



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 1998

Editor in Chief: James C. Buckle
Vietnam Editor: John R. McKnown Jr.
Published Quarterly

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



WINTERFEST 1998

NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN

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Remembering Bill Rosenthal

Last August I attended the reunion of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association in Washington, D.C.

One of the reunion attendees was Mr. William (Bill) Rosenthal of Quitman, TX. Bill was a career soldier who had served in Vietnam with F Troop, 17th Cavalry. We did not know each other in Vietnam but had become acquainted in Texas at ADVA South Mid-West chapter reunions.

In one of our conversations I learned that Bill's son Joe worked for the same company that I did. Joe had provided me with engineering support on several construction projects in the past few years. Bill was obviously pleased that I could give him a glowing report about his son's performance.

At the reunion banquet Bill and his wife were seated at a table with other veterans of F Troop. Bill was sharply dressed in sport coat and tie and was obviously enjoying the evening. He enthusiastically introduced me to the others seated at the table. It was very apparent that he was extremely proud to be a part of the group.

Bill asked me to post a locator request on the ADVA web page. He was very interested in locating former members of his Vietnam unit. In return, he promised to help me in any way that he could. "Just let me know" he said, "I'll be happy to do everything that I can."

Unfortunately, Bill did not get the opportunity to act on his promise. Just a few short weeks later I received a phone call from Joe to inform me of his father's death. Bill had been suddenly stricken ill and was hospitalized for treatment. He had successfully scorned death during the war, but he was now unable to survive the severity of a massive heart attack.

Joe told me that his father had wanted me to be informed of such a consequence. For whatever reason, Bill and I had hit it off right from the start. I don't know that I can explain it, but then again, it probably really doesn't need to be explained.

I am very sorry to see Bill go. I am sorry not only for the personal loss of a friend, but also for the loss of a father, a husband, an Americal veteran, and a member of our fine associations. At least I can be happy that I will be able to remember him as having high spirits and a positive outlook on life.

Bill's death reminds me of how unexpectedly such events can occur. We never know when we may be called to our eternal reward. We must cherish our friendships and forever be supportive of one another.



Bill Rosenthal

ADVA Financials

There has been considerable conversation in the past few weeks that the federal government will have a budget surplus in the next year or two. This positive financial forecast is certainly welcomed by all citizens and taxpayers. We will have to wait and see if the predicted good fortune happens.

ADVA members will be happy to know that the financial status of our organization continues to be very strong. We were fortunate to have posted a small budget surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997. Receipts and expenditures for the first half of the 1998 fiscal year show that the budget is on a healthy track.

The current net worth of the ADVA is just over sixty thousand dollars. Most of these funds are held in certificates of deposit or other short term liquid investments. Annual expenditures are just over thirty thousand dollars. A little math will show that we have about two years of operating costs in the bank.

I have been questioned a few times about the need for the association to keep a large cash balance in the treasury. I welcome such questions and I am always happy to explain my views on the subject.

A large portion of the funds is prepaid dues. The ADVA allows members to pay life dues in advance and it is necessary to hold these life dues in the treasury. This will ensure that life members receive their full membership benefits for the rest of their lives.

It also is prudent to keep funds in reserve in case an unexpected financial situation arises. I admit that the amount of a reserve fund can be debated. It is my opinion that a reserve equal to the operation expenses of one year is not an excessive amount to hold.

I am quite proud that the ADVA has very reasonable membership dues. Our annual dues remain at \$12 per year while many similar organizations have dues of \$20 per year. With our strong financial position, it should be possible for us to hold annual dues at \$12 for several more years.

Regional chapters receive a small "chapter payback" from the national treasury each year. The chapter can use these funds to help cover the costs of chapter operations. Chapters can also assess dues from members and they can have fund-raising activities. By-laws require that all chapter members belong to the national organization. However, it is not required that national members belong to a regional chapter.

Suggestions have been made that the national organization provide increased financial support for regional chapters. I am currently considering means by which a coordinated fund-raising activity can be provided to help chapters maintain a sound financial position.

I encourage members to support the efforts of their regional chapters by paying dues and participating in chapter activities. Regional Commanders are listed in the directory inside the front cover of the Americal Newsletter. They will be happy to hear from you and provide you with details of chapter events.

Pointman International Ministries Conference, August

In August I attended a three day conference with the President of Pointman, Del Wantland. There were many guest speakers and workshops to interest the vets from both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. There were many things to talk about.

The guest speaker that started us off was Paul Hughes of Sharon, TN. Paul had on an old O.D. green shirt with a 196th Light Infantry Brigade patch. Underneath that he had a t-shirt with the 196th symbol. Boy, did that look good after a long day.

Paul and I talked for some time. We had great fellowship and a great weekend. (I got Paul to sign up before we left. Welcome to the ADVA, Paul.)

Freedom Fest 1997, Sep 5-7

With good weather ahead and following a 14 hour drive, we came to my best reunion of the year in Skidmore, MO., a town of just 401 persons. Each September a lot of people come to have a great time there, and, remember our POWs/MIAs from all wars.

Commander Gary Noller and I have been there before. This makes my sixth trip out from my home in Michigan. The event featured the Moving Wall, the National POW hot air balloon, a helicopter display, a POW computer network, and other various information booths.

Britt Small and Festival provided entertainment as did the Rev. John Steer. There were plenty of guest speakers, crafts, food, and drink. It is a great place for some R and R before heading to Washington, D.C. for Veterans Day activities. I hope to see you all at Freedom Fest 1998.

Kokomo 15th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion, Sep 19-21

Rain, rain, and more rain. After two days of the wet stuff, out came the sun on a nice day in Indiana. Each year more people keep showing up. New friendships are made and old stories are told.

We had a great turn-out at the ADVA information booth. We passed out about 60 applications for membership to interested veterans. Twelve ADVA members, from all types of Vietnam units, signed the guest book.

We had our new Americal T-shirts out and they went over big time. If you don't have one you had better look them over by the time we to the National Reunion in Orlando. They will go fast. See the ad elsewhere in this issue or write Ken Turner, 71 Madison Ave., Wakefield, MA, 01880.

Thanks to Dennis Crouse and Gary Warn for keeping me awake on a long weekend. We will be there again in 1998 also.



The following are just a few of the locator requests posted to www.americal.org/locator on the ADVA web site. Requests from other units will be reprinted in the next edition of the Americal Newsletter. If you wish assistance in contacting anyone listed on the locator pages, please contact Gary L. Noller, National Commander.

WWII

Capozzi, Anthony P., WWII, South Pacific, Americal Division, Janice Capozzi.

Michael "Mickey" Finn, Sam Tavano, Nino Baldelli, Msgt. Riccio. 182nd, 26th Yankee Div. James V. Carelli, Jr., Holbrook, Mass. 02343

S.Sgt. Sweatt (Swett?) 182nd Inf. Regiment, S. Pacific, 1942 to 1946. Jack Hills,

Tucson, AZ 85741, Anyone. Lester Van Smith, with Americal in WWII is looking for friends. Kyle Smith, Superior, WIS. 54880

Raymond (Mac) McGee Looking for anyone who may have served or known my father, a LT. in the 164th infantry regiment. Ray McGee,

Rayford H. May, 182 Inf., Co.A. 1944 Cebu Is. Rolla Martin, gdrand@sprintmail.com, Troy, Mo. 63379,

Anyone, 164th B Company, Nick Ostapchuk, Rochester NY 14615-3232

Anyone knowing Richard Seely, Guadacanal, Americal vet. Richard Seely, Prescott, Az, 86301,

Sgt. Norman, Sgt. Morton, Sgt. Gekofsky, PFC Gonzales, Sgt. Simmons, Lt. Dick Roy, Roys Raiders 1944 Bougainville, Sgt. Thomas F. Marion, c/o Carla Smith, Kenna, WV 25248

Anyone who served with Charles W. Harrell, killed on New Caledonia, Dec. 29, 1942, while serving with Co. K, 132nd Inf. Sam Harrell,

Anyone who served with my Dad, William H. Dailey, 164th, Co. A. Terry Dailey, Hayesville, NC 28904,

Johnnie Lee Nance, Staff Sergeant Cline W. Greer, Co. B, 182nd Infantry, B. Robinson, robinsun@bellsouth.net

Anyone who knew my father Bill Larison, 182 Inf. Reg. Frank. M. Larison Sr., Dallas, Texas 75252

Members of Company A, 182nd Inf who knew my dad Cal Calamito. Michael Calamito,

Anyone who serve with my father B.F. Chappell, B CO, 132nd REGT, 2nd BN. Joe Chappell,

Anyone knowing my uncle, James William McDonald, served in the Army, died in Bougainville. Monya T. Allen, Brunswick, Georgia 31525-2312,

Members of 182nd Inf., Company K who knew Don Chisholm (my father). Jim Chisholm, Atkinson NH, 03811

Anyone who served with my father Jim Griffin on Bougainville, Co. E 182d Inf. Dennis Griffin,

Anyone, 182nd Inf., WW2, Co, L, Robert E Doucette,

William F. (Bill) Wilson, 721st Ordinance, Elon F. Bailey, West, Sylacauga, AL 35150

Anyone, 182nd Inf., including Jhonny Areha, (sp?), Alfred Morris, Patterson. evans@i-link-2.net, Fredolph Hugh, Randle Wa 98377

2/1 Infantry

Anyone, E 2/1, May 69 to April 70. Mike Wayland 'OKIE', Chandler. OK, 74834

Bill McGee, 2/1 Inf. 1969-1970, E/Recon & BTOC. Fred W. Baumann, Lexington, Ky 40512-3022,

Anyone, A 2/1 at Kham Duc. McClarnon, Doc, Trice, Welch Bill Bacon, San Antonio, TX 78250,

Members of the S-1 Section, 1970 at LZ Hawk Hill. Lt. Robert Gillan, Dr. Bob Gillan, Natchitoches, LA 71457,

John DeAngelo, David Sutter, et al., B Co, 23rd Med, January - April 1971. I was a 91B assigned with 2/1, 196th. Scott Smith,

Sgt. Armstrong, Company A 2nd/1st 196 Inf bde 69-70. David Carter,

3/1 Infantry

Anyone, C/3/1, 11LIB, 3rd Platoon, 7/69-7/70. Dean Hendrickson,

Anybody, ("Dinkle," RTO Ben Young) B Co 3/1st., 2nd. Plt., '69 -'70. Bob Hartman

Anyone, D Co. 3/1 Bn, 11th Brigade 1970-1971.

Stanley Dickhoff, HHC 3/1 Chu Lai 1970-72 Contact: Mark Mentz,

Anyone, with 3/1st, C Co. Skip Brownfield, Elizabethtown, Ill. 62931,

Anyone in the Palace Guards, Co D 3/1 Inf. 1970-1971. LaVar Hunter 'Lucky',

St. Anthony, Id 83445

"SUPERSIX", PLATOON SGT, Lt. Emil Naasz, D CO. 3/1 11TH LIB. JOE COLON, Tampa, FL, 33612

4/3rd Infantry

Members A Co, 4/3rd Inf., 70/71. Dewing, Nelson, Parks. Dennis, Brocato. Russell Morse

Falmouth MA 02536,

Anyone, 4/3rd Inf., 11 Inf. Bde, 1967-'68. Carl Marlo,

E5 Britton from Richardson, TX, 11th, Co. D 4/3 John Bond,

Sgt First Class Yeldell, other members of A Co, 4th Bn, 3rd Inf, 11th Inf Bde, 1968. K. N. Hendrix

Anyone from the Old Guard Co. A, 4/3 11th LIB, Late 66 and 67 thru 68. Don Hilton,

Bill Semar & John Bradley, 9/69 to 9/70. A Co., 4/3. Contact: Steve Riggs,

Bobby Hall, HQ Co., 4th/3rd. Steve Pupak, Jr.,
 [REDACTED], Gwinn, MI 49841 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 1968-69, D Co., 4/3rd 11th LIB, Anton Lilly 'TC',
 [REDACTED]
 Washington, DC 20030, Phone# [REDACTED]
 Richard Berdan, Co. C, 4th/31st in summer of 69. David
 [REDACTED] Mt.
 Rainier, Maryland 20712, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Scholfield Barracks Co A or B, Hq & Hq, 4/3rd,
 11th LIB. Don Hilton, [REDACTED]
 1418 8th. Ave., Kearney, NE 68847, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Co. D 4/3 Inf 11 LIB 1967 thru 1968. Roger L.
 Newport, [REDACTED],
 Robbins, TN 37852

1/6th Infantry

Anyone, D Co. 2nd Plt. 1st/6th, eg: Lt. Sparks, Tim
 Dowell, Gary Ferino, Moon, Peanuts, Vance Pinkstaff,
 Jim Parker, Sgt. Lee. David A. Sweeney,
 [REDACTED] West
 Mifflin Pa. 15122, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Co. C 1/6 198th LIB Feb 1968 to Feb. 1969. Alan
 Torsiello, [REDACTED]
 Union, N.J. 07083 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, D Co. 1/6th Inf., 11/70-11/71. John Ross,
 [REDACTED] Orchard, IA,
 50460, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, E Co., 1st Bn 6th Inf. Dec 68 to Dec. 69. Bill
 Sawyer, [REDACTED]
 Recon, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, May 70 to Aug 71. Edward 'Ed'
 Marshall, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Petersburg, VA 23803
 Anyone, 1/6th, 198th, E Recon, 1/1/70-4/27/70. Darl Redder,
 [REDACTED]
 "Fats" Moorhead, 1/6/198th from 69-70. Doug Burnett,
 [REDACTED]

1/20th Infantry

CPT James Donavon, C/1/20th, 11th Bde. 1968 TO 1969.
 Leonard B. Harootunian [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Lockport, IL 60441
 Anyone, Co. D, 1/20 Inf. May 1970 - May 1971 Lt.
 Demicurio(sp), Lt. Blevins, Sgt Kalua, Wild Bill, Larry
 Reeder, Rob Runge(d), Jim Zorns(d), Bud Halliburton.
 Bill Hamilton [REDACTED]
 1st Lt. Joe Wilson, Sgt. Roy "Okie" Davis or anyone Recon
 platoon, 1st Bn. 20th Inf. Oct. 70-Oct. 71, Reginald
 Pruett, [REDACTED], 710 Bon Ami, DeRidder,
 La. 70634, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Co. D 1st BN, 20th Inf., 11th LIB '68-'69. :Don
 Hotch, c/o Marsha Hotch, mhotch@seaknet.alaska.edu
 Any former soldier with C Co., 1/20th Inf. Steve 'stubby'
 Fordice, [REDACTED],
 Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-3321
 Anyone, C or D Co., 1st/20th. Jan to Nov 1970. Larry
 Williams-Coshell Hall- or Rieder. Dan Hanna,
 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 4.2 Plt. 1st/20th/11th LIB, and the
 4th/21st/11th LIB. '68, '70-'71. Sgt. Mike Carter,
 [REDACTED]
 Billy E. Woods, Anyone, C/1/20 in the summer of '68. David
 Reed, lzthunder@aol.com, [REDACTED],
 Middletown, OH 45042, [REDACTED]

Anyone knowing my brother Mark C. Hughes. Co. B, 1/20.
 3/70-3/71. David N. Hughes, [REDACTED] t.
 18745 Curry Powder Lane, Germantown Md. 20874, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

4/21 Infantry

Anyone, C-4-21, Oct 70 - Mar 71 Clifford Wherley,
 [REDACTED], Grand Prairie,
 TX 75052
 Anyone, 3rd bn/21st inf 1st platoon C Co. Nov. 67 to
 Nov. 68. Carl Trpisovsky 'Trip', ptrip@aol.com
 Kelso, 69-70, D CO, 3/21, Sept 11, 1969-1970, DANIEL
 PHILLIPS, [REDACTED],
 Eclectic, AL,
 Charlie Co., 3/21st Inf., 68/69. Ed 'sealbeams' Latham,
 [REDACTED]
 Tony ? or anyone, D-Co, 3d Bn 21st Inf. -Killer Platoon,
 Sep 1970-Jan 1971. Bill Testerman, cazz@erols.com
 Van Duine (VD), 3rd BN, 21st Inf, 67/68 Charlie Tigers,
 "Double Aces 1-1", Carl J. Trpisovsky, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Task Force Gimlet, 72, 3/21st Inf., Yippy,
 McKindric, Botta, Grew. Jim Highland,
 [REDACTED]
 Mattoon, IL, 61938, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 4.2 Plt., 4th/21st Inf., '68, '70 - '71. Mike Carter,
 [REDACTED]
 Albans, WV, 25177
 Anyone, Co. E., 4/21, 70-71, Terry Hunsucker,
 [REDACTED]
 Lexington, KY 40509, [REDACTED]
 Dominique Tryola, 4th/21st, A Co., 3rd squad, '68 to '69. Ted
 McCaffree, [REDACTED], Bothell.
 Wash. 98041-0455
 Anyone, 68 - 4/69, B, 4/21 Inf., came over from Hawaii.
 GREGORY A. PARRIS [REDACTED]

