

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

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★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1995

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER 1995 - 1996



STEPHEN N. DENNISON

1995 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1996

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Pittsburg, PA 15227

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Roland T. Castranova
Peabody, MA 01960

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH ALL
CORRESPONDENCE

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

When I was assigned to the Americal Division some 24 years ago, I never would have dreamed that some day I would become National Commander of such a great organization. I am very proud that all members have put their faith in me to lead them for the 1995-1996 year.

There are two members that I personally want to thank and they are Peter J. Messina and Robert Hock. If it weren't for these two members I would not be your National Commander today. Robert Hock was instrumental in recruiting me into the Americal Division Association and with their guided direction I am now leading this great organization.

We have many possible members that we have not recruited yet and we must sell our organization to them. There are still many veterans that do not even know we exist...hard to believe, but true.

We now have a Scholarship Foundation that is growing each year. I suggest that all members inform their children and grandchildren of this scholarship and encourage them to apply for a grant. If interested, Ronald Ward is the Chairman of the Scholarship Foundation and he would be glad to supply you with the rules of eligibility.

To grow as an organization we must sell who we are and get our name out there more than ever. Just think if each member brings in just one new member each year, how fast we would be able to double, --triple, etc.

I would like to thank the Reunion Committee for organizing an excellent reunion in Chicago. A special "THANK YOU" to Joe Micek and also to Mitch Przybycien for his organizing ability. I know it required a lot of hard work and effort to pull it all together and make it the success that it was.

The Executive Council and the Officers are all working together as a team to make the organization strong, and team work - will do that. So, to all the Executive Council, Officers and Commanders appointments--Welcome to the 1995-1996 team!

Sincerely,
Stephen N. Dennison
National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTESMONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

October 28, 1995
Americal Museum
Worcester, MA
10:00 A.M.

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

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

The New England Chapter is sponsoring the annual Americal Christmas party on December 3, 1995.
SEE CENTER FOLD FOR FULL INFORMATION

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS FOR 1995 - 1996

NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Bernard C. Chase

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
Rev Willian T. Elliott

NATIONAL SGT-at-ARMS
Warren G.H. Reed

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
Peter J. Messina

NATIONAL HISTORIAN WW II
W. Mark Durley

MUSEUM DIRECTOR
Kenneth R. Turner

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
James C. Buckle

NEWSLETTER (Vietnam)
Roland T. Castranova

BY-LAW COMMITTEE
Peter Messina, Chair
James C. Buckle
Joseph B. Chin

HISTORIAN (Vietnam)
David (Doc) Williams

CHAPTER COORDINATOR
Donald Van Esterbridge

CONVALESCING

132 INFANTRY E CO.

FRANK DAIN
611 HOOD ROAD
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124

196 LIB A/2/1 INF

ALLEN C. DUGLOSCHE
P.O. Box 1273
KERRVILLE, TX 78021

182 INFANTRY B CO.

RENE D. PARE'
17 HOWARD ST.
HAVERHILL, MA 01830

182 INFANTRY H CO.

GORDON DOUGLASS
IDAHO FALLS HEALTH CARE
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83434

198 LIB D/1/6 INF

FINNIS McCLEERY
826 VECK ST.
SAN ANGELO, TX 76903

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Carroll E. Dunn
221 FA Hq. Btry
Greeneville, TN

Kenneth A. McNab
6 Inf HHC/D/1
CANADA

David W. Taylor
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Medina, OH

Samuel M. Hosmer
182 Infantry H Co
Scottsdale, AZ

John E. Muench
123 Avn Bn HHC
Denver, CO

UNIT CORRECTION

Alex D. Vecchio
247 F.A. C Btry
Homer, NY

TAPS

246 F.A. B Btry

Richard G. Brandel
Lewiston, NY
June 21, 1995

121 Med Bn

Roger Doherty
Peabody, MA
January 1989

221 FA

George J. Dube
Salem, MA
June 10, 1995

182 Infantry

John D. Gralton
Chelmsford, MA
November 23, 1994

459 - 523 Signal Co.

Donald D. Lawrence
Parma, OH
June 18, 1993

132 Infantry M Co.

James R. Moriarty
San Diego, CA
April 11, 1995

132 Infantry L Co.

Durwood Plew
Huronville, IL
February 18, 1995

198 LIB C/5/46 Inf

Charles W. Rose
Tazewell, GA
April 29, 1995

182 Infantry E Co

William R. Weber
Springfield, NJ
May 28, 1995

REINSTATED MEMBERS

William A. Brown
11 LIB HHC/4/21 Inf
Memphis, TN

Gregory M. Linscott
457 Ned Det
Seattle, WA

Charles A. Rosser
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
Highlands, TX

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

TAPS

246 F.A. Hq Btry

Lloyd M. Dennis
Morehead City, NC
May 22, 1995

245 F.A. B Btry

Leslie M. Draffin
Lancaster, SC
June 30, 1995

221 FA

John S. Gilholm Jr.
North Dartmouth, MA
Date Unknown

Div Hdq AG Off

Robert C. Humphries
Largo, FL
July 13, 1995

164 Infantry

A.W. McMoyle
Jacksonville, TX
Date Unknown

198 LIB Hq/C/1/6 I

Mike Nanton
Astoria, NY
Date Unknown

121 Medical Bn.

Santo J. Ravagno
Saugus, MA
August 22, 1995

132 Infantry Co. A

Charles N. Sullivan
Rush, CO
March 3, 1995

132 Infantry AT

Andrew W. Zultner
Homewood, IL
March 1995

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Michael H. Hagen
198 LIB A/1/52 Inf
New City, NY

Robert W. Nadolski
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf
Crown Point, IN

Larry A. Young
13 Infantry D/4/13
Mayville, ND

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

NEW MEMBERS

James H. Abney 198 LIB Rossharon, TX #R. Castronova	Allan Adkins 647 QM Sheridan, MI #R. Castronova	Robert C. Cook 55 Arty G Btry Richmond, VA #Jay Roth	Timothy R. Cook 11 LIB HHC 3/1 Inf APO AE #Lional M. Isabell	Jerome Krejci 164 Infantry 2nd Bn East Grand Forks, MN #R. Castronova	David Laukat 14 Arty 1/B/HHS/14 Oklahoma City, OK #R. Castronova	Clive G. Stewart 3142 Ord MM Auto Springfield, MO #Martin Lindon	Lawrence Strouse 11 LIB HHC/1/20 Inf Comstock, NY #R. Castronova
William R. Allan 11 LIB C/1/20 Inf Taylor, MI #Jay Roth	Charles E. Allard 132 Infantry D Co. Charleston, WV #Dale Branch	Dominick Croceitto 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Memphis, TN #R. Castronova + Fred	Alan R. Daniel 196 LIB E/4/31 Inf Weatherford, OK #Bernie Chase	Linda Lawrence Associate Parma, OH #R. Castronova	Lemuel L. Lester 164 Infantry Hooks, TX #Verdell A. Long	Larry R. Sullivan 11 LIB HHC Hollywood, FL #Royal W. Loveridge	Raymond J. Tyndall 198 LIB B/1/6 Inf Sierra Madre, CA #R. Castronova
Jose Alvarez 11 LIB HHC 4/3 Inf Toa Baja, PR #Memb. Comm.	Walter E. Anderson 198 LIB Comstock, NY #R. Castronova	William A. DeLucia 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Henderson, NV #Fred Cowburn	Robert Derma 198 LIB 1/46 5/46 St. Petersberg, FL #Memb. Com.	Patrick A. Lindsay 174 Avn Co. Minot AFB ND #Larry Dakken	Michael J. Mace 11 LIB E/3/1 Inf Calville, WA #R. Castronova	Ramon L. Vega 6 Infantry C/1/6 Aibenito, PR #Ricardo Collado	Charles R. Walter 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf Philadelphia, PA #R. Castronova
Stephen O. Appleton 23 M.P. Leominster, MA #R. Castronova	Raymond J. Bacho 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Lakewood, OH #R. Castronova	Delbert L. Disbrow 23 M.P. Reno, NV #R. Castronova	Joseph Donovan 198 LIB Carbondale, CO #Membership Committee	Terence Maloney 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf Marston Mills, MA #Memb. Com.	Rick Mastropolo 196 LIB HHC Staten Island, NY #Self	Michael A. Weisheit 26 Engrs A Co. Andrews, TX #James Boston	Ron F. Welsh 23 M.P. Marshfield, MA #Les Hines
Fred A. Barnhart 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Forestport, NY #R. Castronova + Fred	Everett H. Barraclow 198 LIB Brooklyn, NY #R. Castronova	William L. Doutaz 196 LIB 17 Cav E/17 West Boylston, MA #R. Castronova	James H. Durrant 198 LIB M.P. Oshkosh, WI #R. Castronova	David L. McLimans 56 Arty C/6/56 Coatesville, PA #R. Castronova	George P. McPhillips 11 LIB 1/20 Inf Broomall, PA #R. Castronova	Alan R. Wilkens 23 Div Beverly, MA #R. Castronova	Alan R. Wilkins 11 LIB 3/1 Inf Middleton, MA #R. Castronova
Robert V. Barresi 56 F.A. C/6/56 Arty South Fallsburg, NY #R. Castronova	Newton E. Bennett 182 Infantry H Co. Hyannis, MA #John Groppi	David J. Eckberg 11 LIB 3/1 Inf Highlands Ranch, CO #R. Castronova	James E. Ellis 196 LIB E/Rec/1/46 Abbeville, SC #John M. Wills	Gary Mello 23 M.P. East Boston, MA #Les Hines	Hugh Moses T.F. 6814 Prov. Ord Hamilton, AL #Memb. Com. Martin	#SPONSOR	
Donald D. Bird 196 LIB 2/1 Inf Spokane, WA #R. Castronova	Jerry A. Bird 11 LIB 4/21 Inf Phillipsburg, NJ #R. Castronova	Joseph Ferrante 198 LIB E. Northport, NY #Memb. Com.	Thomas J. Fields 245 SAC Mulga, AL #Memb. Com.	Omar A. Moynes Jr. 1 Cav 1/1 Detroit, MI #Terry Babler	John Patrick Murphy 93 Eng Bn Stillwater, MN #R. Castronova	*****	FROM YOUR ADJUTANT
Steven V. Boeri 11 LIB Milton, MA #R. Castronova	Joseph P. Bolduc 23 M.P. Augusta, ME #R. Castronova	James O. Fornelli 132 Infantry E Co. Hillside, IL #R. Castronova	Robert J. Fossett 11 LIB A/4/3 Inf Norwood, PA #R. Castronova	Robert H. Nagle 11 LIB 1/20 Inf Northampton, PA #R. Castronova	Daniel J. Micholson 46 Infantry B/1/46 Brooklyn, NY #Richard J. Drapczuk	*****	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!
William Bonalumi 23 M.P. Lebanon, NH #R. Castronova	Michael T. Boyle 23 M.P. Pittsfield, MA #R. Castronova	James E. Frisby 23 S+T Camden, NJ #R. Castronova	Harold P. Gaston 198 LIB Raleigh, NC #R. Castronova	Floyd W. Nye 82 Arty Hq/3/82 Pittsfield, MA #R. Castronova	Jimmie L. O'Neil 123 Avn Bn 3/123 Laurel, MT #Memb. Com.	*****	MUSEUM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Henry Breckenbridge 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Grennungs, OK #R. Castronova + Fred	Marvin Brinson 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Goshen, OH #R. Castronova	Jerome D. Gazler 164 Infantry G Co. Chicago, IL #Memb. Com.	David L. Ghent 11 LIB 1/20 Inf Tamal, CA #R. Castronova	David L. Pappenheimer 1 Cav Chesaning, MI #Membership Committee	Lloyd Parkin 23 Americal Support Rochester, MN #R. Castronova	*****	PNC Alfred R. Doig has been appointed by the State of Massachusetts to serve on the Museum Advisory Council.
R. Joe Brockington 198 LIB B/9 Sup Greenbush, MI #Bernie Chase	Robert E. Brown 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf Westfield, MA #R. Castronova	Thomas A. Gina 196 LIB 198/D/1/46 Buffalo, NY #R. Castronova	Michael Gould 11 LIB A/3/1 Inf Minnetonka, MN #R. Castronova	Stanley K. Pasay 23 M.P. Exeter, NH #R. Castronova	John D. Pastrick 196 LIB 1/46 Inf Plano, TX #R. Castronova	*****	The Armory in which the Americal Museum is located is also a historical museum for the Massachusetts National Guard.
Walter F. Burns 23 M.P. Worcester, MA #R. Castronova	Gerald J. Butler 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf North Oxford, MA #R. Castronova	Jeffrey B. Graves 82 Arty Needham, MA #R. Castronova	Blake E. Hallis Jr. 198 LIB Amherst, MA #R. Castronova	Donald Pittsley 23 M.P. South Barre, VT #Les Hines	Dallas J. Riddle 523 Sig Bn HHC Fayetteville, NC #Cpt. James Garigin	*****	ATTENTION AMERICAL MEETING ATTENTION
William Cawley 196 LIB Randolph, MA #R. Castronova	Donald Chalmers 198 LIB 46 Infantry Detroit, MI #Fred Cowburn	Frank E. Heller 132 Infantry Hq. Co. Vancouver, WA #Brenda Gammill	'Hank' M Henry 196 LIB HHC 4/31/In Corpus Christi, TX #William Maddox	Gordon E. Sayre 123 Avn Bn Ovirdo, FL #Self	Ray Schelble 46 Inf 1/46 23 Med Salt Lake City, UT #Joe D. Feeler	*****	The next meeting of the Americal will be held on October 28, 1995 at the Museum in Worcester.
Charles F. Chapman 198 LIB East Syracuse, NY #R. Castronova	Ken Christeson Associate Gladstone, MO #R. Castronova	Lawrence H. Hooyman 132 ASHC Appleton, WI #Mark D. Mentz	Donald V. Johnson 198 LIB 46 Infantry Easton, PA #Fred Cowburn	Charles R. Schleyer 196 LIB 2/1 Inf Palos Heights, IL #Edwin R. Denny	Kurt W. Schmidt 11 LIB 3/1 Inf Finlayville, PA #R. Castronova	*****	Following the meeting a presentation will be made to Major General Raymond Vezina.
Ronald W. Christy 196 LIB 3/21 Inf Canfield, OH #Memb. Comm.	Kenneth Coggins 198 LIB 1/46 Inf Las Vegas, NV #Fred Cowburn	Wayne Johnson 198 LIB A/1/52 Inf Danville, IL #R. Castronova	Ronald J. Kecske ? Sayreville, NJ #R. Castronova	Harrison G. Shaw Jr. 198 LIB B/9/Sup Bn Glassboro, NJ #Bernie Chase	David N. Spaw 23 M.P. Pittsburg, PA #R. Castronova	*****	A collation will be served. Please notify me if you plan to attend. We need to know how much food to order.
James P. Collins 26 Eng Bn Rancho Sante Fe, CA #Lawrence O'Boyle	Clarkson A. Cook 198 LIB E/1/6 Inf Fayetteville, NC #Cpt. James Garigin	Clarence O. Kinney Associate Clarksville, TN #James C. Davis	Steve R. Kosach 11 LIB 1/20 Inf Lafayette, CA #R. Castronova	Thomas D. Spence 123 Avn Bn B Co. South Lake Tahoe, CA #Memb. Com.	Hubert F. Stephens 3 Inf HHC 4/C/1 Hope Mills, NC #Ltc. Thomas Biedant	*****	Adj. Bernard Chase South Yarmouth, MA 02664

NEW MEMBERS

Jerome Krejci 164 Infantry 2nd Bn East Grand Forks, MN #R. Castronova	David Laukat 14 Arty 1/B/HHS/14 Oklahoma City, OK #R. Castronova	Clive G. Stewart 3142 Ord MM Auto Springfield, MO #Martin Lindon	Lawrence Strouse 11 LIB HHC/1/20 Inf Comstock, NY #R. Castronova
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Patrick A. Lindsay 174 Avn Co. Minot AFB ND #Larry Dakken	Michael J. Mace 11 LIB E/3/1 Inf Calville, WA #R. Castronova	Ramon L. Vega 6 Infantry C/1/6 Aibenito, PR #Ricardo Collado	Charles R. Walter 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf Philadelphia, PA #R. Castronova
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Gary Mello 23 M.P. East Boston, MA #Les Hines	Hugh Moses T.F. 6814 Prov. Ord Hamilton, AL #Memb. Com. Martin	*****	#SPONSOR
Joseph A. Moynes Jr. 1 Cav 1/1 Detroit, MI #Terry Babler	John Patrick Murphy 93 Eng Bn Stillwater, MN #R. Castronova	*****	FROM YOUR ADJUTANT
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Clarence O. Kinney Associate Clarksville, TN #James C. Davis	*****	*****	Adj. Bernard Chase South Yarmouth, MA 02664
Steve R. Kosach 11 LIB 1/20 Inf Lafayette, CA #R. Castronova	*****	*****	Peter K. Doyle In memory of friends
Thomas D. Spence 123 Avn Bn B Co. South Lake Tahoe, CA #Memb. Com.	Hubert F. Stephens 3 Inf HHC 4/C/1 Hope Mills, NC #Ltc. Thomas Biedant	*****	*****
Clarence O. Kinney Associate Clarksville, TN #James C. Davis	*****	*****	HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

ADVA SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

At the Chicago reunion, the Trustees of the fund met and awarded scholarships to two students. The first winner was Pamela Vogt of Kinnelon, New Jersey. She received a \$2000 award. She will be attending the Berkeley College of Business. Her program is Office Administration. Pamela was sponsored by Ken Vogt who served in Vietnam with A Company 1/46th Infantry. The second winner was Daylena Chapin of Grants Pass, Oregon. She received a \$1000 award and will be attending Northwest Christian College. Her program will lead her to a BS Degree in management. Daylena was sponsored by Dennis Chapin who served in Vietnam with the 123rd Aviation Bn.

