

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 1995

Published Quarterly

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

## AMERICAN CEMETERY - MANILA



THERE, BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I

## 1994 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1995

NATIONAL COMMANDER

William K. Maddox  
Portland, TX 78374

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Stephen N. Dennison  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Gary L. Noller  
Austin, TX 78759

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

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Lincoln, MA 01773-0006

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So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

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Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter  
Joe D. Feeler Far West Chapter  
Ronald L. Ward Central Mid-West Chapter  
Lloyd J. Morrell North-West Chapter

A by-law change, approved by a National Ballot, now makes Chapter Commanders members of the Executive Council.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle  
Harwich, MA 02645

Telephone [REDACTED]

VIETNAM EDITOR

Roland T. Castronova  
Peabody, MA 01960

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE

As I write this last message as Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association, I have many folks to thank for making this organization the success it is today. A great big thank you to everyone who had a part in signing up new members. National Adjutant reports that we have signed up 439 new members since July 1, 1994 to May 20, 1995. My hats off to you guys. Welcome to the ADVA to all the new members. We are glad to have you with us. We must keep working, for the job is not finished yet, as I hand over the reins to our new Commander, Stephen Dennison.

I wish Stephen success in continuing the work that so many have had a part in. It is my hope that all the good work continues with you, the membership, helping him as you have me, we can't help but have another very successful year.

A special thank you is in order to PNC Alfred R. Doig, PNC Kenneth R. Turner, National Adjutant Bernard C. Chase, William J. McLaughlin and to all the other men and ladies that worked tirelessly to make the Americal Museum what it is today.

Finally, I am grateful for the privilege of having served as your Commander. I'm not planning on being idle, but working for the good of the organization. May god Bless each one of you.

Yours in comradeship,  
William K. "Bill" Maddox  
National Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

NO MEETIN IN JULY

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 9, 1995  
Americal Museum  
Worcester, MA  
10:00 A.M.

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## TAPS

132 INFANTRY REG SUR

Alan A. Belmonte  
Lombard, IL  
September 1994

132 INFANTRY K CO.

Richard F. Casper  
Evanston, IL  
Date Unknown

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

John F. Connors  
Melrose, MA  
1988 Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY

Normand N. Drapeau  
East Hartford, CT  
February 2, 1995

182 INFANTRY

George T. Duffy  
Charlestown, MA  
Date Unknown

101 & 121 MEDICAL BN

Msgr. E. B. Flaherty  
Boston, MA  
May 24, 1995

57 ENGINEERS

William Henderson  
Wakefield, MA  
March 29, 1995

221 FIELD ARTILLERY

Guy L. Keans  
Bedford, MA  
May 1995

164 INFANTRY

Harold L. Menaker  
West Palm Beach, FL  
May 11, 1995

180 FIELD ARTILLERY

Cyril F. Morrison  
Veazie, ME  
November 16, 1994

182 INFANTRY E CO.

Paul F. Rylander  
Jamestown, RI  
October 4, 1993

132 INFANTRY K CO.

George Sheehan  
Berwyn, IL  
September 9, 1994

182 INFANTRY H CO.

Joseph Tichanuk  
March 1, 1995

198 LIB

Steve Cakanic  
Green Lake, WI  
Date Unknown

132 INFANTRY D CO.

Carl H. Catske  
Salinas, CA  
Date Unknown

182 INFANTRY L CO.

Stanley Coolen Sr.  
St. Petersburg, FL  
May 14, 1995

121 MEDICAL BN. BAND

Joseph Drozdal  
Hampden, MA  
March 8, 1994

132 INFANTRY L+BAND

Donald G. Ellshoff  
Tulsa, OK  
May 1, 1995

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Francis J. Ganley  
Dorchester, MA  
March 17, 1995

247 FIELD ARTILLERY

Walter M. Henderson  
Black, MO  
May 2, 1994

182 INFANTRY

Constantine Krochmal  
Peabody, MA  
March 20, 1995

101 MEDICAL REGIMENT

Jerry P. Montone  
Venice, FL  
January 20, 1995

182 INFANTRY H CO.

Louis Reagan  
Cambridge, MA  
February 22, 1995

182 INFANTRY MED DET

Michael M. Sakavitch  
St. Paul, MN  
February 22, 1995

182 INFANTRY I CO.

Morton P. Speizer  
Boulder Creek, CA  
March 25, 1995

132 INFANTRY REG HQ

Andrew Vrtjak  
Chicago, IL  
March 26, 1995

## TAPS

132 INFANTRY HQ+C

Leslie S. Wells  
Bradenton, FL  
April 8, 1995

182 INFANTRY H CO.

Joe B. Yochum  
Vincennes, IN  
March 1995

21 RECON CO.

John H. Wood  
Oblong, IL  
October 14, 1994

MAY THEY REST

IN  
PEACE

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robert Alexander Sr.  
HHC Americal  
New York, NY

Frank A. Baris Jr.  
101 QM E Co  
Rochdale, MA

Michael Fightmaster  
23 MP  
Edmond, OK

Eugene F. Frantz  
196 LIB 3/21 Inf  
Albuquerque, NM

Eugene H. Hill  
164 Infantry D Co.  
Grand Forks, ND

Carl R. Lauritsen  
164 Infantry 3/ Div  
Santa Barbara, CA

Michael L. McDonald  
1 Cav 1/B Troop  
Camp Springs, MD

Anthony J. Paluszek  
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf  
Dunbarton, NH

Anthony J. Paluszek  
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf  
Dunbarton, NH

Gerald Schleining  
11 LIB  
Gresham, OR

Michael Vitelli  
259 C.A. Bn (Sep)  
Keizer, OR

\*\*\*\*\*

## SICK CALL

164 Infantry 2/Hq

Joe E.M. Cuellar  
Corrales, NM 87048

221 FA

Glenn C. Davis  
Cleveland, GA 30528

196 LIB 3/21 Co B

David L. Harp Sr.  
Canastota, NY 13032

132 Infantry E Co.

Troy C. Martin Jr.  
Orlando, FL 32835-1052

182 Infantry H Co

William Murphy Jr.  
Concord, MA 01742

132 Infantry E Co

Frank Dain  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

221 FA B Btry + Hdq

Robert E. Galpin  
Chandler, AZ 85224-213

182 Infantry

Edward Lorenz  
Dorchester, MA 02125

198 Med Plat HHC

Michael Moehrke  
Tueras, NM 87059

125 QM

Clyde C. Smith  
Hammond, IN 46324

\*\*\*\*\*

HEY GUYS -- HOW ABOUT A CARD?

Robert "Steve" Abrahams  
46 Infantry 1/46  
Raytown, MO  
#Fred Cowburn

Richard T. Aquino  
11 LIB HHC 4/3 Inf  
Colorado Springs, CO  
#Victor Lopez

William V. Barta  
198 LIB 1/14 Arty  
Grand Haven, MI  
#R. Castronova

Willis Bartlett III  
199 LIB B Co.  
Newville, PA  
#Membership Committee

Dave J. Benedict  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
E. Syracuse NY  
#R. Castronova

James T. Biggar  
196 LIB  
Riverview, MI  
#Membership Committee

Glen E. Boggess  
198 LIB B/26 Eng  
Augusta, KS  
#Membership Committee

Roger Bramstadt  
23 HHC Div Hdq  
Chicago Heights, IL  
#R. Castronova

Donald A. Brooks  
164 Infantry  
North Adams, MA  
#Bernie Chase

James A. Burch  
196 LIB A/26 Eng Bn  
Mount Carroll, IL  
#Membership Committee

Robert R. Bush  
198 LIB 46Inf 4/6  
Carbondale, IL  
#Fred Cowburn

Nicholas Cascio  
164 Infantry  
Medford, NY  
#Howard W. Lauter

Charles E. Clark Sr.  
23 Adm 196 LIB  
Church, VA  
#R. Castronova

Joseph G. Combs  
132 Infantry E Co.  
Washington, IL  
#R. Castronova

William J. Connelly  
11 LIB B/4/3 Inf  
Old Orchard Beach, ME  
#Membership Committee

Michael Dankert  
11 LIB 3/1 Inf  
Lansing, MI  
#Jim Buckle

Clarence R. Adams (Ret)  
196 LIB E/Hq/26 Eng  
Hinesville, GA  
#Membership Committee

Arthur B. Balinger  
Amer Div Hdq  
Portland, OR  
#Jerry Martel

Edward E. Bartel  
196 LIB 198 LIB  
FPO-AE  
#Bernie Chase

Sherman L. Barto  
335 Trans Co  
Muncy, PA  
#Bernie Chase

Peter J. Biagiona  
182 Infantry G Co.  
Stoneham, MA  
#R. Castronova

Anton G. Blieberger  
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf  
Nokesville, VA  
#Richard Drapczuk

James M. Boston  
26 Eng A Co.  
Warminster, PA  
#Carl Peterson

David W. Branham  
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf  
Myrtle Creek, OR  
#R. Castronova

Salvatore Buccellato  
?  
Staten Island, NY  
#Membership Committee

George W. Burd  
11 LIB A/3/1 Inf  
Farmington, PA  
#R. Castronova

James P. Byrnes  
Div Arty HHB  
Bergenfield, NJ  
#Membership Committee

Robert E. Cauley  
132 Infantry L Co.  
Chicago, IL  
#R. Castronova

Robert W. Cobbs  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
Orlando, FL  
#R. Castronova

John Condon  
82 Arty HHQ Btry 3/  
Huntington Station, NY  
#Membership Committee

Mark L. Cook  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
Wylie, TX  
#Larry Gelnett

Armono M. Darrin  
31 Infantry C/4/31  
Bowie, MD  
#Randall Hummel

Laverne Dean  
196 LIB Hq. S-3  
Lincolnton, ME  
#R. Castronova

Nickolas J. Dirago  
132 Infantry E Co.  
Des Plaines, IL  
#R. Castronova

Richard C. Dowdell  
22 Ordnance  
Mentor, OH  
#Bernie Chase

Jonathan K. Ellis  
11 LIB 3/1 Inf  
Brentwood, NH  
#R. Castronova

Gary A. Erickson  
11 Arm Cav  
Quinlan TX  
#R. Castronova

David A. Franson  
Div Arty Hq/Hq Btry  
North Platte, NE  
#Bernie Chase

Larry E. Gaddis  
52 Evac TF 6814  
Albuquerque, NM  
#Joe D. Feeler

Eugene J. Gorniak  
132 Infantry 3/Hq  
Chicago, IL  
#R. Castronova

Verryn V. Harper  
23 M.P.  
Downey, CA  
#R. Castronova

Albert H. Holcomb  
56 Arty 6/56  
Jackson, MS  
#Membership Committee

Richard M. Iverson  
1 Cav 1sd/1 Reg  
Glendale, CA  
#R. Castronova

Gary C. Johnson  
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf  
Hickory, NC  
#R. Castronova

Charles Kastelnik  
23 M.P. 196 LIB HHC  
Catasauqua, PA  
#R. Castronova

Barry B. Kelly  
82 Arty C/3/82  
Atco, NJ  
#Spencer Baba

Ralph A. Key Jr.  
Associate  
Wakefield, MA  
#Jim Buckle

Sherwin G. Kohnke  
198 LIB HHSB 14 Art  
Blackfoot, ID  
#Memb. Com.

Dorothy M. Detwiler  
Associate  
Phoenixville, PA  
#Col. V. Pike

Buford Dotson  
11 LIB 3/1 Inf  
Defiance, OH  
#R. Castronova

Kenneth (Gary) Duncan  
198 LIB B/1/6 Inf  
Crestline, CA  
#Bernie G. Moyeda

Valeliian N. Elsky  
11 Arm Cav  
San Francisco, CA  
#R. Castronova

Michael A. Foley  
11 Arm Cav  
Philadelphia, PA  
#R. Castronova

Gary Froenlich  
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf  
Trenton, NJ  
#Jay Roth

Edger T. Goldenthal  
132 Infantry Reg Hq  
West Orange, NJ  
#R. Castronova

David E. Hammond  
46 Infantry C/5/46  
Beaverton, OR  
#Michael Danker

Harold G. Henderson  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Jacksonville, TX  
#Membership Committee

Lionel M. Isbell  
11 LIB HQ 3/1 -1/46  
Bryan, TX  
#Jim Buckle

Gary G. Johnson  
123 Avn Bn 196 LIB  
Carlisle, PA  
#Membership Committee

William E. Jones  
57 Eng  
Elizabeth City, NC  
#Dutch DeGroot

Gary M. Kay  
23 Adm  
Saulte Sainte Marie MI  
#R. Castronova

John R. Kendell  
11 LIB E/1/20 Inf  
APO-AE  
#Bernie Chase

David R. Kocan  
196 LIB D/2/1 Inf  
Baltimore, MD  
#R. Castronova

Joseph A. Kretz  
723 Ord Bn  
Lancaster, NY  
#James A. Rains Sr.

Dennis M. Laird  
26 Eng D Co.  
Milan, IL  
#Membership Committee

James I. McDaniel  
174 AHC 116 AHC  
Springfield, VA  
#Jay Roth

Larry L. Meynardie  
1 Cav E Tr  
Virginia Beach, VA  
#Membership Committee

James D.H. Moore  
244 Coast Art + 256  
Mountain Home, AR  
#E. R. Horton

Timothy J. Nicholson  
11 LIB  
Long Beach, CA  
#R. Castronova

Robert V. Patterson  
247 FA B/Hq Btry  
East Grand Forks, MN  
#E.R. Horton

Robert M. Putnam  
198 LIB HHC  
Waterford, MI  
#Brent M. Smith

Bobby J. Railey  
31 Inf B/4/31 D/3/21  
Temple Hills, MD  
#Ronald L. Davis

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

John Reynolds  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
Los Angeles, CA  
#R. Castronova

George W. Rhoden  
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Glen St. Mary, FL  
#Bernie Chase

Patrick C. Ryan  
196 LIB C/5/46 11LI  
Kingston, NY  
#R. Castronova

Gary E. Skogen  
23 M.P. 196 LIB  
Littlerock, CA  
#R. Castronova

Jeffrey T. Speake  
11 Arm Cav 1/20 Inf  
Denver, CO  
#R. Castronova

Carroll E. Staton  
198 LIB A/1/52 HHC  
Lexington VA  
#John DeGroot

Santos Suarez  
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf  
Providence, RI  
#Dave Decker

Robert Leatherman  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
Lincoln, NE  
#Bernie Chase

Frank J. McQuaid  
182 Infantry F Co.  
Wilmington, DE  
#Al Hudon

Sheldon Mirow  
196 LIB  
Dallas, TX  
#. Castronova

Daniel Newcomb  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Bay, MI  
#Membership Committee

Wallace W. Orr  
Div Hdq JAG  
San Jose, CA  
#John Beaire

John H. Pransky  
Div Hdq Judge Ad Se  
Charlotte, NC  
#Membership Committee

Theodore M. Rahl  
198 LIB A/1/46 Inf  
Lansing, MI  
#R. Castronova

Francis P. Rallo  
182 Infantry F Co.  
Peabody, MA  
#Joe Papa

Ronald G. Reaves  
11 Arm Cav  
Olympia, WA  
#R. Castronova

Charles D. Rhinehart  
182 Infantry A Co.  
Shelby, NC  
#Eugene L. Kull

Danny J. Richards  
123 Avn Bn B Co.  
Texas City, TX  
#Conrad Krueger

John J. Sikorsky  
723 Maint Bn  
Danielsville, PA  
#Thomas J. Millhouse

Edward Slette  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
O'Brien, OR  
#R. Castronova

Robert M. Sperry  
11 Arty 6/11  
Salisbury, MD  
#Jay Roth

John G. Stoll  
11 Arm Cav  
Bethlehem, PA  
#Membership Committee

Claude F. Sullivan  
125 QM  
Macomb, IL  
#Joe Anderson

George Taylor  
26 Eng C Co.  
Round Lake, NY  
#James Baird

William T. Thornton  
Associate  
Burlington, MA  
#Membership Committee

Thomas G. Tucker Jr.  
23 M.P. 198 LIB  
Victoria, TX  
#R. Castronova

Daniel Vierqutz  
1 Cav 1st Sqd  
Alamosa, CO  
#Bernie Chase

Robert J. Wood  
523 Sig Bn  
Millboro, VA  
#Membership Committee

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

Jack Bornstein  
132 Infantry H Co.  
Kansas City, MO  
#R. Castronova

James H. Burdge Sr.  
82 Arty 1/82  
Lanoka Harbor, NJ  
#R. Castronova

Jeffrey N. Chase  
11 LIB E/1 Cav  
Chelsea, MA  
#R. Castronova

Aldo Cugini  
164 Infantry Ser Co  
Holbrook, MA  
#C. Fletcher

Danny G. George  
82 Arty Bat A  
Lake Forest, CA  
#R. Castronova

Edward A. Hertzing  
1 Cav B/1/1  
Denver, CO  
#Memb. Com.