4/31 Infantry

Anyone, Recon, 4/31 Inf., 1970. William Featherston,
 [REDACTED], Sacramento,
 CA. 95828, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Co. C, 4/31 Inf., 1970. Tommy Burns,
 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, D Co. 4/31 Inf, Oct 69-Oct 70. Robert L. Delzell II,
 Ph.D. [REDACTED], Long
 Beach CA 90803, wk [REDACTED]
 Evertt Barry or Barry Evertt, CO. C 4/31 Inf., 70. TOMMY
 BURNS, [REDACTED]
 1st Platoon, Co. A, 4/31st Inf., 6/68 to 5/69. Al DeWrenches,
 Deitz Cook, Mike Fogarellie, Pat Bridges, Suds
 Kinunin, Tom Bear. Bill Cobler [REDACTED]

1/46 Infantry

Veterans of LZ Profesional, C Co., 1/46th Inf., Alan
 Johnson, milklaw@3rivers.net, [REDACTED] Malta,
 MT 59538 [REDACTED] (work): [REDACTED]
 (home)
 C CO, 1/46th Inf, after Mar 71, Kroeger, Sudweeks, Logan,
 Lt. O'Brien. Ronald Ellis, [REDACTED],
 [REDACTED], Henderson, TX 75652, [REDACTED]
 Thomas M. Lamberson or Stanley E. Minnier, Recon Plt.
 1/46 Inf., Wayne D. Swisher [REDACTED],
 [REDACTED], Fleetwood PA 19522

Anyone, Dwight Dirk, Co. A 1st/46th, July/69 to July/70.
 Wilburn Trower, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Bowling Green, MO 63334 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 1/46 Inf, 22 Feb 1968. Ronald M McClure,
 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Austin Grant, Bill Sapp, Norm Crews, Jackson
 Middleton, 1/46th Inf., 1967. John Carver,
 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, D Co., 1/46th, Aug. 69 to Aug. 70. :Ed Allen,
 [REDACTED], Ks.
 67485, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 1/46th, D Co., Mar 68-Dec 69, who knew my
 brother Floyd G Talley. Regina Talley,
 [REDACTED],
 Raleigh NC 27604, 919-713-4087

5/46th Infantry

Anyone, 5th/46th, Ft Hood Texas then VN. Dave Turcotte,
 [REDACTED]
 Friends, Co. A, 5/46th Inf., Ft. Hood to Chu Lai. 1968. Jim
 Dooley, [REDACTED], North
 Hero, Vt. 05474
 Robert R. Cate, 5th/46th, 1969-1970. D. Hubert,
 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 5/46th, Oct 1968-Aug 1969. Jim Cosner
 [REDACTED], Akron, CO 80720,
 [REDACTED]
 Lt Jim Fraser, 1SG Adolph Smith, SFC Stretch, SP4
 Harrington, C/5/46 Oct 68 - Mar 69. Bill O'Neill,
 [REDACTED], Irvine, CA
 92606-1848, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 3rd Plat., Co A, 5/46th Inf., Michael 'Mack'
 Dunnagan, [REDACTED]
 Ponca City, OK 74604-3009, [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Chris H or any MINUTEMEN, 176 AVN, any air 5/46th,
 7/69-7/70. Ron 'DOC' Berquist, [REDACTED],
 [REDACTED], Erie PA, 16506
 Anyone, 1970 to 1971, "Echo Recon", 5/46th, Doug
 Harrison, [REDACTED]
 Richard Mazzerella, Co A, 5/46 mortar plt, 7/68- 7/69. Leon
 Remakus, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, 5/46th, D Co., Jan 69 to Jan 70. Mike Gallegos,
 [REDACTED]
 Tooele Utah 84074, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, A Co, 5/ 46th, 1968. Ray Phillips,
 [REDACTED] Niles,
 Michigan 49120, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, A Co., 5/46th Inf., 1968. Jim Markham,
 [REDACTED] Milford, Mi.
 48382
 ANYONE, LT. Decker, Doc, Weaver, the Ranger. Co. E,
 Recon 5/46th, Feb 70 to Jun 70. Tom Spanky Wiggins,
 [REDACTED]
 BOOTHWYN, PA, 19061

1/52nd Infantry

Anyone, Co. A or E, 1st/52nd Inf, Mar 70-Jan. 71. Dan
 Lanning, [REDACTED],
 Bremerton, WA 98311
 Michael Marcino, D Co., 1/52 Inf., 1968. Anthony J.
 Paluszek, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED], Dunbarton, N.H. 03045, [REDACTED]

Anyone, D 1/52, 81mm, 68. Dennis O'Connor,
 [REDACTED]
 Trenton, Oh 45067, [REDACTED]
 1LT Joel D. Salyers, 1LT Daniel F Shepardson, SSG Robert
 W. Watt, SGT Robert D. Brown, SSG Thomas L.
 Brown, SSG Thomas Gaynor, , Sp Harry Kergil, RTO
 James, Scott Hasselbach, Co A, 1/52d Inf, '69.
 William Cox, [REDACTED]
 Berea, WV 26327, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, B 1/52 Inf, 1969-1970. MAX LOFFGREN,
 [REDACTED] FAIRFIELD,
 CA. 94533, [REDACTED]
 Anyone, A Co., 1/52 Inf., 70-71. Gary Neuschwanger.
 [REDACTED], McMinnville,
 OR 97128 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, B Co., 1/52, 4th Plat. Nov. 70-Aug. 71. Robert M.
 Laguban 'Chief', [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED], Minneapolis, MN. 55409-2112, [REDACTED]
 Jim McQueen, D 1/52nd Inf., 1969-1970. Max Loffgren,
 [REDACTED]
 Anyone, Co. B, 1/52nd, 1969. Jack Tonkin, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

New Locator Feature

If you would like to have your name added to the
 Americal Division e-mail directory, go to:

<www.americal.org/locator/edirect.htm>.

Supply the requested information and it will be posted for
 others to find. Only Americal Division veterans or ADVA
 members will be posted to this page.

Locator Success

According to responses from users of the web page
 locator, successful searches are happening for about
 10% to 15% of the posts. This is uniting many veterans
 with their formerly lost buddies. The number of posts on
 the locator page is now in the many hundreds.

Much gratitude for this success is extended to SFC
 Anthony E. (Tony) Greene. Tony posts the requests to
 the page with a special coding program that he wrote.

Military Records Recon

Donald Van Estinbridge has casualty reports for the
 Americal Division for the period of 1Jan70 to 28Feb71.
 These documents list details of WIA and KIA casualties.

If you wish to correspond with Don about these
 records, please write to him at [REDACTED]
 Waymart, PA, 18472 or by e-mail at [REDACTED].
 E-mail is free but postal mail requires a one dollar fee.

David Myers has many documents relating to the
 Americal Division in WWII. His father was in the 246th
 Field Artillery. Dave will search his records for
 information at your request. If the search is successful
 he requests five dollars to cover postage and handling.

Dave can be contacted by writing to him at [REDACTED].
 [REDACTED] Stewartville, NJ, 08886. His e-mail address is
 [REDACTED]

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

March 7, 1998
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

NO MEETING IN APRIL

May 2, 1998
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

June 25, 26, 27, 28, 1998
National Convention
Orlando, Florida
Time And Day To Be Announced

THANKS

We wish to thank the members of the A.D.V.A. for all the cards and notes of sympathy sent to us. The death of our granddaughter, Danielle, was a great loss to all the family. We thank you.

Marolyn, Bob Beschle and Family

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Jim Alexander
11 196 LIB C/4/3
Forsan, TX
#Castronova-Hayes

Col. Marvin E. Allesee
132 Infantry 1/Bn
Arlington Heights, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Lee Basnar
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Sierra Vista, AZ
#R. Castronova

Mr. Lee A. Benjamin
Associate
Wayne, PA
#VFW Bernie Chase

Mr. Troy Blevins
198 LIB 3/18 1/14
Peck Mill, WV
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Raymond Brady
26 Engineers C Co.
Burnet, TX
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Donald J. Bugosm
198 LIB 11 LIB HHC
Canton, IL
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Terry W. Cryer
26 Eng D Co
Ardmore, OK
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. William J. Donaghy
11 LIB C/2/1 Inf
Neversihk, NY
#VFW Bernie Chase

Mr. John M. Alexander
196 LIB B/4/31
Jacksonville, NC
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. F. Archie "Doc" Arch
18 Arty 3.18
Dandridge, TN
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Frederick W. Baumann
196 LIB E/2/1 Inf
Versailles, KY
#William McGee

Ltc. Earl E. Berg
198 LIB HHC 1/52
Glendale, AZ
Gary L. Noller

Mr. Edward J. Bowser Jr.
11 LIB
Henniker, NH
#R. Castronova

Mr. Jack Brister
123 Avn HHC
Eufaula, OK
#John Wright

Mr. Steven E. Colligan
1 Cav A Troop 70-71
Weymouth, MA
#R. Castronova

Col (Ret) Raymond E. Dae
132 Infantry 1/Hq
San Antonio, TX
#Don Ballou

Mr. James J. Dooley
198 LIB A/5/46 Inf
North Hero, VT
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. David D. Eichhorn
196 LIB HHC/C/3/21
Fleming, OH
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Steve Ellis
82 Arty Btry C/1/82
Albrightsville, PA
#Jerry Hughes

Mr. James M. Fenelon
164 Infantry Ser Co
Marshalltown, IA
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Ronald S. Gardy
26 Engrs
Brea, CA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Dempsey D. Gottschal
14 Arty + 3/18 Arty
Kansas City, MO
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Jay N. Grieser
198 LIB 11 LIB
Scottsdale, AZ
#Vance Van Wieren

Mr. Randall J. Hain
196 LIB A/C/3/21
Walden, CO
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Edward R. Henrich
132 Infantry M Co.
Maple Plain, MN
#Don Ballou

Mr. Michael C. Johnson
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Beverly, MA
#Non Listed

Mr. Hubert Jordan
82 Arty B/1/82
Great Falls, VA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Bruno J. Klemm
132 Infantry C Co.
Chicago, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. William F. Krentz
132 Infantry M Co.
Allen Park, MI
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert E. Litwhiler
323 RRSOU
Danville, PA
#Membership Committee

Mr. James W. Malone
198 LIB D/5/46 Inf
Goodspring, TX
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Jack Masucci
247 Field Artillery
Fort Lee, NJ
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Paul E. McCarthy
832 Sig Ser Bn
Manhattan, KS
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Milton Jr. Elberg
132 Infantry G Co.
Ambler, PA
#Don Ballou

Mr. John R. Emrah
164 Infantry G Co.
Fort Wayne, IN
#Karl von Halle

Mr. Robert R. Fields III
26 Eng Bn
Rock Hill, SC
#Membership Committee

Mr. Robert E. Gillan
196 LIB C/HHC/21
Natchitoches, LA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. George W. Gould
132 Infantry M Co.
Canfield, OH
#Don Ballou

Mr. James D. Grove IV
14 Arty HHC+C Btry
Austin, TX
#M.C.-Don Ballou

Mr. John W. Harris
196 LIB F/8 Cav
Chattanooga, TN
#John W. Anderson

Mr. Gerald S. Hickey
132 Infantry Reg Hq
Elgin, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Robert W. Jones
132 Infantry A Co.
Glen Ellyn, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Jack D. Kinisely
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Huber Heights, OH
#R. Castronova

Mr. Frank L. Kremsher
132 Infantry C Co.
Orland Park, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Daniel L. Lanning
198 LIB A/E/1/52
Bremerton, WA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Charles D. Machart
???
Bay City, TX
#Self

Mr. Frank M. Mantua
1 Cav C Troop/1
San Jose, CA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Ed McAuley
132 Infantry H Co.
Scottsdale, AZ
#Don Ballou

Mr. Jim Medling
132 Infantry H Co.
Greenfield, TN
#Bernie Chase

TAPS

Mr. Robert E. Merrow
8 Cav F Troop
Horseheads, NY
#Larry Martlando

Mr. Philip M. Milani
6 Sup Bn B Co.
Wind Gap, PA
#VFW-Memb. Com.

Mr. Frederick E. Morris
11 LIB
Bridgewater, MA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. William J. O'Neil
198 LIB 1/14 Arty
Irvine, CA
#Castronova-Ed Hayes

Mr. Gary W. Painter
198 LIB 1/52 Inf
Shenandoah, VA
#VFW Memb. Com.

Mr. Louis A. Ramirez
132 Infantry C Co.
Silvis, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Larry D. Ricci
196 LIB E/2/1 Inf
Lynwood, IL
#VFW-Memb. Com.

Mr. James M. Santosvosso
23 Div Hdq
Towaco, NJ
#VFW Memb. Com.

Mr. Jimmie D. Simmons
1 Cav E Troop
Marshalltown, IA
#Vietnam Mag 11/97

Mr. Julian O. Soto
1 Infantry A/2/1
San Antonio, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. James L. Verwey
23 Amer Div HHC
Valley City, ND
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Felex E. Westwood
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Woodbine, MD
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Robert S. Wolf
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Granger, IN
#Non Listed

Mr. Merle R. Young
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Towando, PA
#Viet Mag Memb Com

REINSTATED MEMBERS

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

Mr. Phillip J. Mertz
23 Medical
Lancaster, PA
#VFW Memb. Com.

Mr. Philippe L. Moreau
132 Infantry A/Hq
Springvale, ME
#Don Ballou

Mr. Greg S. O'Donnell
198 LIB B/D/1/46 Inf
Arlington, WA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Charles Padilla
3 Infantry B/4/3
Chicago, IL
#Lloyd Parkin

Col. Dwayne C. Paxton
18 Arty Bn HHB
Indian Head, MD
#Ed Marsh-Gary Noller

Mr. Thomas A. Reiches
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
New Rochelles, NY
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Bernard Rugendorf
132 Infantry E Co.
Skokie, IL
#Don Ballou

Mr. Terry Sarnese
26 Engrs C Co.
Unionville, CT
#Ode R. McElhanon

Mr. Omlah R. Smith
23 Div Arty HB
St. Johnsbury, VT
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Charles R. Stirling
198 LIB B/5/52 Inf
Berea, OH
#Membership Committee

Mr. Karl Wagner
182 Infantry Co. A
Toronto, CANADA
#Self

Mr. Jerry G. Williams
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Flint, MI
#VFW Memb Com

Mr. William E. Wright
196 LIB E/2/1 Inf
Moore, OK
#Les Hines

Mr. Gene E. Zugelter
23 M.P.
Amelia, OH
#Bernie Chase

Jimmie E. Deiter
16 Arty B/3/16
Posteria, OH
#Bernie Chase

221 F.A. B BTRY

George Barclay
West Yarmouth, MA
November 17, 1997

132 INFANTRY H CO.

Harry C. Clark Sr.
Beverly, MA
April 19, 1997

121 MED BN. C.O.

James Collins M.D.
New York NY
March 1997

164 INFANTRY E CO.

Ralph F. Covert
Cavalier, ND
November 3, 1997

132 INFANTRY E CO.

Frank Dain
Rio Rancho, NM
April 26, 1997

132 INFANTRY M CO.

Howard J. Dupras
Marquette, IL
October 26, 1997

221 F. A. BTRY C

Randle Frink
Burlington, MA
November 10, 1997

23 MILITARY POLICE

Michael Goodwin
Ypsilanti, MI
January 19, 1998

246 FIELD ARTILLERY

Chester C. Holloway
New Smyra Beach, FL
July 1997

AMERICAL DIVISION

Carl D. McFerren
Hampton, VA
December 12/12/97

182 INFANTRY B CO.

Francis S. Mulloy
East Braintree, MA
January 2, 1998

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Robert Chew
Charlottesville, VA
September 15, 1997

180 FIELD ARTILLERY

Paul H. Clarner
Vero Beach, FL
October 10, 1997

125 QUARTERMASTER

Harry L. Corliss
Medford, MA
February 3, 1998

132 INFANTRY E CO.

Chester J. Daczowski
Lansing IL
July 7, 1997

39 MILITARY POLICE

John J. Dullea
Peabody, MA
April 21, 1997

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Manuel Frasier
E. Bridgewater, MA
November 2, 1997

182 INFANTRY

Leonard W. Gehl
Wells, ME
August 14, 1988

164 INFANTRY C CO.

Carl O. Haukedahl
Wildrose, ND
Date Unknown

95 EVAC HOSPITAL

Martha H. Johnson (Ret)
TX
Date Unknown

101 QUARTERMASTER

Gabriel E. Mongeau
Clermont, FL
October 5, 1997

17 CAV F TROOP

William J. Rosenthal
Quitman, TX
November 12, 1997

196 LIB

Walter R. Sherrett
Colorado Springs, CO
August 22, 1997

180 FA HDQ BRTY

Edmund A. Stuart
Cherry Valley, MA
December 21, 1997

132 INFANTRY

Francis Gorman
Park Ridge, IL
1997 Date Unknown

196 LIB

Woody D. Street Jr.
Colonial Heights, VA
October 1997

182 INFANTRY

Frank M. Suchenicz
Holyoke, MA
November 22, 1997

101 QUARTERMASTER

Charles Warder
Holiday, FL
Date Unknown

SICK CALL

121 MEDICAL BN.

PNC William L. Dunphy
W.Roxbury, MA 02132

39 MILITARY POLICE

George J. Medeiros Sr.
Somerset, MA 02725

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Leonard S. Graham
Gloucester, VA 23061

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

PNC Robert N. Thornton
Melrose, MA 02176

HEY GUYS -- HOW ABOUT A CARD?

