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★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA

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MEDAL OF HONOR



JESSE R. DROWLEY

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1995 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1996

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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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[REDACTED]
Tampa, FL 33615
Tel. [REDACTED]

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REGIONAL - Ernest B. Carlson - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Telephone [REDACTED]

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Telephone [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
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Telephone [REDACTED]

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REGIONAL - Ronald L. Ward - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63123

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
AK WA OR ID MT WY

REGIONAL - Lloyd J. Morrell - COMMANDER
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Redmond, OR 97756-9612

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Rev. William T. Elliott
[REDACTED]

Hope, MI 48628

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

This has been a great year for the Americal Division Veterans Association and will surely be a greater year with the up and coming leadership for 1996-1997.

I personally want to thank everyone who has helped me get through this year. A lot of good ideas were brought to my attention this year and many of the were put into action.

Well, this is a farewell, but not a good-bye.

Stephen N. Dennison
National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

September 7, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

October 5, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

November 2, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

To reach the AMERICAL MUSEUM from the East take the Mass. Turnpike to Exit 11-A (Rte 495 N.) Travel along 495 N to Exit 25-B, (Rte 290 W.) travel along 290 W to Exit 18 (Rte 9 Leicester-Westboro). Take a right at the end of the ramp\lights. Bear right. Armory is on right.

From the West: Take Mass Pike to Exit 10 (Rte 290 E). Travel along 290 E to Exit 17. At end of ramp take a left. Travel along Rte 9 to lights and take a right. At the next set of lights bear to the left.

TAPS TAPS

246 FIELD ARTILLERY

John A. Barr
Sinnamahoning, PA
December 12, 1995

21 RECON

Justus V. Baum Jr.
Muncy, PA
September 16, 1995

11 INFANTRY BRIGADE

Arthur R. Cohen
Brooklyn, NY
March 8, 1996

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

William A. Barter
West Newton, MA
March 1996

Associate

Paul D. Botelho
Meridan, CT
January 23, 1996

182 INFANTRY

Charles J. Collins
Cambridge, MA
August 8, 1995

AMERICAL DIV HQ

Albert J. Conrad
Beavercreek, OH
November 14, 1995

132 INFANTRY B CO.

Jesse R. Drowley
Spokane, WA
May 15, 1996

21 RECON

James Grant
Lexington, MA
Date Unknown

247 FIRLF ARTILLERY

Albert J. Hill
Somersworth, NH
October 10, 1995

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Leonard D. Le Valley
New Bedford, MA
Date Unknown

164 INFANTRY HQ/F

Verdell A. Long
Dallas, TX
September 28, 1995

101 QUARTERMASTER

George F. Magurn
South Yarmouth, MA
November 1, 1995

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

James P. McKeon
Seattle, WA
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY E CO.

Edward F. Oberle
Medford, MA
April 6, 1996

182 INFANTRY K CO.

Rush G. Propper
Lennon, MI
March 15, 1996

182 INFANTRY C CO.

George F. Robinson Sr.
Lowell, MA
May 15, 1996

198 LIB C/5/46 Inf

Charles W. Rose
Tazewell, GA
March 29, 1995

182 INFANTRY D CO.

Stanley Sadkowski
Lowell, MA
April 1996

57 ENGINEERS A CO.

Henry Dobrowolski
Puyallup, WA
September 30, 1995

26 SIGNAL CO.

Richard Gallant
Plymouth, MA
March 28, 1996

182 2nd BATTALION HQ

Raymond Henchey
Miami Lakes, FL
February 15, 1996

182 INFANTRY 14 AVN

Henry F. Howard
Arlington, TX
May 7, 1996

57 ENGINEERS

Richard H. Learmonth
Chatham, MA
March 16, 1996

182 INFANTRY

Charles A. Lowe
North Abington, MA
September 14, 1995

182 INFANTRY C CO.

Armand J. Maille
Lowell, MA
February 2, 1996

57 ENGINEERS

Henry B. Morash
Concord, NH
May 26, 1996

182 INFANTRY B CO.

Rene D. Pare'
Haverhill, MA
March 8, 1996

182 Infantry F Co.

Lawrence W. Ricker
Melrose, MA
April 14, 1996

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Clifton M. Rogers
North Weymouth, MA
May 15, 1996

182 INFANTRY AT CO.

Fiori J. Sacco
Saugus, MA
May 25, 1996

182 Infantry M Co.

Henry A. Subrizio
South Yarmouth, MA
April 24, 1996

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

TAPS TAPS

125 QUARTERMASTER

Joseph B. Sullivan
Woburn, MA
April 20, 1996

132 INFANTRY

Howard J. Wyrick
Palos Hills, IL
Date Unknown

164 INFANTRY - IN MEMORIAM

Harris Bingeman
Thomas Carlson
Harold Caya
John Davis
Rudy Forsberg
Glenn Foster
Melvin Greuel
Harland Gunkel
Joseph Hinytzke
Richard Hoffman
Kenneth Hogoss
Floyd Kerbaugh
Edmund Kramer
Roy Lindberg
Elgin Loe
Paul Venable

December 12, 1995
March 21, 1995
January 19, 1996
May 29, 1984
December 1988
January 6, 1996
Date Unknown
Date Unknown
Date Unknown
February 14, 1996
Date Unknown
April 19, 1994
February 10, 1996
February 16, 1996
Date Unknown
February 12, 1996

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

RICHARD S. GALLANT

26 SIGNAL COMPANY

Richard S. Gallant, a former member of the 26th Signal Company died on March 28, 1996. Dick was an active reservist for many years after World War II and retired as a Ltc. from the USAF. He was a veterans advocate and was always fighting for veterans rights.

Dick served 12 years as Post Commander American Legion Post 188, Sandwich, Mass. He was one of the prime movers in having the Veterans Administration build the National Cemetery on Cape Cod. After the cemetery opened he became the Chairman of the Joint Veterans Council and served in that post until September of 1995.

In 1987 when the Veterans Administration made a decision that all V. A. Cemeteries go to upright markers, it was Dick that led the fight all the way to the U.S. Senate and the order was canceled. He put in so much time at the cemetery that people thought he was on the payroll there.

At the last three National Reunions held on Cape Cod by the ADVA, it was Dick that made the arrangements for us to have buses and drivers at a fair price.

The Americal will miss you Dick and so will all the veterans of New England.

The Americal Division Veterans Association makes a generous contribution, annually, to the American Heart Fund and the American Cancer Society, in memory of our departed comrades.

JESSE R. DROWLEY

The Americal Division Veterans Association has lost its Number One Soldier--Jesse R. Drowley passed away on May 15, 1996.

Jesse was the first Americal soldier to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and the only Americal soldier to be awarded this great honor during World War II.

Jesse Ray Drowley was born September 19, 1919 at St. Charles, Michigan, and he passed away Monday, May 20, 1996, just a few days after celebrating his 52nd wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, Timothy and Michael.

Jesse was given a Military Funeral with the Honor Guard being supplied by the United States Army, Fort Lewis, Washington.

Internment was at the Fairmont Memorial Park, Spokane, Washington. The Reverend Ken Worthly conducted the service.

His award reads:

For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on Bougainville, Solomon Islands, 30 January 1944. S/Sgt. Drowley, a squad leader in a platoon whose mission during an attack was to remain under cover while holding the perimeter defense and acting as a reserve for assaulting echelon, saw 3 members of the assault company fall badly wounded. When intense hostile fire prevented aid from reaching the casualties, he fearlessly rushed forward to carry the wounded to cover. After rescuing 2 men, S/Sgt Drowley discovered an enemy pillbox undetected by assaulting tanks that were inflicting heavy casualties upon the attacking force and was a chief obstacle to the success of the advance. Delegating the rescue of the third man to an assistant he ran across open terrain to one of the tanks. Signaling the crew, he climbed to the turret, exchanged his weapon for a submachine gun and voluntarily rode the deck of the tank directing it toward the pillbox by tracer fire. The tank, under constant heavy enemy fire, continued to within 20 feet of the pillbox where S/Sgt. Drowley received a severe bullet wound in the chest. Refusing to return for medical treatment, he remained on the tank and continued to direct its progress until the enemy pillbox was definitely located by the crew. At this point he again was wounded by small-arms fire, losing his left eye and falling to the ground. He remained alongside the tank until the pillbox had been completely demolished and another directly behind the first destroyed. S/Sgt. Drowley, his voluntary mission successfully accomplished, returned alone for medical treatment.

WELL DONE FAITHFUL SERVANT--MAY YOU REST IN PEACE

If you know of a member that is ill or has passed away please notify the Adjutant IMMEDIATELY

Adj. Bernard Chase

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

NEW MEMBERS

Roger D. Allen
23 M.P.
Lawrenceville, GA
#Bernie Chase

Temple L. Ancarrow Jr.
14 Avn Bn 174 ASHC
Sandston, VA
#Michael D. Hart

Kevin F. Bates
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf
Boston, MA
#R. Castranova

Regis G. Becker
221 F.A. A Btry
Altoona, PA
#E.R. Horton

Roger B. Blevins
11 LIB D/4/21 Inf
Max Meadow, VA
#Ed Marsh

Henry F. Bourne
196 LIB
Falmouth, VA
#Castranova & Hines

Thomas M. Bursott
1 Cav 1/1
Olney, IL
#Castranova & Babler

Ron Cannon
46 Infantry E/5/46
Corbett, OR
#CSM Gerald Schleining

Billy R. Chandler
198 LIB E/6 Inf
Roxboro, NC
#J. Reginald Horton

Kenneth Coburn
182 Infantry F Co.
Waltham, MA
#Castranova & Papa

John J. Conners
3 Infantry 4/3 Inf
Rome, NY
#Lloyd Morrell

Donald J. Corcoran
Associate
West Roxbury, MA
#Kevin Hoey

Robert L. Cummings
198 LIB A/5/46 Inf
Moorehead City, NC
#Internet

Bernard Dexter
Americal Korea Era
Beaumont, TX
#Bernie Chase

Victor G. Dulnik
523 Sig Bn
Rochester, NY
#R. Castranova

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Hugh C. Allen
198 LIB C/3/82 Arty
Mooresboro, NC
#Castranova

Henry J. Anderson
164 Infantry Medics
Waseca, MN
#R. Castranova

William J. Bechtel
198 LIB H/17 Cav
Cheekowaga, NY
#Les Hines

Roy J. Bendall
3142 Ord M M Auto
Disputanta, VA
#Martin Lindon

Don R. Boeck
247 F.A. Hdq. Btry
Verona, NJ
#Bernie Chase

Warren O. Brodie
164 Infantry Hdq Co
Groveland, MA
#Castranova & Hines

Roy L. Buss
9 Div
Neenah, WI
#R. Castranova

Richard F. Carvell (Ret)
196 LIB 1/46 Inf
Sr. Albans, WV
#Ltc Charles Allard

Dean M. Christensen
57 Eng B Co.
Sandy, UT
#Bernie Chase

Alan D. Conger
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
Boulder, CO
#Richard Parry

William V. Copeland
Associate
Vancouver, WA
#Lloyd Morrell

John S. Cottman
132 Avn Bn
Philadelphia, PA
#Gary L. Noller

Frank V. D'Ariano
1 Cav C/1/1
Midland Park, NJ
#Castranova & Hines

Richard E. Drujon
1 Infantry B/2/1
Framingham, MA
#Les Hines

Frank C. Dupuy
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Hudson, OH
#Gary L. Noller

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Andrew J. Egielski
132 Infantry A Co.
Chicago, IL
#R. Castronova

Edwin C. Feldhaus
8 Arty Btry B/1/8
Clearwater, FL
#Bob Kapp

Joseph L. Fridley
198 LIB 1/14 Arty
Fountain, CO
#Lloyd Morrell

Wilbur J. Gehrke
Associate
Santa Rosa, CA
#Larry O'Boyle

Gordon Gutwein
196 LIB 4/31 Inf
Francesville, IN
#Castronova & Hines

Jack M. Hills
182 Infantry 1 Bn.
Tuscon, AZ
#Jim Buckle

Matthew W. Hoey
26 Engineer Bn.
San Antonio, TX
#R. Castronova

William (Bill) g. Howell
82 Arty D/1/82
Hanson, KY
#Membership Committee

Ronald W. Imel
23 S+T
Fort Wayne, IN
#Hines & Castronova

Delwin A. Jensen
182 Infantry C Co.
Pierre, SD
#Membership Committee

Kevin D. Kavanaugh
196 LIB D/1/46 Inf
Milwaukee, WI
#Membership Committee

Kenneth L. Kelly
11 LIB
Juliet, IL
#R. Castronova

Herald R. Kerns
132 ASHC
Aberdeen, SD
#Membership Committee

Richard T. Knowles (Ret)
23 Task Force Orego
Roswell, NM
#Membership Committee

Peter E. Kokolis
198 LIB HHC
Blairsville, PA
#Gary L. Noller

George T. Kuczko
164 Infantry Hq Co.
Wheaton, IL
#Lloyd Morrell

John J. Elish
14 Arty HBB 1/14
Lyons, OR
#Lloyd Morrell

Luther C. Fransen Jr.
26 Eng Bn D Co.
Medford, OR
#Joe Micek

Ray A. Gantz
11 Arty Btry D/6/11
Jacobus, PA
#R. Castronova

Charles E. Gifford
18 Arty Btry C/3/18
Carroll, IA
#Membership Committee

James L. Hawn
18 Arty HBB/3/18
Tucson, AZ
#Memb. Com.

Michael R. Hine
23 S+T HHC A Co.
Canby, OR
#Bernie Chase

George E. Howe
23 HHC Americal
Ipswich, MA
#Bruce W. Buehrig

William Humphries
97 F.A.
Fallon, NV
#Lloyd Morrell

Gilbert J. Ivarra
1 Cav C/1/1
Mt. Vernon, WA
#Bernie Chase

James A. Johnson
U.S. Marines attach Am
Laredo, TX
#Lloyd Morrell

Randall Kelley
182 Infantry C Co.
Flint, MI
#R. Castronova

John Kenyan
132 Infantry
Blue Springs, MO
#Bernie Chase

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Americal Midet
Lancaster, OH
#R. Castronova

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23 Task Force Orego
Roswell, NM
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Kenneth W. Krushas
1 Cav A Troop 1 Sqd
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#Castronova & Babler

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182 Infantry L Co.
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#James McCarthy

Andrew Ladak
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
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#Lloyd Morrell

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#R. Castronova

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#Bernie Chase

Arnold D. Mann
57 Engineers
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#Bernie Chase

Gerald E. Martel Jr.
Associate
Pittsford, NY
#Self

Thomas B. McKinley
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Amherst, OH
#Donald L. Reaser

Bruce Meskers
1 Cav C & HQ 68-70
Levittown, PA
#Castronova & Babler

Robert J. Miller
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf
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#E.R. Horton

Frank A. Mufich
247 F.A. Ser Btry
Kansas City, KS
#Bernie Chase

John A. Murphy
1 Cav 1/B Troop
Yonkers, NY
#Castronova & Babler

Leonard Owczarzak
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#PNC Castronova

Daniel Phillips
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
Eclectic, AL
#Membership Committee

Samuel T. Pilkinton
26 Engr Co E
Columbus, MS
#R. Castronova

Victor R. Ramsey
245 F.A. A Btry
Satellite Beach, FL
#George Tuttle

William D. Ridgely
635 MI Co.
Madison, WI
#Gary L. Noller

Paul R. Rosteck
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Indianapolis, IN
#PNC Castronova

Chuck Lanham
1 Cav C Troop 68-69
Wataugat, TX
#Castronova & Babler

Harold E. Leonhardt
125 Quartermaster
Astoria, OR
#Lloyd Morrell

Max Loffgren
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Fairfield, CA
#Lloyd Morrell

Edward I. Manson
196 LIB E/1/46 Inf
Farmington, NH
#Ron R. Ellis

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11 Arty
Karnack, TX
#R. Castronova

Larry A. Merchant
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Goshen, IN
#PNC Castronova

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#Lloyd Morrell

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Associate
Ocean Side, CA
#Larry O'Boyle

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11 LIB D/3/1 Inf
Ponchatoula, LA
#Bernie Chase

Hubert Nicholson
23 Admin 4/21 Inf
Colorado Springs, CO
#Victor Lopez

Ronald E. Petitt
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Sapulpa, OK
#Membership Committee

Roy N. Pierce
1 Cav 1/1
Hornbeak, TN
#Castronova & Babler

Evans E. Neuman
11 LIB E/1 Cav
Ventura, CA

Henry J. Ramirez
132 Infantry 3/HQ
Pasadena, CA
#Lloyd Morrell

Paul W. Reltchel
8 Cav F Troop
Augusta, ME
#Lloyd Morrell

Gilbert Rodriguez
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Orlando, FL
#Gary L. Noller

Aloysius J. Sanchez
11 LIB D/1 Inf 67-9
Roswell, NM
#Membership Committee

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Donald A. Shebesta
132 Infantry I+Ser
Saratoga, CA
#Lloyd Morrell

William F. Smith
588 Maint
Heavener, OK
#Leslie Hines

Theodore A. Steinberg
164 Infantry
Prescott Valley, AZ
#Bernie Chase

Dennis E. Thornton
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf
Sheffield, PA
#Membership Committee

Raymond A. Vezina
Adj. Gen. MNG
Reading, MA
#PNC Al Doig

Gary J. Warn
26 Engineers C Co.
Portage, MI
#Ed Marsh

Frank J. Wojtczak
132 Infantry M Co.
Naugatuck, CT
#Hines & Castronova

William Zaremba
182 Infantry
Worcester, MA
#Francis P. Rollo

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Allen C. Duglosch
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Kerrville, TX

Peter R. Hagan
16 Arty HBB/3/16
Floral Park, NY

Terence Maloney
11 LIB C/3/1 Inf
Marston Mills, MA

Joseph J. Matuszyk
132 Infantry E Co.
Pana, IL

Robert B. Ostendorp
198 LIB 1 Inf
Woodside, CA

William J. Symonovic
164 Infantry H Co.
Silver Springs, MD

Albert M. Debrino
11 LIB Rcon/3/1 Inf
Pompano Beach, FL

John D. Isam Sr.
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
Tulsa, OK

James L. Shisler
121 Med Bn C Co.
Sweet Springs, MO
#Cal Myers

Ronald J. Smith
198 LIB A+E/1/6 Inf
Houston, TX
#Joe Alejandro Jr.