Edward W. King Jr.  
121 Avn Bn 16 CBT G  
Pace, FL  
#R. Castronova

Thomas F. Mayer III  
459 Sig HHD  
Pontiac, MI  
#R. Castronova

Joseph P. Meinike  
51 Infantry LRRP  
Prospect Heights, IL  
#John DeGroot

Percy L. Monceaux  
132 Infantry  
Crowley, LA

Andrew C. Teague  
196 LIB  
Taylorsville, NC  
#Bernie Chase

Billy T. Tonesm  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
Deer Lodge, TN  
#R. Castronova

Eliaar Vega  
11 LIB 1/20 Inf  
Austin, TX  
#R. Castronova

Stephen C. Wiles  
?  
Arcadia, CA  
#

#SPONSOR

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

Frank A. Burnett  
1 Cav HHT 1st Sqd  
Metairie, LA  
#R. Castronova

John M. Crowley  
23 M.P. 198 LIB  
Philadelphia, PA  
#Dutch DeGroot

Dennis Espinoza  
196 LIB 2/1 Inf  
Point Richmond, CA  
#R. Castronova

Henry R. Gorski  
132 Infantry Reg Hq  
Chicago, IL  
#R. Castronova

David L. Jones  
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Middleton, TN  
#R. Castronova

Richard A. LeBlanc  
ASSOCIATE  
Waterbury, CT  
#Ken Turner

William J. McCowan  
164 Infantry  
Watford, MI  
#R. Castronova

Leonard Mejia  
246 FA  
Kansas City, MO  
#R. Castronova

John J. Moran  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
Dumont, NJ  
#Ron Ward

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

Richard P. Mosher  
196 LIB  
Waukegan, IL  
#R. Castronova

Franklin F. Reinier  
11 LIB A/4/21 Inf  
Zion, IL  
#R. Castronova

Herbert F. Seuss  
182 Infantry B Co.  
Naples, FL  
#R. Castronova

Craig R. Singer  
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Kersey, PA  
#R. Castronova

Paul C. Stiff  
23 M.P.  
Troy, MI  
#R. Castronova

Paul Toniello  
132 Infantry  
Ottowa, IL  
#Paul L. Tonielli

Harry D. Van der Hoven  
259 C.A.  
Delta, OH  
#R. Castronova

Robert S. Pou  
198 LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Bush, LA  
#R. Castronova

Ervin L. Russell  
196 LIB 723 Maint Bn  
Wareham, MA  
#R. Castronova

Arthur E. Shore Jr.  
196 LIB D/4/31 Inf  
Blue Island, IL  
#R. Castronova

Carlo W. Spallucci  
182 Infantry D Co  
Philadelphia, PA  
#R. Castronova

William E. Sweeney  
11 Arty 2/B/11  
Woburn, MA  
#R. Castronova

S. John Tuma Jr.  
635 M I HHC Co.  
Melrose, MA  
#R. Castronova

Roland L. Whitney Sr.  
198 LIB D/5/46 Inf  
Westwego, LA  
#R. Castronova

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### AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Julia Patch Diehl  
In Memory of  
Chandler Diehl

Ltc. James E. Wall (Ret)

Robert and Denise Putnam

Minna and Fred Kapp

L. Don Sanders

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### DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

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

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

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

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

PNC Ronald L. Ward  
St. Louis, MO 63123

JUST A REMINDER: Have you returned your tickets yet? Please do it NOW! The winner will be drawn on July 16, 1995. We need your support.

## CHAPTERS

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

REGIONAL - Elmer E. Matola - COMMANDER

Hernando Beach, FL 34442  
Tel. [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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

REGIONAL - Ernest B. Carlson - COMMANDER

Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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

REGIONAL - Rush G. Propper - COMMANDER

Swartz Creek, MI 48473

\*\*\*\*\*

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

REGIONAL - Joe D. Feeler - COMMANDER

Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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

REGIONAL - Harold J. Gigli - COMMANDER

Carver, MA 02330-1809

\*\*\*\*\*

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

REGIONAL - Stephen N. Dennison - COMMANDER

Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER  
IA KS MO NE ND SD

REGIONAL - Ronald L. [REDACTED]  
9619 Dana Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63123

\*\*\*\*\*

NORTH WEST CHAPTER  
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,  
MONTANA, WYOMING

REGIONAL - Lloyd J. Morrell - COMMANDER

Redmond, OR 97756-9612

### EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER  
Stephen Dennison  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
Phone [REDACTED]

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

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

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

The Eastern Regional Chapter of the ADVA is holding their annual Reunion September 7 - 10, 1995. It will be held in Louisville, Kentucky at the Travelodge Motel.

Motel rooms are \$45.00 a night, single or double. Make you reservations directly with the Motel by calling 502-425-8010. You must tell them you are with the ADVA Eastern Regional Chapter, to get this special room rate.

On Friday morning a bus tour of Bardstown is offered for \$35.00 per person.

A Dinner buffet will be featured on Friday evening at a cost of \$16.00 per person.

There will be a bus tour on Saturday north of the Ohio River and into southern Indiana. A family style dinner will be served at Hubers Family Farm and Restaurant. The cost of this tour will be \$35.00 per person.

Sent reservations and all inquires to:

William Gold  
Baltimore, MD 21209

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Just a reminder that the Chapter is actively seeking a new Chapter Commander. Due to the fact that I will be National Commander of the ADVA next year, I must step down as you Cammander.

If you are interested you must:

Belong to National with updated dues card for 1995

Belong to the Eastern regional Chapter with updated membership paid for 1995.

Be in attendance at the Chapter Reunion. If you do not attend you cannot be voted for.

Steve Dennison  
Eastern Regional Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOW HEAR THIS!

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

\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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

Regional Commander  
Joe D. Feeler  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Sec/Treas  
Gino Massagli  
Eureka, CA 95501

Vice Commander: John Bowley  
Sergeant-at-Arms Ernest Rodriquez  
Chaplain Herbert A. Holt

I have received several letters and comments on my recent list of people who have served in the same Company size unit and were members of the Far West Chapter. All responses were grateful as most of them wanted to contact people they had served with, but didn't know how to contact them. Some mentioned doing it at a National level.

I am volunteering to set up a message center and start this program rolling.

I really feel that if we could get more people in contact with each other we would come up with many names and addresses that would benefit the members and the ADVA.

Sincerely,  
Joe Feeler  
Chapter Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

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

COMMANDER  
Elmer E. Matola  
Hernando, FL 34442

SEC/TREAS  
George P. Dakin  
Deltona, FL 32728

George Dakin and Elmer Matola attended the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. The S.E. Chapter placed a Memorial Wreath at the A.D.V.A. Memorial Stone. A new bench has been installed as well as lovely landscaping. If any Cmrades would like to visit the cemetery it is Exit #62 off Interstate #75.

We are trying to contact our Comrades from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and have them join us and carry on the work of the Arthur Wood S.E. Chapter. WE NEED YOU!

Yours in comradeship,  
Commander Elmer Matola

\*\*\*\*\*

### ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER COMMANDERS

Donald Van Estenbridge has been appointed as the new Chapter Coordinator by Commander Maddox. He will be assuming his new appointment before the next Newsletter is published.

Don will be contacting each Chapter Commander in the near future. One of his jobs will be to contact Chapter Commanders, keep their rosters up-to-date and also prepare Chapter News for the printer. Please give him all the cooperation possible.

The work load has grown so heavy at National that more and more members will be called upon to share the work and responsibility of running our growing organization.

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

Regional Commander      Sec/Treas  
Joe D. Feeler      Gino Massagli  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
Albuquerque, NM 87110      Eureka, CA 95501

Vice Commander: John Bowley  
Sergeant-at-Arms Ernest Rodriguez  
Chaplain Herbert A. Holt

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I am volunteering to set up a message center and start this program rolling.

I really feel that if we could get more people in contact with each other we would come up with many names and addresses that would benefit the members and the ADVA.

Michael "Doc" Moehrke, HH Medic 198 LIB is in the Veterans Hospital in Albuquerque. He is out of the intensive care step down unit and is in a regular room now. They are still evaluating his heart condition. If anyone would like to send "Doc" a card his home address is:

Michael "Doc" Moehrke  
[REDACTED]  
Tijeras, NM 87059

Joe Feeler  
Chapter Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

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

COMMANDER      SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ernest B. Carlson      Malcolm P. East  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624      Lumberton, TX 77656  
Tel. [REDACTED]      Tel. [REDACTED]

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

#### CHAPTER CHATTER

By the time you read this, a VERY, VERY, important anniversary will have taken place!! On April 30, 1975, Saigon fell!! What will we read about this in the National Media???

So far, it looks like the truth about past wars is bandied about and changed or adjusted to make SOME people feel good. Who--I have no idea!! The Smithsonian fiasco with the "Enola Gay"! To me, and to several hundred thousand others, the most beautiful four (4) words were -- Enola Gay and Atomic bombs!!

Now -- Mr. Clinton wants to change V.J. Day, just to placate a country that destroyed parts of the lives of hundreds of thousands of us and is now determined to destroy the economy of this great nation of ours and shows no indication of easing off! Sorry Bill, but I and my Buddies will celebrate "V.J. Day" on September 2, 1995.

Our Chapter has scheduled a meeting, held on May 7th, in Austin, Texas. All of a sudden our Chapter is made up of nearly a two to one margin of Vietnam Veterans to World War II Vets. (Great).

We are entering another float in the Third Annual Veterans Parade on July 4th in Fredericksburg, Texas. Also for the V.J. + 50 celebration here on September 2, 3, 1995. We need six Americal Vets from World War II to ride in that parade. I will have all the data in Chicago. Also, seating will be arranged for Americal Vets, with families, relatives, etc. along the parade route. They will need to register so that name plates can be provided.

My Postmaster just called to confirm that a POW-MIA stamp will go on sale on May 29th. WE MADE IT!

ALL YOU CHAPTER MEMBERS--Check your membership cards. We need you all to catch up on your dues. They are \$5.00 annual or \$50.00 Life. (In one or two payments.

Below is the Chapter Banner donated by Mrs. Julia Patch Diehl and received in honor of Chandler Diehl. Left to Right in the picture - Ernie and Fay Carlson. Linda and Gary Gallagher. Gary served A/1/52 Inf, 198 LIB also D/2/1 Inf 196 LIB.



God Bless and Hug Somebody,  
Ernie Carlson - Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NORTH WEST CHAPTER

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,  
MONTANA, WYOMING

Lloyd Morrell      Denis R. Bourcier  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
Redmond, OR 97756      Kirkland, WA 98033  
Tel. [REDACTED]      Tel. [REDACTED]

As many of you know, the Northwest Chapter will host the 1996 National Convention. Plans are now being formulated and after the June 1995 National Convention a preliminary notice will be posted in the Americal Newsletter. Until then, it is the Great Lakes Chapter show and you are encouraged to attend the Chicago Convention.

Lloyd Morrell  
Chapter Commander

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

#### BLOOD LITERATURE

We will not be reading former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara's new memoir. In it, we are told, he calls the war in Vietnam a mistake. That is all we need to know.

For those of us who were aghast that O.J. Simpson would pen a book in the midst of his defense against charges of double murder, little did we know that only two months later, a man who played a pivotal role in the Vietnam War, which resulted in the death of 1.5 million people---including 58,000 American soldiers---would be confessing his sins and cashing in on them.

Vietnam tore this country apart. In our own family, we had three boys who came of age in that era.

The oldest had joined the Army when the U.S. only had advisers in Vietnam. By the last year of his hitch, the conflict had blossomed into a full war. He volunteered that final year to go to Vietnam. For nine months he fought in the jungles of Southeast Asia, and being the cocky son-of-a-bitch he was, he always volunteered for the most dangerous duty. Two weeks before he was to ship home, he tripped a landmine. He survived, thank God, but it cost him his eyes. That was almost thirty years ago.

For his injury, this oldest son blames no one but himself. He was not drafted, but entered the Army by choice. He chose to go to Vietnam, and also chose to be assigned to reconnaissance, where he would have frequent contact with the enemy.

No one has forced this eldest son to work a day since that helicopter lifted him from a clearing in a Vietnamese village 29 years ago. At first the Veterans Administration refused to give him 100 percent disability. After he hired a lawyer, it recanted and since 1960s he has received a check every month that more than covers the financial needs of his family.

We are angry over the irony that a soldier who lost his eyes in Vietnam had to hire a lawyer to get enough money from the government to feed his family, while the man who sent him and 2 million others into battle had to hire a lawyer to wade through the numerous lucrative offers for his services from boards of corporations.

Like this eldest son, Robert McNamara made mistakes of his own in 1966. And today, almost 30 years later, he has admitted those mistakes, and will profit handsomely from his confession. His profit will come without sacrifice, and without sacrifice, it is blood money. And we will have no part of that. (This editorial was written by Josh Albright, an editor with the Cape Cod Community Newspapers)

Ed Note: I consider the above article the best of many that I have read concerning the book written by McNamara. I would like to hear the views of our Vietnam members concerning this book. Please drop me a note with our views.

Jim Buckle

\*\*\*\*\*

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING YOUR AMERICAL NEWSLETTER WHY NOT GIVE IT TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

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#### ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Americal Division Veterans and 196 LIB Veterans

I am currently being featured in a National Geographic Explorer program, "Vietnam: The Women Who Served", a collection of oral histories, broadcast nationally on the Turner Broadcasting Network. This program documents my year's service with the American Red Cross (1968-69) in south Vietnam and uses many personal photographs and movie film footage throughout the program.

My story, which began one month after my UGA graduation in June, 1968, is also told in the Duke University Press 1990 publication of Landing Zones by James R. Wilson. Also included in the book is the personal narrative of John S. (Jack) Chandler Jr. (A Co. 3/21 Infantry, 196 LIB of Atlanta. I was invited to speak in Chapel Hill at the Carolina Union forum on March 21, 1995.

Also, my American Red Cross uniform, with service medals along with a personal quote, are on display in the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh within an exhibit entitled "400 Years of North Carolina Women's History".

I was recently interviewed for an upcoming (probably May, 1995) article in Southern Living magazine, "Write the Names in Stone", about Vietnam Veterans memorials in selected southern cities.

I am now serving on the Project Agent Orange Committee at the University of North Carolina and as secretary of the local Americal Red Cross Board. I have been appointed by the Governor of North Carolina to serve on the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. I continue to serve on the UNC School of Social Work Advisory Board and the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center Board of Advisors.

Mary Laraine (Larry) Young Hines

Note: Larry, as she was called, served with the Americal in Vietnam is also a member of the ADVA. It will be great if she can send a video or some of the articles for the Americal Museum.

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#### NOW HEAR THIS!

I have written several varieties of this letter over the years but to no avail. Somewhere in your archives is an erroneous list of units of the 11th Brigade as constituted in 1966. The list of units of the 11th Brigade listed on Page 32 of the last issue was incomplete--the 6th Support Battalion was omitted. The list should read:

#### 11th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
3d Battalion, 1st Infantry  
4th Battalion, 3d Infantry  
1st Battalion, 20th Infantry  
Troop E, 1st Cavalry  
6th Military Police Company  
6th Support Battalion

Larry; Thanks for bringing this to my attention and our apologies for leaving the 6th Support Bn. out of previous articles on the 11th LIB.

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

## CATCHUP

Dear Americal Comrades: Just have been getting the pricing together for the 1995 reunion. This is a rough of what we will be doing and all comments are appreciated as we are trying to do things better. Hope that many of you can attend. Don't get much chance to do more then brows the BB lately but always find the comments interesting. Welcome back Doc and glad to hear you are on the mend. Of interest to those of you from the 1/14 Art. Command Sgt. Major Cross of the active 1/14th has been in contact with me and is trying to compile the history of the 1/14th. Any of you that would like to get in contact with him let me know. Also LZ Gator has come up more then a few times of interest in that it is now a VC graveyard. ADVA member John Wills has been back several times and has given me some photos of what it looks like. Just returned from Vietnam Winter fest in New Glarus WS. Took my lumps from all of those Green Bay Packer fans, Terry Bablers Wife Judy even enrolled me in the official Packers fan club and got me a shirt that was very derogatory towards the Bears which I was compelled to wear that evening. I hope to be able to repay them next year. The internet also sounds very promising. Would like to find a couple of pilots 176th minutemen that I used to ride Door-gunner with WO1 Lawrence and WO1 Warren been looking for them for some time.

Dutch DeGroot 69-70  
23RD MP 198TH LIB

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## TROPICAL BARS

I know that the enlisted men really enjoyed seeing you officers "creaming" each other, and they say that we weren't gentlemen. The SP Packs were supposed to be for troops in the boonies who couldn't get to the PX for sundries. The were worth big bucks to the black market. We always hated those Hershey tropical bars. Three boxes of about 36 came in each SP pack so there were always boxes of them around in our tracks until I started tossing them at the VN along the roads. It went like this: We all rode on top of our ACAV APC's, the two machine gunners with their M-60's on back had a 2x12 across the open hatch with lawn chairs so you'd be up and ready, and the TC was up on his 50 so he could see ahead, and I was the medic so I had a lawn chair and rode on the drivers hatch with my M-79 and aid bag leaning on the TC's CAV SHIELD ready to unass the thing or hold on for dear life. We did a lot of traveling on Hwy 1 between Bayonet and Tam Ky and occasionally south to Quang Ngi and anywhere in between. Anyway those APC's, combat loaded, were WFO at about 35MPH on the highway which was fast enough when riding on top. Hershey tropical bars were about 4"x2"x1/4" and would fit in your hand and could be flung somewhat like a frisbe. The game was to use the forward motion of the track and fling these, hard as rock, Tropical bars outward to smack a bicycle rider or mama-san or lamberetta or whatever target seemed appropriate. Extra points were given if you made the shot into the back of a lambratta or knocked a pedestrian off their feet or a bycycle rider into a paddy. They only weighed about an ounce but with the momentum of the forward speed were tricky to aim. Most were total misses. We rationalized this behavior as soon the VN in the AO were all waiving and trying to catch the things as they were thrown, even when unaware, when discovered what was tossed at (to?) them you'd see them waiving (the finger?) for more as

we disappeared into the distance. When the Tropical bars got a little old they got this white chalky coating on them which made them even more unpaletable. Tropical bars were made by Hershey and were supposed to be chocolate but were made so they didn't melt in the tropics, Ergo they didn't melt in your mouth either. They were gritty and tasted like brown chalk. If I remember right there were also M&M's in the SP packs also and were much better liked by the troops. Of the 10 cartons of cigarettes (non-hazardous) the Marlboros were always snapped up quickly, Salems, and Belaires were used for trading and there was always one carton of Camel straights or Luckys which Doc smoked and always an excess of Pall Mall's as few smoked them and there were two cartons in each SP Pack. We'd sometimes toss packs of Pall Malls at the VN also though they weren't as much fun as they were to light. Am I making sense?