There was more competition this year. We received 19 applications. Last year, I believe it was only five. We also boosted the awards higher. Our funds permitted us to make two awards totalling \$3000. Last year we gave one scholarship for \$500. I hope to go even higher next year and your generous donations are making this possible.

All members should have received 12 tickets to sell for our raffle. This project raised \$7,594.00 for the Scholarship Fund, minus the expenses of printing, postage, and stationary. It took a lot of man hours to fill all those envelopes, count the tickets, etc., and this was all done on a volunteer basis by a small but dedicated group of members on the east coast. I'm not sure of all the members who helped, but I know that Jim & Fran Buckle along with Bernie Chase were responsible for much of the labor. These folks deserve a salute from the entire Association.

The \$100 prize for the raffle went to Stephen A. Chemistruck of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Next year we'll be conducting a similar raffle but plan to increase the prize. It has been suggested that we give away a plane ticket to the Reno reunion. If any members have ideas on a prize that will motivate ticket sales, we'd appreciate your comments.

I received several hundred dollars in cash donations and knowing the importance of handling someone else's money, I made a list of all donations, cash and checks. This list is in the hands of our Finance Officer, Joe Chin. Should anyone like to verify that all funds were properly deposited, Joe is at your service to answer inquiries.

The Trustees would like to develop some other forms of fund raising and would appreciate input from the membership. I'm in the process of getting some nice jackets/windbreakers made up which I hope to have ready later this year. We're waiting on the design which will be done gratis by one of our members with an art background. These will sell in vicinity of \$50, cheap considering the quality and destination of the profits.

At the Chicago reunion, I was given a couple of t-shirts and ball caps with a Wichita, Kansas vets logo for use as auction items at the banquet. In all the excitement of the evening, they were never auctioned and I have them here at my home. I had received them from a second party and don't know who the original donor was. Sorry, but we'll save them for next year.

To all potential applicants for the next Scholarship Fund awards: the deadline for applications will be May 1, 1996. Applications can be obtained from the Chairman, Ronald Ward, and should be returned to him at his home address.

On behalf of the ADVA Scholarship Fund Trustees, I thank everyone who has contributed and helped to make this program a success.

ATT: Ronald Ward
Chairman: Scholarship Fund

We are very proud of Pamela and her accomplishments. Since Pamela has started Berkeley she has ended her 1st year with a 3.8 GPA and entrance into Phi Teta Kappa (National Honor Society for two year colleges). Pamela is currently taking two summer classes and then another full schedule beginning in September with Berkeley. Her goal is to obtain her Associates in Applied Science from Berkeley and move on to a 4 year college for her Bachelor's degree.

Very truly yours,
Clara Vogt (MOM)

Kenneth Vogt served with the 196 LIB A/1/46 Inf



ATT: Ronald Ward
Chairman: ADVA Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your notification of the \$1,000 scholarship from the ADVA. I was thrilled and pleased to receive the scholarship. It will be a significant start towards my higher education degree going toward tuition and books and it assisted in my final decision to pursue my degree further. My husband, Dennis, thought that this was a special award and was proud to be with the Americal in Vietnam.

Sincerely,
Daylena Chapin

Dennis Chapin served with the 123 Avn. Bn. Co. B



Sincerely,
Ron Ward Chairman, ADVA Scholarship Fund

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
ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI

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

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REGIONAL - Stephen N. Dennison - COMMANDER
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Telephone [REDACTED]

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
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REGIONAL - Ronald L. Ward - COMMANDER
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St. Louis, MO 63123

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MONTANA, WYOMING

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

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SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL CHAPTER
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COMMANDER
Elmer E. Matola
[REDACTED]
Hernando, Fl. 34442

SEC/TREAS
Richard Comeau
[REDACTED]
Beverly Beach, Fl 32136

Dear Members,

There has been a great deal of reporting by the media about our 50th Anniversary of WWII. Some of it has been very complimentary, well thought out, and I hope it continues forever. People must not forget what great sacrifices were made so that the United States of America remains the greatest country in the world in which to live. Freedom has been our heritage and must be treasured. Korea, Vietnam, as well as other conflicts have been pushed into the background temporarily, but let's not forget the supreme sacrifices they all made.

As a member of the Joint Veteran's Committee at the Florida National Cemetery, I have seen the Veteran's loved ones visiting their graves. It reminds me always of the cost of war. Our Memorial Stone of the Americal Division stands proud there. I wish that everyone of our comrades could see it in its glory. I am sure your hearts would swell with pride and maybe a tear of sadness. Let us never forget our fallen Comrades.

We at the S.E. Chapter welcome our new member, Robert Hock into our ranks. Many of you already know Bob from his many accomplishments for the ADVA.

We sadly announce the passing of Santos (Sam) Ravagno. We all know how much Sam loved the Americal, and was always there to help. He was not a member of the S.E. Chapter, but contributed very generously to our "Bench Fund" at our memorial stone. Louise, Sam's bride of many years will be in our thoughts and prayers.

We welcome all Vietnam and Korean Vets that were in or attached to the Americal to join us. Let's hear from you, voice your opinions as to how we can make our Chapters better. We need you all....

I hope you all had a great summer, and have a great Holiday Season, and a productive 1996....

REMINDER; S.E. Chapter Fall Meeting: Vanderbilt Beach Motel, Naples, Fl., October 24, 25, and 26, 1995. [REDACTED] Y'All Come....

Elmer Matola, Commander

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

CENTRAL MID-WEST CHAPTER
IA, KS, MO, NE, ND, SD

COMMANDER
Ronald L. Ward
[REDACTED]

St. Louis, MO 63123

Sergeant-at-Arms Chaplain

Would like to fill the empty slots!!!!
I would like to remind all chapter members out there to respond to the letter sent to all. I need help pulling this together. Let's not let all the work Dave Recob did to put this together be for nothing. I have gotten a very good return, but there are still some holdouts.

Anyone out there got any ideas that can help, I am certainly open for suggestions. Would anyone like to fill any of the offices we have vacant at this time I want this to work as much as you do.

Ron Ward - Commander

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

COMMANDER
Harold J. Gigli
[REDACTED]

Carver, MA 02330-1809 Sandwich, MA 02563

The New England Chapter is still looking for new members. Dues are \$5.00. Anyone interested should send check, made out to the N.E. Chapter ADVA and send it to the Commander.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our annual Americal Christmas Party. It will be held on Sunday, December 3, 1995. (See flyer in center fold of this Newsletter).

At the National Convention held this past June, it was voted to award the 1997 Convention to the New England Chapter. Information on this Convention will be in a future Newsletter.

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

COMMANDER
Ernest B. Carlson
[REDACTED]

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Malcolm P. East
[REDACTED]

Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Lumberton, TX 77656
Tel. [REDACTED]

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

CHAPTER CHATTER

I want to thank all that participated in the Annual Stonewall, Texas Peach Jamboree Parade in June. Members Howard Rood (1/46/198), myself, and Gary Weaver (5/46/198) along with Gary's 4 year old twin girls decorated a pickup truck donated by one of our newest chapter members, Cameron Baird (1/82 Arty), and took home a beautiful Red Ribbon for Second Place.

On July 4th we entered 2 floats in the Annual Veterans Parade in Fredericksburg, Tx.. My foster son Terry put together a POW-MIA float complete with a POW (Richard E. Schmidt) in the "HOLE" cage, 2 POW flags, a few silhouettes, and the overall cover of bamboo and vines were the motif.

The second float had the chapter banner across the front of the pickup, and the Americal flag along with the A.D.V.A. flag. It had the double 3x5 canvas banner showing the Americal from Day 1 through Vietnam, and was occupied by the A.D.V.A. Sr. Vice Commander, Gary Noller (196 LIB), Cameron Baird (1/82 Arty), Bill Bacon (A/2/1/196), Gary Gallagher (A/1/52/198 & D/2/1/196), Jim Brown (198th), Allen Duglough (A/2/1/196), and myself (D/182 Inf & Regt. HQ/182).

After a Ceremony at the Market Square, we retired to my backyard and demolished the floats. After a fine picnic, I played a few tunes on the Saxophone, which seemed to be everyone's cue to head home.

God Bless and Hug Somebody,
Ernie Carlson - Commander

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

Joe D. Feeler, Cmdr. Gino Massagli, Sec/Treas
John Bowley, Vice Cmdr. Herbert Holt, Chaplin
Ernest Rodrigues, Sgt/Arms

September 2/4 1995 at the Sands Regency Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada the Far West Chapter of the ADVA will hold its annual meeting.

I am trying to put something together in the form of a Locate a Brother type system to help our members locate former friends and buddies who they have lost contact with over the years. I have been successful a few times at this and the joy they show at renewing friendships again is well worth the effort.

If you have someone you would like to locate and renew your friendship, send as much information as you have to me and we will put it in the mill.

I have broke our Chapter roster down and made a list of the ones who served in the same Company.

I am in the process of trying to do that on the National level. If you have the name, address, unit of anyone who served in the Americal Division or Task Force 6814 or Task Force Oregon during WWII, Canal Zone, or Vietnam, send that information to:

JOE D. FEELER
[REDACTED]

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110-3033

THE INVASION OF JAPAN

by James Martin Davis

Deep in the recesses of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., hidden for over four decades, lie thousands of pages of yellowing and dusty documents. These documents, which are now declassified, still bear the stamp, "Top Secret." Contained in these little examined documents are the detailed plans for "Operation Downfall," the code name for the scheduled American invasion of Japan.

Only a few Americans in 1945, and fewer Americans today, are aware of the elaborate plans that had been prepared for the American invasion of the Japanese home islands. Even fewer are aware of how close America actually came to launching that invasion and of what the Japanese had in store for us had the invasion of Japan actually been launched.

"Operation Downfall" was prepared in its final form during the spring and summer of 1945. This plan called for two massive military undertakings to be carried out in succession, and aimed at the very heart of the Japanese empire.

In the first invasion, in what was code named "Operation Olympic," American combat troops would be landed by amphibious assault during the early morning hours of November 1, 1945, on Japan itself. After an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment, 14 combat divisions of American soldiers and marines would land on heavily fortified and defended Kyushu, the southernmost of the Japanese home islands.

On March 1, 1946, the second invasion, code named "Operation Coronet," would send at least 22 more American combat divisions against one million Japanese defenders to assault the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain in a final effort to obtain the unconditional surrender of Japan.

With the exception of a part of the British Pacific Fleet, "Operation Downfall" was to be a strictly American operation. It called for the utilization of the entire United States Marine Corps, the employment of the entire United States Navy in the Pacific, and of the efforts of the 7th Air Force, the 8th Air Force recently deployed from Europe, the 20th Air Force, and for the American Far Eastern Air Force. Over 1.5 million combat soldiers, with millions more in support, would be directly involved in these two amphibious assaults. A total of 4.5 million American servicemen, over 40% of all servicemen still in uniform in 1945, were to be part of "Operation Downfall."

The invasion of Japan was to be no easy military undertaking and casualties were expected to be extremely heavy. Admiral William Leahy estimated that there would be over 250,000 Americans killed or wounded on Kyushu alone. General Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence estimated that American casualties from the entire operation would be one million men by the fall of 1946. General Willoughby's own Intelligence staff considered this to be a conservative estimate.

During the summer of 1945, America had little time to prepare for such a monumental endeavor, but our top military leaders were in almost unanimous agreement that such an invasion was necessary. While a naval blockade and strategic bombing of Japan was considered useful, General Douglas MacArthur considered a naval blockade of Japan

ineffective to bring about an unconditional surrender. General George C. Marshall was of the opinion that air power over Japan as it was over Germany, would not be sufficient to bring an end to the war. While most of our top military minds believed that a continued naval blockade and the strategic bombing campaign would further weaken Japan, few of them believed that a blockade or the bombing would bring her unconditional surrender. The advocates for invasion agreed that while a naval choke, it does not kill; and though strategic bombing might destroy cities, it still leaves whole armies intact. Air force agreed. So on May 25, 1945, the Combined Chiefs of Staff, after extensive deliberation, issued to MacArthur, to Admiral Chester Nimitz, and to Army Air force General "Hap" Arnold, the Top Secret directive to proceed with the invasion of Kyushu. The target date was set, for obvious reasons after the typhoon season, for November 1, 1945.

On July 24th, President Harry Truman approved the report of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, which called for the initiation of Operations "Olympic" and "Coronet." On July 26th, the United Nations issued the Potsdam Proclamation, which called upon Japan to surrender, unconditionally or face "total destruction." Three days later, on July 29th, DOMEI, the Japanese Governmental news agency, broadcast to the world that Japan would ignore the proclamation of Potsdam and would refuse to surrender.

During this same time period, the intelligence section of the Federal Communication Commission monitored internal Japanese radio broadcasts, which disclosed that Japan had closed all schools to mobilize school children--it was arming its civilian population and forming it into national civilian defense units, and that it was turning Japan into a nation of fortified caves and underground defenses in preparation for the expected invasion of their homeland.

"Operation Olympic," the invasion of Kyushu, would come first. Olympic called for a four-pronged assault from the sea on Kyushu. Its purpose was to seize and control the southern one third of that island and to establish American naval and air bases there in order to effectively intensify the bombing of Japanese industry, to tighten the naval blockade of the home islands, to destroy units of the main Japanese army, and to support "Coronet," the scheduled invasion of the Tokyo Plain, that was to come the following March.

On October 27th, the preliminary invasion would begin when the 40th Infantry Division would land on a series of small islands to the west and southwest of Kyushu. At the same time, the 158th Regimental Combat Team would invade and occupy a small island 28 miles to the south of Kyushu. On these islands, seaplane bases would be established and radar would be set up to provide advance air warning for the invasion fleet, to serve as fighter direction centers for the carrier based aircraft and to provide emergency anchorage for the invasion fleet, should things not go well on the day of invasion.

As the invasion grew imminent, the massive power of the United States Navy would approach Japan. The naval forces scheduled to take part in the actual invasion consisted of two awesome fleets--the Third and the Fifth.

The Third Fleet, under Admiral "Bull" Halsey,

with its big guns and naval aircraft, would provide strategic support for the operation against Honshu and Hokkaido in order to impede the movement of Japanese reinforcements south to Kyushu. The Third Fleet would be composed of a powerful group of battleships, heavy cruisers, destroyers, dozens of support ships, plus three fast carrier groups. From these fast carriers, hundreds of Navy fighter, dive bombers and torpedo planes would hit targets all over the island of Honshu.

The Fifth Fleet, under Admiral Spruance, would carry our invasion troops. This fleet would consist of almost 3000 ships, including fast carrier and escort carrier task forces, a gunfire and covering force for bombardment and fire support, and a joint expeditionary force. This expeditionary force would include thousands of additional landing craft of all types and sizes.

Several days before the invasion, the battleships, heavy cruisers and destroyers would pour thousands of tons of explosives into target areas, and they would not cease the bombardment until after the landed forces had been launched.

During the early morning hours of November 1, 1945, the actual invasion would commence. Thousands of American soldiers and marines would pour ashore on beaches all along the eastern, southeastern, southern and western coasts of Kyushu.

The Eastern Assault Force, consisting of the 25th, 33rd and the 41st Infantry Divisions, would land near Miyasaki, at beaches called Austin, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler and Cord and move inland to attempt to capture this city and its nearby airfield.

