

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ 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

Published Quarterly

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



Season's Greetings

1995 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1996

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Stephen N. Dennison
[REDACTED]
Pittsburg, PA 15227

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Gary L. Noller
[REDACTED]
Unit 146
Austin, TX 78759

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Herbert S. Page
[REDACTED]
Carver, MA 02330-1852

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Joseph Chin
[REDACTED]
Lincoln, MA 01773-0006

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase
[REDACTED]
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Roland C. Castronova - Chairman
William K. Maddox
Peter J. Messina
James J. Flynn
Robert N. Thornton
Edward W. Marsh
Ronald R. Ellis
Robert T. Hock
John DeGroot
Joseph A. Anderson
Malcolm S. Cate Jr.

CHAPTER COMMANDERS

Harold J. Gigli New England Chapter
Robert Granoff Eastern Regional Chapter
Elmer E. Matola South-East Chapter
Ernest B. Carlson South Mid-West Chapter
Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter
Joe D. Feeler Far West Chapter
Ronald L. Ward Central Mid-West Chapter
Lloyd J. Morrell North-West Chapter
(Members of the Executive Council)

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle
[REDACTED]
Harwich, MA 02645

Telephone [REDACTED]

VIETNAM EDITOR

Roland T. Castronova
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960

WHEN YOU WRITE - INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It has been five months now since I have taken the step to be National Commander of this really great organization, one that keeps growing each day with new members. In the past there have been some memorable speeches given by great and unforgettable men using phrases we will always remember. I would like to use some of these phrases in my message to you.

"I have a dream" - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I have a dream that come June 1996 at our National Convention in Reno, Nevada, that our organization will have doubled. This can only be done with the help of each and every member going out and asking veterans who have served in the Americal Division to join our ranks.

The second one is as follows: "Ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country". - President John F. Kennedy. Ask not what the Americal Division Veterans Association can do for you, but ask what you can do for the Americal Division Veterans Association. There are a lot of people right now working hard for this organization and positive feedback is coming back in that many good things are happening. Some changes that are being made may not be understood but let's give them a chance.

The word "Veteran" will be with us all of our lives. The main thing that matters is that we are all family, no matter where we served or what we did while we served our country. All of the men and women who left this great land of ours and went off to fight in strange lands should stand together now as we did back then and work together to make this organization stronger and better than ever before. I know we can do this because we are veterans who always give of ourselves whether it was back then or now. We are all veterans no matter where we have served or what we did to win the war.

From all the officers, I wish each and every one a very happy and healthy new year.

Very truly yours,
Stephen N. Dennison
National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

January 20, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

February 17, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

March 16, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

April 20, 1996
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

TAPS

182 INFANTRY

Harland M. Anderson
Saugus, MA
September 12, 1995

182 INFANTRY

John V. Busi
Scituate, MA
November 10, 1995

26 ENGINEERS A Co.

Roger D. Christian
Churchill, TN
October 8, 1995

164 INFANTRY

Joe D. Feeler
Albuquerque, NM
November 23, 1995

132 INFANTRY I Co.

Richard H. Hern
Lombard, IL
March 7, 1995

245 FIELD ARTILLERY

Frank J. Klausung
Southfield, MI
September 1995

121 MEDICAL BN.

Hugh J. McLean
Marston Mills, MA
September 16, 1995

121 MEDICAL BN.

Leo Canto
Canton, MA
September 6, 1995

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Fred Basile
Haverhill, MA
September 28, 1995

PAST. NAT. CHAPLAIN

Paul Chaisson
Boston, MA
November 19, 1995

182 INFANTRY L Co.

Milton Cusher
Canton, MA
July 16, 1995

182 INFANTRY F Co.

Robert W. Fitzpatrick
Waltham, MA
October 14, 1995

164 INFANTRY F Co.

Adrian H. Holten
Portland, OR
December 12, 1994

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Joseph Liotta
Boston, MA
March 24, 1995

132 INFANTRY B Co.

Patsy S. Pizzuto
Cambridge, MA
May 17, 1995

182 INFANTRY C Co.

Albert C. Riddick
Quincy, MA
August 9, 1995

SICK CALL

132 Infantry D Co.

Joseph Balcazar
[REDACTED]
San Antonio, TX 78209-64

198 LIB

Michael Maier
[REDACTED]
Fremont, CA 94539

HEY GUYS--HOW ABOUT A CARD

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Leslie A. Gorsuch
196 LIB B/8 Spt.
Aurora, CO

Ernest R. Huerta
23 M.P.
Chicago, IL

Dewell C. Pittman
23 Admin
Biloxi, MS

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

NEW MEMBERS

William L. Annonson
221 F.A. C Btry.
Oak Creek, WI
#Leo Orfe

Edgar Ashley
132 Infantry Co. I
Marion, IN
#Bernie Chase

Clyde F. Bentley
478 AAA AW Bn C Btry
Fairport, NY
#Bernie Chase

Richard L. Britzel
23 Div Hdq
Shamong, NJ
#Membership Committee

Charles J. Byard
56 Arty 6/56 Arty
Kingsville, MD
#Membership Committee

Dennis A. Clements
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf
Akron, OH
#R. Castronova

Paul E. Cullinane
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf
Chambersburg, PA
#R. Castronova

Frederick G. Della
132 Infantry Hq/1
Matawan, NJ
#Bernie Chase

Francis C. Downing
182 Infantry Hdq
South Carver, MA
#Membership Committee

Douglas J. Everman
1 Cav Tr B 1st Sqd
Tampa, FL
#Bernie Chase

John R. Flowers
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Albuquerque, NM
#Bernie Chase

Daniel F. Gill
182 Infantry H Co.
Franklin Square, NY
#Bernie Chase

Frank D. Gish
56 Infantry C/1/56
Englewood, CO
#Col. James Taylor

John A. Gonzalez
3 Infantry 4/3 Inf
Fairfax Station, VA
#James P. Collins

John R. Green
11 Arty 6/11
Dearborn, MO
#R. Castronova

Everett W. Arnold
132 Infantry Reg Hd
Ridgeway, MO
#Self

Albin L. Beck
23 Hdq Spec Troops
Houston, TX
#John A. Shaver

Kenneth E. Black
196 LIB E/3/21 Inf
Cumberland Gap, TN
#Membership Committee

Richard J. Bush
164 Infantry F Co.
Fargo, ND
#John Paulson

Randal R. Chase
3 Infantry C/4/3
Warren, PA
#Bernie Chase

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

Michael Dachille
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf
Westminster, MD
#Dee Staton

Bradley W. Dickerson
23 M.P.
Kent, OH
#Brian Mulcrone

Roger Dufresne
18 Arty 3/18
Derry, NH
#Membership Committee

Gary Fisher
198 LIB 5/46 Inf
Troyon, NC
#Membership Committee

William W. Freeman
215 C.A.
Simpsonville, SC
#William Maddox

William F. Gilliland
198 LIB HHC/MP Plat
South Lake Tahoe, CA
#Harold E. Leuthard

Alfred J. Gliddon
154 Infantry
Coon Rapids, MN
#Bernie Chase

Norman J. Gravino
23 Div Hdq
Oak Ridge, NJ
#Membership Committee

George Hynes
26 Engrs
Keansburg, NJ
#R. Castronova

NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey C. Johnson
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Ashland, OR
#Dutch DeGroot

Alex A. Kunevicius
22 Ord (M M)
Cleveland, OH
#Arthur Boessheck

Jerry D. Ladd
23 Div Hdq HHC
San Pablo, CA
#Membership Committee

Logan R. Martin
11 LIB E/1 Cav
Milford, KS
#Bernie Chase

Mark J. Milobar
11 LIB A/4/3 Inf
Naples, FL
#R. Castronova

John A. Montag
3 Infantry C/4/3
Cincinnati, OH
#Bernie Chase

James Obermayer
63 IPCT
Orange, CA
#David W. Taylor

John G. Paccaghini
196 LIB
River Vale, NJ
#R. Castronova

Fred C. Powell
57 Inf Scout Dog Plt
Lancaster, CA
#William C. Montgomery

John Smith
198 LIB HHC/1/52 In
Quincy, IL
#William L. Dunphy

Dale L. Strine Jr.
21 Infantry B/3/21
York, PA
#Membership Committee

John Tonihka
198 LIB 52/E/Recon
Bennington, OK
#Ernie Carlson

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

Joseph R. Zwingraf
14 Com Avn Bn HHQ
Lake Oswego, OR
#Membership Committee

George Kost
223 F.A. B/223
Union, NJ
#Bernie Chase

George I. LaPoint
23 TED Hq. Co. Adm
Killeen, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Herbert Langlois Jr.
11 LIB
West Roxbury, MA
#R. Castronova

Caleb R. Mills
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf
Carson City, NV
#Ronald L. Davis

John Miner
26 Sig Co.
Baltimore, MD
#Bernie Chase

Calvin Myers
121 Med Bn
Lakeland, FL
#Membership Committee

Richard S. Oglesby
196 LIB
Pleasant Hill, CA
#R. Castronova

Sherwood L. Philpott
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf
Axtion, VA
#Ron Davis

Charles L. Shimp III
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Stone Mountain, GA
#Jerry Anderson

Byron Scott Staton
Associate
Lexington, VA
#Carroll E. Staton

Vincent Thompson
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf
Burlington, WA
#William C. Montgomery

Kenneth M. Waligorski
23 HHC Sup Com
Belleville, IL
#Membership Committee

Winthrop P. Wells
182 Infantry
Sandown, NH
#Bernie Chase

#SPONSOR

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE
AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR,
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Donald G. Bommer Jr.
566 Ambulance Co
Shoreham, NY

James R. Kirkpatrick
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Topeka, KS

Otto S. Lindskog
640 Tank Des. B Co.
Stockton, CA

Irvin M. Fox Jr.
11 LIB
Garden City, MI

Douglas N. Leaman
26 Sig TF 6814
Plymouth, MA

Charles G. Mankin
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf
Fairfax, VA

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Leonard S. Graham
In Memory of
Walter Sweetser

PNC Peter J. Messina

Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Blum

John O. Newman

Carrol E. Stanton

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

The Americal Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization and any contributions made to this Fund are tax deductible.

If you have any ideas for a fund raiser to support the Foundation please contact me and we will work out the details.

Remember, this Fund is set up as a memorial to all men that served in the Americal Division.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, complaints, or desire information on the Scholarship Fund, do not hesitate to contact me.

PNC Ronald L. Ward

St. Louis, MO 63123

FROM YOUR ADJUTANT

WITH THIS ISSUE OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER MANY MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVING A NOTICE THAT THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE THEY WILL RECEIVE BECAUSE THEY ARE DELINQUENT IN THEIR DUES. PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. WE DO NOT LIKE TO LOSE A MEMBER. YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US!



GET YOUR STORIES IN
BY JANUARY 15, 1996
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER



Santo J. Ravagno
1915 - 1995

Died August 22, 1995

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Margaret Church, Saugus, MA for PNC Santo J. Ravagno. Fr. Paul Chaisson, S.M. (Past National Catholic Chaplain of ADVA) delivered a very touching Homily of Sam's life as a family man, soldier, and his activities as a member of the ADVA.

Born in Boston Sam was a long-time resident of East Boston moving to Saugus, MA 25 years ago. Sam's accomplishments were many. For many years he was Maintenance Supervisor of the Massachusetts Port Authority and as a member of the Massachusetts National Guard for 26 years as a CWO. Sam was PNC of the ADVA where he chaired many committees, also developing the programs which allowed the ADVA to become a National organization.

Sam was the husband of Louise (DiSilvio) and father of Mary Olsen and John, both of Saugus. He is also survived by six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Internment was at the National Cemetery, Bourne, MA with full military honors as prescribed for all veterans.

Sam was a friend and comrade and will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends.

If you care to contact his wife Louise, or family, their address is as follows:

Mrs. Louise Ravagno

Saugus, MA 01906

I, myself, will miss Sam as a friend and comrade.

Submitted by: PNC William L. Dunphy

REV. PAUL A. CHAISSON, S.M.

Our Past National Chaplain, Father Paul, of the Americal Division Veterans Association, died on November 19, 1995. Father was 75 years old.

Father Paul was appointed National Catholic Chaplain in 1974 and retired from this office in 1992.

In his long term as a Catholic Chaplain he attended all the various functions of the ADVA and was available for concealing to any of the members of our organization.

Father's life work as a priest was his first priority but these latter years he has been the Fund Raiser for the Marist Missions. We all remember the Marist Mission priests and nuns who devoted their life work for the natives of the South Pacific Islands.

Father Paul will be sorely missed for his spiritual Guidance by his many friends of the ADVA.

Donations may be sent to the Father Paul Memorial Fund, Marist Mission Office, 29 Isabella Street, Boston, MA, 02116 in his memory.

Submitted by: PNC William L. Dunphy

PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAL MUSEUM

Bob Doucette, formerly of Company L, 182 Infantry, hand carved and painted the plaque shown below. Bob has donated many hours of his time on projects for the Americal.



AMERICAL MUSEUM WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Major General Raymond A. Vezina, the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, was the guest speaker at the Americal Division Veterans Association meeting that was held on October 28, 1995. The meeting was held in the ADVA's new quarters in the Worcester Armory.

General Vezina gave a very interesting and informative talk on the role the National Guard plays in the modern Army.

Following the meeting General Vezina was presented a copy of the Americal history, 'Under the Southern Cross', by the Americal Museum Curator PNC Kenneth R. Turner, in recognition for the valuable assistance given in helping with the relocation of the Americal Museum.



Maj. Gen. Vezina - PNC Kenneth R. Turner

Stephen T. Seames was also presented a copy of the Americal history by PNC Turner. Mr. Seames is a military archivist and is in overall charge of the Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum. He has been a tremendous help in relocating the Americal Museum.



PNC Kenneth R. Turner - Stephen T. Seames

EACH CHAPTER IS FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT
FROM NATIONAL. THEY COLLECT CHAPTER DUES AND
FINANCE THEIR OWN FUNCTIONS

JOE D. FEELER REGIONAL COMMANDER FAR WEST CHAPTER

Joe D. Feeler, 71, died November 23, 1995. He was a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the past thirty years. Joe was born on November 16, 1924 in Copan, Oklahoma to Michael and Ella Feeler and was one of eight sons. He graduated from Copan High School, near Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife Esther, a brother, Ernest B. Feeler, a sister-in-law Elsie Feeler and several other sisters-in-law and brother-in-laws, and many, many nieces and nephews.

Joe devoted a lifetime of volunteer service to Albuquerque civic and veteran's affairs. Last December Gov. Bruce King awarded Joe a certificate of merit for his volunteer veteran's service throughout the state.

Even in his older years he'd spend hours on his computer to help some patients at the Veterans Hospital make contact with their ham radios.

After graduation he joined the U.S. Army, in 1943 and served four years. Upon his return home he married his childhood sweetheart on March 20, 1946. Joe and Esther were planning on celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in March of 1996.

Joe joined the 164th Infantry on Fiji in 1943 and he saw service in the campaigns on Bougainville, Leyte and Cebu.

Joe passed away on November 24, 1995 at the Presbyterian Hospital, from heart failure. The funeral was held from the French Mortuary and he was buried with full Military Honors at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe.

He was a long time member of the Bernalillo County Search and Rescue Unit and the Red Cross. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge A.F. & M..

Joe Feeler had been Commander of the Far West Chapter for almost five years and through his efforts it has become one of our larger and successful Chapters.

Senior Vice Commander of the Americal Division, Gary L. Noller, spoke at the funeral service. Mrs. Feeler wishes to express her appreciation for his kind words and thoughtfulness.



Above is a picture of Joe and his wife Esther taken at the Far West Reunion in September 1995

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER

Robert L. Granoff
Collegeville, PA 19426
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS

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

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

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

Our yearly Reunion was held September 7-10 in Louisville, KY at the Travelodge in the Hurstone Area. We had a couple of interesting tours including visits to the Jim Beam Distillery - where, unfortunately, there was no sampling, and then to the Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, KY. Following these tours we had lunch at the Old Talbot Inn. Later we crossed the river into Indiana and had a country style dinner at Huber's Farm Restaurant.

At our business meeting, held after dinner at the Blairwood Club, the big news was the necessity to elect a new Commander to replace Steve Dennison who, we are proud to say, is moving up to become National Commander. PNC Pete Messina presented Steve with a clock, featuring a sectional reproduction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as a mark of our gratitude and respect for his years of service as our Regional Commander.

Newly elected as our Regional Commander was a World War II veteran, Bob Granoff of Collegeville, PA. Bill Gold was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer and George Yates was again elected as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Tentative plans were made to hold our 1996 Reunion at the Chamberlain Hotel at Fort Monroe, VA. where we have held a previous Reunion. Arrangements for the Reunion are in the good hands of PNC Pete Messina and as soon as things definite we will get the word to the membership.

