaria. I had served thirty nine (39) overseas and had 105 points--I was heading home.

For my service to my country I received he Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), and a Distinguished Unit Citation.

I am Past Commander of the Disabled Americal Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, and the Quincy Veterans Council.

That was a long year!

Yours in comradeship,
Irving Isaacson

I REMEMBER WHEN

The July-August-September 1998 issue of the "Americal Newsletter" arrived at my home yesterday. Your article on page 24 seeking stories about where we were on 7 Dec. 1941 caught my eye.

In Dec. 1941, I had a job delivering newspapers for the Vallejo CA Times Herald. The afternoon of 7 Dec 1941, I was sitting in the Hanlon Theater on Virginia Street in Vallejo watching the beginning of a movie when the manager of the theatre turned on the lights and made an announcement over a microphone. He said Japanese forces had just bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and that all news delivery people were to report immediately to the Times Herald news plant for a special edition of the news to be delivered to regular customers. I was 15 years old at the time.

That announcement created quite a stir among the theatre patrons. On my way out of the movie, talk among others is remembered. Fleeting bits of chatter still linger, such as "Where is Pearl Harbor?" and the often stated "Those Japs don't know what they have gotten themselves into. We surely will win the war within 6 months."

You ask how did this news affect us?

I was excited and as I delivered that special paper, wondered if I would ever have a chance to fight for my country. Within a week a fever had taken hold and many high school classmates in their Junior and Senior years had enlisted and were leaving school.

I need not have been concerned about getting into the fight. See abstracts below from an autobiography in my family history file:

Every person remembers events in their life that impact or leave a memory more vivid than any other event. Graduating from high school may be such a thing to some but that event is but a dim memory to me. The event most vivid in my mind, even to this day, was a 2 1/2 year stint in the U.S. Army.

My induction into the Army was 31 Aug. 1944 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The group I was in put aboard a train and headed for Fort Sam Houston, Texas. At that time of the inducting ceremony, we were all interviewed by members from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. I asked to go into the Navy but of 78 men that day only two were allowed into the Navy. The rest were sent into the Army. Such is military induction.

In Fort Sam Houston, Texas I lived in a tent for about 3 or 4 weeks while the Army tried to find gear for all that had inundated that receiving station. There were no shoes that fit me so I had to wear my civilian shoes all that time until the gear could be brought in. Finally all my Army issue was received and they sent me to Camp Hood, Texas for infantry training for 17 weeks. We were put into over size or Balloon training companies. There were 250 men in my company.

After 10 or 12 weeks we had a late night muster and about a third of the company was shipped out the next morning. Those shipped out were easily picked. Every third name on the company roster was called and that man stepped out of the formation and was told to pack his gear as he was leaving in a couple of hours. A few days later we found out those men, who were poorly trained in the use of Infantry weapons and tactics, were sent to Bastogne.

The Germans had made a last ditch effort to cut our advance into the German heart land by breaking through our lines to stop our advance. Colonel McAuliff had created a bit of a stir in German Headquarters, when the German offer of surrender to the U.S. Forces under his command were met with a word they did not at first understand. Colonel McAuliff told the German commander "NUTS", when the German offer was made. Some of the green troops from my training company were killed in that action. The rest of us continued through the required 17 weeks of training.

A couple of days ago I finished reading "Citizen Soldiers" by Stephen E. Ambrose. Some of the men he talks about who were "Replacements" the fall of 1944 came from my Basic training company at Camp Hood TX. Before we finished our 17 weeks word had been received that at least 8 or 10 of our friends had been KIA.

Zane E. Jacobs

COMPANY A - 132 INFANTRY

I am looking for anyone that knew my now deceased brother T/5 Terry McCarthy. He served with a machine gun squad with A Company, 132nd Infantry, Cebu March 1945 to July 1945. GHQ Honor Guard Co., Manila, Tokyo, July 1945 to April 1944.