E. K. Strong
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Tinley Park, IL
#Castronova + Sexton

Max E. Toder
101 QM E Co.
Malden, MA
#Martin O. Lindon

Howard Wander
164 Infantry G Co.
Roslyn, NY
#Jay Roth

Randall S. Watson
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf
Morrow, OH
#Bernie Chase

David L. Zacher
14 Arty C/1/14
Houston, TX
#Castronova and Hines

#SPONSOR

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

MARIE AND JOE MICEK

132nd Infantry - G Company

June 8, 1946 - June 8, 1996

SICK CALL

121 MEDICAL BN.

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

George P. Dakin

PNC Thomas P. McQuade

Deltona, FL 32728

Weymouth, MA 02188

Just received word that Tom and George underwent By-Pass surgery. How about a card!

TAPS TAPS TAPS

182 INFANTRY F CO.

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

John McIsaac
Arlington, MA
June 2, 1996

John J. Roddy
Brighton, MA
June 6, 1996

EDWARD F. OBERLE

182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Edward F. Oberle passed away on April 6, 1996. He was the husband of the late Stella (Brodecki) Oberle and the father of the late Kenn Oberle, who served in Vietnam.

Edward is survived by his son, Alan Oberle and his wife Linda, and two grandsons. In addition, his brother Malcolm and his wife.

Ed Oberle was a member of the Anti-Tank Company, 182 Infantry, when the Yankee Division was inducted into Federal service in 1941.

He received a commission while stationed on New Caledonia and participated in the Guadalcanal campaign. While serving with E Company, 182 Infantry and he was wounded in March of 1944.

Following the end of World War II he did a tour of duty with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

During the Korean War he was wounded and taken prisoner. Recovering from his wounds he was imprisoned in the notorious Camp #5 for two years, eleven months, and fourteen days.

He later served at several Army posts through the U.S.A. including Fort Devens. He served with distinction and had a great respect for our country's armed forces.

Andrew Brodecki MCMC
Brother-in-law
GCV Director

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

Please check your address label and make sure it is correct. If the address is not EXACT the Post office may return it to the Newsletter and we will be charged for its return.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

LOCATOR REQUESTS

The following locator requests have been posted on the ADVA web site www.americal.org. If you have any information that may assist these requests please contact the requesting party or Gary Noller (gnoller@aol.com).

Leo Miller (Lmiller117@aol.com) seeks members of Anti-Tank Co., 132nd Infantry, WWII.

Luther Fransen [REDACTED] seeks Kevin Murphy, Co. D, 26th Engineers.

Mike Twomey (FSMN28A@Prodigy.com) seeks Henry Parks, 1SG, C, 3/82 Artillery.

Mark O'Connor (Mocon86824@aol.com) seeks Warlords, 1/71 to 9/71, 23rd Aviation.

Richard C. Lovett (eawbudge@micron.net) seeks members of Anti-Tank Co., 182nd Inf., WWII.

Tod Dorris [REDACTED] seeks members, 5/769-7/69 of A, 4/31, 196 LIB.

Ralph Williams [REDACTED] seeks Vern Reed, C, 26th Engineers.

James Polewchak [REDACTED] seeks Leo Bailey, C, 3/16 Arty.

Matt Gazo [REDACTED] seeks members, 70-71, 525th Fuel Depot, Lab Detach.

David V. Smith [REDACTED] seeks Perry Price & Thomas Humbert, 509 Sig. Bn.

Larry Ginsberg [REDACTED] seeks Frank Potter, C, 523 Signal Bn.

Jon Bales [REDACTED] seeks Pat Goodfellow, C, 5/46 Inf.

Ralph Mitchell [REDACTED] seeks members, 11/69 to 11/70, C, 1/52 Inf., 198th LIB.

James B. Heath [REDACTED] seeks CPT Shop, 5/46 Inf, 198th LIB.

Thomas Adams [REDACTED] seeks H.T. Walls, H, 17th Cav, 198th LIB 7/68-1/70.

John Peterson [REDACTED] seeks Earl Powers, C, 3/21st Inf., 196 LIB.

Douglas Moses [REDACTED] seeks Thomas Klein, C, 3/21st Inf., 196th LIB, 1967.

Edward Cloutier [REDACTED] seeks Ottis Earl McGregor, 1/14th Artillery

Guest Book Responses

The following comments are taken from Guest Book Responses that were posted on the ADVA web site:

"It is wonderful. Keep up the good work. This is a good way to keep up with people we served with." J.M.

"Very well done web page, you can bet I'll be back often. Thanks men, for all your hard work." C.S.

"I would like to say that it is an honor to be part of the Americal Division and this web site. I think you have done a marvelous job." L.S.

"Great page!! As a life member I really appreciate the professional job you've done." L.L.

"I am proud to be an ADVA member and wish to thank all of those folks who have made this site possible." D.B.

"I think the page looks good and I am proud of having served with the Americal Division." J.A.

"What a surprise it was for me when one morning I went on-line and found you guys. Welcome Home!" J.Z.

I am a retired Lt. Col. of the Israeli Air Force. The page is very impressive and seems that the webmaster did excellent work. J.B.

See the ADVA www.americal.org

Memorial Day- A Time to Remember

The Americal Division Veterans Association is dedicated as a *living memorial* to all those that served with the division regardless of era of service or military occupation. As a means of exhibiting this living memorial, we provide the following account of the loss of a helicopter crewman in Vietnam. Special thanks to Les Hines and Bill Staffa for providing the information.

On May 21, 1968, an OH-23G "Raven" helicopter assigned to Company B "Aeroscout", 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion, AMERICAL Division was conducting an armed aerial reconnaissance in the Divisional AO. The unit was based at the Ky Ha Heliport on the Chu Lai combat Base in the I Corps Region.

The crew consisted of First Lieutenant Bill Staffa, pilot, in the right seat, and SP4 Britlow, a combat experienced aeroscout observer, in the left seat. The crew chief was SP4 Victor Roman Heesacker, an experienced Huey crew chief, sitting in the rear compartment. Heesacker had recently been assigned to the unit, having formerly been with the aviation maintenance section in the support battalion of the 11th Infantry Brigade at Duc Pho.

The first reconnaissance mission of the day was approximately three miles to the east of LZ Dottie. Several individuals who looked out of place were observed in an open rice paddy near a small hamlet, but nothing developed. After some time, the gunships were instructed to return to LZ Dottie. The aeroscout crew was instructed to remain on station until the gunships rejoined them. The aeroscouts climbed to an altitude which would put them out of range of small arms fire.

With the return of the gunships, the recon was resumed. Another suspicious individual was observed and he started running up a trail when he was approached by the aeroscouts. As the aeroscouts closed on the individual, they received small arms fire from along the trail. They climbed to a safer altitude as the gunships attacked the area. Upon returning to the area, the scout crew saw no sign of the enemy except for a weapon lying on the ground.

Several passes through the area proved uneventful so the aeroscouts moved toward the weapon. The helicopter was at an altitude of 10-15 feet when an enemy soldier twenty feet to the front left fired a .30 caliber Browning Automatic Rifle at the aircraft.

Victor Heesacker never had an opportunity to return fire and as slumped immediately forward out the door (being restrained only by his safety harness.) He made no effort to pull himself back into the helicopter or to communicate with 1LT Staffa. The aircraft immediately left the area and landed a short distance away. Heesacker was placed aboard a UH-1D Huey and evacuated for medical treatment.

Heesacker was struck in the face from short range by a bullet from a heavy assault rifle. He never regained consciousness and may, in fact have been killed instantly.

We remember SP4 Heesacker and the many other thousands of other Americal Division veterans who were lost in war and in peace. May they rest in peace.

Write or call a buddy today. You'll both feel much better afterwards.

ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER COMMANDER AND MEMBERS

Beginning with the next edition, Jay Roth will be the Chapter Coordinator. You are asked to send all letters pertaining to the Chapters to Jay.

Jay will prepare all correspondence and put it on a computer disk that will then be sent to the Newsletter for publication.

Jay will also be responsible in sending the quarterly reports to the Chapter Commanders. This information will be supplied to him on a disk by National and he will send a print-out to the respective Chapters.

My thanks to Don Van Estenbridge for the help he has given me. Don is returning to school and was obliged to give up the Coordinators job due to lack of time.

I am not returning to school but I am running out of time. As you know the Newsletter has grown in recent years and takes longer to put together. I have been trying to find time to computerize the entire Newsletter but it seems the deadline for the next issue is upon me before I can catch up with the correspondence due to the last one.

I ask that you give Jay all the cooperation possible and I know that he will do a first rate job for all of us.

Jim

ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Kapp
[REDACTED]
Tampa, FL 33615
SEC/TREAS
George P. Dakin
[REDACTED]
Deltona, FL 32728

From the seat of the Regional Commander of the Arthur Wood S.E. Chapter, I speak for the last time. I must say it has been a real pleasure to serve all the great guys who have contributed so much to help me to fulfill my duties. Without your help I think that the work would have been more difficult. A great big "Thanks" to George Dakin and Richard Comeau--they were two BIG reasons that my job was made easier. Every Commander could do his job more thoroughly if they had guys like them on their staff.

We are fortunate to have a very capable and knowledgeable person, Robert Kapp, to take over the duties as the new Regional Commander. I know each Comrade will give him the same cooperation that I received.

It is with great enthusiasm that I hand over my gavel and badge of office to Bob. We wish him as much success and good luck in the time of his office as I have been blessed with. I know he will handle his business as well as he did as a combat soldier in Vietnam.

We just had our Spring meeting in Daytona. Those who were not there missed a great time.

Our business meeting covered many important issues. The S.E. Chapter will present a memorial wreath during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Florida National Cemetery. Member Bill Marshall presented an Americal Flag to our Chapter for use at all Americal functions. "Thanks Bill".

Welcome back to Tom McQuade who recently had a heart by-pass (6) and also to George Dakin who also had a heart by-pass (4). We all wish you continued good progress. Thank you to their good wives, Fran and Helen, for the good care they have received.

Our S.E. Regional Fall meeting is scheduled for October 1996 at the Vanderbilt Beach Motel in Naples, FL. More information on that to follow.

In closing we all would like to convey our deepest condolences to member Peter Mastrio on his recent loss of his daughter. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Pete.

Again I say "Thanks" for a the great cooperation that I received during my term as your Commander. It made my job a happy one. Best wishes to Commander Bob Kapp!!!

Yours in comradeship,
Elmer E. Matola

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander
Ernest B. Carlson

Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Tel- [REDACTED]

Secretary/Treasurer
Malcolm P. East

Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel- [REDACTED]

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

A FRIEND OF MANKIND

"Do you consider life a gift--or a burden with which you have been saddled without your consent?" Most think of life as a gift, but life is also a trust, for trust implies responsibility. One serves one's self best by serving others". These are the words of the late Dr. John Frederick Reppun. Doctor John was one of our unsung heroes of the second World War. Stationed in New Caledonia, at Paita, St. Vincent, and Dumbea. He was with the 9th Station Hospital.

He was always trying to improve the health care that was available to us of the Americal, and indeed, all the services in the Pacific. He did what he could, as a physician to prevent nuclear wars. Dr. Warren Hester, who was a dentist at the 9th Station Hospital, a member of the ADVA, and of our Chapter, has been in contact with Dr. John for many years. Dr. John was not a member of our organization, but I am sure that he touched the lives of many of us, in our years in the Pacific paradises that we visited. To quote the good Doctor, "It will be better in the morning." Doctor John passed away on March 15, 1995, in his sleep, in his home, in Hawaii.

I received a letter from a new member of the ADVA, William F. Smith. Bill is a 100% disabled Vietnam vet and is working with other Vietnam veterans in prison or permanently hospitalized. Bill is correct when he says that the vets, of all wars, are set aside or just forgotten when they are out of sight of the rest of us--veterans or not. He also told me about Rev. Ray Weaver of Tonasket, WA, who is very much involved in this kind of work. You may write to them at:

William F. Smith
Heavener, OK 74937
Tel. [REDACTED]

Rev. Ray Weaver
Tonasket Assembly of God
Tonasket, WA 98855
Tel. [REDACTED]

Any one that is interested, or able to aid in this sort of thing, please contact one or both of them.

Well, by the time you receive this letter the Convention in Reno will be history, several issues will be solved, and many new friendships will have been formed. I have found this to be true in the three Conventions that I have attended.

On behalf of myself, and the rest of the members of my Chapter, I want to thank all the guys, and gals, that have spent so much of their time, and money, in the very wonderful work they have been doing for the rest of us. We all know through the Newsletter etc., about most of the great work, but you can bet that a lot of aid is given that never is duly noted.

Good Bless everyone--pay your dues--sign up a new member--hug someone--and smile and wave at a stranger.

Your Buddy,
Ernie Carlson
Chapter Commander

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

Regional Commander John A. Bowley
[REDACTED] Sec/Treas Gino Massagli
Joshua Tree, CA 92252 Eureka, CA 95501

Sergeant-at-Arms Ernest Rodriguez
Chaplain Herbert A. Holt

By the time this Newsletter reaches you the Reno Convention will be history. We will have elected new officer to lead us, both at a Chapter and National level.

A quarterly Newsletter has been designed to serve our Chapter. We are asking for someone--male or female--to be our editor of "THE CANNON". Our secretary will handle the mailing. If you are interested please contact me.

I'm proud and honored to be your Commander.

Yours in comradeship,
John A. Bowley

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

COMMANDER Harold J. Giali
[REDACTED] SEC/TREAS Carlos A. Pola
[REDACTED]

Carver, MA 02330-1809 Sandwich, MA 02563

The New England Chapter will host the Americal Division Veterans 1997 National Convention, to be held in Worcester, Mass. on June 19-22, 1997. Headquarters for the Convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, which is just a short walk from the Americal Museum. This will enable all the members who have never seen the Americal

Museum to get a good look at it. Plans are to have the Saturday Night Dinner Dance at the Museum. More information will be in future Newsletters.

A reminder to all Chapter members who have not paid their \$5.00 1997 dues, they are due NOW! Send a check made out to the N.E. Chapter ADVA for \$5.00, to the Chapter Commander.

Every 2nd Tuesday of each month a group of Americal Veterans meet at the Americal Museum for a work detail, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Any member that wishes to join this dedicated group is more than welcome.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER Robert L. Granoff [REDACTED]	SEC/TREAS William A. Gold [REDACTED]
Collegeville, PA 19426 Phone [REDACTED]	Baltimore, MD 21209 Phone [REDACTED]

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

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

PNC Pete Messina has been working diligently on our coming Eastern Regional Chapter Reunion and everythis is almost set fro what ahdould be a great get-together.

The reunion is set for Septem 19-22, 1996 at the Chamberlain Hotel, Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia. This Hotel is a designated State and National landmark. All rooms will have an ocean view and have been completely refurbished with new furniture, carpets, individual air conditioners and heaters. The cost is \$69.00 a night for a double and includes a full buffet breakfast plus complimentary tennis, shuffleboard, indoor and outdoor swimming, and bicycles to explore historic Fort Monroe.

A boat tour of the harbor is scheduled for Friday morning and a Buffet dinner at Fort Monroe Officer's Club is planned for Friday night. Saturday's special dinner and business meeting will also be at the Officers club.

For those who like to do a little exploring, Norfolk has lots to offer. Williamsburg and Busch Gardens are within easy driving distance.

This Chapter Reunion is also open to each and every member of the ADVA. Come be with us--you might find a buddy you haven't seen in a long time.

CONTACT

William A. Gold
[REDACTED]
Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone: [REDACTED]

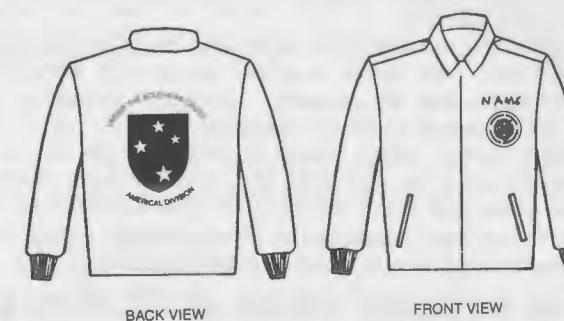
NOW HEAR THIS!

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

AMERICAL DIVISION JACKETS/WINDBREAKERS

Are you proud to be an Americal veteran? Of course you are! Here's a way to show the colors to all fellow vets and draft dodgers alike. A deluxe, high quality jacket displaying our logo, that will certainly stand out in a crowd. Going to the Vietnam Memorial to pay respects to our fallen comrades? You'll certainly want one of these jackets to show that your served with the best! These babies are top quality, made in USA products. Additionally, you'll be assisting the ADVA Scholarship Fund, as all profits are going to that source. Below are prices and specs:

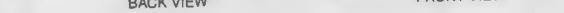
ADVA COAT ADS



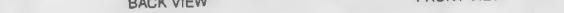
BACK VIEW



FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW



FRONT VIEW

Satin Jacket/quilted liner	Size s-xxl	\$50.00
Satin Jacket/flannel liner	"	\$46.00
Satin Windbreaker/no liner	"	\$34.50

The prices include First Class shipping and handling. If you buy one from me at any of the Reunions, I can knock \$3.00 off of the total price. We will personalize your jacket with your name over the breast pocket at no charge. Some of the troops have gained a lot of weight since their days of mountain climbing with 75 pounds of ammo/food on their backs and we will of course have jackets available in their size. If you require a XXXL add \$2.00. If you really like your chow and need a XXXXL, add \$4.00. The colors we're using on these jackets are silver or white. Let us know your preference.