My best,
Bill Gold

NORTH WEST CHAPTER

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

Lloyd Morrell
Redmond, OR 97756
Tel. [REDACTED]

Denis R. Bourcier
Kirkland, WA 98033
Tel. [REDACTED]

Plans are progressing on the 1996 National Convention to be held in Reno, NV on June 20-23, 1996. The Far West Chapter has canceled their 1996 Chapter Reunion, usually held in September, so they can join us in making this National Convention a memorable reunion. All indications are that we will have a good turnout from both the Western and Eastern States.

We are scheduling some interesting events and there will be something for everyone to enjoy. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and dispel the old saying that East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. You will have the chance to proudly parade with the Americal colors. So make your plans now

Continues on next page

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

REGIONAL - Elmer E. Matola - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Hernando Beach, FL 34442
Tel. [REDACTED]

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

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

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

REGIONAL - Rush G. Propper - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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

REGIONAL - Joe D. Feeler - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Telephone [REDACTED]

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

REGIONAL - Harold J. Gigli - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Carver, MA 02330-1809

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

REGIONAL - Robert L. Granoff - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Collegeville, PA 19426
Telephone [REDACTED]

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

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

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
AL WA OR ID MT WY

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

Northwest Chapter News (Conclusion)
to vacation in Reno in June for a great time. Look for further information in this issue of the Americal Newsletter. Application forms will be in the January-February-March issue of the Americal Newsletter.

One last note, we are scheduling a meeting for April 20, 1996 at Vancouver, WA for an election of officers for the Northwest Chapter. A letter to all Northwest members will be going out after the holidays pertaining to this meeting.

Wishing all members a very happy holiday season.
Lloyd J. Morrell
Chapter Commander
Convention Coordinator

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Mobley
WE WERE FEW--WE WERE MIGHTY--WE WERE THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS!!! IT WAS V.J. PLUS 50.

It was the second day of September 1995! It was Fredericksburg, TX and there were 30,000 people lining the three mile long parade route! We were Senior Vice Commander Gary L. Noller, Dan Maier, Ron Ellis and buddy Steve, Terry Sifford, Howard Rood, Tillman Cole, and myself Ernie Carlson. We were, as the Americal has always been, piloted by a Navy man, Steve Kronnick. I haven't forgotten Allen Duglosh (he is behind someone in the picture that I am looking at now), Malcolm East and his wife, and partner Beverly stayed on the ground and took pictures.

Since the Americal had started out cleaning up after the Marines, Navy, and Air Corps, way back in 1992, it was very fitting that we were the last unit in the procession.

The temperature was pushing the century mark, but as if to show their love and respect for the veterans, the crown stayed until ther single bagpiper brought up the rear, piping "Amazing Grace".

Afterwards we wended our way to 212 Peach Street where we partook of a little bit of food, drink, and friendship.

I have talked to numerous people, since V-J Day and everyone tells me that the memory of that parade will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Each one of the guys on the float has told me that for most of the parade as we wound our way through Fredericksburg, and past the standing, saluting, and shouting crowds, there were tears in their (our) eyes.

I have also heard, since then, that we can now forget about that and go on to something else. Not by the hair on your chinny, chin, chin. I do say that we now need to concentrate on letting our brothers, of the other conflicts that have since taken place, that we will do everything in our power to support them.

No matter if you are ten years old, or one hundred and ten, wear your pin, cap, or anything else that bears the great patch of the AMERICAL!

Ernest B. Carlson
Commander

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

Regional Commander Joe D. Feeler
Sec/Treas. Gino Massagli
Albuquerque, NM 87110-3033 Eureka, CA 955012-8004

Vice Commander John A. Bowley
Sergeant/Arms Ernest Rodrigues
Chaplin Herbert l. Holt

The Far West Chapter held its 1995 Reunion on Sept 2/4 at the Sands Regency Hotel & Casino in Reno, NV In attendance were: Joe & Esther Feeler, Co. H 164 Lewis C. & Jeanette Turner, Co. F 182nd--Thomas J. Dawson, Co. C 9th Spt. 198 LIB -- Jim & Isabelle Reasner, Co. F. 182nd -- John A. & Ruby Bowley, Co. D 182nd -- Maurice Henson, A/26 Engr. 196 LIB -- Harvey Bell, A/26 Engr. 196 LIB--Jay & Chessa Roth, Serv. & G CO. 164th -- Jim & Frances Buckle, Co. E 182nd -- Larry & Gloria O'Boyle, A/T 182nd -- Jack Weston, Co. G 164th -- Ernie & Rae Rodrigues, B/2/1 196 LIB -- Tom & Pat Knott, A/T 132nd-- Ken & Jonie Hughes, 2/1 71 Aviation -- Reynaldo Mendoza, A/26 Engr. 196 LIB-- Gustav Franzen, Co. I 182nd-DeWayne & Bette George, Co. F 182nd Inf. -- Don S. Squire, HQ. 132nd -- Stephen & Lois Chemistruck, A/T 164th-Harold & Phyllis Leuthard, Co. A 182nd -- Verdina & Eloise McKean, 164th Band -- Alfred K. & Irene Petsche, 221 FA - Zane & Gloria Jacobs, Co. E 164th Howard & Thelwyn Walker, 1/6 198 LIB -- Jim & Evie Simpson, Co. E 182nd -- Paris & Jennie Tognoli, HQ. Co. 2nd Bn. 182nd -- Herbert & Neva Holt, Co. D 182nd -- Gary L. Noller, B/1/46 196 LIB -- Frank Markovich, 721 Ord. -- Joe & Vickie Hernandez HQ. Co. A/T 182nd.



Joe Feeler and Esther
Joe is holding the plaque, made by Lew Turner and presented to him for his work as Chapter Commander

We were honored to have two ADVA officers attend. PNC James Buckle, Editor in Chief of the Americal Newsletter and Sr. Vice Commander Gary Noller who is a member of the Far West Chapter.

At our business meeting we discussed and voted on not having a 1996 Far West Chapter meeting, but to try to get as many as possible to attend the 1996 National Reunion which will be held in Reno NV All



Jay & Chessa Roth - Zane Jacobs

who attended seemed very receptive to the idea. More details concerning time and place will be coming from the North West Regional Commander, Lloyd J. Morrell who will host the 1996 Convention. LET'S ALL ATTEND AND MAKE 1996 THE BEST YEAR EVER FOR THE ADVA.

Joe D. Feeler, FWC Reg. Cmdr.

Editor Note:

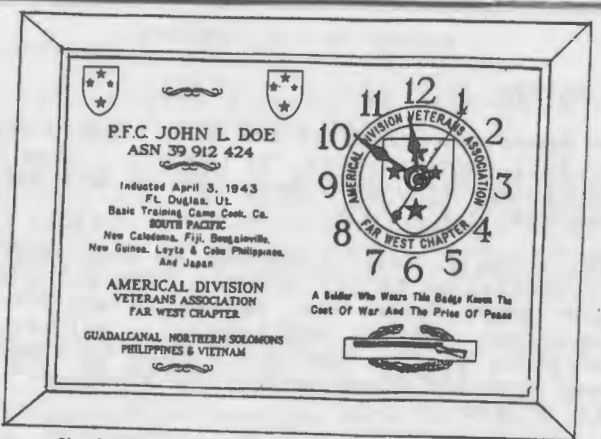
I was deeply grieved to learn of the death of Joe Feeler. I have not known Joe many years but we had become good friends and have worked together on several project for the Americal.

The above report on the Far West Chapter was written and typed by Joe before his untimely death. Joe always delivered his material for the Newsletter all typed. All g had to do was cut and paste it to make it camera ready for the printer. That was Joe. Whenever you asked him to do something it was as good as done. His wife Esther was always by his side and they worked together on everything.

The Americal has lost a true comrade and a loyal supporter. May our prayers and thoughts be with his wife Esther during these trying times.



Jim & Evie Simpson



CUSTOM CRAFTED CLOCK by LEWIS C. TURNER, CO. F 182nd INFANTRY

This is a beautiful piece of workmanship. 20% of the sales go to the Far West Chapter. The price of 55.00 includes Sales Tax and Shipping.

CUT AT DOTTED LINE
When ordering please fill in the following information and mail to address at the bottom of the page
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NAME _____
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BASIC TRAINING LOCATION _____
NAME OF ADVA CHAPTER _____
PLACES YOU SERVED _____

Please print or type the above information and send it along with a check for \$55.00 to:
LEWIS C. TURNER
[redacted]
OROVILLE, CA 95966



Lew & Jeanette Turner

THANKS TO ALL VETERANS

Dear Rollie,

As an associate member of the ADVA I would like to take this opportunity to express some deep emotions and feelings I have towards all veterans who served in all wars.

First, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all veterans from all branches of our armed forces who served in any conflict whatever war it might have been. You all gave such a sacrifice to the American people to keep us a strong, free and proud nation. My sincerest thanks to all of you.

Second, I would just like to let some of you know that I had the honor and privilege to attend a most memorable celebration at Otis Air Force Base, the weekend of August 5, 1995. I proudly brought my Dad to this celebration which was in honor of WW11 Veterans from the Americal Division. These men, most in their 70's and 80's trained as young men at Camp Edwards in 1941. The day was magnificent with a wonderful Air Show to start and then a special "Parade of Heroes" followed. As the daughter of one of these old timers marching in the parade I stood along the parade route and clapped, cried and watched so very proudly as these wonderful old-timers so proudly marched by. Many of them were walking with canes, one even rode in a golf cart with his old time army buddy George Tuttle (that man was my Dad). Bad backs, aching knees, arthritis and replaced hips did not stop these proud veterans from marching and finally getting their thank you's from all in attendance (by the way it was very well attended). It was quite emotional to see the tears coming down the faces of many of these proud men. The crowd was extremely responsive. I stood beside one young woman who kept clapping and saying thank-you guys, a sentiment shared by all. Well guys I thank each and every one of you for giving up so much of your young lives to keep me and all other people in our beautiful country of America free. I stood there watching with such a proud heart and my eyes swelled when I watched these great bunch of men come down the parade route, with that beautiful Blue and White Americal flag blowing straight out. My dad was beaming as was his wife and his daughter.

One final comment. Not one single veteran owes anybody an apology for doing something that they were committed to do. Keep your heads high and stand tall and proud because the Americal is a wonderful Division, and I am so proud to be a part of this fine organization.

My sincere thanks to each and everyone of you. God Bless the Americal and its members, keep the Division alive.

Sincerely

Jeanne Trombley
Daughter of Ken Trombley
221st F.A. Bn WW11

P.S. A special thanks to Everett Ashworth and George Tuttle for the special care they gave my Dad.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

IT NEEDS YOU!

NVA JUST RAN AWAY
FROM DSC WINNER GOFF

LZ BALDY-Machingunning SP4 Stanley Goff wasn't conscious of emotion when he charged across 200 meters of exposed rice paddies to drive nearly 100 heavily armed NVA from well entrenched positions.

The San Francisco lad was downright nervous, however, when Gen Creighton W Abrams, commander of US Forces on Vietnam, pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on him here.

I wasn't nearly as scared in the field as I was when those four stars were standing directly in front of me said Goff. "I just stared at Gen Abrams through the whole ceremony. I just couldn't believe it."

Preparations

An entire infantry company couldn't believe Goff's exploits on an extremely hot day last Augst. Goff's commander, remembered how B Co 2d Bn 1st Inf got into the action.

"I was alerted that the company would proceed by foot to LZ Ross and prepare for airlift to Hawk Hill to help the 1st Sqdn. 1st Cav charge a well-fortified bunker area west of Tam Ky" said Cpt John R Malpass(Larchmont NY). Shortly afterward B Co and A Trp 1/1 were moving cautiously through the Pineapple Forest area toward flat, rolling hills where the 1/1 had killed some 200 NVA the previous day. Across 200 meters of rice paddy to the front, lay a densely-foliated woodline, and the combined force reconed it by fire. "To everybody's surprise, we got back twice our employed fire power," said Cpt Malpass. "They had n-depth defense," he said, "rows and rows of positions. Their defensive lines extended far wider than we imagined--at least 300 meters."

The infantrymen ran for cover behind a low paddy dike, and Goff's second platoon was pinned. From the side, friendly fire continued to fly at the NVA. Under that cover, Goff suddenly jumped up and launched a two-man charge on the NVA with his M-60. Close behind was ammo bearer Pfc Tommie Emery (Snider, Ok). "It was a blur of action," Goff said. "I just started firing all the rounds I had". "I heard someone scream that 30 or 40 NVA were in the woodline on his right flank, so I kept blowing ammo toward the NVA as people passed it to me. "When I got through firing, everything in that area was quiet."

Cpt Malpass watched and reacted: "He just kept mowing them down in groups of 5 or 10 and, almost unbelievably, their fire just didn't hit us. "RPGs were hitting everywhere. When Goff came closer to the NVA positions, at least 75-100 made a grand exodus. They just ran away."

Goff staggering in 120 degree heat, then fell exhausted. His scorched machinegun had disintegrated with bolts coming out everywhere.

Forty NVA were later found dead. Most, if not all, were killed by the estimated 2000 rounds Goff fired. More bodies had been dragged away. (196th Americal Division forces suffered four soldiers killed and 12 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

CLEARING FOR DEROS

When you DEROS, you are authorized to take back to the United States, 66 pounds, plus an additional 134 pounds of baggage. This is not bold baggage and can be carried on the plane. Held baggage allowances vary with your rank.

Upon receiving your reassignment orders report to your hold baggage area for crates. If you do your own packing, have eight copies of your orders on hand.

If the hold baggage station does your packing, have 11 copies.

Next stop after receiving your orders and taking care of your baggage is to clear with your unit or base camp. Your orderly room will issue three copies of DA Form 137, Installation Clearance Record. All areas requiring clearance will be noted on this form.

Have your shot record up to date! If it is not, your DEROS could be delayed.

Have all your debts paid before you get on the plane.

Finally, be sure to fill three locator cards for your unit mail room so that your mail can reach you after you are back in the states.

After you have cleared your unit, report the replacement/returned processing office named on your port call orders. This is the shipping point back to CONUS. Do not report earlier than 24 nor later than 12 hours before your departure flight.

Dear Ron,

I am sorry it has taken so long for me to respond to your fund raiser. Unfortunately I have misplaced the raffle tickets you sent to me. However I would like to make a \$100.00 contribution to the scholarship fund in memory of the following individuals who I had the honor to serve with in the Americal Division.

SSG Joshua E Carney	McAlester, Oklahoma
SP4 Willie Gardner Jr	Brent, Alabama
SGT Robert J Schumacher	Lebanon, Oregon
CPT Richard V Knight	Ormond Beach, Florida
1LT John "Larry" Hogan	Exeter, New Hampshire
1LT Carl Barry McGee	Detroit, Michigan
SSG Terry H Price	Salt Lake City, Utah

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to recognize my fallen comrades in such a meaningful and worthwhile manner. Good Luck with the fund raising efforts. If I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Peter K Doyle
[Redacted]
Randolph Ma 02368

Dear Editor,

I got your address through the Internet and am writing to ask for your assistance.

I am a writer working on a book about the role of Hispanics in the Vietnam War and need very much to get in contact with Cuban-Americans who might be interested in being included in my project. Basically, it is a collection of first-person oral histories.

I would appreciate it very much if you would run the following announcement:

"Writer seeks Cuban-American vets for a book he is editing on the role of Hispanics in the Vietnam War. For more information, write to Gil Dominguez, [Redacted], San Antonio, Texas 78235; or leave a message at [Redacted]."

Also, I am in the process of starting a quarterly newsletter -- with plans for turning it into a magazine later -- for Vietnam vets of all backgrounds. Its tentative name is Perimeter and I hope to get it started next year. I am seeking articles, photos, cartoons, poetry, essays, movie and book reviews and commentary for the modest publication.

Since I am starting on a shoe string budget I won't be able to pay for submissions now but may in the future, depending on the Perimeter's success. Initially, I can afford only copies of the newsletter as compensation. Anyone interested can write to me at the address noted above.

Thank you very much for your attention to this letter. Please let me know if there is any charge connected with running the notice.

Sincerely

Gilberto Dominguez

[Redacted]
San Antonio, Tx 78325

196th Surprises Mapping VC, Kills 10 And Nabs Tax Man

LZ BALDY- A small Vietnamese hamlet took a big tax cut recently when a platoon from the 196th Inf Bde surprised 10 VC, killing eight, one of them a tax collector, and capturing two wounded.

While on a search and clear mission 24 miles northwest of Tam Ky, a platoon size element of A Co 4th Bn 31st Inf advanced to within 30 meters of the first hut where the VC were lounging around, all their weapons stacked in a corner of the hut.

When a VC nurse spotted the "Charger" unit and sounded an alarm, the VC grabbed their weapons and attempted unsuccessfully to escape.

The rear elements of the patrol then spotted two VC and brought them down with small arms fire as they attempted to flee across a rice paddy.

