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FOUNDED 1945

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1994

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: DAVID L. RECOB

Published Bi-Monthly

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



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

\*\*\*\*\*

AMERICAL NEWSLETTEREDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

VIETNAM EDITOR

David L. Recob

Topeka, KS 66611-2132

Telephone [REDACTED]

**ADJUTANT'S NOTES**MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS**NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY**

March 12, 1994  
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

April 9, 1994  
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TAPS TAPS TAPS**

Gustaf H. Wallin  
121 Medical Battalion  
Quincy, MA  
September 13, 1993

Normand J. Juairé  
182 Infantry E Co.  
Spencer, MA  
November 29, 1993

William R. Duke  
182 Infantry M Co.  
Melrose, MA  
July 15, 1993

William F. Earls  
101 Medical Battalion  
Brighton, MA  
October 1993

Walter J. McKenna  
925 AW AAA Battalion  
Warwick, RI  
January 10, 1993

Theodore La Jeunesse  
221 Field Art. A Btry  
Lakeville, MA  
December 23, 1993

Charles W. Lord  
182 Infantry M Co.  
Melrose, MA  
November 14, 1993

Charles Sharpe  
Americal Div. G-2  
Portland, ME  
November 11, 1993

\*\*\*\*\*

**REMEMBERING A FRIEND**

William R. Duke

Its not an easy thing when you try to put into words about a man you liked and admired---Bill Duke was that kind of person.

He joined Company M, 182 Infantry in 1937 and was called to active duty prior to the United States entry into World War II. Bill did his time in the Pacific.

That was not the end of the time he served with the 182 Infantry. In 1947 when the Regiment was re-activated T/Sgt. William Duke was ready to give it another try. In 1949 Bill received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and continued on from there to do the things that were proper for him.

Here again appeared Bill Duke to take his proper place in the 182d Infantry Association. He had held every office possible and was always willing to fill in when one wasn't taken.

He was a friend to the very end.

We will miss him so very much.

(Taken from the 182 Infantry Association paper -- The Broadsider.)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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\*\*\*\*\*

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182 Infantry 221 Field Artillery

Hey Guys---How about a card?

\*\*\*\*\*

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

If you know of a Comrade who is sick or has passed please notify:

Adj. Bernard Chase  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
Tel [redacted]

IMMEDIATELY!

\*\*\*\*\*

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Helen Beyers

E Co. 182 Infantry  
In Memory of:

Normand J. Juairé  
Francis J. Buckley

\*\*\*\*\*

WATCH THE MAIL!

In early February 1994 you will be receiving an envelope containing all the information pertaining the National Convention that will beheld in the Pines Resort Motel, Fallsburg, NY June 9-12, 1994

This envelope will contain a brochure telling about the Hotel and listing a complete program for the four days. You must fill out the reservation form in the brochure and mail it with your deposit of \$25.00 TO THE PINES RESORT HOTEL.

You will also find a REGISTRATION FORM. This form, with a check for \$10.00 PER PERSON must be returned my May 1, 1994. Mail REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Steve Dennison  
[redacted]  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227



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Regional Commander  
 Elmer E. Matola  
 [REDACTED]  
 Hernando Beach, FL 32642  
 Tel. [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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 AR, LA, MS, OK, TX

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 [REDACTED]  
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
 Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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 [REDACTED]  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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 [REDACTED]  
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 Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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 [REDACTED]  
 Marston Mills, MA 02648

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER**  
 IA KS MO NE ND SD

David L. Recob  
 [REDACTED]  
 Topeka, KS 66611  
 Tel: [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?  
 HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CHAPTER DUES?

\*\*\*\*\*

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA  
 [REDACTED]  
 PEABODY, MA 01960

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHAPTER NEWS

**SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER**

Chapter Commander Ernest B. Carlson [REDACTED] Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Tel- [REDACTED]	Secretary/Treasurer Malcolm P. East [REDACTED] Lumberton, TX 77656 Tel [REDACTED]
---	---

Sergeant-at-Arms Jesse J. Mendoza

Christmas of 1993 was good!!! In the middle of December, Dick and Gloria Bayman (D Co. 182 Infantry) stopped over for three days on their way to Tucson, Arizona from their home in Mountain Home, My wife Fay and I, Bruce and Lydia Mobley, and the Baymans enjoyed a dinner prepared by Fay before they continued on their way.

Dick Bayman's tour of duty ended on April 13, 1945 when the "Ridge" on Cebu blew up. He was wounded in the back and was evacuated.

The Bayman's are due back in Fredericksburg in February for a week and we will have a get-together with all that we can contact. I will start making calls when I learn the exact date of their arrival.

CHAPTER MEMBERS--CHECK YOUR CHAPTER CARDS! What! you don't have a Chapter Card! That means that you haven't paid your dues since 1992 ( or even 1990-1991).

We do not like to drop members but since your dues are only \$3.00 a year, we will be forced to do so. The dues are the only source of income the Chapter has, (outside of a few donations we receive) to pay for telephone calls, stamps, printing and etc. Please send your dues directly to me, Ernest Carlson, and I will get your card to you by return mail. Also please send us your outfit designation---Regiment, Battalion, and Company.

Have a great 1994!

Ernest Carlson  
 Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

COMMANDER Elmer E. Matola [REDACTED] Hernando, FL 34442 [REDACTED]	SEC/TREAS George P. Dakin [REDACTED] Deltona, FL 32728
--	---

We are fortunate to have the medium of the Americal Newsletter to discuss our problems, keep in contact with our buddies, and to tell of our experiences during the various wars. Many thanks to the Staff of the Newsletter for the time they put into each issue. And I speak in behalf of the members of the Arthur R. Woods Chapter.

If you have anything to contribute to the Newsletter do not fail to send it in. Pictures are always welcome.

At present the A.D.V.A. is involved in a membership drive. If you know of anyone that served in the Americal please send their name in so that they may be contacted. We will welcome any new A.D.V. A. into our Chapter.

At our last Chapter meeting new officers were elected to run your Chapter. Elmer Matola was elected Regional Commander and George Dakin was elected Secretary/Treasurer. As your new Commander I wish to extend my thanks to our past commander, Tom McQuade for the great job he did in running the Chapter and I promise to continue the good work.

Anyone that missed our last meeting sure lost out on a good time. Be sure to make our next meeting in the spring!

We have almost enough funds to install the Memorial Benches at our memorial in the National Cemetery. I wish to thank all the Chapter members that contributed and also thanks to the A.D.V. A. members that were so generous.

Elmer E. Matola  
 Commander

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**CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER**

IA KS MO NE ND SD

Ron Ward  
 Commander  
 [REDACTED]  
 St. Louis, MO 63123

David L. Recob  
 Secretary  
 [REDACTED]  
 Topeka, KS 66611

Bob Crews, Sergeant At Arms

Hello!