The Southern Force, consisting of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 43rd Infantry Division and the AMERICAL DIVISION would land inside Ariake Bay at beaches labeled DeSoto, Dusenbury, Essex, Ford and Franklin and attempt to capture Shibushi, and to capture, further inland, the city of Kanoya and its surrounding airfield. On the western shore of Kyushu, at beaches Pontiac, Reo, Rolls Royce Saxon, Star, Studebaker, Stutz, Winton, and Zephyr, the V Amphibious Corps would land the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Marine Divisions, sending half of its force inland to Sendai and the other half to the port city of Kagoshima.

On November 4th, the reserve force, consisting of the 81st and 98th Infantry Division, and the 11th Airborne Division, after feinting an attack off the island of Shikoku would be landed, if not needed elsewhere, near Kaimondake, near the southern-most tip of Kagoshima Bay, at beaches designated Locomobile, Lincoln, LaSalle, Hupmobile, Moon, Mercedes, Maxwell, Overland, Oldsmobile, Packard, and Plymouth.

The objective of "Olympic" was to seize and control the island of Kyushu in order to use it for a launching platform for "Coronet," which was hoped to be as final knockout blow aimed at Tokyo and the Kanto Plain. "Olympic" was not just a plan for invasion, but for conquest and occupation as well. It was expected to take four months to achieve its objective, with three fresh American Divisions per month to be landed in support of that operation if needed. These additional troops were to be taken from units scheduled for "Coronet."

If all went well with "Olympic," on March 1, 1946,

"Coronet" would be launched. "Coronet" would be twice the size of "Olympic," with as many as 28 American Divisions to be landed on Honshu, the main Japanese island.

On March 1, 1946, all along the coast east of Tokyo, the American 1st Army would land the 5th, 7th, 27th, 44th, 86th and 96th Infantry Divisions along with the 1st, 4th and 6th Marine Divisions.

At Sagami Bay, just south of Tokyo, the entire 8th and 10th Armies would strike north and east to clear the long western shore of Tokyo Bay, and attempt to go as far as Yokohama. The assault troops, landing to the south of Tokyo would be the 4th, 6th, 8th, 24th, 31st, 32nd, 37th, 38th and 87th Infantry Divisions, along with the 13th and 20th Armored Divisions.

Following the initial assault, eight more Divisions--2nd, 28th, 35th, 91st, 95th, 97th and 104th Infantry Divisions, and the 11 Airborne Division--would be landed. If additional troops were needed, as expected, other Divisions redeployed from Europe and undergoing training in the United States would be shipped to Japan in what hoped to be the final push.

The key to victory in Japan rested with the success of "Olympic" at Kyushu. Without the success of the Kyushu campaign, "Coronet" might never be launched. The key to victory in Kyushu rested in our firepower, much of which was to be delivered by carrier launched aircraft.

At the outset of the invasion of Kyushu, waves of Helldivers, Dauntless Dive Bombers, Avengers, Corsairs and Hellcats would take off to bomb, rocket and strafe enemy defenses, gun emplacement and troop concentration along the beaches. In all, there would be 66 aircraft carriers loaded with 2649 naval and marine aircraft to be used for close-in air support for the soldiers hitting the beaches.

These planes were also the fleet's primary protection against Japanese attacks from the air. Had "Olympic" begun, these planes would be needed to provide an umbrella of protection for the soldiers and sailors of the invasion. Captured Japanese documents and post-war interrogation of Japanese military leaders disclosed that our intelligence concerning the number of Japanese planes available for the defense of the home islands was dangerously in error.

In the last months of the war, our military leaders were deathly afraid of the Japanese "Kamikaze" and with good cause. During Okinawa alone, Japanese aircraft sank 32 ships and damaged over 400 others. During the summer months, our top brass had concluded that the Japs had spent their air force, since American bombers and fighter planes flew unmolested over the shores of Japan on a daily basis.

What our military leaders did not know was that by the end of July 1945, as part of the Japanese overall plan for the defense of their country, they had been saving all aircraft, fuel and pilots in reserve, and had been feverishly building new planes for the decisive battle for their homeland. The Japs had abandoned, for the time, their suicide attacks in order to preserve their pilots and planes to hurl at our invasion fleets.

The plan for the final defense of Japan was called "Ketsu-Go" and a large part of that plan called

for the use of the Japanese Naval and Air Forces in defense. Japan had been divided into districts, and in each of these districts airfields were being built and hangers and aircraft were being dispersed and camouflaged in great numbers. Units were being trained, deployed and given final instructions. Still other suicide units were being scattered throughout the islands of Kyushu and elsewhere, and held in reserve; and for the first time in the war, the Army and Navy Air Force would be operating under a single unified command.

As part of "Ketsu-Go," the Japanese were building 20 suicide take-off strips in southern Kyushu, with underground hangers for an all out offensive. In Kyushu alone, the Japanese had 35 camouflaged airfield and 9 seaplane bases. As part of their overall plan, these seaplanes were to be used in suicide missions as well.

On the night before the invasion, 50 seaplane bombers, along with 100 former carrier aircraft and 50 land based army planes were to be launched in a direct suicide attack on the fleet.

The Japanese 5th Naval Air Fleet and the 6th Air Army had 58 more airfields on Korea, Western Honshu and Shikoku, which also were to be used for massive suicide attacks. Allied intelligence had established that the Japanese had no more than 2,500 aircraft of which they guessed only 300 would be deployed in suicide attacks. However, in August of 1945, unknown to our intelligence, the Japanese still had 5,652 Army and 7,074 Navy aircraft, for a total of 12,725 planes of all types. During July alone, 1,131 new planes were built and almost 100 new underground aircraft plants were in the various stages of construction.

Every village had some type of aircraft manufacturing activity. Hidden in mines, railway tunnels, under viaducts and in basements of department stores, work was being done to construct new planes.

Additionally, the Japanese were building newer and more effective models of the "Okka" which was a rocket propelled bomb, much like the German V-1, but piloted to its final destination by a suicide pilot. In March of 1945, the Japanese ordered 750 of the earlier models of the "Okka" to be produced. These aircraft were to be launched from other aircraft. By the summer of 1945, the Japanese were building the newer models, which were to be catapulted out of caves in Kyushu to be used against the invasion ships which would be only minutes away.

At Okinawa, while almost 10,000 sailors died, as a result of kamikaze attacks, the kamikaze there had been relatively ineffective, primarily because of distance. Okinawa was located 350 miles from Kyushu and even experienced pilots flying from Japan became lost, ran out of fuel or did not have sufficient flying time to pick out a suitable target. Furthermore, early in the Okinawa campaign, the Americans had established a land based fighter command which, together with the carrier aircraft, provided an effective umbrella of protection against kamikaze attacks.

During "Olympic," the situation would be reversed. Kamikaze pilots would have little distance to travel, would have considerable staying time over the invasion fleet, and would have little difficulty picking out suitable targets. Conversely, the American land based aircraft would be able to provide only minimal protection against

suicide attacks, since these American aircraft would have little flying time over Japan before they would be forced to return to their bases on Okinawa and elsewhere to refuel.

Also, different from Okinawa would be the Japanese choice of targets. At Okinawa aircraft carriers and destroyers were the principal targets of the kamikaze. The targets for the "Olympic" invasion were to be the transports carrying the American troops who were to participate in the landing. The Japanese concluded that they could kill far more Americans by sinking one troop ship than they could by sinking 30 destroyers. Their aim was to kill thousands of American troops at sea, thereby removing them from the actual landing. "Ketsu-Go" called for the destruction of 700 to 800 American ships.

When invasion became imminent, "Ketsu-Go" called for a four-fold aerial plan of attack. While American ships were approaching Japan, but still in the open seas, an initial force of 2,000 army and navy fighters were to fight to death to control the skies over Kyushu. A second force of 330 specially trained Navy combat pilots were to take off and attack the main body of the task force to keep it from using its fire support and air cover to adequately protect the troop carrying transports.

While these two forces were engaged, a third force of 825 suicide planes was to hit the American transports in the open seas.

As the convoys approached their anchorages, another 2000 suicide planes were to be detailed in waves of 200 to 300 hundred, to be used in hour by hour attack that would make Okinawa seem by tame comparison.

American troops would be arriving in approximately 180 lightly armed transports and 70 cargo vessels. Given the number of Japanese planes and the short distance to target, certainly a number of troop carrying transports would have been hit.

By mid-morning of the first day of the invasion, most of the American land based aircraft would be forced to return to their bases, leaving the defense against suicide planes to carrier pilots and the shipboard gunners. Initially, these pilots and gunners would have met with considerable success, but after the third, fourth and fifth waves of Japanese aircraft, a significant number of kamikaze most certainly would have broken through.

Carrier pilots crippled by fatigue would have to land time and time again to rearm and refuel. Navy fighters would break down from lack of needed maintenance. Guns would malfunction on both aircraft and combat vessels from heat of continuous firing, and ammunition expended in such an abundance would become scarce. Gun crews would be exhausted by nightfall, but still waves of kamikazes would continue. With our fleet hovering over the beaches, all remaining Japanese aircraft would be committed to nonstop mass suicide attacks, which the Japanese hoped could be sustained for ten days.

The Japanese planned to coordinate their kamikaze and conventional air strikes with attacks from 40 remaining conventional submarines from the Japanese Imperial Navy, beginning when the invasion fleet was 180 miles off Kyushu. As our invasion armada grew nearer, the rate of submarine attacks would increase. In addition to attacks by

the remaining fleet submarines, some of which were to be armed with "Long Lance" torpedoes with a range of 20 miles, the Japanese had a more frightening plan for death from the sea.

By the end of the war, the Imperial Japanese Navy still had 23 destroyers and two cruisers operational. These ships were to be used to counterattack the American invasion and a number of destroyers were to be beached along the invasion beaches at the last minute to be used as anti-invasion gun platforms.

As early as 1944, Japan had established a special naval attack unit, which was the counterpart of the special attack units of the air, to be used in defense of the homeland. These units were to be saved for the invasion and would make widespread use of the midget submarines, human torpedoes and exploding motorboats against the Americans.

Once offshore, the invasion fleet would be forced to defend not only against the suicide attacks from the air, but would also be confronted with suicide attacks from the sea.

Attempting to sink our troop-carrying would be almost 300 Kairyu suicide submarines. These two-man subs carried a 1,320 pound bomb in their nose and were to be used in close-in ramming attacks. By the end of the war, the Japanese had 215 Kairyu available with 207 more under construction.

With a crew of five, the Japanese Koryu suicide submarine, carrying even a larger explosive charge, was also to be used against the American vessels. By August, the Japanese had 115 Koryu completed, with 496 under construction.

Especially feared by our Navy were the Kaitens, which were difficult to detect, and which were to be used against our invasion fleet just off the beaches. These Kaitens were human torpedoes over 60 feet long, each carried a warhead of over 3,500 pounds and each was capable of sinking the largest American naval vessel. The Japanese had 120 shore-based Kaitens, 78 of which were in the Kyushu area as early as August.

Finally, the Japanese had almost 4,000 Navy Shinyo and Army Liaison motor boats, which were also armed with high explosive warheads, and were to be used in nighttime attacks against our troop carrying ships.

The principal goal of the special units of the air and sea was to shatter the invasion before landing. By killing the combat troops aboard ships and sinking the attack transports and cargo vessels, the Japanese were convinced the Americans would back off and become so demoralized that they would then accept a less than unconditional surrender and a more honorable and face-saving end for the Japanese.

In addition to destroying as many of the larger American ships as possible, "Ketsu-Go" also called for the annihilation of the smaller offshore landing craft carrying our G.I.'s to the invasion beaches.

The Japanese had devised a network of beach defenses, consisting of electronically detonated mines farthest offshore, three lines of suicide divers, followed by magnetic mines and still more mines planted all over the beaches themselves.

A fanatical part of the last line of maritime defenses was a Japanese suicide frogmen, called

"Fukuryu." These "crouching dragons," were divers armed with lunge mines, each capable of sinking a landing craft up to 950 tons. These divers, numbering in the thousands, could stay submerged for up to ten hours, and were to thrust their explosive charges into the bottom of landing craft and, in effect, serve as human mines.

As horrible as the defense of Japan would be off the beaches it would be on Japanese soil that the American armed forces would face the most rugged and fanatical defense that had ever been encountered in any of the theaters during the entire war.

Throughout the island-hopping Pacific campaign, our troops had always outnumbered the Japanese by two and sometimes three to one. In Japan it would be different. By virtue of a combination of cunning, guesswork and brilliant military reasoning, a number of Japan's top military leaders were able to astutely deduce, not only when, but where, the United States would land their first invasion forces. The Japanese positioned their troops accordingly.

Facing the 14 American Divisions landing at Kyushu would be 14 Japanese Divisions, 7 independent mixed brigades, 3 tank brigades and thousands of specially trained Naval Landing Forces. On Kyushu the odds would be three to two in favor of the Japanese, with 790,000 enemy defenders against 550,000 Americans. This time the bulk of the Japanese defenders would not be the poorly trained and ill-equipped labor battalions that the Americans had faced in the earlier campaigns. The Japanese defenders would be the hard-core of the Japanese Home Army. These troops were well fed and well equipped, and were linked together all over Kyushu by instantaneous communications. They were familiar with the terrain, had stockpiles of arms and ammunition, and had developed an effective system of transportation and resupply almost invisible from the air. Many of these Japanese troops were the elite of the Japanese army, and they were swollen with a fanatical fighting spirit that convinced them that they could defeat these American invaders that had come to defile their homeland.

Coming ashore, the American Eastern amphibious assault forces at Miyazaki would face the Japanese 154th Division, which straddled the city, the Japanese 212th Division on the coast immediately to the north, and the 156th Division on the coast immediately to the south. Also in place and prepared to launch a counter-attack against our Eastern force were the Japanese 5th and 77th Divisions.

Awaiting the Southeastern attack force at Ariake Bay was the entire Japanese 86th Division, and at least one independent mixed infantry brigade.

On the western shore of Kyushu, the Marines would face the most brutal opposition. Along the invasion beaches would be the 146th, 206th and 303rd Japanese Divisions, along with the 6th Tank Brigade, the 125th Mixed Infantry Brigade and the 4th Artillery Command. Additionally, components of the 25th and 77th Divisions would also be poised to launch counterattacks.

If not needed to reinforce the primary landing beaches, the American Reserve Force would be landed at the base of Kagoshima Bay on November 4th, where they would be immediately confronted by two mixed infantry brigades, parts of two infantry divisions and thousands of naval landing forces

who had undergone combat training to support ground troops in defense.

All along the invasion beaches, our troops would face coastal batteries, anti-landing obstacles, and a elaborate network of heavily fortified pillboxes, bunkers, strong points and underground fortresses.

As our soldiers waded ashore, they would do so through intense artillery and mortar fire from pre-registered batteries as they worked their way through tetrahedra and barbed wire entanglements so arranged to funnel them into the muzzles of these Japanese guns.

On the beaches and beyond would be hundreds of Japanese machine gun positions, beach mines, booby traps, trip-wire mines, and sniper units. Suicide units concealed in spider holes would meet the troops as they passed nearby. Just past the beaches and the sea walls would be hundreds of barricades, trail blocks and concealed strong points.

In the heat of battle, Japanese special infiltration units would be sent to reap havoc in the American lines by cutting phone and communication lines, and indiscriminately firing at our troops attempting to establish a beachhead. Some of the troops would be American uniform to confuse our troops, and English speaking Japanese officers were assigned to break in on American radio traffic to call off American artillery fire, to order retreats and to further confuse our troops.

Still other infiltrators with demolition charges strapped to their chests or backs would attempt to blow up American tanks, artillery pieces and ammunition stored as they were unloaded ashore.

Beyond the beaches were large artillery pieces situated at key points to bring down a devastating curtain of fire on the avenues of approach along the beach. Some of these large guns were mounted on railroad tracks running in and out of caves where they were protected by concrete and steel.

The battle for Japan, itself, would be won by what General Simon Boliver Buckner had called on Okinawa "Prairie Dog Warfare." This type of fighting was almost unknown to the ground troops in Europe and the Mediterranean. It was peculiar only to the American soldier and marines whose responsibility it had been to fight and destroy the Japanese on islands all over the south and central Pacific. "Prairie Dog Warfare" had been the story of Tarawa, of Saipan, of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. "Prairie Dog Warfare" was a battle for yards, feet and sometimes even inches. It was a brutal, deadly and dangerous form of combat aimed at an underground, heavily fortified, non-retreating enemy. "Prairie Dog Warfare" would be what the invasion of Japan was all about.

In the mountains behind the beaches were elaborate underground networks of caves, bunkers, command posts and hospitals connected by miles of tunnels with dozens of separate entrances and exits. Some of these complexes would hold up to 1,000 enemy troops.

A number of these caves were equipped with large steel doors that slid open to allow artillery fire and then would snap shut again.