Please contact me:
Paul McCarthy
Manhattan, KS 66502

A VISITOR FROM THE PAST
By Thelen Paulk

I had a dream the other night, I didn't understand..
A figure walking through the mist, with flintlock in his hand.
His clothes were torn and dirty, as he stood there by my bed.
He took off his three-cornered hat, and speaking low, he said;

"We fought a revolution to secure our liberty.
We wrote the Constitution, as a shield from tyranny.
For future generations, this legacy we gave,
In this, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Freedom we secured for you, we hoped you'd always keep,
But tyrants labored endlessly while your parents were asleep.
Your freedom gone, your courage lost, you're no more than a slave,
In this, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

You buy permits to travel, and permits to own a gun,
Permits to start a business, or to build a place for one.
On land that you believe you own, you pay a yearly rent,
Although you have no voice in choosing how the money's spent.

Your children must attend a school that doesn't educate,
Your Christian values can't be taught, according to the state.
You read about current news, in a regulated press,
You pay a tax you do not owe, to please the I.R.S.

Your money is no longer made of Silver or of Gold,
You trade your wealth for paper, so your life can be controlled.
You pay for crimes that make our Nation, turn from God in shame,
You've taken Satan's number, as you've traded in your name.

You've given government control to those who do you harm,
So they can padlock churches, and steal the family farm.
And keep our country deep in debt, put men of God in jail,
Harass your fellow countrymen, while corrupt courts prevail.

Your public servants don't uphold the solemn oath they've sworn,
Your daughters visit doctors, so their children won't be born.
Your leaders ship artillery and guns to foreign shores,
And send your sons to slaughter, fighting other people's wars.

Can you regain the freedom for which we fought and died?
Or don't you have the courage, or the faith to stand with pride.

Are there no more values for which you'll fight to save?
Or do you wish your children, to live in fear and be a slave?

People of the Republic, arise and take your stand!
Defend the Constitution, the Supreme Law of the Land!
Preserve our Great Republic, and God-Given Right!
And pray to God to keep the torch of Freedom burning bright!

As I awoke he vanished, in the mist from whence he came,
His words were true, we are not free and have ourselves to blame.
For even now as tyrants, trample each God-Given Right,
We only watch and tremble, too afraid to stand and fight.

If he stood by your bedside, in a dream while you're asleep,
And wonders what remains of our rights he fought to keep.
What would be your answer, if he called out from the grave,
"Is this still the land of the free, and the home of the brave?"

Sent in by Joe Micek

COMPANY A - 132 INFANTRY

Is there anyone left out there who served with Company A, 132nd Infantry from Bougainville to the return of the Americal to Fort Lewis, Washington in 1945? My guess is that Fujisawa was the last place the Company was all together.

Does anyone have any extra 132 Regimental Crests? If so, I need four. Please advise the price.

SFC Jack Henley
Pineville, WV 24874

Ed Note: Jack also enclosed a copy of the citation awarding him the Silver Star. The citation states in part: Pvt. Henley twice again exposed himself to 20mm gun grazing fire in order that he might bring two seriously wounded comrades to the aid station. Private Henley's gallantry in action and devotion to duty contributed greatly to the thwarting of the enemy attack and was a major factor in saving two of his comrades' lives.

Jack would like very much to hear from these two men. His address is above.

IN GUADALCANAL

Dedicated to the memory of Private James Carfora and Roscoe L. Frakes, 221st Field Artillery Bn. and the multitude of brave young soldiers who died on Guadalcanal while in the SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow
The crosses there are now row on row,
For them no bugle marked the day,
When silently, He let them lay
Beneath the warm and harb'ring ground,
Marked now by gently rising mounds.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow,
But crosses there are row on row,
And there, our gallant youth shall lie
Their deeds already to the sky
Have mounted there to shine and blaze,
To us, the day to write their praise.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow,
Still crosses there are row on row,
Forever as life's path we wend,
Remember that a mother did send
An only boy, an only son,
To save the heritage we'd won,
On Battlefields in years gone by.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow,
Yes, crosses there are row on row,
The sod which o'er our faithful dead,
Entombs them there from foot to head,
Enshrouds itself in virtue bold,
There, courage, daring and bravery told.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow,
We see there crosses row on row,
They symbolize that freedom's might,
Shall stand against the foe for right,
And men of strength and virile mold,
Shall never before the tyrant fold.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow,
Though crosses there are row on row,
From north, from south, from east and west,
For our great land they gave their best,
That you and I might live again,
Where freedom for us shall never reign.

In Guadalcanal no poppies grow,
Yet crosses there are row on row,
To indicate to you and me,
That we from tyranny are free,
We'll stand upright, straight and brave, to say,
Yes, there's an American Soldier's grave.