Would You believe that incredible things are happening in the Americal Division Veterans Association? We have signed up some new members since we last communicated with the chapter members. Lets welcome:

D.C. Stewart, 132nd Inf WW II, PO Box 196, Waterville, KS. 66548.  
 Melvin F. Tremblay, 132nd Inf WW II, 421 W. 15th St, Concordia, KS 66901.  
 Elmer Jensen, 132nd Inf, WW II, 1129 E. 11th St, Hutchinson, KS 67501.  
 Jerry R. Wiese, 132nd Inf, WW II, Rt 2, Box 234, Randolph, NE. 68771.  
 The above 4 guys all served in the Anti-Tank Co of the 132nd Inf Regt. Welcome aboard guys.

Also, lets welcome:  
 Donald J. Mills, D/4/3rd Inf, 11th LIB, RR#2, Box 153, Indianola, IL 61850.  
 and - Amy Lazar, Red Cross Lady 91st/312th Evac Hospitals, at Chu Lai. Amy works for the University of Kansas City, Missouri, Veterans Outreach Program helping veterans and their families who are suffering from the effects of Agent Orange in the State of Missouri.  
 Our membership now stands at 62 members, an increase of 6 over our last count.

Would you believe some members have not sent in their \$5 dues for more than two years? They signed up originally, and then - ? "what happened?"..... Hey guys, we need you and we need your support. The "kitty" is almost dry! We can't communicate if we can't afford the postage or stationary to write you with.

Ron Ward, Myself, and Bob Crews have been Chapter Officers from day one. It's time we held an election to elect new officers. If you want the current slate to remain in office, drop me a line and tells us so, and I will validate the results and report them. If you want new officers, send in your recommendations, and we'll put out a ballot. Ron has been a good Commander and has worked hard in our behalf. I'd recommend a new Secretary and Sgt At Arms. Give it some thought guys, and let us know. I'd appreciate it if every member would drop a line on the matter of Chapter Officers. We have 62 members. We need at least 40 letters to validate an election. Please give it your attention. You members in Iowa and Missouri who suffered through the flood, we pray all is now well. You had our prayers. Please remember to send in your dues of \$5 to help the "kitty" survive. Thanks. To those going to Washington, D.C. on Nov 10-11, good luck. Send some photo's to me.

Dave Recob  
 Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Regional Commander Lewis Turner [REDACTED] Oroville, CA 95966	Sec/Treas Gino Massagli [REDACTED] Eureka, CA 95501
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Sergeant-at-Arms Chaplain	Howard W. Walker Herbert A. Holt
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Just a word to say "Hello" and to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I also have a bit of bad news. I have recently learned of the death of two former members of the Americal. Sgt. McBroom from Gould, Arkansas and Billy Smith of Church Hill, Tennessee. Both men died of cancer. These two men also served together in F Company, 182 Infantry.

In 1989 I was on trip to Arkansas and stopped to see Sgt. McBroom for a short visit. He died shortly after my visit.

The location of, the next Far West Chapter Reunion has not been decided upon as yet. Chairman Pat Tognoli is working on it and he will come up with a place and a date shortly.

Sincerely,  
 Lew Turner

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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



CHAPTER NEWS

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 Region Chapter is sponsoring the 1994 National Convention. It will be held at the Pines Resort and Conference Center Fallsburg, New York on June 9 thru June 12, 1994

About the first of February 1994 you will be receiving a letter containing a brochure the list the complete activities and a registration form.

For your HOTEL reservations, complete the form in the brochure and mail it with your \$25.00 per room deposit to THE PINES RESORT HOTEL.

Also included in the letter will be your REGISTRATION FORM. Please mail this form with your \$10.00 PER PERSON (\$20.00 per couple) to STEVE DENNISON.

Jack Samuels is the Co-Chairman of the Committee.  
If you have ANY QUESTIONS please call Jack Samuels at 1-412-661-2709 or steve Dennison at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,  
Steve Dennison  
Chapter Commander

\*\*\*\*\*  
THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING ME.

I wish to thank the many members of the Americal Division Veterans Association that sent me a Holiday Greeting card. I indeed felt honored to be remembered by my friends. The greetings to my wife were certainly appreciated also. She is certainly a 'good soldier' for putting up with with as the deadline for the Americal Newsletter approaches.

I look forward to meeting my comrades-in-arms at all of our functions. However, it seems that there is never enough time to visit with everyone. Time flies by so fast when you are in good company and surrounded by friends.

If I have neglected to answer your letter promptly, or did not send a card, please forgive me. Time passes so rapidly that I never get to the bottom of the stack of letter on my desk. I certainly enjoy putting the Newsletter together but it does take a tremendous amount of time.

I hear my wife calling now, "Aren't you ever coming to dinner?". So with that I will say, God bless you all and thanks again for remembering me.

I also wish to say 'many thanks' to the Staff of the A.D.V.A.. You're a great group to work with!

Sincerely,  
Jim Buckle

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MORE NEW MEMBERS

Wilfred A. Armstrong 196 LIB A/1/46 Inf Lockhart, TX #R. Castronova	Sidney Barnes 196 LIB Cleveland, OH #R. Castronova
Douglas G. Black 196 LIB A/1/46 Inf Albuquerque, NM #Fred Cowburn	Gaylen Blosser 196 A/1/46 Inf Greenville, OH #Fred Cowburn
Charles T. Case 196 LIB A/1/46 Inf Sherwood, OH #Fred Cowburn	Arthur R. Cohen 11 LIB Brooklyn, NY #R. Castronova
Steve Crabtree 75 Rangers G Co. Mesa, AZ #R. Castronova	Carl E. Creswell 46 Inf 1/46 Amarillo, TX #R. Castronova
Robert M. Gage 164 Infantry M Co. Vine Grove, KY #Jim Buckle	Frank D. Guarino 196 LIB Hq 8 Sup Bn Debary, FL #R. Castronova
Robert Janicek 196 LIB Milwaukee, WI #R. Castronova	David Kroll 196 LIB A/1/46 Inf Clifton, IL #R. Castronova
Thomas McGuire 196 LIB B/D/3/21 In Lexington, OH #Ron Davis	Daniel H. Miller 1 Cav 1/1 Wabash, IN #Lynn Hart
Joseph S. Pergerson 196 LIB B/1/46 Inf Burlington, NC #Fred Cowburn	Donald L. Reasor 196 LIB B/1/46 Inf Lorain, OH #Fred Cowburn Gary
John Severson 70 C.A. Lubbock, TX #Bernie Chase	

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AMERICAL DIVISION CASUALTIES WORLD II

Campaign	KIA	WIA	MIA	Total
Guadalcanal	533	902	4	1439
Bougainville	301	898	13	1212
Leyte, Samar, Straits	165	550	0	715
Cebu, Bohol, Negros	449	1969	9	2427
Totals	1448	4319	26	5793

The KIA includes men who died of wounds and the WIA includes an undetermined number injured in action. (Taken from: Under the Southern Cross)

We should always remember our fallen comrades and remember the good life and great times that we have enjoyed and they never knew. We were all young then and now in the twilight of our lives we should give thanks for those young men that sacrificed their lives.