Doc Merk 68-69  
23rd MED 198TH

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## MARINES

I have a lot of respect for the Marines, and always appreciated the 3d Div. (?) coming to help out in Hiep Duc. But it was an Americal show. The Marines had, at least initially, a lot of trouble reading their maps. I know their tac. air came close to hitting them a few times. We picked up some of the conversation on a plain FM radio from Siberia once. And I remember clearly that anytime we were called to shoot for the Marines, there was a tremendous waiting period while they were getting clearance. This is no reflection on them - they were new to the area and were trying to call in arty., often close to their own positions, from a different branch of the service. These waiting periods were so long that I can't believe the targets were still there when we shot. They did a great job. But Hiep Duc was an Americal action start to finish.

Barry Kelly 69-70  
C/3/82ND ARTY

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## AMERICAL BULLETIN BOARD

Paul, It is very simple as to why this subject is still standing. The Americal stood up in the face of the enemy so of course we can stand up in the thoughts of one another. This board will eventually become a monster, as more and more people find out that Veterans are on the P\* board. I tell every one I know with a Computer, to ask any friends if they served with the Americal Division in one of the Main Events. I of course mention where they can find us if they have Prodigy and join in when they find out that someone they know was an Americaler and might want to meet up with someone they served with in combat. There is alot of ways of putting people on the boards, but it will take time. Until that time though, there is one consolation, and that is, we still have each other, us the guys that are already on the board, THE LEFT OVER AMERICAL DIVISION. We really talk more often that any group of Americal vets in the nation. (think of it)

Larry Ginsberg 70-71  
523 SIG BN

## WAKE UP CALL

One dismal, damp and hazy morning in the Fall of '69, we arose just prior to the dawn of another day on LZ Max. I was on duty as the main tower guard, and was about to be relieved by the day guard so I could join my buddies in the day's festivities. From my vantage point I could see down into the mess hall which was rapidly filling up with half-awake GI's seeking to get breakfast. As I saw my replacement coming, I got my gear together and prepared to join them. He had barely got one foot on the bottom step to the tower when, BOOM!!! The unmistakable blast of a claymore erupted from the base of the LZ. Instantly all H\*1 broke loose. An M-60 opened up, followed immediately by the crack of small arms, which were answered just as quickly by the all too familiar cackle of an AK-47. From the mess hall below there came a horrendous crash as 50+ men attempted to dive under the mess hall tables at once. Then, as one, they burst out through the doors looking just like dark green toothpaste rapidly squeezed from a tube. Behind them they left a cloud of silverware, paper plates, condiments and leftovers. Tracers rose from the mist, some of them landing entirely too close to the tower, where I and my replacement both huddled. From the ville below us came the sound of mortars firing and then impacting in the mist near the source of the tracers. "Hold your fire!", screamed our CO and others, "there are friendlies out there". Then as quickly as it started, the firing stopped. As it turned out, our ARVN friends from the ville had just ambushed a column of NVA passing along a trail not 200 meters from our wire. Our officers had known about it but assumed that ARVN would come up empty handed as usual and hadn't told us. They weren't empty handed this time. They killed several NVA and captured one without losing any of their own. Later I attempted to get breakfast myself. The mess hall lived up to it's name that morning. It looked like the refuse from a very large food fight. Nobody sat down. Everyone came with their weapon and all their gear and then took their food and left. No one set foot in the mess hall for days after that without their helmet and flak jacket. Amazing how something normally uneventful as getting up and eating breakfast could put a major strain on your adrenal glands in a combat zone. (Not to mention your sphincter). One H\*1 of a way to get your stomach started in the morning. Peace, Big Ed

James Eddington 69-70  
C/39 ENG

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## SENSORS

Mike, the electronic sensors you described sounded really high tech. In 1969 we had heard they had stuff like that in Danang. Out at LZ Ross and Hawkhill, we had the trip wire flares and tin cans with rocks inside wired to the concertina. We really got the willys when we had a couple Chu Hois give us a demonstration on how they used to crawl into the wire on dark nights and fill the cans with sand and cut the trip wires in preparation for a sapper attack. We made it a regular routine to check the tin cans regularly. Got nervous when we found some with sand inside.

Spencer Baba 68-69  
2/1 196TH

## LZ's

Hi Rick the draftee grunt

No, I believe the 3/21 actually came in country in the spring of 67. Most of the guys were telling stories of time spent around Te Ninh and providing support for the take over from the marines of Chu Lai. The AO around LZ center was fairly new to everyone and the LZ itself looked pretty new at the time. Have a picture that looks like the bunkers weren't even complete the day I arrived. C Co. was leaving the hill the day I got there and I didn't ask a lot of questions being the new kid on the block. I have had a hard time getting Death Valley. Bookstore told me it was never written until I showed him the jacket from "The Magnificent Bastards".

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

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## SIBERIA

Just time for a quick reply. I was Arty liaison to the 4/31 Inf on West the first 4 months of 1970, then commanded C Btry, 3/82 Arty and FSB Siberia in the Hiep Duc Valley from early May to Oct, '70. Barry Kelly, who was one of my gun section chiefs is on this board, as is Gene Lebon, who I didn't personally know then, but who was a medic to D Co, 4/31 Inf, which was on West and Siberia at times when not in the valley. Doug Lackey, who pops in and out here, was on LZ Karen, a small RF-PF outpost, less than one Km from Siberia but I never met him there, although we now butt heads occasionally in the practice of law. There are a number of other folks on this board who served in my immediate area but who I didn't have the pleasure of meeting then. Glad you have joined us and hope you can stick around. I live in Tallahassee.

Michael Twomey Sr. 69-70  
C/3/82ND Arty

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## SHARKS

I was at Duc Pho from May 67 until June 68. In Dec 67 I was flying UH-1C SHARK gunships with the 174th Assault Helicopter Company. Remember the red-and-white teeth? Were you with the medic unit near the dustoff pad that was next to the 174th company area and our flight line? That was called DOLPHIN and SHARK Park. It was near the airfield control tower. I flew a lot of wounded into that dustoff pad when I was flying slicks until Nov 67. Also flew in once as a patient. If you were near 174th and remember the one tent being converted into an "armored" hootch with PSP and sandbagged roofs in Dec 67 (we were the first and there was only one in Dec), I lived in that hootch. I stayed at Duc Pho through TET of 68 and flew guns up until I left in June 68. We have a couple of Americal medics on-line.

Jim McDaniel--SHARK 4 67-68  
174 AHC

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## REUNION

## E/51 LRRPS &amp; G/75 RANGERS

Received the Americal Newsletter today and enjoyed catching up on Americal news. Our Association will be holding its sixth reunion in Florida, one week after the Americal National reunion planned for Chicago. Would appreciate your assistance in getting our reunion some press coverage in the next Americal Newsletter. I have enclosed an announcement to this effect.

The men and families of Company E, 51st Infantry Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) and Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry will be holding a reunion from June 29th through July 2nd at the Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Under the banner of Co. G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association, this reunion marks the sixth consecutive get together by the Americal Division LRRPs and RANGERS. We look forward to see all of our old buddies and new friends at Ft. Myers.

Company G (RANGER)  
75th Infantry Association

Carmichael CA 95608

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## D COMPANY 1st BATTALION 6th INFANTRY 198 LIB

My name is Leandro (Lee) Navarro Jr. The reason I am writing this note is to see if I can locate somebody that was with me in Vietnam.

I was in Vietnam from August of 1968 thru May of 1969. That's when I got wounded while going to set up for an ambush. As far as I know there were about four or five more people that got wounded and maybe one was killed also. I don't recall his name, but I called him Tennessee, because that was his home state. This happened in the Quang Tin area. We were sent to the 312th EVAC Hospital. I was with the 198th Co. D 1st Bn 6th Inf.

Thank you  
Lee Navarro Jr.  
[redacted]  
Venus Tx 76084

\*\*\*\*\*

## 198 LIB MP &amp; HDQ CO. 11 LIB

I have about 500 color slides in Minolta 16mm format, Kodak 126 format and the old standby 135mm format. I put together a small album of pictures made from the 126 and 135 formats. No services are available to make pictures from the Minolta 16mm color slides.

The pictures are not combat related and I know combat group of men pictures are more interesting. The pictures are one man's experience, mine. If the Museum can use them fine or use them for whatever purpose needed like the Americal Newsletter. Inside the album is a buckle I took off a Viet Cong suspect. He was turned over to the South Vietnamese National Police to be sent to a POW camp. Should have made a slide but sometimes it's dangerous to look away for a second when searching a group of Vietnamese for contraband.

I have some brand new crisp uncirculated South

Vietnamese paper money but don't know if this is what you are looking for to place in the Americal Museum. Anyway I hope you can use the pictures. I won't be around too long as I have a terminal illness.

I don't know if you have any members who were with the P.M.O. & MP Platoon of HQ Co. 11th LIB Oct 67 to Oct 68 as someone who could write up a story could raise eyebrows about the brigade's P.M. and OPS Officer in the P.M.O. 11th LZ Bronco. I am not a story writer but it would be like the scandal Lt. Calley and CPT Ernest Medina had with My Lai job, only no deaths were included, just corrupt people. Also the P.M. of the 198th LIB was a mean guy hated by all but he left about two weeks after I was assigned to HQ Co. 198th LIB. This was the type of excitement we had. No combat with the 11th LIB but I was on the receiving end of mortar rounds at LZ Bayonet (no damages). My combat experience was in Korea in the Hwachon Reservoir-Kwanju Mountains of North Korea with C Co. 19th Inf Regt 24th Division, April 1951 to February 1952. The wounds I received, bullets and shrapnel forced me being reassigned to MP corps, combat M.P.S. and correctional MP's (stockades) from which I retired with 100% disability.

I was born in Bellingham Mass went to Lowell, Mass at age 10 left there in 1950, went back as I am a conservative independent realist while Mass is 80% liberals. Well that's me in a few word

Thanks for listening  
Michael A Antosh

Since my name was published as a new member in the Sept-Oct newsletter and the far west chapter I haven't received any cards or letters. Guess no one from the MP Platoons of the 198th LIB and 11th LIB are members that were with me during my tenure in the unit's.

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## MONTAGNARDS

Bill-I knew you were a good egg, thanks from somebody who really liked the Montagnards. When I first went to the 4th Div.-and was still an 11b10- the grunts told me a story about two guys that got lost in the jungle on night patrol. The next morning their unit got hit and they retreated up the valley to get more support. In any event the two men became disoriented and were separated in triple canopy jungle. I think its been mentioned a number of times in our discussions the importance of knowing where you are at all times. There was a happy ending to the story-two Montagnards were sent to see if they could find them. Two of 1/12 Companies had searched for a day and half with no luck. The Montagnards showed up at dusk of the second evening with couple of tired grunts. When I first heard the story I thought it was part of Valley Mystic (rat stories) I heard the story several times after that, from guys that weren't into tall tales so I believed them. It was also the first time I heard about the Ashu Valley. I learned a lot more about that place after I was transferred to the Gambling Guns and MOS was changed to 67A1F. Be well

Ed Klosterman 70-71  
71/14 AVN BN

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER? DO IT NOW!

1st BATTALION 14th FIELD ARTILLERY  
Lineage and Heraldic Data

Constituted 7 September 1927 in the Regular Army as Battery A, 14th Field Artillery, an element of the 7th Division. Activated 1 December 1934 at Fort Riley, Kansas. Inactivated 1 July 1936 at Fort Riley, Kansas. (14th Field Artillery relieved 16 October 1939 from assignment to the 7th Division.) Activated 15 July 1940 at Fort Benning, Georgia, as an element of the 2d Armored Division.

Reorganized and redesignated 8 January 1942 as Battery A, 14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

Reorganized and redesignated 1 July 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Howitzer Battalion, 14th Artillery, an element of the 2d Armored Division (organic elements concurrently constituted and activated.) Redesignated 8 July 1963 as the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery. Relieved 12 May 1967 from assignment to the 2d Armored Division and assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade. Relieved 15 February 1969 from assignment to the 198th Infantry Brigade and assigned to 23d Infantry Division. Redesignated 1 September 1971 as the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery. Relieved 30 November 1971 from assignment to the 23d Infantry Division and assigned to the 2d Armored Division.

## Campaign Participation Credit

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| World War II            | Vietnam             |
| Sicily (with arrowhead) | Countoff, Phase III |
| Normandy                | Tet Countoffensive  |
| Northern France         | Countoff, Phase IV  |
| Rhineland               | Countoff, Phase V   |
| Ardennes-Alsace         | Countoff, Phase VI  |
| Central Europe          | Tet 69/Countoff     |
|                         | Summer-Fall 1969    |
|                         | Winter-Spring 1970  |
|                         | Sanctuary Countoff  |
|                         | Countoff, Phase VII |
|                         | Consolidation I     |

## Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation (Army). Streamer embroidered NORMANDY. (14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion cited; WD GO 108, 1945)

Belgian Fourragere 1940 (14th Field Artillery Battalion cited; DA GO 43, 1950)

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the ARDENNES (14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion cited; DA GO 43, 1950)

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in BELGIUM (14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion cited; DA GO 43, 1950)

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 - 1970 (1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, cited; DA GO 42, 1972)

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11TH LIB HDQ - HDQ CO. 198 LIB

I am Michael Antosh, I just joined up. I was with the 11th LIB, HQ Co, from October 1967 to mid June 1968 and Mid June 1968 to October 1968 with HQ Co, 198 LIB. I have about 400 color slides of the area Bong Son, Duc Pho, Quang Ngai, Binh Son and Chu Lai. I was with The River South (198th) crew

(Patrol) mid August 1968 into November 1968 and I am trying to mark those slides of this area. I was wondering if you had a complete map that would show the name of The River we called River South. It flows through Binh Son to The Delta just south of the CLDC or the Chu Lai defense center. If possible also the village on the south side of the river or the village. Our patrol area was from the Delta to Binh Son. My HQ Co. of the 198th LIB was at LZ Bayonet located just across the highway next to the SW sector of the CLDC.

If you can get me a complete map of the villages rivers (names on it) I would appreciate it and let me know the cost, postage etc.

The Son Tra Khuc River flows through Quang Ngai north of the main part of town and the next town Binh Son between Quang Ngai and Chu Lai has the next river whose name I need. Hope my bad writing is helpful as I'm in bad shape, had ensipheles of the face, 3 cardiac arrests, 2 heart attacks, arthritis, pinched nerves in the feet-all a result over the past 17 years of bungling military doctors at Fitzsimmons. So my cardiologist who was deeply angered had to totally disable me.

Also I notice you and James Buckle are from Mass. I also hail from Mass, a native of Bellingham but I spent about 6 years in Lowell going to a parochial school. I left Mass in 1950 met a Robert Johnson from Somerville Mass in Korea. We both got hit June 1971. He never came back to the unit. I did get hit 4 more times but was able to stay in so I did and never returned to Mass.

Also, if you meet Mr. Buckle tell him my German wife's maiden was Buckle, she's descended from a Baron on her mothers side.

Hope you can help me or put a note in the next newsletter about my request. Let me know of any cost.

Thanks Much  
Michael Antosh  
[redacted]  
Aurora CO 80011-7630

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Dear Mr Castronova:

Would you please publish the attached notice in the Vietnam News Network section of the Americal Newsletter.

I would like to get in contact with anyone that served with B Co. 1/52, 198 Lt. Infantry Brigade from Ft. Hood, Texas and landed at Chu Lai on October 25, 1967.

I have some photographs that I would like help in identifying. I remember their nick-names, but failed to write down their names and rank.

I would appreciate any help and information. Thank you.

Sincerely  
Douglas C McGarraugh  
[redacted]  
Perryton, Texas 79070  
Membership No. 461

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HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER? DO IT NOW!



MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER No. 78

On Sunday, April 30th 1995, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and close to one million people will celebrate the Silver Anniversary of Walk America-the first, biggest and best walking event in the nation. Locally, to help celebrate 25 years on the road to healthier babies, I will be walking as a part of the AT&T Telephone Pioneer Team in the Lawrence Walk (see enclosure about last year's walk).

The March of Dimes Walk America took its first steps 25 years ago in 1970. Remember 1970? Audiences went to see the films Woodstock, Patton and M.A.S.H. The Baltimore Orioles defeated the Cincinnati Reds 4-1 to win the World Series. The "Midi", a mid-calf length skirt, was rejected by consumers. Paul McCartney announced he was leaving the Beatles, and the Mary Tyler Moore show made its debut on TV. For me, 1970 meant the return to the United States, after a tour of duty in Vietnam, and the beginning of the rest of my life. As a long-time veteran advocate, I have a deep appreciation for groups or organizations that stick to a basic philosophy and go about their business. The children of this country are our future, and healthy children can develop into productive citizens. For 25 years the March of Dimes has raised funds to foster the health of babies and children. Simply put, I believe in those basic ideas.

The challenge for me is to improve upon last year's totals, both as an individual and as a team member of the AT&T Telephone Pioneers. As a team, the Telephone Pioneers finished #2 in the State of Massachusetts, with close to \$15,000 raised. It's my belief that with a little more effort from all my team members we can be #1 in the state. I can only reach my goals with the help of your pledge to the March of Dimes. Your donation is tax deductible. Please make my goals a reality by giving from the heart to a great cause, our children....our future.