Your Scholarship Fund Chairman has these jackets. Send your requests to my home address and they should arrive at you door in three days after I receive your order. Sent your order to:

PNC Ronald Ward
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

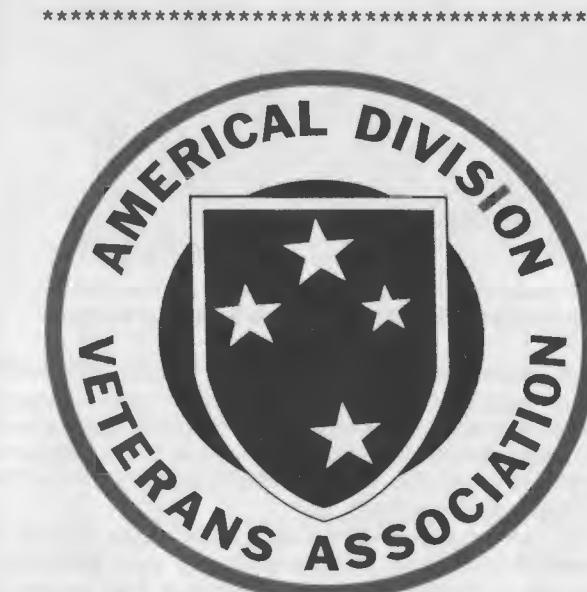
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

John Sartain
In Memory Of
Norman Fine

Colonel John F.P. Hill (Ret)
In Memory Of
Service Battery, 247 Field Artillery

Jerry Comer
James A. Daly
Charles J. Iran

Habib Abd Al-Haqq
Kenneth A. Colburn
Colonel Matthew W. Hoey (Ret)
Michael R. Hine



The above Americal Emblem is available as a post card. The emblem covers one side of a normal size post card and the reverse side is the usual format for a picture Postcard. The price is 20 cards for \$6.00 or 44 cards for \$12. Help the ADVA Schoilarship Fund. Order from:

Ron Ward
9619 Dana Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63123-6510

Gary Noller
110107 Central Apt. 30
Kansas City, MO 64114

OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS SLOWLY INCHING UPWARD. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR A FUND RAISER THAT WILL HELP OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND GROW PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH RON WARD.

IF YOU DESIRE AN APPLICATION FOR A SCHOLARSHIP PLEASE CONTACT RON WARD.

IF YOU FORGOT TO MAIL IN YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS IT IS NOT TO LATE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. DO IT NOW!

FSB Mary Ann vets gather for memorial service and reunion Event marks 25th anniversary of attack

On March 28, 1971 a North Vietnamese sapper attack on Fire Support Base Mary Ann claimed the lives of 30 U.S. servicemen of the Americal Division. Company C, 1/46th Infantry, the unit assigned to perimeter security, sustained heavy losses.

Twenty-five years later, veterans and friends of 1/46 Infantry gathered for a memorial ceremony for those lost. It was also a time for survivors to meet with one another and help put the tragedy in perspective.



Former members of C Co., 1/46, gather for reunion photo. William Walker, event organizer, is seated at far left.

Sgt. William Walker was an acting Platoon Sergeant in Charlie Co. at the time of the attack. He organized the reunion and memorial service as a means paying tribute to the bravery and courage of those who bore the brunt of the fighting. Half of the approximately 30 veterans in attendance were on Mary Ann at the time of the attack.

The reunion was held at Camp Carlson just outside the main gate at Ft. Knox. Veterans poured over scrapbooks, photos, news clippings and books related to their service. A chaplain from the current day 1/46 Infantry led prayers for those who survived as well as those who were lost.

FSB Mary Ann was located West of Chu Lai in mountainous jungle terrain. The firebase had not sustained losses due to enemy action in the months preceding the attack. Line units of the 1/46 Infantry conducted Search and Clear missions within a five to six mile radius of the firebase's artillery support.

The enemy intended to destroy Mary Ann in an effort to discourage the 1/46 Infantry's success in slowing the movement of enemy supplies and personnel in the area. Unknown to the enemy was the fact that the firebase was scheduled to be closed in a few days as part of the "Vietnamization" of the war.

Slipping through the perimeter wire under their own mortar fire, the NVA sappers raked the base with small arms fire and destroyed bunkers and fighting positions with grenades and satchel charges. U.S. assault helicopters used the light from burning bunkers to guide their attacks on enemy troops.

The Americal Division maintained troops on Mary Ann until late April when the division shifted to DaNang to assume the area left by the retiring 1st Marine Division. Today the jungle has reclaimed the former firebase. However, the memory of those lost there will last as long as we choose to remember.

North Dakota family attends reunion

Myron B. (Chief) Johnson was among those remembered on the 25th anniversary of the attack on FSB Mary Ann. Fifteen members of his immediate family traveled from their home in Mandaree, ND to the events held at Ft. Knox on March 27-28, 1996. Among those making the trip were his mother, wife, daughter, grandchildren, brothers, aunts and uncles, and special friend "Grandpa".

Johnson was assigned to Charlie Company, 1/46 Infantry, at the time of the attack. He was killed by enemy sappers as they overran the remote firebase in the far reaches of the Americal Division area of operations.

Jim Johnson, Myron's brother and also a veteran, invited everyone to visit the family in North Dakota. "You will be special in our town," he said. "We honor veterans in a special way." American Legion Post 271 in Mandaree is named in honor of Chief Johnson.

As part of the remembrance ceremony, the Johnson family performed traditional Native American songs and dances in honor of Myron and all veterans. Veterans joined in the dances at the request of family members.

Myron's mother, Eloise Johnson, presented gifts to those veterans who knew her son while he was in Vietnam. Myron's uncle explained that those receiving the gifts were to receive them as if they were presented by Myron himself. They now have something of his with which to remember him.

1/46th Infantry trains at Ft. Knox



During the Vietnam War the 1/46th Infantry was one of the ten battalions assigned to the Americal Division. The battalion, known as "The Professionals", is currently activated at Ft. Knox, KY. Its mission is to provide Basic Combat Training to non-combat MOS trainees.

Command Sergeant Major Dicky L. Missouri, a 25 year Army veteran, reports that the battalion has five training companies and a permanent staff of about 100 personnel. During the summer months the unit trains ROTC and Junior ROTC members.

The lineage of the 1/46th Infantry goes back to its constitution in 1917 at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN. It was part of the 5th Armored Division in World War II. In the Vietnam War, 1/46th Infantry was assigned first to the 198th LIB and then to the 196th LIB of the Americal Division.

The current day 1/46th Infantry remains true to the traditions and objectives of the regiment. Each October the Torch Light ceremony is held in memory of all veterans of the 46th Infantry that were lost in battle. Those interested in this ceremony can contact CSM Missouri at HHC, 1/46th Infantry, Ft. Knox, KY.

INTO THE DRAGON VALLEY U.S. Rangers fight their way out of North Vietnamese Camp

by Ben "Babysan" Dunham

Dedicated to the Alabama Team member Cpl. John Bennett, who gave his life in the service of his Country

Ranger Team Alabama of Golf Company, 75th Infantry, Americal Division, was in pretty good spirits that fine October morning in 1969. We were horsing around playing a little 'grab-ass' on the beach next to the company compound. The Team wasn't attired in fashionable swim-wear for a refreshing dip in the South China Sea. Instead we were camouflaged up and doing a last minute equipment check while waiting for our Choppers. Joking around helped to ease the tension that always builds up just prior to a mission, especially into Dragon Valley.

Dragon Valley was an area where playing hide and seek with the NVA/VC was difficult even on a good day. As a matter of fact, no team lasted more than three hours on the ground, in the part of the Valley where we were headed. A comforting thought.

The overflight the previous day confirmed that we had limited mission choices within our assigned six-click grid. A lone mountain within our recon zone offered a suitable vantage point from which we would have a good view of the valley floor. We spotted a single LZ for our insertion point. There was no secondary LZ, nor was there an E & E route. The back side of the mountain was straight up and down, while the north and south slopes angled down into the Valley where we were assigned to observe. This was not a good place to be.

When the "high" and "low" birds arrived and set down on our beach pad, we piled into the low bird and took our predesignated positions. A single Ranger climbed into the high bird. He would serve as our airborne command and control to coordinate the insertion. The horseplay was over now as the birds lifted off the pad, each man on the Team deeply engrossed in his own mindset. Russell had described it best, "When the team was flying out to be inserted, you could hear a pin drop over the rotor noise and the rushing wind."

The insertion went off without a hitch, and I gave the signal for the Team to move out to the OP site near the top of the mountain. The sounds of the Chopper faded in the distance until the only sound we could hear was the jungle coming to life - and our own breathing. We were alone. There was nothing out there but us, the jungle.. and the enemy.

I moved the Team through the elephant grass toward the top of the mountain. No matter how cautiously or slowly we advanced, we still left a tell-tale trail through the grass. I pulled up the Team to lay dog twenty meters short of the top. I wanted to find out if I had any dinks coming up our backtrail before we moved into our OP. I whispered for SP4 Steve "Crabs" Crabtree to put our an early-warning device where we had come through the elephant grass. He pulled a vine across the trail about chest-high on an average NVA, and attached it to a C-ration can into which he had placed a small pebble. It was crude but effective, and before the mission was over would save the lives of Team Alabama.

We moved on until we reached the top of the

mountain, where we established a small patrol base under the jungle's double canopy, putting out Claymore mines around us on likely enemy approaches. We set up an OP site about thirty meters down the slope in some heavy cover next to a bomb crater. It was just big enough for two men at a time to lay there and keep their eyes on the valley below. Back at the patrol base, we established fields of fire, then set back for a long three day wait. SP4 Wright had quietly rigged a hammock between a couple of trees about a foot off of the ground. Crabs had propped himself up against his rucksack and was busy reading a book the he told me was a novel, but knowing him, I suspected it was a sex story. SP4 Thomas "Dane" Russell had set up opposite Crabs and had kicked back to watch his area of responsibility. Sgt. David "Fish" Kish laid back next to Wright to keep an eye on their backtrail. I took SP4 Thomas "Pogo" Sagan, my assistant team leader, and moved down to pull the first shift of OP. I didn't like splitting the team this way, but the OP site would be harder to defend than the high ground where the patrol base was located. OP missions were usually boring anyway.

Down at the OP, Pogo and I called in a few smoke rounds to set up a few pre-fire grids. This could come in handy later if we spotted the enemy. It would enable us to adjust artillery fire onto a target from one of the pre-fire grids and fire for effect. Instead of calling in a marker round and adjusting from it, which would give the enemy a chance to scatter and find cover before accurate fire could be placed on him. We had an outstanding view of the valley from our vantage point next to the bomb crater. We used a set of binoculars as big as a couple of 2-liter coke bottles to scope out the area. Observing the enemy would be a piece of cake.

It wasn't long before we started getting glimpses of dinks walking through the jungle below. We spotted them as they passed through small openings in the canopy. I decided that we would move down there and snatch us a prisoner just before we extracted in two days. Pogo was anything but timid, but he couldn't help think my idea was folly. We had already sighted over fifty NVA/VC less than 500 meters away in just our first hour at the OP, but I had already made up my mind. We had to find out what was behind all this activity, and a prisoner was the best way to get those questions answered.

The last sighting was around 1900 hours. We had made it through the first day of our mission without being spotted. Pogo and I moved back up to rejoin the rest of the Team for the night. I set up a rotation for radio watch and got the team settled in. There would be no verbal communication during the hours of darkness. Every hour on the hour, the TOC would call us for a sitrep. if everything was alright, we would break squelch twice. If there was a problem, we would respond by breaking squelch three times. The night was uneventful.

The entire Team was up and alert just before first light. Charlie was known to favor this time to attack for it was then that Americans were most vulnerable. The enemy would not find Team Alabama unprepared.

Tomorrow we would attempt the prisoner snatch, but today I wanted to split the team and take a patrol down into the valley. I needed to recon the area where we had spotted all the activity before. We

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

would get a better idea of what we were up against, and be able to develop a detailed plan for the snatch. I told Pogo to take Fish and Dane and move down to the OP. I would take Weight and Crabs to conduct the area recon.

We moved about 600 meters down the mountainside before we suddenly broke out onto a high-speed trail. This one was big enough to handle a deuce and half truck. We discovered a bunker constructed of logs and earth to the side of the trail, big enough to hold five men. We snapped some photos, then moved another 100 meters up the trail. We spotted a secondary trail leading into a hooch complex back among some trees. There were five male and two females moving about around the hooches. We backed out quietly and moved again, only to run into another hooch complex a little way up the trail. This one contained ten Vietnamese, six males and four females, and a large dog which failed to alert as we again backed away. If the dinks had any idea their sentry dog had not done his job, he probably would have ended up as the main course in their evening meal.

I decided there was too much activity in the area for us to remain any longer. We obviously were in the middle of a large base complex. It would only be a matter of time until they spotted us or we stepped into the s--t. We carefully withdrew back into the bush and made tracks back to the OP site. I figured there were at least two hundred dinks in the valley, enough to avoid initiating contact but not enough to change my plans for the snatch the next day. Most of the NVA we had spotted had been unarmed, so the opportunity to grab one was too good to pass up.

We reached the OP undetected, and Pogo and I remained there while the rest of the Team moved back to the patrol base on top of the mountain. Around 1530 hours Wright was napping in his hammock, while Crabs was engrossed in his book. Fish Man and Dane were on security when Fish suddenly called to Crabs, "Dinks". It also got Dane's attention and woke up Wright, who remained in his hammock but quietly replaced the HE round in his M-79 with a canister round.

Dane was just shifting around to cover their rear when Fish announced, "Crabs, there are dinks behind you". Crabs thought Fish Man was playing a joke on him until Wright, who was still laying in his hammock, fired the M-79 directly over Crabs' head.

An enemy soldier wearing a blue shirt was attempting to disarm Crabs' early warning device on the trail. It was the sound of the pebble imperceptibly jingling against the side of the C-ration can that had first alerted Dane. Crabs reached for his 45 at this first warning but had gone flying when Wright fired the 79 over his head. Where it landed is still a mystery.

In a picture-perfect John Wayne shoulder roll, Crabs snatched up his M-60, which he had affectionately dubbed "Bullwinkle" and came up blasting. The first blast, nailed the dink holding the can, dead in the chest, blowing him backwards head over heels. A second NVA opened up with his AK from a tree nearby. The rest of the team immediately opened up on him, pinning him behind the tree. Crabs brought Bullwinkle to bear and literally shredded the tree, sending the dink to the land of the golden Buddha.

Pogo and I were down at the OP observing the dinks in the valley when Wright's M-79 went off. I

jumped about a foot off the ground, sending my CAR-15 sliding down the side of the mountain. Diving after it, I caught up to it about ten meters away, then turned and sprinted back to the OP. Snatching up our gear Pogo and I headed for the patrol base at a dead run.

When we neared the top I screamed, "What the Hell is going on"? I don't know if I really expected an answer or if I did it to alert the team that it was us busting brush and not more dinks. But I was to take a lot of ribbing over the remainder of my tour for making such a profound statement in the middle of a fire fight.

By the time Pogo and I reached the Team, the shooting had stopped. As soon as Fish Man filled me in on the short and skinny, I turned to Pogo and told him to contact the TOC and give them a sitrep and request immediate extraction.

With the Team out of immediate danger, I made the decision to take out a patrol and find out what we were up against. I moved out with Crabs and his trusty Bullwinkle and advanced toward the contact area. We hadn't moved fifteen meters before we came under small arms fire. Crabs turned to face the NVA and cut loose with a long burst from Bullwinkle, trying to establish fire superiority. As we stood side by side blasting away in the direction of the enemy soldiers, I noticed leaves and debris falling around us. "S--t the mothers are shooting back", I yelled as I dropped to the ground pulling Crabs down beside me. This only succeeded in making Crabs angrier. He jumped back to his feet turning Bullwinkle loose, killing anything and everything in his path.

Bullwinkle was giving Charlie no slack. As the enemy fire fell off, we turned and eased our way back to the patrol base. At this point I knew we were screwed. We were cut off from our LZ and had no place to go without running into more of the bad guys. However, we did have one thing in our favor, if we moved quickly before the NVA had time to move up on us, we just might have a chance at a McGuire rig extraction from the crater next to the OP. The enemy had sent up only a small recon unit to probe the mountain top. Obviously, they were unsure now of exactly how to deal with us. More than likely, he knew we were "the men with the painted faces", and he was surely aware of the awesome support we could bring in on him.

If I were the NVA patrol leader, I would regroup into a defensive position and send for reinforcements. With at least two of my men already dead, I would not be in a hurry to try to take down this cornered Lurp Team with its deadly M-60. If this is what my counterpart was doing at this very moment, then it was the break we needed to get out.

We moved down the slope to the OP and reached it just as the extraction birds came on station. I called for a McGuire rig extraction and told Pogo, Wright, and Dane to gear up to go out on the first lift. Leaving Pogo in charge of the Team's defensive position in the bomb crater, I took Crabs and probed back up the hill toward our abandoned patrol base.

When we neared the top of the mountain, we squatted in the brush and spotted legs - lots of legs - running around through the undergrowth. This was not a good thing. We turned around and low-crawled back to the OP.