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?







L.Z. FRIENDLY  
[REDACTED]  
Athens, GA 30604  
[REDACTED]

Seasons Greetings from L Z Friendly. We hope this past year has been a good one for you and your family. Our best wishes go out to you for a happy holiday season.

The 1993 Campout was excellent! More people, more fun, more music, more rain. Quote of the Campout: "It may rain in, but not on L Z Friendly". Thanks!

The 1994 Annual Campout and Family Gathering will be held over the Memorial Day Weekend - May 27-30, 1994 at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Comer, GA. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

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#### A CLASSIC by Doc Merk

I turned 20 years old on the way back from R&R in Sydney on 2/20/69. Spent the rest of my time in Nam, hit again, spent time in the hospital, got pulled out of the boonies, and finally ETS'd. The point of this story is that when another medic buddy and I flew back to the world, ate our steak and eggs at Ft. Lewis and went to Tacoma airport to fly home to our respective hometowns we were like babes in the woods. In our fresh new uniforms, patches, and medals, we decided to have a beer to toast each other for making it back. Doug Saxon (where are you?) and I walked into a bar in the Tacoma airport and ordered a cold one. Damn, we were glad to be back in the world. The bartender carded us. Saxon was 21 but I was only (?) 20 and he wouldn't serve me. I about came unglued and about lost it. Like so many times when relying on your buddies, Saxon calmed me down, and we got out of there. I made a scene and was a little ashamed of myself. I knew I had to get better control of myself cause we were back in the world now. We found there were 2 bars in the airport so we humped down to the other end, walked into the other bar, and ordered a Schlitz. The bartender was a WW II Americal doggie who had been wounded on Guadalcanal. He noted both of our Purple Hearts and asked about or CMB's as the army had CIB's and not CMB's when he was invalided out 26 years earlier. He wouldn't let us buy a beer, and as the place wasn't real busy we swapped stories and compared Nam to the Canal.

Many people think Guadalcanal was just a show for the jarheads, but an awful lot of Americal doggies bought the farm there. Anyway I digress. I can't remember that old boys name anymore, but he put his job on the line by serving me, and he was more or less our real welcome home. I'd like to buy him a couple now 23 years later, as I can now relate how he felt as I talked to a couple of guys who were in the 1st Cav, just back from Iraq. It was a time we'll never forget. The tears, the blood, the fear, the feeling of comradie, that we felt when we were so young and alive.

so it goes  
Doc Merk  
Mountain Man

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

IT NEEDS YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*

## VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

DEDICATION WOMEN'S MEMORIAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

This article has many authors and was contributed to by many people. Thanks to all. Ron Ward-Jay Roth-Spence Baba-Dutch DeGroot-Gary Noller-to name just a few who also provided photographs. The ceremony took place on November 11, 1993. It brought many veterans of many units together, and within the Americal division we "connected" with a lot of our former Nurses from the 91st-312th Evac Hospitals at Chu Lai as well as many Red Cross ladies and Donut Dollies, along with ladies in all kinds of fields such as Special Services, Medical, USO, etc., and we Americal veterans give them our love and best thanks. Most of all, it is the sincere hope and prayer of this Vietnam editor that every one who was not a member of the ADVA was signed up by someone on the spot to help keep our association alive and well.

A consensus report is that the fellowship flowed freely among those present in the hospitality suite which was funded by ADVA and from donations from many in attendance, to the giant parade that took place to march to the dedication spot. Of all the photographs taken, we did not get one of the women's memorial itself due to the extremely crowded conditions at the time with thousands of veterans closing in around the memorial to hear Vice President Gore and other dignitaries speak. Of all the articles received, I'll publish this one by Ron Ward and show some photographs.

WOMEN'S MEMORIAL DEDICATION  
By Ron Ward, PNC

On Nov 11th, Veterans Day, 1993 - about 100,000 vets and their families showed up at the Vietnam Memorial to pay their respects to the ladies who served in Vietnam. Following a parade by the vets, we assembled near the wall where the new statue honoring the ladies was dedicated. It's a fine piece of sculpture and I believe it adds greatly to the magnificence of the Vietnam memorial. We were treated to many speakers at the ceremony, too many!.. It was dark by the time the ceremony closed and our Commander "Dutch" DeGroot along with COL. Vern Pike, were able to place our Americal wreath at the wall. I salute COL. Pike for securing that beautiful wreath on such short notice. The speakers, too numerous to mention them all, but our Vice President, Al Gore, was noted as among the dignitaries. President Clinton's whereabouts were unknown.

Our parade to the wall started with a much smaller contingent than we began with. We picked up a lot of Americal vets along the way who were not aware that we were and organized group. Our Americal flags and signs were flying proudly and we were treated to many cheers by the sidewalk crowds as we marched by. Rich Drapczuk, a 198th LIB platoon sergeant and holder of the Silver Star, was on the corner with a ruck sack of champagne bottles to pass out to the men. I don't usually drink at ten o'clock in the morning, "but that bubbly sure tasted good Rich."

Americal hospitality took place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. We got a good break on the price thanks to WW2 vet, Joe Chin. He had a connection [his Son is an executive in the Shoreham Hotel chain] that knocked off a couple hundred bucks on our rent for the hospitality room. "Way to go Joe!" That discount along with generous donations by several members of the ADVA and other Americal groups allowed us to provide plenty of beer and pop without shaking the kitty jar too many times. Here I must mention another WW2 vet, our National Adjutant Bernie Chase, who made a sizable personal donation to help with the hospitality costs. To the guys on the National Video Network Bulletin Board group who also donated a sizeable amount of money, and other private individuals all over, we are greatly indebted for your generosity.

What a sight to behold to see COL. Vern Pike fit that body of his back into his full uniform with silver chickens and decorations, as if he was still on active duty. Vern is a real trooper, and quite unafraid to rub elbows with

the peons! LTC Pete Messina lead the way years ago!

Veterans Day was special to me this year as I was able to get together with another member of my old platoon in the 198th LIB. Ray Fox, our platoon RTO, came down from Minnesota with his lovely wife. First time I'd seen Ray since 1968. He called in the medevac chopper for me on my last day in the field after being blown away. Fox and I were honored to meet the mother of our buddy Jim Abraham, who was KIA on the day I was wounded. Mrs. Abraham came from Pittsburg with another of her sons to meet us. Believe me, it was very hard to hold back the tears. Her son was a great soldier. He was my squad leader and with me as a FNG he made life a lot less miserable for me in those first patrols. To make matters worse, he was a short timer when he was killed. Had he lived, I'm sure that his life would have been a greater success than most men. He was that kind of guy.