One of the dead enemy soldiers turned out to be an NVA officer. He had in his possession a sizeable sum of Vietnamese currency which he had been collecting in taxes from the local people.

The people of the hamlet all waved their appreciation to the departing Americal troops.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVDF-AGP

18 Nov 68

SUBJECT: Port Call Instructions Sequence No. 12-08A

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Personnel listed on attached Port Call roster will report to the Outprocessing Team, Personnel Services Division, this headquarters, building AR-8 on 1 Dec 68. Personnel listed will not report for processing prior to the above date. Outprocessing will include Personnel Records, Finance and issue of MTA (Military Travel Authorization). Individuals requesting exception to the above processing schedule must submit a request, with complete justification, through command channels to this headquarters ATTN: AVDF-AGPR, to arrive not later than five days prior to port call date.

2. Unit commanders will insure that all personnel reporting for outprocessing will have in their possession the following items:

- Health and Dental Records.
- Clothing Records (DA Form 10-195).*
- DA Form 137 (Installation Clearance Certificate) completed in triplicate.
- Identification Card and Tags.
- Field Jackets with name tag, US Army Tag, Americal Patch and rank insignia.*
- Commanders will insure that departing personnel present an acceptable appearance to include military uniforms, hair cuts and trimmed mustaches. An inspection will be made at this Headquarters prior to issuing departees their records and MTA.
- Personnel must have proper uniform for movement to CONUS, i.e., khaki uniform, low quarter shoes, cap, and appropriate brass and insignia. A shake down inspection will be conducted prior to boarding the Aircraft. Personnel without proper uniform and not meeting acceptable standards of appearance may be removed from the Manifest.

* See letter, HQ Americal Div, AVDF-GO-S, 22 Sept 68, SUBJECT: "TA 50-901 Organizational Clothing and Equipment" for items to accompany individual.

3. Personnel arriving by aircraft at the Chu Lai airfield from Duc Pho or other outlying base camps will report to the Replacement Detachment processing point, across the road from the passenger terminal. Transportation will be provided from this point to the PSD outprocessing area. All E1 through E7, all warrant officers and company grade officers are required to attend a departure briefing conducted at the Replacement Detachment (Americal Combat Center) at 0730 hours on 2 Dec 68. Personnel who are normally billeted in the Chu Lai area will be provided transportation from the PSD Outprocessing area to the Replacement Detachment where overnight billeting will be provided.

4. Officer, Warrant Officer, and noncommissioned officer in grades E8 and E9 may sign for their

records and receive the MTA (Military Travel Authorization) upon completion of outprocessing; however, they are still required to attend departure briefings IAW Americal Reg 612-2. Field grade officers and NCO's E8 and E9 will report to the Chu Lai Airfield passenger terminal NLT 1200 hours on the day prior to port call for transportation to Cam Rahn Bay. This headquarters has block seat reservations for the above personnel. All other personnel will not receive their personnel records, finance records, and military travel authorization until completion of the departure briefing. Personnel will not be permitted to board CONUS bound aircraft without the above items. Upon completion of the departure briefing and receipt of records, transportation to the Chu Lai Airfield will be provided to personnel for departure on special mission aircraft. Individuals will not make their own individual travel reservations for movement to Cam Rahn Bay. Block seat reservations and special mission aircraft are being arranged for by this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

EARL J DAMATO

RTO Performs Heroics

Saves Wounded Under Fire

LZ Baldy- Suddenly thrust into the role of platoon leaders, a radio-telephone operator (RTO) from the 196th Inf. Bde. exposed himself to intense enemy fire to direct the rescue of wounded platoon members.

During recent combat operations in Hiep Duc Valley, 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky, SP4 Ronald McFee (Joseph, Oregon) an RTO with A Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., volunteered to go with his platoon leader to rescue two men who had been wounded in a fire fight with NVA soldiers.

As the rescue team neared an enemy bunker position, McFee's platoon leader was severely wounded.

McFee immediately took command of the rescue team and platoon and pulled his men back to regroup.

Learning some wounded men had been left behind, McFee took a squad of men and moved back to the enemy bunker area.

The "Chargers" gathered the wounded as bullets whizzed all around them.

While the injured were moved beyond range of the NVA weapons, McFee fired a heavy barrage at the enemy with his M-16.

The most recent veteran population statistics, listed in the annual report of the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, are dated July 1, 1993. As of that date, there were no surviving veterans of the Spanish American War, according to the report.

Those from the others: World War 1, 25,000; World War 11, 8,150,000; Korean War, 4,692,000; and Vietnam War, 8,827,000. The report also listed 1,027,000 veterans of the Persian Gulf War. World War 1 vets are rapidly dying off; the youngest are in their 90's.

To whom it may concern:

I just received two books of tickets for our Scholarship Fund, and 12 total is hardly sufficient enough to make an impact from my "A.O."

I purchased one and sold another over the C.B. radio to our Fallbrook C.B. Radio Club President, as well as to another C.B.er who's an active duty Marine.

With all the veterans and active duty contacts I have constantly, I believe it's necessary to apply for more tickets, as I feel I can sell more than just 12. I'm "Events Co-ordinator" for San Diego Veterans Services, and also been named & accepted as an "Advisory Board" member too.

I'm also actively participating in Vet Center "Liason" with S.D.V.S. projects, as well as my recently joining our local American Legion Chapter here in Fallbrook. As you can see, I have a large market in which to work with! Also, just recently I received a "Volunteer of the Year" award/"1995 Leadership Award" at our ceremony preceding the Memorial Day "Food-for-Life" giveaway. S.D.V.S. furnished 32 veterans and/or their families with a weeks supply of food who are at risk financially, of becoming the new homeless, so they can make their rent/house payments etc., rather than for the necessary food. It works, and I love what I do.

Monday, May 29, 1995 I was asked to help put up all the casket-sized flags w/engraved names & units & branches of service etc, up along both sides of the roads leading into and through the Masonic Cemetery here in Fallbrook (a.k.a.-"The Alley of Flags"). It was the most beautiful display of "Old Glory's" I've ever seen. I also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag (of course wearing my cammo shirt with dress Americal Division & 196th L.I.B. patches) and all my full-size medals & ball cap w/Vietnam Veteran and the 3 well known "fruit salad" campaign bars (Nat'l Defense, Vietnam Service & Vietnam Campaign), in the center between Vietnam & Veteran embroidered on. Made the local newspaper (The Enterprize), both for my part in receiving the award from S.D.V.S., and photo leading the pledge in the same issue.

Just attended the "founding meeting" at the Pac Bell office just west of Jack Murphy Stadium on May 31, 1995 to kick off the Veterans Business Council project we as S.D.V.S. have initiated. In co-operation with the V.A., S.B.A., and other agencies. We have declared 1995 as "The Year of the Veteran". As it marks the 50th Anniversary of the end of WW11, the 30th of the end of The Korean War, and of course the 20th Anniversary of the end of The Vietnam War.

We're hard at work on behalf of all Vets, and 11 cities so far as I know have also declared this the same within San Diego County.

We believe it will catch onto other counties in California & hopefully country-wide. If you hear, read or see such being proclaimed, you'll know right where it started.

Anyway, hope you can send me more tickets to sell because I know I can. You also have my permission to print any of the contents of this letter which may be of interest to the membership, both nationally, as well as all the local chapters.

Gino Massagli of my/our Far West Chapter said one time; "that was a touching letter you wrote to me about your unit etc, and you should consider having

it printed in our newsletter". So, if anything here is appropriate to do so. You have my authorization to go ahead. By the way, my pledge of allegiance leading was on behalf of D.A.V. Chapter 95 (Oceanside, Ca.), and in my own way, for the ADVA, SDVS, my brothers I lost in Vietnam, and for those who are still "survivin'-the-survivin'."

For so long (20 or so), after my return from my tour in Nam, I knew there was a purpose for my surviving, but I wandered through those years with 2 marriages that failed, alcohol & drug abuse, and just plain confusion as to what I was still here for-1 last mission? No, it was many things and I'm now focused and doing what I'm doing for vets. and the "Higher Power's" will. It feels like I've been reborn, and I finally like myself once again.

Being a Vietnam Veteran is finally something to be proud of, and that I am! All my love to my fellow ADVA brothers and their families. Gotta go for now, but more tickets is a high priority to me, OK?

Sincerely

SP/4 Gary G Atchison, USA Ret.
ADVA National and Far West Chapter Member

TASK FORCE BARKER

Task Force Barker was formed in Feb. by elements of the 11th Inf. Brig. to rout the Viet Cong from an area considered an enemy strong hold for 20 years. It was conducted successfully in April 1968.

Another task force, Task Force Miracle, was formed in Feb. during the enemy's TET offensive when the city of Da Nang was threatened by the 60th Main Force Viet Cong Battalion. the division's 1st Bn, 6th Inf. and 2nd Bn, 1st Inf. assisted the Marines in the fighting. After four days of fierce fighting, the threat to Da Nang was obliterated and the task force was deactivated and returned to the Americal area of operation.

PACIFICATION

The Americal Div. participates with the Government of Vietnam in the Pacification program to win the hearts and minds of the people. It is a coordinated effort to gain the full support of the Vietnamese people by helping them meet their own needs and at the same time depriving the enemy of his claim to popular backing. MEDCAP missions to the hamlets and villages of Southern I Corps provide the Vietnamese people with much needed medical services.

One of the main objectives of the pacification program is the economic growth of the nation as a whole and the greatest appeal to the people lies in the promise of increased prosperity.

* * * *

Some people collect strange war souvenirs. Perhaps the most unusual came late Wednesday night. SP4 Michael L Rogers (Baltimore) of a 1st Bn., 6th Inf company shot and killed a full grown leopard. The handsome 80-pound beast is now a trophy that will be the envy of any trophy collector. The leopard came too close to the 198th unit's defensive position and Rogers brought the animal down with one perfectly placed shot through the heart. A skinner went to work yesterday morning and by noon the skin was drawing a crowd of photographers and many envious stares.

REDLEGS

Welcome to this board and please stay with us. I am a Redleg type, was Arty LO to 4/31 on West Jan-Apr, '70 and then commanded C Btry, 3/82 Arty on FSB Siberia for the next six months. We got most of our ammo, water, fuel and gun replacements from the Boxcars and the rest from the Rattlers and some from DivArty ships. We had a six-week battle with the NVA in May-Jun '70 and wouldn't have made it w/o you folks. I don't know or remember any helicopter pilot names to ask you about, but I would be interested in contacting any pilots or crew that participated in the 6-week battle. As I have told these folks before (that is those who were not there and several were) that particular battle was especially rough on choppers. At one point, we had close to a dozen of them disabled at one time on Siberia, ranging from a LOH or two, slicks, guns and even a Hook. Some got repaired and flew out, but many, including the Hook, had to be lifted out. I have pictures of a Crane coming in to get the Hook, which was in eyefull for those of us who might have doubted the lift capacity of a Crane. At any rate, I owe all the chopper community a bunch and would be happy to get in touch with any of the folks that were out there during that time frame.

Mike Twomey
C/3/82 ARTY 1970

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Thanks for the come back. Although I spent most nights on the hill (Ross, Baldy, Hawk Hill), I spent most of my days with the people in the villages and hamlets. I met with their leaders, teachers and kids. I tried to identify their needs and wants, generally trying to fulfill their needs while satisfying their wants. Most of the aid was material, financial or organizational. The material was what ever I could scrounge off the hill. As the official moneychanger for the battalion, I made some profit that went into financial aid for the local people. I made one trip to Danang via jeep, hooking onto a convoy. I bought a trailer load of school books on the local economy there and brought them back to "my schools". These were schools that were built with the assistance of material I scrounged. The VC acknowledged my success a couple of times by firing RPGs into them at night. I guess I bugged them. Also paid workers a dollar a day to build roads. The workers also got one C ration meal for lunch. I watched them eat them so non ended up in the wrong hands. I worked with local officials to improve their general condition including beefing up their defenses by supplying material such as concertina. One time they needed a market place and wanted a church. We built a market place and they used it for a church. (We weren't allowed to build religious facilities, you know, separation of church and state.) Funny thing was, outsiders always said my market place looked awfully like a church. Ammo cases were favorite construction materials. Half the window shutters in town outside Hawkhill were labeled 81mm HE or 105mm WP, etc. We also conducted at least one Medcap a week. We showed PsyOps movies. We worked with the Catholic and Protestant orphanages, brought the kids toys and mostly food. They are probably still eating some of the dehydrated potatoes I got for them. The mess sergeants got to be my best friends on the hill. They always had something for the kids.

I have always been thankful I was given the opportunity to do something constructive during my tour. In contrast to what most experienced, I found my stay there to be meaningful to me if not for the masses in the long run. I hope your experiences were equally positive. Please give any more details you have as I am having difficulty finding out what anyone else in S-5 was doing.

Spencer Baba
2/1 196TH 68-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

TWO WARS

That is very easy to see by the way this board is full of great stories, by a bunch of great guys. I bet if we, all of us, from all of the different times of service, were to have served together there would be not one thing different about how this board is going. We in the Nam crew have the utmost admiration and respect for all those that paved the way before us. The guys that gave the Americal the pride that we found when we got there. The WWII guys, with no knowledge of what the heck we were doing over there, go onto this board and quizzed all of us, and sat back and listened. Putting together more questions to fine tune their understanding.

If you were to stand back and take a good look at that you can't help but say that there is plenty of common ground between the different times of service with the Americal. I surely doubt that there are many people outside of this bulletin board that can relate to that. When I talk on the board, I talk to brothers, some older and some the same age. There hasn't been any arguments on this board. There have been differences of opinions, but there was nothing more.

WE ARE FAMILY -- (Sly and the FAMILY Stone 1970)
AND FOREVER WILL BE THE BROTHERS OF THE AMERICAL

Larry Ginsberg
523 Sig Bn. 11TH 70-71

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

RIVER (DRAGON VALLEY)

I remember that nasty river too! When I was with B 1/46 we had to cross it because the weather was so bad we couldn't get resupplied. Came out of Dragon Valley and followed the river north until we were due west of Pro maybe 7 clicks. That's where we crossed that raging monster. We did it the same way you guys in Delta did except we used D rings and rope to tie everyone to the main line across the river. We didn't use air mattresses (I didn't have one. I swung in a hammock, but that's another story). We didn't lose anyone either, but came close with a machine gunner and a FNG. After that exhausting experience we humped the 7 clicks back to Pro. Packs were light because we had no food (worse yet we were out of cigarettes!) and didn't need much water because it was the rainy season. The final hump up the south side of Pro really kicked our butts. What a day.....

Frank Fortuna B/1/46TH
14 ARTY 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

CIB

I didn't know what the qualifications are for earning the CIB, and I certainly don't think just being sniped at are qualifications for earning one. I agree that actual line duty should be a prerequisite for earning one. The CIB was popular even when I was discharged from the Army in '72. I recall a guy who was discharged from Oakland Army Terminal upon return from VN. I believe he was a cannon cocker, however, he obtained and wore a CIB and the blue infantry braid on his greens. I mentioned to him that he wasn't authorized to wear these decorations. He told me he didn't care and was wearing them to impress people. I wonder who he thought he was impressing. It certainly wasn't me. When I inquired about getting medals that I had orders for, they wanted me to pay for them. I said the **** with that and didn't wear any. I wasn't going to have the uniform on for more than a few hours anyway. They were only service awards anyway.

Napoleon is reputed to have said that he could make men die for little pieces of ribbon. Interesting view of medals.

Rob Cook G/55
ARTY 70-72

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

11TH LIB.

Seems that since you Sam and I worked the same AO, our companies had the same SOP. Our higher command only cared about one thing, and that was body count. We were always looking for a good ambush site. One evening we were climbing one of the high hills and someone noticed a line of VC or NVA walking across the valley. We were ordered to hold tight and observe the movement the following day. Sure enough, around the same time, another line of VC/NVA crossing the valley. The following day, we dispatched a small patrol to go down into the valley and sit up an ambush. We picked out a killzone, set out our claymores, put an M60 on each flank and waited. Our Q was to open up when the claymores were detonated. Not long after, we saw approximately 14 VC headed toward the killzone. The point man had an AK slung on his shoulder, the rest appeared to be carrying supplies. It was a real scary situation, my mind was racing a mile a minute. I was wondering if there were more VC or NVA to come, was worried about a counter ambush, and basically just worried about buying the farm. Anyway, the G's entered the killzone and the ambush was very successful. After investigation, the individuals ambushed were carrying NVA uniforms, blankets and hospital supplies. A couple of the dead were female (maybe nurses). I remember hearing stories that there was an NVA underground hospital in the AO. When we returned to the CP, we were told that CC was very happy and we all were given an atta-boy. After some rest, we moved out to find another adventure. Was it worth it?

Charles Mankin
B/3/1/ 11TH 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER
IT NEEDS YOU!