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When we reached the crater I had Crabs set up Bullwinkle on the lip facing the uphill. I lay down next to him so I could observe the NVA above us and still control the Snakes circling overhead. I radioed the C & C ship and brought them up to date on our situation. One of the Snake pilots broke in and asked, "How close are the enemy to your position"? I replied, "About 15 meters away". The pilot responded, "Holy s--t, pop smoke and put your heads down".

The Cobra pilots were great! They walked rockets all around our position with pin-point accuracy, giving Charlie something to think about besides us. The rest of the Team hunkered down in the crater while Crabs and I monitored what was going on around us. I was really concerned about extraction. We would be sitting ducks if the Cobras failed to neutralize the enemy.

As the Snakes continued to work out, I radioed the slick pilot and asked him if he could hover his helicopter inside the crater. He didn't like the idea of hovering over a hot LZ while we climbed into the McGuire rigs any more than we did, but he decided to give it a go. With the Cobras still providing cover fire, the low bird popped up above us and hovered directly over the crater. Slowly the pilot began to lower the ship into the LZ. Because of the slope of the mountain, the pilot was in grave danger of a blade strike on one of the trees surrounding the LZ. If it happened, it would be fatal to the crew and probably to the six Lurps huddled beneath it.

Down, down he came, the main rotor whacking through the tree tops and sending dirt and debris flying everywhere. When he got close, the crew chief left his position in the starboard hell-hole and reached down to help the first couple of Team members aboard. Once aboard, they returned to help the next two in. Crabs and myself were the last two to scamper aboard. During the entire extraction, with total disregard for his own safety, Crabs has remained on the uphill rim of the crater with the Chopper's main rotor blade missing him by less than a meter. His a--hole had to be tight, but he had realized the importance of cover fire for the rest of the Team, and had held his position until told to abandon it.

The skill and raw nerve of the pilot was a beautiful thing to see. Each time one of my Team mates would climb up on the skid and clamber aboard, the helicopter would dip as the added weight threw the ship off balance. The pilot immediately compensated on time to keep the Chopper from slipping into the trees and killing everyone on aboard. He had made up his mind to pick up the entire Team or die with us and his crew in one big fiery explosion.

We finally had everyone on board, and with the helicopter taking rounds, we screamed in unison, "Go, go, go!". The daring pilot peddled turned the heavy laden Huey 180 degrees and shot off down the mountain side to get enough air speed to lift us out of the valley. Behind us the Cobras moved in to close the area down for business.

We arrived back at Chu Lai riding an emotional high. It was always like that after a close one. Coming down off an overdose of adrenalin was more exhilarating than any man-made drug. Some think it's better than sex. Crabs refutes that premise. The rest of us aren't sure. Everyone was screaming and yelling, and slapping each other on the back, glad once again to be alive. And, oh

yeah, we didn't forget the Chopper crew that risked everything to get us out. We will always be grateful to the Huey and Cobra crews for the magnificent job they did.

I don't remember who bought the first round of drinks and I sure in Hell don't remember who bought the last. I only know that Ranger Team Alabama spent 30 hours in Dragon Valley - a record that was never bested!

3rd INFANTRY

The 3rd Infantry's flag carries 39 battle streamers earned by its magnificent record of bravery in action.

Its colors have flown valiantly in virtually every war the United States has been involved.

The 3rd Infantry first saw action in 1794, when they defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fort Recovery in Ohio. The unit fought during the War of 1812 and the Indian Wars.

Today the "Old Guard" is the only unit authorized to pass in review with fixed bayonets, an honor accorded for gallantry during the Mexican War.

The unit also served with distinction in the Civil War, the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection, and World War II.

In August, 1966, the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was activated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as part of the newly formed 11th Infantry Brigade.

The Battalion arrived in Vietnam on December 15, 1967. Since that time the unit has participated in exercises with the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 196th Infantry Brigade. Presently, the Battalion hold the 11th Infantry Brigade record for finding the largest cache of weapons.

Sent in by Jesse Flowers - 26th Engineers

2nd SQUADRON 1st CAVALRY

I served with 2n Squadron, 1st Cavalry in Vietnam from July 1969 to June 1970. During that time I was the Platoon Leader of the Third Platoon of B Troop, Platoon Leader of the HHT Support Platoon, and finally XO of B Troop.

During the last year, several of us have made contact via Prodigy and America On-Line with about 10 former 2/1 Cav members from the Vietnam era. We also were able to obtain 10 names from the 4th Infantry Division Association and 30 names from Mike O'Reilly of the 7/1 Cav Association.

As far as we can determine there is no 2/1 Association. Several of us are trying to find/retrieve more 2/1 names.

If you are a former member of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cav (BLACKHAWKS) please contact:

Robert C. Sparks

[REDACTED]
Suite 200
Troy, MI 48084

Or call [REDACTED] 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. EST

NOW HEAR THIS

I wrote the article that was in the Newsletter some time ago, about my gun battery, A/3 18th Arty in Tra Bong.

I am writing to inform my fellow members that I have lung cancer and my prognosis is not very good, but not hopeless. I have a rare form of cancer called Broncho-alocolar carcinoma which I believe was caused by the herbicides that were sprayed around our gun battery in 1970. I want to inform our members of this and advise them to get a chest X-ray immediately and every year. Explain to the radiologist that you were exposed to Agent Orange and to look very carefully for small tree shaped infusions in the lungs.

I am, and never was a smoker and was in perfect health except for a crushing PTSA bout of depression which corresponds to the start of my tumor growth about five years ago. I did not have any symptoms during these five years--none. I used to swim, run up and down stairs, and never ran out of breath. I never had anything that would suggest lung cancer. Since I did not smoke I never had a chest X-ray. I was, I thought, in good health.

GET A CHEST X-RAY NOW AND EVERY YEAR!

Please heed my warning--do this for me--maybe it will save your life!

Yours,
Robert W. Hornlein

MACV TEAM 16 - JANUARY THRU DECEMBER 1969

Rick Olsen's letter on the May 1969 VC/NVA offensive in Quang Tin Province (52nd Infantry) prompted me to write. I spent my Vietnam tour, Jan-Dec 69, with MACV Team 16 based at Tam Ky. One of the things I did was to fly as an aerial observer in Americal O-1s based at Chu Lai. Intelligence must have been indicating a forthcoming VC/NVA offensive because on 6 and 7 May we flew all the way our to Kham Duc and beyond "Hayes Road", (so termed by JAKE FAXs assigned to Tm 16) a two lane highway and part of the Ho Chi Minh trail which was under construction and heading straight for Kham Duc. Both sights were extremely impressive to me but Kham Duc was eerie because of the battle and evacuation that took place there in May 1968. The whole area was devasted. Upon our return to Tam Ky I advised Lt. Shaw, USAF FAC, of our sightings. He said, "how high were you flying"? I said, "between 500 and 1500 feet above the ground". He said, "you guys are crazy, they have .51 cal and up to 37mm radar controlled guns our there". He said, "I never go below 5000 feet our there". Hmmm, ignorance is bliss.

On Sunday 11 May at 0145 there was a B-52 Arc Light in what we called Bomber Alley, the valley of the Song Tram river about 7 kms south of LZ Professional. We flew out there about 0930. An infantry unit was humping up and down the huge bomb craters. The area was blown to pieces. It was supposedly the assembly area of the 3rd NVA Regt, 2nd NVA Div. It obviously missed, judging by what happened next.

On Monday 12 May I was working night duty at the province TOC (grid BT2922). At 0045 our MATTS 5 (Mobile Advisory Training Team 5, 2 Officers and 3 NCOs) based on Nui Yon Hill (grid BT2416) radioed in that they were receiving a mortar attack and

requested a Spooky gunship. I called Da Nang to request one and was told they were all gone, the VC/NVA were attacking all over the I Corps area. We tried Americal and all the gunships were also committed. I radioed back to Nui Yon the results of our calls for help and to do the best they could with artillery. The radios and telephones started going, one after the other, reporting attacks of one sort or another. About 0130 a team member radioed in that they were being overrun. I told him (them) to try and get off the hill. Subsequent calls over the next hour met with no response. What a feeling of helplessness, people getting killed a few kilometers away and there was nothing I could do about it. We had been reporting these events to Ltc Isley, the Province Senior Advisor at the MACV compound (grid BT3121). He got out to the YOC around 0400.

Around 0515 a Huey slick from Americal arrived at Province HQ and the Ltc and I hopped on. We flew out to Nui Yon. It was still dark and all that could be seen was some fires burning. I didn't have a head set so I didn't know what the conversation was going on. The pilot flew around 1000 to 1500 feet and we kept going around and around the area.

At sun up we could see a group of ACAVs coming on the road, or along side of it, from Tam Ky to the northeast. A smaller group was in front followed by a much larger group further back. I was told that the small group was a platoon of 1-1 Cav and the large group was ARVN 3-4 Cav based at Tam KY. The Americans always lead, why? About 2-3 kms from Nui Yon the lead ACAV crossed from the south side of the road to the north side and went down and embankment, turned and crossed a stream, and went back up the embankment. As soon as the ACVA straightened out on or along side the road to continue the advance, it was hit by an RPG or a recoilless round. All hell broke loose. It was frightening. The NVA were in those little streams that connected the rice paddies and, in this area were full of small trees and bushes, -- great concealment. We could hear plenty but see nothing of the NVA. Why didn't the NVA blast us in the Huey? I guess they saw it was a slick and it basically couldn't hurt them. I give them credit for discipline.

The AVAC pulled back to the northeast several hundred meters to a covered position, as I recall, and requested a MEDEVAC. The advance had stopped and the other ACVAs fanned out, took covered positions as best they could, and returned fire. We flew down to the stricken ACVA and picked up 4 US WIAs and took them to Chu Lai. We returned and had the sorrowful duty of picking up 3 US KIAs and a wounded ARVN. We loaded ponchos with boots sticking out of the ends, onto the Huey. Here only a short time ago were three live men. Now, like so many sacks of potatoes, dead weight, never to speak again. We flew the KIAs to Chu Lai, Graves Registration. The unloading was an equally sobering experience. The floor of the Huey was covered with blood. I didn't vomit, I guess I was too amazed. The Graves Registration guy reacted routinely, for him I guess, he got out a hose and washed down the floor of the Huey. We kept flying until 1100 but the Cav units did not attempt to go forward because, I think, they were waiting for the Grunts to come up and go forward with them. The NVA were well dug in.

On 12-13 May I was again on night duty as the TOC. At 0700 an ARVN came from their side of the TOC and said there was an American H110 OP, Nui Charo

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(grid BT2318) about 2-3 ks from Nui Yon. The NVA overran Nui Yon but left this place alone, (there were no Americans on this hill). I spoke to him over the radio. He said the other three team members on the hill were dead (the fifth team member happened to be at Tam Ky on stand down when the attack occurred). He said he was found by the ARVN PRUs (Provincial Reconnaissance Unit advised by the CIA). Our guy had multiple wounds but they weren't too serious as I recall. He hid in the brush on the side of Nui Yon all day on the 12th. He was lucky, the air force and gunships had been working over the top of the hill in case NVA had dug in there. When our Americal slick arrived, it went directly to H110 and flew our guy to Chu Lai for medical attention.

On 12 May two troops of 1-1 CAV, 3-1 Infantry and whatever Vietnamese forces were involved, were unable to get Nui Yon back. The following day Daniel Shea of 3-21 Infantry earned the Medal of Honor by sacrificing his life.

On 15 May Nui Yon was retaken. I think by this time the 4-5 ARVN Inf Bn was also involved. 60 dead NVA were found on the hilltop as well as our 3 Team, 16 KIAs and 10 Vietnamese RF troops. As Rick Olsen stated the 1st BDE 101 Airborne Div also began arriving at Tam KY on this date.

Rick also discussed the siege of LZ Professional and the amount of anti-aircraft weapons the NVA deployed in the area. On Friday 13 June about 1100 as I recall, we were returning to Tam KY from an observation mission near Kham Duc. I looked down and saw two choppers on the pads at LZ P. One, a MEDEVAC, took off going east and about 2ks out started burning. The pilot landed safely in some paddies and everyone was immediately picked up by the other Huey that had been at LZ P. As Rick said the area was bad news. Why didn't the NVA shoot at us? I don't know, but I'm glad they chose not to, I might not be here to tell this.

(Maybe someone who was in the 1/1 CAV can recall what troop or platoon ACVA took the RR or the RPG hit. As you can see, I can't recall who was on our team either, after all these years).

Michael P. Elbert

11 INFANTRY BRIGADE
JUNGLE WARRIORS

This story was taken from a copy of the 'TRIDENT'. Date line Duc Pho, Vietnam October 5, 1969.

11 Brigade Wrap-Up

Action was light in Southern Quang Ngai Province this week as the "Jungle Warriors" killed 22 enemy soldiers and detained 32 VCS and captured two weapons.

The men of A Co. 3/1, while operating in an area twenty miles north of Duc Pho captured one NVA during the first day of the week. The men of C Co. 1/20, detained one VCS. PFs working with C Co. identified the man as a VC. This action took place two miles north of Duc Pho.

Proceeding to an ambush site one mile north of Duc Pho, the men of B Co. 1/20, spotted a dozen VC digging on Highway #1. The unit placed small arms fire on the busy VC dispersing them. A close inspection of the road revealed a VC 35 pound mine and thirteen other two-foot deep holes believed to contain other mines. The next morning the EOD Team and reinforcements from C Co., 34th Engineers Bn., checked the area out. Each of the small

holes contained scrap metal but no mines.

The following day A Co. 3/1, working 19 miles north of Duc Pho killed an evading VC but documents on the individual identified him as an NVA and part of the engineer element. About the same time B Troop, 1st of the 1st CAV., found the bodies of two NVA soldiers four miles northwest of here. In the afternoon the men of D Co., 4/3, spotted seven NVA washing in a stream twelve miles west of Duc Pho. Artillery was directed on the enemy killing three of the NVA.

The men of B Co., 1/20, set up an ambush three miles northwest of Duc Pho and were rewarded for their efforts when three NVA walked near their position. One NVA was killed and an AK47 was captured.

The Warlords of B Co., 123rd Aviation Bn. engages a total of six VC in two separate actions 19 miles west of Duc Pho. Three VC were killed and a picture of Ho Chi Minh was found on one of the dead soldiers.

The men of D Co., 4/3, ambushed seven NVA eleven miles west of here. A sweep of the area revealed that five of the NVA had been killed and two wounded VC were captured.

END OF ARTICLE

The above copy of the 'TRIDENT' was sent in by Jesse Flowers who served with 26 Engineers at Duc Pho. He writes in an attached letter:

For the men of the Infantry that I worked with, I thank you and will never forget the Hell that the 26th Engineers and the 11th Brigade went through together. To this very day I carry my "Jungle Warrior" card in my back pocket.

Can you believe I was told at one point that the V.A., here in Florida, was having a problem proving that I was in Vietnam. If they had been in 'Rocket City' when I was there they would be believers--and those out there that know--that was Duc Pho.

I would like to hear from anyone that remembers me, especially on Friday, March 13, 1970, on the road to South China Sea at a place called Mo Duc.

Please write: Jesse Flowers
[REDACTED]
Live Oak, FL 32060

VIETNAM TOURS

LEE TREVINO recently inaugurated the construction of a new 18 hole golf course to be built at Thu Duc. Trevino's design company designed the new course which will be completed in 1997. MICROSOFT will be producing a Vietnamese version of Windows 95.

HUE AIRPORT is shut down for a revamp and should be reopened by July 1, 1996.

ATM MACHINES recently opened for business at the Honkong Bank. Presently it only dispenses Dong but rumors has it that it will soon be dispensing the all mighty dollar. There are now over 50 foreign banks in Vietnam.

SHELL OIL recently became licensed to produce and dispense lubricants in Vietnam. Presently the U.S. is 6th in foreign investments with Taiwan leading the pack followed by Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.

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COMPANY D - 3rd BATTALION - 21st INFANTRY

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

James Anthony Quinn, D/3/21 Infantry, KIA October 29, 1970. I am trying to find someone who may have known my brother in Vietnam. He arrived in Vietnam on August 30, 1970. Jim was not in Vietnam very long and I do not have names of any of his friends. The only name I have is of Captain Mark F. Hansen, who reported him missing. It is my hope that you might be able to help me in finding someone who may have known him. Contact:

Patricia Moffa
[REDACTED]
Wayne, PA 19087

E COMPANY - 1st BN - 46th INFANTRY - 196 LIB

I am seeking information and names of fellow vets from E/1/46 Infantry, 196 Recon, from June 10, 1969 to March 18, 1970. My CIB award was left off of my DD 214 and I have been trying for four (4) years to correct this error. I have a letter from 1/Sgt. Kenneth White stating that I qualify for the CIB.

I would appreciate any information you may be able to give.

J. E. Ellis
[REDACTED]
Abbeville, SC 29620

1st BATTALION 6th INFANTRY 198 LIB

I am seeking information on Ltc. William C. Kelly who was Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198 LIB during 1968-1969. If you can help please contact:

Jan F. Milles
[REDACTED]
Duluth, GA 30155

Telephone [REDACTED]

588 MAINTENANCE (DS)

I am trying to locate two men who were in my unit in Vietnam in 1968-1969. Both men were from the Boston area. One is WILFRED JACKSON and the other man's last name is ABBOT. We served together in the 588 Maintenance (DS) at Chu Lai.

I believe Jackson lost a leg to a mine about the day I left Vietnam. He was a SP/5. Abbot worked in the Orderly Room of our unit. They had enlisted on the "Buddy Plan".