Our Division was well represented that week-end in Washington, D.C. To all of you men who have not been able to attend in the past, here is your chance to come next year and visit the Vietnam Memorial in the company of men wearing the same shoulder insignia as yourself. See you in Washington, D.C., November 11, 1994.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jay A. Giberson, [REDACTED] Donnellson, IA., 52625.  
Tel: [REDACTED] 11-17-93.

Dear Sirs:

I read the ad in the "Bonny Buyer" which is published in West Point, IA. The one "Did You Wear This Patch!"...

My name is Jay Giberson and my Brother was in the 198th LIB Americal division in Vietnam. He was killed in action on June 20, 1970 near the village of Chu Lai. He was a Sgt and his name was Jerry Guy Giberson. This is all I know, as I was very young at the time of his death. If someone who knew him would contact me, i'd like to know the circumstances of his death, and perhaps obtain some photographs of him and his buddies. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you.

Jay A. Giberson.

Ed note: Can we help him fellows? We'd appreciate the effort.

\*\*\*\*\*

Steve Hanken, 1508 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA. 52403.  
11-29-93. Formally assigned: 335th Avn Maintenance Chu Lai.

Dear Sirs:

Here is a story I thought your readers would enjoy. We support troop guys have stories to tell too! Here is one I personally was involved in. It was published in the Southern Cross Sept 25, 1970:

LOH HOVERS WITHOUT PILOT  
BY SP/4 Peter Sornsen  
FSB BRONCO [11TH LIB PIO]

Another incredible page has been added to the "Believe It - Or Not!" listings of the Vietnam war: "A Light Observation Helicopter" [LOH] that flew by itself!"

Recently two LOH's were flying a "lost sight" visual reconnaissance in support of the 1/20th Inf north of Duc Pho. CWO James M. Call, North Wilkesboro, N.C., reported He was directing ground troops to location where enemy troops were active and had been observed earlier. I was using my search light since it was getting dark. We were about to break station with the platoon on the ground, when my ship took direct fire. He continued, the rounds passed through the bottom of the aircraft, through the fuel cell and struck our grenade box detonating a WP grenade about



VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

100 feet off the ground. I tried to fly the ship to a nice paddy near friendly troops. As the LOH began to descend, the flames grew in volume and intensity. Doorunner SP4 Robert W. Jud, Dearborne, MI., unsuccessfully attempted to unload the grenade. Moments later Specialist Jud jumped to the ground when CWO Call suggested that the situation was critical as the ship was engulfed by flames and the bubble was starting to melt, CWO Call also abandoned the ship by jumping approximately 30 feet ship to ground. Call and Jud were airlifted to FSB BRONCO. However, CWO Call would soon have to return. The downed LOH was burning badly and sitting on the ground. Fifteen minutes later the Brigade Tactical Operations Center received word that the burning LOH had began to hoover a few inches above the ground unmanned. Major James W. Searcy, Columbus, GA., Brigade Aviation Officer said it was an event "one chance in a million!" CWO Call was interested in what was happening, and since the ship had to be switched off, he returned to the site to figure out a plan. He timed the swaying of the ships motions, and at the right moment, jumped into the pod and switched off the engine and the LOH landed "full off"... Reflected CWO Call: "The fires should not have died down. The aircraft was covered with JP4 fuel. The LOH smoldered a full day after the incident. It should never have flown by itself - it was a really weird helicopter!".

Hanken recalls, that the LOH was recovered intact and air lifted back to Chu Lai for inspection and possible repair. It was parked in a special revettment awaiting ground crews to pull the engine and vital parts as well as fuel cells from the bottom of the ship. After the engine and transmission was dropped out of the aircraft, a crew started to remove the flooring over the grenade box and when air hit the box, the WP which had not ignited the night the aircraft was hit, exploded and started another fire in the ship and threatened the safety of crews in the area. CWO Frost the safety officer ordered the LOH to be airlifted to the South China Sea and dropped into the ocean. Once done, the weird helicopter was at last grounded. The engine and transmission would be used for another ship. It was a weird story from start to finish. But - a story for the record books. Later, CWO Frost the safety officer was killed on a milk run flight to DaNang along with the rest of the flight crew.

Ed note: The article was edited and shortened to conserve space. It is incredible. Can anyone match this story with another similar incident? We'll publish it...

\*\*\*\*\*

Jerry Anderson, 560 Allgood Rd, Stone Mountain, GA., 30083. 11-03-93.

Dear Dave:

I am looking for copies of those letters sent to parents and wives of Vietnam Veterans returning home, informing relatives their veteran may be suffering from P.T.S.D.

These letters were sent by the government to the family explaining how the Vietnam veteran would be acting to such things as bad nerves, bad temper, drinking problems, and in general an inability to deal with and cope with those things that face us in every day living and in solving minor problems that face us.

My Mother was sent such a letter in 1968, but before I got home, the letter had been lost.

A copy of this letter could assist in the treatment of vets with P.T.S.D. in VA Hospitals.

If someone out there has a copy to spare, I'd sure appreciate it. I was with Co C, Med, 11th LIB 67-68. I know some family members of 11th LIB members ought to have copies.

Thanks a lot.

Jerry Anderson:

Say hello to Rollie Castronova, we were together in 'Nam.  
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"BATTLEKINGS" 1st BATTALION 14th ARTILLERY

Hail REDLEGS of the 1st Bn, 14th FA. Your Battalion is once again on the active rolls, with colors flying high. Now with the 2nd Armored Division and returning to Fort Hood, Texas, the Battalion once again has a home. I am presently putting together a comprehensive battalion historical document of the "BATTLEKINGS" war-time exploits in World War II with the 2nd Armored Division and during Nam with the 198 LIB and the Americal. As a Nam vet myself, I find it important that the soldiers of the battalion know their lineage and of the soldiers who served proudly with the "BATTLEKINGS" past.

We are proud of you all and the glorious history that you have left us. My information on the battalion during Vietnam is pretty slim right now and that is why I am asking for your assistance. I ask for your assistance in this endeavor and anything that you may contribute will be incorporated into the battalions official history.

Through it's history the battalion has come under various logos such as, "BATTLEKINGS" "WARBONNETS", and currently "STEEL WARRIORS". Our present mission puts us in direct support of the 2d BDE (ST. LO) 2d Armored Division. Our piece is the M109A4 (155) self-propelled howitzer; 8 in each firing battery and 24 in each battalion. On New Years Day the "STEEL WARRIORS" begin deployment to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, for 30 days.

The address of the battalion is as follows:

CSM Lawrence L. Cross  
HHB 1st Bn, 14th FA (Reg)  
Fort Hood, TX 76544  
Duty phone: [REDACTED]  
Home phone: [REDACTED]

"STEEL WARRIORS" LEAD THE WAY.