Yours truly  
Dudley Farquhar  
Chapter Advisor  
AT&T Telephone Pioneers

P.S. Please make checks payable to: March of Dimes

I'm trying to become the 1st Nam Vet to lead the walk, 2 years in a row here in Massachusetts.  
GO AMERICAL MAN

Dudley: Sorry that we did not receive this article in time for the last Newsletter. Please send a follow-up and let us know how you made out.  
Editor.

HEY GUYS---IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SEND DUDLEY A DONATION TO HELP THE CAUSE.

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1st BATTALION 1st CAVALRY

The 1st/1st Cav Assn which was attached to the Americal Division in Vietnam is looking forward to the Americal National Reunion in Chicago, IL on June 22-25, 1995.

Our Assn started in 1992 and at this time has about 165 members nationwide and has another 300 Cav addresses of others. I am telling everyone I know about this reunion. I hope to have many there.

I am heading to Florida for the Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Melbourne. I will promote the Americal Reunion to all the Americal while I am there.

I am sending the Americal Assn our quarterly newsletter which the Americal may use anything in the newsletter for their own newsletter. I am proud of being an Americal Veteran. I joined in 1990 and was at the Chicago Reunion in 1990 which after that reunion started the 1/1 Cav Assn.

If anyone wants information on the 1/1 Cav Assn, write: Terry Babler, W5889 Durst Rd, New Clarus, WI 53574.

We'll see you all in Chicago. Look for the 1st/1st Cav banner in the hospitality room.

Also, Winterfest R & R Vietnam Veterans Rally in 1996 attached.

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#### 11th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

I am a former member of the 11th LIB (67-68), Retired Command Sergeant Major (USA) member of many Veterans Organizations to include the ADVA, and am employed as a National Veterans Service Officer.

I read the ADVA Newsletter with great interest. In a recent response to one of our brethren, you indicated he should contact a "Service Officer" from one of the National Service Organizations that represent Veteran Claims with the VA.

This is of particular interest to me, as I travel throughout our State as a Service Officer and NSO representing Veteran Claims to the VA. I find that the majority of our Veterans have little or no knowledge of what rights, entitlements, benefits, programs and facilities are available to them and their dependents.

I would encourage all Veterans to associate themselves a National Veterans Service Organization for several reasons; most importantly is Representation to the VA for claims and gaining information concerning Veteran entitlements and like programs.

This Representation is available without cost. Each State has a National Service Organization Service Officers employed for the expressed purpose of Representing Veterans in the VA claims process.

Secondly, NOW more than ever. All Veterans need the National Service Organizations to speak for them and represent them in the political arena at both State and Federal levels to ensure retention of benefit programs, medical services, facilities, and the myriad of Veterans entitlements.

We are our brothers keeper.

Respectfully  
G.J. "Jerry" Schleining  
Gresham, Oregon 97030

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

NOW HEAR THIS!

"Big Al" Fuchs gave me your address, and said to say "Hi." I had asked Al for a contact with the Americal who might be of assistance in my search for information on what I call the "uncounted casualties" of our war in Southeast Asia. By way of introduction, I was a grunt with the 199th Infantry Brigade 1969/70. I ran into Al in the course of getting into the MIA issue about two years ago.

Specifically, I am trying to get some idea of how many wounded were evacuated from Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia for treatment elsewhere and subsequently died of their wounds. I keep finding cases of people who died of wounds inflicted in the war who are not counted as a fatality because of where they died. These people deserve to have their names on the Wall.

I know there have been at least 252 additions to the Wall since its dedication in 1982. Many, if not all of these here are examples of this belated recognition. I know of two cases: one took a man's sister two years of begging and threatening to get her brother added (he died in Colorado in 1972 of a head wound inflicted in 1970); the other took Senator Dole six months of harassing the Pentagon (he died at Ft Myers in 1987 of wounds inflicted in 1967). How many others gave up or never made the attempt?

I have made numerous Freedom of information requests of the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy, and they all tell me there is no question that they would pick up such deaths as war casualties. Yet my little brigade has only 635 names on the Wall out of over 700 who died in-country or after medical evacuation. I think we have a problem.

Do you have any such records for the Americal or do you know where I could get them? Appreciate anything you can do on this.

Roger Soist  
Lilburn GA 30247-4580

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LOOKING FOR 11 LIB AND 198 LIB

HQ Co 1th LIB and HQ CO. 198th LIB 1968

I would like to know if Lt. Conlin, SSG Fugate or any other NCO knows the whole story of the removal of Maj. Pittman, Lt. Vanoni and SFC Hairgrove from the PMO, 11th LIB at LZ Bronco and reassigned to Americal HQ's in Chu Lai.

Questions for Lt. Royce, SFC Hager or other NCO with PMO, 198th LIB: Were the October 1968 Monsoon Storm damaged bunkers and the floating dock at River South rebuilt? Were the brake lines of the M151, HQ 184 repaired? Was the reconstructed, that was assigned to River South, Engineer's Floating Bridge Ramp recovered from the bottom of the Son Tra, (River South) delta? The one sunk while doing circles in the bay area. Hey only you good guys, please clear up the suspense for me. I have color slides of the Oct 1968 Monsoon storm's destruction of the River South compound. Need pictures anyone?

Michael Antosh  
Aurora CO 8001-7630

THE WALL SOUTH

Veterans Memorial Park is located on 5 1/2 acres of land overlooking Pensacola Bay, Florida. It is the only memorial park to honor the Veterans who fought in all of the American wars.

The park now has a memorial to World War 1 and a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is known as The Wall South.

The Wall South measures 256 feet long. Each wing measures 128 feet in length. The 64 name panels (32 panels per wing) list all of the 58,204 men and women Veterans' names who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Among the memorial names are 8 women nurses known as "Angels on the Wall". The names listed represent people from the United States and citizens from 19 other countries.

The Veterans Memorial Park is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The park provides benches, handicap parking and access and lighting for night visitation. It is located on Bay Front Parkway at 9th Avenue next to the Gulf Power Building.

This is a non-profit organization whose continuing support depends entirely on contributions from concerned and patriotic individuals and organizations.

Tax deductible dollars donations may be made to:

Vietnam Veterans Wall South Foundation  
Pensacola, FL 32522-7886

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"YOUNG GUYS" REQUEST FOR "NAM ARTICLES"

I commend you on your efforts regarding the last Americal Newsletter; and am responding concerning one of my projects, A Brief History of The Professionals. 1/46th 196th Lt. Inf. Bgd.

Gary Noller has written me already with some personal feelings and items, quotable for background material. I have written to seven professionals who will inform others about the Americal Reunion in Chicago.

I would appreciate any help and information about the Batalion(s) that you may have. Since I have also written other Vietnam Vets after reading the holiday edition, perhaps you could mention in the next newsletter that I am compiling information about the Professionals and could use the help of others in a Battalion "History"- "From a Professional Perspective".

I am planning on attending the Chicago Convention-Reunion and would enjoy talking to anyone willing to contribute information.

By mentioning this, perhaps those who cannot attend would be motivated to write, as Gary has.

I will be contributing a short story soon for future editions. You may use it accordingly.

Thanks  
David E Williams  
"Doc"

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## AGENT ORANGE

Enclosed is a copy of an article that appeared in the 12 February issue of Stars and Stripes concerning the case of my late husband, Ronald Lawrence. I have submitted an article to you that I had written, but I thought you might want to see this as well.

There are two discrepancies in this article that I will clear up: one, my husband's date of death was June 18, 1993, and the date of release of the Inspector General's report was January 13, 1994-not last month.

I would appreciate hearing from you as to when the next issue of the newsletter will be published. I would also appreciate receiving a copy of it, as I'm not sure how long the membership application takes to be accepted. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Linda Lawrence  
Parma Oh 44130-5220

## 'Bedsore As Large As Baseballs'

Accusations Perist Over Veteran's Death  
Despite VA's Finding of Proper Care

By Sheryl Henderson  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

It's been more than two years since Ronald Lawrence, a Vietnam veteran diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, died in a VA hospital. But controversy surrounding his treatment is still raging following a VA inspector general's report that cleared two VA hospitals of charges of negligence.

Despite wounds that appeared to be large bedsore discovered after his death, the inspector general's report of the two Cleveland-area VA hospitals that treated Lawrence found that he had received proper care.

Alleging there had been a cover-up, Linda Lawrence, Ronald's wife filed a multi-million dollar federal tort claim last month accusing the hospitals of gross malpractice and negligence she claims resulted in her husband's wrongful death and suffering.

Lawrence, whose death sparked widespread media attention and criticism over the state of VA health care after gruesome pictures of his body were aired on local television, was receiving treatment at the Brecksville and Wade Park VA medical centers in Cleveland. Prompted by public outrage and the urgings of Ohio legislators, the inspector general investigated the hospitals and concluded in January that Lawrence's "bedsore" were a result of natural causes related to his illness and medication, and were not the result of negligent care.

"Mr Lawrence had bedsore as large as baseballs, and the number one cause of the bedsore is negligence," said Ronald Baker, a veterans activist who videotaped Lawrence several hours after his death. "[The VA] thought they were going to bury him with those holes in him without anyone finding out. It's just sick."

Charles Cook, staff assistant to the directory of

the Cleveland VA hospital said Lawrence' case was "unfortunate," and that accusations of abuse and neglect "did not come from trained professionals."

"Our medical staff did everything it could to make him comfortable," said Cook. "The medical care was appropriate, timely and compassionate."

But some veterans refuse to accept the investigation's results, and have accused the hospitals of falsifying medical records. At a press conference last month, George Wesley who conducted the inspector general's probe said medical records showed Lawrence had been turned every two hours to avoid bedsores. Wesley could not be reached for comment.

"No one in their right mind could look at that individual and claim those records had not been falsified," said Baker. "[Lawrence] was put in a corner and left to rot like a vegetable."

Catherine Greene, of the Vietnam Veterans of America, said the organization remained unconvinced of the inspector general's conclusions.

"The condition of the body was deplorable," said Greene, who saw the videotape. "The holes on his sides were so deep that both of his hip sockets were exposed."

The Inspector General's Office currently is investigating two other VA patients, both of whom died after receiving insulin injections although neither was diabetic.

According to Arthur Bernklau of Veterans Due Process, such cases of alleged VA malpractice are wide spread.

"The simple answer is they've killed him," said Bernklau, a veterans-issues radio talk show host in New York. "The Inspector General's Office has completely white-washed everything."

A spokesman for Rep Martin Hoke, the Ohio congressman who pushed for the federal probe of Lawrence's treatment said the legislator was assisting in providing documents crucial to the tort claim.

Hoke said he was satisfied with the way the probe was handled, but believed a few incidents needed answering. These include two times Lawrence managed to wander several miles from a VA facility before he was found.

Samuel Butcher, Lawrence's attorney, said he would either appeal the case or sue in federal district court if the VA did not respond with a reasonable settlement in six months.\*

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## SEEKING

Seeking Short Stories About the Vietnam War for ultimate publication, that are humorous, bizarre or poignant. Financial incentive offered. Details: Bob Michel, [redacted] Alexandria, VA 22303. Phone [redacted]; Fax [redacted]

Sincerely  
Bob Michel  
Ltc. USA(Ret)

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

## AMERICAL SOLDIERS SOUGHT BY GROUP

The first American troops to enter the ground war in World War II were part of the Americal Division of the U.S. Army sent to New Caledonia in March of 1942.

Today the Americal Division Veterans Association is seeking out veterans who were in the division. Ernest B Carlson of Fredericksburg, commander of the association's south mid-west regional chapter that includes all of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, is trying to get more Americal vets to join up, especially those who were part of the division during the Vietnam War.

"We need these younger vets to come and take the place of the old guard from the original Americal," said Carlson, a World War II veteran.

The Americal Division has never been an active force on U.S. soil. The division was originally formed on the southern Pacific Island of New Caledonia made up of members of the Massachusetts, Illinois and North Dakota National Guards. Their first task was to support the "Free French" in their fight against the Vichy French, allies of the Axis forces in Europe, to keep them from taking over the island. They would later become the first Army troops to enter the fighting on Guadalcanal and Bougainville and went on to become the main force in the liberation of the Southern Phillipine Islands.

The division was disbanded in Japan after becoming the first U.S. forces to enter that country for occupation, Carlson said. In fact, the Americal Division was to be part of the first wave for a ground invasion of Japan had the country not surrendered. They were later reformed in Korea, the Panama Canal zone and Vietnam, but were disbanded each time after the fighting stopped.

The name Americal was combination of the words American and Caledonia and was given to the division after Private First Class David Fonseca won a naming contest.

Carlson said the division took part in some of the worst fighting in Vietnam and had 11 members win the Congressional Medal of Honor there.

Today Carlson said the old guard members from World War II are dying off and the association needs to attract new members from the Vietnam era.

"A lot of them (Vietnam vets) were treated so damn bad when they came out that they just stuck their heads in the sand," Carlson said. "They are just now getting to where they will talk and meet with their buddies. Of course, we were the same way after World War II, there just wasn't as much publicity."

Carlson said the association currently has several thousand members nationwide and about 18 or 20 members in the immediate area.

"We want to make contact with these vets," Carlson said. "They know who they are, they need us and we need them."

Carlson can be contacted by calling (210)997-9486. Gary Gallagher is the chapter representative in Kerrville.

By: Mike W Thomas  
Kerrville (TX) Daily Times

I ran this article on Veterans Day and had good results! I am still trying hard to gather any kind of items from WW II for the September expansion of the Nimitz Museum. National won't turn loose of anything so I am forced to beg anything the individual veterans would care to offer. They are expanding The Museum, by 24,000 sq ft and on September 2-3 -'95, will dedicate it. There will be a HUGH military parade-they say over 500 entries, and I will have more on that soon.

Your buddy  
Ernie Carlson

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## THE NEW WALL

There I was standing at the Wall for the third year in a row, getting that same old knot in my stomach. Part of it because I may not have seen the combat that others have, maybe some that "survivor guilt" stuff is getting to me or I didn't do enough to help my fellow Veteran. But maybe deep down inside I am still angry that I never got my parade, and even more so for the parade not given to the 58,132 names on that black wall.

But right then and there it finally hit me as if The Wall itself fell upon me. Here are all these people from all over the world marching up and down the walkway in front of The Wall, an endless parade of people night and day all year long.

The 58,132 names on The Wall are getting their parade! A Parade of people paying homage to those whose names are etched in the stone so black. Not only does the parade come to them, but they are also left gifts and mementos by the passerbys. Beer, cigarettes, cards, Father's Day cards, birth announcements, sandwiches, radios, TV's, audio tapes, video tapes, cake, letters, poems, articles of clothing, and even money.

Their family and friends come by to say hi, and how much they are missed back home and on the job. They talk about old times, the good and the bad...They are told of the progress of their kids, family members and friends in the community. The people whose names are etched on that wall are more a part of our daily lives than any person just being placed into the ground. We talk to them, we sing to them, we even write them letters.

Now when I walk down that path that passes all those names, I too realize that I have come home, because I finally did get my parade. I get to march in front of a Grandstand with over 58,000 strong and I can almost hear them loudly cheering me on, telling me to continue their fight for our American way of life, and asking me in a hushed voice, to keep a close watch over their children.

I am both happy and sad when I walk down that path in front of The Wall. Happy that the parade never ends for them, and sad that we cannot walk again side by side.

By: P. G. Meskin, FL

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REUNION REUNION REUNION REUNION

ALPHA COMPANY - 1st BATTALION - 20th INFANTRY

Arlington, Texas June 23 - 25, 1995

Info call: Mark Cook [redacted]

My Godchild, Khan, near Hiep Duc today

Roddy Stinson  
San Antonio Express-News

I have three godchildren-Jan, Matthew and Khan. they live in Atlanta, Ga. Their father is a longtime friend.

Khan is Vietnamese. He came to the States in 1982 at age 11.

His story is the stuff movies are made of.

While attempting to escape by boat from Vietnam, Khan and his father were momentarily separated, communist soldiers appeared. Shots were fired. And the pilot of the boat gunned the engine and sped away. Khan was in the boat. His father was left on the dock. (He spent two years in a "re-education camp.")

Three weeks later, Khan and his fellow refugees-hungry, thirsty and penniless after being robbed by pirates-landed in Thailand.

From there, Khan was sent to the Phillipines, and after a year in a refugee camp, he flew to Atlanta to meet his foster parents.

Skip to 1995...

Khan, now 24, is one of the most intelligent, courteous and personable young people I know. He recently graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in business, and he is holding down two jobs and saving money so he can help support his mother, father, two brothers and a sister, who hope to immigrate to the United States next year.

In 1993, Khan returned to Vietnam for a reunion with his family. I have seen a video of the celebration, and the pride in his parents' eyes is unforgettable.

A couple of weeks ago, Khan returned to Vietnam for the third time, and as I write this, he is at the home of his family in a town near Da Nang.

Hiep Duc is also near Da Nang.

I mention that fact because of a list of names I received in the mail last week.

On August 14, while the country was celebrating the 25th anniversary of Woodstock, I wrote a column in memory of the Americans who fought and died in Vietnam.

In the process, I did some research and found that during the week of Woodstock (Aug.11-19, 1969) "about 200" U.S. troops were killed. I specifically note:

"(In one battle on Aug 17) American troops came upon a force of 1,200 North Vietnamese ready to attack a refugee camp at Hiep Duc. Savage fighting raged in the sector. Sixteen Americans were killed and 66 wounded. Two companies of the Americal Division's 196th Light Infantry sustained 40 percent of the casualties in the fighting."

The column was read by Ernie Carlson, a World War 11 veteran who served in the Americal Division and who now lives in Fredericksburg.

Carlson decided he would like to do a little more to honor the 196th's soldiers, and during the past six months, he has spent a lot of time trying to identify the men who died at Hiep Duc.