Sincerely,
William F. Smith

William, you can try writing to:

Ask The Globe
[REDACTED]
Boston, MA 01207-2378

Hope this article in the Newsletter brings some results. Neither man is a member of the ADVA.

D COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 20th INFANTRY 11 LIB

I served with the above unit, D/1/20 Infantry from 1969 to 1970 near Duc Pho. I would like to hear from any former members of my outfit.

Write to:

Michael L. Henderson
[REDACTED]
Pullman, WA 99163-4469

E COMPANY - 4th BATTALION - 31st INFANTRY 11 LIB

I am trying to locate three of my former service buddies. They are:

Lt. Martin
Sgt. Patterson
Sgt. Newland

I served in Vietnam with these three men E/4/31 Infantry 11 LIB. Would appreciate any help you may be able to give.

O. M. Mooney
[REDACTED]
Decatur, TX 76234

71st ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

I have written a book concerning my Vietnam Aviation Unit, 71 AHC, covering the period from October 1967 to September 1968.

It will be in the book stores by February or March in 1996. All royalties go to the Vet reunion group.

The 71 AHC supported Task Force Oregon/America Division, 196 and 198 LIB.

Any questions: Chester W. Warlock

[REDACTED]
Fort Worth, TX 76119
Tel: [REDACTED]

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Earl F. Hicks

I am seeking information about my brother's unit/duties/engagements in Vietnam. He trained at Fort Walters, TX and was a door gunner stationed at Chu Lai from Aug 68 - Aug 69.

He wore a patch on his sleeve that read 'Primary Helicopter' and metal pins on his shoulder that read 'Above the Finest'. I believe at one time he had been assigned to patrol Highway 1.

Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact:

Russell K. Coleman
[REDACTED]
New Boston, TX 75570

We are always willing to print requests for a search or for information on a buddy. Please give all possible information, including a picture if possible, or any unit designation whatsoever. Mail all requests to the Newsletter Editor.

198 LIB 1st BATTALION 52nd INFANTRY

Page 31 of the July-August-September 1995 issue of the Americal Newsletter carried a story written by Perry Ensz of the above named unit. In reviewing some of my files and stories I find that I have done Perry an injustice. First, I did not sign his name to the letter and second I did not print any of his pictures. I do hope this review will square me with Perry. ED. A review of his story:

For the record I am Perry Ensz a former Sgt. ES. (Shake-n-Bake and proud of it). I served in country during 1967 working off of LZ Stinson, 198 LIB 1/52 Infantry. My first four months as part of the E Co. Recon platoon and the balance of my tour as a sniper. I was a member of the first class to graduate from the Americal sniper school in Chu Lai.

Last year I made a trip to "The Wall" with a group from Hutchinson, Kansas. This group included Perry Ensz the Sniper--Dave Warnken the Seabee--Jim Beyer the Infantryman--Van Morton the 29 Day Wonder--Gary Fisher the Squid, and Richard Perry.



Perry Ensz at "The Wall"
Pointing to the name of Chief Don Barnes

We spent an entire day looking up names on "The Wall". The name of Donald J. Barnes was there--21-E Line 60--he was Dave Warnken's best friend in Vietnam, of Dave Warnken the Seabee. Chief Barnes was killed at Khe Sanh at about 1:00 A.M. on June 6, 1967. On that morning some 25 years ago the Seabee Compound received two 140mm rockets of a total of 48 that hit Khe Sanh. One of those rockets killed Chief Barnes and his assistant. Dave was to go with Chief Barnes on that Detachment as his assistant. The Chief would not allow Dave to go saying, "You have not yet seen your son", who was to be born on July 3, 1967.

To quote Dave, "I was quite upset that I could not go with him. I feel that since he had such a love for me by not allowing me to go with him that day, he possibly saved my life. For this I will always be grateful to my friend Don Barnes".

A visit to Arlington National Cemetery was next on the schedule, where we located the headstone for Chief Don Barnes. Next stop was the Seabee Memorial and then back to "The Wall".

While I was pointing out the name of Don Barnes on "The Wall" I did not know that I was being taped by CBS Evening News. When I stepped back I was asked for an interview. One question they asked

stands out in my memory--"What does the reading of all the names on the WALL mean to you"? My reply was, "too many names, there is just...too many names".



L to R: Von Morton, Perry Ensz, Dave Warnken, Gary Fisher, Jim Beyer. Background: Vietnam Memorial

That evening I was on National CBS Evening News with Dan Rather and my quote was broadcast for all to see. That was my day. Not a day of chance but a day of fate. Thank God for that day.

Perry Ensz

COMPANY E 21 INFANTRY 196 LIB RECON

My name is Thomas T. Bryant, SFC (Ret). I was with the 196 Infantry Recon. I was at LZ Center as EG with the LRRP. I am writing concerning the book, 'The Magnificent Bastards' by Keith Nolan.

In his book he wrote about the night below LZ Center that we got our butts kicked along with H Company. Some of the things he wrote about just were not true. There was not a Lt. with the LRRP, I was in charge. We were not all asleep. I had told the Captain that we had seen lights on a hill in front of us and that the NVA were all around us.

The so called Captain was not in charge. He stayed in a hole inside of a hooch until the action was all over. He got a lot of good kids killed that night--I lost four or five kids that night--and still have some bad night over it. I tried to save some of those kids but I could not help all of them. The Brass did not get a relief to us until daylight.

I have talked to one man that was in A Co. and he told me a lot of things that I had forgotten. I do not want to sound difficult but the way I feel is that Mr. Nolan should know the whole TRUTH.

There were good men killed that night that should not have been. They were my brothers.

If you were there that night or know anyone that was, please write or call me.

Thomas T. Bryant

[REDACTED]
Greenville, SC 29611
Tel: [REDACTED]

DMZ TO DELTA DANCE

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED!
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1996

WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT HILTON
CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA

CONTACT:
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 227
ARLINGTON, VA 22205

CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS - ONTARIO

WELCOMES YOU TO THE NORTH
10th ANNUAL LZ NORTH
JULY 12, 13,14, 1996

SMITH FALLS, ONTARIO, CANADA
HM. [REDACTED] FAX [REDACTED]

FIREBASE CANADA

August 30 - September 2, 1996

If you are a Vietnam Veteran, family member, or if the ?Vietnam experience has touched your life, you are invited to Firebase Canada, a Vietnam Veteran Festival held Labor Day weekend at Stave lake Lodge & Campground, Maple Ridge, BC.

To register or for info call 1-604-462-0450

Vietnam Veterans in Canada based in Vancouver, BC are now on the Internet. They can be found at macmc@VVIC.ORG.

INDIANA VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION
SEPTEMBER 20,21,22, 1996

EVAN'S COUNTY SPEEDWAY
KOKOMO, INDIANA

CONTACT:

Derek Oldham [REDACTED]
Howard County Vietnam Veterans [REDACTED]

THE 196th IN 1996

The Reunion of the Ohio Chapter of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association will be held August 16 & 17 in Worthington (9 north end of Columbus) at the Clarion Hotel, [REDACTED]--just south of I-270 and Route 23.

CONTACT:

Bruce M. Draudt
[REDACTED]
Columbus, OH 43202

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

2nd ANNUAL HEARTLAND VETERANS HOMECOMING
THE "MOVING WALL"
By Lake County Vets

CONTACT:

Russ [REDACTED]
Z-Man [REDACTED]
Sparker [REDACTED]

NAMJAM '96 & MOVING WALL EXPERIENCE

Charlotte Motor Speedway
Concord, NC
August 16, 17, 18, 1996

NamJam '96 & Moving Wall experience: The third weekend in August 1996 will be three days filled with a variety of activities, festivities and educational opportunities for veterans, their families and all who attend. NamJam '96 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway will be hosted by the Metrolina Vietnam Veterans Association of Charlotte, NC to let all veterans know "You Are Not Alone." The Association expects to expand its reach and involvement in the community as a caring, working veterans organization.

For Info:
Metrolina Vietnam Veterans Association

Charlotte, NC 28212

AMERICAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Start planning now for the 1997 Americal National Convention June 19 - 22, 1997, in Worcester, MA. The Convention Center will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This hotel is a short walk from the Americal Museum. The Dinner-Dance on Saturday evening will be held in the Americal Museum building. A former National Guard Armory.

This would be a excellent opportunity to spend at least a week in Massachusetts--Where it all began! If you rent a car it is only a short drive to 'Concord Bridge', where 'Here the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard 'round the world'. Here stands the famous 'Minuteman' Statue. Just down the road is the Village Green at Lexington, MA, the famous Parker Tavern and another Minuteman statue.

But first you should visit the North End of Boston and the old North Church from whose belfry Paul Revere received the signal, 'One if by land and two if by sea'. Just a stones throw away is Faneuil Hall--the 'Cradle of Liberty', in this chamber Sam Adams made his fiery speeches. Visit the scene of the Boston Massacre, (March 5, 1770), the Boston Tea party, (December 16, 1673).

Across the river is the Bunker Hill Monument commemorating the second skirmish against the 'Redcoats', on Breed's Hill--June 17, 1775.

On the other side of the city is Dorchester Heights. Cannons were man handled to these heights, overlooking Boston Harbor. This endangered the British ships in the harbor and they withdrew--Evacuation Day, March 17, 1776.

This will be a good chance to get back to your 'Roots', or I should say our County's 'Roots'. All this seems to be forgotten in recent years.

JOHN SARTAIN HONORED

The Mason-Dixon Tournament is held every year in January. Eleven schools for the deaf in the southeast compete in this tournament. I was honored to have the 44th Annual Mason-Dixon Boy's Basketball Tournament dedicated to me.

I have worked with children for 27 years now. They are our future. I want to take this opportunity to ask everyone to contribute to the Americal Division Scholarship Fund. Get your money to Ron Ward. I want leaders of tomorrow to be children of the Americal Division Soldiers. Enclosed is a check for \$20.00, in memory of Norman Fine, for the Scholarship Fund. Let's make 1996 a record year of giving to the Fund.

Norman Fine was well loved by the people of A Company 1/52 Infantry and C Battery, 1/14 Arty. Anytime I come in contact with anyone from A Co. or C Battery for the first time, they always mention Norman Fine with a great deal of respect. He has been missed and has been in the hearts and minds of all who knew him.

If anyone from C Battery or A Company has been in contact with John Distefano, please ask him to contact me at:

John Sartain
[REDACTED]
Talladega, AL 35160

I would love to hear from John or any of the guys from C Battery or A Company (67-68). I am proud to have served with you.

And guys, I wear my Americal and 198th LIB pin on the lapel of my suit. I have the Americal and the 198th Bumper Sticker on my vehicle. In this year's school annual, the pins are prominently displayed. Guys, show your pride in your units.

Also, the ADVA HOME PAGE on the Internet is wonderful. If you have access to the Internet, look up our HOME PAGE. You will be proud!!! It is one of the best home pages. I want to thank the people responsible for putting it on the Internet. I tell everyone about it, and I showed it to the kids at school. They were impressed and believe me, it is hard to impress teen-agers.

Sincerely,
John Sartain
C/1/14 Arty

John--sorry but the picture would not reproduce well. I'll be in touch. Jim

PERSEVERANCE PAYS
Chaplain (Cpt) Alexander M. Mason
198th Infantry Brigade

We have all watched in distress and disbelief as our favorite team blew a big lead in the closing moments of the game.

Similarly, many of us get off to a fast start, set a fair pace for awhile, and then fizzle out before we reach the finish line. We started well, but something--our lack of faith, of courage, of perseverance--hindered us.

We shall have days when we feel that we cannot keep going. Life becomes so routine that we wish

we could just get away from it all. And to be sure some of us yield to the lure of change, or the feeling of being fed-up, and give up. Fatigue and fear reduces our courage and power of endurance.

To be able to fall and get up and go on again requires a genuine faith in the worthwhileness of life. It enhances the importance of being a responsible person. It requires conviction that there is meaning in living, that God has a design for life, that our life too, however humble, commonplace, or seemingly insignificant, is part of a plan.

"They that wait upon the Lord," wrote the prophet Isaiah, "shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." To just keep going through each hour and each day, that is a crowning achievement.

Southern Cross February 1969

AGENT ORANGE
Study Confirms VN Spraying Causes Three Cancers

The Department of Veterans Affairs has added two more illnesses that entitle affected VN veterans to compensation for their exposure to Agent Orange (AO).

The five diseases officially linked to AO are:

- a. Soft Tissue Sarcoma (rare cancer affecting muscle or internal connective tissue).
- b. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Cancer affecting lymph nodes, bone marrow, spleen, and liver).
- c. Chloracne (Severe skin diseases similar to teen-age acne but may involve cysts and rashes).
- d. PROPHYLIA (Newly added) (A metabolic liver disorder that can affect skin and hair).
- e. Hodgkin's Disease (Nearly added) (Lymphoma cancer, causing anemia, weight loss, itching and enlargement of lymph nodes, spleen, and liver).

SYMPTOMS OF POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION

Depression, sleep disorders
Impaired sight or hearing
Skin conditions
Cardiovascular disorders
Respiratory problems
Liver disorders
Acute abdominal pain
Urinary tract disorders
Weakness of lower extremities
Numbness in fingers or toes

(Sturdy conducted by the National Academy of Sciences, committee chaired by Dr. Harold Fallon).

THE MAGNIFICENT BASTARDS

This book is written by Keith Nolan and he has written well of the Americal--.

This book is now available in paperback and I have made a bulk buy so that it can be sold for \$5.95 plus postage. Please send your request for a copy to:

Neil E. Hannan
[REDACTED]
Lawrence, MI 49064

CEBU
57th ENGINEERS

Cebu is the 7th largest island in the Philippines. It is 140 miles long and twenty mile wide at it's widest point. It has a mountain range that rises to three thousand feet in places. The hillsides are so steep that it is said farmers sometimes fall out of their corn fields. Later on I found out it was true--almost.

Cebu City is the Capital and is located on the islands natural harbor. Cebu is also the most densely populated of the Philippine islands.

Before our landing there were an estimated 7000 Japanese troops on the island. They were stripping the store and storing the goods in caves that had been dug on Babag Ridge. Naval guns had been removed from sunken ships, in the harbor, and were put on tracks in the caves. The guns could be run out of the cave, fired at us, and rolled back under cover. The guns were fired at our approaching invasion armada. The tracer shells looked like a flock of geese coming toward us as we approached the shore.

The landing on E-Day came on March 26, 1945 at Talisay beach. I was with A Company, 57th Combat Engineers. Our job was to destroy any mines or obstacles that would interfere with the landing. We did our job--the landing was success and we moved into Cebu city and secured it.

On the way into Cebu City we passed a big house and we decided to go in and go potty. It was the first time I had ever seen a bathroom with two toilets. I thought to myself, how handy, a his and hers. I found this to be true for when I flushed one toilet the water gushed up about a foot. Very strange to a farm boy from Montana. We learned later that it was the Mayor's house. There was also an old time Fort here which was used to hold Japanese prisoners later on. It looked like something in old New England.

We secured the City of Cebu and the surrounding areas, but we were taking a pounding from Babag Ridge. After a while it was decided to do a reconnaissance mission to the back of Babag Ridge and to check the possibility of building a road behind the ridge and get the Japs from both sides.

So, Colonel Cushing, a mining engineer who had lived in Cebu before the war and was now a Guerrilla leader, took two Jeeps, myself, another driver, and 4 Officers. We went up the Managa River bed, through a series of canyons until we came to one of the Colonel's units, situated in the hills. The Guerrillas lived in these barrios, or villages, during the Japanese occupation and hadn't seen an American since 1942. They were sure happy to see us. They asked all kinds of questions about everything, including, "how was Shirley Temple doing"?

We had to stay overnight so they fixed a supper of fried chicken, fresh tomatoes, onions and rice, out under the Palm trees. They brought out their best dishes and silverware, which they had taken with them when they fled into the hills. Later that night we had a campfire and the girls sang and danced for us. Music was supplied by a guitar made from half a coconut shell with a handle and some wire they had cut from Japanese telephone lines. Just like in the movies.

When we got up the next morning it was tough to go potty with everyone so close by all the time. I

finally solved the problem by wading out waist deep in the river.

After breakfast we started off on foot further back of Babag Ridge. We followed a foot path and were led by two Guerrillas Lieutenants as guides. There were farms on the sides of the hills and the people living there thought we were a Jap patrol. They began to run off until our guides yelled at them and told them we were Americans. They then came down and crowded around us. Some of them were crying they were so happy.

We continued on for a mile or so, until we could see some Jap movement on the top of the ridge. At this point we then turned around and started back to our unit and we had nearly a mile of people following along behind us.

Upon our return another dinner was fixed for us and I had my first corn on the cob since leaving stateside. As we prepared to leave, so many bananas were piled in our Jeep that we had trouble getting in--but we managed.

It was a tough return trip driving along the river bottom, over boulders, and through pools of water. After that trip I would say that there wasn't any place a Jeep could not go.

I was very impressed with the faith and fortitude that these people had. They held on and didn't look back. I'm glad that I could help them find peace again and a chance to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Darrell Wardian

MACHINE GUN DUEL

C BATTERY - 221st FIELD ARTILLERY
By Leo W. Orfe

The invasion of Cebu, in the Philippines, was an exciting and dramatic sight to behold on a beautiful sunny day. The ships circling the beach would fire a broadside when in position--it was awesome but not like our 155 Howitzer fire. For the first time we saw rocket fire, fired from barges laying off-shore. It was fantastic!

When our landing craft hit the beach, a safe area pathway bordered by white tape was already in place, less than an hour after the bombardment had ceased. To the left of the safe area were hundreds of mines. I can still remember, like it was yesterday, two soldiers standing over a dead comrade--a red headed soldier. The purple cloth around the neck of one of these soldier told me that he was a priest. He and his aide were giving the last rites to the redheaded soldier. I have seen other brave men, before and after, but the memory of those two soldiers standing there in the midst of a mine field still remains with me.