Lawrenc L. Cross  
Command Sergeant Major

\*\*\*\*\*

1/46 INFANTRY LZ PROFESSIONAL 1/46 INFANTRY  
196 LIB 81 MM MORTAR CREW 198 LIB

I would like to locate any Vets that served with my unit or attached units on LZ Professional. I served with HHC 1/46 Inf 198 LIB and the 81 MM Mortar Crew, Delta Company. 1/46 Inf 198 LIB. was securing the LZ on May 12, 1969 when under offensive attack.

I would like to hear from any Medics that were on LZ Professional on that date.

I need help in establishing a claim and would appreciate hearing from any one that was there at that time. Please contact:

Danny R. Heller  
[REDACTED]  
Waupun, WI 53963

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196 LIB ASSOCIATION BILL KNIGHT

Many thanks for your generous contribution of \$196 toward our expenses for the Hospitality Room this past November 11th in Washington, DC .

John (Dutch) DeGroot  
National Commander

# NATIONAL CONVENTION

## JUNE 9 - 12, 1994

### PINES RESORT HOTEL

### FALLSBURG, NEW YORK

NOW HEAR THIS

Upon your arrival Thursday afternoon you will be guests at a three hour cocktail party in the Hospitality Room. There will be soft drinks, beer, and coffee. This will be followed by a gala theme dinner with a night club act to follow.

After breakfast on Friday morning we will be taken by bus to a boat for a two (2) hour excursion down the Hudson River to West Point. After a deluxe dinner at the historic Hotel Thayer, on the grounds of West Point along the banks of the Hudson, we will attend a Memorial Service at the Cadet Chapel. This will be followed by a tour of West Point, featuring Trophy Point, the West Point Museum and a visit to the gift shop.

Friday evening dinner will be at The Pines and another show will follow dinner. For those member that are interested, The Pines will provide transportation to Monticello Raceway.

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday. Also on Saturday a shopping spree will be arranged for those that are interested. Saturday will also feature the golf outing on a nine hole Robert Trent Jones golf course.

Saturday night will be our huge banquet with speakers from West Point. Dancing will follow dinner.

Other activities are available on the grounds of The Pines. These include golf, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor tennis, bingo, and a crazy legs contest.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX! About the first of February you will receive, under separate cover, a brochure that will include your reservation form and a REGISTRATION FORM that must be filled out and mailed with a check for \$10.00 PER PERSON TO STEVE DENNISON.

REMEMBER

Send your RESERVATION FORM to the Pines Resort Hotel with your deposit of \$25.00. Send your REGISTRATION FORM to STEVE DENNISON with your check for \$10.00 PER PERSON.

SEE YOU AT THE PINES RESORT HOTEL

THIS IS AN ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE---EXCEPT THE GOLF  
THESE ARE NOT BUFFET MEALS---YOU ARE WAITED ON  
GRATUITIES---TAXES---INCLUDED



## VIETNAM

NICK D. BACON  
4/21ST INF

MEDAL OF HONOR  
26 AUGUST 1968  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

Contributed by COL. James A. Franklin  
3/1st Inf  
From Vietnam To Orlando, A Buddy For Life  
[Orlando Sentinel, William R. Rauscher]  
Reprinted with special permission

On a recent trip to Little Rock, Arkansas in October 1993, I had the pleasure to see once again a son of the Americal Division at a military reunion being hosted by the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Little Rock. Actually, I met two Americal vets that day. The other was Lt. Colonel Dan Harkins, of the 23rd MP Co. Both Nick and Dan had served in the 11th LIB at Duc Pho. This story is about Nicky D. Bacon, who on 26 August 1968, won the Medal of Honor in a fierce fire fight that almost wiped out his unit.

Nick's citation reads:

"Staff Sergeant Nicky Daniel Bacon, Company B, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, while on military operations west of Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, 26 August 1968, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of himself while serving as a squad leader with the 1st platoon, Company B, west of Tam Ky, Company B came under intense fire from an enemy bunker line to the front. SSG Bacon quickly organized his men and lead them forward in an assault. He advanced on a hostile bunker and destroyed it with grenades. As he did so, several fellow soldiers including the 1st platoon leader, were struck by machinegun fire and fell wounded in an exposed position forward of the rest of the platoon. SSG Bacon immediately assumed command of the platoon and assaulted the hostile gun position, finally killing the enemy gun crew in a singlehanded effort. When the 3rd platoon moved to SSG Bacon's location, its leader was also wounded. Without hesitation SSG Bacon took charge of the additional platoon and continued the fight. In the ensuing action he personally killed 4 more enemy soldiers and silenced an antitank weapon. Under his leadership and example, the members of both platoons accepted his authority without question. Continuing to ignore the intense hostile fire, he climbed upon the exposed deck of a tank and directed fire into the enemy position while several wounded men were evacuated. As a result of SSG Bacon's extraordinary efforts, his company was able to move forward, eliminate the enemy positions, and rescue the men trapped to the front. SSG Bacon's bravery at the risk of his life was in the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army".

Bacon went on to finish a most distinguished career in the U.S. Army in the Military Police Corps, and retired as a First Sergeant E-8, in 1984. After 21 years and 2 Vietnam tours. Now a resident of Conway, Arkansas, he was born in Caraway in Craighead county, Arkansas.

Following his retirement in 1984, Nick went to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona. He worked 2 years as a Med-Vet Coordinator [a medical program he helped create and staff], three years as a City Manager in the small city of Surprise, Arizona. He was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs by Governor Kim Guy Tucker on April 5, 1993. He lives with his wife Tamara Ann, and his two sons James 10, and Wyatt 5.

Nick's desire is to unite all veterans in the effort to educate our youth on the costs of freedom and to bring forth from them a personal commitment to respect the flag, and the values that made our country great. His motto is: "to serve those who have served". Nick D. Bacon. A great American. A real Americalier. "The Americal division salutes you Brother".

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

In the winter of 1968, I was serving in Vietnam with the Americal division. We were on an operation near Duc Pho. As we walked through a village, I observed two small Vietnamese boys playing in a ditch. I looked closer and saw that they had a tiny, black ball of fur in the ditch, and that they appeared to be kicking the ball of fur and holding it under the water. I walked over to the ditch and saw that the black ball of fur was a puppy. I ordered the boys to leave, and picked up the soaked ball of fur. The puppy's eyes were open. I looked into those eyes and knew I'd take her back to our base camp. I placed her into my jacket pocket and left. The next day I took her to one of the Sentry Dog units. A veterinary assistant checked her and gave her some medication. I named the puppy "Short Timer!" A "short timer" was someone who had only a short time left to serve "in country", and something we all wanted to be. She became the unit's mascot, but she knew she was my dog. I fed her scraps from the mess hall C-Rations, and occasionally my mother would send a care package with dog-food inside. When the time arrived that I'd be a short timer, I began wondering what would happen to her when I left. I decided to attempt to take her home with me. I contacted the Sentry Dog unit and found that I would have to have her spayed. I would then have to travel to Saigon, which was 400 miles to the south, and get a release from the Vietnamese Department of Animal Husbandry. I learned that a soldier in another unit had been court-martialed and that an escort was needed to take him to the stockade in Long Bien. I volunteered for the job. Long Bien was about 25 miles from Saigon, so I was set.