Through personal research and with the help of other veterans, he has compiled the following list of Americal soldiers killed Aug 17-18, 1969:

William Gooding, Edison, N.J.; James Hurst, Jacksonville, Fla; Frederick Mezzatesta, Whitesboro, NY; Matthew Peterson, Florence, S.C.; Jay Webster, Lititz, Pa; Rodney Engel, Doniphan Neb; Robert Fox, Beardstown, ILL; Mark Grigsby, Foxboro, Mass; Gary Harvey, Seattle Wash; Gerald Henry, Landis, Ark; Edwin Hackenberry, East Waterford, Pa; David Lewis, Cleves, Ohio; Vincent Masciale, Jacksonville, Fla; Douglas Merrill, St Paul, Minn; Clifford Seals, Eufaula, Okla; Thomas Stradtman, St Cloud, Minn; Paul Vanderboom, Fond Du Lac, Wis.

The oldest Sgt. Mark Grigsby, was 22, the youngest Pfc David Lewis was 19.

A lot of folks believe those valiant young soldiers gave their lives for nothing. And, I suppose, that's why the country remembers the kids who cavorted at Woodstock instead of the men who died at Hiep Duc.

At one time, I simply might have shrugged off such a view. But getting to know Khan has given me a different perspective of the sacrifices Americans made in Southeast Asia.

Now, every time someone picks and pokes at the weed patch that was the Vietnam War, I point out that here and there a flower came out of the blood soaked ground.

In the cosmic scheme of life, death and history, that may not amount to very much.

Or it may be everything.

To leave a message for Roddy Stinson, call ExpressLine at [redacted] and punch 4408.

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ARE YOU HERE  
HQ & CO A 23RD MEDICAL BATALION  
CHU LAI JUNE 1969

HQS 1 CO. A 23RD MED BTLN.  
CHU LAI JUNE 69  
ARE YOU HERE?



Part of my company

SFC Harold Kardonick  
Mess Sgt

Tamarac FL 33321

VIETNAM BUDDY DIDN'T FORGET

December 24,1994 we received a box from James Boston in Warminster, Pa. Enclosed were Vietnam pictures. We'd lost all ours in a 1975 house fire. Also enclosed were a list of phone numbers to try and locate Roger Christian,"Homer." Our 3rd call was his Mom and 4th his wife. I had written to Brenda all the time they were in Vietnam. He was gone but Brenda had him call numbers and say it was "Homer." It was fantastic after looking for him for so many years. I'd advertised in the Americal newsletter, VFW and American Legion magazines, called everyone I could think of and wrote letters everywhere.

What a great and wonderful X-Mas present! December 30th Carl flew to Knoxville Tn and January 2nd his brother took him to Churchill,Tn to meet Roger and Brenda. They had a great reunion and spent 4 days together. Brenda found some Vietnam pictures and papers of Roger and Carl even Roger didn't know she still had. They were both in the motor pool. We're getting reprints made of the pictures.

They were stationed at Hawk Hill LZ 1970-71. A Co. 26 Engr. 23rd Inf. Div. 196 LIB Americal Division. They would like a company roster from there dated between January and May 1 1971. They now are hoping to find some friends.

Keep looking for that buddy you never know when something will turn up and you'll be talking to him or her.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this Reunion possible.

Carl and Judy Peterson

Opal SD 57765

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LOOKING FOR

Thank you for sending me a copy of the November-December Americal Newsletter per my inquiry. I have enclosed my initial dues of \$12.00 and look forward to future publications. Please list me as a new member.

If possible, please place the following in your Vietnam News Network category.

I arrived at LZ Bayonet in July 69 as part of the 1/14 Artillery. A couple days later, I was assigned to Charlie Company 1/6 Infantry, 198 LIB, as a RTO for the forward observer, Lt. Albert Rocamora. The Recon Sergeants name was Stuart Brehm. I also spent about two weeks later in the year with Bravo Company in the same capacity on a mission out west. In October or November of 69 I was assigned as the FO to Delta Company until my replacement arrived a few months later. During this same time frame I also had the pleasure and honor of personally meeting the Brigade Commander, Col. Joe Clemons, and at that time a relatively unknown Battalion Commander by the name of LTC Norman Schwarzkopf. I would appreciate hearing from individuals that may remember me. I have a few photos but no names to go with them.

Thank you.

Sincerely  
Doug Burnett

Hartsburg MO 65039

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ROCKETS LIKE RAIN

I would like to respond to Dale Reich's letter "Rockets Like Rain" I remember that day as if it was yesterday. As a medic with D 3/1 11 BDE it was a night of fear. I must have a guardian angel, because so many times during my tour, things happened to me and for some reason I made it back. Dale mentions a surgeon who lost most of his right hand. His name is Dr Irving Gold,from Detroit,Mi.

My hooch was next to his by the aid station. When the rockets rained down on us that night, something told me not to wait. I bolted for the door with a bunch of other medics. A large explosion knocked us down as we approached the door. One medic was wounded and we carried him to the bunker. While we worked on the wounded medic, a few minutes went by and I soon realized I was also hit in the back.

Later at sunrise I returned back from the hospital to check the damage. I was shocked to see that my room took a direct hit. Unfortunately Dr. Gold's hooch was next to mine and he was badly injured. I still believe someone watched over me there. I was one of the lucky ones to live to tell about it.

Sincerely

Bob(Doc) Lomabardo

D 3/1 11BDE Duc Pho/23 Med Chu Lai  
North Haven, Ct

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VIETNAM TOUR

Roland,

My Vietnam Tour was diverse as I experienced four distinct phases. Phase one was an Eng Machine Gunners Assistant under Steve Glover E-5. Phase two was as a cross-trained combat medic, first as a platoon then Company Corpman, walking & working with The "Old Man", who was younger than I. Phase III found "Doc" Williams as Company Clerk back in Chu Lai. My "Radar O'Reilly" days lasted 3 months, and with 89 days left Phase II found me as Brigade Liaison in Thien Phuoc: with radio & deuce and one half at the air strip working water transportation for the 196th.

My Vietnam experience provided me with a vast volume of information on how men work together under combat situations. It provided me with an ongoing curiosity about "Vietnam Experience" and since our last BGD (196) Reunion and BTN Reunion(1989) in St. Louis & Chicago I have taken up the task of "putting the pieces together".

Because I put this valuable experience out of my mind & even denied it for almost 18 years like many others a part of my life was turned off in my mind. As we know this is considered a coping mechanism allowing many of us to "go on with our normal LIFE".

Many of our comrades in battle do no reunite because of this. they ask "us" not to write or call. I understand their right & respect it. But if they reunite with us & others their family & friends the benefit of their action could be a powerful elixer. As many of us experience, each time we reunite. Please join all of us at the Americal Reunion and feel the power of the moment.

Doc Williams

RF IL 61071

## 1st. BATTALION 46th INFANTRY-

I am doing a preliminary "update" on the 1/46th "The Professionals". From 1916 to current date I am interested in recording events and history of our batalion...especially with a 25 year reunion coming up.

My call is for all "Professionals" who may read this letter: We are interested in compiling our history-both from the top and from the bottom up-from all points of view...Also interested in hearing from comrades who may have served with the 1/46th like the 1st Cav, or 101 or in Heip Duc w/Co. B & D. While the Battle of Diep Huc went into late August, Co. C "The Defenders" were the only Co. in the A.O. while Alpha Co. was on LZ Professional. Please correspond with:

"Doc" Williams  
1/46th Co. Co. 198/6th  
Rock Falls, IL 61071  
815-626-0983

Just so you are aware that I am trying to gather data and research on the History of 1/46th. As you may be aware of....Any references or assistance would be appreciated...

.....The 1/46th fought with the 5th Div. in Germany\_\_\_\_\_in the Hertgen Forest S. of the Bulge. They sustained 98%+ casualties in Nov 44-Dec

.....We spent our time with the 198th 1st Cav. 101, then with the 196th till 1972

.....Two companies fought in Hiep Duc in August 69

.....I am most interested in getting details of the after Vietnam experiences to present

Thank you  
David E Williams

PS....Could you summarize and include my plea in the next Americal Newsletter

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Americal Division Veterans Association:  
National Commander 91'-92'  
Mr. Roland Castronova

A while back I received a letter and your card, I'm sorry it took so long for me to reply. My name is Bill Tsouvas, father of Robert (Bob) Tsouvas, my son who served in Vietnam with the Americal Division, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, 3rd platoon, he was E4, RA 18915154. To bring you up to date, if you have forgotten Bob was murdered in Pittsburgh, Pa on Sept 4, 1988 shot through the head by his girlfriend, who was charged with manslaughter got a few years. I had his remains brought back home here in San Jose and buried here.

The reason I'm writing to you is because for the last 4 years I have been trying to locate buddies he served with in Vietnam to exchange notes. I do not have much but memories. I heard a few stories about some heroic deeds my son had done, but never confirmed. That is what I need from you, any information or addresses of former comrades who served in Bob's unit.

Bob was my only son and I miss him and part of me died with him. I almost had him back, but his experience in Vietnam took a toll on his life and left a big scar.

I thank you and if I'm ever in your area I'll take you up on that beer. Myself, I am a former Navy man who served in South Pacific during WW 11 attached submarine Sqd and Divison, and in '52 recalled back in Navy and served aboard battleship USS IOWA Flagship Task Force 77 at Korea. I was Gunners Mate 2nd Class.

Let me close: May God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ Give You and Yours GRACE AND PEACE.

Bill Tsouvas  
San Jose Ca 95124  
Phone: [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE WEATHER MAN  
When the Son is shining in your heart,  
The fog of trouble seems far apart.

If you have thunders of pain and lightning's of doubt,  
The Son of God will dry them all out.

Don't look to the World to help you through,  
Because surely, it will turn on you.

The storms of life will soon be in the past,  
But the love of GOD will always last.

So believers of GOD's word always plan,  
With Jesus as your weather man.

Terry L. Coons, FL  
Americal, 23rd Div.

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NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER CANDIDATE'S  
FT BENNING  
1967-1972

Dear Fellow Veterans,

The Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Association is trying to locate and catalogue the current addresses of all the Vietnam Era graduates who graduated from NCO School at Ft Benning Ga between the years of 1967 to 1972. There were over 24,000 graduates who served as Infantrymen (11B), Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman (11C), and Infantry Operation and Intelligence (11F) in Vietnam and the N.C.O.C Locator offers a free service to help them locate former classmates and friends. We also help family members find men who knew the men who were killed in Vietnam.

Could you please place a notice in your newsletter or magazine, encouraging former graduates, who are members of your group, to contact us. There are no membership fees or dues involved.

To all the Vietnam Veterans

\*\*\*\*\*WELCOME HOME\*\*\*\*\*

Sincerely,  
Leonard F Russell Jr  
NCO Locator  
Millinocket ME 04462-1713  
WETSU

\*\*\*\*\*

## A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL KROESEN

It goes without saying that I am a very proud veteran of serving with the Americal Division in Vietnam. I stayed 22 months my first time there and enjoyed a truly great experience-going from Battalion CSM BDE CSM and finally as Americal Division CSM.

My long stay cost me my wife, my home and small savings account, but on the bright side-I still have my Americal Division patch. Life goes on!

The enclosed correspondence is my file copy of what I sent to Dave Recob about a year ago. He did receive it but passed away before he could get it published.

I have included the lead in article that explains the occasion for presenting the letter to Col Kroesen. In my 31 years active service, Col Kroesen-now General Kroesen, was by far the greatest Officer Leader, and person I have had the privilege and pleasure to serve with. He too is a very dedicated Americal Division Man!!

Our young soldiers in Vietnam performed with such gallantry and dedication, they deserve so much credit. I would like to see them get more credit and recognition in the ADVA newsletter.

## 26 YEARS LATER &amp; THEY STILL REMEMBER

26 years ago on LZ Baldy, May 1969, the Noncommissioned Officers of the 196th Infantry Brigade, of the Americal Division, hosted a farewell dinner to honor and express their sincere respect and appreciation to then Colonel Frederick J Kroesen, the 196th Brigade Commander for the past twelve months.

CSM Walter Jones, the 196th Bde. CSM at the time asked CSM Jim Meade who served as the 196th Bde CSM during Col Kroesens first six months as Commander, who was now the CSM of the Americal Division to represent all current and past Noncommissioned Officers of the 196th Bde and speak at the occasion.

To present something that would be tangible and everlasting, CSM Meade prepared, presented and read the following letter at the farewell honoring Col Kroesen. During the course of evening Col Kroesen was overheard to comment "That letter means more to me than all the medals I will receive over here." The General still has his copy of the letter.

AVDP-CSM

3 MAY 1969

Colonel Frederick J Kroesen  
Commanding Officer  
196th Infantry Brigade  
APO San Francisco 96256

Dear Colonel Kroesen:

As your tour in Vietnam comes to an end, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the leadership you provided the Noncommissioned Officers and what it has meant to me as a career soldier to have had the opportunity and privilege to serve as your Brigade Sergeant Major.

When I first met you on LZ Cacti in the latter part of May 1968, I was left with an impression that I will never forget. As I looked up to you, from below, as you stood on the crest, you appeared to

be 9 feet tall and 4 feet wide; a perfect image of a man, officer and soldier. The way you carried and conducted yourself as a soldier and Senior Officer caught the eyes of everyone.

After you assumed command of the 196th Infantry Brigade on 1 June 1968, it did not take me long to realize and appreciate the fact that we were working for and with an outstanding officer. As the months passed on, our admiration and respect for you continued to rise to the very highest. You allowed us to use our imagination an initiative in the areas that concerned the soldier and the Noncommissioned Officer Corp and gave us encouragement and support in pursuing those goals,(professional development) which were also goals for the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Every soldier, whether a recruit or a seasoned veteran selects a person that they admire and would like to pattern themselves after. We have unanimously selected you. Of the many outstanding officers that we have served with during our careers, we wish to pay you this one tribute over all others. For the remaining years that we have before retirement, we will always set our standard and try to be the man and dedicated soldier such as Colonel Kroesen. You have been a great inspiration to me as well as to many other Noncommissioned Officers and the magnitude of it will remain with us to the end.

You may never be nailed to a cross but you are the one man that I have found absolutely no fault in. To me, you have been the perfect man, perfect officer, perfect soldier and perfect leader. We have gained tremendous knowledge under your leadership which we will use in our performance and responsibilities of being Noncommissioned Officers. We will always think "POSITIVE" in any area or subject that we might be confronted with. I have listened to you brief Four Star Generals, give instructions and counsel to the members of your Brigade Staff and also brief the fighting infantryman of your brigade. In all the times I have listened to you speak, you have never wasted a single word.

To say the least, many families of the soldiers who fought under your command will always be grateful to you(unknowingly)because of the tactical brilliance that you used in employing the maneuver units of your brigade on the battlefield. Once you had made your estimate of the situation and prepared your plan, it was accepted and respected by all. The kill ratio that has been established within the 196th Infantry Brigade under you superb leadership during the last twelve months proves that you not only accomplished your missions with great military success but accounted for saving the lives of many soldiers due to your method of tactical operation on the battlefield.

I have always believed that there is no greater place for a soldier or a unit of soldiers to shine than on the battlefield.

In closing, Colonel Kroesen, I want to say that I am glad that we met and served together on the battlefield as the bonds of friendship and the respect formed on the battlefield are everlasting and these are the days that we shall always remember. It has been a privilege to have served under you and with you and I will always carry with pride the fact that I was "Your Brigade Command Sergeant Major". You also paved the way for me to be chosen to be the Americal Division Command Sergeant Major and I will always be grateful to you

(Conclusion on next page)

## A Tribute to General Kroesen (Conclusion)

for it. It is a great position, a great job and I am very proud to have been selected to fill this great position.

I have no authority to present you with any medals but we would like to reward you with what we consider the greatest pay and reward a leader can receive from his soldiers. A very sincere "THANKS"

for everything you have done for us on the battlefield and what you have meant to us as career soldiers. I speak not only for myself but for all of the Noncommissioned Officers that have served under you in the 196th Infantry Brigade. You are the greatest!

The very best to you in your next assignment and we would consider it a great honor to have the opportunity to serve with you again on any assignment, any time, any place.

A soldier,  
James P Meade  
Command Sergeant Major  
Americal Division

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
Veterans Initiative

About two years ago the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) began the "Veterans Initiative", a veteran-to-veteran effort at helping the families of Vietnamese MIAs account for some of the more than 300,000 VC and NVA dead from the war. This is being done outside government channels, on a veteran-to-veteran basis, for the humanitarian reasons.

VVA is requesting that any American Vietnam Veteran who brought back artifacts from the battlefield or has information on the burial sites of former enemy soldiers to please contribute it to the Veterans Initiative. Captured VC/NVA identity papers, personal letters, photos or sketch maps of grave sites would all be helpful in resolving the status of Vietnamese MIAs. Photocopies of items are welcome. Anything mailed in anonymously is fine.

VVA's Veterans Initiative is non-political and is aimed at healing and resolution on both sides.

On three occasions (twice in 94 and once in 95) VVA teams have traveled to Vietnam to deliver MIA-related items to the Vietnamese veterans. The response has always been warm, enthusiastic and grateful. The Vietnamese veterans report that they have indeed been successful in finding grave sites of their former comrades and in resolving some of their MIA questions by using the material given to them.

Any American Vietnam Veteran wishing to contribute MIA-related items should mail them to the following address:

Veterans Initiative  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
[REDACTED]  
Washington DC 20005-5183

Sincerely  
Mokie Pratt Porter  
Director of Communications

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## 27 NVA KILLED IN 198th COUNTERATTACK

LZ BUFF- One a.m. noon behind ominous clouds and, suddenly, an enemy head popped up on the western perimeter of this forward basecamp for the 1st Bn. 52nd Inf., 198th Bde. RPG rounds cracked over the area and slammed into two bunkers to herald a ground attack by two NVA companies planning to overrun Buff which stands boldly in thickly-foliated terrain nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai. "It was raining chicom grenades," said CPT Todd A. Martin (Terre Haut, IN), battalion communications officer.