PRE - NAM

Ft Polk was supposed to be the best infantry AIT training area in the U.S. because its climate and conditions were, depending on the time of year, quite similar to those in Vietnam. Besides the humidity and heat, I was introduced to some species of snakes that I never knew existed. It was SOP to check the firing pits on the rifle ranges for snakes before jumping in. I never made it to the nearest town (Leesville) just outside the gate, but it must have been pretty good because all of the bars were off limits to the GIs. I did get one pass during my stint there, and a group of us went south to Lake Charles, Louisiana. All I remember is seeing swamp after swamp on the way down. We got to Lake Charles and found a few establishments that served cold beers (Jax and Pearl--yes, even they tasted okay at the time). Unfortunately, we were dressed in our khakis with shaved heads (remember now, it was 1969 and it really wasn't cool to have short hair or, for that matter to wear a uniform) so everyone more or less wanted nothing to do with us.

Anyway, I was lucky and only did my Basic at Polk. The guys that did stay for infantry AIT went to a section of Polk called "Tigerland". At least for them the living conditions in Vietnam weren't much of a shock compared to what they had left behind at Polk.

Now Ft Rucker Alabama, on the other hand, wasn't too bad at all for AIT...

John Boyer
F/8 123 AVN 70-71

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

FIREBIRDS

Thanks for the note. I flew with the Firebirds often in 67 and 68, especially the 5-minute gunship standby missions we used to pull up at LZ Baldy (fly all the way up from Duc Pho and pull 24-hours of standby straight, then fly back to Duc Pho). I was also back in 71 flying slicks with the 116th Hornets when you were there, although you were getting short when I got back the second time. I was going through my flight check-outs when LZ Maryanne got overrun. I was out there a few days after but missed the medevacs and evacuate ons at the time. Do you know of the Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers Association? They just had a joint reunion with us pilots in Philly over the 4th. I saw my crewchief from 71 for the first time in 23 years, and he managed to track down our doorgunner who got shot up flying with us out by Tra Bong. My copilot also got shot up and my crewchief got him off the controls before we crashed into the trees. If not for him, I wouldn't be here now. The gunner had his intestines in a bag for 6 months (we just found out this week) but recovered completely and is a successful businessman now. That is good news.

If you don't know of them and are interested, I'll get you a point of contact. There were some Firebirds at this latest reunion. Take care, and thanks for the note.

Jim McDaniel
174 AHC 67-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

PLUCK PILOT FROM SEA

CHU LAI-American engineers came to the rescue recently when an Air Force F-100 pilot ditched his plane in the South China sea near here.

While flying over Chu Lai, the 26th Engr. Bn's command and control helicopter spotted the Air Force pilot after he had abandoned his aircraft and was parachuting into the sea.

The helicopter pilot, WO1 John R Elwell (Ft Lauderdale, Fla), a pilot with the 123rd Avn. Bn., hovered over the downed pilot until LTC Matthew W Hoey (San Antonio, TX), commanding officer of the 26th Engrs., and SP5 Richard S Melcher (Portland, OR), a crew chief in the chopper, managed to pull the pilot aboard.

At one point, WO1 Elwell deliberately put his ship's left skid into the water and held it there while LTC Hoey climbed out on the the skid to get a better grip on the jet pilot, encumbered by his flight gear.

The pilot was flown to the 312th Evac. Hospital where he was treated and released.

Roland,

First, let me thank you for your hard work and effort in making the Americal Division Reunion a success. I was looking forward to meeting you and others, and was very satisfied at the turnout, enthusiasm and positive comments about the weekend. You and others are to be applauded for the effort.

Second, it came as a complete shock to the system to see my letters to you in print. I didn't expect them to be included in the Americal Division Association Newsletter, in total. However, it was a pleasant shock and has already produced responses from professionals from New York, California, Iowa, Florida, and Missouri. Pictures of the Battalion HQ in Chu Lai to chopper shots coming into pro. I will be putting some of these "pro" shots together for you depending on the quality of copy. At this time I would like to thank you for assisting me in this "Professional response".

Third, the newsletter this quarter was above and beyond the call of duty. Naturally being a Vietnam Vet I read through the Vietnam News Network articles first with interest and anticipation: but, I really enjoyed the Americal articles about our comrades in WW11, especially the Hill 260 stories. Being a history buff I especially enjoyed the "connections" these stories made for me and the Americal in the Pacific Theater. Especially the affiliation with the 37th Division in Bougainville and the Americal holding the line and defending the Airstrip that "Pappy" Boyington and the famed "Blacksheep" Squadron flew from. Also of high interest was Al Cotters' article "How About This" the three various methods of producing AMERICAL....AmeriCal...AMERI-CAL...or something like that. I have enclosed my own interpretation for your amusement.

Fourth, as you were nice enough to do, putting out the word on the history that I have begun on the 46th INF REG/BTN known as the "PROFESSIONALS". I am again asking for your help. The following names of professionals both with the First and Fifth could help: New Members Robert "Steve" Abrahams, Gary C. Johnson, David E Hammond, Patrick C. Ryan, & Theodore M Rahl, welcome aboard and if you would, a short story about your tour with The

"Professionals". I would especially like to hear from James P Meade SCM as he holds the experience with the 5/46th and the Americal History in his hands. I am short on details concerning our sister unit and as I explore The "Professionals" role in Vietnam they need equal exposure with the 1/46th, but my sources are limited and shallow. Could you assist SGT Maj. And by the way, a big thumbs up on your article on Gen Kroesen. I'm sure all Americal Veterans enjoyed it as much as me.

In closing, I am meeting with "Professionals" throughout the summer to review the history. Richard Larson a 1/46th stopped by beautiful Rock Falls, IL. from California via the Kham Duc reunion in Key West Fla. He gave me over 150 pages of materials to review. Fred Cowburn has sent me volumes and represents the original "Boat Btn" coming over from Ft Hood in "67". "Doc" Kralich has supplemented the information index and I thank one and all. Keep those letters coming.

Thanks again

"Doc" Williams

1995 REUNION

Greetings and Thanks!!! for all the hard work and effort due to the reunion committee members, you guys really know how to throw a party. Joe Micek and Mitch and Dutch I hope we get together for another one in Chicago. You guys really put in the overtime with registrations and standing watch for long hours in the hospitality room. For all ADVA members if you have not been to a reunion get to the next one. Forget about thinking you might not know anyone or see anyone you directly served with, you WILL have fun and meet the greatest group of guys alive.

The ADVA is very fortunate to have members of the "Old Guard" working so hard. History and tradition was in the air, oral history was shared from the hospitality room, the golf course and the dinner on Saturday. I hope you guys from the 132nd Infantry can get Judge Wapner to attend the next reunion, the golf starter "Giuseppe" was his jeep driver in the islands, he joined Bill Maddox, "Big Richard" and myself for a fun but irreverent round on Friday, I want skins next time with these guys. "Rollie" thanks for the tee shirt and the Marine protection you brought, he fit right in. It was nice to see such a large turnout of GRUNTS especially from 2/1, they had a nice rivalry of numbers and war stories, keep up the rivalry, with the CAV. I know you CAV guys had coolers, cots, beer and probably AC and color TV in those tracks. Enclosed is a WW11 article covering events from 50 years ago, the Americal is listed to go in on the mainland invasion of Japan, regardless of revisionist historians we shall all praise the courage of President Truman's decision to drop the big one and no apologies are necessary. We might not have an ADVA if he didn't do it.

I hope in the future we can get some of the higher ups from the 11th Brigade to give their perspective and history of their careers with their time with the Americal, although I was never overly impressed with the officers I saw in 70-71 from meeting you, I would have been proud to serve with you guys.

Thanks again, See you in Reno!

John "DOC" Hofer USA E-5 RETIRED
Co B 5/46 198 Bde
NMCB-15 LCDR USNR

COMPANY E - 4 BATTALION - 3 INFANTRY - RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

11 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE



BACK ROW: Wayne Nelson, Bill McCoy, Doc Gordon, Carpenter, Don Williams, Dennis Anderson, Steve Leialighter, Sgt. Grover, Sg. McDonald. MIDDLE ROW: Ohn, Valentine, Doc Campbell, Con, Santucci, George Anderson, Sgt. Stautenburg. FIRST ROW: McCue, Medentia, Chalmers, Larry Barnes, Ken Woodward, Sgt. Esterline, Lt. Steve Riggs.

This picture was taken on May 9, 1970 on Firebase San Juan Hill, near Duc Pho. Submitted by Larry Barnes.

STUDY CONFIRMS VIETNAM SPRAYING
CAUSE 3 CANCERS

The department of Veterans Affairs has added two more diseases to the list of illnesses that entitle affected Vietnam veterans to compensation for their exposure to Agent Orange (AO).

The five diseases officially linked to AO are:

- SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA: A rare form of cancer affecting muscle or internal connective tissue.
- NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA: Cancer affecting lymph nodes, bone marrow, spleen, and liver.
- CHLORACNE: Severe skin disease similar to teen age acne but may involve cysts and rashes.
- PROPHYIA: (Newly added) A metabolic liver disorder than can affect skin and hair.
- HODGKIN'S DISEASE (Newly 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 and hearing
- Cardiovascular disorders
- Respiratory problems
- Liver disorders
- Acute abdominal pain
- Urinary tract disorders
- Weakness of lower extremities
- Numbness in fingers or toes

Study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences. Committee chaired by Dr. Harold Fallon.

E CO. 51 INFANTRY - 75 INFANTRY (RANGER)

I enjoyed the article in the July-August-September issue of the Newsletter about Bob Pruden.

I was with the LRRP's from Jan '68 to Sept '69-- same unit as Bob.

When I first arrived it E Co. 51st Infantry LRRP and later became G Co. 75th Infantry (Ranger). Personally I'm still a LRRP (Lurp). I never did understand the Ranger designation. It didn't change our mission at all.

Mike Lazorchuk

DRIVE CAREFULLY-Don't Become A Statistic

Vietnam's roads were not built for the trucks and equipment the U.S. Armed Forces use. One day of driving on a Vietnamese road will tell you that.

When you drove back in the WORLD you had to drive in accordance with the law of your state. It's the same thing here.

Back home you altered your driving methods under certain conditions; rain, darkness, heavy traffic. Vietnam should be no different.

It is your responsibility to obey local traffic laws and to DRIVE SAFELY!

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The city of Windsor, Ontario has so graciously accepted the Memorial that the (M.A.C.V.) Michigan Association of Concerned Veterans has built to honor Canadian Vietnam Veterans that have paid the supreme sacrifice in the name of FREEDOM.

Retired Canadian Senator Jack Marshall, who successfully convinced the Senate of Canada to recognize the Canadian Vietnam Veterans, has accepted this Memorial from M.A.C.V. on behalf of the families of those Canadians who were listed as Killed-In-Action or Missing-In-Action, on behalf of the Canadian Vietnam Veterans.

Ed Note: The dedication took place on July 2, 1995 in Windsor. It certainly was appropriate for the M.A.C.V., of the state of Michigan to so honor these fallen Canadians that served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. There were as many Canadians that served in Vietnam with U.S. Forces as there were Americans that skipped to Canada to avoid serving. I have never read of the number of casualties that the Canadians suffered. Many thanks to our neighbors to the north.

SAPPERS IN THE WIRE

by Keith William Nolan

Lyndon B. Johnson appeared on nationwide television in late March 1968 to tell the American people that he had decided not to run for a second full term as President of the United States. He said that his reason for not running was to enable him to work full time to find a way to get the United States out of Vietnam. This was a clear signal that the beginning of the end had arrived.

But the end did not arrive soon enough. Three full years after Johnson's televised announcement one of the costliest attacks of the war was carried out against an unsuspecting American base in Vietnam. Thirty (30) soldiers of the Americal Division's 1/46 Infantry and 3/16 Field Artillery were killed in a surprise attack on a fire support base named Mary Ann.

In addition to those killed, scores were wounded in the late night attack. Within a few months the repercussions of the attack led to punitive actions against many of the officers in the lower command structure. Until now, the full story of the attack and its aftermath has not been readily available.

Sappers in the Wire (Keith William Nolan, Texas A&M University Press, 1995) is aptly subtitled "The Life and Death of Firebase Mary Ann." Nolan begins his history of the 1/46 Infantry and FSB Mary Ann in September, 1970 and follows their activities until the firebase is closed and the battalion is deactivated in mid-1971. In addition to an accounting of the battles that were fought by the 1/46, Nolan superbly details the frame of mind of the infantry soldier during this time of Vietnamization and the US withdrawal.

With regard to the Americal Division soldiers whose actions during the attack are much understood, Nolan states in his preface: "The actions of these men and others have never been recorded in any book, and it is my purpose to finally describe in minute-by-minute detail exactly what happened that infamous night. The men who were killed or maimed for life on that hill deserve as much."

Nolan is not a newcomer to Vietnam War history. His previous six books include Operation Buffalo, Death Valley, and The Magnificent Bastards. Although not a Vietnam veteran himself, Nolan is able to capture the heart of the conflict through his meticulous interviews of Vietnam veterans. Over 80 veterans contributed their experiences to Nolan's effort. Their thoughts and feelings bring life to this finely detailed work.

Some readers will certainly cringe at the description of drug abuse and lax security. Others will find it difficult to live the horror of battle. But in the end, all will have a better understanding of the heroism and sacrifice that was demanded of the front-line soldiers. It is for them that this book is written, and it is appreciated.

Ed. Note: The above book review was written by the Sr. Vice Commander Gary Noller. He highly recommends this book. He says it is especially appropriate as the anniversary of that battle will be coming up in March of 1966.

The book is available from the Museum Curator, Ken Turner and the price is \$24.95. If you are interested contact:

PNC Kenneth R. Turner
Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel. [REDACTED]

WINTERFEST AT NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN
Terry Babler 1/1 CAV Association

JANUARY 13-14-15, 1996

A parade will be held on Friday night. Yes, in the middle of winter at night! The Americal Division will have a unit in the parade. If you have a uniform or a camie - you can wear it. But remember, it is winter in Wisconsin - with our coats on no one will notice. Before the parade begins we have free beer and snacks at Swiss Lanes Bowling Alley. At the finish of the parade there is a dance at Flannery's Supper Club. The Americal banner will be in front.

Saturday is a good time to check out the town. New Glarus is a small touristtown--you can be standing in the middle of New Glarus and walk about six blocks either direction and be on the outskirts.

The dinner will be a buffet - and as usual in a small town - you get a great buffet, fantastic food. Badge will be the band at the dance, playing a variety of music.

The village of New Glarus has dedicated this "VETERANS WEEKEND". Everyone welcome - wives, kids, etc. Contact:

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574

198th Inf Bde, soldiers have added a new word to their list, VETCAP. Now veterinarians of the brigade treat animals while doctors and medics attend to the villagers. "Brave and Bold" soldiers held their first VETCAP yesterday. 35 cows were examined and 11 received on-the-spot treatment.

FROM THE TOP

Roland:

I would like to answer the gentleman who said there are two Vietnams. He and I part company on how he describes it. I wonder if he knows that it takes from 13 to 21 support personnel to put one soldier on the front line. Arms, ammo, food, clothing, fuel and medical care do not appear by magic. Anyone who ever needed aircraft or artillery support knows that it takes many job titles such as Pilots, Gunners, Mechanics, Truck Drivers, Ammo Handlers, and Communication Operators, and they in turn need Cooks, Bakers, and Medical Support. All of this is administered by a Staff of people to numerous to list. All of this to support one man in combat. That man has every right to be proud of himself but so do the men that supported him.

A lot of men were drafted into the service, Army, Navy, and Marines. These men were trained to do a job. That job put one man on line and the rest to support him. Unless my mind is slipping there were a lot of Regulars over there to. No one individual should think that he had the only job over there. If he should make it back in one piece he should drag his sorry butt over and thank some of the men and women who helped him make it back.

If by chance he found himself in a hospital in Da Nang he might have seen a baker from Chu Lai Marine baker's school or a Medic who volunteered to ride shotgun on an ammo truck from LZ Ross to LZ Baldy, being carried out of graves registration. Or he might have stopped at LZ Bayonet for a hot meal and found no cooks to make one as the night before their hooch was hit by a satchel charge thrown by VC sappers, and most were killed or wounded. If he happened to be at Fort Myers, Virginia on 12 October 1995, he could have attended the memorial service for seven men who were identified and returned 28 years later for burial. I wonder if all those men listed throughout this letter would think of himself as a grunt, pilot, cook, baker, truck driver or headquarters personnel people or maybe thankful to be alive and home safe.

I take it all back--there were two Vietnams. One North Vietnam and the other South Vietnam only separated by a line on the map called DMZ.

By the way, I earned my Combat Infantrymans Badge some fifty years ago, as a Reconnaissance Sergeant in a Heavy Weapons company. I was thankful for every hot meal, round of ammo, every weapon etc. that was delivered to me on the front line.