I spent three days in Saigon. Short-Timer was given a thorough examination. After that, I sat before a board of South Vietnamese bureaucrats. After approximately two hours of questioning, they signed the necessary papers. I took Short-Timer to the airport, bought a cage and put her on a flight to the United States. Thirty-nine hours later, Short-Timer arrived in Orlando. My mother picked her up. She told me that Short-Timer was scared and foul smelling. Two months later, I came home. When Sort Timer saw me, she went wild. It was if we had been separated for days instead of months. Short Timer adapted extremely well to civilian life. Through the years she never left my side when I was home. My daughter and two stepchildren were Short Timers kids. My veterinarian told me she resembled a Bisenji, which was a breed of barkless dog originating on the African continent. Although most of this breed are brown and white, Short Timer was black and white. The years passed until one morning in October 1981, I walked out into the garage and found Short Timer had died during the night. She lay on the floor with her nose under the door leading to the house. It was as if she were trying to get to me before she died. I buried Short Timer in my yard, outside my kitchen window. My daughter and her mother stood by as I laid my best friend to rest. I've had dogs before and since Short Timer. But I've never had the same bond that I had with her. She helped me through a difficult time 9,000 miles from home. She gave me love that knew no bounds. In a time of turmoil, she gave me companionship and understanding only a dog can give...

William R. Rauscher is an Orange County, Deputy Sheriff, in Orlando, FL.

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Larry F. Henry, 8076 Sleepy View Lane, Springfield, VA., 22153. 12-13-93.

While assigned the 11th LIB in Hawaii a BGen Lipscomb was CG of the Bde 2-3 months before we went to Vietnam. He was first CG of TFO as I recall. TFO was in training in Hawaii.

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## VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

FIRE SUPPORT BASE MARY ANN REVISITED  
By  
Tim Baldwin  
Son of MG James L. Baldwin [deceased]  
Former Commanding General Americal Division

## The Base

Fire Support Base [FSB] Maryann was a far western outpost of the AMERICAL division. Located in western Quang Tin province, the FSB was positioned to interdict supply routes from Laos. The base was established in early 1970. Located west of an unabridged river, resupply was possible only by helicopter.

The artillery on the base was from the 3rd Bn, 82nd Arty and from Btry B, 1/14th Arty, manning 105mm guns. The area within range of the base was established as a "free fire zone". Under the US rules of Engagement, this essentially means "if it moves, shoot it". Accordingly, during the first few weeks of the bases existence, patrols were sent out with loud speakers and translators. The native population was ordered to report to the Firebase for resettlement. The area was predominantly populated by Montagnards. Men who I've interviewed who were at the base at its inception recall hundreds of Montagnards reporting to the base for resettlement.

The base was used as an artillery site for interdiction, as well as the base for the 1/46th Inf, 196th LIB, AMERICAL division, infantry patrols. The 1/46th consisted of four rifle companies [A,B,C,D] and a Recon company [E]. At any given time, three of the four rifle companies were out on patrol, with the fourth company maintaining security at the FSB. These patrols were long and grueling, frequently lasting two weeks or more. As a pure infantry unit, the patrols were conducted entirely on foot, with nights spent in the bush. In the dense jungle and mountainous terrain, a patrol could sometimes move only one or two kilometers in a day. The unit had been successful in its brief stay on Maryann. As stated by MG James Baldwin, Commander of the Division, in documents relating to the attack on FSB Maryann: "...The Battalion had reduced one enemy battalion to a point of impotence, had made serious inroads into another battalion, had captured a large arms cache (and) had captured the chief of the military section, VC Quang Nam Provincial"... Baldwin further stated that the 1/46th had been identified as one of the top three battalions in the XXIV Corps.

## The Attack

The base was overdue to be abandoned by the US Army contingent. In fact, the move had been rescheduled for the day following the attack. The night of March 28th was the last chance the enemy had to hit Americans on FSB Maryann. The US contingent was still there only to await the arrival of the ARVN troops who were scheduled to take over the base. The ARVN contingent was several days late by March 28, 1971, although an advance party of ARVN's was on the base. The US forces had already begun to move to neighboring FSB Mildred in the village of Hau Duc. At the time of the attack, the rifle companies of the 1/46th were dispatched as follows:

Alfa Company: On patrol?  
Bravo Company: On patrol. 12-15 K's out. Already operating out of FSB Mildred.  
Charlie Company: Perimeter defense duty on Maryann.  
Delta Company: On FSB Mildred. They were brought in to shore up defenses on the morning following the attack.  
Echo Company [RECON]: On Maryann. Some bunkers were assigned to Echo due to Charlie company's low troop strength.

During the night of March 28, 1971, the FSB was overrun by NVA Sappers from the 2nd Co, 409th MF[NVA] Sapper Battalion. Local VC troops supported the attack from outside the wire. Thirty Americans were killed, and eighty two wounded. Fifteen Sappers bodies were left behind. The attack was very effective. Some 50 sappers spent hours

penetrating the wire. Wearing only black shorts, their bodies covered with black grease, the patience and skill of the sappers resulted in a complete penetration by every sapper. Not a single claymore or flare was tripped. Inspections of the wire the next morning showed that trip wires had been painstakingly located and clipped, as was the wire. With the sappers inside the wire, and local force Viet Cong stationed outside the wire, mortars in the jungle began lobbing in tear gas shells. Normal explosive rounds could not be used by the attackers because their own men were now scattered inside the base. The attackers wanted to give the impression of a mortar attack to keep the GI's inside their bunkers. It worked. The sappers began tossing satchel charges, which further reinforced the idea of a mortar attack. The sappers entered into the southern half of the hill, along the west side. This put them in the area of the infantry battalion, not the artillery. Their first targets were communications. Then the infantry troops. Then they moved north, taking out some of the artillery, finally exiting at the north end of the base. The US forces did offer unorganized resistance. Fifteen of the 50 sappers were killed. By the time the sappers withdrew, they had destroyed all communications, damaged several howitzers, killed 30 and wounded 82 men. FSB Maryann was effectively destroyed. The US troops would soon leave. The ARVN's would decide not to take over the base. Following the battle there was a problem concerning the disposal of the sapper bodies. They were first buried in shallow graves. The rocky soil made it difficult to dig a deep grave. This quickly became a health problem as flies swarmed around the graves, but this did not reduce the problem. Finally, an attempt was made to burn the bodies. This was soon heard about at Division Headquarters, and an order was given to bury the bodies properly, no matter how difficult. MG Baldwin, the Division Commander, decided that this technical violation of the Geneva Convention was not done in an attempt to dishonor the dead, it was merely a poor attempt to dispose of the dead. He ordered no action against the men involved, and did not report the matter to Saigon. This would cost him his job and his career.