By 1st Lt. James E. Milano, Service Battery

CORRECTION - CORRECTION



The caption below this picture in the July-August-September 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter was incorrect. It should have read:

Mrs. Ron Ward - Mrs. Ron Ellis - Babara Callahan

246th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

The years slip by. A recent publication of the Americal Newsletter contained a letter asking for information about a man's father who had served in our division during World War II. My daughter, who is almost forty, was asking me about The War as she suddenly said, "That was your war, you were there".

I served in the PDC of the 246th FA from New Caledonia to Japan. My memories, as the years go by, are more of the things that were fun and unique, than of the horrors, smells and Army food. We fished on Bougainville with fishing lines we had "borrowed" from the Navy. We made sinkers and weights from lead ammo seals and cast into the bay. Tied the line to a Jeep bumper waited. We caught fish, shark and sea bass, which made a great meal after weeks of C Ration. I remember cooking fish in a pan made from the polished end of a 55 gallon gas drum. The smell of fish brought a crowd and also fresh bread from the kitchen crew.

I remember the beauty of a tropical night on Cebu as we watched the locals catch fish by forcing the fish into weirs. They did this by the whole village walking toward the shore with torches in their hands. A beautiful sight on a tropical night.

I remember my first plane ride, in an L4 or 5, and looking down on the mountains of Cebu and the gardens planted even on the ridges. The welcome we received, as heroes, as we liberated a town or village. The night when we heard that the war might be over and we decorated Leyte with toilet paper.

As I look at the few photos I have I see pictures of those who did not come home. They have missed these past years of joy and cold war, new children, new wars, new hopes. I quickly turn to the happy memories of "The War" and wonder what happened to all those I knew back then. Odds are, like me, look a lot older and walk with a gimp.

As for me, when I returned from the islands, I decided to go to Med school but entered seminary instead. I am now an Episcopal Priest and have had the honor of being the National Chaplain of the Americal Division Veterans Association, for the past several years.

God Bless you all,
Rev. William T. Elliott

57th ENGINEERS

I was watching an old war movie, when I got to thinking about a few things that happened to me during my time in the South Pacific and the Philippines.

One time while on Leyte the Americal was chasing the Japs up the Omac Valley. The Japs would cross the road at night, up in the pass, and when we would go up there in the morning it was possible to see their tracks and tell which way they had gone.

One morning we took a bunch of Filipinos up to the pass to clear the ditches so that the water would flow and not flood the road. They had just started working. I was on the other side of the road, looking out over the valley and thinking how nice it would be to visit, without the war.

All of a sudden the Filipinos started running up the road yelling, "Jap-Jap-Jap". I ran to the Jeep and grabbed my gun and when I looked toward them they pointed to the ditch. Looking into the ditch I could see that they had uncovered a dead Jap who had been buried there. Well, they would not go back to work until the dead Jap had been removed. Seeing that I was elected for that detail, I took a pick and rolled the body across the road and over the cliff. Their was a little smell for a while but I got the Filipinos back to work.

Following this incident I decided to follow the tracks up the hill. A short way up the hill, about twenty yards ahead of me, I saw two Japs digging for roots. I pointed my Thompson Sub-Machine gun at them and called for them to surrender, thinking the understood English. They took one look at me and took off running into the brush.

I then went back down the hill and told the lieutenant about what I had seen. He then told the C.O. who decided to take a scouting party back up the hill to see what was going on. We were engineers--not infantry--but the C.O. made me first scout since I had a sub-machine gun.

Walking cautiously back up the hill, I looked to my right and in this little gully I saw two Japs who appeared to be dead. As we walked toward them, one pulled his cover off and then there was a--"Bang, Bang" and they were both dead.

We heard some running on the other side of road but we could not see anything. We sprayed the brush.

I went back to where we had killed the two Japs and took a flag and some pictures from one of them. How sad I thought, the poor wife and children will miss their Dad who died for a bad cause.

When we got back on the road we found a wounded Jap who had been hit by one of our bullets. We were going to take him back to the hospital when the Colonel walked up to the Jap, stood over him with his pistol, and stated he had never shot a Jap before, and he would put him out of his misery. He then shot him.