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Veral H. Blunck
132 Infantry D Co.
Tigard, OR
#Don Ballou

Capt. Emmitt H. Clark J
198 LIB
Henderson, KY
#Self

Mr. Milton Freeman
182 Infantry E Co.
Wilmington, MA
#Jim Buckle

Mr. Glenn A. Heyer
132 Infantry D Co.
La Mesa, CA
#Don Ballou

Mr. James D. Myrick
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf
Hallettsville, TX
#Milton Mika

Mr. Richard K. Smith
23 M.P.
Friend, NE
#Larry Gelnett

Mr. Spencer W. Wolfe
196 LIB C/3/82 Arty
Grand Blanc, MI
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Don Chrisman
196 LIB HHC/4/31 In
Canton, GA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Arthur G. Cole
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Wakefield, MA
#Leonard H. Brown

Col. Robert K. Golden
23 Div Hdq G-3
Springfield, VA
#Ed Marsh

Mr. James P. Knight
132 Infantry I Co.
Baldwinsville, NY
#Don Ballou

Mr. Darl G. Redder
6 Infantry E/1/6
Hudsonville, MI
#Self

Mr. George V. Voci
182 Infantry L Co.
Pittsburgh, PA
#Ronald Kappeler

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Dempsey D. Gottschalk

Frederick E. Morris

Lorena Clark
in memory of
Harry C. Clark Sr.

Gary W. Painter

Helen W. Beyers
in memory of
Anthony Beyers

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beschle
in memory of
Danielle Beschle

Terry Cryer

Edith S. Heckman

Sonja Busi
in memory of
John V. Busi

Patricia Quinn Moffa
in memory of
James A. Quinn
Co. D 3/21 196 LIB
Killed in action on October 29, 1970

Darrell McNeil

CORRECTION

Danielle Beschle was awarded the Americal
Scholarship for the first time in 1997. Her
sister Bethanie was awarded the Scholarship in
1996.

REV. FRANCIS J. GORMAN
Chaplain - 132 Infantry

Rev. Francis J. Gorman, 94 years of age, and a
Catholic priest with the Diocese of Chicago for 69
years, passed away recently at the Resurrection
Nursing Pavilion in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Rev. Gorman went overseas as Chaplain to the 132nd
Infantry and served this Regiment in New
Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, Bougainville,
Philippine Islands and then to Japan. He followed
his troops to the front lines and was known as the
"Warrior's Padre".

After coming back to Chicago in 1947 he welcomed a
request to become a Chaplain during the Korean
War.

Father Gorman retired from the Army in 1962 as a
lieutenant colonel.

Archbishop Francis George will preside over the
funeral Mass at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in
Chicago. The church has a special significance
for Father Gorman, because he said his first Mass
there.

(Thanks to Joe Micek)

SOUTH MID-WEST CHAPTER

COMMANDER

Ernest B. Carlson
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Tel: [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS

Malcolm B. East
Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel: [REDACTED]

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

"Plaque"

Webster says it's an ornamental tablet! Your
dentist says it's and unsightly growth on your
teeth! I say it's a damn good way to get the
Americal Division in front of MILLIONS of people
in the upcoming years!!

You know that I'm talking about the Americal
Plaque at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in
Fredericksburg, Texas.

Theoretically, if each of our National members
gave seventy five (.75), we would have the \$2500
needed to acquire said plaque, plus a couple of
hundred dollars to help with on-going expenses!!

So far our donations have ranged from \$10.00,
\$25.00, up to \$500.00. We even had a \$15.00
donation from an ex-navy man!! We will soon have
2/3 of the needed money, (hopefully).

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was in Marble
Falls, Texas on February 14th thru February 20th.
Our Chapter was there on the 15th and had a booth
for recruiting new Americal members.

Remember, wear your Americal patch, your Combat
Infantryman's Badge--a smile--and pay your DUES,
AND hug somebody.

Ernie Carlson
Commander

P.S. Note new area code for my telephone number.

ARTHUR W. WOODS CHAPTER
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER
AL - FL - GA - NC - SC - TN

COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Kapp
Tampa, FL 33615

SEC/TREAS
George P. Dakin
Deltona, 32728

Plans for the National Convention are moving along
smoothly and we Chapter members are looking
forward to seeing you all on June 25th thru June
28th, 1998. The center fold of this Americal
Newsletter contains the information you need to
get started. Send in that reservation and
registration NOW!

PNC Tom McQuade is the Chairman of the 1998
Convention. If you have any questions you may
call him at [REDACTED].

SEE YOU IN ORLANDO!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES?

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
IL - IN - MI - MN - WI

COMMANDER
John Mathews

Verona, WI 53593
Tel: [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
Terry Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [REDACTED]

Our Chapter just finished attending the New Glarus
All-Veterans Winterfest R&R Rally in Wisconsin.
We had 35 plus Americal Veterans in attendance.
We had 19 for the Great Lakes Chapter meeting and
30 for the Friday night parade. The Americal was
well represented at all functions.

Our Chapter plans on a gathering on September 18-
20, 1998 at Kokomo, Indiana's Annual Reunion.
There will be a meeting and a group picture will
be taken by Ron Davis, a 196er and 1st Cav vet, at
4:00 P.M. near his tent, on Saturday Sep. 19, 1998

Any Americal vet that has not joined our Chapter
may do so by sending \$5.00 to Terry Babler at the
above address. Anyone desiring a Chapter
Newsletter please contact Terry.

Our Chapter will have its next annual meeting at
on January 16, 1999 at 10:00 A.M. and will be
held in the New Glarus Village Hall. For
information on the 1999 Winterfest write to:
Winterfest R&R 1999, [REDACTED] New Glarus, WI
53574 or call Ronald Lewis [REDACTED] days.

PLEASE JOIN OUR CHAPTER NOW

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

COMMANDER
Roland T. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960

SEC/TREAS
Carlos A. Pola

Sandwich, MA 02563

On Tuesday December 16, 1997, the members of the
New England Chapter, who worked at the Americal
Museum for the past two or three years, had a
Christmas party at the Museum. Jim Flynn supplied
the entertainment with his accordion. The group
sang a few Christmas carols, and everybody had
a great time.

On Saturday May2, 1998, we will have another party
at the Museum, just like we had last fall. Coffee
and doughnuts will be served at 10:00 A.M. A
meeting of the members will take place at 10:30
A.M.. Lunch will be served at around 12:30 P.M..
In order to know how much food to order we must
know in advance how many plan to attend. So, if
you are planning to attend please notify Al Doig,
[REDACTED], Westwood, MA 02090. Or call
[REDACTED].

The members of the New England Chapter are
reminded that yearly dues of \$5.00 are due in May.
Send checks made out to N.E. Chapter ADVA to
Chapter Commander Roland T. Castronova, [REDACTED],
Peabody, MA 01960.

Please support your local Chapter. Chapters hold
area reunions and and participate in area
dedication and veteran's celebration. Your local
Chapter need your support and interest to make it
successful.

AWARD GRANTED

January 19, 1998

Catherine Farley
Cheltenham, PA

Dear Catherine:

As National Commander of the AMERICAL Division Veterans Association, I am pleased to inform you that you are the recipient of our Scholarship Foundation Grant for 1997 in the amount of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

The Trustees of the Scholarship Foundation Board were greatly impressed with our application and its enclosures. There was no question in their minds as to your scholastic aptitude.

The attached check, #108, from the AMERICAL DIVISION FOUNDATION, for \$3,000 is payable to Millersville University, Millersville, PA, 17551-0302.

Catherine, may you continue to excel in your academic achievements.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Noller
National Commander
1997-1998

BY-LAW CHANGE

A proposed change to the by-laws of the Americal Division Veterans Association Scholarship Foundation will be voted on at the 1998 Annual Reunion in Orlando, FL. It is required that any changes be approved by a simple majority of the members in attendance at the business meeting.

It is also a requirement that any proposed amendments to the Scholarship Fund by-laws be published at least a month in advance of the meeting in the Americal Newsletter.

Current by-law: All funds received shall be placed promptly into federally insured account(s) paying the highest interest.

Proposed amendment: All funds received shall be placed promptly into federally insured account(s) paying the highest interest, or a stock mutual fund, or any other quality investment asset as selected by the trustees.

The trustees ask for your consideration of this change.

Scholarship Rules

The operation of the Scholarship Fund is determined by the by-laws of the Scholarship Foundation. Selection of scholarship winners is done by a independent panel of qualified individuals that are not related to the association or foundation in any manner.

Below are some of the rules governing the scholarship fund. If you would like an application form or other information, please contact Ron Ward, Scholarship Fund Chairman.

Purpose: The purpose of the Scholarship Foundation is to provide college and vocational scholarships to children and grandchildren, including those by adoption, of ADVA members and any child of an Americal Division veteran who was killed in action or died while on active duty with the division.

Status: This Scholarship Foundation shall be a Non-Profit Organization, a Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and operated exclusively for the purpose specified in Article 2. (See above.)

Governance: The Trustees shall direct and control the business management and affairs of the Scholarship Foundation. They shall have the authority to approve or deny any requests for grants or loans and to recommend the dispensing of funds.

Scholarship Funds: The funds of the Scholarship Foundation shall be obtained primarily from donations and grants, gifts, devises, or bequests. All funds received must be unconditional.

Awards: The Trustees will decide on the number, type, and amount of each scholarship and the recipients(s). Basic consideration shall include potential, and demonstrated desire to complete a college education or vocational/technical course, consistent with personal goals, school involvement and community activities.

Application: Completed application forms together with all required enclosures must reach the Chairman at an address he designates no later than 1 May of each year. The application for scholarship must be completed in its entirety and shall include all required enclosures. Among these must be: (1) A letter from the ADVA member attesting to the applicants eligibility. (2) Name of college or institution with a copy of letter of admission. (3) A statement from the applicable current school principal attesting to the applicant's character. (4) Two letters of recommendation from current teachers concerning progress in current classes or subjects. (5) A 200-300 word essay on subjects pertaining to the Americal Division history or other appropriate subjects designated by the Chairman.

Vietnam History Diskettes

You can now obtain information about the Americal Division in Vietnam on a computer diskette. Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, has transcribed hundreds of pages of records into computer text files. Les will send selected files to ADVA members for a fee of \$10. (See a detailed article in the Oct-Nov-Dec 1997 issue of the Americal Newsletter.) Files include Operation Reports-Lessons Learned (ORLL), names and grid coordinates of firebases, and the in-country Americal history book.

Also available are video cassette copies of the television program "The Big Picture" that features the Americal Division. You can have one for yourself by sending \$15 fee to the address below. Contact Mr. Les Hines, [REDACTED] Des Moines, IA, 50312 or e-mail to [REDACTED].



Nimitz Museum Plaque

Fundraising for an Americal Division memorial plaque for display at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX has passed the half way mark. Mr. Malcolm East, fund treasurer, reports a balance of \$1,390 as of January 31, 1998. A little over \$1,000 is still needed to purchase the plaque and provide for its installation and maintenance.

Final plans for the lay-out of the wording on the plaque are now being made. The \$2,500 fee required by the museum covers the initial cost of the plaque as well as perpetual maintenance.

ADVA members are encouraged to support this memorial project. If you would like to contribute to the fund, mail your donation to Malcolm East, Chapter Treasurer, [REDACTED] Lumberton, TX, 77656-9429.



National Reunion

Business Meeting Agenda

The general membership business meeting will be held at the reunion in Orlando in June. Members wishing to submit new business items for the agenda are asked to notify Bernie Chase, National Adjutant, or Gary Noller, National Commander, as soon as possible.

Every effort will be made to conduct the meeting in one and one half hours. Your cooperation in submitting agenda items in advance is greatly appreciated.

Proposals Desired for 2000 Reunion

Regional Chapters wishing to submit proposals for the National Reunion in the year 2000 or beyond should have their proposals prepared in time for the business meeting. The 1999 reunion, sponsored by the Central Mid-West region, will be held in St. Louis. The 196th LIB will have their reunion at the same time and place as the ADVA reunion.

General Reunion Happenings

If you have never attended a national reunion in the past you may be wondering what goes on during the three day event. Here are a few answers.

In the past few years attendance has been evenly split between WWII members and Vietnam members. There is plenty of time to meet one another and have conversations. There is always plenty of free time.

The general atmosphere is that of a bunch of out-of-town visitors trying to have a good time. You may choose to participate in the tours and meals as you so desire. The activities are very informal and relaxing.

The Saturday night banquet will find many members in sport coats and ties but this is not mandatory. Members are urged to attend the general meeting usually held on Saturday morning. Join us for the reunion, meet some old friends, and make some new ones. You'll be glad you did.

----- REUNIONS -----

AMERICAL DIVISION REUNION
Orlando, Florida

June 25 -26 -27 - 28, 1998

Delta Orlando Resort
Maingate at Universal Studios Florida

SEE CENTERFOLD FOR FULL INFORMATION

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN VETERANS NATIONAL REUNION

September 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13, 1998
Hanalei Hotel
San Diego, California

For info write:
William R. Becker
[redacted]
Vista, CA 92084

AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY REUNION
WW II - Korean - Vietnam

APRIL 23 - 24 - 25 - 26, 1998
AT
Fairfield Inn - Marriott
Durham, NC

For info:
E.R. Horton
[redacted]
Timberlake, NC 27583-9191
Tel: [redacted]

COMPANY H - 182nd IFANTRY
Annual Dinner Reunion

Silver Fox Restuarant - Everett, Massachusetts
May 22, 1998 12:00 Noon until 4:00 P.M.

Contact:
John Groppi
[redacted]
Dorchester, MA 02125

E COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY
Annual Dinner Reunion
May 13, 1998
Social Hour 12:00 Noon - Dinner 1:00 P.M.

Contact:
Jim Buckle
[redacted]
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470
Tel: [redacted]

There are many small unit Reunions that happen every year and the Editor would be only to happy to carry your notice in the Americal Newsletter. Please have your notice in as early as possible. A follow-up story and pictures would be greatly appreciated.

A THANK YOU FROM CEBU

Several years ago before the 50th anniversary of the Americal's landing at Talisay on Cebu I attempted to contact someone on Cebu that would print a "Thank You" message in one of the local newspapers addressed to the citizens of Cebu and Cebu City for the great welcome and assistance they rendered to the American troops, who helped them end the Japanese occupation of Cebu.

After writing to the Philippine ambassador in Washington, D.C. and eventually to President Ramos of the Philippines, I was about to give up. I then saw the address of Colonel Manuel Segura in the Americal Newsletter and decided to write to him about my request. He was very gracious and assisted me in getting the "Thank You" message printed in several Cebu City newspapers.

Colonel Segura spent the war time years with other brave Filipino guerrilla fighters harassing making all manner of Hell for the Japanese troops occupying Cebu. When the Americal landed at Talisay in March of 1945 the guerrillas joined forces with the Americans and after many fierce encounters, forced the Japanese to flee and go into hiding.

Ever since the "Thank You" was printed I have received over a dozen letters from various Cebu citizens, expressing their deep love and appreciation for all the Americans who helped end the cruel occupation of their island from the Japanese.

Every Americal Cebu veteran should be very proud and happy to know that all your efforts and sacrifices to free Cebu, is still remembered and appreciated by many citizens of Cebu.

Leonard 'Sack' Owczarzak
746th AAA Gun Bn.

MARK THIS CORRECTION

Reading the history of the Americal landing on Cebu and the event of the first wave landing, I have a correction to report about that landing.