'Scary' B Co., 26th Engr. Bn., part of which was here to build a strong operations bunker system, killed at least four NVA at close range on the hill's west side. With RPGs, the NVA seized two strategic bunkers, and fighting centered there for several harrowing hours. "It was downright scary," said SP4 Robert Lambart (Detroit) of the heavy weapons platoon. "We put up 70 rounds of 4.2 illumination when the enemy broke the perimeter."

Twenty-seven sappers were killed as 198th soldiers repulsed invaders on all sides with a heavy counterattack on small arms, grenade, M-72 LAW, and direct 105mm howitzer fire, the latter from D Btry., 1st Bn., 14th Arty. on Buff. Well Armed "When it started, we, we had everything but B-52s and tanks," said SP4 David Gyllis (Longview, TX), a member of the 198th military intelligence team. A E/14 Arty. platoon placed direct fire on suspected NVA mortar positions well-concealed in surrounding woodlines. SP4 Mike Vansickle (Rushville, IN), section leader for E Co's 106mm recoilless rifle team, raced out of his sleeping quarters as firing started. "The guy next to me was hit in the leg," he recalled. "When I came back with a medic, we couldn't cross a six-foot path because firing was so heavy."

Grounded Four potent mini-guns on a "Shadow" (C-119) gunship, firing 6000 rounds per minute, and numerous helicopter ships combined for a devastating reprisal against the sappers. Vansickle said of the night's battle. "I never knew I could low crawl so fast. It was amazing how well everyone reacted to the attack even though we were fighting on our stomachs." (198th 10)

\*\*\*\*\*

I was looking for lost material about Vietnam in my many boxes of stuff. I found some new orders with names of Americal troops on them. I made copies of them for you. You do such a great job I hope some of these papers are helpful.

Me and my wife are planning a trip to my aunts in North Reading, Mass a year from September. Is there a brochure or a map of where the Americal Museum is located. I really would like to see it.

I am also looking for a book on the history of the Americal Division. Do you know if there is one out there? I have been real lucky on my dads outfit, 320th Bomb group but I can't find anything on our division.

Thanks for any help or suggestions  
Jim Hardy  
3/18th Arty  
[REDACTED]  
Salem Or 97304

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## CHU LAI

I've been out of town for a few days and I'm just getting caught up on all the news on the BB. Over 100 notes posted since I last checked in. I saw your note of 2/13 regarding the location of the dispensary which was being discussed. At that time, F Troop 8th Cav, 123d Avn Bn, was located right on the beach in what I believe was the northern most part of Chu Lai. There was a small Navy operation just north of us, then came the 123d, then a place we all tried to avoid--graves registration, and then the dispensary which got hit. This would have been just a little east of the airfield. Sorry I can't be more specific, but it was a long time ago. I just read your post of 2/18 describing your entry into the army. Sounds similar to my experience which I'll try to relay at some point. Regards,

John Boyer 70-71  
F/8 CAV 123 AVN

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## POINTS

In B 1/46 we also rotated the point every day. 3 platoons w/4 squads each. Each squad, therefore pulled the point every 12th day in the bush. As we worked 15 day patrols, that meant each squad would pull the point--at most--twice each mission. The point squad would sometimes use several different guys at the point each day. I'm sure you remember how thick the vegetation was in some places and how quickly the point man would get worn out swinging the machete in the 100+ degree heat. What I'm getting at is that we, too, had many men that were "seasoned" point men. The FNG's would be quickly taught the ins and outs of the position so that they had the knowledge to do it if need be. I remember going out on a squad size patrol and getting into a pretty good rumble. Although I wasn't at the point, the puckerfactor was real high for this redleg who wasn't supposed to be doing things like that. It turned out that our Kit Carson scout was still a VC and he (we) blew away a number of VNs that were possibly "friendlies". For sure, the guys that walked the point had a big pair of jewels. This redleg tips his hat to you all.

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

## (PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

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## REUNION REUNION REUNION

DMZ TO DELTA  
(Remember When?)

Northern Virginia Chapter 227 of the Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. will host the 7th Annual DMZ to DELTA DANCE. The theme will be "Remember When". Many of us will be remembering our unit's arrival in Vietnam 30 years ago, or bringing the colors home 20 years ago--and many events in between. Time and Place and Contact:

STOUFFER RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1995  
8:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.

CONTACT: Ellen N. Freeman - [REDACTED]  
CALL NOW -- Tickets are now on sale -- CALL NOW

## A MESSAGE TO MR. MC NAMARA

I would like to know something: What is it that you are looking for? Is it to "salve" your conscience from guilt over the murder of more than 58,000 young boys whose names are etched in stone at the 'WALL' in Washington? You helped put them there! Or do you now think it "safe" to come out of hiding about Vietnam?

Just what do you say to the families of those veterans who are still suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other war wounds? Or those who were POB's who cannot forget what they suffered? Or to the widows of those who have died from the effects of toxic chemicals that were sprayed on them, or to the ones who have committed suicide because of their illnesses and guilt over the war? What about the children who have suffered terrible birth defects because of their fathers exposure to these chemicals? Oh, I forgot--you've admitted that it was a "mistake". Maybe some of us will be able to forgive--but we cannot EVER forget what we have suffered at the hands of our own government! There is a name for this--CAUSE and EFFECT. If the Vietnam War was a mistake, then obviously so was the poisoning of our own troops by their country! The Vietnam War is NOT OVER--the casualties are still falling, sir!

Yes Mr. McNamara, you have just opened up "Pandora's Box". I hope you are prepared to face the consequences!

Mrs. Ronald V. Lawrence  
Parma, OH

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## 57th INFANTRY PLATOON SCOUT DOG

I recently joined the Americal Division Veterans Association and also the Eastern Regional Chapter. I would have joined ADVA much sooner but did not know of your organization until I saw your ad in the VFW Magazine.

I was a member of the 57th IPSD in Chu Lai in South Vietnam in 1970-1971. This was a small unit that supported several companies. I would like to hear from any member of this unit. Write or call:

Gale Wilson  
[REDACTED]  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Tel. [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

## DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?

Captain James Turnbull /3/2/1 196 LIB  
1/Sgt. Dawson D/3/2/1 196 LIB

If you know of either of these men please contact:

Johnny W. England Jr.  
[REDACTED]  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

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WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER  
PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER  
GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL  
PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

MANILA AMERICAN CEMETERY

The last issue of the Americal Newsletter, (Jan-Feb-Mar-95) carried a story sent in by Gilbert Dempsey telling of his return to the Philippines last October. Gil served with E Co. 182 Infantry and he was accompanied on the return trip by Edd Kueker, a former member of A Co. 132 Infantry.

These veterans of the battle for Cebu also visited the Manila American Cemetery where there are 276 AMERICAL dead interred. This is the largest military cemetery outside of the continental United States. There are a total of 17,206 military dead interred in its 152 acres and its Wall of the Missing lists 36,279 names of which 90 are Americal men. according to the Superintendent only 40% of the KIAs in the theater are buried here since at the option of the next-of-kin the remains of the others were shipped home.

Gil took the time to cross check the names of the AMERICAL men listed and he found the names of 43 AMERICAL men listed that do not appear in 'Under the Southern Cross'. Below are the names and units of those men.

57th COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1st Lt. George S. Gerst | WOM |
| Pvt. Roy H. Nelson      | ACM |
| T/5 James P. Stegall    | WOM |
| Y/5 Robert G. Trevis    | ACM |

132nd INFANTRY

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 2d Lt. Elmer E. Atkinson  | WOM |
| Pfc. Jessie A. Barilleaux | ACM |
| Pfc. Louis E. Boppel      | ACM |
| Pfc. Robert F. Collalti   | WOM |
| Pfc. Juan P. Dimas        | WOM |
| Pvt. Edward H. Foley Jr.  | WOM |
| Pvt. Woodrow W. Fowler    | WOM |
| Pfc. Ransome M. Hiott     | WOM |
| Sgt. Roy E. Kinzer        | WOM |
| Pvt. John D. Oldaker      | ACM |
| Pvt. Theodore C. Valek    | ACM |
| Pfc Ernest West Jr.       | ACM |

164th INFANTRY

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Pvt. Edward W. Brown     | ACM |
| Pfc. Charles M. Calderon | ACM |
| Sgt. Thomas M. Clewes    | ACM |
| 1st Lt. Earl A. Desautel | ACM |
| Pfc. Harold E. Evins     | ACM |
| Pfc. Herbert B. Glasow   | ACM |
| Pfc. Fred Hirtreiter     | ACM |
| Pfc. Carl L. Kitsmiller  | ACM |
| T/5 John A. Korda        | ACM |
| T/4 Joe A Krawczyk       | ACM |
| 2d Lt. Lester R. Pfaff   | WOM |
| Pvt. Max E. Pierce       | WOM |
| Pvt. Harold C. Ruth      | WOM |
| Cpl. Jack A. Sharrock    | WOM |
| Pfc. Alex G. Sygulla     | WOM |

182nd INFANTRY

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Pvt. Maurice F. Cote       | WOM |
| 1st Lt. Robert S. Crane    | WOM |
| Pvt. Stanley A. Freie      | ACM |
| Pfc Tommy Garrett          | WOM |
| Pfc. Anthony Jeremicz      | ACM |
| 1st Lt. Gerald B. Lyons    | WOM |
| Ltc. Everett B. Mersereau  | WOM |
| 1st Lt. James L. Patterson | ACM |
| Sgt. Gerald W. Scully      | WOM |

245th FIELD ARTILLERY

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Pfc. Dee B. Summers | ACM |
|---------------------|-----|

246TH FIELD ARTILLERY

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Pfc Herbert Schwanderlik | ACM |
|--------------------------|-----|

247th FIELD ARTILLERY

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Pfc. Clifford H. Miller | ACM |
|-------------------------|-----|

WOM = Wall of Missing  
ACM = Interred in the American Cemetery Manila

Additions to the Americal Honor Roll are based upon information supplied by the Superintendent American Cemetery, Manila to Gilbert O. Dempsey for ADVA use. (The names were not included in 'Under the Southern Cross', no doubt, because this book was printed before the final names had been compiled).

Ed Note: Gil asked me to run this story in this issue, it being the closest to Memorial Day.

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The above Cross marks the grave of Pvt. Klair L. Wright, E Company, 182nd Infantry. He was killed on Baksan Ridge (Hill 20) Cebu on April 9, 1945. Klair had joined E Company on April 3, 1945. He is one of 276 AMERICAL dead interred in the Manila American Cemetery.

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New Book - The Invasion of Japan - John Ray Skates

If you were on Cebu, waiting to invade Japan, in August of 1945, you will find this book most interesting. Although it says little of the Divisions involved in "Operation Olympic" and nothing at all about the lesser units, this was due to the fact that planning was incomplete and dropped on 8/15/45 - V.J. Day Philippine Time.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH



This is the northern end of Hill 20, Baksan Ridge. the Church is on the old Race Course.

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EDD KUEKER ON THE OLD LAHUG AIRDROME



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TALISEY BEACH CEBU - WHERE THE AMERICAL LANDED



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DO THESE PICTURES BRING BACK MEMORIES?

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On November 1, 1945 (X-Day) the 11th Corps (First Cav and the 43rd Division) were scheduled to land at Ariake Bay at the eastern tip of the southern Kyushu. The AMERICAL was scheduled to land on X + 2. Whether this held any benefit for us remains to be seen. The prime target of rejuvenated Japanese fleets of Kamikazes was troop transports and further attacks against the American fleet were to be made by suicide boats and manned torpedoes. (A recent issue of the magazine World War II shows a picture of at least 80 two man subs that were to be used against the U. S. ships). The U.S. Navy was planning to place 8 battleships offshore for bombardment purposes as they thought Japanese opposition would be significant. In addition, the U. S. was now prepared to use poison gas and n. George C. Marshall was considering dropping one or two atomic bombs on each of the three major beachheads on X-Day. If all this sounds "Hell on earth", that certainly would have been the case./ After reading the book, you will thank God that the invasion never took place.

Gil

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OLD COMRADES



L to R Col. Manuel F. Segura (Ret), Cebu Guerillas Gilbert O. Dempsey E/182 - Former Lt. Eufemio S. Flores Cebu Gerillas - Edmund Kueker A/132

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AMERICAL MONUMENT TALISEY BEACH CEBU



Edd Kueker A Company 132 Infantry

FROM OUR NAVY

Thank you for your letter of January 20,1995, inviting me to rejoin the Americal Division Veterans Association.

I first became associated with the Americal Division at the 40th Memorial Tribute of the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans at Winter Haven, Florida, in August of 1982. Dan Pisani ("The Coconut Kid") encouraged me to join. Dan died shortly after that GVC meeting as you probably know.

I never was a member of the Americal Division; I was a crew member of a 7th fleet Destroyer which was engaged occasionally with escorting Americal troops from the Solomons up to the Phillippines. So I only had a distant association with the Americal.

I have been an "amateur WW11 historian" the past 15 years or so and joined many veteran organizations primarily, in some cases, just to receive their newsletters. Needless to say, I have enjoyed the Americal Newsletter thru the years and keep them all on file.

I have not had the opportunity to attend any of the Associations meetings. As the years go by, I find that my traveling days are about over. My time and resources are concentrated on caring for my wife who has Alzheimer's. So consequent'y, I have allowed many of my memberships to expire

I have enjoyed my membership in the Association for the 10 years or so; and I wish all the Americal Veterans the best of good health and fortune.

Sincerely  
Philip E Taylor GM 3/C, USN (USS Conway DD507 WW11  
GM 1/C, USN (USS Eldorado AGC-11  
Korea)

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

GERMANY FASCHING

Friday night our friends will get drunk and stay that way till Wed., when Fasching ends each year. The Romans were stopped north of Frankfurt in Koln so Fasching isn't celebrated north of the Roman Line. Not celebrated in the south except in Munich. Fastnacht is celebrated in Mainz. The whole thing boils down to the saying hello to spring and good bye to winter. So something to celebrate, Right! New item, In Walldorf near Rheinmain Airbase, we celebrated "Dance into May"! Big party starting about 2100 and at 2400 everyone had to be dancing, well with all the wine it was difficult but you just had to be dancing so dance we did. Don't know where those people put it all. I tried but never found out. The only way to survive was to stay with booze they didn't handle that to well. We had so many celebrations, holidays, just plain goodtimes some with no reason at all. Wine Probes were about the greatest! Never walked home from one! I was a Civ., but military never let me down or get into trouble by myself, They were at my side. Someone would remark "You keeping all the fun to yourself " And as the man said, so it goes.

Paul (O'Hara) Santogeanis WW11  
125 QM Americal

121st MEDICAL BATTALION

NUMA NUMA

Paul O'Hara : Great story about the "Numa Numa" Trail. It must of been the Laruma River that you were in and out of while following the trail. I wish we had access to maps then, so we would have known where we were! I know it was tough to cross those rivers after a rainfall, especially carrying the litters. Sometimes we had to form a human chain across the river to break the current so the guys carrying the litters could get across. As Doc Merk says, and so it goes!

Don Ballou WW11  
121 MED

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

TRUCKS

Zane: Your note is great. Several months ago I wrote a post telling about those exact same trucks. They were four wheelers and we capture two. The drivers got out and ran. Crazy thing was, these trucks could take hills that our 6x6 couldn't. They had the regular four gears. We also landed on an LCI west of the town and it took us several hours to get there due to mine sweeping on the road. That night we had a chicken dinner in Dumagete and paid for it in occupation money. The owner gave us change in the same stuff. The guerilla's met us on the landing and also had taken care of the money situation before we landed. Do you remember seeing all the enemy trucks going up into the hills through field glasses. The dust was really stirring. I did pop a few rounds at some of the trucks as we started into the hills the following day. I cannot remember most of the details that first day. As we were in the same battalion, it is possible that we were on the same LCI. Your story about the short doctor is also strange as I remember some guy going under the water leaving the side ramp. Keep up the chatter about Negros as it is starting to get get my puckerfactor memory into gear. (Whatever that means). I went overseas in Aug 43. With all the zigzagging I think it took about 22 days to get to New Caledonia

Jay Roth WW11  
G Co 164TH INF

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

SICK CALL SICK CALL SICK CALL

B Co. 182 Infantry D Co. 182 Infantry  
Rene D. Pare'  
Haverhill, MA 01830 Satellite, FL 32937

D Co. 182 Infantry  
Raymond Desjardins  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465

Hey, how about a card for these comrades? Word of their illness came in a little too late for the first page.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

TO OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Dear Bill:

I can't tell you what your beautiful letter has meant to me. Getting in touch - feeling connected with the veterans has a deep significance for me on many levels. My Dad, meant the world to me, and I know how proud he was of the men in the Americal Division. To me they are a living examples of what made our country great. The fact that they are reaching out, and encompassing , and supporting, our Vietnam Vets gives me a lot of hope for our future in spite of all the negative things I hear.

On another level, your letter came at a good time for me. I think I'm doing well, and all of a sudden I find myself in a deep hole of depression. Your letter reminds me that indeed Chandler and i shared a great deal of happiness in our years together, for which I am thankful. Keeping that in mind is very helpful.

Chandler was always very supportive of everything I did. He also thought very highly of these Americal Division veterans; he remembered them from his war correspondent days.

I did not know that there was an Americal Division Scholarship fund. Chandler would have given that his sincerest approval. Because of that I'll be pleased if you will accept this check in Chandler's memory. I know every bit helps.

My heartfelt thanks to the wonderful Americal Division Veterans!