The paths leading up to these underground fortresses were honeycombed with defensive

positions, and all but a few of the trails would be booby-trapped. Along these manned defensive positions would be machine gun nests and aircraft and naval guns converted for anti-invasion fire.

In addition to the use of poison gas and bacteriological warfare (which the Japanese had experimented with), the most frightening of all was the prospect of meeting an entire civilian population that had been mobilized to meet our troops on the beaches.

Had "Olympic" come about, the Japanese civilian population inflamed by a national slogan, "One million will die for the Emperor and Nation," was prepared to engage and fight the American invaders to death.

Twenty-eight million Japanese had become a part of the "National Volunteer Combat Force" and had undergone training in the techniques of beach defense and guerrilla warfare. These civilians were armed with ancient rifles, lunge mines, satchel charges, Molotov cocktails and one-shot black powder mortars. Still others were armed with swords, long bows, axes and bamboo spears.

These special civilian units were to be tactically employed in nighttime attacks, hit and run maneuvers, delaying actions and massive suicide charges at the weaker American positions.

Even without the utilization of Japanese civilians in direct combat, the Japanese and American casualties during the campaign for Kyushu would have been staggering. At the early stage of the invasion, 1,000 Japanese and American would be dying every hour. The long and difficult task of conquering Kyushu would have made casualty figures on both sides enormous and one can only guess at how monumental the casualty figures would have been had the Americans had to repeat their invasion a second time when they landed at heavily fortified and defended Tokyo Plain the following March.

The invasion of Japan never became a reality because on August 6, 1945, the entire nature of war changed when the first atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima. On August 9, 1945, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and within days the war with Japan was at a close.

Had these bombs not been dropped and had the invasion been launched as scheduled, it is hard not to speculate as to the cost. Thousands of Japanese suicide sailors and airmen would have died in fiery deaths in defense of their homeland. Thousands of American sailors and airmen defending against these attacks would have also have been killed with many more wounded.

On the Japanese home islands, the combat casualties would have been at a minimum in the tens of thousands. Every foot of Japanese soil would have been paid for, twice over, by both Japanese and American lives.

One can only guess at how many civilians would have committed suicide in their homes or in futile mass military attacks.

In retrospect, the one million American men who were to be the casualties of the invasion, were instead lucky enough to survive the war, safe and unharmed.

Intelligence studies and realistic military estimates made over forty years ago, and not

latter day speculation, show quite clearly that a battle for Japan might well have resulted in the biggest bloodbath in the history of modern warfare.

At best, the invasion of Japan would have resulted in a long and bloody siege. At worst, it could have been a battle of extermination between two different civilizations.

Far worse would be what might have happened after several additional months of the continued firebombings on all the remaining Japanese cities and population centers. The cost of human life that resulted from two atomic blasts would be small in comparison of the total number of Japanese lives that would have been lost by this continued aerial devastation.

If the invasion had come in the fall of 1945, with American forces locked in combat in the south of Japan, who or what could have prevented the Red Army from marching into the northern half of the Japanese home islands. If "Downfall" had been an operational necessity, the existence of a separate North and South Japan might be a modern-day reality. Japan today could be divided down its middle much like Korea and Germany. The world was spared the cost of "Downfall," however, because September 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered to the United Nations and World War II was finally over.

Almost immediately, American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in for the duration were now discharged. The aircraft carriers, cruisers, transport ships and LST's scheduled to carry our invasion troops to Japan, now ferried home American troops in a gigantic troop-lift called "Magic Carpet."

The soldiers and marines who had been committed to invade Japan were now returned home where they were welcomed back to American shores. All over America celebrations were held and families everywhere gathered in thanksgiving to honor these soldiers who had been miraculously spared from further combat and were now safely returning home.

In the fall of 1945, with the war now over, few Americans would learn of the elaborate top-secret plans that had been prepared in detail for the invasion of Japan. Those few military leaders who had known the details of "Operation Downfall" were now preoccupied with demobilization and other postwar matters, and were no longer concerned with this invasion that never came.

In the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of the two thermonuclear explosions that triggered the Japanese surrender, and with the war a fading memory, few people concerned themselves with the invasion plans for Japan that had been rendered obsolete by the atomic age. Following the surrender, the classified documents, maps, diagrams, and appendices for "Operation Downfall" were packed away in boxes where they began their long circuitous route to the National Archives, where they still remain.

But even now more than forty years later, these plans that called for the invasion of Japan paint a vivid description of what might have been one of the most horrible campaigns in the history of modern man. The fact that "Operation Downfall," the story of the invasion of Japan, is locked up in our National Archives and is not reflected in our history books is something for which all Americans can be thankful.

Ed note: You may think that you read the first part of this story before and you are correct. A condensed version of the story was started in the last issue, (I dislike continued stories), but with the lack of coverage in the news media about the Japanese surrender and the broad coverage of the dropping the Atomic bomb, suggesting we were wrong in doing so, I thought it would be a good idea to run the entire, full length story, in this issue. There may not be room in this issue for all the comments received on the ending of the war but they will appear in the next issue.

Thanks to Joe Anderson for sending the complete story. (Who says President Truman was wrong? Surely not those men waiting to invade Japan).

MANY THANKS TO ENOLA GAY

This summer the Philippine government, in celebration of their fifty years of independence, issues a medal to go with the Philippine liberation ribbon worn by all American servicemen who took part in that struggle. With the same mail came a Newsletter from my old Army outfit, The Americal Infantry Division.

A feature story in the Newsletter told of a former member who had returned to the Philippines last year and visited the Manila American Cemetery. Here, at one of the largest military cemeteries outside of the United States, there is interred 17,206 military dead and its wall of missing lists 36,279. This is only 40 percent of the killed in action in the theater since family members had the option of having the remains brought home. What a cost to satisfy some power-mad Japanese war lords.

As gruesome as it sounds, the amount of Philippines civilians slaughtered by the Japanese soldiers in their fanatical fight to avoid being kicked out of Manila tops this. One can only imagine what would have been the cost in American lives had we invaded Japan.

We do know U.S. forces suffered 26,000 casualties in taking the small island of Iwo Jima and another 48,000 in the invasion of Okinawa.

My outfit was already staged for this operation as was my brother's outfit. We had ten days of grueling landing craft operation climbing up and down the sides of ships each day and making landings on beaches like those we would face. This is why I say thanks to ENOLA GAY

Lest someone tell to tell you the Air force could have blasted them into quitting, let me remind you of Vietnam. The Air Force failed to make them quit. I helped to disarm Japan. Many places had large stockpiles of ammunition and guns. The beaches were manned and set up for cross fire.

Let's deal with how innocent the people of Hiroshima were. An Army command post was in the city. Certainly many of the homes were used as factories to produce armaments.

A much more military target than Manila, which was declared an open city and that was bombed at the beginning of the war and brutalized as the Japanese were kicked out.

I walk along your beaches and enjoy myself, thankful for the past 50 years as do hundreds of

Continues on next page

MANY THANKS TO ENOLA GAY (Conclusion)
thousands of soldiers and civilians throughout the world because the Japanese war machine was stopped.

Travel to the Philippines and walk the bloody footprints of the Bataan Death March as its survivors do each year. Listen to them! There is not enough cherry blossoms in the world to cover one mile of that.

For those who do not wish the political correct version of these beautiful aircraft, visit the Air force Museum in Dayton, Ohio and see Bock's Car, the atomic bomber the Smithsonian Institute couldn't butcher.

Joseph J. Price

P.S. I'm sending copies of two letter that I sent to the Petoskey (MI) News Review about the end of World War II. They quickly published both so that they appeared August 1st and August 10th, bracketing the end of the war. I was so fed with the Political Correct version of the Enola Gay and Smithsonian Institute that I just had to write.

Within hours after the second letter was published I received two telephone calls. One was from a former member of the 45th Division who had wondered what had happened to our outfit and the second was from the widow of Corp. Roy L. Hott. He was a member of the 182nd Infantry and was killed on Cebu. I explained about our association and looked up her former husbands name on the Honor Roll. I invited her to pick up my copy of "Under the Southern Cross." She was very pleased to know that somewhere, someone, remembered.

I think many of us, like the American Legion, should speak out. Too often War is viewed as a far away thing. The T.V.'s give us a tear jerking story about the bomb and Japanese dead--our own are often overlooked.

Ed. Note: The second letter Joe wrote to the Petoskey News was to correct the spelling of Americal. Thanks Joe for telling it like it was. Joe was a member of the 132 Infantry.

THE BOMB THAT SAVED 500,000 LIVES By F.R.Duplantier

The 50th anniversary of August 6, 1945 was supposed to make us hang our heads in shame. Newsweek accompanies pages of ugly pictures with a poll reporting that Americans now think dropping the bomb on Japan was "wrong." But the poll demographics tell a different story. The senior citizens whose lives were on the line in World War II approve of the bombings, while the younger generation that don't remember World War II have the luxury of sanctimonious second-guessing.

For the men who fought World War II, the atom bomb was a lifesaver. Dropping the bomb on Hiroshima meant the difference between life and death to hundreds of thousands of our best and brightest young men.

Dropping the atom bomb on Hiroshima meant that those fine young American men could come home, grow up to live normal lives, marry and raise families, instead of dying a tortured death 5,000 miles away.

What the Hiroshima bomb accomplished was to preempt General George Marshall's horrendous plan to

defeat Japan; an island by island invasion at a projected cost of half million American deaths.

Admiral William D. Leahy, Truman's military adviser, predicted that 30 to 35 percent of U.S. soldiers would be killed or wounded during the first 30 days of an invasion of Japan. The Hiroshima bomb saved those lives, as well as those of about 400,000 Allied prisoners of war and civilian detainees held by the Japanese, whom Japan had planned to execute in the event of an American invasion.

President Harry Truman didn't have any difficulty making the atom bomb decision. He told reporters in 1947 that "I didn't have any doubts at the time" because the decision saved 250,000 to 500,000 American lives.

The argument is made today that we should not have dropped the bomb because "Japan was already seeking to surrender."

In an interview with veteran journalist Philip Clarke in 1962, Truman answered, "The bombs were dropped after Japan had been warned that we had discovered the greatest explosive in the history of the world, and then we asked them to surrender. They did not do it." Japan didn't even surrender after the Hiroshima bomb was dropped. It took the second atom bomb at Nagasaki, three days later, to induce surrender.

Instead of being haunted by the ghosts of Hiroshima, Americans today should remember the American heroes of Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Midway, and Okinawa, and rejoice that the survivors of those bloody battles lived to come home instead of being killed on the beaches of Japan.

(This article appeared in The Islander, St. Simons Island, GA and was sent in by Earl Cook).

THE BOMB

I have been reading and watching all the news about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the controversy about whether we should have dropped the A-Bomb or not. I would have liked to have all those people that said we shouldn't have dropped the bomb, with me one morning back in 1945.

On this particular morning back in 1945 I was in the Philippines on the island of Cebu. We had driven the Japs from the ridge and they were on the run up the island. We were sent up on Babag Ridge to locate the loot, hidden in caves they had dug into the mountain, and bring it back to the city.

I drove a Jeep up the mountain to the top cave and then I got out and climbed to the top. I have always wished that I had had a camera with me that day for I saw and unexpected sight--lying on the ground were 19 females and 6 children. The women had their hands tied behind their back and they had all been bayoneted. I was stunned and my first question was "Why"? What harm could these young and old women do to hurt them?

To this day I can not understand why. Then I think of the other atrocities that I had seen and then I remembered--it was their way of life. They could wipe out a whole village on Leyte and just laugh about it. This happened everywhere the Japs were victorious--The Philippines, Guam, Midway,

Continues next page

THE BOMB (Conclusion)

Wake, Shanghai, Honk Kong, Borneo, Malaya and many other places.

They were developing the A-Bomb and admitted that they would have no qualms about using it on the United States. Every island we took cost more lives, the closer we got to Japan. Three hundred thousand Japanese lost their lives on Okinawa, not counting Americans. Can you imagine how many would have died after they took their oath to their Emperor--"no Japanese is ever going to be taken prisoner alive"--and we invaded Japan?

We will never know how many lives were saved, by dropping the bomb.

Our outfit was training on Cebu, we were to land on the island of Kyushu. So you can see how happy we were when the news came out that Japan had surrendered. I said a little prayer.

How many people died in the Bataan Death March or the slave laborers brought from China and Korea to build railroads, mine coal, or build airfields, or the British, Dutch and Australian POW's. How many women were raped and murdered. And they have never said they were sorry of have they asked forgiveness.

How about the islands of Truk, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Kwajalein? Many of these islands were flattened and the Japanese people never were told of the horrors and crimes committed, not only against Americans, but also Chinese, Koreans, British, Dutch, Indonesians, Australians, to name a few.

As far as I am concerned, the bomb, gave me a chance to go to college, marry, raise three children, and enjoy life for another 50 years.

We did the right thing. History has proven that. Let it lie.

Darrell Wardien
Co. A 57th Engr. Bn C

THANKFUL FOR PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S DECISION

I joined the ADVA a little over a year ago and have enjoyed reading the Newsletter. Many of the letters take me back to when I joined the Americal on Cebu in early June 1945--too late for the hard fighting that had taken place there-- but in time to take part in the amphibious training and preparations for the invasion of Japan.

I am forever thankful for President Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb. I am sure it ended the war sooner and saved many lives on both sides.

This being the 50th Anniversary of the landing and the occupation of Japan I would like to share with you some of the things I saw and experienced.

The Americal was one of the first divisions to land. As we came into Yokohama harbor we were surprised to see a large sign on top of a warehouse that said, "Hooray for the U.S. Navy and Army." We worked all night unloading the ship and early the next morning we moved inland through the streets of Yokohama. The Japanese Army had guards, fully equipped, stationed about 20 feet apart on both sides of the road.

We were all very tense and ready for anything that came our way. After a few miles the more experienced veterans began to grin and loosen up

and said we were walking in. We could not believe that it was going so well and we all relaxed.

As we walked through the streets we noticed the women wearing men's clothing, with ropes tied at the ankle and wrists, collars turned up and secured with a rope. This was to protect them from being raped--they believed that would happen. It made us think of the Japanese women on Saipan jumping off cliffs rather than fall into American hands. These people were terrified of us. Victims of their country's propaganda.

We soon reached our destination which was Fuchinobe about 15 miles southwest of Tokyo. We lived in pup tents for about a week while barracks were being cleaned prior to our moving in.

Occupation duties consisted of setting up guard posts at military installations, arsenals, and road blocks around Yokohama. My first assignment was a road block on a bridge leading into Tokyo.

There was a small town nearby. Two of my friends and I went there just to look around. We were unarmed. It was a busy little place. The main street was full of people of all ages. When we turned into the street it was like the western movies when the gunslinger appeared. The people picked up their children and ran into the houses. Men, women, and children were out of sight in ten seconds. We walked the length of the street and back. We knew this was the result of Japanese propaganda. We had seen propaganda pictures in store windows that were four feet long and 3 feet high. These pictures showed American soldiers roasting Japanese babies over a fire and then holding them by the ankles and head and eating them like corn on a cob. You could understand why these people were terrified of us.

The next morning we went back into the town. The people ran again but this time a little boy about 3 or 4 was left in the street and we were standing around him. A glance at a window. It was easy to pick out the mother and father by the fearful look on their faces. I do not know which one of us took the first piece of candy from his pocket and offered it to him. The mother and father could take it no longer and came dashing out of the house. This was all happening very quickly. We quickly bit the candy bar in half and ate it. The mother stopped about four feet away from us. When she had seen this we gave the baby the other half. He ate it and smiled and then held out his hand for more and we gave him all the candy he wanted. A great look of relief came on the faces of the mother and father. We gave them the lumps of sugar from our C ration cans. They tasted it and smiled. Other people came out and we passed out chewing gum--whatever we had.

The next day we loaded up with candy and chewing gum and headed back into town. When the people and the kids saw us in the street they came running to meet us. The war ended that day in that town!

Arriving back at our company area we found most squads telling the same story about every town visited. Candy and chewing gum worked miracles.

I left Japan in late November 1945. By that time the tenseness between the Americans and the Japanese had disappeared.

I have always wanted to go back to Japan--it's not to late--maybe I will.

Joseph Mullen
182 Infantry A Co.

CHICAGO REUNION COMMITTEE DOES IT AGAIN!

Five (5) years ago, June 1990, Chairman Joe Micek (132nd Inf) and Assistant Chairman Mitch Przybycien (132nd Inf) put on one of the best ADVA National Reunions ever held. Now, in June 1995, Joe and Mitch did it again; as great as 1990 and perhaps better. Both Reunions were held at the Marriott Hotel in Oakbrook, IL.