A short distance from the beach, Dom Russo saved me from a Jap firing at us--it scared the Hell out of me. A few years ago, I tried to show my love and appreciation to Dom by giving him an original oil painting of a calm and beautiful country scene. Dom told me he remembers us being shot at like it was yesterday.

Now to get to the machine gun duel during that

CONCLUSION NEXT PAGE

terrible night of the invasion of Cebu. The Japs came at us in the dark and killed a soldier near me, taking his machine gun. One Jap was shot, but not killed. He put a grenade to his head to prevent being captured alive. of being captured.

When daylight came I remember one man going past my gun holding a bloody Jap rifle on a stick. His reply when I asked what he wanted a rifle in the condition for, "G-2 wanted it". The Jap rifle was new and all of the dead Japs were in new uniforms, which kind of made me think because our uniforms were old and faded. We were much better soldiers than the Japs and I often wondered how how in Hell those slant-eyed Japs thought they could beat us.

Right after the guy left with the bloody Jap rifle, I heard and saw a machine gun being fired in front of us. It was on a small hill which had been cleared of all vegetation. One of our machine guns returned the fire. This duel of machine guns was between two American guns--one being fired by the Japs! Horrible time.

It took just two rounds of artillery fire to knock out that machine gun. The first round fell in front of the machine gun and the second was right on target. We thought we were the greatest artillerymen in the world--and we were!

Your Americal friend,
Leo William Orfe

CEBU - HILL 21
Company G - 182nd Infantry

Sunday, April 15, 1945. G Company, 182nd Infantry received orders to move up the side of Hill 21 and to advance and take Hill 22. The second squad was given the honor of being the lead squad. Sgt. Kelly was rather upset because it was not his turn to lead. He told me he had a gut feeling that something was going to happen to him this day. Perhaps because of his comment, I too had a feeling something would happen.

We were told to eat breakfast, fill our canteens, get extra ammo, 'and don't forget the atabrine'. I saw the Company Medic standing by and told him that he would be very busy this day. He replied, "not to worry", he would be handy if needed.

We moved out about 0830 to the bottom of Hill 21. It was a very hot day and I was the Company radio man. I may be wrong but I believe the radio weighed about 42 pounds. Lt. Morton was the officer in charge of the advance. We moved rather slowly up the left flank of the hill. When we were nearing the top of the ridge I noticed two large coconut trees in the distance. I assumed that to be Hill 22 and I believe that either E or F Company were making a frontal attack on this hill.

We were told to keep low as Japanese snipers may be in the trees ahead. It was about 1000 when Lt. Morton ordered the two point men to advance to the top of the ridge. Both men ran into an open area and quickly ran to the top of the ridge and disappeared. A couple of minutes later, (it seemed like hours), they yelled and gave the all clear. The trench on top of the hill was empty. The 2nd squad was about 50 yards from the trench. Sgt. Kelly got up and started running in a crouched position to the trench. This was very hard to do as the hill was very steep and there

was no cover. When he was about half way to the top, a shot rang out and Kelly fell--hit by a sniper's bullet.

I saw Sgt. Kelly turn completely around, with blood streaming from both arms. He landed on his back and was calling for the Medic. One bullet had hit both arms at the elbow. I ran to help him. Another shot rang out and I fell wounded--hit in the left shoulder. The force of the .25 caliber bullet knocked me onto my back. I tried very hard to get the radio off my back. Laying out in the open, I'm wondering if the next bullet fired would be the end of me or Kelly. Another squad member tried to reach us but he too was wounded by sniper fire. His name was Vandenburg.

Finally I got the radio off my back and to my great surprise coming up to me was the Medic I had talked to in the morning. I looked at him and said, "Told you that you would be very busy today". I told him I was okay and he should first go to Sgt. Kelly who needed a Medic more than I did. He made me take 6 pain pills and told me to drink all the water in my canteen.

He then went over to Kelly and began to dress his wounds. I saw him stand up holding some white bandages in his hand and to this day I cannot understand why the Japanese did not fire at him.

Later he returned to put a sling on my arm and then he told me to . "Get the Hell out of here". I took his advice.

Gordon Vander Nolen

A DAY ON CEBU
21st RECON TROOP

On one of the many patrols put on by the 21st Recon Troop, I, Staff Sergeant Harry Schnell, acting platoon leader, was out on patrol with 5 or 6 men. We observed a lot of Japanese activity in the area so we decided to go back another route. We just seemed to keep running into more Japanese activity. The only way left to go was right through a Leper Colony. What we saw was terrible. There were people in all stages of leprosy. We did stop to talk to the Nuns that lived there. They told us that the Japanese never came through their area and asked us to stay and have some refreshments. We said, "thanks, but we have to get back". The Nuns showed us a back way out.

"Thank God", we all said when we arrived back at troop headquarters. Captain Steff ordered us to take our clothes off and burn them.

After many experiences on Cebu I was rotated back to the good old USA after 3 years and 4 months overseas.

Harry Schnell

182nd INFANTRY
Sgt. Henry D. Sloan

Sgt. Sloan was KIA on the island of Cebu in July of 1945. If you knew him or served with him would you please contact:

Mrs. Floyd Kodalen
[REDACTED]
Great Falls, MT 59405

HILL 21

Company I - 182nd Infantry

Hill 21 was before us and we would attack it the next day. It was a large hill and mostly bare and well prepared by the Japs with interlacing trenches. They would be able to see most of our movements as we climbed it...So, the night before three of us climbed an adjoining hill where another company had a clear field of fire. These men were Lt. White (Whitey), myself and a third man. We told them where to place covering machine gun fire for the next day...but I don't think we got their help. Our artillery had been shelling the hill for some time before, however.

I know several companies, other than I Co., were involved; particularly G Co...So we had the remnants of several companies...I Co. probably had about 40 men left at this time. As usual it was extremely hot and also the dry season. We hadn't had much rain since we arrived on Cebu. Even though we carried two canteens for a total of two quarts, we were always short of water.

"So & So" told me to be the first scout that day...I didn't feel right about it although I had been a scout many times...but he said to do it and I did.

I started up the hill with the rest of the company behind in a single file...I found a trench that went upward at the edge of the hill.

We proceeded safely for a while but started to receive incoming fire from our left so we had to keep as low as possible. Finally, I reached a dead end to the trench and we started to receive rifle fire from above. We tried everything to try to dislodge the Japs. At this point I threw several grenades trying to reach the Japs. Someone had told me to pull the pin, let go of the lever, and count to 3 before throwing the grenades, (these were 5 second grenades). I did this several time but the grenades exploded about 1 1/2 seconds after I threw them...it was trying on my nerves. Then a guy came up from the rear with a flame-thrower and tried to burn them out...the heat was unbearable and the jellied gasoline bounced off the brush in front of the operator spraying his back with fire, which we had to beat out.

My squad sergeant, Red Hauser, said that he would hold his helmet in the air, on the point of his bayonet, while I, Joe Cerchia, and some others, would return the fire of any Jap that attempted to hit the helmet...this strategy backfired because this was a smart Jap...Next thing we knew a smoking object (grenade) came whirling through the air, landed and exploded at Red Hauser's feet. I looked at Hauser's face and it was pock marked with blood. He said, "I'm going down the hill".

A Lieutenant from G Company was crouched alongside the top of my trench, was bowled over by the crack of a rifle shot right along side his ear and said, "Wow, that made my ears ring"!

It was getting quite late and had turned quite dark, with just some partial moonlight. We had been fighting all day and still only half way up Hill 21. Our Commanders were not ready to give up on this one. We were ordered to go single file to the right and form a skirmish line. We were told to lie flat on the ground toward the trench line above...and the enemy.

The order came, whispered from man to man--"fix bayonets" All along the line one could hear the loud click as bayonets were fixed to our M1 Garand rifle...and the Japs could hear it too!

As we started forward up the hill we could see fuses being lit by Japs along the trench line above...figures silhouetted by their light. We fired at these figures and some were seen to fall and drop out of sight. But now satchel charges, (bundled sticks of dynamite, some in brass shell casings), grenades, and rifle fire, soon began to rain down on us. Many in the first platoon were hit.

Doc Gillespie was shot in the midsection and died in Sorenson's arms saying, "I don't want to die"! Sgt. Jim Thomas was hit in the right arm. I remember Thomas standing there in the poor light, his right arm hanging limp, rifle in his left hand, saying to us that were left, "Get up that hill or I'll shoot you myself!". I started running, firing my M1 as I ran. (We joked about this when he came to visit last summer, saying he was our regular John Wayne. Thomas still has some shrapnel in his arm which bothers his tennis game. Roy Poynter took a bunch of shrapnel in his nose and other places that day which causes him to use a breathing pump at night).

As I ran I was knocked flat several time by the concussion from exploding charges. As we neared the Jap trench the firing stopped. We had killed many Japs and the rest ran off...further up the hill.

I remember running, at first scared to death from all the noise and confusion and people being hit. Somehow I began to pray parts of the Lord's Prayer as I ran. Over and over I said, "Our Father who art in Heaven...Thine is the kingdom and the power...Our Father who art in Heaven"...and a calm came over me and I felt no fear for a short time. It was if I floated the rest of the way up the hill.

Our immediate need was for water. Only nine of us had made it to the trench line--with eighteen empty canteens. There was little hope of replenishing our supply soon. We were all dry and rasping for water--this sort of action make you drier than usual. A sprinkle of rain began...I took the liner out of my steel pot to try and collect some water in it. Quickly the rain stopped...I saw a small puddle of water in my helmet...as I lifted my helmet to my lips to drink, that tiny puddle of water was absorbed by the dust leaving not a drop to drink.

It was now after midnight and it was now Friday the 13th, 1945...Maybe a warning of things to come.

A water party finally came up with about a 1/2 jerry can of water. We nine, and several G Co. guys each got several swallows of water. This would be the last water Gil Cuellar and I would taste until late the following day.

Cuellar and I climbed down into the trench but it was very crowded with dead Japs. We were then ordered to dig a foxhole in front of the trench line. We could only dig down about six inches before hitting solid coral. To compensate for his we piled as much dirt as possible in front of the hole.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

Meanwhile at first light, Towhead, (Wayne Boring) scouting around the trench behind us, came face to face with a Jap, they both screamed, but Towhead was first to fire and that was the end of the Jap.

At first light, looking back down the hill to where we had started our charge, I saw a line of green uniformed GI's lying there and I turned to Cuellar and said to him, "We had better tell them to get out of there". Cuellar's reply was, "They're all dead". I'm not sure that shocked me because I gave him an "Oh yeah", response. I guess I was just used to it by now.

Anyway, not knowing exactly what to do, we had been told to stay there the night before while the wounded were evacuated, we just sat there on the edge of the hole. Our quiet was soon shattered by a burst of machine gun fire, directed right at our hole! Cuellar and dove head first into the hole, feet toward the enemy. The next burst of fire I could feel coming through the dirt and tapping on the soles of my shoes. I told Cuellar this and he said, "Nah" and I said, "Oh yes". We were pinned down now and remained that way for the rest of the day. Whenever we wanted to turn one of us would say, "let's turn" and we would turn together. Any movement we made that the Jap could see was rewarded with burst of machine gun fire.

We were really thirsty and getting thirstier and more desperate for water. Finally the guys in the trench behind us set up a .30 caliber water cooled machine gun. The muzzle protruded over our hole about six inches and we were looking straight up at it. We begged them not to fire without success. Soon the gun began firing and the muzzle blast was unbelievable but we couldn't move...The Jap would fire then they would fire...this went on for some time. Finally a Jap bullet hit the water jacket of the machine gun and we got water that we were looking for...scalding hot water pouring onto our faces! Our yells were of no help...we were just stuck.

Sometime about here I said to Cuellar that we were in a pretty bad spot. His reply, "Plenty of guys have it worse than we do". Then all of a sudden the big six foot one guy says, "Saunders, how do you pray"? (A decided change of attitude) I said, "I say the Lord's Prayer". He said, "What's that"? I said, "Our Father who art in Heaven". and he said, "O'yeah". (Probably called it the "Our Father".)

We were know desperate and especially desperate for water. We heard 'canteen sounds' and called for someone to throw us a canteen...which fell on deaf ears. We decided that after dark we would go take some water from them, (crazy thinking). So we waited and dried out more in the sun...our spirits sinking lower and lower. We knew we couldn't hold on another day without water.

A voice from the trench behind..."All right you guys in the hole come on back. We are getting out of here. EASIER SAID THEN DONE! Cuellar went first, grabbing his B.A.R., helmet and pack from behind our hole, he dove over into the trench. Quickly scooping up my helmet, rifle, and pack, I followed. I guess we were too fast for that Jap machine gunner...later we found bullet holes in Cuellar's pack!

We found ourselves jammed into the trench with other guys from G and I Company. The top of the trench was piled with dead Japs that had been thrown there to make room in the trench. We were told to keep low and go to the end of the trench.

From there it was a 30 to 40 foot run to the next trench. One by one the men left the trench on the run and I could see bullets kicking up dust behind them as they ran. As Pollack ran across we heard a "Yipe" as he was hit in the tail. My turn came and I ran as fast as I could encumbered by my rifle, helmet, and pack. Just ahead was the trench...full of Filipino Guerrillas standing shoulder to shoulder, leaving no room. I didn't even hesitate but dove head first into them knocking them down. Of course they cursed me in Filipino. We worked our way down the trench to lower ground and were finally were out of the line of fire after two days. Of course you never knew when you might be in some Japs rifle sights or a mortar shell could drop in.

We were now a small group of I Co. and G Co., all wondering what to do about water. A sergeant from G Co., called Injun Jim, (one eye was swollen shut by a shrapnel wound) found the energy to shinny up a palm tree and knock down three coconuts. We quickly chopped them open with our bayonets and all had a swallow of coconut milk...which didn't do much for our thirst. We then started down the hill and low and behold we saw a metal pipe protruding from the hillside slowly dripping water. Whether it was clean or not nobody cared as we were able to slack our thirst.

We finally straggled into our rear area. Lt. White, mess sergeant, supply sergeant and a couple of others greeted us with, "We thought you were dead". Of our original company of approximately 180 men, I Co. was now down to 13 or 14 men after three weeks of battle.

We won the hill and the battle but I know I didn't feel a bit victorious...only dog tired and in despair at our losses and...it wasn't over yet!

Warren Saunders



Above is a picture taken at our mini Reunion in August 1995 at Red Hauser's home.

L to R: Joe Cerchia, Warren Saunders, Jim Thomas, Red Hauser
1st Platoon - I Company - 182nd Infantry

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES? Your Chapter depends on annual dues. This is their major source of income and is needed to pay operating expenses.

21 RECON TROOP
Bill McLaughlin

Erich Maria Remarque's scathing book, *All Quiet on the Western Front* was made into a movie which so affected Lew Ayres, the star, that he became a pacifist refusing to fight in World War II.

It was probably good for our morale that we could not read the action reports sent in by our leaders during the days we put our lives on the line; it would have been devastating.

Here's an example: (What Happened): Our 21st Cavalry Recon Troop, Americal Division, moved out from the beachhead at Talisay, Cebu in the Philippines, March 27, 1945. Its mission was to reach Portland Cebu Cement Plant in Tina--and where a large concentration of Japanese had been reported by local guerrillas.

As scout sergeant of the second platoon, I had a double mission. First, to lead troops through a mess of mine fields, and second, if we met the Japanese force to register naval gun fire on it.

My former experience as an artillery forward observer won me this job. Waiting in the bay were several destroyers and the cruiser "Boise" to deliver fire on my call.

By great good luck a former USAFFE (U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East) corporal named Enrique Empuerto came up and volunteered his services. He was assigned to my jeep and rode in back with Cliff Jones of Texas who manned the light .30 caliber machine gun.

"Ricky" as we called him, early showed his worth by pointing out palm fronds draped across the dirt road at strategic spots, which on inspection revealed brass noses of upright artillery fuses capping 77 mm shells. Two and a half pounds pressure was all it took to blow them.

By working around them we wound up in a ravine off the road between two minefields. One on the right led up over a railroad track and was some 10 feet in diameter. The other led down a tree shaded lane, and we were warned by Ricky that it was mined all the way.

Having driven a truck for the Japanese occupation troops, he had learned some of their language. He had also studied the areas where the mine fields had been laid out to be armed when invasion was imminent.

Slim Berroth of Watervliet, New York, the leading tank gunner, dismounted to join me as I attempted to find a way through the field. We knelt and struggled to unscrew the fuses glinting in the sun light, but without a wrench they seemed to tight to loosen.

Suddenly, a whoop from Slim made me jump a foot. "It's a left-hand thread", he hollered, and with that we went ahead unscrewing like mad, setting the brass knobs gently to one side.

Backing off, I waved to my jeep driver, Gene Odahlen from Minnesota, to make a fast pass over the bank up to the railroad tracks. The sandbags in the bottom of the jeep, I felt, would spare him from serious injury if we'd missed any.

He went soaring up over the ridge unscathed and

with that we waved on the column. Scarcely had we gone a half mile, though, than we came to a blown-out bridge, the span sagging into a nearly dry stream with, halfway, and unexploded 500 pound bomb.

Stretching out to the distant Babag Ridge, where the main Japanese force was entrenched, was a long series of tank traps, concrete ditches and dragons' teeth shafts impossible to pass through.

I radioed back to my C.O. Captain Howard Steff of Mansfield, Massachusetts, that there was no way through the impasse. In the manner of all great leaders he refused to accept defeat. "Find a way," he bellowed over the radio and hung up on me.