Fondly,  
Julia Ann Patch Diehl

Ed Note: This letter was in response to a sympathy note that Commander Maddox sent to Mrs. Diehl expressing his sympathy and the sympathy of the ADVA, over the loss of her husband, Chandler.

HILL 21 BABAG RIDGE CEBU PHILIPPINES  
I and G Companies, 182 Infantry

We had been trying to take this Hill for three days and had had no success. On the 12th of April 1945, we started through what was called the Race Track area and up toward the Hill on our left flank. I was in I Company and was the platoon Radio Operator at this time. We got about half way up the left side of the the Hill before receiving heavy fire from Japanese machine guns. We lost a man by the name of Laguna at this point. The battle progressed all day and we were up on the high side by dusk that evening and almost to the Japanese line of trenches. A man by the name Albert (Red) Hauser was wounded when he tried to get forward to throw a grenade. The Jap fire hit him and he came tumbling down with blood all over his face.

It was now getting dark as we worked our way in front of the main Jap positions and I believe we were in contact with G Company on our right. This was about 2300 and it was so dark that we had to touch the man on our right and left to maintain contact.

It was at this time that Captain Murphy of G Company passed the word to "Fix Bayonets". Because I was carrying the radio I did not have a bayonet. However, I dropped the radio and borrowed a bayonet from a wounded man. The Japs opened fire

and Doc Gillepie Jr. was killed. I do not know why they called him "Doc'" because he was not a Medic. He was a BAR man, and a good one and he was also my best friend

After fixing bayonets we were ordered by the Battalion C.O. to "take the Hill at all costs". These orders came over the radio before I dropped it and picked up a bayonet. We started forward and all Hell broke lose. Grenades began falling all around us. It seems that a man by the name of Laturza and myself were falling behind because our platoon Sergeant came tumbling down and chewed us out for falling behind. We started to catch up with the others when a grenade landed right in front of us, wounding both of us. I was hit in the arm, neck chest, nose, arm pit, and I was bleeding real bad. A grenade fragment had entered the right side of my nose and had cut the partition between my nostrils and the blood was running down my throat. I took my handkerchief and by using pressure caused the blood to clot. A Medic came by and gave me a shot of morphine. I crawled into a shell hole and drifted off to dream land not caring about anything for the rest of the night.

Sometime before dawn an incident happened that could have ended my life. The Japanese had come in behind us. One Jap was sticking his bayonet into the wounded and dead men that were lying around. I could make out his silhouette as he stumbled over my foot, but he passed me by. I had no energy left and was very weak. All I could do was to remain quiet and hope he passed me by.

I laid there until about ten the next morning before being carried out to the Aid Station. the Japs had retreated after making one last attempt to take back Babag Ridge---but our troops held.

I was evacuated to Leyte the next day where I was given treatment and spent a month recovering from my wounds. I located about 15 of my buddies that had been wounded and were in this hospital. After treatment we were put on work details, stood in long chow lines, and were treated badly. Because of this, some of us got together and decided to go back to Cebu. We knew that we would not be punished for returning to combat. Some of us were still wearing bandage but we just wanted to rejoin our outfit.

We were given a lift by a small vessel and made the trip back okay. Thanks to the Navy for the ride and also the rations they supplied us with.

After rejoining our Company we were engaged in more combat but it was not as heavy as before. The Japs had lost their desire to fight and were beginning to hide.

It wasn't very long before our unit was pulled out and returned to a base camp in Cebu city. Here we started training for the invasion of Japan. But-- the bomb was dropped and we all rejoiced that the war was almost over.

Roy Poynter  
I Co. 182 Infantry

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

H COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

Company H, 182 Infantry held it's annual Reunion on Saturday May 27, 1995 at the Silver Fox Restaurant in Everett, Massachusetts.

Forty four people turned out for the Reunion. This included H Company members, their wives, and friends of H Company. Many stories were told of past experiences and also some snapshots of days gone by were shown.

H Company members present were:

- John Groppi and his wife Dolly
- Charlie Budreau and his wife Betty
- Earl Hobart and his wife Mary
- Michele Lombardo and his wife Eleanor
- William Poock and his wife Eleanor
- Fred Zaino nd his wife Phyllis
- James Murphy and his wife Alice
- Edward Chisholm
- Edward Doherty
- Richard Glencross
- Samuel Hosmer
- Michael Lombardo
- Edward Monsen
- William Porter
- Maurice Cavanaugh
- Walter Emerson
- James Grant
- Grant Johnson
- William Murphy
- Thomas O'Neil
- Delbert Raymond
- Manuel Souza

The guests present:

- Company F
- Joe Papa and his wife Josephine
- Ltc. Salvatore Vinciulla and wife Marguerite
- G Company
- Major Donald Pray
- Victor Plosinski, his wife Muriel, daughter Susan
- H Company
- Major Maurice Dee
- K Company
- Ltc. John Patterson
- L Company
- Joseph Chin and wife Barbara

Major Jack Algeo had planned to attend but was delayed in his return from Alaska.

Shortly after our Reunion Bill Murphy had a triple by-pass. The good news that he is well on th road to recovery.

John Groppi

Ed Note: Many thanks go to John for keeping his old Company together. These as some of the best Reunions.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

A COMMEMORATIVE PARADE AND OTHER MEMORIAL EVENTS WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY DURING THE WEEK END OF NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12, 1995.

CANTERBURY TOURS OF NEW YORK HAS ARRANGED 2 PACK-AGE DEALS THAT WILL COVE THESE CELEBRATIONS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE A BROCHURE PLEASE CALL:

VETERANS' PROJECT DIRECTOR  
CYNTHIA COMBS  
AT

WAR VETERANS WANT PAYMENT FOR WORLD WAR II LOSS  
(Solomon Star April 28, 1995)  
By Ofani Eremae

Local World War II veterans in the Western Province have formed an association to ensure the country is compensated by Japan and America for the damage caused during their military invasion in 1942.

The group will also pursue compensation for all local war veterans for their involvement and the benefits of a superannuation scheme plus free hospital care and treatment.

Called the Western Provinces World war ii Veterans Association, it was officially formed late last year after its initiation two years ago.

According to its secretary, Patterson Runikera, the association so far has about 150 members.

Executive members of the association, who played a leading role assisting the US Army during the war, are in. Honiara this week to register their association with the Registrar General.

The executive members include Biuka Gasa, the man who saved the life of the late John Kennedy, who later became US president. Other members include Alex Tozaka (Chairman), Alexandra Naqu and John Zoti, all in their 70's and upwards.

Runikera said the other aim of their association was to ensure there was legislative right of access government information, including a relaxation of restrictions on cabinet documents and economist forecasts.

Others were:

- To ensure that members receive a rightful share of compensation by the government of America and Japan.
- To have June 30 declared a National Veteran's Day and celebrate accordingly.
- To recognize that education and training for the younger generation of Solomon Islands is essential for the future growth and prosperity of the country.
- To declare its total opposition to the dumping of radio active waste in the Pacific and total opposition to uranium enrichment plants.
- To provide an avenue and a focus for the aspirations and activities of World War II veterans in the Western Province.

Runikera said they had already met with the Foreign Affairs Minister, Danny Philip and Japanese Embassy in Honiara and he described the outcome of the meeting as "positive".

He said membership would be opened to all World War II veterans and any interested person with an annual subscription fee of \$50.

(Thanks to Joe Micek for sending in this article)

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IF YOU KNOW OF A MEMBER WHO IS OR DECEASED PLEASE NOTIFY:

ADJ. BERNARD CHASE  
SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664  
TEL

HOW ABOUT THIS?

I likewise have been disturbed when AMERICAL is spelled AMERICAN. Would it help the unaware to note the important difference if AMERICAL was henceforth shown as:

- 1) AMERI-CAL
- 2) AmeriCal
- 3) Ameri-Cal

In other words, to highlight the CAL ending. Perhaps one of us Americal veterans can suggest an even more effective way to point out the difference.

It's a thought, and i want to hear and see the Cal syllable in Americal. I was surprised and pleased that many of us Americal veterans have the same opinion.

- 1) Letters the same size, hyphen between I and C.
- 2) Large A and C, other letters smaller.
- 3) Same as 2) with a hyphen between the I and C.

Al Cotter  
121 Med Bn D Co.

Al: It is very easy to make that mistake while typing even for a person that knows the difference. That has been one of my greatest fears while putting out the Newsletter. I solved my problem, I think, I have my Word-Check on my computer set to pick up that error. Jim

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BOUGAINVILLE

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea - The government announced yesterday an amnesty for armed secessionists on the resource rich island of Bougainville, which has been torn by violence for seven years. The amnesty agreement, signed by Prime Minister Julius Chan and the island's newly restored provincial government, was aimed at members of the Revolutionary Army, which has been fighting for independence from Papua New Guinea since late 1988. the amnesty will also apply to Papua New Guinea security forces who have committed crimes on Bougainville since the secessionist struggle began. (Reuters)

Ed Note: This has been a nasty little war. Of the islands that were grouped together to form Papua New Guinea after World War II, Bougainville had all the wealth---copper. Secessionists have wanted to set up a separate country. They didn't want to share.

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ATTENTION AMERICAL VETERANS - OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

I AM INTERESTED IN CONTACTING INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED WITH THE AMERICAL DIVISION JAPAN FROM SEPTEMBER 1945 TO FEBRUARY OF 1946.

IF YOU SERVED DURING THIS TIME PERIOD PLEASE CONTACT:

FRANK D. GISH  
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112

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

ATTENTION VETERANS OF CAMP EDWARDS

A occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II, you are invited to attend and participate in the following commemorative event.

A commemoration will take place on Saturday, August 5, 1995, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Military Reservation Open House and Air Show. At 3:30 P.M. a parade of veterans will march approximately 1/2 mile to where "Juke Box Saturday Night", a show featuring the music of World War II, will be presented. Color guards from all veteran's groups are encouraged to carry their colors and march.

Tickets are not necessary for Juke box Saturday Night. this show will be outside so please bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on.

The Air Show will take place on Saturday and Sunday August 5th & 6th, 1995.

For further information contact:

Headquarters Camp Edwards  
ARRN: WWII Commemorative Office  
Camp Edwards, Ma 02542-5003  
Tel.

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HILL 260

Thanks for sending me two copies of the Americal Newsletter. Both Walker's and Cole's letters were vivid and most interesting. The facts and feelings concerning patrol operations in the Hill 260 were well expressed.

Enclosed is a check as a contribution to the Americal Foundation Fund. Please forward it to the right person and make it in memory of Paul A. Gavan who exemplified the real Americal Division "Can Do" spirit.

Thanks you again and my best wishes.

Sincerely,  
James Taylor Jr.

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F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

Dear Jim:

Just a short note from Louisville, Kentucky (a long way from home). Would like to squeeze myself into this envelope and end up in Harwich -- take a few more steps and be in my old home town of Chatham. It has been quite sometime since I've been on the Cape. Hopefully I will make it this fall. My cousin lives in Falmouth.

Best regards,  
Al Hartwell

Al, you sound like a true New Englander--this will always be home. I always said that if I ever moved any place it would be to the Cape. When I retired I could have moved to about any place and to me this is every place. If you make it to the F Company Reunion next year you can be my guest and I'll drive you over to Chatham. If you make it up this way next Fall give me a buzz. Jim

HILL 260 IN RETROSPECT

In retrospect, I believe the attack by the Japanese artillery and the attack on Hill 260 was mainly a feint so that General Kanda's division attack on the 37th Division would succeed. (An attempt to lure the major strength of the perimeter to the tree area. I do realize that if the Japs took Hill 260 they would have been able to more effectively direct the 150 gun. The one hidden to the west by the huge Banyan tree). I believe they expended all the ammo for it. We found none near the gun.

The day the ball opened, several 150 shells landed in my rear company street. The 2nd Bn of the 164 was sandwiched between three artillery batteries. a 90 mm anti-aircraft adjoining Easy on the north, a 155 rifle outfit was on our west and the 245 adjoining the other side of our battalion. We were stationed in reserve when the shelling began. I was called to the rear area to check damage done by the 150. Our E kitchen and supply tents were demolished and just as I arrived, another 150 bounced from the loose sand between our two rows of tents, then went spinning off to the east. It had failed to explode. Our supply sergeant, Wells, who had been left behind in the area had been wounded and sealed in a dugout. The artificer, Emil Bloomstrand, (sp) frantically tried to dig him out while I roused a doctor from the battalion headquarters dugout. Shells were still coming in and the Doc. was a little reticent about coming out--but he did! We got a new doctor, Nathan Somberg, after that and he was the best!

Perhaps I didn't get around as much as i thought, for I missed the four airfields on Bougainville. I know the J3's had a strip dozed out of the trees near the ocean, for I flew out of that strip with rosin a couple of times. (I believe he crashed near Igaroo and was unable to walk out. Seems he had an Aussie with him who made it back to the beach). Guadalcanal did have four airfields, the bomber strip, and fighter 1 nearby. Fighter 2 extended to the ocean and of course later Carney Field was built near Koli Point. When back off the Point Cruz line on Guadalcanal I bummed a ride with the Aussies on a sub hunt., A four or five hour trip in a Lockheed Hudson.

To the 164 lines in the picture were known as Hill 500 and adjoining Hill 1111 (Meters above sea level I was told). From Hill 1111 Easy Company watched General Kanda's defeated division cross the east branch of the Torokina headed for the east-west trail. The 37th Division and the entire Corps artillery did a job on them! They trashed about a square mile of heavy jungle into prairie!

The 245 had an artillery F.O. with us atop Hill 500 who zeroed on them. Whenever a group attempted crossing the river they were blasted. Our 81 mortars also worked well, although it was near their max range. Capt. Stimson(who was near them with g Company) was amazed when he watched a man cross the river leading General Kanda's horse. Who could anticipate a horse out there! Later, while on long range patrols on the east-west trail out to the trail branches, one leading across the island to the Jap base at Kieta, and the other turning toward the ocean, we by-passed the carcass of the horse at the foot of a steep rock climb, only 7 miles west of Torokina.

Our Easy Company also worked the Laruma River area and had as support 4.2 mortars. They were like 105's!

Easy company, 164 did not have an easy time in the Southern Philippines. There was one time when I wrote 17 letters of condolences to parents. It was the hardest job I've ever had to face.

I wish we could have had communications with the 155 rifle outfits. don't know the range of their guns but we probably could have used them to advantage on the east-west trail. Hindsight again.

Chuck Walker

P.S. Enclosing a surprise. Jim Taylor is active and about. His letter enclosed.

Dear Charlie:

It was indeed a surprise and pleasure to read your patrol action story in the recent 164th Infantry News. I agree, some people did some gross things in those days.

You people in the 164th were the greatest soldiers ever and we saw a lot of action together. I feel honored to have been with the 245 FA and to have had the privilege of providing your direct artillery support. Your words about me were most kind and complimentary. Those words, stated after 50 years, were better than any medal they ever awarded anyone!!! My sincerest thanks to you.

Yes, you were right, I am just about to reach 80 years but still keep active with golf, tennis, and lots of walking. I do hope the years have treated you well.

Again, my thanks to you and a big salute to all you splendid infantrymen of the 164th!

Jim Taylor

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IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

Enclosed is the name of another prospective member who was in the Americal in Vietnam. I met him when I went to Point Magu Naval Base to pick up an item. He was a security guard at the gate.

He noticed my Americal decal on my windshield. i saw that he was loking at the decal and I said, "That's my old outfit". He said, "Mine to". He said that he did not know of our the ADVA.

Pays to advertise. Put a decal on your windshield.

Fernando Vera  
L Co. 182 Infantry

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F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION OR LOCATION OF LT. JOHN P. TRAUGER. HE SERVED WITH F COMPANY ON BOUGAINVILLE, LEYTE, AND CEBU.

IF YOU HAVE NAY INFO PRLEAS WRIT OR CALL:

JOSEPH PAPA  
WEST NEWTON, MA 02165

TEL. [REDACTED]

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY  
Annual Reunion Dinner

On Sunday afternoon April 30, 1995, World War II veterans of F Company, 182nd Infantry held their annual Reunion at the Crest Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts.

The theme of this year's Reunion was the anniversary of the end of World War II.

Americal Division Veterans Association officers attending were: PNC Jim Buckle and his wife Frances, (Jim is also Chairman of the Executive Council and Editor of the Americal Newsletter), National Finance Officer Joe Chin and his wife Barbara, and Daniel Ramsey Executive Council ADVA.

Company H was represented by John Groppi and Mike Lombardo. Also attending were officers of Waltham American Legion Post 156, men of Co. F National Guard of the Korean-Vietnam era, Walter Peirce of the Americal Division and the 42 Infantry Division in Europe, Joseph Siano former State Guard Commander, Angelina Lazzazzaro Genova and Rose Lazzazzaro Alden, sisters of Lt. Arthur Lazzazzaro who was killed on action on Guadalcanal in November 1942.

The after dinner speaker was F Co. Committee member Jack McIsaac, who introduced the Co. F Committee of Bill Vinci, Buddy Lorenz, Paul Miele, Frank Rourk and Committee Chairman Joe Papa.

Letter of regards were received from Al Hartwell of Louisville, KY and Robert O. Mitchell of Key West, FL.

Jack McIsaac informed the members of comrades on the sick list. They were: Hack Cohen, Buddy Lorenz, Delmo Ferranti, Bill Vinci and Lewis C. Turner.

Since the last Reunion four former members of F Co. have passed away. They were: Bill Kane, Edward "Muggsey" Maguire, Louis Iannelli and Contantine Krochman.

The names of Company F's KIA's were read and followed by a moment of prayer. During the Pacific campaigns F Co. lost 10 men on Guadalcanal, 13 on Bougainville, and 18 during the Leyte-Cebu campaigns. This totaled 41 men. The reading of the individual name of the KIA's was a poignant and moving moment of the afternoon.