It all started on Thursday with registrations/sign-ins. All paid attendees received a beautiful gift. The ladies got a very elegant Sparkling Beveled Glass Votive Candle Holder while the men received an impressive blue tie imprinted with the Americal crest. The Hospitality Room was opened from moon until 11:00 P.M., in a beautiful room, the Marquis Room, which resembles a huge night club. The hospitality room bar was unique as Joe and Mitch controlled the buying, staffing and sales. The bar prices were ridiculously low and the hospitality room was well attended. Entertainment was provided by the "Little People" a show with a patriotic overview. They were hilarious.



Chairman Joe Micek and Marie

On Friday a number of tours were conducted. One busload went to the world famous Catigny War Museum. Here we walked through the trenches of World War II, walked on Omaha Beach, Normandy of World War II, and walked through the jungles of Vietnam. It was quite an experience. Other displays included Korea and the Persian Gulf wars. Some of us visited the fantastic McCormick Mansion on the grounds. It hosted kings, queens, presidents and other dignitaries in its heyday. The surrounding gardens are one of the finest in the U.S.A..

Another busload went on a sight-seeing tour of Chicago including a lunch stop-over in the glittering Water Tower Shopping area in downtown Chicago.

One other busload went to the gambling casino ship in Joliet, IL, known as the "Empress." A very hearty buffet-luncheon was served prior to sailing and gambling. Those that returned to the hotel with a big smile were the winners, those frowning, the losers. A good time was had by all!

The hospitality room was opened from noon until 11:00 P.M., with a sing-along entertainment in the evening. We were led by two professional singers. It was fun.



Co-Chairman Mitch Przybycien Lillian

On Saturday a membership meeting was held from 9:00 A.M. until noon. We had a lot of discussion including a somewhat heated debate over the leadership of the ADVA. For a moment it appeared like a WW II Vet vs. Vietnam vet situation was developing. Thanks to Col. Verner Pike of the 23rd M.P.'s who gave a brilliant speech on the teamwork and cooperation between veterans of all wars to accomplish the missions and goals of the A.D.V.A.. It worked out very well.

After the meeting we, and our ladies, attended a luncheon followed by a Memorial Service conducted by Chaplain (Ltc.) Paul Pfeffer of the 85th Training Division, USAR. It was inspirational. We were honored by the presence of Jesse Drowley (132nd Infantry) Medal-of Honor recipient, WW II. Following the service a video on the "Americal Division in Action, WW II & Vietnam." It was a real eye opener.

A formal cocktail hour was held from 6:30P.M. to 7:30 P.M. followed by a well attended banquet.



Jesse Drowley Medal-of Honor Recipient

The invocation was given by Father Richard Shannon, 198th LIB Vietnam. After a delicious dinner, a very brief ceremony took place installing the new Officers and the Executive Council of the ADVA for the year 1995-96. No long-winded speeches were made allowing the attendees to socialize with their comrades-in-arms and friends. Music started at 10:00 P.M. with a "BLAST". Most of the people moved over to the

CAMP EDWARDS 50 ANNIVERSARY
Air Show, Parade of Heroes, Juke Box Saturday Night Stage Show, all helped in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II at Camp Edwards, Mass., on Saturday August 5, 1995. The day was cloudy with a threat of rain. This curtailed some of the events such as the British Red Devils precision free fall parachute team and some of the jet plane demonstrations. Many of our members failed to show because they thought the celebration would be rained out. However, there were at least 100 Americal vets, wives, and children present.

Around 4:30 p.m. the combined Massachusetts National Guard Air Force and Army Band led the parade of Heroes. Around 40 members of the ADVA participated in the parade. PNC Al doig led the Americal group. The Color Guard consisted of PNC John Carey, PNC Bernie Chase, John Richardson Commander of the North West Chapter Lloyd Morrell, and Al Hudon and Elliot Carey of the 1st Bn. 182 Infantry Buddies Association. At the conclusion of the parade all the Colors were massed on the stage as the bands played the National Anthem and the audience sang.

Juke Box Saturday Night stage show then started: the show featured the 215 Army Dance Band, combined Army and Air Force Band, the comedy team of Marsh and Adams, from Palm Beach, Florida, and the main act--the Andrew Sisters from Las Vegas, Nevada, who looked and sang just like the original Andrew Sisters of World War II fame. They were on stage for over one hour and the audience loved each and every song they sang.

All members that attended this 50th Anniversary celebration of the end of World War II agreed that they really enjoyed themselves.

Ed Note: Thanks to Bernie Chase for his part in getting the group together and for the write-up.

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE - THEY JUST FADE AWAY

In the Lowell sun there was an article concerning plans of the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans to commemorate the anniversary of the landing on that island. The question was raised, "where are those men now." I would like to offer the following information about my uncle, Joseph E. Moran who was a member of D Company, 182nd Infantry.

Joe was born in Hartford, CT., May 19, 1892 which made him close to fifty (50) years old during the campaign. He claimed to be the oldest soldier on the island and was referred to as "Pop" by his colleagues. His Army records show his birth as 1897 but in order to join the National Guard he dropped five years on his application.

After the island was secured, he was stricken with malaria. Because of his age and condition he was shipped back to the States where he was given a medical discharge.

Joseph E. Moran died October 1, 1975 at the age of 83. another old soldier just "faded away."

Robert V. Nardoni.

(Taken from the 1st Bn. 182nd Infantry Buddies Association Newsletter) Letter.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Office of the Mayor
City of Fujisawa
Fujisawa City Hall
1-1 AsaIII-Cho, Fujisawa City
Kanagawa, Japan

We, the city of Fujisawa, have been currently researching and collecting materials on our city during the occupation period for the purpose of displaying historical event in our new museum.

Fujisawa is located 50 Kilometers south-southwest of Tokyo. It is located south of Atugi city and southwest of Yokohama city in the Kanagawa prefecture. Fujisawa city overlooks Enoshima Island to the south. In this area the Fujisawa station on the Tokaido Line is set in the heart of the city, and there was the Fujisawa Airdrome in the plateau, the Tsujido (Chigasaki) Maneuver field on the west coast.

In the Fujisawa region, the U.S. military occupation occurred around the time General MacArthur's arrival in August of 1945, by the 11th Airborne Division and then in September 1945, the Americal Division took over the task. According to our study, the 132nd Infantry took part in the occupation.

We would like to see photos and records which you may possess as well as stories of those days in Fujisawa. We would be grateful for the opportunity to come and visit you for further research in early September if this would be possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Atsushi Ueyama
Fujisawa City Museum
Associate Curator

If you have any question please contact:

PNC Peter J. Messina

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-7946

ASHFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL SULPHUR SPRINGS, WV

During its four year 1942-1946 the Ashford General Hospital in Whit Sulphur Springs, WV, treated many wounded soldiers too badly injured or too sick to remain in combat.

I've written a 333 page book about it, with 150 photos, and the first-hand stories of more than a hundred patients, doctors, nurses, corpsmen, WAC's, civilian employees, and visitors. There are no other book describing the inside workings of a stateside general hospital as this does.

A certain number of sick and wounded men from the Americal Division have been treated at Ashford, or at another stateside general hospital very similar to it. On that basis, I am asking to have a mention of my book in the Americal Newsletter.

If you are interested in a copy, contact:

Louis Keefer
Reston, VA 22090-0160

E COMPANY 164 INFANTRY
NEGROS

Leyte. We had one man who was subject to chronic motion sickness on the ship. He used up all the bottled oxygen to keep alive and we had to stop at Hollandia to take him off and pick up some odd yellow looking fellows out of a hospital who were being sent back to join their outfits on Leyte. Atabrine had a way of turning skin yellow. Course you knew that! When I got off the ship on Leyte, the only action I saw there was a good crap game going on near the beach in which I dropped ten bucks so fast my head started to spin. Then I had to fight the mosquitoes and geckos. My 19th Birthday was the day FDR died so to keep any of you younger troops from digging into history, it was 12 Apr. 1945. The Division was already on Cebu at that time and I was sent to Cebu to join them. Could hear the action but Easy Company was on draw down when I joined them and a couple of days later we went aboard LCI's for our joy ride to Dumagete. My Company landed North of town. We hit a sandbar about 30-40 yards from the beach and when the side ramp went down, about the 2nd man off was a Doctor...Was a Capt. that looked like Peter Lorre and about same height...5'4" or thereabouts. He stepped off end of the ramp which just happened to be on the downslope side of the bar and all we could see as he went toward the beach was the tip of his .30 cal. carbine moving out of the water. Guess it took him half a dozen steps to get his head above water and a few more steps he stopped and turned toward the LCI...waved his right arm and shouted, come on in the water's fine! Believe he said the water's fine as frog hair but not sure about the frog hair. **BSEG** Incidentally, we did not wear our steel pots, just jungle caps. Had unwritten orders to treat every individual we met as an enemy and to not take chances...in other words, shoot first and ask questions later. The first night we were west of Dumagete and had 3 trucks run our perimeter. Two came into the perimeter before the seaward 50's opened up on the 3rd one and by that time the first two were headed for the hills outside our perimeter and everyone opened up on them. Am not sure where G Co. was that first night Jay, but if you were on that perimeter you know what I mean. You may even have a better memory of that first night than I do and can clarify my ramblings. Seems like count next AM was them -18 us Zero.

Jake in Sunny Seaside, near Ft. Ord.

Zane Jacobs

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

JOHN DESMOND DIE SR.

He served in the Americal Division from 30 Dec 42 until 21 Dec 45. He had two campaign stars and apparently served in the Philippines.

After his death his wife and infant son received a certificate acknowledging his war service to his country that was personally signed by President Richard Nixon. If you have any info write to:

Ernest R. Carlson

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

721 ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE CO. (Light)

I am searching for verification of the service of Cebu, Philippine Islands, in 1934-45 of my husband's brother, Thomas Russell Fry, (now deceased 1982).

My request to the National Archives and National Personnel Records center stated those records burned in 1973--if they were there.

We received letters from Tom Fry showing his 721 Ord Co. in the Americal Division. He served under a Floyd Powers. Do you know of this man?

Thomas Fry's son in the Philippines is requesting proof his father served there an at that time. He is looking for a delayed birth registration.

Could you offer any suggestions or information?

Please write to:

Mrs. Harley Fry

Wichita, KS 67209-1403

Ed. Note: Below is a picture of the 721 Ordnance Co. sent in by Edwin Denny. This picture was taken of Cebu in 1945. Do any of you men from the 721st recognize Thomas Fry?



ATTENTION 132nd INFANTRY ATTENTION

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who played with, or watched the performance of, or listened to the Armed Forces Radio broadcasts of the 132nd Infantry "Jungle Cats" on Bougainville and Cebu. The "Jungle Cats" was a wonderful musical organization made of combat musicians. Contact:

Frank J. Kreisel

Woodbridge, NJ 07095

AMERICAL DIVISION OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

I am interested in contacting individuals who had served with the Americal Division in Japan from September 1945 to February of 1946. Write to: Frank D. Gish

Englewood, CO 80112

NOW HEAR THIS!

As you read this, V-J Day will have come and gone. All my efforts to get WW II Vets of the Americal Division to join the BIG celebration, over the past year, have been in vain!! The celebration that I refer to is the one put on by the Nimitz Museum and Texas State Park, here in Fredericksburg, Texas. Hopefully some of the Old Guard will have shown up.

One of our Chapter members passed away on May 1, 1995 and I didn't know about it until I received the last Newsletter. We have a great need for letting members of our Chapter know when one of our members has passed away. If anyone has any ideas on how we can establish this contact please let me know.

At the Convention in Chicago I proposed that each Chapter Commander be given a complete roster of the ADVA. I don't think it would cost too much. I believe that this is more important all the time because of the demise of us old goats of WW II.

I recently found a pamphlet put out by the Michigan Militia, in a grocery store here in little ol' Fredericksburg. Population about 7000. It is true that one of our own, namely the 182 Infantry, was the ORIGINAL Militia! It was formed to rid, soon to be United States, of a foreign country. I think we need to be aware of anything that is said, or done, against our great country and I include in this those traitors that burn our Stars and Stripes and the idiots in Washington that condone such acts of treason.

My phone is open most any time of day or night and I do not have an answering machine. Call me at 1-210-997-9846.

Ernie Carlson

Ed Note: It is not the cost of putting out a roster it is the TIME it takes. It takes my printer over two hours to run a roster. However, if you have a computer or have a friend that has one, I can send you a disk--this takes me five minutes to make.

WERE YOU ON THE CRISTOBAL?

I am seeking members of the U.S. Army, Navy and Merchant Marine who spent time on the USAT Cristobal. If you did contact me:

Cy Kassel

Revere, MA 02151-5104

ATTENTION ABOUT THAT HISTORY BOOK ATTENTION

I have received many calls and letters concerning the history book that is being published by Turner Publishing Co. Many members have sent money and pictures that they are concerned about, especially where they were not able to get a reply from the publisher.

HERE IS THE LATEST WORD--I have contacted Bob Martin and he has promised that your book pictures, etc. will be mailed in a packet by the last week in December. Please be patient.

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT 121 MEDICAL BATTALION

The "Taps" column in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter revealed the death of Father Flaherty and others of the 101 Medical Regiment. This reminded me of some others that I don't recall seeing in the Newsletter. There was Col. McCann, Dental Officer, Col. John Barry and Col. David Bain Med. Officers. The names held lower rank during that 'Canal era. Then there was Francis Narashef of Co. A, Pete McKenna of Co. A, and Col. Ray Youmans the 26th Division surgeon and formerly of the 101st Medical Regiment. Sgt. Eddie Found was in charge of the New Caledonia Medical Depot. They have all passed away recently, or so it seems.

I wish that I could contribute other and better items but at 86 and disabled, I don't get around too much.

The Newsletter is tops. I eagerly await my copy and also the Guadalcanal Echoes which contains much information of that Campaign.

Sincerely,
J.G. McClintock

THE NATION'S PARADE

Veterans Day Saturday November 11, 1995
In
New York City

The Department of Defense has designated "The Nation's Parade" in New York City a closing event of America's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of victory in World War II. The parade will be under the leadership of the United War Veterans Council, as coalition of more than 50 veteran's groups. The parade will honor all those who served their country in the armed forces and also those who toiled in factories, mines, farms and shipyards to ensure victory.

World War II veterans will make up the vanguard, joined by military and civilian vehicles of that period. Floats depicting the war effort at home and abroad will also accompany them, along with marching bands from various services and academies. In all 100,000 marchers will participate, not only veterans, but active duty personnel from all services and also reserve and National Guard units. Veterans from Allied nations will also be in attendance.

Other events will include a caravan of historic World War II vintage vehicles from Floyd Bennett Field through Brooklyn into lower Manhattan and up to the midtown assembly area of the Parade. A "fly-over" of WW II era aircraft is scheduled and reunions of veterans are planned. The day will end with a grand fireworks display on the Hudson River.

CANTERBURY TOURS of New York is offering two package tours for this week end.

Package #1
3Day/2 Night Trip

Package #2
6 Day/5 Night/Trip

If you are interested call [REDACTED]
Ask for Cynthia Combs
Veteran Project Director

TASK FORCE OREGON

In February of 1967, General William C Westmoreland, Commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, formed a planning group to organize an Army Task Force to send to the 1 Corps Area.

This planning group, commanded by Major General William B Rossoni organized a multi-brigade force composed of the 196 Light Infantry Brigade: The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Inf. Division (later redesignated the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.)

Task Force Oregon became operational on April 20, 1967, when troops from the 196th Brigade landed at the Chu Lai Airstrip and immediately began search operations around the base camp. Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division started conducting search and destroy operations in Southern Quang Ngai Province, and in May the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers arrived at Duc Pho and operations in the jungles west of there.

Early operations conducted by Task Force Oregon included Malheur 1 and Malheur 11, Hood River, Benton and Cook. On 11 Sept. 1967, Operation Wheeler was launched against elements of the 2nd North Vietnamese Div. working in the area northwest of Chu Lai.

On 22 September 1967, Brig. General Samuel W Koster assumed command of the task force, replacing Major General Richard T Knowles, and three days later Task Force Oregon became the Americal Div., composed of the 196th, 198th, and the 11th Light Infantry Brigades, even though the latter two organizations were still training in the United States.

Operation Wheeler continued and on 4 Oct 1967, the 3rd Brigade 1st Air Cavalry Div. joined Americal and immediately launched Operation Wallowa in the northern sector of the division's area of operations. Operations Wheeler and Wallowa were combined on 11 Nov. and Operation Wheeler/Wallowa was conducted by the 196th Brigade (which replaced the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade in Operation Wheeler after that organization departed for the 11 Corps Tactical zone) and the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry.