After all the years I still stand and render honors to Old Glory,

Warren G.H. Reed
MSG (Ret)

A BATTERY - 3 BATTALION - 18 ARTILLERY

Dear Roland:

This Remf thing will just not go away. I am sorry that I used it in the article on my battery in the Vietnam Magazine that was reprinted a few issues ago. I do feel however that no one, NO ONE, had it worse than the grunts in the grass. They can and have the right to call anyone, including referring to anyone, who did not serve in the field, Remf. Period. End of message, end of line.

The problem is that some other GI's of that mess, we call a war, served time in hell also, and are not 11 Bush. Recently, when I was in PTSD group therapy, we all had to tell our stories. There was a fellow who joined us who served in the Coast Guard on one of the rivers in SVN. Yes, that's right the US Coast Guard. What the hell were they doing over there I don't know. "Well", I said as a joke, "why are you here? Are you stressed out because you put a buoy in the wrong part of the channel?" "No", he said, "I lost my PBR and all my crew to a command detonated mine. I am the only survivor." There was total silence in the room and I felt about as tall as the period at the end of this sentence. I never use that word or call anyone Remf any more.

Most sincerely,
R.W. Hornlein
PFC (Retired)

CHARLIE BROWN

If I remember correctly and there is a guarantee I do if you turned around at LZ Eng. you were in the 173rd's area. That means that you also went by Charlie Brown which was just above the dividing line. I can remember the Quad 50's being between the artillery and the infantry on the North? side of Debbie. I'm not sure but the name I remember is Paris Peace Talks II. Does that ring a bell.

I'm not sure its the same one you mentioned but I do remember a five ton truck got its front wheel blown off by a mine but can't remember what time of year it was. Used to catch a ride on the mine sweep from Charlie Brown to Debbie and Bronco once in awhile. I was at Debbie off and on 70-71. Was there a monkey on mine sweep?

William Bruinsma
A/6/11 ARTY 70-71

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

STORIES

I have to pass along this story to you.

We were working a platoon size operation with the help of a gunship and one of those baby choppers. The small one would find the VC and we had to go getum. The small one suddenly came to a stop about 50 meters in front of us and about 50 feet off the ground. Pilot radioed that he had two VC in a clearing below him. We heard an explosion from that area and thought the chopper had dropped something. The pilot came on the radio laughing hysterically that the two dummies had tried to throw a hand grenade at him. They never fired a round. Went up and found the two of them with frag wounds all over.

Bill Gerber
C/3/21 11TH 196 67-68

Good story. The "baby chopper" was probably an OH-6A "LOACH," which is taken from LOH, meaning Light Observation Helicopter. Great machines but did a lot of very unsafe things. Guess those VC learned the hard way that "what goes up must come down." Love it!

Jim McDaniel
174TH AHC 67-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

STEP BY STEP INTO A QUAGMIRE

Lyndon Baines Johnson had been pushed, pulled and driven, step by step, ever deeper into the swamp that was South Vietnam. The American presence had risen from hundreds during the Eisenhower era to thousands during the Kennedy era to more than 15,000 under President Johnson. Now, in December of 1965, Johnson faced the ultimate choice: Cut and run, or match half a million Americans into a war that his experts told him he could not win.

LBJ had approved troop buildup from 15,000 in July to 157,000 by late October 1965. The North Vietnamese responded with a river of People's Army regulars flooding down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The forces met in a shocking collision in mid-November in the Ia Drang Valley. the helicopter-borne Americans of the 1st Cavalry Division prevailed, but only just. Some 1,100 Americans died in Vietnam since 1959, Now, 234 had been killed in just four days.

Top-secret memo. Mortuaries ran out of coffins; field hospitals ran short of beds and erected tents over wounded GIs as they arrived. Back home, no one had given thought to creating Army casualty notification teams; Western Union gave the death-notice telegrams to taxi drivers to deliver to families.

LBJ's cool secretary of defense, Robert McNamara, hurried to Vietnam; there would be no talk of early victory. On the plane home, he dictated a top-secret memo to LBJ: "We have two options, it seems to me. One is to go now for a compromise solution and hold further deployments to a minimum. The other is to stick with our stated objectives and with the war and provide what it takes in men and materiel." an additional 200,000 U.S. troops during 1966 and 200,000 more during 1967. He added that even numbers like those--600,000 American troops and a combat casualty toll he estimated at 1,000 American a month--could not guarantee success.

The gloom over the White House was deep. "Vietnam was a fungus, slowly spreading its suffocating crust over the great plans of the president, both here and overseas," said LBJ's closest aide, Jack Valenti. "No matter what we turned our hands and minds to, there was Vietnam."

Johnson summoned his advisors to a two-day session, December 17 and 18. Johnson quizzed McNamara: "What you are saying is, no matter what we do militarily, there is no sure victory?" McNamara replied: "That's right." During a break, Johnson confessed his utter bewilderment to Valenti. He could not read his opponent, Ho Chi Minh. "I don't know him. I don't know his ancestry or his customs or his beliefs."

In the end, Johnson and his advisors unanimously chose Option 2--escalation. The decision committed the United States irrevocably to a war that would drag on for nine more years, take some 3 million Americans to Vietnam, cost the lives of 58,000 of them and deeply divide and embitter the country. Will Bundy, then an assistant secretary of state, noted that McNamara's Option 1--"which alone amongst the papers of this period, suggested any possible alternative to the basic course of carrying on with the war"--was never rally considered because of the war's 'sheer momentum' and because it was clear that South Vietnam would fall without the help of American troops.

Lyndon Johnson strongly believed he never really had a choice. If South Vietnam was lost, he later told biographer Doris Kearns, "there would be Robert Kennedy, telling everyone that I betrayed John Kennedy's commitment. That I had let a democracy fall to into the hands of communists...Oh, I could see it coming all right. Every night when I fell asleep I would see myself tied to the ground in the middle of a long, open space. In the distance I could hear the voices of thousands of people. They were all shouting at me and running toward me: 'Coward! Traitor! Weakling!'"

by Joseph L. Galloway in the U.S. News)

EARLY VIETNAM: WHEN DOUBT GREW AND PRINT REIGNED

Long before American generals insisted that they had to destroy villages in order to save them, long before Robert McNamara insisted that he had seen his thousand points of light at the end of still another tunnel, Homer Bigart had their number. And proved it by writing two pithy stories, not about body counts and body bags but about cats and dogs.

"American antimalarial spray killed the cats that ate the rats that devoured the crops that were the main props against agitation in the central lowlands of South Viet Nam," wrote Bigart in February 1962. "The result: a hungry, embittered rural population tending to support the Viet Cong insurgents." Bigart went on to discover the dogs, German shepherds brought in to replace South Vietnamese soldiers who preferred to visit their families rather than stand guard at night. Despite their extravagant diet (\$1.20 worth of frozen horsemeat a day, compared with the 19-cent daily ration of rice consumed by the average Vietnamese soldier), the dogs were beset by disease and required three months to adjust to life in the tropics.

"Gadgets," wrote Bigart, "will not win this war, and neither will dogs."

(An article written by Barbara Belejack on several new books on journalism. It appeared in the Boston Globe.

SIBERIA

I remember the guys from D company being on Siberia in Aug. '69. We fired a lot of 105 mm. ammo. during that period. Hope some of it helped you. Towards the end, our Chief of Firing Battery returned from R&R and said the level of activity around Hiep Duc was being talked about even in Cam Ranh Bay. I thought it was a typical pep talk at the time. Maybe not. I do remember the heat. I would often wake up from a nap with the poncho liner not just damp from sweat but actually with pools of sweat in it. After a fire mission, I would go back and lay down in it to cool off. And wonder how I could be so gross and care about it so little! Do you remember the name of your FO or radio operator? It seems to me a friend of mine with short blond curly hair, medium to tall, was assigned to D soon after he arrived.

Barry Kelly
C/3/82 ARTY 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

On July 7th I attended the dedication of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Having lost a cousin, named after my father, I saw to it that my aunt Netty Myers and her other son Archie were able to attend the dedication. I was also accompanied by a fellow ADVA member Donald Van Estenbridge formerly of the 23 M.P.s.

My cousin Daniel J. Myers died while saving a friend. For this he was awarded the Soldier's Medal posthumously.

Of the 80,000 men from New Jersey who served in Vietnam 1,547 did not return. Twelve (12) of these men came from my own High School.

The memorial is a circular one some fifty yards in diameter. The circle contains 366 black granite panels. One for each day of the year on which the names of the men who died on that day are listed. In the center is a bronze statue of a soldier who is being attended to by a nurse while his buddy looks on.



For me the most touching thing I saw was the display of "THE LAST PATROL". Among the cold black granite stones and the gleaming bronze statue were rows of boots. Parade boots, jump boots, jungle boots, all empty, all representing someone who did not make it home. All in all it was that display that brought home, in a very personal way, what it was that we were there to remember.

Of all the speeches that were given, by far the most memorable was the one given by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. Among some of the many things he said the following quotes were the ones that stirred the crowd the most.

"I am a veteran. I'm a veteran because four times my country asked me to go to war and I did my duty to my country. But the veterans title I am most proud of is the title of Vietnam veteran. I am very proud to be a Vietnam veteran."

"Vietnam veterans earned their title by being ripped from the breast of their families and sent

halfway around the world to the most inhospitable environment that you can imagine and to places that they couldn't even pronounce. They suffered the heat in the dry season. They suffered the cold and wet monsoon. They lived with the leaches in the jungle and they climbed the mountains of Vietnam and they faced death and 58,000 of them died. And they did it all because they believed in the cause of freedom and they did it because their country asked them to".

"And yet something terrible happened. These hundreds a hundreds of thousands of people who went to war, simply because their government asked them to, came back home and were blamed for the war. That's criminal. That is criminal. They didn't start the war. None of us wanted to leave our families behind. And oh, by the way, these seem to be the days when people are apologizing for Vietnam. I've thought a lot about this and I'll tell you what".

"I don't apologize for anything I did in Vietnam. But what is most important I don't apologize for anything my men did in Vietnam and I don't apologize for anything that thousands and thousands of American soldiers serving around me did, Vietnam because you know that we didn't do anything that we were ashamed of. We did nothing that we were ashamed of. Despite what you see in revisionist historical films coming out of Hollywood, despite what you may read in revisionist history. The vast majority, I mean most, if not almost all the people that served in Vietnam, went over there, honorably served their country, and came back home without any great guilt pangs for having done any criminal act. It just did not happen every day, every week, all the time, in every unit, over and over again, as you see depicted today."

"We've have nothing to apologize for. We veterans are proud of what we did in Vietnam.

Submitted by David Myers.

"CHARGER" CHASE ENDS IN DEFEAT FOR 18 OF THE ENEMY
A/3/21 Infantry

LZ BALDY--A marathon race that included a two-day running gun battle between the "Chargers of the 196 LIB and the VC ended with 18 enemy not around for the finish line.

The track meet began before sunrise during an early morning patrol by A Co. 3rd Bn., 21 Infantry, in the flatlands two miles southeast of Que Son Valley.

A Company pursued the enemy for nearly four hours and engaged them several times along the way. The meet was discontinued when the VC ran out of breath and ammunition.

Nine VC were killed and four weapons captured. On the following day two "Gimlet" patrols were sent out to the same area.

Although the first patrol passed through the area and found nothing, two hours later the second patrol encountered heavy enemy resistance.

Between 15 and 20 VC took off running, apparently forgetting the final results of the race the previous day. Nine VC were killed during the ensuing scamper. (Southern Cross Feb. 1969)

COMPANY G (RANGER) 75th INFANTRY, 1969

I couldn't help but take notice of the emphasis placed on educating US Gulf War soldiers on understanding and respecting the cultural mores and local traditions of Arab countries. Clearly, the idea was to win the hearts of the people, something that was trampled on during the Vietnam War.

In contrast, the Vietnamese civilians were often viewed as sub-human and were insulted, bullied, abused and killed by American soldiers. This attitude is reflected in a recent letter published in the Americal Newsletters (Tropical Bars) in which the author happily cited incidents where, "the game was to... smack a bicycle rider or a mama-san or lamberetta or whatever target seemed appropriate." The author further states that they, "rationalized this behavior." Behavior such as this would result in a court martial in today's Army. Would it have not been better to offer these candy bars in a civilized manner?

"Tropical Bars" does nothing but promote racism, ignorance and the image of the "ugly American." While seemingly harmless, soldiers who practiced what the author or "Tropical Bars" described, contributed to the erosion of America's inability to win the war, an inch at a time. I believe the modern day Army has since learned a lesson.

I believe it is the responsibility of editors such as yourself to use sound and mature judgment in selecting articles that are newsworthy and reflective of the proud tradition of the Americal Division.

Submitted By,
Michael S. Chu

Mike: I am sorry that you were offended by the article on "Tropical Bars". I, or Roly, do not make up the stories. Neither we or the ADVA, necessarily, agree or disagree with some of the articles that come across our desk. I dislike censorship in any form but I will draw the line on vulgarity and a few other things.

I take the stories as they come believing that these are true experiences and then I expect the readers to let me know if the guy is out of his cage or what.

Many wrongs are committed during periods of war but not mentioning them does not change the fact that they happened. You cannot change history even though many revisionists try to do so.

I am a World War II veteran and in 'my war' we knew who the enemy was--in 'your war' it was hard to tell. Is it not true that children were used to toss grenades into groups of soldiers? And both enemy and friend were similar? Many were friends by day and enemy by night.

However, I believe the American soldier is the best ambassador our country has. In every game there are a few foul balls. I do hope that you read the article on Page 15 in the Jul-Aug-Sep issue, 'Thankful for President Truman's Decision' by Joe Mullen. They won the people by giving the children candy bars. I like that approach much better. Jim Buckle

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

26th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

The 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was constituted as a unit of the Regular Army on December 1, 1954 and on December 2, 1954 was activated as an element of the 23rd Infantry Division at Fort Clayton, Canal Zone. At that time, the Battalion was composed of Company A which was organized February 1, 1945 as the 2920th Dump Truck Company, Company B and Headquarters, the initial organization for each, and Company C which was organized on April 7, 1944 as the 406th Engineer Combat Company. The 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was activated on April 10, 1956

On December 8, 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam, the 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was again activated as the organic combat engineer battalion of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

The 2626th Engineer Battalion is composed of four Combat Engineer line Companies, a Float Bridge Company, and a Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Company A was formerly the 175th Engineer Company organic to the 196 Light Infantry Brigade. Its headquarters in now at Fire Support Base Hawk Hill in direct support of the 196 Light Infantry Brigade. Company B was the 555th Engineer Company, organic to the 198 Light Infantry Brigade and Company C was formerly the 6th Engineers Company, 11 Light Infantry Brigade. Company B now continues in direct engineer support of the 198 LIB with headquarters at Landing Zone Bayonet. Company C remains with the 11th LIB at Fire Support Base Bronco in Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Company D was formed primarily from elements of Company B 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) which was attached to the Americal Division at the time of activation. The 554th Engineer Company (Float Bridge) was transferred from the 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and redesignated Company E, 26th Engineers Battalion (Combat). Headquarters Company was formed from elements of the USARV Engineer Command.

Submitted by Jesse Flowers a former member of the 26th Engineers

THE 198th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE HAS A NEW CREST

The spirit and readiness for combat of the men of the 198 LIB has been captured on the unit crest, recently approved by the Department of the Army.

The new insignia depicts a "reversed S" of flames crossed with a portion of a rifle with a fixed bayonet emblazoned over a blue shield shield arched at the top and bottom.

The tongues of the flame allude to the brigade's firepower and the bayonet, a basic infantryman's weapon, symbolizes the carrying of the fight directly to the enemy.

The blue and white on the shield represent the traditional colors of the infantry.

The U. S. Army Institute of Heraldry has initialed action for the manufacture of the new crest and they will be worn by soldiers of the brigade soon.

(Taken from Stars and Strips issue of July 1967 and submitted by Michael Gardner.)

I COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY

I would like to express my feelings to James Martin Davis for his story about the invasion of Japan. "Invasion of Japan" was really great! I have often wondered just how far the American government had gone to detail plans like this. As part of the invasion force, onboard ship and headed for Japan, we were given orders that we were going to land and fight there. I was really thrilled to hear the change of these orders.

I remember well when we received the word that Japan was going to surrender. I was with the main force and we were about two days out and were really dreading the fact that we were to land on Japanese soil. Not knowing all that was planned, I never realized that Japan was planning a last stand effort by every man, woman, and child, to defend their homeland. I can realize now just what would have happened had we landed.

I remember part of our orders. They were to land and not to fire our weapons unless we were fired upon. We were to accept transportation if offered, and to cooperate with the Japanese if they offered hospitalities of any kind. I never thought there would be any hostility at all, the way we were briefed. I guess I, as well as all others thought, that they were going to surrender and we never worried that we would have to fight again.

I would like to thank James Davis for his wonderful coverage of the invasion plans.

Roy E. Poynter
1/Sgt. (Retired)

Ed Note: Roy was a career Army man and he also saw action in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry.