The Americal Division history book recently published by the Turner Publishing Company says: QUOTE: The Japanese had buried 50-kilogram aerial bombs under the mines, and when they detonated, they simply tore the LVT's to pieces and left holes on the beach. The Japanese had sown the mines so thickly that no path could be quickly found through them. UNQUOTE: This last sentence is incorrect because I was in I Company, 182nd Infantry, in the first wave and our LVT did not get hit, and we went in through a gap where there were no mines. We advanced over 1800 yards into the beachhead before making contact with a platoon of Signal Japanese troops. We wiped them out and saw thousands of Japanese soldiers carrying equipment up into Babag Ridge. We called for artillery and was told that all rounds had been fired and there were no more available to fire at that time. We searched the Japs that we killed and found that they were heavily loaded down with gear, communication equipment, and rations. They were so loaded down that they had trouble escaping our troops. They tried to run but we killed them all.

Roy E. Poynter (1/Sgt)
I Company, 182nd Infantry

WAR MEMORIAL BELONGS ON MALL
(David M. Shribman)

WASHINGTON---The capital chewed over Bob Dole's second great cause--the financial and political resurrection of his one-time rival, Newt Gingrich--and put it aside quickly enough. It's the first great cause that's got people upset.

That cause is a World War II Memorial. Nobody doubts the wisdom, or justice, of building one. It's maybe the only thing Washington agrees on in this season of contention. But nobody thinks it ought to be smack in the middle of the Washington Mall, at the Rainbow Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Nobody, that is but me.

That tranquil greensward, that quiet slice of Washington where the symbols crash like cymbals is precisely where the World War II Memorial belongs. With, the reflecting pool linking them, the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II Memorial would stand as bookends of freedom, one for the war that saved the country, the other for the war that saved the world.

Washington's Mall is America's town green, and so it's natural that any proposal to tinker with it would raise suspicions. Critics of the Memorial say it's too big, too clunky, too obtrusive, too disruptive. They like the Mall the way it is. And they're naturally chary of adding a memorial to a 20th-century event in a space occupied by the giant events of the 18th century, when the nation won its freedom, and the 19th century, when it took its first tentative steps to free blacks and redeem the promise of the Declaration of Independence.

A good cause
But World War II is a half century behind us, and its importance in our view of the world is growing. It was not, as Dole remarked the day he joined the effort to build the Memorial, a good war, but it was a cause. Shake hands someday with Bob Dole, or look across the Potomac River to the white markers on the green hills of Arlington, and you'll get a sense of what he means.

Those who fought in World War II appropriated Dwight Eisenhower's phrase "the great crusade" to their effort, but it took the country 50 years to build a monument. The best way to see the historical magnitude of World War II is to appropriate another phrase--this time from the wall of the Lincoln Memorial, a few minutes' stroll from the proposed World War II Memorial--and see how comfortably it fits. The phrase comes from the last two dozen words of the Gettysburg Address: "new birth of freedom.

That's what World War II provided, or at least what it made possible. The war rid the world of two dictators, Hitler and Mussolini, who represented organized state terror and tyranny. It established a global consensus that genocide was not only immoral but also illegal. It sounded the death knell to colonialism. It spurred the communications revolution. It brought on mass consumerism, launching the greatest burst of economic growth in history, and a great democratizing wave, which in turn brought greater freedom to blacks, women, and others left out of the American Dream. It also produced a decades-long struggle that toppled communism.

All that, of course, came at great and grave cost. And none of it was done cleanly, or efficiently, or without great hurt. But it was the logical conclusion of the Revolutionary War (represented by the Washington Monument) and the Civil War (represented by the Lincoln Memorial), and it is one of the greatest achievements of human history.

In all, about 16 million Americans took up arms in World War II, with millions more fighting on the home front. No American then alive escaped its cost. No American now alive is untouched by its achievement.

That's the tie between the Civil War that Lincoln prosecuted at Manassas, Antietam, and Gettysburg and the uncivil war the GIs fought at Guadalcanal, the Marianas, and Omaha Beach. The most cherished words of the 19th century are chiseled on the wall of the Lincoln Memorial: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in." The most cherished words of World War II were briefer. It sounded the death knell to colonialism. It spurred the communications revolution. It brought on mass consumerism, launching the greatest burst of economic growth in history, and a great democratizing wave, which in turn brought greater freedom to blacks, women, and others left out of the American Dream. It also produced a decades-long struggle that toppled communism.

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No other spot
A lot of people are arguing there must be another place for the Memorial, off to the side, or down the river, or somewhere else. But there is no other spot. The memorial should be there, in the center of things, because World War II is central in our history, central to our view of our role in the world, central to our values.

A World War II Memorial at the foot of the Rainbow Pool would do to our nation's capital just what World War II did to our country. It changed the landscape. It changed the way we look at things.

Build it. They will come around.

132nd INFANTRY -- ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Before I got drafted in 1944 I worked for several months at the Armstrong Cork Co., in Pittsburg, PA. My department manager's name was Fred Vey. When I came home on furlough after basic training, I naturally went to visit the old gang at the plant.

When I saw Fred, he asked me where I was being sent to. I replied, "The Pacific Theatre". He then said that he had a son, Fred Jr., in the Anti-Tank Co. of the 132nd Inf., Americal Division, and if I ever had a chance to look him up. What were the odds that of all the thousands of troops in the Pacific, that I would ever find Fred, Jr.?

As it turned out , I ended up in "A" Co. of the 132nd, on Cebu in the Philippine Islands. I mentioned the story to my Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. Gideon Russell, and he was able to find out where the Anti-Tank Co. was bivouacked. He got hold of a jeep and off we went to find Fred Jr. We did locate him eating his evening mess meal. But, as Paul Harvey would say, "That's not the end of the story."

Several weeks ago I bought some computer discs that have all the listed phone numbers of the 50 States on them. I searched the discs for Fred Vey in Pennsylvania, and found several listed in the Pittsburgh area. Luckily, the very first call I made, was to the Fred Vey that I met that sultry June 1945 evening on Cebu. He vaguely remembered the incident. He was discharged in 1946, and his father passed away five years later.

John Crnkovich
132 Infantry A Co.



Ed Note: John was in the Army of Occupation in Japan and because of lack of points when the Americal returned to the States he was transferred to the 836th Aviation Engineer Battalion. Above is a picture taken of him while he was in Japan.

Planter's Peanuts

After landing on Bougainville December 28, 1943, we were taken into the jungle, arriving at a certain area, we were told to dig foxholes, as we would be staying there until we were assigned a combat area. I dug my foxhole, covered the bottom with my poncho, and put mosquito netting over the top, crawled inside, and laid on my back, looking up at the sky thinking of my wife, and daughter, and home.

I heard the drone of an airplane motor, and it was a comfort to know our own planes were protecting us, but it sounded like the plane was in trouble, and at tree top level. As I continued to look up the plane passed overhead and it had big red circles on the wings. It wasn't ours, but theirs, and they were going to bomb us. However the plane crashed a short distance from us, and we all ran to see the Jap plane and to capture a Jap. All the Japs were dead and it was a good thing, because none of us had been issued weapons as yet. The first officer on the scene chewed all of us out. He said, "If one of those japs had lived and had a side arm he would have killed a half-dozen of you guys." Made sense.

The next day they asked for volunteers to work in the supply depot, so away I went. We arrived by truck to a clearing in the jungle where they had been stacking canned goods. Some of the boxes were mixed up, some broken open, and damaged, and many were scattered around the ground. Our orders were to stack everything up nice and neat, and in the right place. Loose cans were to be put in piles by content.

As the morning wore on a pile of Planter's peanut cans was getting higher and higher. Seems the boxes they came in just fell apart in our hands.

At the end of the day a Sergeant gave us a burlap bag and said we could take a bag of anything we wanted back to camp. I had had my eye on those Planter's peanuts all day, so I filled my bag with Planter's peanuts.

When I got back to camp, I yelled "Who wants some Planter's peanuts?" My buddies couldn't believe their eyes when I started to toss around the cans of peanuts. Now in those days, there was a little key on top of the can, that you hooked onto a metal tab on the side, and wound it around the can. Then you lifted the top off. Several buddies were busy doing this, when groans of dismay started. As the tops were removed there were no peanuts, but standing on end, in the can was Chelsea cigarettes. Now I wouldn't have picked up cigarettes for any reason, and there was no one more disappointed than I was. My mouth was watering for peanuts. For a period of time my buddies called me "peanut" or just "nut".

Joe Jackson
C Company 182 Infantry

101st MEDICAL REGIMENT BAND

Just a few lines to let you know that some of the guys from the 101st Medical Regiment Band (AKA 290th AGF Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, and Cebu P.I.) had a great time at the Worcester Reunion last June.

In attendance were Jack Vanderbeck and wife Peggy, Albie Riley and Maureen, John and Anne Shea, and John O'Neil and friend Doris.

In fact we had such a good time, (as we usually do), that we planned a mini-reunion in Maine. In September 1997 the four couples met in Ogunquit, Maine for four days (4) of frolic at the Anchorage Inn. Of course Peggy and I had to do all the traveling since we reside in Forest Hill, New York and the rest of the guys are from Massachusetts.

Thanks to Bernie Chase for the great Reunion in Worcester.

Jack Vanderbeck

RELICS

PM URGES JAPAN & US TO CLEAN UP WAR RELICS
("Solomon Star--10/29/97")

Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu said his Government has begun a campaign to get Japan and the Western Allies to pay for the environmental clean-up of Solomon Islands.

Mr. Ulufa'alu's announcement came after he formally raised the matter with the Japanese and USA governments.

He said Solomon Islands is littered with debris and other relics from the second world war and there is no way that Solomon Islands is able to adequately handle the situation.

Mr. Ulufa'alu was speaking at a press conference called in Brisbane on October 24 on his way home after attending the Pacific Leaders Summit in Tokyo and an official visit to the Republic of China.

The prime minister said that Solomon Islands is facing an environmental disaster of phenomenal proportion because nearly all sunken warships and carriers have begun oozing oil.

"Our government and the entire marine life is under serious threat," he said. "In fact fish and other marine life are beginning to die. It is the biggest environmental threat my country will face and there is no way that we can handle such an emergency on our own," he said.

"I am not sure how long the people of the Solomon Islands will continue to enjoy the rich marine life we have been accustomed to," he added.

The prime minister said it was the Solomon Islands' inability to deal with such disaster that this prompted him to place the environmental clean-up as a number one priority of his government.

"Those responsible should not wait until something starts to happen before they act. I am therefore calling on all the Allies and Japanese governments to start to do something before it is too late," the prime minister said.

Mr. Ulufa'alu said Solomon Islands was not a party to the war, and it should never be left alone to tackle the looming environmental disaster.

"I have raised these concerns with the government of both Japan and United States to ensure that all parties come together and clean up the mess," he said.

"The centre piece of these measures is a major exercise to cause meaningful reform in the country's economic policy and public sector. Part of this uxorious is to sectoralise aid from our development partners. This means for example if Australia is good in funding projects in the health sector they then should be allowed to concentrate their aid in that sector," he said.

Mr. Ulufa'alu said that his government was also dealing with the forestry sector that has been a major concern over the years to ensure Solomon Islands receives optimum benefits from this resource.

"At this juncture, I do register my appreciation to Australia for indicating its willingness to assist us," he said.

The prime minister who has just completed his tour of two Asian countries said he was convinced that the future success of Solomon Islands lies in its trade with countries in Southeast Asia.

"We must look beyond our traditional friends in the region, if we are to compete in the 21st century. This does not mean that we are abandoning our traditional development partners in the region. No, It means that we want to broaden our outlook for the 21st century," he said.

The prime minister said that in line with his policy outlook, Solomon Island will be seeking the consensus of the South Pacific Forum to admit Japan and the Republic of China as full members of the regional block.

(Thanks to Joe Micek)

WAR SITES IN GUADALCANAL TO BE FILMED
("The Solomon Star")

A filming unit from the Australian-based Filming Company "The Thin Red Line" will be arriving in the country in early November to do filming around various areas around Guadalcanal.

The Thin Red Line, which is currently filming in Port Douglas, North Queensland would carry out their filming on Guadalcanal for four or five weeks.

A number of Solomon Islanders are taking part in the filming at Port Douglas.

The feature film is based on a novel by James Jones that followed his earlier World War II tale, From Here to Eternity. The story is about an Army rifle company name C-for-Charlie during the American campaign on Guadalcanal in 1942-43.

"The war is secondary to how the lives of the Company men are affected by their common quest. Rather this is a film about a dozen men who change, who suffer and who make essential discoveries about themselves," a statement from the producers of the film said.

Once the Filming Unit arrives on Guadalcanal, filming would also take place in and around areas closer to Honiara, but final decisions on some locations have still to be made and would not necessarily be authentic.

A traditional village would also be built by local people at Hahau village of West Guadalcanal. where some filming would take place.

According to the statement, a small documentary film unit has been filming at the Moro Village at Kumovaolu. There were six people filming the day to day activities by Victor Totu of the Guadalcanal Provincial Government. "The film shot at the village has been very well received by the American director, Terrence Mallick, the statement said.

"Under the leadership of Chief Moro, the villagers have preserved the way of life customary around the time of World War II which makes for a perfect setting for the film. It is with much enthusiastic held from Chief Moro and his people that the images were captured at Kumovaolu. Without the villagers assistance, this would not have been possible," the statement said.

The movie "The Thin Red Line" is being starred by American actor Sean Penn.



Americal Division Veterans Association

1998 National Reunion

June 25-28, 1998

Delta Orlando Resort Orlando, Florida



The 1998 Americal Division Veterans Association national reunion will be held June 25-28 in Orlando, Florida. The reunion headquarters will be at the Delta Orlando Resort, 5715 Major Boulevard, Orlando, FL. 32819, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], fax to [REDACTED].

The Delta Orlando Resort is located at the Maingate at Universal Studios Florida. It is just 15 minutes from Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom, EPCOT Center, and the Disney/MGM Studio theme park. Five minutes to the International Drive, Wet'n Wild, Sea World, and Factory Outlet Malls. Fifteen minutes from Orlando International Airport.

The Delta Orlando Resort has 800 guest rooms and suites with a balcony or terrace, non-smoking rooms, individual heating/cooling, cable TV, in-room movies, in-room safe, electronic lock system, three hot tubs, and three outdoor swimming pools. Children under 18 stay free in same room as parent. Facilities available for the handicapped. Small pets are welcome with guests.

Bring your children or grandchildren. There are two kiddie pools, a childrens' playground, video game room, Wallys Kids Club with supervised activities, and a nine hole mini golf course.

Reservation and Registration Information

Hotel reservations are to be made **directly to the resort** (before May 25, 1998) to obtain a special reunion rate of \$69.00 plus applicable taxes. Call [REDACTED] and ask for the Americal Division Veterans Association special reunion rate. Check-in time is 4:00 PM, check-out time is 11:00 AM. The special rate is in effect June 23-29.

There is no free hotel airport shuttle. Mears Motor Coach is offering a discounted round-trip fare of \$18 per person for transportation to and from the airport and the Delta Orlando Resort. Refer to sales order 33-24228.

A registration fee of \$10.00 per person should be sent to PNC Thomas P. McQuade, [REDACTED], Nalcrest, FL, 33865. PNC McQuade can be reached by phone at [REDACTED]. Please include name, address, guest names, and telephone number with reunion reservation. You may use the registration form that is on the following page.

Special Airline Information

U.S. Airways has been designated as the official carrier for the attendees of the reunion. U.S. Airways agrees to offer an exclusive low fare for the attendees. This special fare will offer a 5% discount off First Class and any published U.S. Airways promotional round trip fare. A 10% discount off unrestricted coach fares will apply with 7 day advance reservations and ticketing required. These discounts are valid provided all rules and restrictions are met and are applicable for travel from all points on U.S. Airways' route system. These discounts are not combinable with other discounts or promotions.

Additional restrictions may apply on international travel. Discounts are valid between June 22 and July 1, 1998. To obtain these discounts, you or your travel agent must call U.S. Airways Meeting and Convention Reservation Office at [REDACTED]; 8:00 AM -9:00 PM, Eastern Time. Refer to GOLD FILE No. 71180362.



Americal Division Veterans Association
1998 National Reunion
June 25-28, 1998



Registration Form

Please fill in the form and send to the address at the bottom of this page.

Hotel Reservations: Please register by May 25, 1998 at the Delta Orlando Resort. Check-in time is 4:00 pm. Check-out time is 11:00 am. A special rate of \$69 plus tax will be in effect during the reunion dates. Contact Delta Orlando Resort, 5715 Major Blvd., Orlando, FL, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Be sure to mention the Americal Division Veterans Association to get the \$69 rate.

Reunion Registration

Registration Fee: \$10 per person. Number of people _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1998

Night trip to Church Street Station/Rosie O'Grady's. Meet in the Hospitality Room at 5:00 PM to board the bus. Cost of \$36.00 per person includes cost of show, transportation, and one drink.