An official change of colors ceremony was held 26 Oct and the Americal Division became the Seventh Army Division fighting in Vietnam. General Koster received his second star during the same ceremony.

On 22 Oct the 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam from Fort Hood, Texas and deployed to Duc Pho where it received combat training from the battle hardened soldiers of the 3rd Brig., 4th Inf. The 198th currently is in charge of the defense of the Chu Lai camp and Airstrip. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa became the responsibility of the 196th Inf. Brig. and the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry. The 1/1 has been operating in the general area since Sept. 1967, and officially became part of the Americal Division on 10 Jan. 1968. The 198th Inf. Brig. remained responsible for securing the immediate area around Chu Lai.

The 11th Inf. Brig. joined Americal on 20 Dec. 1967 and moved to Duc Pho for training. The "Jungle Warriors" later conducted combat operations in the Duc Pho area.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Dear Fellow Veterans:

Those of you who keep up with Gary Noller are aware that he has moved to Austin, Texas. Recently, he had to travel to New Orleans on business and while there he rented a car and drove through Panama City, Florida (my home town), on his way further south, in order to spend some visiting and catching up time with me during the Easter weekend. It was good to see him again since we had not been together since the Topeka Reunion, and that being the first time we had seen each other in 23 years...Gary and I served with Co B 1/46 196 LIB, I as Com Co Sgt, and he as the Senior RTO.

Upon his arrival I gave him a brief tour and introduced him to some friends, one being Dave Downing. Dave was in 1/6-198, and was wounded, with the Lt. Co. Schwarzkopf, that day on the mine field. Dave is now head of the Florida State University Campus Police at the Panama City Branch.

Gary and I proceeded to set up a forward C.P. at a local super club (world renown so they tell us) called the Spinnaker (bikini and wet T-shirt contests!), moving on later to the "Show and Tail"...speaks for itself. We had a great time and a wonderful visit together.

Vietnam was a good place to make friends for a life time.

Gary has been nominated for Senior Vice Commander where I am sure he would serve the Americal Division Veterans Association with loyalty and professionalism, as he did in 1/46 during his tour in Vietnam as one of the true "professionals (the motto of the 1/46).

As always I remain.....

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Poppell

Panama City, FL 32405

Dear Roland,

The VA Medical Center Stamp and Coin Club of Tucson, Arizona, wishes to acknowledge receipt of your donation of stamps and/or coins and other materials.

On behalf of our veterans and Stamp Club members, we thank you for your thoughtfulness and assistance. The material which you have donated will be sorted and placed in our distribution boxes for immediate use of our "Project Outreach" members.

Your donation was very much appreciated by all concerned and we are looking forward to our hearing from you again in the near future.

Sincerely yours,
Maurice Storch
Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center
Veteran's Stamp & Coin Club
Tucson, AZ 85723

In reply Refer to 678/135

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

DELTA CO. OR HHC 2/1 INFANTRY 196 LIB

I need the urgent assistance of my Americal Division brothers and sisters to help me locate anyone from Delta Co., or HHC, 2/1 196th LIB who knew or knew of one of my fellow medics, Hector (Doc) Sandoval. He died, along with most of his platoon, in a Chinook shoot down at LZ Judy on 26 August 1970. Through the In Touch program, I have been contacted by his daughter, who was 11 days old at the time of his death. She has been seeking any information regarding him for several years and I'm the first contact. Unfortunately, my own contact with him was brief (I know we all had knowledge of people in Nam this way), so I'm concerned about seriously disappointing her, she is planning to meet when I travel to D.C. on Veteran's Day for my annual Recon 2/1 reunion and Americal hospitality suite visit.

I know there have to be some Delta Co. grunts among you all who may have known Doc Sandoval, or could at least provide input on Delta operations in 1970 prior to the crash at Judy. And there must be some other Doc's who remember him. Even if you can just give me some names from Delta, I can try to run them to ground. Thanks for searching your memory banks to help Doc Sandoval's daughter know the dad she never knew. Please contact me at the address and/or phone numbers below.

Scott Smith

Sumner Washington 98389

(home)

(work)

P.S. Roland, I've included a copy of the letter that I received from Doc Sandoval's daughter, just in case you might want to consider publishing part of it, too. Many thanks. Doc Smith Recon 2/1, 196, 1970

Dear Scott

Hi, my name is Sandra M Blue (Sandoval). My father was Hector Montelvo Sandoval. I received a phone call Tuesday night and was told to call Corky with Sons and Daughters In Touch. I called Wednesday morning from work and she told me she received a letter saying that he (you) knew my father. I was shaking. I told them to fax over the letter. They did-when I read it I cried and shook and smiled. I called my mother right away, her name is Diane Sandoval, she never remarried. She cried and I faxed over the letter to her. Then I called my husband and my sister (not my real sister, just my best friend-I call her sister).

I know and I understand you really don't know much about him and didn't know him long, but anything-I mean anything you could tell me about him would be worth the world to me. I'm planning now to come out to Washington D.C. on Veteran's Day. I would like to meet you and hear what you have to say, even if it's short. Please don't tell me anything in letters about him. I would like to hear about it face to face. I would like to keep in touch with you until we meet. My mother will probably go with me also. Please tell me about yourself-when you went to Vietnam-what made you go-why were you a medic-were you married or have a girlfriend while you were there-did you miss them or your family-how long did you stay. What did you do over there? Did they ever let you have fun-what did you do for fun over there-how old were you when you went?

There that should keep you busy. Please write to me soon-I'll send you a picture of my dad, mom and me. Please send a picture of you.

Take care, God Bless & Thank you
Sandra M Sandoval (Blue)

P.S. Again! Please don't tell me anything about my father until Veterans Day-I'm really nervous-please tell me in Washington.

DAUGHTER LOOKS FOR LINK WITH HER LATE FATHER

By Luanne Grosscup

Not many 22 year-old women would forgo spending a warm, scented spring evening alone with her fiance to head for the confines of a Chicago Ridge American Legion hall.

But that was exactly where Sandy Sandoval of Park Forest wanted to be one evening in May. And it was an evening that would have made her father proud.

Sandoval had come to enlist the assistance of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), southwest suburban chapter 153, in starting a support group for others like herself, those who had lost a father in Vietnam.

In 1970, when Sandoval was only 11 days old, her father, SP4 Hector Sandoval of Chicago, an Army medic died in a helicopter crash in Vietnam at the age of 21. Last year on Father's Day, Sandoval and hundreds of other young adults from around the country who had lost a parent in Southeast Asia gathered in Washington D.C., through the efforts of a national organization. Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT). The mission of SDIT is to facilitate healing by connecting the "children of the wall," those whose fathers' names are engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with each other and with veterans who may have served with their fathers. the weekend, Sandoval said, had a profound effect.

"It was so wonderful to meet all those people who had the same experiences I did growing up," she said. "No one else really understood what I was going through when I was a child. I remember when I was in junior high, our class went to Washington, D.C., and we visited the wall. It was as if none of the kids knew anything about Vietnam or cared. I was about 12 at the time and I saw my father's name on the wall and I started to cry. No one understood. I was all by myself."

Sandoval returned from the 1992 Sons and Daughters weekend with intentions of starting a local group. Recently she was advised by SDIT's national director, Corky Condon, to contact a local VVA group that might be willing to provide assistance. Sandoval connected with Tom O'Connor, chapter 153's president.

O'Connor had served in Vietnam in 1965-66 with the Army. "I was with the 1st Cav (1st Cavalry Division)," he said. "We were a transportation and infantry unit. I lost two friends while I was over there and three more after I came home. I found out about the three who died after I came back when I saw their names on the wall. One of the guys had been a dad for only two weeks when he was killed."

O'Connor, married and the father of two, said it

DAUGHTER LOOKS FOR LATE FATHER (CONTINUES)

hadn't occurred to him before to try to locate the children of his deceased comrades-in-arm.

"But I'd like to meet them," he said. "I know the children would like to learn about their dads."

Since becoming involved in the national SDIT group, Sandoval said she has become passionate about getting to know the father she never met.

"My mom has told me all these stories about him. He had just gotten accepted into computer school when he got drafted, and he didn't want to go. But he figured he'd be back home soon, and he did what he thought was right."

Armed with notebooks full of information on SDIT and a photo album that depicted touching memories from the 1992 weekend in Washington D.C., Sandoval addressed the members of the VVA.

"I was never really able to talk about how it felt to lose a father in Vietnam before," she told them. "The people I met through Sons and Daughters in Washington last year were the first people who understood. I want to find people in this area so we can meet and get together regularly to share our feelings and ideas."

Sandoval was met with warmth and enthusiasm by the group.

"What branch of service was your dad in, Sandy?" called out one vet. "Army? Give her an Army hat," he instructed a fellow veteran who was manning a table of patches, hats and pins. "I have a daughter who's 20 years old now," said another. "She was just a little girl back then."

Ernie Mitchell of Chicago Ridge, who served with the Army in Vietnam in 1968-69 said, "I like the idea of helping to get this group started. We're looking for ways to expand our membership, and I think this would be a good way of bringing some new life into our own group."

It is not only the children who lost their fathers who benefit from SDIT's efforts to connect them with men who had known their fathers in Vietnam. The veterans are rewarded as well, according to Ed Klama, a social worker for the post-traumatic stress disorder program at Hines Veterans Hospital.

"For the child, it's good to be able to bridge a gap through that person who was with their father," Klama said. "For the veteran, it is getting the recognition that his efforts meant something to someone. A lot of Vietnam vets were robbed of some type of significance for what they did, and getting that need fulfilled by making contact with the family is a great way."

Although Sandoval's efforts to begin a local SDIT are in the fledgling stage at this point, VVA chapter 153 is looking for ways to assist her.

"We haven't worked out any of the details yet, but we'll be putting the word out in our newsletter that reaches 13 states," O'Connor said. "It'd be nice to be able to sponsor some get-togethers, picnics or whatever, for these kids. I think it's a great idea."

The last page of Sandoval's photo album holds a photo of a handsome, fresh-faced young man in fatigue pants. "That's my dad," Sandoval said proudly. "This was taken in Vietnam, a short time

before he died. See he's wearing the wedding band from my mother," she said pointing out the ring in the photograph.

"My dad never knew me," she said. "The most I can hope for is that he knew I existed. When his personal effects were sent home, there was a letter that my mother sent him, and along with it was a picture of me taken at birth. The letter had been opened, and I hope he was the one who had opened it, and that he had seen the picture. I hope he knew about me."

Besides her desire to provide a much-needed forum for the living legacies of the wall, Sandoval is hopeful that her efforts to begin a Chicago-area SDIT will yield some contact with veterans who may have known her father in Vietnam.

"I really want to meet some of the guys he served with. I want to know things like what kinds of things made him laugh....What was he really like? And I suppose I'll always wonder what kind of father would he have been?"

For information about Sons and Daughters in Touch, call [REDACTED].

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

The Americal Division Association is sending every member a letter asking you to look for any old orders you have with names of Americal Soldiers. Any orders especially with Social Security No's or old addresses or serial no's. Any orders for the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Arcom, Cib, DMB, ETS, TDY, or Purple Heart. Our National Commander Dutch Degroot has a few friends in the organization, who can come up with names of Americal Men. If he has Social Security No's or old addresses. He has one of those world telephone books on computer. Any orders you have will you please send them to me at:

[REDACTED]
Peabody Ma 01960

Sincerely
Roland T Castranova
Medic 11LIB 66-68

LOOKING FOR AN OLD FRIEND

I was with Charlie Co, 5/46 198 LIB from June of 1970 to May 1971. I'm looking for a friend that was WIA in July 1970. His name is Jesse Nash and I think was from a small town in Tenn. We were both FNG's at the time, when someone hit a large mine in the mountains N.E. of Chu Lai. The last time I saw Jesse was when his dust-off left the hill.

Also if anyone knows the whereabouts of H.P. Napier, I'd appreciate it. He was with a sniper squad attached to our unit.

Thanks for your help,
Dave Hammond
[REDACTED]
Beaverton Or 97005

PS I am proud to be a new member of ADVA.

Neither of these men are members

Hi Roland,

I was wondering if you are getting my correspondence on the album with the pictures that I made out of my 500 color slides. I hope maybe some others who were in Nam in 1968 with me can remember the places. The crash of the C123 was sensational, it came at that angle right along the slope past the MP station and the control tower across the road from us. We just stared in amazement. When we went over to help the guys out one of the helpers said "how was your R & R?" His reply, coming out of the plane, "shaky." The plane was taking off to the north with tail winds and was advised not to take off, well the Major "Pilot" took off on his own and smashed the plane. The nose looked like the head of a snapping turtle. Another sensational incident happened just outside the south gate. My patrol jeep was about 200 yards behind a 2-1/2 ton truck, it hit a land mine and so powerful was the mine the truck and driver were in chunks. The typhoon that devastated River South (let's change that to the Oct 68 monsoon, it's more accurate). It was a one-two punch and sure was sensational for us. We were running around like chickens with their heads cut off, trying to tie all our equipment to solid holds. We had to go upstream to get our patrol boats as they were washed away into a cove-but near VC control area so it was exciting.

Well I opened the envelope I had written on it Vietnam war collection. Gosh I forgot I had not only the new South Vietnamese paper currency but some old ones too, plus the two series 641 and series 661 APC's (script) that we used in 1968, also one of those surrender leaflets used by us and on I took of a Viet Cong suspect. Read it, it's interesting propaganda. Hope all this stuff finds a long time home in the Americal Museum.

Yes I was on the "Wiegel" with you. My platoon was up front in the Brig portion of the ship. We had some bad guys in there that we took with us from the stockade at Schofield. When we got to Nam they were released to the custody of their units as chances were they had no where to go if they went AWOL.

Say, on the ship the food was sabotaged with cut hair swiped from the barber shop, anyone ask you about it? We tabled the investigation on "sabotaged food" "possibly done by a disgruntled GI or KP duty."

I had three ultrasounds on my abdomen in the past 11 months and got a CT scan on Mon-15 to check the progress on the illness that's destroying my organs and especially my heart. I had 2 cardiac arrests Aug 8 1977. Took 400 volts of electro shock "paddles" to bring me back. The were the result of mistreatment by an army doctor who took 23 lbs off me in 8 hours and put me on 6 powerfull drugs. The doctor was a young intern from internal medicine. He goofed up, that's what the cardiologist told me when he took over, but the damage was done. It resulted in damaging the electrical system and I was placed in a total and permanent disabled situation and am still on a druge pacemaker. Well in Feb 86 I was given a shot of "vistaril" for severe rash from "Septra DS" (Sulphur drug). That shot stopped my heart, cpr brought me back and 3 days hooked up to monitors. May 3 and May 30 1988 I had two massive heart attacks so now my heart has scar tissue on it. So I am on borrowed time, Heart disease, arthritis, pinched nerves in foot (numb toes) and the abdominal or digestive tract disease I have are finishing me off.

As a medic you must have seen some bad sights, combat victims! I was in Korea with C Co.-19 Regt-24 Div. in the Kwanju Mountains. For 11 months killing Chinese Apr 51-Feb 52. The closest ones were about 2 ft away. I always used a captured mauser broom handle auto to do this, clear bunkers. I also used a shotgun on them cleaning the bunkers, trenches and pigeon holes in the trenches. My longest hits were 1400 yards with M1's rear sight cranked up 52 notches. The CPT from Divinity forward observer calculated the 1400 yds for me but I said it was about a 45% angle down slope, so I had help from old man gravity. I had 4 weeks of EMT training so I know some medical techniques. Also had lots of schooling in radios all the way from the RTTY Biggie to the lowly AN/PRC-6 walkie talkie. I have two table model short wave radios so I listen a lot to Voice of America and the European stations, it keeps me up on what's going on in the world that local tv/newspapers don't tell us.

I'm married to a German lady, good looking yet and she comes via her mother from a defunct German Baron. My great grandfather was a lower Ranking Officer in the Polish Regiment of the Austrian Imperial Army. My Grandfather also served in that regiment along with his brother. They were originally from Vienna where my ancestral name is Antos' or Antosz, depending on if one wants to use extra 's' in some European languages. They all married Polish women so I have to peg myself as Austrian-Polish and I take a liking to Viennese Waltz music plus the good old Polish-American Polka, Oberek music. I have very few close relatives (2) in Mass, all others have passed away.

So I'll stop here as I'm sure I am boring you on who the guy is that sent you the picture album. So take care you, and all the other Americal veterans. Also be on the alert as we have to keep at bay, politicians like Nebraska's Senator Kerry, who is after the veterans, especially those who are receiving disability compensation. He would like to take it away from the disabled vets. He must surely know by now compensation is not welfare, not according to Webster's Dictionary.