FORT DEVENS CEMETERY

In the fall of 1938, labor for construction of a new cemetery at Fort Devens was supplied by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

In early spring of 1938, the cemetery was completed but the road and vault were not completed until 1940.

The cemetery, located near the junction of Sheridan Road, Patton Road, and Queenstown Street, contains the remains of servicemen who fought in six of America's wars.

When the new cemetery opened in 1938, the old cemetery, established in 1931 and located at the junction of Antietam Street and Malvern-Hill Street overlooking the post athletic field, was closed out and the bodies were moved to the new burial ground.

A short time later, 97 bodies from Resthaven Cemetery, Deer Island, Boston Harbor, were brought to the new Fort Devens Cemetery by a Winthrop, Ma undertaker.

One soldier who fought in the War of 1812 is interred in the Fort Devens Cemetery, plus a confederate Naval Officer, military dependents, unknowns, active duty and retired soldiers, sailors and airmen, plus 20 German and two Italian soldiers who died while Prisoners of War at Fort Devens during World War II.

G COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY

While reading my latest Americal Newsletter, April-May-June, I was surprised to read about Albert (Red) Hauser. Roy Poynter is correct in stating that G. Company was on the right flank of I Company. Both myself and my squad leader, Sgt. Kelly, saw Red wounded.

Now, Kelly was not the sergeant's real name. He was from New York and had a very long Polish name so everyone called him Sgt. Kelly. He new Red Houser, and later, he told me to go down to the Aid Station and find out the condition of his friend.

Well, down the hill I went looking for the Medical Aid Station but had no idea where to go. I just followed the trail to the foot of the ridge where I came upon a marker on a pile of stones. On the marker someone had written three letters. It was hard to make out but I figured it said "Red". I remember bowing my head and heading back to the lines to report to Sgt. Kelly. When I found him I told him that Red had died and that he was buried at the foot of the ridge. Sgt. Kelly told me that I had better go back and check again because he did not believe he had been seriously wounded. So, obeying orders I again went on my way to the bottom of the ridge. This time I checked very closely and found the three letter read "JAP".

After fifty years I now know that "Red's" name is Albert Houser. I only hope someone remembers the real name of Sgt. Kelly.

Gordon Vander Molen

P.S. I was a radio man for Company G and my nickname was "Junior", because I was the youngest man in the Company. I also had a twin brother in G Company.

39th MILITARY POLICE

Just finished reading the last issue of the Americal Newsletter. I have really enjoyed reading every issue from front to back. When I finish them I take them to the Bay Pines, V.A. Hospital here in St. Pete.

One article that caught my eye was about the 39th M.P. Co. by Art Guarente telling of our top-kick Charlie Whiteacre. That is the first time I have seen anything about our outfit. I was in the Artillery in Task Force 6814 and transferred to the M.P.'s in Noumea. During my time on Guadalcanal I had a few bouts with malaria and an ear infection, plus the bombing and shelling. That was nothing compared to what the infantry went through.

If there are any fellows from the 39th M.P.'s still kicking I sure would like to hear from them. I hung around with two guys who were good buddies. One was Tom Day Jr., who passed away in the 50's and Ronald (Whitey) Henry from Rochelle, IL.

I am now living in Florida and my address is:

Walter (Mad Russian) Kopernik
[Redacted]
Pinellas Park, FL 34666

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
General Order 53: 28 April 45
Citation of the
121 MEDICAL BATTALION

The 121 Medical Battalion, United States Army, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Valencia, Palompon, and Villaba, Leyte province, Philippine Islands from 5 Feb 45 to 10 Mar 45. The citation reads as follows: During this period the 121 Med. Bn. operated under unusually difficult conditions and was successful in making evacuations and giving definitive care to wounded even prior to the arrival of complete equipment. The care and dispatch with which casualties were handled through the Clearing Company was a source of inspiration to the troops in combat. Due to the lack of normal evacuation channels, it was also necessary to hold patients and perform difficult operations with limited facilities that existed at the Clearing Co. In addition, the Battalion also operated a hospital set-up of 50 beds at Allen, Samar, Philippine Islands, for the definitive care and also a hospital at Capocan with 150 beds for medical care. In accomplishment of the missions assigned to the Battalion officers and enlisted men often worked from 20 to 24 hours a day successfully giving relief to wounded to the extent that many men now survive because of the outstanding, efficient and high esprit of the Battalion as a whole. The untiring efforts, professional skill, gallantry, and determination of the officers and men to meet any difficult condition that might arise were characteristic of the manner in which the 121 Medical Battalion has performed as part of the Americal Division.

BY COMMAND OF
MAJOR GENERAL ARNOLD M.M. MAGEE,
Colonel, GSC Chief of Staff

Donald Ballou
121 Med. 132ND WW11

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

This Day 50 years ago

June 29, 1945

President Harry S Truman approves the invasions of Kyushu and Honshu. The Kyushu invasion is slated for Nov. 1, with two beachheads on Japan's east coast-one near Miyazaki, the other at Ariake Bay. Gen. Douglas MacArthur is to use 13 divisions of Gen. Walter Krueger's 6th Army: the 25th, 33rd, 41st, 43rd, 77th, 81st, 98th and Americal Infantry, 11th Airborne, 1st Cavalry, and 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Marine divisions. Adm. William Halsey's 3rd Fleet and Adm. Raymond Spruance's 5th Fleet are to have 3,000 ships in support, including 63 aircraft carriers and 22 battleships. The 5th and 7th Air Forces based on Okinawa and the Ryukyus are to provide 1,850 aircraft. The Honshu invasion is scheduled for March 1, 1946, with 23 divisions of the American 1st and 8th Armies landing east and west of Tokyo Bay. Participants include 16 divisions from Europe: the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 13th Airborne, 28th, 35th, 44th, 86th, 87th, 91st, 95th, 97th and 104th Infantry and 13th and 20th Armored.

The 97th "Trident" Infantry becomes the second unit to return from Europe. It will ship out to the Pacific in September.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION

No doubt you know that many men from the Americal, while we on Fiji, volunteered for action. They were not told where they were going and they had little idea of what they were getting into. Lo and behold, they wound up in Burma with Merrill's Marauders.

The Newsletter has carried the dates of their Reunions in the past but our contact, Andrew Pung, passed away and we lost contact with the organization.

Sorry the notice for their September Reunion did not arrive in time for the last Newsletter. But we are now in touch. For further information contact:

Raymond V. Lyons
[REDACTED]
Phoenix, AZ 85028

21 RECON

During the Cebu operation I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Many years after the war it was mailed to me here in North Carolina.

On this Medal is an Oak Leaf Cluster as well as a bronze V. For all of these years I have never know what the Cluster was for. In "Saga of the Americal", under awards and decorations, 2512 Bronze Stars were given but just 140 had a Cluster on the ribbon. maybe the 139 other would like to know what the Cluster is for?

Sincerely,
Ed Loeb

Ed Note: Ed, here is the explanation: The cluster is given in lieu of a second medal when an award is made twice. You must have been awarded a Bronze Star Medal for two different actions. If I remember correctly the Cluster would be gold. If a third Bronze medal is awarded you would receive another gold Cluster and the same for the fourth. But, if you were awarded the Bronze Medal for a fifth time the gold clusters would be replaced with ONE silver Cluster.

Talk about confusion!

THANK YOU OL' HARRY

Thank you for the article "Invasion of Japan." You, I, and a lot of other guys would undoubtedly would not be here if Ol' Harry had not dropped the bomb. Damn those liberal cowards for telling people we should have not used the bomb.

I enjoy reading the Americal Newsletter and the Guadalcanal Echoes.

I would appreciate it if you would send me three copies of that issue for I would like to give one to each of my three daughters.

Sincerely,
Gordon E. Copeland

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

DEDICATED TO THE MEN OF THE 164th INFANTRY

This issue of the Americal Newsletter is dedicated to the gallant men of the 164th Infantry. The Americal as a Division received little publicity for their part in winning the Solomon Islands and the 164th Infantry received even less. Let us not forget that the 164th Infantry was the first Army ground unit to go on the offensive and help to liberate the first piece of real estate from the conquering Japanese war machine, that had been running rampant since the early 1930's. Guadalcanal was the first step on the long and costly road to Japan.

Those crucial days on Guadalcanal are again relived.

Included is an after action report by Colonel, then Captain, Richard Cohen. This gives us old timers, that left before the Occupation, another view of some of the things that took place after we had left.

There is a story of a young Lieutenant, Richard M. Combs, fresh out of West Point, that made the

The November 20, 1945 issue of the Fort Lawton newspaper, "Processor", was an AMERICAL SPECIAL dedicated to the returning Division. From this date the Americal gradually passed into history and on December 12, 1945 it was no more.

I hope these articles bring a lump to your throat and a tear to your eyes, as you remember that life and all the friend that were. Jim.

GUADALCANAL - OCTOBER 13, 1942

At dawn on October 13, 1942, the Regiment arrived at Kukum Beach, Guadalcanal. Debarkation of personnel began immediately. Stations at nets had been previously assigned. The troops carrying ammunition, combat packs, gas masks and arms entered Higgins boats, via nets and were taken ashore. The First Marine Division, already stationed at Guadalcanal, covered the landing. The debarkation of troops was completed at 0730. Details were assigned for unloading supplies and equipment. The supplies were transferred to Higgins boats from the transports and unloaded on the beach and distributed. In the midst of this work, at about noon, a flight of Japanese bombers passed over and bombed the area for a half hour. Corporal Kenneth S. Foubert, Company M was killed; the first casualty of the Regiment. Two men were injured. The enemy again bombed the area from aircraft from 1330 to 1600, but there were no further casualties and very little damage. At 1800 the area was shelled by enemy artillery located west along the beach toward Point Cruz. The troops sought cover, and although alarmed, maintained order. Pvt. Park E. Jagears. Company D was killed. At 2300 the Regiment began movement toward bivouac areas about two miles east, between Lunga Point, Teneru River and Henderson Field. What a day and what a reception for our first day! The Marines are sure glad we are here and they certainly look like the have gone through "Hell."

Immediately after midnight, 0010, October 14, 1942, terrific shelling by enemy naval craft began. "Louie the Louse" seems to be directing the fire. Several cruisers and destroyers were lying off Kukum Beach and Lunga Point and shelled the area near Lunga Point and Henderson Field incessantly until 1030. The shells 6-8 and 12-24 inch with star shell to light up the area over

Henderson Field. The troops had no time to dig in, but sought available cover and maintained good order. Warrant Officer Bernard E. Starkenberg, was killed, Corporal Rollie Andrick, Hq. Det. Second Battalion was killed. Three landing boats containing enemy troops approached Kukum Beach, but withdrew. Many coconut palm trees were cut down, but otherwise damage was negligible. Col. Brooks of the New Zealand Army stated that shelling was worse than Crete. I'll never forget our Chaplain Marks, after two hours of shelling, straightened up in the corner of the hole and looked us all over and said, "Gentlemen, I've done all I can for you." This broke the tension; we giggled.

At 0900 a flight of enemy bombers again passed over and dropped bombs evidently intended for Henderson Field, but most of them landed in bivouac areas causing minor damage to personal equipment, and no casualties. Troops now are well dug in, and have also used dug outs of Marines formerly stationed in area. Another enemy bombing raid at 1100 and another at 1200 -- same results. "Pistol Pete" the Jap artillery man came into action. He seems to have quite a long range gun. He certainly knows how to lay onto the airport. Went down to beach, where our supplies were, to visit Company L who were left there to guard our stores. One of the men told of sitting on a large pile of rations and when the first Jap naval shell came over the rush of wind blew him off his perch.

October 15, 1942. The 164th Infantry Regiment is attached to the First Marine Division, who have been at Guadalcanal since August 7. This Regiment is the only attached Army unit. Major General Vandergrift is the Commanding General of forces on Guadalcanal. Command of sector passed to this Regiment and the First Battalion took up positions on the sector front at the Teneru River, relieving a battalion of Marines. Enemy aircraft again bombed the area from 0730 to 0830. The following enlisted men were killed on October 15: Private Alfred C. Halverson, Medical Detachment; Private Steven Zakopayko, Company E; Private Amande Del Fava, Company B; Private Glen Midgarden, Company C. All our rations were turned over to the First Marine Division and we are having a tough time to get our supplies and equipment away from Yellow Beach as rain washed out the bridge.

Members killed in action are being buried at the First Marine Division cemetery. Graves are marked with a green wooden cross as there is no distinctive markings between ranks. Chaplains are in attendance at a brief ceremony. A group of captured Japanese laborers dig graves. A palm branch is placed over each grave.

On October 16 at 1201 terrific shelling by enemy Japanese naval craft began and continued until 0230. However, the troops were orderly and kept under cover. Captain George R. Newgard, Munitions Officer, was hit by a "dud" and severely wounded and died later. The Second Battalion took up positions to the right of the First Battalion, east and south of Henderson Field, relieving a battalion of Marines at 1000. The third Battalion moved to Division Reserve and prepared for mobility. During the day several alert warnings were given, but enemy planes were intercepted and there were no further bombings. The Regimental CP was moved to a well camouflaged area, southwest of the First Battalion positions. Sturdy dug-outs were completed. "Pistol Pete" fired on Henderson Field several times during the day. We relieved the First Marine Regiment under Col. Cates and our own Col. Moore took command of the sector held by our First and Second Battalions.

October 17, at 1315, 20 enemy bombers passed over the area and dropped their loads. Minor damage and no casualties. Many patrols under the direction of Captain Considine are proceeding beyond our front lines and all reports are negative. Lt. Col. Frisbee of the Seventh Marines on our right called our CP to coordinate our patrol activities. Major General Vandergrift, Colonel Thomas, Chief of Staff and Lt. Col. Twining D-3 of the Marine Division also called during the day.

On October 8, 1942, our front line positions are well dug in, and guns are properly placed. Sector front quiet. At 1410 a wave of enemy bombers came over and bombed the area. Another wave bombed at 1800. Minor damage and no casualties to our Regiment. "Pistol Pete" is working overtime. This is a funny war as I can ride my "Peep" through the sector we are holding in the front of our own lines.

On October 19, 1942, patrols still report negative, though some enemy movement is detected by our aircraft. Sector front is quiet. Several bombing alerts but the bombers were intercepted by our air force, which has been doing a superior job. "Louie-the-Louse," the one Jap bomber and his brethren are finding it more difficult to get through. This is a peculiar war, the masters ponder over this one. We have an airport on our Regimental reserve line, The Jap navy hits us in the rear, we fight them to our front, and the bomb Hell out of us from the air and we are holding a little piece of ground roughly, six miles wide and three miles deep. Looks like we are in for a rough time.

On October 20, 1942, the enemy bombers bombed the area from 1100 to 1200. No casualties. Enemy artillery now known as "Pistol Pete," began usual bombardment at 1830. Evidently emplaced somewhere west of Point Cruz, and has his range set for the airfield. A wave of enemy bombers bombed the area at 2005 and then returned at 2105 and dropped 17 bombs in over B Company area. First Lt. Frank G. Welch, Company B, Technician Fourth Grade John T. Flowers, Company B and Pfc Marvin P. Quamme, Company B, were killed instantly. One officer and three enlisted men were wounded. Our patrols are working in fine shape. General Vandergrift and Colonel Thomas called again today.

On October 21, 1942, a wave of enemy bombers bombed the area from 1100 to 1200. "Louie-the-Louse" is back. No casualties. "Pistol Pete" tossed shells into the area near Henderson Field from 1750 to 1830. No casualties. We moved our CP today because it was getting a little too hot. We discovered 60 bomb hits and 50 shells had lit in our area since taking over. Our new place doesn't look too good, but it hasn't been discovered.

On October 22, 1942, "Pistol Pete" shelled the area at ten minute intervals throughout the forenoon. At 1315 a wave of enemy bombers approached the area, but were intercepted by our Grumman Fighters, and five bombers were shot down. "Pistol Pete" again from 1700 to 1830. No casualties, but he's getting in our hair. Sector front lines quiet; however enemy activity and movement is noted. Col. Moore visited Marine Division CP and met Lt. General Holcomb the Marine Commandant.

On October 23, "Pistol Pete" began at 0730 and kept shelling at 10 minute intervals all forenoon. At 1105 a wave of enemy bombers came over and

dropped their loads in the Third Battalion area, destroying a kitchen, tentage, afe rifles and some equipment. No casualties. The troops have learned to duck. The Marine artillery batteries are out to get "Pistol Pete" and fired at enemy positions constantly from 1900 to midnight. Two enemy land thrusts at Marine CPs, south of Henderson Field, were repulsed by the 7th Marines. 1/Sgt Jack Simmons; S/Sgt. Russel J. Opat; Sgt. Bernard A. Deering and T/5 Marvin /t. Hanson were commended for meritorious service per Regimental Orders Number Two, October 23, 1942

October 24, 1942, Enemy thrust at Marine positions west of the Matanikau was repulsed and nine enemy tanks were destroyed. Enemy patrols are attempting to infiltrate between CPs and main lines, west and south. From 1201 to 0700, Marine artillery fired at enemy positions west of Matanikau River. "Pistol Pete" fired a few shells at the airport, intermittently. Enemy action appearing to be determined land thrust was noted at right flank of Second Battalion, in front of the Seventh Marines, after dark. At 2340 the Regimental staff received orders from D-3 to commit Third Battalion to reinforce the Seventh Marines immediately.