Fuming, I took stock and realized the only way was the alternative route back at the ravine down the lonely tree-shaded alley opposite the field we had already neutralized. Back we went for another try.

This time however, it was a different ballgame. So dark was it, the fuses were hard to spot. Too, the pattern was a wider spread and difficult to master.

Slim and I knelt and moved forward, creeping breathlessly from spot to spot in that awful heat, side by side, unscrewing, depositing and moving forward fully conscious of the fact that if either of us missed one we were both dead men.

It seemed an eternity although the road may have been only 50 yards long. Crawling on hands and knees under tension was beyond imagining and my mind to this day has blocked it out.

We survived to reach daylight and stood to take a break. I managed to get a cigarette shaken from my pack and into my mouth, but my hands were shaking so violently that I could not light up. As the troops moved up without trouble, someone out of sympathy lit it for me and I stood there trembling from head to foot, uncontrollably. Slim was the same.

After a brief pause, Captain Steff indicated that we should proceed and again I took up the scout, riding in my lead jeep, windshield down, M-1 across my lap, dismounting each time we came to a culvert or bridge to check for more mines. All was clear.

Finally, realizing from the time elapsed we must be getting close, I halted the column and walked ahead to reconnoiter around the bend in the road. There in the foreground a hill rose steeply with uncamouflaged pillboxes in full view. As I studied them, wondering if now I would get to play with the warships, I saw movement farther down the road and realized there was a concentration of men, Japs I thought, until above their column I recognized our own flag flying.

With wonder I realized they were Filipino guerrillas, our allies. Giving the old cavalry gallop signal, pumping my right arm up and down, I brought the column up on the fly. Mounting my jeep, I led the parade down between two rows of men in tattered clothes, antique model 1917 Enfield rifles at "Present Arms" in salute and a ragged "Old Glory" flying above them, a souvenir of nearly four years of hiding in the boondocks. We broke ranks to hug each other in welcome and share our rations until it was time to return to bivouac.

CONCLUSION ON NEXT PAGE

Slim was awarded the Bronze Star for valor. The officer who wrote him mentioned to me that because I already had a Silver Star he didn't think I would want one. I agreed. I was no career soldier.

Many years later, wondering just what Captain Steff had said about that grueling day which had forever destroyed my nerves. I wrote to the National Archives and was sent a copy of his report:

March 27, 1945: Troops cleared road block and mine fields vicinity Talisay to Mauagan River prior to crossing for reconnaissance mission to the south. Corporal Enrique Empuerto, former USAFFE soldier joined the troop and helped clear mine fields. Troop reached Minglanilla and returned to base at Talisay. No contact.

(This article was taken from a copy of the World War II Times. Bill's title for the story was, "No Contact" but Elbert Watson, publisher and editor, thought, "Courageous Deed Goes Unreported" to be more appropriate).

CEBU PHOTOGRAPHS

If you are interested in obtaining photographs of the invasion of Cebu, write for a catalogue to:

Real War Photos

Hammond, IN 46320

These come in an excellent 8x10 glossy.

The same company has photos of all ships engaged in WW II. Both Navy and Transports. The photos are \$3.50 a piece. As a retired professional photographer I can verify that this is an excellent price as well as great photos. They are official U.S. Army photos.

Jack Folmer

132 INFANTRY

March 26, 1945--Following a heavy naval and air bombardment, the 132 Regiment landed on Cebu at Talisay, five miles southwest of Cebu City. The landing was almost unopposed by the Japs, who had fallen back from the beaches, but land mines raised havoc with the amphibious landing vehicles and caused some casualties. Snipers also harassed the Americans. Nevertheless the Regiment advanced rapidly, spearheaded by the 3rd Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Franco of Chicago. On the 27th Cebu City fell to the 132 Infantry.

The Japs fled to the hills and after a bitter battle on Hills 25 and 26, during which the 132nd Infantry Doughboys burned and blasted Japs out of a network of honeycombed caves and tunnels, the enemy retreated North. The battle for the two strategic hills was some of the costliest and bitterest fighting the Regiment had encountered. Every hill outside Cebu City was a new fort. Pillboxes studding the sides of the hills were protected by concrete and coral as thick as eight feet and connected by tunnels running through the hill's center.

Not the least of many heroes of Babag Ridge were the flame-thrower operators. Two of these, Cpl. Roy W. Kulju, Hdq. Co. 2nd Battalion, from Anaconda, Montana, and Pfc. Robert Hendershott,

Anti-Tank Company, of Quebec, Canada, burned out 15 Japs one day. Kulju was decorated with the Silver Star while Hendershott was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

When the Japs went north so did the 132. Colonel Franco's Battalion spearheaded by L Company, made a leapfrog coastal jump, landing at Danao, 9 miles from Cebu City and cut off the Japs in isolated pockets.

Mopping-up continues against a die-hard Nips, until after 82 consecutive days of combat the 132nd Infantry was credited with over 2000 enemy dead and with a total of 24 Jap prisoners.

(Story taken from the last issue of the "Windy City Journal", 28 October 1945 and sent in by Frank Nardoni).

Col. Manuel F. Segura (Ret)

The Philippines

Col. Segura is the former adjutant on the staff of James Cushing, the highly respected ex-mining engineer, who was the leader of the Cebu Guerrillas. He is also the author of the book "Tabunan". He sent several copies of his book to the Americal Museum back in the 80's.

He has written a new book entitled "The Koga Papers". This is an interesting story of the capture of a Japanese admiral and important Japanese papers.

Gil Dempsey

Eufemio S. Flowers

Philippines

Flores was a member of the USAFFE when the surrender of the islands to the Japanese took place. He joined the guerrillas and was a Lieutenant in their signal company.

He was active at the airstrip in Tabunan, Cebu that was in operation before the Americal landing on March 3, 1945.

Flores would be interested in hearing from the L-4 artillery spotter planes that operated out of Tabunan before the invasion and also any member of Company B 716 Medium Tank Battalion. In particular, the crew of a tank labeled "J.C. QMD WARRIOR". The commander of this tank was with the Jersey City Quartermaster Depot before becoming a tanker.

(Thanks to Gil Dempsey for this info. Gil returned to Cebu last year for the 50th Anniversary celebration.)

NOW HEAR THIS!

Ran out of room for all the Cebu stories that came in but they will be in the next edition. Thanks to all the members that contributed.

Now I need stories from members that were present at the surrender and made the journey to Japan.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE BATTLE OF CEBU
A JAPANESE SIDE
(Prologue - April 1942 to September 1944)

by George Fukui

On April 5, 1942 the Kawaguchi Detachment commanded by Major General S. Kawaguchi (estimated strength 3500 infantrymen) left Lingayen in Luzon and sailed secretly for Cebu. In the early morning hours of April 10th the assault plan was for one battalion to land at Balili (61 Km from Cebu City) on the southwest coast of Cebu and for the main force to make a surprise landing on Argao, (located 67 Km from Cebu City), on the southeast coast of the island. But at the last moment the landing force was diverted to Talisay as it was determined that there were no opposing forces to crush in the Argao area. After landing at Talisay, the same place the Americal Division landed on March 26, 1945, Kawaguchi's forces were able to enter Cebu City without encountering much resistance by the evening of the same date of landing.

From this time until General MacArthur's return to the Philippines on October 20th of 1944, the Japanese garrison forces on Cebu were to live in relative peace on the island except for a few skirmishes with the Filipino guerrillas which reportedly grew to a size of approximately 8,000 men by the time the Americans landed. In April of 1944, however, an incident took place that was to shock the Japanese navy hierarchy. Vice Admiral Shigeru Fukudome, chief of staff of the Japanese Combined Fleet was taken prisoner by Lt. Col. James Cushing who was the leader of the guerrilla forces on the island. Admiral Fukudome was on a seaplane flight from Palau for Davao but his flight was forced to crash land at sea about 33 Km south of Cebu City, off the coast of San Fernando. The commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet and successor to Admiral Yamamoto, Admiral M. Koga, was on a first seaplane flight out of Palau but his plane was caught in the same tropical storm which engulfed Fukudome's flight and was lost.

Admiral Fukudome and the small handful of his staff who survived the crash landing were taken to Cushing's hide-out. Fukudome hid his true identity by using a fictitious name, but Cushing knew that he had in his hands a prisoner of high rank. Just around this time it so happened that Lt. Col. Seiichi Onishi, of the crack 173rd Infantry Battalion was on the verge of encircling Cushing and his band by dint of a swift night action which took the guerrilla forces by surprise. The sequel to this is that Onishi obtains the release of Admiral Fukudome on Cushing's mountain hide-out. For this exchange a truce is held between the opposing parties, the one and only truce observed, however brief, during the Pacific war. It is reported that when the sides parted there was an exchange of warm greetings and handshaking.

In this incident the Philippine side was able to make a significant contribution to Americal intelligence. The native fishermen who rescued Fukudome from the sea managed to recover his briefcase containing top secret naval operation documents. These documents were eventually passed on to the American side where Americans of Japanese ancestry (Nisei) deciphered them. The secrets played a significant role in the Battle of the Philippine Sea in which Admiral Raymond Spruance dealt a crushing blow on the Japanese naval and air forces.

AMERICAN AIR STRIKE IN THE VISAYAS 1944.

In May of 1944, a month after the Fukudome incident, the Japanese 201st Air Group made the airfield in Cebu City its base of operations. This unit had fought through Rabaul, Buin, Saipan and Peleliu and had been mauled badly in a fight of attrition. It licked its wounds here and began to build up its strength in anticipation of an American air strike sooner or later. On September 9th Admiral Marc Mitscher's Task Force 38 blasted Davao for its first air raid in the Philippines. As the Davao attack raged, the Zero fighters on Luzon were hastily transferred to Cebu but they were too late to participate in the air battle in Mindanao.

Then on September 12th Task Force 38 struck Cebu airfield in a surprise attack. Poor radar equipment and a communications snarl-up, on the Japanese side, enabled the Americans pilots to come upon a scene of about 100 Zero fighters lined up on the runways. In the ensuing attack nearly two-thirds of the serviceable fighter planes in the Philippines were either completely destroyed or were crippled.

CEBU AFTER THE AMERICAN LANDING IN LEYTE, OCT 1944

Cebu City was the headquarters of the Japanese 35th Army under the command of Lt. Gen. Sosaku Suzuki who was responsible for the Visaya-Mindanao area. Because of its central location in the Philippines the Japanese high command regarded the city as its logistic center, and thus was to be defended at all cost. The units stationed on the island were the 102nd Division, 78th Brigade, and the 173rd Infantry Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Ohnishi, and a conglomerate group including Ship Transportation Facility, 33rd Naval Facility Detachment, 14th Army Hospital and the Navy 201st Air Force personnel, totaling approximately 15,000. The 102nd Division, however, was drastically reduced in strength because it was widely dispersed in the Visaya district including Leyte which was where Lt. Gen. Fukue had his headquarters staff after the American landing there. The Cebu area was under the command of Lt. Gen. Manjome. Among the assortment of units the 173rd Infantry Battalion was about the only combat-ready troops in the area when the Americans landed at Talisay on March 26, 1945. Lt. Gen. Suzuki had moved his headquarters to Leyte to cope with the overall battle situation in Leyte in October, 1944.

The Naval forces numbered 5,208 and was commanded by Vice Admiral Harada. Most of the men were hardly armed and after the American air raids in September of 1944, they were hastily trained for ground combat. The Ship Transportation Engineers, with its principal base of operations in the town of Liloan, 18 Km. north of Cebu City, had at one time a force of 2698 men. This unit was organized as a regimental service unit in October of 1943 and served as a replacement corps for barge-sized operations in the South Pacific. Liloan was a training and replacement center until the hostilities engulfed the Visaya district, after which the unit was compelled to engage in both land and sea operations. The unit was commanded by Lt. Col. Kito who sent 400 men to Ormac, in Leyte, to assist in unloading the Japanese transport ships bringing in reinforcements, to fight the Americans on Leyte. Kito himself took about 500 of his men to the Camotes Islands of the coast of Ormac in the latter part of October 1944. On January 18, 1945 an American Battalion landed on the Camotes and Kito and practically all of his men were killed on or around January 30th.

Prior to this the Cebu airfield was to gain some degree of notoriety to the Americans as the base became the launching pad of the first Kamikaze attacks from October 21, 1945. Some airgroups from Luzon were transferred here, and it is reported a number of successful strikes were made by the suicide missions masterminded by Lt. Gen. Ryujiro Onishi, who was commanding from Luzon.

SITUATION IN CEBU AFTER THE AMERICAL LANDING

At the time of the Americal Division's landing at Talisay on March 26, 1945, about 13,000 Japanese were in the surrounding areas of Cebu City. Initial battle plans were formulated by Lt. Gen. Manjome and his intention was not to put up stiff resistance on the beach, although he had mines and barriers set up at Talisay. Later Lt. Gen. Fukue took over command of the 102nd Division by order of Lt. Gen. Suzuki, who had temporarily relieved him as commander, for escaping from Leyte without orders. Manjome commanded the 78th Brigade which was under the 102nd Division. Suzuki himself escaped from Leyte on March 25 to Tabogon in northern Cebu, and from here arrived in Cebu City on the 27th, by special submarine.

The command post of the Japanese high command was at first located near Watt Hill (5km north of the Cebu waterfront), but at the latter part of January the headquarters positioned itself at Bosway Hill (9 km northwest of the Cebu waterfront). The Japanese called this hill, Tenzan (Heaven Hill) and as the Japanese forces were beaten back from the beach area, this hill and adjoining area were to become the main line of resistance until orders were given to retreat north. The Army units took position in the Bosay Hill and hilly areas in front and the Navy ground combat forces entrenched themselves in the Watt Hill area behind the Cebu airfield. The Talisay areas were defended by the Army Mizoguchi unit and the Hattori unit which were positioned to its north.

The Americal Division is reported to have made the initial assault with the 132nd Infantry Regiment and the 182nd Infantry Regiment as the main striking force. The Japanese defenses were quickly overrun, and the Americans entered Cebu city on March 27th. On the 28th the Americans captured the airfield and commenced attacks on the Japanese Naval units entrenched in well-prepared positions to the north of the airfield. At the end of March the Americans were able to operate the Mactin airstrip and the use of the pier facilities of the waterfront. The Japanese Naval units had put up a stiff resistance but by April 10, this battalion-size force was decimated to one-quarter of its fighting strength. Meanwhile the Mizoguchi and Hattori units were overwhelmed and withdrew to the Bosay Hills. The Watt Hill area was taken by the Americans on the 30th after sustaining damage to some of its tanks when an ammunition dump suddenly exploded on the 29th.

To pierce the stiff Japanese defenses General Arnold was reinforced by the addition of the 164th Infantry Regiment. In the subsequent wide enveloping movement around the right end of the main Japanese positions, the defending forces were placed in a precarious situation, forcing General Fukue to report to General Yamashita in Luzon, that a general "banzai" attack was contemplated. Yamashita, however, ordered the suicidal attack called off and for resistance to be continues to the last man in an effort to keep the enemy tied down on the island. The date of the order was April 12, 1945.

General Suzuki, meanwhile, had left for Mindanao shortly after his arrival in Cebu, leaving orders to Lt. Gen. Fukue and Vice Admiral Harada to defend Cebu City as long as possible, and if this became impossible to move all forces to northern Cebu and join forces with the 1st Division. On March 14, General Fukue realized that the battle situation in the Cebu City area was untenable and ordered a retreat to the north after 1900 hours on April 16. General Suzuki's plans were to escape to Mindanao to build up an impregnable redoubt there for combating the Americans forever. He is killed however, when his outrigger boat is attacked by American planes off the coast of Mindanao, and his dream of building a bastion is lost.

All the forces under Gen. Fukue's command began to retreat north on the 16th, and this included the service units, the Navy detachment, 14th Army Hospital personnel, and even included the Japanese civilians which numbered close to 1,700. The route taken was along the eastern foothills of the central mountain range of Cebu to avoid confrontation with the American regular troops and the Filipino guerrillas which pursued the Japanese. On April 25 General Fukue reached a point 3 kilometers south of Lugo where in consultation with the 1st Division, a battle perimeter extending from Lugo to Tabuelan on the west coast of Cebu, was drawn up.

The 1st Division was also known as the "Tama" division or "Gem" division and was in northern Cebu. The 1st Division was one of Japan's best known divisions and had belonged to the tough Kwantung Army in Manchuria before being pulled out to fight the Americans in the Philippines. It had reached Ormac on the northwest coast of Leyte on November 1, 1944 but in the ensuing battles with the American forces their numbers had dwindled to around 3,000 men by the end of December. A mission was given to the detachment of Ship Transportation Engineers to evacuate the 1st Division to northern Cebu. Between January 13 to the 30th three rescue missions were carried out successfully, until all the landing craft became unserviceable. On the northwest coast of Leyte a little over 2000 men awaited further rescue missions but were doomed to perish either from enemy action or starvation.

The 1st Division was re-equipped prior to the Americal Division's landing and took position in the mountainous areas near Ilihan (83 Km). Lt. Gen. Tadasu Kataoka of the 1st Division made Hill 250 the hub of his defense plans and positioned his troops strategically in the hilly areas to the northeast of Tabuelan, Lambsan and Olivo. On April 27 Americans made an amphibious attack on Sogod (83 Km), with tanks leading the way and had no trouble piercing the defense line of the 49th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division which had been moved south from Lugo. The Regiment was forced to retreat into the hills to the southwest of Sogod.

The 49th Regiment existed in name only as it numbered approximately 200 men made up of an assortment of the original Regiment and remnants of other units, including some civilians and over 50 men of the Ship Transportation Engineers from Liloan. Towards the end of May the survivors of the Regiment moved into the upper reaches of the Putat River and were separated from Division Headquarters with the Tabuelan-Lugo road, by now controlled by the Americans, cutting off the Japanese forced to the north and to the south.