Number of people _____ X \$36 = \$ _____

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1998

Day trip to Kennedy Space Center. Cost of \$40.00 per person includes transportation and entry fee. Lunch on your own.

Number of people _____ X \$40 = \$ _____

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1998

Dinner Buffet: Cost of \$25 per person.

Number of people _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

Enclose Payment for TOTAL = \$ _____

Provide the following information about you and your party:

Name _____ Guest(s) _____
(please print)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Unit/Dates _____ Era _____

Enclose payment to Mr. Thomas McQuade, [REDACTED], Nalcrest, FL, 33865. [REDACTED]
For more information, call [REDACTED]

721 ORDNANCE COMPANY
Bougainville

The January - March 1996 issue of the Newsletter has been sitting on my desk for months now waiting for me to get inspired. I just decided I have shifted it for the last time. It's the stories of Bougainville's Hill 260 that made me think some follow-up might be of interest.

As part of a small group of replacements from the Repo-Depo on Guadalcanal, I joined the 721st Ordnance Co. In May of 1944, just as few short weeks after the Jap counter-offensive of March. The units were still being debriefed, a G-2 officer from Division HQ gave our Company a broad-view run-down on the incredible events which led to Hill 260 and the "Million Dollar Banyan Tree." As nearly as I can remember the details, a Nip lieutenant was found dead on the Numa-Numa Trail. In his dispatch pouch were the battle plans for the Banzai attack to take place in a few weeks. The plans were so detailed as to give precise times for artillery firings and target points that would precede infantry charges. I believe my memory is correct on this point because the details seemed so strange but, as others pointed out, our coastal patrols were effectively preventing Jap resupply and each Jap battery was limited, by an ammo shortage, to five (5) rounds per mission and two (2) firing missions a day. The number of rifle rounds for each infantryman was specified as well as the precise attack points and order of attack in waves.

Because of the junior rank of the Jap officer, the extensive and minutely detailed documents he was carrying, G-2 was sure this was a hoax and a trap. But still the information could not be dismissed. As the days went on, bits and pieces of confirming evidence began to pile up...Nip troops dispersement, further captured documents, interrogation of Nip prisoners by our own Nisei G-2 personnel (not a widely known fact), until our own conclusion was reached that the original information was accurate and counter-measures went into high gear planning.

I remember some of the stories I heard while on detached service with the 57th Engineers. Clearings were bulldozed in the jungle at designated attack points, detailed in the Nip battle plans, to provide fire lanes. At first it was thought to be a foolish move since surely the Nips would not attack across a clearing, but someone in HQ was reading Jap psychology and knew that orders would be followed to the letter. I later saw photos of Jap bodies piled so high that machine gun emplacements had to be moved to maintain a clear line of fire. According to further accounts of my engineer buddies, floodlights were placed in trees in preparation for a night attack and log bunkers were erected at strategic points along the entire perimeter. What followed was absolute carnage...I later saw photos of mounds of Jap bodies being bulldozed into huge pits..My outfit, the 721st Ordnance, received the Presidential Unit Citation for its around the clock work in keeping battle gear in operation. Our welding bay consisted of four men at a time, if my memory is right, rigged a double walled tent so that the arc of the welding lights wouldn't show through and, working through the nights built dozens of spade-based mortar tubes (similar to the so called Jap knee mortar) out of steel tubing, designed by the Division Ordnance Officer, Lt. Col. Lee. It seems we had an ample store of mortar rounds but not enough to cover the attack front.

And now I get to Hill 260 and a strange story. My

buddy Danny Hicks (we called him Pops because he was an old guy around 32) and I used to hitch rides from one of the outfits hauling supplies or troops to the Numa-Numa trail, and go souvenir hunting. I can't believe it--dressed in shorts and a tee shirt and carrying walking sticks--we would go poking around ruins. Many weeks after the battle there were still body parts all over the place, even though the critters had done a pretty good job on cleaning up the soft tissue, and unexploded artillery rounds and even a case or two of Jap hand grenades. Near the bottom of the hill stood the infamous "Million Dollar Banyan Tree", so called for the estimated value of the artillery and mortar rounds that had been poured into it trying to clear the Jap snipers and observers out. It was a huge thing about 20 feet in diameter at its base with a massive tangle of roots. I never did get a fix on its height because I could never get a good look up due to the surrounding growth.

As I remember the Hill had changed hands two or three times because it was an important observation point covering a good portion of the Numa-Numa Trail and the Torokina River. And there lies a strange story--Those who had been on top will remember a sort of depression which had apparently served as a rough bivouac point. There had obviously been cooking fires made at the center across which a large tree had fallen along with other smaller trees offering a comfortable shelter with lots of places to sit. In one of the exchanges, a 21 year old GI from the 182, if I remember correctly, found himself trapped and burrowed under the big tree where he remained hidden for three or four days while the Jap troops occupied the hilltop. He related that there were times when he could have touched the feet of the enemy while they cooked, ate, and slept. I don't remember his name or the details of his temporary assignment to the 721st while he waited to be rotated home, but his hair had turned pure white. I know that any of my buddies from the 721st will remember him well--a handsome, skinny kid that had been wrung through HELL.

I didn't remember until a few moments ago, when a friend called, that is being written on Memorial Day. How appropriate. I hope any of the old gang who chance to read this, will feel free to fill in any holes I have have left. I would love to hear from them. Contact:

Jack Shapiro
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
E-Mail [REDACTED]

Bless Em, All!
Jack

Ed Note: Jack, your memory failed you in three places: First, some units of the Americal were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), on Guadalcanal. The 721 Ordnance is entitled to wear this award because its parent unit the 3465 Ordnance served with the Americal on Guadalcanal. See Page 412 in the Appendix of 'Under the Southern Cross'.

Second: The Numa-Numa Trail was in the 37th Division area, along the banks of the Laruma River. The 182 Infantry did not get involved in this area until the summer of 1944. See Page 192, 'Under the Southern Cross'.

Third: Hill 260 overlooked the Torokina River and the "Million Dollar Tree" stood on top of the Hill. After the battle there was only about thirty (30) feet of burned out trunk left standing.

TOUCHED WITH FIRE

I cannot resist commenting strongly on the review published in the Oct-Dec 1997 Newsletter (Page 23 and 24) of the recent book "Touched With Fire." I have not read the book, although I had some correspondence with the author, Bogerud, some five years ago about TF6814 in the spring of 1942. Nor do I know anything about the writer of the review, "from the desk of Captain Alfred Gutttag." Nor will comment on anything in the review except HIS paragraph 5. which is of vital importance in the current troubles of the Armed Forces and the Pentagon.

To paraphrase Captain Gutttag's opening statement, my credentials are having been the Surgeon of Task force 6814 from its departure in January of 1942 from Brooklyn until its arrival in Melbourne, Australia, where I was replaced by a regular army officer who outranked me. He, in turn made me his Executive Officer and Medical Inspector of what was later called Base Command in New Caledonia. I replaced him as Surgeon of the Service Command there about the same time the Americal Division left for Cactus. I have been a long-time contributor of history to the Newsletter and am a Life Member of ADVA.

In June of 1942, it was to me and the Provost-Marshall that General Alexander M. Patch gave a secret order verbally to cooperate with "some French including the Itendand-General and the Chief of Police in setting up a military bordello." He went on to put me in charge but cautioned me to avoid any action which might tie the U.S.Army to the project. All of this is told in detail in my book "Vignettes of the South Pacific, the Lighter Side of World War II" (Page 57-61).

Among the many errors in Gutttag's paragraph 5 is that the ADVA Newsletters referenced it by that name: Maison de la Rouge. I doubt if any of the writers in the Newsletter ever committed that linguistic blunder. The house on the rue Paul Bert was known as the Chateau Moreau before the consortium bought it for the bordello. They painted it pink and, to save the sensibilities of the former owners, it was always referred to as "La maison rose" the Pink House. If Capt. Gutttag will look in any good English dictionary for derivation of the word SUB-ROSA he will see the connection.

The house opened in June, 1942 and was closed in November by the new Island Commanding General. However, the name "Pink House" became known all over the South Pacific. It was re-opened by the U. S. Navy, using the same precautions and techniques which had proved so successful for the Army in the original Pink House, and to our certain knowledge, at least two or more similar bordellos were established in New Caledonia.

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The best review of the subject is that presented so brilliantly in the just-published book of Theodore C. Mason, entitled "Rendezvous with Destiny, A Sailor's War." (Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, 1997). This was the third of his books which told the real history of World War II from the viewpoint of an ENLISTED MAN. Someone in the ADVA should review the book and encourage enlisted men to read it for a more accurate account of what went on than what is given by most other of the "War Books". More importantly it deals in a serious manner with the current difficulties in the Armed Services which Capt. Gutttag glossed over with wise cracks in the same paragraph 5.

Mason brilliantly zeroes in on the difference in disciplinary action accorded enlisted personnel in contrast with that given officers. It is old and almost standard since time of Caesar, but is now complicated by the admission of women into all branches of the Armed Services, including combat missions. Although Gutttag thinks of their function in combat as "providing a bit of perfume in a buttoned up tank" the Pentagon must come to grips with equality between the sexes. The hormonal drive in enlisted men was taken into consideration in 1942 by General Patch, secretly and with great risk to his career. The psychology and philosophy which divides the Armed Forces into differences in treatment of officers and enlisted men must be modified to include "differences between men and women." How to reconcile all factors is worth of serious comment by our membership.

Sincerely,
Arthur S. King M.D.
Col. AUS-Ret

THANK YOU ALL

December 26, 1997

Dear Mr. Buckle:

What a wonderful surprise it was to receive the Americal Newsletter prior to Christmas. I compliment you and all the other folks for the time, effort, and dedication it takes to get this wonderful publication printed and mailed. The Newsletter is very attractive and professional looking.

As I read the articles, I flash back and am reminded of some good times and others not so good. I am saddened by those who did not return alive and those who did return but with physical and mental scars. My heart hurts for the families who lost loved ones. The Holiday season must be very difficult for those families and I pray for all of them. Let's never forget those who made such a great sacrifices.

Kinda got off the track there, but wanted to extend sincere appreciation for all those individuals who make the a Americal newsletter a reality. Thank you.

Anonymous

TEEPLE, C/246 FA

VETERANS DAY NOV 11
From the Polk County Democrat

I hope I'm not wearing you out with my ramblings, but I have to tell you about this one. I was released from the hospital in Cebu, and sent back to my outfit (246 Charlie Btry) which had moved north of Cebu City upon the hills. This was our last action in combat as we pulled back to start getting ready for the run on Japan.

I got back and fell heir to running up to a water point the engineers had established about 1 hour plus of travel with a HD 7 Allison Chalmers Cat. 8 MPH flat out in fourth gear. You had to climb up the face of a mountain to our front. The road was just a gash made by bulldozers, full of pot holes and like driving on grease with the clay in the soil. I guess I had to climb up over 7 or 8 hundred feet then it was run on the top of a ridge for a couple of miles, then up and down over a couple more to get to the water point..

I went up this one day and just got to the top of the first mountain when a G I flagged me down. He was a Medic and his ambulance had skidded over the edge and was down about 100 feet from the road. The driver was in it standing on his brakes as his emergency brake had failed and the grade was so steep the engine was shut off & in gear. The ambulance would still roll. I ran my cat up to the edge and looked and unhooked the winch while the Medic slid down to hook it onto my vehicle..they had some badly wounded men in the back, and the Medic himself couldn't move them because of the steepness of the hill. I only had about 5 feet of cable left when he reached the ambulance. Boy, was it steep! A few more feet and there's no way he could have stopped that rig. I want to say that driver had more guts than anyone I know. He was going to stay with it no matter what happened. I started to winch the rig up, and my cat locked tracks and all started to slide over the edge of the road, so I made sure he knew I was going to take that final bit of slack out by backing up the cat. I locked the winch back in, put the cat in reverse and spun the tracks 'til I dug in about a foot, then tried it again. This time it held. I finally got him up on the road.

I might point out, our cat's winch had a weak point. They had put in real soft shear pins. I found this out on Bougainville trying to winch a log across the Laruma River. We replaced all the pins with harder ones (probably against the rules), but without it I wouldn't have been able to bring him up.

I could at least have anchored him if the pins didn't hold, and gone down to help him get out the wounded, but luckily I didn't have to. I still think that driver was one of the brave fellows we never hear about.

I went on and got my trailer full of water. They thought I should stay with the infantry company overnight as it was getting dark. The engineers would stay with the infantry company on top of the hill. They could hear the Japs helping themselves to the water, but they never damaged the equipment or ruined the water. They liked good water, too.

I made it back to my battery after dark. They said they could hear that cat long before I made the corner and started down the mountain face.. I might say it was kind of puckered up 'til I got back again.

That driver was the one who saved the wounded.

Jack Teeple, C/246 FA BN

Who remembers? I just returned in October from a Guadalcanal Veterans Assn. reunion in Knoxville, Tenn. Our members are deceasing at an alarming rate.

At this reunion the local Knoxville Senior High School Glee Club came and sang some beautiful songs. "Amazing Grace" and many other songs for our memorial service dedicated to our members who had passed away the previous year. After the service, we talked to various glee club members, approximately 50 of them.

We were amazed to learn that not a single one knew of or anything about this place, (Guadalcanal), whose victory was the turning point in the South Pacific War with the Japanese.

Talking with other young people, when asked about the war in Europe, specifically Omaha Beach and Normandy, one answer we got was they did not know that there was a beach in Omaha, Neb.

Gracious, do our schools no longer teach American history? Or is it not important enough to remember?

Just ask any of our veterans of World War I, II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm how they feel about this.

Remember all these brave men and women who served, many to give their lives, and others their health, to serve to save this great nation.

Cal Adams
U. S. Marine Corps.
Guadalcanal
Semper FI.

(Taken from the Guadalcanal Echoes)

NEW AIR TERMINAL ON GUADALCANAL
POSES A NEW PROBLEM

Your editor received a letter letting him know that there is a problem we should address in the building of their new terminal.

It seems that the old terminal will remain and care only for "local traffic" but it contains American Plaques which presently are not being considered for the new terminal (being built by the Japanese) building. These plaques were placed there with the intention of perpetuating the memory of WWII Guadalcanal Campaign.

Little or no recognition will take place if they remain in the old terminal.

The GCV is suggesting we send letters to:
Embassy of the United States of America

Port Moresby
Papua, New Guinea
and ask him/her to see that the change is made.

Ed (Our thanks to Joe Micek for the information. Oh, a .60 Air Mail stamp gets to Papua in a few days. Otherwise a few months.)

245th FIELD ARTILLERY
"Lost on the front lines"
(Guadalcanal)

I guess I was too embarrassed to tell about it sooner, it happened at the OP near Lunga Pt or Pt Cruz. I replaced George Popel, 245th FA Bn who was killed by a mortar. We were preparing for a push. I remember a Navy man next to me talking to his ship. I could see it shelling the Jap position, 3 or 4 rounds fell near the 182nd or Marines. My telephone went dead. Lt. Fall ordered me to go back and repair the line. Quite a distance back Sgt. Morrissey was already repairing it. He came from the rear. Now, to go back find the OP near the beach. I traced my wire. A group of men I noticed surveying all the damage. Later I found out they must have been from Washington. I walked behind a soldier checking for mines. Back and forth I went. I could not find the OP. Finally I found some soldiers kneeling or laying behind trees ready to move forward. I was the only one standing! In front of everybody! They pointed a few feet away and yelled at me, "Those are Japs, and there's no OP."

It seems everyone moved up a long way while I was in the rear. I can't remember where I found it, but I am still alive.

Nov. 12, 1942 at dawn I was getting ready to go over the side of the McCawley at Guadalcanal. I noticed many ships on the horizon. I climbed down the rope ladder. Way down an officer below told me to wait for the next boat. I hung there a long time--I was tired, ship was rocking, helmet and full gear & expecting the Jap Fleet. I landed on the beach finally, and guarded the equipment. I watched our ships being bombed. Next day the Jap Fleet engaged our U. S. Fleet for three days.

Rosy Rosenwasser

If you know any marine or infantry man who was yelling at a frightened lunatic G.I. on Guadalcanal, while looking for the OP, please have him write me...Seymour Rosenwasser

Boca Raton, FL. 33434

INTELLIGENCE & RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON
132 Infantry

The personnel of the 132nd Infantry Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon were veterans of the Guadalcanal campaign and were engaged in the Bougainville fighting. These men had been tested. The had suffered and survived. Into their midst came replacements for those who had not survived.

On a rainy night of July 1944, a country boy from Kansas and a country boy from Missouri were dumped off at Regimental Headquarters Company C.Q. tent. The replacements were taken to a tent for shelter and to bed down for the night. A stream of water ran through the center of the darkened tent.

It was at this time the replacements became known to each other. Somewhere along the line they came together. They sat on cot facing each other in total darkness. They exchanged names and the names of hometowns. They were tent mates for the night.