We looked at each other and just shook our heads, and went back to camp. There was nothing illegal about what the Colonel had done--the Japs had done many things worse. But, I was not a soldier, just a farm boy from Montana--where I wished I was about then.

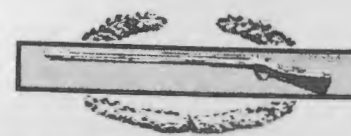
Darrell Wardien

China-Burma-India Veterans
Merrill's Marauders

There are many Americal veterans of Guadalcanal that left the Division on Fiji with a promise of, "returning to action". Eventually these men wound up with Merrill's, Marauders in Burma.

If you are one of these men please drop a line stating that you were in Burma and send a story of your personal experience. If you have never heard of the Merrill's Marauders please write to:

Raymond V. Lyons
Phoenix, AZ 85028

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Asheville, NC 28801

The Combat Infantryman's Association is a growing organization. If you are interested please write to the above address for full information. Remember: Be recognized, wear your CIB.

WINNING THE PEACE

Fifty years ago Emperor Hirohito broadcast his surrender message--though he never actually used the word surrender--and World War II came to an end. To the American GIs who fought, bled and died to win that war, the nation owes a perpetual debt of gratitude. The nobility of their cause and memory of what they achieved can never be dimmed.

But the end of World War II marked another--and in its own way, equally remarkable--chapter in America's emergence as a world superpower. The United States not only won the war. It won the peace. With a sense of generosity and statesmanship rare in human history, former enemies were turned into staunch allies, and potential enemies were deterred from launching a third world war.

Following World War I, the allies had imposed harsh conditions on Germany involving huge reparations payments to the victors. At the same time, however, tariffs and other barriers to trade made it difficult for a recovering Germany to sell its goods abroad--which in turn made it difficult if not impossible to meet its reparations payments.

So Germany did what many other nations do when confronted with heavy debts; it tried to inflate its way out of debt by printing money. The resulting chaos, combined with a lingering sense of betrayal, led to Adolf Hitler and World War II.

In World War II, the allies insisted on unconditional surrender. War criminals were tried and hung in both Germany and Japan. But rather than stripping the two countries of their economic potential, both were encouraged to rebuild their economies under an American free-trade umbrella, anchored by a stable, gold backed dollar.

There are some who argue that Japan, in particular, is now abusing the free trade regime. But such irritations seem trivial next to the benefits of the post-World War II arrangements. Buffered by rising posterity, Germany and Japan stabilized politically and now seem firmly committed to democratic government. And America, whose industrial might had bounded forward during the war, entered into an era of unparalleled prosperity.

On this solid economic and political base rested the Cold War strategy of "containment." The Soviet Union, unable to indulge its imperial appetite after absorbing Eastern Europe, had no means of matching capitalism's economic and military

potential. Moscow's leaders lost faith in their own cause, and communism began to unravel.

The Cold War was not entirely cold; more than 100,000 American lives would be lost in Korea and Vietnam. Freedom never comes cheap. But by contrast with World War II, in which 292,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines died - and nearly 50 million people worldwide were killed -- the cost was relatively light. Especially considering that, unlike World War II, a World War III in all likelihood would have involved devastating attacks on the American heartland itself.

So today, we offer thanks--thanks to those who carried the burden of the fighting in Europe and the Pacific, and thanks to those who erected a durable peace on hard-won foundations. V-J Day can be seen as an ending. But it also deserves to be seen as a beginning. May America always act as wisely as it did after World War II.

(Taken from the L.A. Times)

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - 164 INFANTRY

Left to Right: Unknown, Boris Gasradozzi, Harold Steiner, and Arthur Fatallo.



Above is a picture of the cooks of Headquarters Company, 164th Infantry. The picture was taken in Japan in 1945 and sent in by Jim Rains.

CAN YOU HELP THIS MAN?

I am a World War II Purple Heart vet and I am interested in collecting WW II unit patches, decals, or whatever to display or show to other WW II buffs. I cannot afford to purchase many but would appreciate anything you could spare. If there is any charge please let me know. I may be able to afford some of the items.

I am positively not in any kind of business. This is just a hobby.

I served with the 291st Combat Engineer Battalion. We supported the 30th Infantry Division.

Contact:

John G. Stackhouse
Ridley Park, PA 19078

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.

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[REDACTED]
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