Long stem roses were presented to the ladies by Allan Peirce. This presentation was followed by dancing and a medley of old-time favorites were sung by Co. F's talented Si Iannetti. Ginger Roger and Fred Astaire impersonations were performed on the dance floor by Joe and Barbara Chin.

Table hopping and story telling continued to the end of a memorable Reunion. Good-byes were said and with God's blessing we will meet again next year.

Joe Papa  
Committee Chairman.

And many "Thanks" to Joe Papa for keeping these old campaigners together. Ed.

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

CAPTAIN WALKER WAS THE BEST!  
E Company 164 Infantry

Capt. Chuck Walker was at least 6 foot tall and lean as a string bean. He was the best Capt. in the field as far as I was concerned. When we needed 105 cover in a hurry, he got it. Utah Christopher was from the Pauls Valley, Oklahoma area and his few seconds of panic cost him his life. We were both riflemen in same squad. Believe it was 2nd Platoon of Easy Company. My Plt. was point. We were takig a knoll and got pinned down. Hale, the BAR man took out the first gunner and gave us a chance to cross a clearing. I kept on going up as I felt I could get under the field of fire. Chris came at me from across the slope and was wild eyed and panicked. I told him to hold tight as we were in a slight depression and if we did not rattle the brush, the gunner up the hill about 25-30 yards, would not know we were that close. Chris said hell no, I am getting off this hill now. He started scooting at an angle across and down the slope and the brush was leaving a trail that anyone above could see. I tried my best to stop him but he moved a few more yards and a burst of 5 or 6 .25 cal. from the gunner above us hit him. I heard him die. About 10 minutes later, Jack Kachell came around the hill and told me to get going as we had temporarily knocked out the gunners above us. I went back about 75 yards and Jack asked me where Chris was. I told him up on the hill we had just came down. Jack told me we never left dead or wounded so he & I went back up as I knew exactly where Chris was. He had taken a slug through the left part of his chest. Small where it went in but big as a fist where it came out the opposite side. We carried him back. Believe it was Walker who had to write the letter, but am not sure about that. Remembered another name in my squad. Vince Lapari. He was out in 46. I stopped in hamburger joint he opened up in the L.A. area and he acted like he never knew me. I was still wearing the OD uniform of the Army then. Yes, those P-38's dropped for the ridge and hit at least 50 to 100 feet below the ridge at least 3 of the times I saw them strike. I wondered why they were coming in perpendicular to the ridge instead of parallel to it. Copied off your notes Jay and if I can find the time will drop by that area in the Army Topic.

Jake  
FROM: ZANE JACOBS: E Co 164th WW11  
(PRODIGY)

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A COMPANY 182 INFANTRY MEDIC

It is with sadness that I must inform you that I attended a funeral reviewal for former comrade, Michael M. Sakavich, who passed away February 22, 1995. He was a Medic with A Company, 182 Infantry of which I was also a member, serving on Bougainville and the Philippines, during World War II. His close friend and fellow Medic with A Company, Nick Stamoulis, was killed in action. As I understand it, Mike Sakavich, also from Minnesota, continues his service in the Army until his retirement in the 70's. Letters of condolences may addressed to his daughter, Mrs. Helen Drake, [REDACTED], SAT. Paul, MN 55107.

Looking forward to seeing a number of my old buddies from the First Battalion at the June Convention, I remain

Yours in comradeship,  
Irvin L. Sonstegard

WILL YOU STILL BURN ME?

I remember when presidents were shot down for me.  
I remember Bunker Hill where heroes died for me.  
I remember six men on Iwo Jima.  
I remember a battleship in Pearl Harbor  
Will you burn me after I have lain over  
a loved one's coffin?

I remember a place in Texas called "The Alamo."  
I remember a beach called "Normandy."  
I remember a place called "Flanders Field."  
I remember when brother fought brother  
here in our own land  
I remember a place called "Korea"  
and another called "Vietnam."  
I remember Audie Murphy,  
The most decorated man who ever fought for me.

There wer so many young men and women.  
Will you burn me after  
I've lain over their coffins?  
I remember the hostages in Iran,  
the men who tried to free them.  
I remember so very many that never came home.  
I remember a marine barrack in Beirut.  
Will you disgrace them by burning me  
after I've lain on their coffins?

The red in my folds is for the men who died to  
raise me above the heads of the enemy  
But now I have an enemy whom I can't defeat  
without your help.  
The (so-called) Supreme Court of this great land  
has decided I'm just a peice of cloth, and old rag  
Anyone who wants to can burn me.

Do my colors mean nothing? Your fathers, sons,  
mothers and daughters died for these colors.  
And their blood drenched this "old rag."  
They fought for a freedom that called for the  
highest price to be paid: their life's blood.  
The red in my folds stands for that blood.

Maybe you 've decided I'm not a symbol of freedom  
Maybe you want a flag of pure red with a yellow  
hammer and sickle and star  
Well, I don't think so, because there are  
still some people who care.  
I feel their hearts cry out when they think  
of the traitorous way.  
I've been humilated and disgraces with a flame  
of a match and the stroke of a pen.

A nation wept.  
So now "Supreme Court," you have the  
biggest fight on your hands`  
I won't lie down for anyone, or dishonor those  
who died fo me  
I will rise again and show myself with pride,  
a pride that can never and will never be  
dishonored

The flag of the United States of America.

by Patsy L. Cabral  
Sergeant  
Florida National Guard

The above poem was sent in by Joe Micek. It is appropriate especially at this time. The American Legion has carried the Flag all the way back to the chambers of the Supreme Court. Now, it is up to YOU to contact your Congressman and insist the he support an amendment to protect OUR FLAG!

WHAT ABOUT THE U.S. VIEW OF THE ENOLA GAY?

The controversy created by the National Air & Space Museum over a display of the Enola Gay as well as what officials of the NASM consider to be the real history of the events concerning the dropping of the atomic bomb is without a doubt a terrible slap in the face of all Americans and especially those who fought in the skies over Japan.

They contend that it was an immoral act perpetrated by President Truman, the people who perfected the bomb and the people who dropped it.

NASM plans to exhibit part of the fuselage along with a warning "This exhibit contains graphic photos of the horrors of war." The warning referred to 50 explicit horrible photos of death and suffering amplifying the burned victims and religious objects that were destroyed by the bomb. The most recent revision to the display has 295 pages of text. Fully 84 pages depicting the Japanese suffering with 97 photos to reinforce it, which sends the wrong message.

This exhibit is not in keeping with the purpose of NASM. Let's not forget this is our Museum and is supported by public funds and grants from government.

This display in not in keeping with this charter. The other side of the story does not get any of attention our former enemy received and demanded.

We should expect to have the Enola Gay displayed just as all the other famous aircraft at NASM and without unsupported opinions by the staff of NASM. They should consider the feelings of Americans instead of our former enemy.

We must remember, their attack on Pearl harbor ended up costing America 250,000 dead. Examples of their brutality are as follows: 30,000 Americans were summarily executed during the Bataan Death March.

The murder, rape and total brutality of China cost 250,000 dead. Forty per cent of all allied POW were summarily executed and the captured Doolittle raiders were beheaded.

The suicidal attacks by the Kamikaze cost in lives and equipment was monumental. I think it is time for us to speak up and stop this travesty. Leave politics and personal views out of the display.

The officials of NASM claim only 45,000 casualties would have been counted if Japan was invaded. This is ridiculous!

The best estimated of President Truman from his staff was up to 2,000,000. Iwo Jima alone cost the Marines 20,000 casualties. We fought to preserve democracy and the greatest recipient of that attitude was a post was Japan itself.

The crowning blow was Japanese coercion to stop the issuance of the 50th Anniversary Stamp depicting the dropping of the first Atomic bomb which because of pressure was canceled.

John Misterly  
Secretary/Treasurer  
20th Air Force Association

Note: The good news is that the top man at NASM resigned. How about our President wanting to change calling the day of victory V.J. Day?

39th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY  
26 Military Police Company

Due to our T O which was created after Task Force 6814 became the Americal Division in New Caledonia our unit was a platoon of 77 men, non-coms and privates. but due to the many duties assigned to our platoon, our strength increase to over two hundred M.P.'s detached from various Companies in the Division. Among our many duties was Town Patrol, Road Patrol, Prisoner Camp (both American and Japanese), guarding supplies, General headquarters, etc. Our highest N.C.O. was a S/Sergeant, 5 Buck Sergeants, 9 Corporals, and the rest were Pfc's and Privates.

Although our company strength was well over two hundred men, we did not have the stripes to go with it. Whenever we moved to another island our Company was reduced to 77 men - then back to two hundred men for extra duties assigned to the M.P. Platoon. I don't know whose brainchild the T.O. was but it sure didn't help our morale allowing no increase in Non-Coms.

After General Parch was sent to Europe, the new Generals brought his own staff - mostly southern gentlemen and the officers assigned to our Company had no great love for "Yankees"



Bougainville 1944  
L to R Art Guarente Charles Whiteacre  
Charles Taylor  
A new batch of 'Jack' - Everyone got the GI's

Charlie Whiteacre and I applied for O.C.S. but never were called even though we had passed the O.C.S. board.

Enclosed is an article about Charlie. He and I were inducted into the National Guard in December of 1940 and served together until our separation from the service in 1944.

Charles Whiteacre, after leaving the Army, attended college, became a lawyer and settled in Hialeah, Florida. He married, raised four children and became active in local politics. He served as a Judge, a City Councilman and mayor of Hialeah. He was active in the V.F.W. and served as Post Commander, State Commander and Judge Advocate General. He is a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association and after retiring, reside in Fort McCoy, Florida.

COMPANY E 101 QUARTERMASTER

It is again my task to get you to a Reunion. I received a letter and a phone call in December from Marty Linden. he is continuing a search for members of the old outfit. At the present time Marty and his wife Vi, are motoring along the west coast of California and the Baja Peninsula. The hope to get to Hawaii also and he's not sure he can make it to Florida by March to join us but he will try.

Another tape has arrived from Fred Stickney in Australia. He has a heart problem but is coping with same.

Joe Testa suggested that we meet again at the Holiday Inn in Plant City, FL on March 15, 1995 t again and everyone in attendance okayed the idea.

So, we'll meet again at the Holiday Inn in Plant city, FL on March 15, 1995 from 11:00 a.m. to ?. If you haven't attended before I urge you to try to be with us. We have a good gab fest and enjoy each others company. Of course, wives (or) are all welcome. I'll make the necessary reservations. You All Come!!!!

Sincerely,  
Gabe Mongeau

The following members attended:

Arthur and Bev Little  
Leo and Fran Bartlett  
Harry Houghton and sister  
Hugh and Matie Moses  
Marty Linden and VI  
Gabe and Ruth Mongeau  
Joe Testa Jim Foley

The above invitation was sent to all members. Gabe and below is a cover letter that Gab mailed to me;

Over the past years I have sent you news of our outfit and get-togethers and you have always put them in the Newsletter for me. Well the years are getting on and I am very lax in doing these things,(forgot to sent me the above copy for the last Newsletter).

I am 82 years old and it seems no one wishes to continue the responsibility. Well anyway, I took it upon myself to do it one more time. I sent the letter to those who have always participated and we did have a great Reunion.

‡ wish I could be more active and participated in some of the 50th year get-togethers held in many locations. Oh well!!

Thanks again for all past favors.

Gabe

Ed note: You do a great job Gabe. As no doubt you know that the only pay you receive for this labor of love is the personal satisfaction get from watching thaws old timers enjoy themselves.

And a GREAT BIG THANKS to Gabe for keeping these old cronies together. (That goes for you to Marty)

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING  
RECEIVE THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

\*\*\*\*\*

F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

At long last I have finally applied for membership with the Americal Division Veterans Association. i don't know why I've waited all this time - guess this old goat has mellowed.

I would like to see if it is possible through the Americal Newsletter to locate some of the men from my platoon and the next-of-kin of those that did not return. I am looking for kin of:

1. Pfc Joe "Pat" Kreegan KIA Cebu Lowell  
2. Sgt. Edmund Jagodinski KIA Leyte Ohio  
3. Pfc Robert Castle KIA Leyte Oregon

I would also like to hear from my other two squad leaders:

Sgt. Domenic Fiorentino Pennsyklvania  
Sgt. Dan Reeves Missouri

They, and a few others would be pleased to know that the Philippine government would be happy to send them a few medals for \$7.00 each.

I enjoy the 'Letters to the Old Guard' and one day I will relate a few of the "Good Times".

Incidentally, my wife and i are still corresponding with the children of the Roberts family that I stayed with for three days when we were in Ballarat, Australia. My father-in-law came to the U.S. when he was 4 years of age. His mothers maiden name was Roberts.

All my friend call me 'Ducky' - Class of 1937 Winchester High School.

Sincerely,  
Frank Rallo

P.S. Why doesn't the Philippine Government send medals to the next-of-kin of those men that gave their lives defending their country"

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FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

I have been appointed National Chaplain by National Commander William Maddox. This is quite a change from being in. the Fire Direction Center of the 246 F.A. during the war, to functioning now as an Episcopal Priest and Chaplain.

I write this letter to let the veterans know that the Americal Division Veterans Association Chaplain sends a letter to the next of kin in the event of the death of one of our members. Considering the fifty years or so since World War II , there are some weeks that find several deaths within our ranks.

What has prompted this letter to you was a letter I received from one of the widows. i have received many notes of thanks from widows or family, but i wanted to share a recent one. It is from Julia Ann Diehl, the wife of Chandler Diehl, a member of our Association, Julia Ann is also he daughter of our General Patch. She writes, "Who would ever have thought so many years ago when Dad took command of those fine young men and they made the Americal such an outstanding division, that one day some of those same men would be comforting and supporting me in my grief?"

May the souls of the departed rest in Peace.

The Reverand William T. Elliott  
Chaplain

COMPANY D 164 INFANTRY

I recently joined up for the Americal Newsletter. I never knew that the ADVA existed until a buddy showed me your advertisement in the V.F.W. Magazine. Better late than never.

The picture I have enclosed was taken on Bougainville in 1944. The Japs were on the other side of the island and all MacArthur wanted was to protect the airstrips, so they could hit Rabaul and other target north of the Solomons. This was the airstrip that Pappy Boyington and his famed Black Sheep Squadron were based,

One half of the protective line was held by the Americal and the other half by the 37 Division. In the spring the entire body of japs crossed the island and attacked full force into our lines. The brunt of the blow fell on the 37 Division lines, who stood fast and beat them back. The Americal had feeler attacks but did not bear the full weight of the battle.

With the main body of Japs killed or scattered we were relieved by a Brigade of Australians and went on to Leyte, Cebu, and Negros.

You can see from the picture that it was beer ration day for the 1st. Bn. All the men pictured are from D Company, 164 Infantry



Standing L to R: John Cross from Brooklyn, Bob Macros from Chicago, Robert Shea form Hartford , Mike Perponovich from Sacramento and Herb ? from Minnesota.

Ir's great to be in touch with the old Americal.

Bob Shea

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OPERATION OLYMPIC  
James Martin Davis

This is the story of the invasion that didn't happen.

Deep in the recesses of the National Archives in Washington, DC, hidden for nearly four decades, lie thousands of pages of yellowing and dusty documents stamped "Top Secret." These documents, now declassified, are the plans for Operation Downfall, the invasion of Japan during World War II.

Only a few Americans in 1945 were aware of the elaborate plans that had been prepared for the Allied invasion of the Japanese home islands. Even fewer today are aware of the defenses the Japanese had prepared to counter the invasion had it been launched.

Operation downfall was finalized during the spring of 1945. It called for two massive military undertakings to be carried out in succession and aimed ant the heart of the Japanese Empire.

OLYMPIC

In the first invasion--code named Olympic-- American combat troops would land on Japan by amphibious assault during the early morning hours of 1 Nov. 45 -- 49 years ago. Fourteen combat divisions of soldiers and Marines would land on heavily fortified and defended Kyushu, the southernmost of the Japanese home islands after an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment.

CORONET

The second invasion 1 March 1946 -- code named Operation Coronet -- would send at least 22 combat divisions against 1 million Japanese defenders on the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain. Its goal: the unconditional surrender of Japan.

With the exception of part of the British Pacific Fleet, Operation Downfall was to be a strictly American operation. It called for using the entire Marine Corps, the entire Pacific Navy, and elements of the 8th Army Air Force, the 8th Air Force (recently deployed from Europe), the 20th Air Force and the American Far Eastern Air Force.

More than 1.5 million combat soldiers, with 3 million in support--more than 40 percent of all servicemen still in uniform in 1945 -- would be directly involved in the two amphibious assaults.

Casualties were expected to be heavy.

Admiral Leahy estimated that there would be more than 250,00- killed or wounded on Kyushu alone. General Charles Willowby, chief of intelligence for Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific, estimated American casualties from the entire operation would be 1 million men by the fall of 1946. Willowby's own intelligence staff considered this to be a conservative estimate.

During the summer of 1945, America had little time to prepare for such an endeavor, but top military leaders were almost in unanimous agreement that an invasion was necessary.

While a naval blockade and strategic bombing of Japan was considered to be useful, MacArthur, for instance, did not believe a blockade would bring about unconditional surrender. The advocates for invasion agreed that while a naval blockade chokes, it does not kill; and though strategic bombing might destroy cities, it leaves whole armies intact.

Continues next issue

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Most of the liberal news media, the political correct people, and the historians that are writing revisionist history and now trying to make the public believe that we are "Bad Guys" of world War II. Lets hear what you think about it. I say if the Bomb saved the life of one American soldier. it was worth it.



JAMES C. BUCKLE  
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#### 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:                                  |                    |
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