The next morning they were checked in by the Company clerk and taken to the I and R platoon area. There were no formal receptions. no

introductions, and no orientation. The replacements were there to fill vacancies left because casualties were suffered.

It was learned later that combat veterans do not rush to make new acquaintances and to form new friendships. The replacement may be here today and gone tomorrow. The replacement came to the platoon as a nobody and if he leaves to soon, he leaves as a nobody.

When he leaves there are no tears and no good-bys. The philosophy of no good-bys and no tears was a shield for true feelings. THEY CARED TOO MUCH.

Everett Arnold

132 Infantry -- 737 Ordnance

I am seeking information on my father, Howard C. Maxwell who served in the 33rd Division, possibly in the 132 Infantry or the 737 Ordnance Light Maint Company. He saw service on Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Fiji, Bougainville, and the Philippines.

Howard is now 86 years of age and his daughter would like to know more about his war service.

If you have any information please writ to:

Karen M. Morgan
Cortland, OH 44410

164th INFANTRY - 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

My father is, Genarino Errichiello, is currently undergoing chemo-therapy for cancer and I am trying to piece together the facts of his war experience.

My father entered the Army in April of 1941 and was discharged in September of 1945. He went overseas with the 121 Medical Battalion and later served in the 164th Infantry.

If you knew my father I would appreciate hearing from you. Call or write:

David Errichiello
Weymouth, MA 02188
Telephone

HILL 260 - BOUGAINVILLE

March of 1998 will mark the fifty fifth (55) anniversary of one of the toughest battles the 182nd Infantry participated in during World War II. The battle for Hill 260 was primarily a battle for the 2nd Battalion, but before it was over it involved the 1st Battalion and also units of the 132 Infantry, and many supporting units.

I cannot let this date go by without honoring the men that fought and died on that Hill. My Company, E Company, 182nd Infantry led the charge to retake the Hill and in less than twenty four hours was reduced to twenty five men. I lost many a friend that day. THEY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED.

Your Editor
Jim Buckle

164TH INFANTRY
October 13, 1942

For the past four or five days we had been following behind a couple of small destroyers in what I thought was a mighty small convoy--two transports, two destroyers--to be heading due North toward the Solomon Islands and the Japanese navy and army.

At dawn on the morning of October 13, the two destroyers and transports were just off shore of the coconut palm-lined Lunga Beach of Guadalcanal. On board the 2nd Bn. Medics group of the 164th Inf., of which I was a member, was at its debarking station on the top deck of the transport, the USS McCawley. Sgt. Carroll looked over the railing to which the cargo or landing nets were fastened, took a deep breath, and told his men to take it one step at a time. We were not to look down until we had counted twenty-five steps as the landing craft was bobbing on the waves at least thirty feet below the top railing. Four men stepped to the railing at a time, climbed over, and started down the swaying and swinging rope ladder despite never having seen it done. As soon as the first four heads disappeared from view, four more repeated the process. Very surprisingly, it was done without mishap--nobody fell, nobody dropped a rifle, a helmet, or other equipment.

All hands were kept busy transferring supplies from the two transports to the beach as rapidly as possible as the boats could not stay in the area over night. Shortly after twelve noon, the first warning for an air raid was sounded. As the ships sped to open water for maneuverability. I looked around just behind the beach area for an already-dug foxhole. Having found one I sat on its edge, surveying the surroundings: the stately coconut palms all in rows, the piles and piles of supplies on the beach, the occasional chatter of machine guns to the west, and the seemingly lack of concern by all the people in the area left me feeling very, very foolish sitting in a foxhole.

The high pitched drone of many airplanes lifted my gaze skyward to see coming in directly overhead were twenty-two light blue bombers in perfect formation--a very pretty sight. How I wished I had a yellow cloud filter for my camera. The anti-aircraft fire from the ships could not reach the bombers. As the planes were directly over the beach, a new sound was heard. It started as a whistle and progressed to a shrill scream as the bombs descended toward the airstrip. The 164th Inf. received its first casualties. The anti-aircraft batteries directly behind the beach added their sound effects also. Right there I recognized the importance of sound for survival knowing immediately the difference of what was coming and what was going. The raid was over quickly as the planes dropped all their bombs on the first pass. Each Japanese plane usually carried six bombs. The ships returned and work continued at a rapid pace.

At 2:30 p.m., a second air raid came with only fifteen planes. This group was not pretty, but very frightening. I had company in my foxhole this time. In fact, I had to run pretty darn fast to get there first. This time the bombs hit closer to the airstrip and not on the beach. However, there was hardly a half-mile distance between the beach and the airstrip.

Just as the sun was setting, the transports had left, a group of men were talking on the beach when an explosion sent sand flying about 100 yards

to the west. Moments later a second explosion occurred only fifty yards away. I hurriedly departed to check my equipment at that friendly foxhole. Pistol Pete, who had arrived only two days earlier, was making his presence known by shelling the beach after his first two sighting-in shots. The last American destroyer in the bay raced northwestward to try to silence the Japanese land artillery pieces. After about an hour's dual, the firing on the beach ended.

It was now dark and the move to a safer (if there was such a place) area was most urgent. Finally, Second Battalion was organized late in the evening and was able to march off the beach toward the east, and alongside the airstrip. Near midnight, the column was stopped as word passed of new danger--Condition Black, prepare for Naval shelling. We were instructed to find whatever shelter we could, with no lights permitted. Many of the men lay in ditches on either side of the temporary road we were hiking on. I found two bales of sandbags near a tree. I moved them so I could lie between them with a coconut tree at the north end. Another Medic joined me. In the darkness, we did not realize we were barely three hundred feet from the open area of Henderson Field.

First, there was a flare from a plane, then star shells cutting diagonally from the northwest. This was followed immediately by tremendous ground shaking explosions as the two Japanese battleships fired in their 14" shells. For the next forty minutes no sound reached our ears above the screaming shells and the thunderous explosions as that eleven-ship Japanese armada fired a hundred shells, from 5" to 14", a minute into that tiny two square mile area held by the Marines, Navy and Army comprising the airstrip and the coconut groves between it and the beach. The shells would be exploding in and near our area, then move slowly westward along the airstrip, only to return to our area again as the Japanese gunners raked the entire area forth and back. The near misses would throw coral, dirt, and debris high into the air and sound like rushing winds as it returned to earth. Anything burnable was on fire along the airstrip as half the planes were destroyed that night. After the first ten minutes, I no longer prayed for survival but only that my "time" would be as painless as possible.

And then it was quiet after forty minutes of the wildest fireworks I had ever seen or heard. No, I didn't count the number of shells as I was too busy hanging on to two handfuls of grass (the green and growing kind) in order to keep mind and body together and under control. Capt. Yancy made quick check of his men but warned us that the period of calm could be like the center of a hurricane.

It took just a few minutes for the Japanese ships to turn about and open fire again. The second forty minutes was a repeat of the first forty. We heard every shell and flinched for two-thirds of them because they were so close. Records after the war showed the two battleships fired 918 fourteen-inch shells that night. A fourteen-inch diameter shell was about sixty inches long and weighed 2,200 pounds. Finally, about 2:30 a.m., the heavy shelling slowed to a few parting shots, plus repeated bombings until dawn by one plane at a time.

As the first light of "Day Two" filtered through what was stately palm trees, destruction and shell holes were everywhere. The closest hit to me was at the base of the next tree, barely twenty feet

away. Near misses to other men of the 164th were commonplace and everywhere. One large hospital ward dugout had a twenty foot crater so close to it there was barely two feet of dirt left between them. Slowly the men sat up and got to their feet, amazed that they were still all there physically as well as mentally. Because the Japanese did not use air bursts, casualties were rather light--three dead for the regiment and less than fifty total for the island.

A Navy historian in his book labeled this night's shelling as the heaviest and most concentrated naval bombardment any American troops ever received in its 200-year history. This is understandable because the 14" shells alone totaled a thousand tons of explosives. The smaller stuff, thousands of 5" and 8" shells, and the bombs were in addition to that amount.

As a quick check of the sea showed no boats in sight, we decided to stay for "Day Two". With the sea behind us and the Japanese infantry in front of us, their planes overhead, that seemed to be the best choice because those North Dakota farmers were mighty poor swimmers.

The First Battalion moved to the east perimeter line. The Second Battalion moved to the southeast perimeter line of Henderson Field. Thus many of us missed the 750 shells on the night of the 14th and the 1,500 shells on the night of the 15th. Third Battalion was in reserve and caught many of these shells.

The infantry battle for Henderson Field October 24, 25 & 26; the Koli Point drive November 4-10; and the fighting above the Matanaque River and at Point Cruz November 15 to December 29 kept the 164th Inf. Regiment occupied continuously from the day of landing until Christmas of 1942.

We finally left Guadalcanal on March 1, 1943, not for home but for Suva, Fiji. Christmas at home was going to be a little late, as Bougainville and the Philippine Islands had priority.

(Taken from Guadalcanal Echoes)

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES H. WALKER

It has been 52 years since I served as a rifle platoon leader in Company E, 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota National Guard.

From November 1943 until February 1945, Charles H. Walker was my company commander.

Before it is too late--I want to say for the record that in my opinion Walker was the finest company commander and the most outstanding combat leader that I have ever known in my 30 years of active service.

It is my firm belief that Walker in 1944, in his early twenties, had the skill and ability to have been and outstanding regimental commander; and that by 1945 he had the ability to be an outstanding commanding general of an infantry division.

I could write about his brilliant tactics, up front leadership, physical and moral courage, vast knowledge of all aspects of infantry combat, and almost incredible accomplishments of his men; but, these are words that could also apply to a number of officers and NCO's that I served with. I think I have really said it all when I say that in my opinion Captain Charles H. Walker was the greatest

combat leader that I have ever known.

To give my background for this observation let me say that it was my privilege to have served in combat in three wars as a member of some of the finest infantry, ranger, airborne ranger, special forces, and reconnaissance units in the United States Army.

Charles G. Ross
Lt. Colonel
U.S. Army Retired

Ed Note: Charles H. Walker has had several articles in the Americal Newsletter. One article that shows his leadership and his concern for the soldiers serving under him is on Page 7-8, Jan-Feb-Mar 1996 issue of the Americal Newsletter.

247th FIELD ARTILLERY

In early 1944 while on Bougainville the Japs brought their artillery up close enough to fire counter battery fire. I was Battery Commander of the Service Battery. That night every time we would fire the Japs would return our fire. Space was very limited. Our Battalion was just behind the infantry and Service Battery was directly behind the firing batteries.

That night there was a great deal of firing. You could hear the round on the way and feel the concussion as they landed. We knew also that there were duds.



Al Doig, Lt. Reffner, Cpt. Lerner, Cpn. Beckstrom
B Btry B Btry B Btry

Above is a picture of one of the duds that landed in my Battery area, Service Battery. The picture was taken in B Battery area to show them that we were close by.

My first Battery assignment in the Americal Division was B Battery. I always claimed we started the war with 32 men and a lister bag.

I took the fuse from the above shell and it returned home when I returned on rotation. It is now on display in the Americal Museum.

Al Doig

Why Didn't You Get Me Out?

Frank Anton with Tommy Denton
The Summit Publishing Group
Arlington, Tx

Many people associate Prisoners of War in Vietnam with Air Force pilots who were shot down over North Vietnam and imprisoned in the Hanoi Hilton. While this was certainly the case for a large number of POWs, it was not the case for all.

Frank Anton was a chopper pilot for the Firebirds, a top gunship unit of the Americal Division. On January 5, 1968, Anton was answering a call for help from a ground unit engaged in a bitter night fight. He called on the radio "How can we assist you?" But before he could come to the aid of the embattled infantrymen, he himself was in need of assistance.

The enemy was waiting for Anton's chopper. Tracers from fifty-caliber machine guns streaked from the ground and found their mark. "Nine-Zero is taking hits, taking hits!" radioed Anton. But it was too late. Firebird 90 was on its way down as Anton and his co-pilot tried frantically to find a safe place to crash.

Anton and the other three crew members survived the crash. They split up, with Anton deciding to stay near the downed chopper. Near dawn he dozed off and awoke to see a NVA soldier standing over him. The captor handed Anton a card printed in English: "You are a prisoner of the People's National Liberation Front. You will not be harmed..."

Anton was shot down in South Vietnam and that is where he would remain a prisoner for the next three years. He and other Americans were held in crude jungle camps under the most severe conditions. With little to eat and almost no medical care, several of Anton's fellow prisoners died in captivity. In 1971, he and the others were moved to a prison in North Vietnam.

So why the title "Why Didn't You Get Me Out?" This seems to imply that the U.S. military knew where Anton was being held captive and that they had the means to free him. According to Anton, this was exactly the case. Upon his return to the United States in 1973, he was shown photographs and maps which indicated the location of the POW camps where he was kept.

With U.S. forces still active in the area, they could have been sent to rescue him and his fellow prisoners. So why not?

Anton answers this question and many others. He also describes his encounters with Bobby Garwood, the ones in the camps in Vietnam as well as those in the courtroom at Camp Lejeune. Surprisingly, the only thing Anton wanted from Garwood was for Garwood to tell the truth. Be prepared: reading Anton's book may change your mind about some of the issues surrounding the POW/MIA debate.

After retiring from the Army, Anton spent several years flying for a major airline. He is now residing in Florida. If you would like to read Frank's own words, go to Frank Anton's page on the internet:

www.bgcommo.com/gunny/frankanton/faindex.htm

If you would like to purchase an autographed copy of the book, send \$24 to:

Frank Anton

Satellite Beach, FL 32937-2523

Books That Tell of Americal Division People, Places, and Things

Under the Southern Cross by by Capt. Francis D. Cronin. The history of the Americal Division in World War II. This book can be ordered from Mr. Ken Turner, 71 Madison Ave., Wakefield, MA, 01880. Enclose \$15 to cover the book and postage.

Firebirds by Chuck Carlock. Descriptions of helicopter gunship combat activity in the Americal Area of Operations. Available from 71st AHC Assoc., [redacted], Garland, TX, 75043-5921. Send \$18.

Sappers in the Wire by Keith William Nolan. The story of the tragedy of Fire Support Base Mary Ann. Available in hardcover from Mr. Ken Turner, [redacted], Wakefield, MA, 01880. Please enclose \$25 to cover the cost of the book and postage.

Survivors by Zalin Grant. Read about Americal Division soldiers held captive in jungle prisons in South Vietnam. Available in soft cover at most bookstores.

Hostile Fire: The Life and Death of 1LT Sharon Lane by Philip Bigler. The story of the Americal Division nurse killed in action in Vietnam. Available at local bookstores from Vandamere Press.

ONE HOT DECEMBER MORNING

By: Maurice W. Henson, A Co., 26th Engineers

It was a hot December morning in 1968.

On Road 535, things were soon going to get much hotter for members of the 2/1st Infantry, A CO., 26th ENGRS, a detachment of Popular Forces (PF's), and the 39th ENGR BN.

At 1000 hours that morning, Dave Mills, Tim Gravitte and I had finished setting off explosive charges on some large boulders near the road. We headed back across the road for a break and to pick up some more explosive charges.

We rejoined other members of A CO. and the 2/1 Infantry. We watched the PF's harass the civilians heading to or from Que Son. I thought this PF outpost looked more like a chicken coop with large boulders and I knew we had many more charges that would have to be set. I grabbed my C-rations and proceeded to heat some water for a cup of coffee.

Soon a member of the 2/1st spotted the lead truck of the 39th ENGR BN coming from LZ Baldy and shouted, "here comes the road sweep team!" Looking up from my cup of hot water, I looked in the direction of LZ Baldy and could see the cab of the 5 ton truck as it came around a bend in the road. I returned to make my cup of coffee and glanced at my watch to note the time. It was 1014 hours and I wondered if my guess of about five minutes for the road sweep team to reach our location would be correct.

My head came up fast as I heard a distant and all too familiar sound in the direction of the 39th ENGRS. Then, the same all too familiar sound came from the direction of the triple culverts. We knew our 3rd Platoon, who was sweeping the road from LZ Ross to the triple culverts, had gotten ambushed too. This put a strain on us as we wanted to go help out, but both road sweep teams were a good distance from us. It would take some fast moving to get to either sweep team to help them out. The men of the 2/1st looked at their C.O., we looked at SGT. Wettig, the civilians scattered, and the PF's began to look sick and slowly disappeared among us.

Before the C.O. or SGT. Wettig could say anything, we too were engulfed by a hail of bullets from AK-47's. My C-ration coffee got tossed as I grabbed my M79 and some extra rounds. Finding a good location, I started returning fire in the direction of the sounds of the AK-47's. Hearing our M60's firing, grenade rounds exploding, and the

sounds of the other two ambushes, I could only wonder how long this would last. I watched as an ammo bearer for one of the M-60's was shot and dropped.