I sure hope to get a letter or two from someone who was in Nam with me, but no news from anyone yet. Guess no one joined the Association.

Take care,
Michael Antosh

P.S. I hope what I am sending you is a good contribution to the museum. I also did a lot of resources control, black market control, plus munitions and fuel tank vehicle escort to local fire bases near LZ Bronco. My best experience was resources control on the Sontra River (South) near Chu Lai. Liked when we were sniped at, it was a good time to test fire our weapons at them.

To whom it may concern:

I am looking for any history on "F" Troop, 8th Ave., 123rd Aviation Battalion, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) that you may have access to. I would like to know about the Troop's operations, missions, and battles which it participated in. The time frame I am specifically interested in is from 6-70 through 12-70.

Thank you for your help,
John Steve Huston

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Americal Division Veterans Association:

I had intended to let my membership lapse. I hated everything to do with the army except for the development of very close brotherhood-type relationships with most of the guys I served with. I was a naive draftee, thinking I had to go, that my country was on the right side. I knew we were the invaders during a moment when we were fresh troops riding in a duece-and-a-half around Chu Lai. A sweet looking Vietnamese woman at a bus stop shouted "Hey G.I." at us and gave us a double G.I. salute, the middle finger of both hands raised high in the sky.

I came back embittered and thought I had "The Truth." My conservative family wasn't interested. I went to war protests. I couldn't stand being in the land of gravy while I knew G.I.'s were still a-slippin' an' a-slidin' up (?) and down those triple-canopied mountains, slogging through rice paddies, eyes stinging from sweat, throats swollen from thirst, the pain, exhaustion, not to mention getting blown away. ("The American body count was only thirty-six last week. Mac-V sources interpret these lower numbers as 'encouraging'." How 'bout an interpretation from the dead grunts?)

The twenty-sixth of August, 1968, chases me through the years. My Lieutenant was killed five feet in front of me. He's the one who stood up but I had thought for years I was somehow responsible. Then a few issues back in The Americal Newsletter was a cover story of a guy who made a career out of the same day, same series of events. The same guy who a few months before had almost gotten an article 15 for shooting himself in the foot, after yelling "Medic." It was suspected that he'd partially emptied the powder out of the round so as not to wound himself too severely. Great lifer material.

I hate false patriots like the people in D.C., both on the hill and in the White House. They're only in it for the money. They label us "special interests" while calling the corporate take-over of the government "what America wants." I think the American century is just about over. Our slide started with Vietnam. What is seen now is Global Corporate Power. Countries are starting to mean less and less, as far as where the jobs are. The multinationals will always go to the lowest bidder, and baby, it ain't us.

So I thought the newsletter was nothing but a rah-rah, flag waving, glory days rag. Then in the last issue I got was an open letter from somebody else from my unit asking about another guy who was killed in a different incident. I called him and was able to supply him some information. His gratitude underscored what I'd not been seeing in the newsletter: the ability to reach out, seek help and be able to help.

Is this a letter seeking help? I don't think so. I'm about settled in my neurosis. I've dreamt so many times that I've been drafted again and the whole thing's going to happen again, just like before, that I've been dreaming I'm going a third time, my subconscious believing I've been there twice. Then there's the one about me being a tour guide for a Vietnam Amusement Park. ("This is a spider hole and this is a bunker and this is a booby trap. Over here is a body that received an automatic burst to the rear of the head. Interesting how it rearranges the face, don't you think?") I think it would be nice to hear from others from my unit, or any others who'd like to correspond. Just don't call me a commie-hippie.

So here's my twelve bucks and my sorry attitude. Can't have one without the other.

Craig Littell-Herrick
(In the army as Sp. 4 Craig A Littell
A.K.A. "The Face" US 56706967
3rd Platoon, Co B 4th Bn 21st INF
11th LIB Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96217

PS By the way, has anybody else besides me noticed that the linked M-60 rounds on the monument by Frederick Hart (the statues of the three grunts) are Blanks?

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc
VVA Chapter #720
[REDACTED]
Kersey Pa 15846

Good Morning Roland,

I received your letter recently regarding my lapsed membership in the ADVA. In answer to your question of whether I had a problem with the ADVA, I must answer yes. I will be as brief as possible but I do need to explain my feelings regarding the ADVA and especially the newsletter.

About a year and a half ago at the insistence of Steve Dennison, I paid my first payment of \$25, for life membership in the ADVA. The next copy of the newsletter had an article in it regarding the use of the word remp, or as sometimes used remf. In that article an apology was made for using this term, since we were all there and fought together. Bullshit!!! I spent my entire tour of duty in the bush as a squad leader, Platoon SGT, and the last month as Company Field First SGT. Our Company was supposed to come to the rear, (LZ Bayonet), once every 30 days for stand down. Bullshit!!! As a Platoon SGT there were many times I would call to the rear with our PRC 25 asking for something on the next resupply bird. The crap that I took from the remp-remps was unbelievable. I wondered what side they were on sometimes. When we finally did get to the rear, the treatment was as though we hadn't showered for a month (we hadn't), and get what you want and get back out to the field where you belong. I know there has always been a disparity between front line and rear echelon soldiers but the total lack of concern from the remps that I witnessed in my Company in 1969 for those of us who were in the field was really sickening. If there is any apology due anyone it is not due to the remfs or remps from the grunts but the other way around. Most of us were drafted so where we ended up was up to the Army. We had no say in it. I have no problem forgiving the remfs in my unit who for whatever reason did not treat the grunts the way they should have, but I have not forgotten them. I will make no apology for calling a remp a remp, because that was what they were. It never ceases to amaze me after 25 years how many Vietnam Vets I run into who were grunts. After talking to them for about a minute it is not hard to see that they never saw a bullet fired in anger. If all the Vets who claim to be grunts now were actually in the field back 25 years ago maybe the end of the war would have been different.

In November of 1993, I attended the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project in Washington DC, along with my wife and 12 year old son. We attended the Delta to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (CONTINUES)

DMZ Dance in Arlington VA. with 5 members of my old Company, A Co 1/6th, 198th LIB. We had a great time and have been in touch since then. I have cooled somewhat since that article in the newsletter but still feel that the infantrymen and combat medics have a perfect right to use the term remp without being chastised. For those of us who spent a day and night sweating out ambush and booby traps, snipers, putrid water, warm soda and beer when we got some, breakfast lunch and dinner of c rats cooked over c-4 or heat tabs, leeches, mosquitos, filthy fatigues and humping every day it didn't seem like we were asking too much when we got in for stand down to be treated with a little respect.

The fact is there were two Vietnam Wars, one for the grunts, medics and LRRP's and one for the cooks, clerks, supply and HDG people. This is true in any War but in Vietnam the percentage in the field compared to those in the rear was unequaled. I will take you up on your offer of the ADVA again, but I plan to write an article for the newsletter to lay the remp/renf term to rest and I hope that the editor will print it. We may have all served in the same Division in the same War but as the song goes "all gave some, but some gave all". A grunt was a grunt and a remp was a remp.

The second problem I have with the ADVA has to do with their history book. In 1993 I sent, I believe, \$55 to Turner Publishing Company for a copy of the Americal Division History Book. The ad was in the ADVA newsletter. To date I have received nothing and have written it off as a bad investment. I suggest that in the future if the ADVA want to do a promotion they do so with a reputable company. Maybe this is not a project of ADVA but the ad came from the newsletter and the ADVA should at least let this company know that those who ordered the book would like their money back if they are not going to produce it.

Well, Roland enough bitching for one letter. I am very serious about the two Vietnams and if this is a problem for ADVA then let me know and I will drop my membership. Let me know how you feel on this matter.

Sincerely

Craig Singer
President, Chapter #720

CO. D 1st BN. 46th INFANTRY 198 LIB

A mother is looking for anyone that served with her son PFC TIMOTHY G. ARENS. Timothy was KIA on 1 Oct 68, seventeen miles southwest of Tam Ky

Also seeking information that would help locate other family members of the men who died with Timothy in the helicopter crash. Also interested in reunions of the 198 LIB. Send info to:

Mr. Rick School

Kimberly, WI 54136-1246

Or call [REDACTED]

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

LZ PROFESSIONAL---TACTICAL EMERGENCY
MAY 1969

Looking for anyone who has information on or who participated in combat around LZ Professional in May of 1969. This includes all companies of the 1st /46th Infantry, C Battery 1st/14th Artillery, 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and possibly other Americal units. For reference see: "Recon Zone Alpha", Vietnam Magazine, August 1993, pages 19-25.

I am attempting to record a history of this battle and need personal recollections, intelligence reports, official documents, after-action reports for Operation Lamar Plain, casualty reports, photographs, etc. from all units involved in these events. LZ Professional, located at coordinates BT172078 about 10 clicks south of Tien Phouc. The firebase was attacked by sappers on 12 May 1969 and continued to be attacked by recoilless and mortars for a period of about 2 weeks when all re supply was essentially shut-off. Several of the above described units operating near LZ Professional took significant casualties although I do not have specific counts. An Americal Division after action report shows that in the period from May 16 to July 31 1969, Operation Lamar Plain (which consisted of the 1st/46th Inf and the 101st Airborne's 501st Inf. and 502nd Inf.) had combined 99 US KIA and 310 US WIA in the LZ Professional/ Tien Phouc area which implies a combined US casualty rate of about 30% in 65 day period.. Presumably, some portion of these totals occurred in Americal units in the vicinity of LZ Professional in May of 1969. In addition significant Americal casualties occurred in the period from May 12 to May 15th and are not included in the above totals..

Also looking for any information about a B52 Arc Light bombing attack on a large NVA force in an unnamed valley about 25 clicks south of LZ Professional (at about coordinates BT1600) in March of 1969 which preceded the May 69 attack of LZ Professional. Delta 1st/46th Inf. (and possibly other units) patrolled the "unnamed" valley prior to the bombing raid and possibly other Americal units may have been involved. Any information including intelligence reports on specific NVA units (3rd NVA Regimental HQ and 3rd Battalion) operating in the valley and /or NVA losses from this attack will be appreciated.

Please contact:

Rick Olson

[REDACTED]
St. Paul MN 55116
Phone [REDACTED]

Formerly Delta Co. 1st/46th Inf. Oct. 68--Oct. 69

11 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

I recently became a proud member of the Americal Division Veterans Association. I would like to contact my buddies that I served with in Vietnam.

I was a Medic in the 11 LIB and was in country from October 1970 until October 1971. Our Battalion worked off of Firebase 411. I do not recall much more but would like to contact any member that was on Firebase 411 at that time.

Tim Nicholson

[REDACTED]
Long Beach, CA 90808
Or call [REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS
11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
OFFICE OF THE UNDERTAKER
APO San Francisco 96557

MEMORANDUM 22 August 1967
SOP 109

SUBJECT: SOP For Death, Deceasement and/or dying
TO: See Distribution

1. It is hereby stated that the following subject matter shall be followed and in no cases deviated from under any conditions. References to be used are:

a. Amendment 10, Uniform Code of Military Justice, dated 19 January 1901.

b. AR 385-210, para 14, Section IV.

c. FM 29-1, page 134, paragraph 8.

2. It has been found through informal staff study that members of this command are dying without permission and in a non-military manner. These personnel are to be punished by the authority listed in the above-mentioned Army Regulation.

3. Under no; repeat NO, circumstances will a man be permitted to die on his own time as the following sequence of events are to be strictly adhered to in such an event:

a. On the command "DIE", each victim will die in cadence.

b. On this command the victim will stagger to a full 30 inch pace, followed by a 29 1/2 inch, pace and at the same time half closing his eyelids and assuming a fixed stare.

c. The victim will sink slowly, not forgetting to do it in a military manner, to his knees, simultaneously counting cadence (to himself), fall on his face, arms outstretched and thumbs at a 45 degree angle to the ears with fingers extended and joined.

d. The toes will be drawn in, to be followed by the next steps:

(1) Inhale two liters of oxygen making sure it is proper Army weight.

(2) Make one low moan, followed by a sharp gasp.

(3) The death rattle will not be used except for formal parades and ceremonial dying, or the permission of any officer of the rank of Major General or above.

5. The route of travel will be strictly adhered to and detours for the purpose of consuming beverage refreshments will be punishable by lengthy confinement in subterranean areas of this command, according to AR 615-81, ch 12 and SR 613-50-5-208, Ch 18. Also, there will be no travel pay allotted for PCS (Permanent Change of Station). Rations will be authorized to all personnel in this category and will be requisitioned from the appropriate Quartermaster Issue Point. Mandatory rations of 12 ounces Angel Food Cake and/or Devil's Food Cake will be drawn in addition to normal rations so that this command will not be subject to unnecessary correspondence regardless of final destination. Devil's Food Cake is presently in short supply but this situation will be alleviated shortly.

6. Before dying, a map (Form 1212) presently not in the supply channels, but soon forthcoming, will be drawn from the closest topographical unit, clearly marked with the victim's name, rank, serial number and expected date of death.

7. No victim will make the trip twice. Any officer on the subterranean route will draw hazardous duty pay (not to exceed 30 days) and side arms. Pay will be computed at \$16.00 per day for officers, and EM at \$.53. Side arms will consist of one (1) fork, pitch and one M1A1 Flamethrower attachment.

All above items will be requisitioned on Form 1313A (supersedes 1313, but is not currently in the supply and channels and therefore has also been superseded by Form 1313B until further notice of deletion of this form).

8. Upon arrival at the Pearly Gate, all personnel will report the Central Transit Area to await Angelification or Sanctification, and subsequently to reassignment. Reassignment will depend solely on the individual's past record.

9. After classification, each person will draw the necessary equipment for his next duty assignment. They are categorized as follows:

a. Upper Strata Personnel:

- (1) Wings, pair, folding, white
- (2) Harp, strings, six
- (3) Cloud, Cumulus or Fleecy (preference)
- (4) Halo, glowing, round

b. Subterranean Personnel:

- (1) Suit, red w/pointed tail
- (2) Horns, red, 2 each
- (3) The fork, pitch, has already been issued

10. Equipment will be utilized as needed, blitzed, clouds will be spot cleaned for condensation. Pitch forks will be fire-proofed and carried at Port Arms until arrival at lower level. Those pitch forks damaged by fire will be purchased on a Statement of Charges. No Report of Survey is justifiable as personnel are aware of their own personal reassignment, and this failure to obey will not be tolerated.

11. Smartness in dress and preservations of military courtesy and discipline are essential and there will be rigid enforcement concerning these items. the halo will always be worn 2 fingers above the nose.

12. Remember----YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU....SO MAKE THE BEST OF IT HERE.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MOSES:

SAIN T PETER
LTC, AGO.
Asst Angelic General

DISTRIBUTION:

All incoming and outgoing personnel

GABRIEL
Upper Strata Comptroller

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

198 LIB 1st BATTALION 52 INFANTRY

This is my first time to contribute to our publication but I can't resist sending the enclosed journal entry written by my buddy. I recently changed jobs and while cleaning out my desk I found the written account that my buddy had written of a past adventure.

For the record---I am Perry Ensz, former Sgt. ES (Shake-n-bake and proud of it). I served in country in 1970 working off LZ Stinson, 198 LIB 1/52 Inf. During my first four months I was with E Company Recon Platoon. The balance of my tour was served as a sniper. I was a member of the first class to graduate from the Americal sniper school in Chu Lai.

The trip you will read about was a healing experience for all of us. We met old buddies grieved for others at THE WALL, and finally felt like we had been welcomed home. We even got our parade.

TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC NOV. 6, --- NOV 13, 1992

This trip actually begins June 18, 1992 (my birthday) at the Fourth Annual Kansas Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Eldorado, Kansas.

My good friend, Mike Guivas of Topeka, Kansas approached me about making a pilgrimage back to D.C. for the 10th anniversary of the Vietnam Wall. Immediately I said that I'm going! We made a few plans at that time with a promise to get back together as a future date.

When we returned to Hutchinson, I talked to the members of Chapter 521 VVA and several indicated interest in making the trip.

We firmed up the plans and six members of the Chapter made a deposit to go on the trip. Dave Warnken, Jim Beyers, Perry Ensz, Gary Fisher, Von Morton and Richard Perry. A van was rented and plans finalized.

We left Hutchinson at 5:30 A.M. on the 6th of November. Everyone was in high spirits and eager to get on the road. Our plan was to drive straight through with stops for fuel, food, and necessary pit stops. We stopped at a local restaurant for breakfast and headed for Topeka. Here a stop was made for gas. Once again aboard we realized that someone had stepped in cow dung---Von had distributed it around the back seat carpet. Many paper towels were used before we hit the road again. The next stop was at the Capitol where we met the rest of the convoy. Here the Secretary of State presented us with the State of Kansas flag. After some pictures were taken we were once again heading East toward our destination.