## The Aftermath

Investigations were immediately conducted at the Brigade and Division levels. The findings were that security could have been better, but was not lax. Sentries may have been asleep, but there are contradictory opinions on this. No discipline was imposed by Baldwin from the Division level. In a letter to LTC Doyle, Baldwin said, "Had you not been wounded, my action would have been to give you a rather unmerciful chewing, but I would have left you in command of the Battalion." In a letter home dated May 23rd, Baldwin said: "I hope to have written finis on the Maryann incident. Certain members of my staff felt I needed to blame someone in order to satisfy higher headquarters. As a matter of fact, they carefully wrote a paper that absolved the Brigade Commander, but found the dead company commander and the wounded battalion commander culpable of negligence and dereliction of duty. I thought on this one a long hard while and finally decided to make my decision on the basis of whether or not I would have relieved these two men had they come out of the attack unscathed. My answer was "no". Therefore I recommended that the case be closed without further action. We'll see."

Baldwin would indeed see. Either General Abrams or General Westmoreland was unhappy with Baldwin's decision. In his book, *A Soldier Reports*, Westmoreland cites the need for him to get "personally involved" in the case. Whoever the driving force was, the MACV IG recommended that the investigation be reopened. The investigation was ordered reopened on the 6th of June. The MACV investigation seems to have been conducted without the investigators visiting the Firebase. The emphasis of the report is on the physical shortcomings found at the base. The burning of sapper bodies after the attack was to become an issue for Baldwin and his Chief-of-Staff, Colonel Al Clark.



# VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Physically, the base was in essentially the same condition it had been in one month prior to the attack when it had routinely been inspected by the IG. At that time, no shortcomings were found. Somehow, by the time of the attack, the physical nature of the base changed enough to warrant nineteen deficiencies of sufficient gravity to ruin at least five careers. On June 13th, Baldwin returned to the US on 30 days leave. In early July, General Westmoreland [then Chief of Staff, U.S. Army] contacted Baldwin and informed him that General Abrams had relieved him of command of the AMERICAL. Baldwin asked to be allowed to speak to General Abrams. General Westmoreland turned down that request. Maryann was cited as the reason for Baldwin's relief. This news made the national papers on July 13th, and Baldwin's career was finished.

By November 1971 the results of the MACV investigation were in, and disciplinary actions were recommended to the Secretary of the Army. The proposed discipline included the entire chain of command and more. Charges ranged from dereliction of duty to violations of the Geneva Convention regarding the attempted burning of some enemy bodies. This again made the national papers, but no mention was made of burning bodies. The body burning seems to have been the more important charge against Baldwin, and was the basis for the only charge against Colonel Al Clark. The accused parties were:

MG James L. Baldwin, CG, Americal Division  
COL Adolphus Clark, Chief-of-Staff, Americal  
COL William Hathaway, CO, 196th Infantry Brigade  
LTC William P. Doyle, CO, 1/46th Infantry  
MAJ Stanley Wisniewski, S-3, 1/46th Infantry

These men were to be disciplined by the Secretary of the Army. Documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act indicate that more officers were to be disciplined at the USARV level by Lieutenant General William McCaffrey, CG, USARV:

BG Bertram Gorwitz, ADC, Americal Division  
COL Jack Sadler, CO, Div Arty, Americal Division  
LTC Martin, possibly Battalion Commander for the artillery. Either 1/14th or the 3/82nd  
MAJ Donal C. Potter, XO, 1/46th. Ordered CPT Kirkey to burn the sapper bodies  
CPT Conatser, Artillery Battery Commander. Thought to be on neighboring FSB Mildred at time of attack  
CPT Charles Kirkey, CO, Delta Company, 1/46th. Was ordered to burn the bodies, and delegated this to Lieutenant Hayes  
CPT Sampson, CO, Echo company [RECON]  
CPT Virtus Savage, somehow tied in through the artillery, possibly a liaison officer  
1LT Ray Rivera, probably Reaction Force Commander on Maryann

Finally, on April 22nd, 1972, more than one year after the attack, the press reported that the final decisions regarding the discipline had been made. Clark was not formally disciplined. Baldwin received a Letter of Admonishment. Hathaway, Wisniewski, and Doyle received Letters of Reprimand. Press reports indicated that General Westmoreland had recommended that Baldwin be reduced to Brigadier General, but then Secretary of the Army, Robert Froehle, overruled him. This report has since been confirmed by documents received through the Freedom of Information Act. The impact on the five careers were obvious. Baldwin retired in 1972. Hathaway was removed from the Brigadier General's promotion list even before the investigation was finished. He filed an appeal to have the reprimand removed from his file a few years after the discipline, but was turned down. He served seven more years, then retired as a Colonel. LTC Doyle stayed in the Army for some period of time, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Clark, although not formally disciplined, was informally told that he had no opportunity for advancement. The fate of Wisniewski is not known.

There seems to be a common feeling of being "tainted" by the veterans of the attack, regardless of rank. Some of the men of this unit clearly want the "record cleared", even if no one but themselves knows that it has been. Beyond the obvious loss of life and destruction of careers, this battle has clearly left its mark on many people.

## Talking to the VC

Tim Baldwin states that on his visit to FSB Maryann to place a plaque to mark that battle, and to uncover whatever facts he could about that event to put before the American people and veterans of the Americal Division, the 196th Infantry, and 1/46th Infantry and attached units, the conversations reported below are reported in an attempt to unravel the mystery surrounding the attack in the first place.

"On my visit to FSB Maryann, I encountered and spoke with two former VC soldiers, and spoke with the District's Political Officer. [The Communists have recently ordered all District Political Officers to begin collecting and documenting the history of their District.] This opportunity allowed me to ask some questions about the attack that I had never been able to answer before."

## Motive?

One question that I have never been able to answer was, 'WHY?'. Why was the attack executed? During 1971, the VC and NVA were supposedly avoiding attacks on the Americans, concentrating on ARVN installations. The Americans had announced plans for their withdrawal, and the Communists were perfectly willing to wait. They did not want to create martyrs of the Americans. They did not want to give the Americans reasons to delay their withdrawal. Given this, why the attack on Firebase Maryann?