Soon I ran out of rounds for my M79 and I immediately headed back to get some more. Not finding any, I grabbed my .45 ACP and headed back to again return fire. As I fired my .45, a PF ran up and knelt close. He held a M1 Carbine which he did not appear to be shooting. When my ammo ran out, I didn't know whether to go look for some more or take out my book to read. I asked the PF about his weapon. He handed it to me, and pulling the bolt back, I ejected a round and handed it to him saying, "Here, you be Barney!" I proceeded to return fire using the PF's Carbine. The more the PF grabbed for his weapon, the faster I shot his ammo. All the while I thought, "If I'm out of ammo, you'll be out of ammo as well!"

From the direction of LZ Ross came a sound we knew well. The Viet Cong knew it very well also. The 3/82nd Artillery had been called and they were walking 105 rounds in on the suspected enemy locations. After a short time the enemy had enough, and the attack on all three locations was starting to break up. The meant that the enemy was slowly withdrawing from the attack. Soon, the only sounds of weapons being fired came from the three American held positions along Road 535.

When it was once again quite, I gave "Barney the PF" back his M1, minus a clip of ammo. I noted that the Viet Cong had continued the attack for over forty-five minutes before letting up. I could only imagine how long the Viet Cong would have continued to attack if we didn't have the added benefit of the 3/82nd fire power.

As things began to return to normal, four elderly civilians came to our location carrying a bamboo bed with a badly wounded VC upon it. While we stood sipping a beer, we watched the VC and discussed just how badly wounded he was. We all knew there was no way for him to survive his wounds. A medic who was checking him over, knew all the while there was little he could do for the man but wait for the Dust Off chopper.

The ammo bearer had been lucky and was going to survive his wound. Within minutes, the Dust-Off was swirling the dust as it touched down to pick up the wounded grunt and the nearly dead Viet Cong. Once they were both on board, the Dust-Off became airborne once again. The grunt could be seen in the doorway of the chopper with a big smile on his face waving bye to his friends!

Circle Is Completed

Healing on a far-off hillside

By JOANNA MOLLOY

Daily News Staff Writer

My father always liked his martinis chilled. So at the big family party at our house the night before my cousin Eugene left to serve in Vietnam, dad held up a glass by its stem. "We'll put this in the freezer for you now," my father said, "so it'll be ready for your coming-home party."

The gathered children were a little reassured, for Gene was the adored, oldest cousin. An actor studying with some guy named Danny DeVito, he'd go into character: a smart-alecky Irish cat, a hapless Brooklyn dog, a Shakespearean parrot. Gene was armed with poems and plays, and he gave us the first whiff that there was something fine out there in the world.

As my father slammed the freezer door, Gene nodded and smiled that cool smile of his. If he was acting, it worked: The adults cheered and raised a toast.

Over the following summer months, I would gingerly remove my ice pops, terrified of breaking the glass and causing bad luck. I'd stare into its frosted surface but could never conjure an image of what Gene was doing then.

And he spared me the reality in his letters. Once, when I'd written a story about animals taking over the world, my teacher smirked and handed me a copy of George Orwell's "Animal Farm."

"Don't worry, kid — the same thing happened to me with my story of Harry, Borough President of the Bronx," Gene wrote. "Turns out it had the same plot as Hamlet, Prince of Denmark."

There he was in the jungle, taking the time to reassure a child. But then one day a telegram, not a letter, came. It told my Aunt Edith that her only child had been killed the week before, on May 25, 1968. A few weeks later, a sealed metal coffin arrived at the airport, and at the wake, the funeral director put a flag over it. My father never took the glass from the freezer.

The Search Begins

Twenty-nine years later, I set out to find the place where my cousin lost his life.

"I have his file right here," said Bruce Tolbert, an Army archivist. "It says he died 'from wounds received when engaged with a hostile force in a firefight' in Quang Tin province. . . . There's some numbers on the bottom. Those are probably map coordinates."

Map coordinates? Would I be able to find the exact spot?

"You could if you had the map the Army used there in 1968," said Tolbert.

Gary Noller, commander of the American Division Veterans Association, had the map.

"That's a longitude of 108.11 and a 'lat' of 16.03," said Noller. "You need to go about 15 miles west of Tam Ky, 4 miles short of Hiep Duc. I don't know if there's a road there now, but there's a river you could follow. The Vietnamese use rivers like we use highways. The last part of the coordinates are the elevation. The place is on Nui Lon mountain, about halfway up."

"High points were very strategic," said Noller. "We would always try to take them."

A day after our last conversation, I received a package. Noller had sent me his map, with an X marking the spot.

Getting Closer

Stepping off the plane, we had been greeted on the Tarmac by a bus which read, "PEPSI. Welcome to Ho Chi Minh City." Later, I used a Citibank automatic teller machine in Hanoi.

In Da Nang, a voluptuous woman with a flower in her hair huddled with half a dozen men over Noller's map. Interpreters

and guides at Da Na Tours, they have become accustomed to American vets coming through now, and even offer an eight-day itinerary of battlefields: Hue, Khe Sanh, Chu Lai.

But they looked with fascination at the cartographic masterpiece our country had made of theirs, and which had been used as a tool of its destruction. They tried to coordinate landmarks with their map, a framed wall model.

Quang Tin province was as barren as a tundra when Gene walked it in 1968; the leaves, and then the trees, shriveled by dioxin, the villagers evacuated, artillery in their place.

As I headed through the same land south down Highway 1 from Da Nang, I saw green rice paddies shimmering. Big-shouldered water buffalo plodded along, sending great white flocks of egrets into the air.

Near Tam Ky, translator Tran Van Tru points to a perfectly round pond, where ducklings follow their mother like ties on a kite string. "Bomb crater, from Phantom jet," he says. "They raise fish in them, too."

Tru said he's guided 40 vets back to their old bases this year alone.

As we rode for two hours along vast stretches of rice paddies, sprinkled with pastel-washed stucco houses in turquoise and yellow, the villages got smaller and farther apart. We reached Tam Ky, and Tru pulled out the big framed map from the trunk and asked storekeepers the way to Nui Lon — Great Mountain.

They'd never heard of it, and I bit my lip nervously. But I turned on an electronic positioning device, and after a moment it gave a reading: 108.15 longitude, 15.34 lat. We were very close now.

We headed west, where the road was part gravel and dust. Tru kept bringing the map into the rice farmers' houses, and finally, at Thang Binh, a man in his 50s with a fatigue hat looked suspiciously into the car. Tru talked to him, and he pointed. "Keep going this way," he'd said.

School was letting out, and children in uniforms with bandana ties sang along the road and shouted, "Hello!" We stopped to ask one farmer in the hamlet of Que Tho, he said: "Nui Lon? It's right there!"

We got out, and walked around the trees, and there rose Nui Lon. It was a very ordinary looking mountain, a green, scrub-covered hump.

A rushing brook coursed through a field, where calves munched peacefully. A flock of white ducks swam along the current. A yellow butterfly flitted by.

I couldn't match this idyllic place with what I knew had happened here 29 years ago . . . until I turned, and saw Tru holding an armful of white lilies.

Tru, a man who makes about \$5 a day, had bought them because he knew a little bit about short telegrams and empty glasses.

He led the way through the mud, and the children came with us, across the brook and through the field. We all walked together, as close as we could get to Nui Lon. There was a lone tree, and it had fruit on it, and that seemed a good place to stop and remember. Tru lit incense, and as it rose, we were quiet awhile.

I hung a wooden rosary carved with Gene's name over a sturdy branch. "That's a jackfruit, the hardest wood," said Tru. "The old Vietnam people, they use it for the pillars of their houses."

We turned back, and at the water's edge, the children took our hands. We went across the river in a line.

Staff Sgt. Eugene O'Connell. May 13, 1944 — May 25, 1968. Rest in peace, cousin.

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REUNIONS

FIRE BASE MARY ANN
1st Battalion - 46th Infantry

Camp Carlson, Fort Knox, Kentucky
March 27 - 28, 1998

CONTACT: William "Skidrow Joe" Walker
Vine Grove, KY 40175
Tel: [REDACTED]

REUNIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April 24 - 26, 1998
11th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion
Melbourne, FL
Contact: Ralph [REDACTED]

May 1 - 3, 1998
Rededication Remembrance
10th Anniversary of Illinois Memorial
Contact: Telephone [REDACTED]

May 7, 1998
Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Convention and Dance
Richland Center, Wisconsin
Contact: Bill - [REDACTED]

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association of the Americal Division will hold its 3rd Reunion on April 23-24-25, 1998 in Melbourne, Florida, on the Oceanside. All Americal veterans are invited to attend. This Reunion is in conjunction with Operation LZ Oceanside All Veterans Reunion. For more info write:

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574

The Vietnam Vets of Brevard Presents: Florida's 11th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion, April 24-25-26, 1998 at Wickham Park, Melbourne, Florida. For more details call [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

16th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Kokomo, IN
September 18-19-20, 1998.

13rd Annual Winterfest R & R All Vetterans Rally in New Glarus, Wisconsin. Parade, Hospitality Parties, dance and banquet. Dianne Carlson Evans-Women's Memorial Chairperson, guest speaker. Silent Auctions and More. For more infor call Ron Lewis [REDACTED] days.

There are many small unit Reunions that happen every year and the Editor would be only to happy to carry your notice in the Americal Newsletter. Please have your notice in as early as possible. A follow-up story and pictures would be greatly appreciated.

NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN - WINTERFEST

Below is a picture of the group from the Great Lakes Chapter tha attended the Winterfest this past January. Tha Americal National Commander may be seen standin in front of the door. Chapter Commander John Mathews is holding the left side of the banner and Terry Babler, Chapter Adjutant, is holding the left side of the Banner.



Thirty five (35) plus Americal Veterans attended the activities held on January 15-16-17, 1998.

BAYONET

Bayonet is one of the few firebases in our AO that I never got to. Had a couple of casual friends that were stationed there, with the Arty unit. They were in Bn fire direction, from time to time I would see them in Div Arty. One of them had a crush on the Bar Maids at the Mess Hall/ Club. I always considered Bayonet as part of Chu Lai, not as something separate and distinct, but who am I to say, I never went there. I had had my fill of the field grade types and to this day, I can't remember any of their names, with the exception of Col. Sadler, Div Arty CO.

My immediate superior was the Div Arty S-2, and they changed regularly, I actually had about 5 different bosses. All this made for a rather independent unit, considering they didn't have a clue about what we actually did to perform our mission, all they wanted was a daily body count. Kind of hard to tell, you hit a few enemy with some arty, they either Di Di or tend to be in less than one piece. Smith's short timer's ride in the loach did bring a smile to my face. We used to pick up my guys, from the OP's in a loach and do the same thing. Usually a modified death spiral, with a sudden lurch and a ground hugging, tree hopping, insane, suicidal flight for about 5 minutes. One last pucker before the Freedom Bird. I still remember my last flight, even today, the sound of a rotary wing will pull me, a strange sensation, a small pump of adrenalin. If ever an out of body experience for me that was it. I got into the C-130 in Chu Lai, went up front and rode in the Navigator's seat (between and behind the pilot and co-pilot). As we lumbered down the

runway, I knew I was on my way home, but it seemed like it my imagination playing the movie we were waiting for.

After we arrived in Cam Rahn, I went to the same dark windowless Officer's Club I went to when I arrived in country. I sat there, looking at the fresh meat, of new tours, 2nd Lts, hair standing on the back of their necks, asking questions, yet trying to appear macho and in control. The guys back for their second tour, trying to get drunk. I and the rest of the short timers, sat there staring, while walls formed around our person's shutting out each other and beginning the process of going home. The Army of course got us there 2-3 days early, so we just sat there and waited. As the plane for our trip home left the ground, there was the hearty cheer and then muted conversation and silence. The stewardess made for the front of the plane, and remained out of site for most of the flight. Guess our hunger for the round-eyed women of home was all too evident.

I missed and was afraid for the guys in my unit at the same time I was anxious and excited about going home. It was an end to a life for me, one that revisits, but one that was over.

Capt. Bill
William Wood Jr.
Hq Div Arty 70-71

(Computer Bulletin Board)

CONVOY ROARS THROUGH PASS
63rd Trans. Brings Vital Supplies To 11 LIB

Duc Pho -- A flatbed trailer truck with the name CHRIS stenciled on its grill turns off the road and angles sharply across the gravel embankment.

Its driver, SP4 Roy Haggard of the 63rd Trans. Co., steers the truck neatly beside a row of 40 other empty-bedded rigs waiting to begin the morning's convoy to Sa Huynh.

"Hey, Roy, glad you could make it," cried a voice from the group of drivers standing out of the way of the settling dust. "We're going to be late today. They've got a bunch of VC trapped down in the pass and it may be a while before we'll be able to get the trucks through."

Not far to the south, the crackling of machine-gun fire was audible --- echoing from a low ridge of hills near the seacoast, an area the truckers have come to name "Ambush Valley."

Supply Route

On the other side of the hills is Sa Huynh, the smallest, and southernmost of the Navy's support detachments in I Corps. Every day the long line of trucks thunder down the 17-mile stretch of Highway 1, from the 11th Inf. Bde.'s logistics base at Duc Pho to load military cargo and fuel at the supply yard in Sa Huynh.

A jeep bearing twin-mounted machine-guns and three men in flak jackets turned into the parking area. "Let's move it," shouted the Army sergeant at the wheel, "The roads cleared but don't expect an easy trip...it's still open season down there."

The slope of the brushy hillsides gradually steepened, closing in along the road as it wound its way into "Ambush Valley". Steering became more

of an effort for the drivers as the road grew rough and pitted, but the trucks held their speed.

Then, over the roar of the engines the rapid popping of rifle fire was heard. "Dammit! They're sniping at us."

The next instant a louder burst of gunfire split the air as the jeep gunner fanned the brushline atop an embankment on the right.

Haggard kept a bouncing pressure on the floored gas pedal and as the road made a final curve around a hillside, the gun fire died away to the rear. "Ambush Valley" was behind them.

Two hours later, 40 loaded trucks left Sa Huynh and started back through the pass, the men in the convoy thankful that another successful day could be crossed from their calendars. (Americal 10)

(Taken from the Southern Cross)

IN MEMORY NEWSLETTER
(In Memory helps families heal.)

As Washington, DC. awoke on Memorial Day, nearly 300 families gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay tribute to those whose names are not inscribed on the Wall, but who have lost their lives as a result of their service in Vietnam. The families who attended the ceremony, like all those who participate in the In Memory program, have found that the recognition, understanding and acceptance it provides gives meaning and purpose to their loved ones' sacrifice, and help ease the burden of grief.

As family and friends read the names of the more than 450 men and women honored since In Memory was initiated, a profound story of courage and sacrifice unfolded. The name of each honoree carries the weight of the life cut short by Vietnam and of all those touched by that loss. Each name reminds us that if the healing is to continue for those who have lost loved ones to Agent Orange, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or other conditions related to Vietnam, the hidden casualties of Vietnam cannot continue to go unnoticed.

Journalist and author, Joe Galloway, once said, "A war is not over when the last shot is fired. A war is not over when the last homebound soldier steps off the last freedom bird...or walks down the gangplank of the last aircraft carrier...It can be fairly argued that at that precise moment the hardest part of any war, making peace and finding peace, is just beginning in the hearts and minds of those who fought the war and for those who loved the warriors."

Time alone cannot always heal the human spirit. By offering families and friends a way to share in the honor and remembrance of Vietnam's hidden casualties, In Memory helps make the sometimes difficult process of finding peace a bit easier. "During the program," one participant later wrote, "I looked around at the grief on the faces of those around me and I knew they felt as I - that we were finally reaching closure to these many years of pain."

The Facts About In Memory:

In Memory is provided free of charge. It is designed to remember and honor the hidden

casualties of Vietnam - those who have died as a result of their services in Vietnam, but whose names do not appear on the Wall.

Honorees Come from Among two Groups:

1. The first group consists of Vietnam Veterans who have lost their lives to Agent Orange, the effects Of PTSD, illnesses contracted or wounds received in Vietnam. Also included are soldiers who had orders for Vietnam, but who lost their lives in accidents en route to or from Vietnam.

2. In Memory also honors civilians who lost their lives in Vietnam, as well as those who returned home and died prematurely as a result of emotional or physical illnesses related to their experience in Vietnam. May include State Department employees and other government staff, journalists, Red Cross workers, and others.

Criteria for inclusion are as follows:

1. The veteran or civilian to be honored must have served in Vietnam or had orders for Vietnam (surrounding areas may be included).

2. The death of the veteran or civilian to be honored must be considered to be related to service in Vietnam. Death does not have to be recognized by the VA as service connected.