We had a caravan of two min-vans and one auto. It was follow the leader via Interstate 70. Just west of St. Louis, MO one van had an electrical failure and we were held up for two hours waiting for a replacement. The rest of the trip was completed without any further problems.

Upon arrival at the Skyline Inn we had a short nap we headed down town to accept an invitation to a Pizza and Beer party. Soon we were lost and wound up at Wendy's supper. It was just as well---the reporter that was supposed to interview us and pay for the party stiffed the group for about \$30.00 a piece.

We spent the entire day Sunday at the WALL looking up names. At the WALL I looked up the names of many friends. The name of Donald J. Barnes 21E Line 60 was there. I cried real tears and sobs, especially for my friend Senior Chief Barnes, my best friend in Vietnam.

On Monday morning we visited Arlington National Cemetery. At the Navy Registrar I asked the attendant to find the name of Donald J. Barnes--I went up the hill toward the grave---Chief Barnes was killed Khe Sanh at about 1:00 A.M. on June 6, 1967---it was a very moving experience to see his headstone--on that morning 25 years ago the SeeBee Compound received two 140mm rockets of a total of 48 that hit Khe Sanh--one of those rockets killed Senior Chief Barnes and his assistant. I was to go with Chief Barnes on this Detachment as his assistant. He would not allow me to go saying, "You have not yet seen your son", (who was to be born on 3 July 67). I was quite upset that I couldn't go with him. I feel that since he had such a love for me by not allowing me to go with him, than he possibly saved my life. For this I will always be grateful to my friend Don Barnes.

Next we visited the Seabee Memorial. It is a magnificent Memorial and tells the story of the Seabees from WW II to Vietnam very well. It made me proud to stand there--and also a chance to show off to my friends.

I wanted to go down to the WALL one more time and trace the names of my buddies one more time. The WALL was very crowded and it took me some time to visit every one of the 10 names. As I ran my fingers over the names on a particular panel, they felt cold to the touch until my fingers came to a name of one of my friends--then I could feel actual warmth of their spirit radiating back to me. The warmth is real, others told me of the same experience. I was so involved with the WALL that I did not realize that CBS cameras were on me and recording everything I did. I turned away from the WALL and there they were, asking me for an interview. One question they asked stands out in my memory, "What does the reading of all the names of all who are on the WALL, mean top you"? My reply was "too many names, there is just...too many names".

That evening, I was on National CBS Evening News with Dan Rather, and my quote was broadcast for all to see.

That was my day. Not a day of chance, but a day of fate. Thank god for that day.

DMZ TO DELTA 1995

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1995

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Northern Virginia Chapter 227
Vietnam Veterans of America.

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DMZ to Delta Dance
C/O VVA, Chapter 227
[REDACTED] Arlington, VA 22205-5653
Or Call [REDACTED]

ROBERT J. PRUDEN

Died in Combat Twenty Five Years Ago....

Minnesota Medal of Honor Recipient Robert J. Pruden Remembered

by Wes Davey

At Ft Snelling National Cemetery, the brisk autumn winds chase the fallen leaves through the 120,000 white marble headstones, headstones that stand as silent sentinels for those who have served their country with honor during peace and war.

In a quiet corner of the cemetery is the grave of Staff Sergeant Robert J. Pruden, an American soldier who died in combat on November 20, 1969 in the jungles of the Quang Ngai Province of South Viet Nam. His headstone bears the words "Medal of Honor" etched in. The lettering catches the attention of those who pass by, causing them to stop briefly and wonder about what act of heroism lay beyond the words.

The story of Robert Pruden is a story of courage and bravery, loyalty to his fellow soldiers and to his country, and military skill and leadership. It is the story of a life cut short by war; a life some might think was unfulfilled because of its brevity, yet it was a life fulfilled far beyond what many people accomplish in a normal lifetime.

Robert Pruden was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 9, 1949, the second of thirteen children born to Larry and Marlys Pruden. His father worked as a truck driver, while his mother stayed at home to raise and care for the many children they had been blessed with.

The family lived on Euclid Street, a street located in an Eastside neighborhood filled with kids. Many of those kids were his friends, and Bob would invariably lead them in any game, whether it was playing hockey, climbing a fence or-as his mother would find out later-by hopping onto a slow moving freight train for a short ride.

Bob always kept himself busy, his mother remembered, busy shoveling snow from sidewalks on his way to school, delivering newspapers after school, stocking shelves at a small corner grocery store, or helping with the numerous household chores of a large family. His father commented that Bob developed a work ethic where he wanted to be the best at whatever he was doing.

At St. Paul's Harding High School Bob played goalie for the hockey team, a position he learned playing on a backyard ice rink with his brothers Larry (Jr.) and Mike. His coach at Harding High, Dick Anderson, remembers Bob as a hard-nosed kid from the bluffs who worked diligently, who was respected and well liked by his teammates. Hockey was played outdoors back then, with after school practices often lasting four to five hours. The rink was scraped and shoveled before practice, and after practice the rink was flooded again for the next day's practice. This schedule built a strong camaraderie among the team members, and taught them the importance of self-sacrifice for the good of the team.

After high school Bob attended vocational school in St. Paul and studied sheet metal work. Bored by the slow pace of school and wanting to control his destiny, he visited an Army recruiter. Bob signed up for the infantry, only afterwards going home to tell his parents what he had done. With his older brother Larry already in the Army and serving in Viet Nam, Bob's decision caused some concern to his parents. Still, they supported him and the decision he had made. After Private Pruden completed basic training and infantry

training, he volunteered for airborne and Ranger training, receiving promotions as he continued his training. He later told his parents that he wanted the best preparation he could have before going to war in Viet Nam--for there was little doubt that he would go there when his training was completed.

Sergeant Pruden arrived in South Viet Nam in March 1969 to begin a one-year tour of duty; he was assigned to Company G (Ranger), 75th Infantry of the Americal Division. Company G was an elite unit which contained some of the best infantry soldiers the US Army had to offer. Perhaps because of his stateside Ranger training, Sgt. Pruden soon became a team leader of a long-range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) team, "Team Oregon."

LRRP teams traveled in small squads deep into enemy held areas, seeking information on the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) that would be useful to American intelligence operations. To be a Ranger in a LRRP unit required certain character traits: loyalty to fellow Rangers, strong self-motivated work ethic, physical and mental toughness, and courage in the face of sometimes overwhelming danger. These were traits which Bob had taken with him from the Eastside, which were honed in his stateside military training, and which would put to use and tested many times in the jungle battlefields of South Viet Nam.

One month later, in April 1969, Sgt. Danny Jacks arrived in South Viet Nam and was assigned to Team Oregon. Danny Jacks was a gung-ho airborne infantry soldier from southern Arkansas. He formed a close friendship with Bob, and he would soon become Bob's assistant team leader.

Bob enjoyed joking with the Arkansas "Razorback", and Danny was more often than not the target of his Yankee friend's good-natured jokes. For both of them, these jokes were a paradox of their small part of the war. At one moment they could be deadly serious, extremely professional soldiers; seconds later they would be pulling the childish stunts that nineteen year old "kids" are capable of.

On a summer day in 1969 Bob and Danny were crouched side by side on a rice paddy ledge, a ledge that ran parallel to a small trail frequently used by the NVA. As they sat there, Bob quietly received a radio message from fellow team members who were positioned further down the trail. He then whispered to Danny that an NVA was coming up the trail. Danny got himself ready to jump out and capture the enemy in a bear hug--a trick he had learned from Bob. Before he knew what had happened, Danny was flying off the ledge, landing face first on the enemy trail.

A terrified Danny knew he hadn't jumped from the ledge, he had been pushed from behind by Bob. Looking up from his prone position, he found a Vietnamese pot-belly pig inches away from his face, staring at him with beady brown eyes, big tusks, and snot dripping from both nostrils.

Danny screamed and then dove down a small cliff at the trail's edge to escape. After the pig wandered off the outraged Danny climbed back up the cliff, grabbed Bob by the shirt, and asked him what the heck he thought he was doing. "Jacks, I'm always hearing you brag about the Arkansas Razorbacks, I just thought I'd let you meet some of yer' kin!"

The mutual pranks and the shared danger of missions caused their friendship to grow, until one would rarely be seen without the other. They played cards together, drank beer together, and planned patrols together. Even though Bob was clearly the team leader, Danny was a trusted, loyal assistant team leader from whom Bob would seek advice concerning upcoming mission. At the end, they would be like brothers to each other.

Continues Next Page

S/SGT. ROBERT J. PRUDEN (Story Continues)

The summer and early fall of 1969 brought mission after mission for Team Oregon, with only short rests in between. Even though he continued as the leader of Team Oregon, Sgt. Pruden was promoted to the rank Staff Sergeant. He also left his teenage years behind him when he turned twenty years old on September 9, 1969.

Under the leadership of Sgt. Pruden, Team Oregon became very proficient at conducting "prisoner snatches"-the capturing of live enemy soldiers for the purpose of gathering information on enemy operations. They did this by ambushing NVA patrols, physically grabbing an enemy soldier, and then sending the surviving enemy soldiers into a quick retreat. Their proficiency in this dangerous game was recognized by the Army's military intelligence personnel assigned to their unit.

Bob's leadership skills did not go unnoticed by those outside of his team. PFC John Gaffney, a college graduate with a degree in philosophy, came to Viet Nam in September 1969, went through in-country Ranger training, and was then assigned to a team not led by Bob. In a letter to Bob's parents, John wrote: "It really didn't take long to see who among all the men was held in the highest regard. It was Bob. He had all those qualities which made you want to watch him, be around him and be like him. A natural leader, self-confident, and good at what he did without being arrogant or demeaning toward others. For self-evident reasons, when the opportunity arose, I asked to be transferred to his team."

His request granted, PFC Gaffney transferred to Bob's team shortly before the team received a mission to conduct a prisoner snatch; the mission was scheduled for November 20, 1969. Intelligence had learned of an imminent enemy attack, and they desperately wanted further information from a live enemy soldier.



BOB AND COMRADES--From left: James Gromacki, John Schultz, Bob Kalway, BOB PRUDEN, Danny Jacks, and Ed Beattie

November 20th was a typical day in Viet Nam, "so hot and muggy you couldn't hardly breathe," with a mission set for the late afternoon. SSG Robert Pruden, Sgt. Danny Jacks, new team member PFC John Gaffney and the other three team members climbed aboard a helicopter that would drop them off on a distant hilltop. Pruden, Jacks and several other team members had been in an intense firefight at this same location only the week before. At the bottom of the hill they had observed a well-used enemy trail with a rice paddy berm on one side. The trail was similar to a cow-path in a pasture; it was a trail that would be

ideal for the prisoner snatch they would be attempting on this day.

The team worked their way down from the hilltop and then separated into two three-man teams; SSG Pruden lead one team (which included PFC Gaffney), Sgt. Jacks led the other. Their intention was to have one team do the prisoner snatch of an NVA walking down the trail while the other team provided security.

Arriving at the bottom of the hill, the teams quickly began setting up Claymore mines and establishing their perimeter defense. Their work was soon interrupted by an enemy patrol. The Medal of Honor citation reads: "As the groups were establishing their defensive position, one member of the team was trapped in the open by the heavy fire from an enemy squad. Realizing that the ambush position had been compromised, Sergeant Pruden directed his team to open fire on the enemy force, Immediately, the team came under heavy fire from a second enemy element."

PFC Gaffney, who was lying on the ground in front of Pruden at this time, knew they were all in serious trouble, as one Claymore mine after another was detonated in an effort to quell the enemy attack.

The citation continues: "Sergeant Pruden, with full knowledge of the extreme danger involved, left his concealed position and, firing as he ran, advanced toward the enemy to draw the hostile fire."

Pruden jumped over the prone Gaffney as he headed toward the trapped team member, screaming at the enemy and firing his M-16 rifle simultaneously. Gaffney would later state that it was an incredible act of courage, the likes of which he had not seen before, nor would he ever see again.

"He was seriously wounded twice but continued his attack until he fell for a third time, in front of the enemy positions. Sergeant Pruden's action resulted in several enemy casualties and withdrawal of the remaining enemy force. Although grievously wounded, he directed his men into defensive positions and called for evacuation helicopters, which safely withdrew the members of his team."

Danny Jacks immediately went to the side of his fallen friend. They briefly discussed the military situation; the NVA were in retreat and the rest of the team had survived the attack. But even as they spoke Bob was losing consciousness. The "whump, whump, whump" of the approaching Medevac helicopter could be heard as Danny held Bob in his arms. Bob, knowing he was about to die, looked up to Danny and asked one last favor of his friend: "Tell my Mom I love her." For SSG Robert Pruden there would be no more firefights or prisoner snatches or instructing new soldiers the art of warfare in Viet Nam...and there would be no more jokes on his friend Danny.

Four days later his parents received a telegram from the Department of the Army advising them that their son, Staff Sergeant Robert Pruden, was "missing in action." Bob's older brother Larry knew from experience that the telegram and its messenger were being deceptive, he knew his 20-year old brother was dead. A telegram the following day only confirmed to his parents what Larry already knew.

Back in Viet Nam a reluctant Sgt. Jacks became the new leader of Team Oregon. He felt inadequate to fill the shoes of his friend-a friend who had been a extraordinary young leader of men. Danny finished his year of duty unscathed, but he soon volunteered for another six-month tour.

On the second tour in Viet Nam, Danny led a LRRP team that was ambushed by a numerically

Continues Next Page

S/SGT. ROBERT J. PRUDEN (Story Conclusion)

superior NVA force. After being shot in his left temple during the ensuing battle, he valiantly struggled to stay conscious so he could continue leading his men. At one point, when he felt he couldn't go any further, he laid down at the base of a tree to die. Yet, even as he laid there, he knew what Bob would want him to do. Danny got up and successfully led his men out of the ambush. For his efforts in saving his men, Sgt. Jacks was awarded the Silver Star. Danny now lives back in Arkansas where he farms and lives with his wife and two children.

John Gaffney was wounded in a later battle, and then returned stateside to Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco. Eleven months and seven operations later, Gaffney left the hospital and the Army. He is now an attorney living with his wife and son in a small, quiet town in northern California.

John wrote (in the same letter to Bob's parents) about the effect Bob continues to have in his life and that of his son, Matt. "He (Matt) knows all about your son and what he did for a bunch of ragtag nobodies in a jungle ten thousand miles away. He's brushed his fingers across Bob's name on the Wall in Washington, D.C. I guess its no accident that he's something like Bob because what I learned from Bob in that short time, those things he left with me about being a man, I've tried to pass on to him. A part of Bob lives on in me and in Matt, and will in his son and so on, none of whom might be here or ever be born were it not for Bob's sacrifice...rarely a day goes by that I don't think about him and what he did for us."

On April 22, 1971 Larry and Marlys Pruden and their remaining twelve children traveled to the White House. There president Richard M. Nixon presented to them the blue and white ribboned Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously to SSG Robert J. Pruden "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

The Prudens are now retired and live in the lakeside community of Crosby, Minnesota. On the walls of their home, along with the many pictures of children and grandchildren, they display with pride our Nation's highest military award, The Congressional Medal of Honor.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13
{PAGE 6}



WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY April 22, 1971
There President Richard M. Nixon, presented to Larry and Marlys Pruden and their remaining 12 children, the MEDAL of HONOR awarded posthumously to S/Sgt. Robert J. Pruden.

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Company A 26 Engineers

I am trying to locate David Ross who served with A/26 Engineers at Chu Lai from June 23, 1969 to December 18, 1970. He came from Pennsylvania and returned there after the war. Please contact:

Jerry Dickenson

Richlands, VA 24641

BATTERY A 3rd BATTALION 82 ARTILLERY

KHAM DUC MAY 1968

I am interested in contacting any member of A/3/82 Arty that was serving with this unit in May of 1968 at Kham Duc.

At that time A Battery was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196 LIB.

I am putting together a history and would be interested in hearing from any person that was at Kham Duc during this time frame.

Please write to:

James McLeroy

Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Or Call

COMPANY B 5th BATTALION 46 INFANTRY

Here is a picture from Reunion '95. It was great being there and enjoyed the golf (bad, bad, round). Keep up the good work editing the Newsletter and keep hitting the ball down the middle. Hope to see you in Reno in 1996.



2 Arty guys from Minnesota on the left and Big Richard, B/5/46 Inf. Can't believe anyone could smile with Big Richard on their lap! (Doc Hofer is the gentleman standing in the rear in white. I guess he jumped ship, or should I say jumped onto the ship? Sorry Doc, that I can't show due respect to your rank but I'm lax on my Navy insignia. Jim)



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JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1995

Mr. Malcolm P. East Sep96

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