From May 5 the Americans launched a fierce attack against the 1st Division positions, by air strikes and naval gunfire. On the 11th General Kataoka ordered all units under his command, which included the Ship Transportation Engineers, to change tactics to hit-and-run type of fighting as the odds were too great. On the other hand General Fukue, who had escaped the Cebu City area with an assortment of army, navy and civilian personnel numbering approximately 7,500, moved into the central mountainous terrain, inside a box-shaped area connecting Sogod, Tuburan, Pitong and Danao. General Fukue also ordered his units to resort to hit-and-run tactics and avoid detection by Americans by taking advantage of the jungle growth and the mountainous terrain. On June 20 Fukue's forces were subjected to heavy attacks by the Americans from the north and southeast directions. the American forces confronting Fukue's units from these sides were estimated to number 2,000. On June 15th Fukue ordered his troops to retreat into the mountain area to the east of Balamban and this destination is reached on the 21st. With steep hills ranging from 600 to 700 meters, this area was to become known as Hill 500 (gohyaku-kochi) to the Japanese.

Meanwhile the 49th Infantry Regiment was subjected to a heavy barrage of mortar fire from May 25 at a point about 8 km west of Sogod. Col. Jiro Koura, Regiment commander, and his key staff officers were killed in this attack. Also killed was Lt. Col. Suyama who was a staff officer of operations of division headquarters. The Regiment was practically wiped out and the survivors barely managed to escape to friendly lines to the southwest, guarding the Regimental flag. General Kataoka later dispatched a special unit to retrieve the flag and when it finally returned to Division Headquarters on July 21st, there only 21 survivors of the ill-fated regiment. Among the dead it is reported that over 50 men of the Ship Transportation Engineers (men of one of the units I belonged to) were included.

Both the 1st Division and General Fukue's forces avoided direct conflict with the American forces and changed their positions frequently by taking advantage of the mountainous terrain and the jungle growth. General Kataoka learned about the Japanese surrender on August 17 and signed the surrender document at Iligan on the 28th. By order of General Kataoka, General Fukue also signed surrender documents on August 24 at Balamban.

POST-MORTEM

A recent tourist to the Philippines, which is visited by many thousands of Japanese every year, has reported about a part-Japanese bus guide who told a bus-load of visitors, "The Philippines is your second home. Please love the Philippines because many of your loved ones (buddies, family members) are still sleeping underneath our soil". These words are a poignant reminder of the great tragedy of the Pacific War which engulfed the United States, Philippines and Japan over 40 years ago. By official figures the Japanese lost 498,000 men out of a total of 639,967 army and navy personal sent to the Philippines, a death toll of nearly 80%. Only 72,000 of the remains have been recovered by the government dispatched search teams. This means that approximately 430,000 Japanese are still buried somewhere in the Philippines in unmarked graves or lie in the ocean depths, whose whereabouts are known only to god. the entire Philippines are a burial site of the Japanese, and it was perhaps with this fact in

mind the bus guide was trying to urge the Japanese visitors to pay homage to the dead, thus promoting trade.

In Cebu the Japanese lost approximately 7,150 out of a total of 14,500 men. Out of this figure the Navy losses were more than 2,000 out of 5,208 stationed in Cebu City prior to March 26, 1945. The Ship Transportation Engineers stationed at Liloan suffered a casualty of 1,885 dead out of a total of 2,698 men. Unlike some of the other units these Engineers, because of the service nature of their work, were dispersed to various battle sites in sometime platoon sizes, and were hence widely scattered during all phases of the battle. The once proud 1st Division, which had been trained to cope with the Russians on the Manchurian border, were decimated to only 455 survivors when the war ended. The Division strength at the time the Division landed in Ormac, Leyte on Nov. 1, 1944 was 12,960. Approximately 740 were evacuated to Cebu but 288 lost their lives on Cebu. According to figures in Japan the Americal Division suffered 835 men killed and 2,950 wounded.

As a matter of record the total number of military personnel who lost their lives during the Pacific War, on all fronts, was approximately 2,100,000. The total of civilians who died overseas numbered 480,000. By far the greatest sacrifice was in the Philippines where nearly one-quarter, or almost 500,000 men were lost. Next in number was the China mainland where 450,000 were killed, followed by Burma 165,000, New Guinea 128,000, and in the Okinawa, Saipan theater of warfare 104,00. The total of civilians who died overseas numbered 480,000. When approximately 500,000 people who were killed in the Japanese mainland by bombing are added, about 3,100,000 became casualties.

EPILOG

The Kawaguchi Detachment mentioned at the outset was to meet its doom when it was committed piecemeal into the Guadalcanal battle in mid-August of 1942. It followed the fate as the Ichiki Detachment commanded by Col. Ichiki, which was the first contingent of Japanese forces to take part in the battle to chase the Americans off of the island, supposedly in quick order. This detachment had been earmarked to occupy Midway but had been diverted to Guam because of the unexpected Naval loss at Midway. Col. Ichiki troops had been loaded on troopships to return to Japan when suddenly they were sent to Guadalcanal where they were all but wiped out by the American Marines. In the Midway and Guadalcanal battles the Japanese high command was to have a foretaste of the fighting spirit of the Americans who were regarded as softies and push-overs. The underestimation of the patriotism of the Americans and the fighting quality of their soldiers was the biggest mistake made by the Japanese military which had boasted and fed propaganda, which they believed, that the Japanese soldiers were invincible..because of their superior fighting spirit.

The fictitious name Admiral Fukudome, used after his capture by Lt. Col. Cushing, was Admiral Hanazono. Lt. Col. Onishi did not learn his true identity until after his release. It is reported by the rescuing soldiers that Admiral Fukudome only had words of reproach towards these men. No doubt it was due to his ingrained arrogance, but, here was a man who allowed a tactical victory to slip by. In the eyes of the rescuers he must have been viewed as despicable for even a low-ranking

soldier was taught that being captured by the enemy was a disgrace to the family name and was equated with death.

Eventually Fukudome was given a command of an air group in Taiwan but most of his pilots, he ordered to attack Admiral Halsey's task force off the island, were shot down. As a soldier he was all washed up.

After the surrender Gen. Fukue was taken to Singapore where he had fought under Yamashita. The British held him responsible for the death of two Australians and had him shot. The British were said to have been harsher than the Americans in meting our revenge. Lt. Col. Onishi was to meet with a more humane treatment. Although he was suspected as a war criminal, as was almost all of the high ranking officers, no known atrocities were chargeable against him and Lt. Col. Cushing's testimony in his favor in recognition of his integrity as a soldier, in keeping his promise to let the surrounded guerrillas go free in exchange for Fukudome, helped to shorten his captivity.

After Japan's defeat the once proud and vaunted Japanese war machine was completely dismantled. All the tradition built up since Japan became a modern nation, including her heroes, have gone down the drain, lock, stock, and barrel. Only the names of Admiral Togo and General Nogi, who became heroes in the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-05 are known, but only because shrines erected in the pre-war days in their names still remain in Tokyo. The heroes of the Pacific War whose names were household words during the wartime are long forgotten, never to be revived again. The Kamikaze pilots who blithely went on their fateful missions under orders of their superiors in a last-ditch effort to thwart invasion of their homeland are mere statistics. No heroes or the glory of war appear in children's text books today.

In postwar Japan militarism is a thing of the past, thanks to a unique war-renouncing constitution. Military men in uniform and marching parades are strictly taboo for the Self Defense Forces which is now counted as the 8th largest force in the world. SDF's annual observance of their anniversary must be done within military bases, as any military reviews within sight of the general public would be met with violent obstruction. A survey conducted recently shows that roughly 72% of the people want the defense budget kept within 1% of the GNP. It is ironical, however, that for a country which has met total defeat and forsaken arms forever is now being prodded to increase its defense efforts.

In the last 40 years a complete change has taken place in Japan. The country has changed and so have the people. Of course nearly 70% of the people do not know anything about the last war, but the people who do remember the war has completely changed in their thinking about the past, especially the role played by the military.

George Fukui

(This article was sent in by Joe Mullen)

Ed Note: George Fukui was born in California and went to school there until 1939. At that time his parents returned to Japan and he went with them. A few years went by and the first thing he knew he was in the Japanese Army. He was a member of the Ship Transportation Engineers. He was in the Liloan area at war end and surrendered to a unit of the Americal. George, who speaks English

fluently was very valuable to the Americal as a translator during the surrender.

The preceding story is one that he put together from Japanese Army records and wanted to share with us.

George has spent much of his time since the surrender translating many Japanese Army documents for the U. S. Army, translating American books into Japanese, and working for various American companies.

Several years ago George gave my wife and I a personal guided tour of Tokyo. He is one heck of a guy!

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAL DIVISION
APO 716

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 103

29 June 1945

CITATION OF 182d INFANTRY

The 182d Infantry Regiment, United States Army, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Cebu, Philippines Islands, from 26 March to 18 April 1945. The citation is as follows:

Moving directly from a strenuous campaign in Leyte during which it sustained a high rate of casualties, the 182d Infantry made the main drive during the landing and subsequent operation on Cebu. This regiment, though under-strength, was given the mission of clearing the heights dominating the City of Cebu. These heights were characterized by a series of bare, nearly vertical, hills progressively rising to a height of 1900 feet. The enemy had been preparing these hills for defense for two years and had completed a most elaborate system of mutually supporting, interconnecting caves, concrete pillboxes, and trenches. All avenues of approach were heavily mined and tank trapped and covered by mortar, machine guns, 20mm and 40mm automatic cannon as well as by riflemen. The strength of the enemy force was approximately 6500. Despite the fact that the regiment was initially 517 men under-strength it pushed its assault vigorously and without respite for twenty-two days, repulsing repeated counterattacks and suicidal demolition parties until its deep penetration became the main factor which forced the withdrawal of the remaining enemy force. During this period every available man was used in the attack; company, battalion, and regimental headquarters, antitank, and service personnel were used as rifle company replacements. From 26 March to 18 April this regiment suffered 878 casualties and accounted for 1396 counted enemy dead.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL SLOCUM:

OFFICIAL:

M.M. Magee
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

W.A. Moreland
Major, AGD

DISTRIBUTION "X"

(Sent in by Will Benkart - K Co. 182nd Infantry)

REUNION 1996

H COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

Company H, 182nd Infantry held their Annual Reunion Saturday, May 25, 1996 at the Siver Fox Restaurant, Everett, MA.

Forty four people were there to enjoy a family style dinner. A delicious cake was made by Leo Volta for the occasion and his wife Nell was given the honor of cutting it. Among those present were:

Col. Salvatore Vinciullo and his wife Magarette
Maj. Jack Algeo and his wife Kay
Joe Chin, M Co., and his wife Barbara
Joe Papa, F Co., and his wife Josephine
Col. John Patterson, K Co.
Maj. Donald Pray, G Co.

Gordon Durocher and his wife Phyllis came all the way from Wisconsin. Gordon also donated two wallets to be given as prizes. Margerette Vinciullo won the woman's wallet and Jimmy Pesce won the man's.

After a pleasant afternoon we all parted with a, "good luck, good health, until we meet next year".
--Same place--last Saturday in May 1997--

Below is a picture taken in concord, MA at a Memorial Service held for Kenneth Dunn who was killed in action on Guadalcanal in 1942.



L-R: Michele Lombardo, John Groppi, Samuel Hosmer, Maurice Dee, Michael Lombardo, Edward Monsen. Back: Ed Chisholm, Charles Budreau, Bill Murphy

Chairman: John Groppi
Treas: Fred Zaino

SOUTH PACIFIC BUDDIES ASSOCIATION

A picnic will be held on August 10, 1996 at the

Elliot and Gertrude Carey Farm
[REDACTED]
North Billerica, MA 01862
Tel [REDACTED]

Tickets are \$7.00 for food. Any extra will be given as a prize. If you are interested--CALL NOW

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

NOW HEAR THIS!

The latest word from the Turner Publishing Company is that the book will be in your hands by the end of August. It has been a long-time and a frustrating time for the many members that have sent in money and pictures. This should soon end.

I have been partially responsible for I wanted to make the history as accurate as possible but I believe Turner Publishing Company is more interested in writing historical novels than it is in writing true history. As you know, the media today is more interested in being "politically correct" than being accurate. The publishing field today abounds with the so-called "revisionist historians".

Mr. Martin, from Turner Publishing, called me last week and said he is proceeding with the printing of the history without my blessing--that is okay by me. I'm glad I do not have anything invested.

One area that the veterans has slipped up on is allowing our educational systems fall victim to a bunch of liberal PC's. What are they teaching our children about American History? Apparently people that have advanced through our educational system are now the publishers and editors that went through school without learning much about our great country and the men who made it.

Last December 7th there was not a line in the Boston Globe, that serves a huge suburban area, about Pearl Harbor. June 6th the Boston Globe carried one 4 x 6 picture with a three line explanation beneath it. The did have a short article that told of town in France being named after General Montgomery--but nothing about American! The Cape Cod Times which is the largest paper on the Cape did not have one single line about D-Day!

I expected to hear a howl go up from the veteran organizations but as yet I haven't heard a peep. Are we too old and tired to speak out about an injustice?

Yours in comradeship,
Jim

PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL

In a recent Newsletter it was stated that the Philippine Liberation Medal awards were being held up due to lack of funds. Here is a solution:

Tell the Philippine government to confiscate Imelda's shoes, auction them off and use the money to make more medals.

If they won't do that threaten to take the islands from them and give them back to Japan.

Just a thought.

Jack Folmer

CHECK THAT ADDRESS LABEL NOW!

Please check the address label on your Newsletter and make sure it is EXACT. If the number is wrong or the street name misspelled the Post Office may return it to the Newsletter and we will be charged for its return. Also check the date following your name. This is month and year your dues are DUE.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The ADVA publishes the Americal Newsletter four times a year and provides it free with your membership. Please write to the Editor-in-Chief or the Vietnam Editor if you wish to submit ideas or articles for publication.

The newsletter publishes items of interest to members and includes reports on ADVA activities and upcoming events. Your accounts of American Division history are also published. Space is usually available to publish locator queries. The editors reserve the right to choose and edit articles for publication. Photos and text for publication should be copies.

REUNIONS

The ADVA holds annual national reunions in the month of June. The location of the national reunion is determined two years in advance. The reunions are held in various major cities in the United States. The 1996 reunion will be June 20-23 in Reno, NV. The 1996 Reunion Chairman is Lloyd Morrell, NorthWest Regional Commander.

Reunion events include local tours, business meetings, hospitality room, entertainment, banquet and dance.

The 1997 reunion will be in the Boston area. Contact the ADVA office or the reunion chairman for more information.

Many regional chapters schedule local gatherings for members. Please contact the appropriate Regional Commander. A group of Americal veterans has been gathering each year at the Vietnam veterans' reunion in Kokomo, IN. Contact Ron Ward for more information.

VETERANS DAY HOSPITALITY

ADVA members gather at a hospitality room in Washington D.C. during Veterans Day activities. This provides a place for members and friends to meet and enjoy good company and conversation after the daily activities. Due to limited funding, a free will offering will be accepted. Contact Ron Ward for more information.

MUSEUM

The ADVA Museum is located at the Massachusetts National Guard Salisbury Street Armory in Worcester, MA. It maintains artifacts related to the Americal Division. Hours of operation vary. Contact the museum curator for more information.

DIRECTORY

See the Directory for the names and addresses of National Officers, Regional Commanders, and Committee Chairs.

Americal Newsletter

Americal Division Veterans Association, P.O. Box 1381, Boston, MA 02104

The ADVA Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to the children and grandchildren of association members and to the children of Americal veterans who died while in military service. An official ADVA scholarship application form must be submitted to the Scholarship Chairman prior to May 1 of each year. Winners are selected by an independent panel.

Winners are announced at the annual reunion in June. For more information, contact Ron Ward, Scholarship Chairman.

INTERNET WEB PAGE

The ADVA homepage can be located on the internet at <http://www.americal.org>

This page offers current information on the activities of the ADVA as well as links to Americal Division history resources and other items of interest to veterans. A locator board and guest book are also available on the web page.

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

The following items are offered for sale by the ADVA.

Association Patch (Small)	1.00
Association Patch (Large)	3.00
Americal Patch (Dress Blue)	2.75
Americal Patch (Field Uniform)	1.50
Americal Patch Decal	2.25
American Flag Patch	1.00
Americal Car Plate	7.00
Americal Pin Shield (Large)	2.50
Americal Division Crest	2.50
Car Window Decal	1.50
Association Lapel Pin	2.50
Tie Bar with Shield	4.00
Minature Combat Infantryman Badge (lapel)	3.50
Minature Combat Medic Badge (lapel)	3.50
Minature 182 Infantry Pin (lapel)	3.50
Under the Southern Cross (History, Soft, PPD)	12.00
Cap, Baseball with Patch	6.00
Americal T-shirt M-L (White, WWII or VN)	10.00
Americal T-shirt XL-XXL (White, WWII or VN)	12.00
Americal T-shirt M-L (Black, VN)	10.00
Americal T-shirt XL-XXL (Black, VN)	12.00
Sappers in the Wire (Keith William Nolan, Hard)	24.95

**Postage will be added to the above prices. Send orders to: Kenneth Turner, [REDACTED], Wakefield, MA 01880 or call [REDACTED]



James C. Buckle
36 Standish Woods Circle
Harwich, MA 02645

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harwich, MA 02645
PERMIT NO. 62

Address Correction Requested

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 1996

Mr. Malcolm P. East Sep96
[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.