Applications are accepted from:

1. Family of honoree.

2. Friends of the veteran or civilian to be honored. Where possible, the family be notified and included in the process.

The Program works in three ways:

1. In Memory ceremonies are held near the Wall on Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year.

2. The In Memory Honor Roll is maintained at the Friends Information Table near the entrance to the Memorial grounds.

3. In Memory Families Support Network has been established for those program participants who wish to be in touch with many others who share their experience. For many, this contact has been an important part of the healing process.

(For further information please contact:

Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
In Memory Program

Arlington, VA 22201)

NURSES ADD CHARM TO MEDCAP

A recent MEDCAP (medical civil action program) by the 198th Brigade's 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. was a little out of the ordinary, to the delight of the Vietnamese civilians treated that day.

Ordinarily, one of the twice-weekly MEDCAP's includes a group of medical officers and enlisted personnel. This time, the group also included LTs Cheryl Leonard (Pontiac, ILL.) and Nadine Wahner (Canistota, S.D.).

The patients, most of whom had never seen an attractive American woman before, were enthralled by the two Army nurses as they spent the afternoon

treating the Vietnamese patients and dispensing everything from adhesive bandages to aspirin.

Many of the "patients", however, were only suffering from an acute case of curiosity. The treatment prescribed was a combination of ingredients---a warm smile to ease shyness; a friendly greeting to promote comfort.

The womanly understanding that the two young nurses showed did much to let the civilians of Binh Son and Son Tinh districts know that many Americans care enough to help.

As the patients filed by with their various cuts, infections, and minor diseases, the girls continued to generate good will as they quietly and tenderly applied their skills to those in need of them.

"From the moment the S-5 jeep arrived at the center until it left after treating more than 100 patients, the two nurses were the center of attention," said SGT Paul F. Kelly, NCOIC of the 1-52nd S 5.



Bui Cam Vinh
(Interpreter)

Sgt. Paul F. Kelly

The nurses were invited along on the MEDCAP not so much to create an image, but to emphasize the usual mood of the program.

"Friendliness and understanding are the key notes for 1-52nd MEDCAPS," SGT Kelly said. The outing not only accomplished its MEDCAP mission, but also opened up new channels of friendship between Americans and Vietnamese.

Paul F. Kelly

(Paul served in C/52 Inf 198 LIB and office of S-5 Civil Affairs 1969-1970.)

P.S. I would love to hear that the nurses are alive and well and somewhere in the United States. Happy to see in a Newsletter that Rich Dupot from Syracuse, NY is alive and well. We served in the 1/52 198 LIB together.

CORRECTION - CORRECTION - CORRECTION

The following new member's names were posted in the last issue of the Newsletter but the wrong unit designation was listed. Correction below:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| New Life Member | New Member |
| Paul Hayden | Russ Blais |
| C/3/1 Inf 11 LIB | E/4/3 Inf 11 LIB |

AMERICAL DIVISION ARMY BAND
Vietnam 1968- 1968

I would like to locate members of the Americal Band that served with me in vietnam during 68-69.

Contact me at:
John P. Moore
San Antonio, TX 78217-3525
(Home-call collect)
(Voice/digital pager)
e-mail:
FAX:

B/5/46 Nov 68-June 69 - HHQ Brigade 6/69-1/70

I was RTO for platoon leader. I want to put the missing pieces in place. Contact:

James G. Fuller
Heather Vreeland
Roseburg, OR 97470

I need to find Robert "Bubb" Hobbs. We served together at Duc Pho-LZ Bronco 1969-70. He was in mortat platoon 198LIB Co. C. Also anyone that was in my squad:Quad 50's C Btry 55 Arty. Same place and time I Corp Americal. Hobbs was from Oklahoma. Contact:

Jim Burton
Redmond, OR 97756
Tel:

I'd like to hear from anyone who served with the 588th Maint. Co. Chu Lai 3/18 Arty or anyone at LZ Ross from March 1968 until March 1969. I would also like to hear from members of B./1/18 Inf and 1st S&T from 1974 until October 1976. Contact:

William Smith
Heavener, OK 74937

I'm looking for the Lt. who took pictures of the 'Dirty Dozen' at Fat City, Chu Lai 26th Eng. HHC Americal from Nov 1967-July 1968. also would like to hear from Ron Potter, D.C. Moore, and Raymond Jean. Contact:

Kent Beeman
Manitowoc, WI 54220

I am looking for anyone that might have served with my brother-EARL F. HICKS-he was a door-gunner in A/123 CAB from Sep 69 to Aug 70. Please write to:

Russell K. Coleman
El Reno, OK 73076

Tyler J. Harper is a member of the ADVA who served in Vietnam in C/2/1 196 LIB and he also an artist. He is offering a set of pen and ink drawing called the 'Vietnam Experiance' to members of the ADVA. If you are interested in his collection please contact him for further info:

Tyler J. Harper
Miami, OK 74355

Tyler is offering to donate 10% of the sale price to the ADVA.

THE MOVING WALL

The 'Moving Wall' was in Stoneham, Massachusetts form Monday, September 22, 1997 thru Sunday, September 28, 1997.

It is estimated the 100,000 people visite the WALL during it visit to Stoneham. The all volunteer committee has been commended for the excellant job they did. Jim Standish,a World WW II veteran, and ADVA member was in charge of publicity and Richard DelRossi, a Vietnam veteran and also a ADVA member served on the committee.



In the above picture the Americal wreath is in the center. siting on top with the Americal insigna is a sign that says, "Americal Division Remembers". Jim Standish arranged for the wreath to be placed at the WALL and he hand painted the signs.

Jim shot a whole roll of film with some close up shots but when his pictures returned from the developers he received someones wedding pictures and his pictures were never found. So, he had to 'make-do' with the above pictures.

THE MOVING WALL CRISSCROSSES AMERICA
(David M. Gogoroski)

If the people cannot come to "The Wall," then "the Wall" will be brought to the people. That is the premise on which the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) and other veteran groups based their need for traveling replicas pf the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C.

Since its dedication in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become the most visited memorial in the nation's capital, annually attracting more than 2.5 million visitors.

The memorial was the idea of Army veteran Jan C. Scruggs, the president of VVMF, who served with the 199th Inf. Bde. (Light) in Vietnam. It contains the names of the 58,202 military personnel dead or missing in Vietnam in chronological order from 1959 to 1975.

Necessity--The Mother of Invention

Individuals who have been touched emotionally by their experiences at the memorial in Washington recognized that it is not possible for everyone to visit. Thus replicas of the memorial, sponsored by various groups, began touring the nation in 1984. The response was enthusiastic.

However, none of these were officially authorized by VVMF, the group Scruggs founded and which financially supports and maintains the original memorial in conjunction with the Department of Interior's National Park Service.

The success of the different traveling memorial versions was not lost on Scruggs, and led VVMF to commission its own "official" replica. "We got to the point where we said, "Maybe this is a way to reach out and get high school kids interested in the Vietnam War and American history," Scruggs said.

Constructed by fine craftsmen in Waukegan, ILL., "The Wall That Heals" was dedicated Nov. 8, 1996, during week end ceremonies honoring veterans at Patriot's Point, a park memorializing veterans of many wars, in Charleston, S.C.

The wall is a half-scale replica---exact to the letter and inch---of the original memorial in the nation's capital. The two segments are each 123 feet long and consist of 35 panels of reflective black, powder-coated heavy aluminum. supported by a structural aluminum frame.

Segments meet to an angle of 121 degrees and rise to a height of five feet at their vertex. An 8- by- 12- foot standing photographic display accompanies the replica monument. Each of the names is laser-etched into the panels exactly as on the original memorial.

An Experience That Draws People In

Since the dedication, the wall has embarked on its premier cross-country tour, eventually wending its way through a proposed group of 45 cities. The itinery corresponds to seasonal changes, following a southerly route during colder months.

The wall's travels into communities affords millions of Americans the opportunity to not only see it, but to touch the names of friends or loved ones who are memorialized on its panels. It also allows for personal reconciliation.

The traveling wall furthers the mission of VVMF to educate the public about the sacrifices of veterans, too. Moreover, it provides a symbol of unity and support for those who gave their lives, apart from any feelings or thoughts on the morality or conduct of the war itself.

John Anderson, a Vietnam vet who travels with the replica as site manager, said, "There's a lot of emotion -- the wall kind of draws you in."

David Montalvo, a Vietnam vet, visited the traveling wall in San Antonio where more than 20,000 turned out over three days in December and early January 1997. "It's very touching. I feel like it's a spiritual thing---people are getting in touch, somehow, with their lost loved ones," he said.

As at the granite memorial in Washington, many visitors take name rubbings, and leave personal mementos in honor of a relative or friend. Items are collected and carried to the original memorial where they are catalogued by the National Park Service. Then they are transferred to a temperature and humidity controlled environment at the Museum and Archaeological Storage Facility (MARS) in Glen Dale, Md.

"It's been a collection of real Americana that is helping historians sort out the impact of the Vietnam War," Scruggs said.

Managing Logistics and Sponsorship

The Wall That Heals is the first to provide an environment as carefully controlled as that which visitors enjoy at the original memorial in Washington. As the only official traveling likeness of The Wall, it also is the only one from which proceeds benefit the actual structure and organization (VVMF) to which the American people have personally contributed.

The traveling Wall is funded by VVMF and select national tour sponsors as a gift to America's cities. This reduces the cost of hosting a visit from the Wall to a minimum. Currently, communities pay a flat rate of \$3,500 to bring it to their area for a normal four-day weekend stay, plus per diem and accommodations for the site manager's group.

The tour is nationally co-sponsored by VFW and Turner Broadcasting System's TNT cable channel as part of its national veterans campaign, "Operation TNT." The channel has the potential to reach 63 million households.

TNT's sponsorship includes print and newspaper ads, a mini-documentary for regional broadcast at each site, extended biographical segments at commercial breaks within the Operation TNT movie series and regional cable advertising worth up to \$125,000 per site.

VFW was invited to be a co-sponsor by VVMF as a means of furthering its commitment to community service. A sponsorship contribution of \$50,000 for the initial tour guarantees VFW's name and logo on the truck transporting the wall.

"The VFW is our oldest major veterans organization and has more than 525,000 members who served in Vietnam," Scruggs said. "For those reasons alone, seeking its support was the natural thing to do."

According to VFW Commander-in-Chief, Jim Nier, "VFW is very pleased to have been asked to be a sponsor of this effort. The Wall in Washington has brought healing to veterans and civilians of all wars. We feel bringing The Wall That Heals to those who cannot visit Washington is an important part of our mandate to honor the dead by helping the living."

VFW Posts are strongly encouraged to become site sponsors alone or in conjunction with other organizations. Groups wishing to bring The Wall That Heals to their area should contact:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Foundation, Inc. (VVMF)
[Redacted]
FAX [Redacted]
e-mail [Redacted]

PAYING FOR LBJ'S POPULARITY

Barbara was probably the softest woman who ever lived. Everything about her was quiet and gentle. Her eyes were delicate brown orbs set in tiny pillows of Alabaster, open portals to the most vulnerable of souls. They were filled with tears.

I was leaving, next stop Vietnam. We sat in my car watching our last hour together slip miserably past. She couldn't stand to see me go, I couldn't stand to see her cry. I felt so desperate to take away her pain, and to make some sense of what had to be done.

Typical male animal that I was, I resorted to logic. I explained the domino theory of international affairs, the threat of socialism, the obligation we had to help all people free themselves from the tyranny of communism. "This is a democracy," I said. "We elect the best leaders we can, then we have to trust in their decisions."

About a year before that, 32 years ago, we now know from the release of his White House tapes that the best leader we were able to elect, Lyndon B. Johnson, was engaged in a related conversation with his national security adviser, McGeorge Bundy.

Despite Bundy's attempts to cut in, Johnson went on and on about the total fallacy of sending ground troops to Vietnam. He groused angrily about how there was no way we could win a jungle war 10,000 miles from home. And about the heartbreak of sending thousands of young soldiers, fathers and husbands, brothers and sons, to die in a conflict of questionable purpose with almost no hope of success.

But Johnson was trapped, as he explained to Bundy, if he failed to engage in what he clearly believed to be a totally hopeless and massive bloodletting, the pointless sacrifice of what would ultimately be 58,000 American men. His political career would be in jeopardy, the Republicans would cast him as soft on defense in the next election, he might lose some votes.

Barbara's moistened and loving eyes watched me go; they read my letters about the deaths of my friends, about my tortured dreams of killing and the paralyzing fear that gripped me from dark to dawn. When I returned, they gazed sadly into my own, into the nightmare, into the price, I had paid for Lyndon B. Johnson's popularity. Then she closed them to me forever, knowing that the young man she had loved was never coming home.

I know I'm still crazy. But this is what I want. I want to take Lyndon B. Johnson from his grave and bury him somewhere far away from this country I love and nearly died for. If I can never come home, neither should he.

Joe Kirkup

Editor's Note: Joe Kirkup, of Mystic, Conn. served in the Vietnam War in 1966 and '67. He wrote this column for the Hartford Courant.

VIETNAM

The Vietnam Magazine that is published by the Coyles publishing Co. has carried many stories that should be of interest to any Americal vet that served in Vietnam.

To go back a year ago a story called 'Fourteen Days at HNI HA' is an account of the 3/21 Infantry in action. It is written by Keith Nolan who has always ben friendly to the Americal.

Also in the same issue is a story titled 'Telling It Like It Is', written by B.G. 'Jug' Burkett. This is a great story! It tell about the draft dodgers and other phonies that now try to claim to be Vietnam vets anbd bask in the glory.

I wrote to Cowles for permission to reprint this story but I never heard from them.

The October 1997 issue carries a story about the 'Wolfhounds'. This story told of the 2/1 Inf, 3/21 Inf, 4/31 Inf, and the 3/82 Arty. This is about 'Operation Attleboro).

OPERATION RUSSELL BEACH CONCLUDED
(Chu Lai August, 1969)

CHU LAI--Operation Russell Beach, a long-range pacification campaign which began on Jan 13, ended July 21. The operation kicked off with massive 8,500-man cordon around the Batangan Peninsular, a longtime Viet Cong stronghold 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Besides Americal battalions--the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf., Bde., and the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf--Bde.--other allied forces in the operation were two battalions from the 2nd ARVN Div., two battalions of Marines, and Navy Swift Boats patrolling off the coast.

Americal units accounted for 158 VC killed during the campaign, and other elements brought the combined total to almost 225 enemy killed.

The operation aimed at removing the entire civilian populace from the peninsula and weeding out the enemy, VC suspects, and members of the VC infrastructure.

After the Allied cordon was in place across the neck of the peninsula, an intense psychological operations (PSYOP) campaign persuaded more than 12,000 persons to evacuate the area. Refugees were moved to a combined holding and interrogation center (CHIC) near Quang Ngai, where government officials screened them.

During the pacification phases beginning in mid-February, refugees were provided with food, building materials, and transportation by Quang Ngai Province officials, and the rebuilding process began. (Americal 10)

T-SHIRT SALE



We are happy to make these fine shirts available to ADVA members at very reasonable prices. Send your order today while stocks are plentiful.

| Style | Description | Sizes | Price |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|----------|
| ADVA Logo | Blue with gold lettering White background | L,XL,XXL | \$12.00 |
| Combat Infantryman Badge | Blue, White, and Black on gray Gray background | M,L,XL,XXL | \$12.00 |
| Vietnam Brigades | Red, White, Blue, Yellow Black background | M,L,XL,XXL | \$12.00 |
| *Jungle Fighter | Blue, White, Green, Brown Tan background | M,L,XL,XXL | \$15.00* |

All shirts are fine quality and your satisfaction is guaranteed. The Jungle Fighter shirt is 100% ribbed cotton. All other styles are 50/50 cotton/polyester. **Please add \$3.00 P&H for the first shirt, \$1.00 for each additional shirt.** Check the chart above for available sizes per style.

| Order Form | | | | |
|--|-------|------|----------------|------------|
| Send to Mr. Ken Turner, [Redacted], Wakefield, MA, 01880. Include check or money order made payable to ADVA. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Thank You! | | | | |
| Qty | Style | Size | Cost Ea | Total Cost |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Name | | | Grand Total | |
| Address | | | P&H | |
| City/State/ZIP | | | Total Enclosed | |



James C. Buckle

[REDACTED]
Harwich, MA 02645

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Address Correction Requested

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 1998

Mr. Malcolm P. East P.L.

[REDACTED]
Lumberton, TX 77656-9429

Eligibility for Membership

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

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| World War II | 1942-1945 |
| Korean 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.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1381

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Dates of Service _____ Serial/SSN No. _____

Occupation _____ Name of Spouse _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Sponsored by _____ Please enclose initial dues of \$12.00. Include phone number with correspondence.