October 25, The Third Battalion cleared its area at 0205 and marched toward the Seventh Marines positions, south of Henderson Field. Upon arrival desperate hand to hand fighting was in progress, the Third Battalion took up its positions in the face of enemy fire. In some cases hand to hand combat for the possession of foxholes and emplacements occurred. There were skirmishes all along the Third Battalion front and along the right flank of the Second Battalion, but the lines held and the enemy thrusts were repulsed, though there were slight infiltration. At dawn the enemy withdrew and positions were strengthened and coordinated. "Pistol Pete" again active from 0800 to 1100. Enemy naval craft shelled the area at noon. Enemy Zero fighters have been in the air all day bombing and strafing, but in the resultant dog fights our Grumman shot down many of them and dispersed them. Grumman pilots are adept at luring Zeros within deadly range of our anti-aircraft guns. Several bombing alerts, but our air force dispersed them, shooting down several bombers and Zeros. Enemy artillery again shelled the area at 2015. At nightfall the enemy began another determined land thrust at the Seventh Marine positions on our right flank and at our Third and Second Battalions positions, and vicious fighting was in progress. The enemy assaulted the positions repeatedly in great numbers, but the lines are holding. There is some sniper activity. Pvt. John J. Flynn, Company E and Pvt. Ira A. Woodell, Company M were killed in action. Several wounded, but casualties are comparatively light.

October 26, From midnight until dawn the enemy hurled wave after wave of infantry supported by mortar and machine gun at our Third Battalion lines, but every thrust was repulsed with tremendous loss to the enemy. Our troops stuck to positions with bull-dog tenacity, and even hand to hand fighting did not dislodge them. Our Third Battalion positions are in the midst of dense jungle. There was some infiltration. The Regimental reserve consisting of only about 175 troops from Headquarters and Service Company was committed to the south border of the airport, in the event of a break through, but were recalled at 0930. No enemy air activity during the day - "Pistol Pete" is quiet. Men killed in action: From G Company; Corp. Louis Lochner, 2nd Lt. Ralph M. Kamman. Pvt. John B. Muir, Corp. Melvin Busche,

Pvt. Robert D. Newman. From E Company; Pvt. Harvey E. Hubbard. From Med. Det; Pfc. John W. McClure. From Company K; Pfc George E Kudrna, Pvt Weldon D. Spease, Corp. Jack F. Leithold, Pfc Harvey R. Brewster. From Company L; 2nd Lt. Arvid Grasvik, Pvt. Jopseph Sperl, Pvt. Carl W. Edwards, Pfc. Arnold P. Nelson, Pfc. Palmer G. Foss, Pvt. Lonnie L. Sistrunk. From M Company; Pfc. Gerald E. Coffey, Pfc. Dale N. Coppens. The boys are going great, it certainly does a fellow good to see how the M-1 rifle can pile up the "Nips".

October 27, From midnight to dawn the enemy again hurled its strength at our Third Battalion and right flank of our Second Battalion lines, but each thrust was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. At 0400 enemy bombers bombed the area with slight damage, and no casualties resulting. During the day several enemy aircraft waves were intercepted and dispersed with losses to the enemy. Snipers who had infiltrated were active but caused little damage. Patrols located most of the snipers and destroyed them. They were well camouflaged and hid themselves in the upper branches of high trees, making it difficult to locate them. The carnage of enemy dead piled in front of our lines is creating an unhealthy situation. Burying details are organized and burial is begun. Over 1,700 enemy dead in our front alone, and probably many more further back in the jungle. Impossible to estimate the enemy wounded. Our troops are near exhaustion, but morale is high. Men killed in action; 2nd Lt. George H. Cummings from Company A and Pvt. Howard O. Noland from Company I.

October 28, Quiet. Enemy appears to have withdrawn to lick its wounds and plan new strategy. Snipers still an active nuisance. An attempted enemy air assault was driven off at 0400 by AA fire. Burial of enemy dead continues. The men received their first hot meal today. They sure were hungry. During the battle they did not eat much, perhaps because of the excitement.

JESUIS PRET

That is the story of the Americal's, "Baptism of Fire". With all considered, the air planes bombing, the naval shelling and Pistol Pete added to the assaults by Japanese infantry, these two weeks or so, was no doubt the heaviest combat any unit of the Americal was engaged in during World War II.

This account of the first few weeks on Guadalcanal, was taken from, 'An Account of the 164th Infantry Regiment on Guadalcanal from October 7, 1942 through February 23, 1943', by Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien.

JUNGLE FIGHTERS 164th Infantry

'Jungle Fighters' - The story of the Americal Division by Bruce Jacobs, has appeared in several magazines and was carried in the 164 Infantry News a short while ago. In the last two pages of the story it tells of a patrol 164 Infantry seeking a cache of silver while serving in Japan. This patrol was let by Captain Richard L. Cohen.

Col. Cohen was recently in touch with me and stated he had been misquoted on some of the facts and figures stated by the author. Col. Cohen stated that he had a copy of the original patrol report.

It follows:

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BATTALION 164th Infantry

16 October 1945

SUBJECT: Patrol Report

TO: C.O. 164th Infantry (attention S-3)

11 Oct 45

Patrol consisting of 2 officers and 36 EM, departed Regimental Area at 1700 with mission of finding and securing 110 tons of bulk silver stored somewhere in the vicinity of Kusakabe (366.0-424.0). The information received before departure was that silver was stored in a Kasugai-Muru Warehouse (366-424). At 2200 11 Oct. arrived at Kofu. Bivouaced for the night.

12 Oct 45

Patrol left Kofu (354-419) for Kusakabe 0700. Arrived at Kusakabe 0800. Upon arrival checked in at Police Station and contacted Police Chief, Yoshichika Oshibe. At this time the mission of the patrol was not made known. Police Chief questioned as to whereabouts of the Kasugai-Muru Warehouse Co. He stated that there was no such place, but said the town of Kasugai has several warehouses which had been used by civilians to store crops. The chief then furnished a guide to warehouse in other town. Patrol then departed for Kusakabe and check was made of warehouses which proved negative. As per previous instruction a motor messenger was sent back to regiment with results of activity so far. Patrol then returned to Kusakabe and set up a base in town hall. Plans were made to start checking all warehouses and likely storage places where the silver may be found. At 1300 patrol, Lt. Holland in charge, left billet to search all warehouses and likely storage places in Kusakabe. Police furnished guide. Patrol returned 1700 with negative results. That afternoon Captain Cohen continued check of Kusakabe. Mayor, Post Office clerks and town Police were questioned on the Kasugai-Muru Warehouse Company, but all claimed there was no such company. Investigation proved another community farmers warehouse which had not previously been checked on. This disclosed approximately 10 ton of tin. Manager in charge of warehouse stated tin was in charge of Koshiro Haibara, prominent farmer in the village. Manager was ordered not to move the tin. Messenger sent to Regiment with progress thus far.

13 Oct 45

Lt. Holland and patrol of 12 men left billet at 0800 to check town of Kusakabe and Higashi-Muru. Returned 1200 with negative results. Capt. Cohen departed 0800 to investigate Koshiro Haibara, the farmer from Kasugai who was in charge of the tin discovered the previous day. Upon question, he stated the tin has been sent up from Tokyo about the 15 or 16th of April for safe keeping, from Mitisbushi Warehouse Co., Tokyo. Farmer questioned on other stores of metals he might be in charge of. He claimed there was none in vicinity. He consented to a search of the warehouse on his farm which consisted of two large buildings. At 1800 Lt. Barber arrived from Regimental with rations and gas with order to continue the search.

14 Oct 45

At 0800 Lt. Holland's patrol checking between Kasugai and Isawa departed. Patrol returned at 1100 with negative results. That morning the Police Chief was notified of the mission of the patrol and he stated if such a large shipment of metal came to town he would probably know about it. He stated that he did not know of any silver that had come to town. Capt. Cohen then went to express agency to check warehouses and records of incoming shipments of bulk materiel in the last six months. Manager K. Nakamura was not present, but his assistant manager, R. Oruyama was. He showed the patrol through the warehouse but had a non-cooperative attitude. Search disclosed 43 tons of bulk tin. Records of incoming freight were then checked and all items of over 75 tons that had been received were medical supplies for civilians, according to assistant manager. When asked for record of tin shipment stored in warehouse he stated that they hadn't any record of it because it had been shipped by truck. He was then told to produce by 1200 a record of all bulk metals shipped to that town in the last six months or his office would be closed until a complete investigation could be made. At that time the assistant manager was ordered not to move the tin. Police Chief was then notified to emphasize the fact on the express man that the records must be accurate. At 1130 the police brought Capt. Cohen the records of shipments, which had 4 separate shipments of silver listed on it. (See Incl. #1). Silver was charged to Kashiro Hiabara the farmer who was in charge of the tin discovered the previous day. Patrol immediately organized to go to Kasugai and seize silver. About 1200 silver was seized and a guard placed on it. Rest of patrol then moved from town hall in Kusakabe to a schoolhouse in Kasuga-Mura. When questioned on why he did not disclose the silver the day before he stated he thought the metal was lead, and we were looking for warehouses. The silver was stored in a barn, therefore he did not take us there. He had a weak excuse for all questions regarding the previous visit by us. He stated his manager kept records of such things and he was not there at the time. When pressure was put on him, he produced records of other stores of metals which had been given to farmers in the village to store for him. Investigation of these places disclosed stores of copper, tin, zinc, lead, antimony. Permanent guard on the silver was organized, 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. and 6 guards. Lt. Barber then returned with information on patrol activities thus far. All metals in that town were ordered not moved.

15 Oct 45

Patrol continues with guard of silver with no unusual occurrences. Manager of Kashiro Haibara was ordered to produce a list of all metals stored in charge of the farmer, to include amount (in ignots) tonnage, and location. This revealed 2660 ignots of silver, 87.78 metric tons or approximately 103.4 tons. All stored at the same place. Metals had been shipped by Mitizbushi Warehouse Co. and Nippon Warehouse Co. in Tokyo by a Mr. Otsubo. These metals were placed in the care of Kashiro Haibara till metal could be shipped back to Tokyo. They had been sent to Kasugai for safekeeping during the bombings. Above list was forwarded to Regiment 15 October via Colonel Mahoney. Lt. Holland now in charge of stores of metals has another such list. 1100, Colonel Mahoney arrives to check the discovery of silver, he departed at 1300. At 1500, motor messenger arrived with order for Captain Cohen to turn over the guarding of silver to Lt. Holland and return to Regimental Area as soon as possible.

16 Oct 45

Turned over all records and guarding of metals to Lt. Holland, Co. I, left Kasugai, Mura at 0815, arrived at Regimental Area 1155.

Conclusion:

The police may or may not have known of the metal ther in the building. They were cooperative on all my requests.

The Express Company Assistant Manager was the least cooperative of all persons concerned. Only when I threatened to close the Express Office did he produce the record of silver shipments and other metals.

Kashiro Haibara is an influential citizen in the town of Kasugai, with pressure he was cooperative. All stores of metal were consigned to him and he in turn told other farmers in the village to store it in their warehouses. He possibly is the main link with the person in Tokyo who shipped the metals. I believe that he will be cooperative in any further questioning. If Higher Headquarters desires a complete investigation as to source of metals, he possibly can furnish all information.

The overall attitude of the farmers, express people, barring the police, was that they would like to have kept possession of the metal if it did not involved getting themselves into too much trouble with the American authorities. As soon as any pressure is put on them, they will disclose any information desired.

The above report is a brief summary of the events leading up to and the subsequent seizing of the bulk silver stored in the Kasugai Area. More information, too numerable to include in this report bears out the opinions stated in the conclusion of the report.

Recommendations:

In event that Higher Headquarters plans on moving the silver or any of the other metals, the following recommendations are in order.

(1) The rail road station at Isawa is available for movement by rail. This is the most advisable means of transportation. There are six (6) freight cars on the siding at the station which can accommodate the tonnage of silver.

(2) Japanese labor is available for movement of the metal to the Isawa station. The labor can be procured with 12 hours notice. Two 2 1/2 ton trucks are stationed with the patrol and can be used to haul the silver from storage place to railroad station at Isawa, a distance of two and one half miles.

(3) The station master at Isawa states he can haul the freight cargo to any destination if given 18 hours notice.

Richard L. Cohen
Captain, Infantry

164th INFANTRY

V J Day, the 50th anniversary of the end of world War II has now passed into history. In a few short years we all will fade into history. Very few of the younger population living today have any knowledge about the battles at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, the Philippines Islands and other battle fields of Europe.

CAPTAIN WALKER WAS TRULY THE BEST!
E Company 164th Infantry

After reading the article regarding Captain Chuck Walker from Zane Jacobs (Jake) in the April/May 1995 Newsletter, I was compelled to write and attest to the fact that Captain Chick Walker of E Company 164th Infantry "truly" was the best captain in the field. I, too, was on Hill 260 when my best friend Charlie Campbell was killed. There was so much fighting. We did not know if we would ever get off the Hill alive. In such strife, Captain Walker was a leader among leaders. He was an inspiration to frightened young GIs facing death at any moment. He guided and comforted us in the middle of combat lying side by side with "his men" in the thick of things.

I have felt this admiration for Captain Walker for fifty years and was overwhelmed by the fact that Zane Jacobs was also left with the same impression over these many years. In these times when true heroes are so few and far between, I consider it an honor to have served with a man whose high integrity and leadership has left such and impact on myself as well as other countless GIs.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak or meet Captain Walker or Zane Jacobs. If either one are ever in the Boston area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Angelo J. Ciampolillo
East Boston, MA 02128

MARCHING

At Fort Leonard Wood we had a night march of 25 miles. Most of us slung our rifles so that the guy behind could hold on and sleep while walking. I don't remember which hike it happened on but there was a heat wave and four of us Pvt's plus the Platoon Sgt. were the only ones to complete the hike. We were given an overnight pass to Waynesville as a reward. I had a few ? beers, got sick with another guy and we slept in a field that night. Kept wishing that I had fallen out of that march. It sure wasn't worth it and no one seemed to remember it afterwards. In a way it was just as stupid as volunteering.

Jay A. Roth
G Co. 164TH Inf. WW11

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

THE BATTLE FOR COFFIN CORNER
Brig.Gen. John E. Sannard (Ret)

The story of ordinary men..citizen soldiers of the 164th Infantry, North Dakota National Guard..Told by a sergeant who retired as a brigadier general, it is a jeweled little epic fo forgotten heroes, who helped to turn back the tide of Japanese aggression on Guadalcanal.

Mail check for \$20.00 to:
Ms. Llewellyn Stannard
Gallatin, TN 37066

As part of the 164th Infantry Memorial, a Dedication Book was prepared listing the naems of all individuals Killed In Action, a brief history of the 16th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) and the names of the individuals that haave made a contribution to the 164th Memorial Fund.

A limited supply of the Dedication Book is available. Many Association members have purchased several copies and given them to the children/grandchildren or placed them in high school and public libraries. all funds received from the sale of the Dedication Book and Memorial Post Cards will be used to cover the cost of production, and any surplus will go to the 164th Association.

Dedication Book \$10.00 + 1.50 Postage \$11.50
Memorial Post Cards 2.00 + .50 Postage \$ 2.50
(Five in a Packet)

MAIL ORDERS TO:
164th Infantry Association
Bismarck, ND 58502

RICHARD MADDOX COMBS - A GALLANT OFFICER
164th Infantry

It has now been over four decades since the Pacific Campaigns of World War II. Our former enemy is now our ally. But this peaceful condition was bought at great cost--a cost that is not evenly distributed in our country. Dick Combs' loss is an example of how some families bore more tragic burdens than others.

Dick graduated from West Point with the Class of January 1943 and upon graduation married Kitty Smith in the Chapel at West Point. He served at several posts in the States. A son was born to Kitty and Dick the day before he sailed for the Pacific.

On 8 December 1943 Dick joined the Americal Division in the Fiji Islands after the division came back from Guadalcanal, progressing from platoon leader to special troops to Commander of H Company, 164th Infantry on Bougainville. In less than a month after joining the Regiment, on 28 February 1943, Dick was killed in action. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The men in his command wrote a heart-warming letter to the son he had never seen.

Dick's father who was a a liaison office with the Chinese Army immediately asked for combat duty upon learning of his son's death. Colonel Combs died of wounds less than four months after his son's death.

We now have peace with Japan -- but that peace was bought by bravery and sacrifice borne by the Combs family.

WHEN YOU GO HOME
TELL THEM OF US, AND SAY
"FOR YOUR TOMORROW
WE GAVE OUR TODAY"

Australian War Memorial
Kieta, Rabaul, and Port Moresby

FROM THE MEMORY,
FOR THE MEMORY OF AMERICAL VETERANS

Henderson Field...the Matanikau...Koli Point
Cape Esperance...Hill 260...the Torokina
the Numa Numa Trail...Nip Gay...Villaba...Abijoa
Cebu City...Talisay...Hill 21...GoChan Hill
Liloan...Bangalore Hill...They're places Americal
Division vets will never forget. And there are
people we will never forget either...

We all remember Williams, the American World War One vet who brought his pregnant Filipino wife and his two children into the Division CP a few days after we hit Cebu. Williams sweated out the entire Japanese occupation in the hills, and although he'd had some close calls, we was never captured. His wife produced the first baby born in a military hospital on Cebu, and in honor of the Division the new arrival was named Mary Cal. Williams himself wanted the name Americal, but the missus and the parish priest voted him down.

And while we're speaking of civilians, it would be hard to forget Mr. Goad. Another World War I veteran, he joined the Merchant Marine after his son, a sergeant in the 132nd, was reported missing in action on Cebu. Mr. Goad signed on the first ship that was headed for Manila, in hope that he could find the Americal and get the real facts from men who had fought with his son. He caught up with the Division in Japan, only to find that Sgt. Goad had last been seen, wounded in the leg, firing a machine gun at Jap attackers who had ambushed his company.

The going was tough on Cebu, and the fighting there produced a lot of freaks. S/Sgt. Max Singer of the 182nd took a direct hit from a mortar shell and hardly batted an eye. The shell bounced off his helmet without exploding, cooling him momentarily but doing no permanent damage. Another GI fighting near Hill 21 blocked a grenade with his head. The grenade bounded back down a small slope, exploded, and killed the Jap who'd thrown it.

There was the infantryman who scored a kill with a tommy-gun that wouldn't work. That was a pretty strange action all the way. The tommy-gunner, asleep in a foxhole while his buddy stood guard, was awakened by sounds of scuffling, opened his eyes to find his buddy missing. Jumping up in his hole he saw three Japs moving away into the darkness, dragging the other American with them. Another Jap, left behind to cover the others, was only a few feet away. The soldier tried to fire his tommy-gun, but it failed to function. So he wound up and let go at the nearest Jap some ten feet away. The gun caught the Jap on the forehead, and the Nip folded up, his skull caved in. The other three dropped their prisoner and fled into the night. The almost-captured Yank was badly wounded by sabers and bayonets, but lived to tell the story.

It was during the mop-up on Northern Cebu that seven GIs fought for twelve hours from inside a cement oven. On patrol, the Yanks were ambushed as they entered a draw. They headed for the nearest substantial cover--a house a short distance away. Inside was a thick cement oven with small slits in the sides. The Yanks climbed in, and for four hours fought off repeated attacks while grenades and machine gun bullets bounced off the walls of their retreat. The Japs never got the range with their mortars, and the following day another American force arrived and drove them off.

Nip invasion currency came at about a peso a carload after the Division had been in the Philippines a short time, but someone failed to tell one of the 164th's replacement second lieutenants on Bohol. Leading his platoon into an abandoned enemy bivouac area, the looney found a deep hole with lots of bills in the bottom. Thinking G-2 might like to know how the Japs were throwing their money around, the second John jumped into the hole. Then he started to holler for help to get him out. It was a Jap latrine.

Food had its ups and downs during the three and a half years the Americal was overseas, but there was one GI in the Division who ate too much for comfort for a couple of weeks. A high-ranking general was inspecting Division installations in the Philippines and stopped the soldier to talk to him for a moment. "You getting enough to eat?" he asked. "No sir," the GI answered promptly. Among the startled listeners was the battalion commander, who gave orders to the soldier's 1/Sgt. to see to it that the man got enough to eat. After two weeks of that treatment, the GI said he'd be glad to go hungry for a little while.

Some pretty good stories. If any one has a personal knowledge of these stories or any similar stories I would like to hear from you.

Thanks to Roy Buckley for the copy of the Fort Lawton Processor from which these stories came. ED

WELCOME AMERICAL! THE POST IS YOURS;
LAWTON GOES ALL OUT FOR WAR WEARY PACIFIC VETERANS

November 20, 1945--Thirteen thousand battle-proven veterans, now assigned to the Americal Division, will pass through the Fort in the next few weeks, following this itinerary. Separation-bound high-pointers from seven divisions and three corps have been transferred into the Army's only unnumbered division for return to the States and civilian attire. The entire unit will debark at the Seattle Port and process through Fort Lawton.

The advance party, led by Maj. Gen. William "Duke" Arnold, divisional commander, flew from Tokyo early last week. Established here, they are prepared to assist in the disposition of Americal troops.

Yesterday the first elements of the point-heavy outfit landed at Seattle Port. The heroic Third Battalion of the 164th Infantry Regiment, saviors of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, are among the 1500 men who debarked from the S.S. Sea Witch.

Twenty-five per cent of the personnel presently assigned to the Americal are Division veterans, having fought in the Philippines under the Southern Cross insignia. Only a handful of officers and no enlisted men who fought through the mud of Guadalcanal and Bougainville are with the unit.

The Americal will not be represented as a division before its deactivation. The facilities for such a move are not available here, and the men are anxious to get home.

Fort Lawton is going all out in its welcome of the battle veterans. Knowing that the best way to acknowledge our nation's debt of gratitude to these men, Lawtonites will concentrate on speeding them home. THE POST IS YOURS AMERICAL--WELCOME HOME.

MAJOR GENERAL H. ARNOLD
FAREWELL ADDRESS

It has been a source of deep pride and satisfaction to me to command this splendid division.

In the course of four years overseas, you have never once failed to carry out an assigned mission. By your courage and determination, you overcame tremendous obstacles to win important victories over a skillful and determined enemy.

The names of the islands on which you have fought and defeated the enemy--Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Negros, and others--stand as a tribute to your guts and fighting skill.

It was a further tribute to your record that you were chosen for one of the earliest and most important of the occupation jobs. During your two months in Japan, you have acted with admirable restraint and have set an example for other occupation troops.

As the division prepares to leave for the United States, I would like to express my pride in your achievements; to congratulate you on a job well done; and to wish you good luck in the future.

W.H. Arnold
Major General
U.S. Army

The following was taken from the last issue of THE AMERICAL Sunday, November 4, 1945, Japan.

Many thanks to Wallace Kuykendall, 21 Recon for sending in the copies of THE AMERICAL. They will be forwarded to the Americal Museum.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM H. ARNOLD
Commanding General, Americal Infantry Division
November 4, 1944 - December 12, 1945

William H. Arnold, who, at the age of 44, is one of the youngest division commanders in the Army today, has led the Americal Division in more campaigns than all four of his predecessors put together. Under Maj. Gen. Arnold's tutelage, the division wound up the long Bougainville Campaign about a month after he assumed command, which, incidentally, took place exactly one year ago today, on November 4, 1945.

The grueling campaign for the liberation of the Philippines--during which the Americal invaded more islands than any other division of the many there--presented him with his first big test as Division Commander. He and his men came through brilliantly, enough for Lt. Gen. Eichelberger, Eighth Army commander to laud him as a "scrapping commander." and to praise the division as a whole for reducing the toughest defenses he had ever seen.

General Arnold was born in Dyersburg, Tennessee. His home is now St. Louis, Missouri, where his wife and four children reside. A 1924 West Point graduate, he served in various parts of the U.S., in Hawaii, and in China. He came overseas in 1943, serving as XIV Corps Chief of Staff until he joined the Americal as Commanding General.

THE AMERICAL November 4, 1945 - thanks to Wallace Kuykendall.

NOW HEAR THIS!

The following letter, as written by Lt. Robert J. Grady, (Ret) U.S. Army Air Corps., is a classic. It was narrated on the radio by Charlton Heston.

I am embarrassed to read that President Clinton and his advisors have said that the older generation must learn to sacrifice as other generations have done. "That's our generation." I knew eventually some one would ferret out the dirty secret. We've lived the lifestyle of the "Rich and Famous" all of our lives. Now I know I must bear the truth about my generation and let the country condemn us for our selfishness.

During the Depression we had a hilarious time dancing to the tune of "Brother Can You Spare A Dime." We could choose to dine at any of the fabulous soup kitchens often joined by our parents and siblings. Those were the heady days of carefree self-indulgence.

Then with World War II the cup filled to overflowing. We had a chance to bask on the exotic beaches of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Okinawa; to see the capitals of Europe; travel to such scenic spots as Bastogne, Malmedie, Monte Cassino. Of course one of the other enthralling adventures was a small stroll from Bataan to the local Japanese hotels laughingly called 'death camps.' But the good times really rolled for those lucky enough to be on the beaches of Normandy, swimming and boating on that pleasant day in June of 1944!!! Unforgettable!!!

Even luckier were those who drew prized holiday tickets for cruises on sleek gray ships to fun filled spots like Midway, the Solomons, and Murmansk. Instead of asking, "What can we do for our Country?", an indulgent government let us fritter away our youth wandering idly through lush and lovely jungles of Burma and New Guinea. Yes, it's all true! We were pampered!! We were spoiled!!! Ah, we never did realize what sacrifice meant.

We envy you Mr. Clinton, the harsh lessons we learned at London, Moscow and Little Rock. My generation is old, Mr. President, and guilty, but we are repentant. Punish us for our failing, Sir. that we may learn the true meaning of duty, honor, and country.

USED STAMPS NEEDED

DAV member Bernie Elmore and the Senior Citizens Volunteers of Buffalo, New York, and the New York Chapter American Lung Association collect and donate canceled postage stamps to the VA Hospitals in Buffalo, Washington, DC and over the nation.

At present, 90% of the stamps got the the Veterans Stamp and Coin Club in Tucson, Arizona. This Stamp and Coin Club supplies 160 VA Hospital across the nation. Doctors advise us that this program is good therapy.

Individual are asked to send stamps to:

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HELP HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

HEADS UP ON GUADALCANAL

The natives on Guadalcanal during World War II were headhunters. The warriors could not take a wife or voice an opinion in tribal council until he took the head of a recognized enemy. We ground forces, made our arrangements with the tribal chiefs prior to the initial landing, but then that's another story.

Our agreement with the chiefs was to place their women, children and old folks on a separate island and protect them from harm. (The Japs were known to mistreat natives).

In return, the warriors would remain on the island of Guadalcanal and serve as bearers or guides. The natives were paid a certain wage per day whether we used them or not. (One thing the chiefs insisted on was that if a warrior killed a Jap, we would not stop the warrior from taking a head).

On the "mop-up" patrols at the end of hostilities, the natives would fight among themselves to accompany us, whether it was a one day patrol or a week patrol. The natives always took the lead.

At the end of a patrol, the natives "split" from us, leaving us in a designated area while they proceeded to their own domain.

After finishing with "mess", we would find ourselves listless with nothing to keep us occupied, so we would join the natives.

When we arrived at the native's camp site, they were already in the process of shrinking the heads they had collected on the patrol. We offered to assist them but found we were not permitted to touch the heads. However, we could hand them the ingredients they used, and once the heads were attached to branches, we were allowed to hold the branches.

The process of shrinking a head is as follows: the skin is peeled off the skull ending inside out; all the openings, such as eyes, ears, nose, mouth, etc., were sewn shut, then the skin was turned right side out.

While this is occurring, a collection of coconut husks has been burning nearby. Once the skin has been turned right side out, it is filled with wet sand, wet seaweed and a few herbs that were gathered from the forest. When the skin is packed full, the neck opening is tied together and fastened with a branch.

The head is now held over the glowing coals of the coconut husks. As the head heats up, the fat runs off it the same way fat melts from bacon in the frying pan. the more fat the head loses, the smaller it shrinks while the interior ingredients dry out.

Once the head reaches its limit, the dried ingredients from inside the head is replaced with fresh. This process is continually repeated until the head reaches the size of a man's fist.

The head is then filled with dry herbs and placed in a bag for the warrior to wear around his waist.

The natives believe that as long as they wear the head of a dead person around their waist, the wisdom and strength of this person will enter their body.

After the skull was removed from the head, it was buried near an ant hill or close to another flesh eating insect for a few days until it was cleaned out. It was then placed on a stake in front of the warrior's hut, similar to our custom of a "trophy" on a mantel.

The Guadalcanal natives had a long hut resembling that of the American Indian's. The chief sat in the center of the hut and his warriors sat facing each other down the entire length of the hut. Individuals not of the tribe in the hut, stayed in a section behind the chief and the warriors with the least heads were at the end.

If a warrior with two heads was voicing an opinion at a council meeting, and a warrior with three or more heads spoke, the warrior with two heads would immediately become quiet until the other warrior had finished speaking. When visitors would speak, all would become quiet with one exception, the chief, he never was quiet.

I hope this has answered some of your questions and enlightened you, if you have additional questions, give me a buzz.

Yours in Comradeship,
Frederick Hitzmaan
Ltc. U.S.Army (Ret)

(Submitted by: PNC Dutch DeGroot and also Brian Mulcrone. If you have any problem with this story please call Dutch, Brian, or Col. Hitzman).

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COMPANY B - 57th COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION



The above picture was taken in 1940 at Potsdam, New York. The unit was marching to the parade field where the would await the arrival of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Picture sent in by Bill Trubiano of Camarillo, California

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

The last issue of the Americal Newsletter, at the bottom of Page 20, carried a request for men that served with the Occupation Army. Supposedly this person was looking for material for a book. However, this man Frank D. Gish in a dealer in Japanese antiques that might have been brought home as souvenirs or war booty, and was just looking for contacts. I am sorry about that but his request was printed in good faith.

Be fore warned that if you answer his request you will receive a brochure offering to appraise any such articles your may have brought home from Japan.

Jim Buckle
Editor

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Pfc Buford E. Newman ASN 34808235
Company B, 132 Infantry

Buford was Killed-in-Action on May 15, 1945 while serving on Cebu, Philippines. He is now buried in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, OK

If you have any information contact:

Deborah A. Gentilcore
[redacted]
Huntsville, AL 35802

HALF-PINT ON GUADALCANAL

This is the story of a Missionary Nun who worked for 53 years in the Solomon Islands and her daring escape during World War II with the aid of the United States Armed Forces.

If you are interested send \$11.45 to:

Marist Missionary Sisters
[redacted]
Waltham, MA 02154

S.S. SERPENS - GUADALCANAL
January 29, 1945

I thought the veterans of Guadalcanal might be interested in this foot-note of history.

On this date I was at the Repo Depo on Guadalcanal awaiting reassignment. The Depot was on the water's edge on Lunga Beach. The S. S. Serpens was anchored just a few hundred yards off shore. The day of the night of the explosion the crew of the Serpens was invited ashore to our outdoor movie to watch that night's movie. The title of that movie, ironically, was 'Guadalcanal Diary'. Also, ironically, some of the soldiers in the audience were members of the original Americal who had fought on some of these very beaches, but they were totally ignored in the movie. There were many unhappy campers that night.

After the movie the Serpens crew returned to the ship leaving only one officer ashore to pick up the orders.

I along with the Mess Sergeant went to the kitchen for a cup of coffee. All of a sudden there was a blinding flash. The plywood walls of the kitchen blew out and the pots and pans and other kitchen utensils all over. The sergeant and I were blown to the floor, breaking my wrist watch. Parts of a gun tub was blown through the roof of one of the barracks killing two men and wounding several others with shrapnel. Every member of the ship's crew, with the exception of the officer ashore, were killed instantly--the ship just disappeared!

The beach was closed off for about two weeks while the M.P.'s and Medics picked up body parts that had washed ashore.

Just another tragedy of the war that most Americans know nothing about.

The S.S. Serpens was AK 97, a Navy Cargo ship and undoubtedly it was carrying Ammunition. In the book 'U.S. Warships of World War II, by Paul Silverstone, it is just listed as a "war loss".

The above article was submitted by Jim Daly who later became a member of the 306th Infantry of the 77th Division on Cebu.

G COMPANY - 182 INFANTRY

It has been a good many years since the men of G Company have had a get-together. The member that had previously organized reunions for G company has passed away and his records have disappeared. If you are a former member of G Company please contact:

Patrick J. Farino

[redacted]
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
Tel. [redacted]

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

If you were involved in the battle for Hill 260, not only the Infantry, but any of the support units, please send in your story now. The Jan-Feb-Mar issue will feature stories of the battle, remembering that week in 1944.

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RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1995

Mr. Malcolm P. East Sep96
[REDACTED]
Lumberton, TX 77656-9429

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted men 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 (South Pacific)	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam	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:	
Address — Street:		City:	State: Zip:
Americal Unit:	Rgt.	Bn.	Co/Bty. Other
Dates of Service — From:		To:	Serial No.:
Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Social Security #:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$12.00	

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH ALL CORRESPONDENCE