All three men gave the same reason: "The 1/46th was causing too much trouble from their base on Maryann." The Americans were causing serious delays along the branch of the Ho Chi Minh trail that they were charged with disrupting. The local VC command decided that the base had to be hit. In conducting their intelligence for the attack, however, they decided that the base was too strong to be effectively attacked by local VC elements. It was decided that NVA help had to be requested. The VC requested that a Sapper Battalion be provided to assist in the attack.

## Poor Intelligence: American?

In the investigation following the attack, all elements of US command, from the Battalion on the hill to the Division Command at Chu Lai, were criticized for not detecting the presence of the Sappers around Maryann. How, it was asked, could the sappers be in the area for the months needed to plan such an attack without being detected? None of the Commanders could offer a defense. As it turned out, though, the sappers were in the area for only two days, not months. When the local VC requested sapper help, the request was granted, but with rare conditions. The sappers were busy and in short supply. They would be loaned to the VC, but only if the VC made all preparations and planning for the attack. The sappers could not be spared for the long planning phase of the attack. The VC were to conduct the intelligence, formulate the plan, and pre-position the supplies and explosives needed in hiding places along the hillside. Only then would the sappers be dispatched to the area. This was a rare exception to the normal SOP of the sappers. Their long string of successes was partially due to the meticulous planning that they put into every attack. Once the VC had finished preparations for the attack, the sappers were summoned. When they arrived, the sappers reviewed the work of the VC and accepted the plan without change. This approval is still a source of great pride for one former VC I interviewed who was involved in the planning. The sappers launched their attack the next

# VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

## FIREBASE MARYANN

FIRST BATTALION, 46TH INFANTRY, 196TH BRIGADE  
AMERICAL DIVISION, US ARMY

2D COMPANY, 409TH SAPPER BATTALION  
THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (PARV)

ON THIS HILLTOP, LATE IN THE NIGHT OF MARCH 28, 1971  
THE US ARMY'S 1/46TH WAS ATTACKED BY THE PARV SAPPERS OF THE 2/409.

30 US SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, 82 WOUNDED.  
15 PARV SOLDIERS OF THE 2/409 WERE KILLED.  
THE NUMBER OF WOUNDED FROM THE 2/409 IS UNKNOWN.

THIS MONUMENT IS IN MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF BOTH SIDES WHO DIED THAT NIGHT.  
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE, AND IN THE SHARED CAMARADERIE OF  
INFANTRY SOLDIERS OF EVERY NATION.

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## SOLDIERS OF THE US ARMY KILLED IN THE ATTACK

SP4 LARRY D. AUSTIN	SP4 JAMES E. EDGEMON	PCF LAYMON PALMER
SGT MICHAEL J. BAYNE	SP5 KYLE S. HAMILTON	PVT STEVEN D. PLATH
SGT RONALD J. BECKSTEDT	CPL DRUEY L. HATFIELD	SSGT TERRY H. PRICE
CPL DONALD C. BENNETT	1LT JOHN L. HOGAN	SSGT WARREN P. RITSEMA
SP4 VICTOR R. BENNETT, JR	CPL MICHAEL S. HOLLOWAY	CPL DALLAS D. ROBINSON
SGT RICHARD J. BOEIM	SGT MYRON B. JOHNSON	SGT ROBERT J. SCHUMACHER
SGT RICHARD R. CARSON	CPL WILLIAM W. KIRKPATRICK	PCF CLARK V. SHAWNEE
SGT CLIFFORD W. CORR	CPT RICHARD V. KNIGHT	CPL PAUL A. SHEER
SGT MICHAEL L. CROSSLEY	1LT CARL B. MCGEE	SP4 DONALD M. STOTTS
PCF WILBERT S. DUPREE, JR	SGT LARRY W. MCKEE	SP4 ROGER D. WHIRLOW

THE NAMES OF THE DEAD SOLDIERS OF THE PARV ARE UNKNOWN

A dramatic look at the hill known as FSB  
Maryann in February, 1993.



Two scrawny trees form the mounting base  
for the plaque dedicated to the battle  
that took place the night of March 28th,  
1971.

night, and left the area the day after. Given the time they spent in the area, only incredible good luck could have resulted in their detection.

## Poor Intelligence: VC?

Possibly the greatest irony of the attack is that the VC had no idea that the US forces were pulling out. Had they known, according to the local VC I interviewed, the attack would have been scrubbed. The VC, normally known for their superb intelligence gathering, had failed on this issue. This bit of information also debunks a much-heard theory: that the ARVN's on the base had somehow collaborated in the attack. While the ARVN troops undeniably acted with great cowardice [much to the delight of the Communists I interviewed], I think we can finally say that was the full extent of their involvement. This was a case where the Americans may have been better off if there had been collaborators among the ARVN to tip off the VC to the Americans withdrawal plans. The VC had no fear of the ARVN's. The VC planner I interviewed said that no attack would have been necessary to drive the ARVN's off the hill. Manned by ARVN's, he said, the hill would not pose a threat to the free passage of supplies through the area.

## The Attacking Size

The size of the attacking force had never been established. All three Communists related to me that about 50 sappers entered the wire. This would be within the US estimates made at the time. Something new comes out of all these interviews, though. Stationed outside the wire was a sizeable force of local VC. Unfortunately, I do not remember the number told me, although 100 sticks in my mind. This force had several roles: To guide the sappers to their positions, to provide rifle support should the sappers be detected in the wire, to provide rifle support should the Americans quickly mount an organized defense after the sappers penetrated the wire, and to aid in the extraction of the sappers. According to a book in progress by Mr. Keith Nolan, body parts were found in and outside the wire the next morning, and helicopter gunship crews reported seeing large bodies of troops. These accounts could be explained by the hitherto unknown presence of the VC on the hill. No bodies were found outside the wire. All in all, these conversations add a lot to the history of Firebase Maryann. Several details reported by these men did match the facts previously known. As such, I believe what these men had to say, and I'm glad to add these tidbits to the record of Firebase Maryann.

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## VIETNAM EDITOR COMMENTS

The above article was written by Mr. Tim Baldwin, a businessman in Chicago, Illinois. He served as a Medic in the US Army from 1971-1975 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His basic training brigade commander was the same Colonel William Hathaway, the former commander of the 196th Inf Bde.

In 1991, twenty years after the attack on FSB Maryann, Baldwin began his research on the attack, something he had promised himself for the last ten years prior he would do. His research would put him in touch with former Secretaries of the Army, many retired Generals, but most importantly men who had been members of the 1/46th, the unit at FSB Maryann. In 1993, out of the respect for the men of the 1/46th Inf and to visit the ground that ended his father's career, Baldwin visited Vietnam in February, 1993, and was successful in visiting the site of FSB Maryann. A memorial plaque was left behind. Tim Baldwin can be reached at this address and welcomes your comments, or questions: Mr. Tim Baldwin, 4950 N. Marine, #1106, Chicago, IL 60640. Tel: [312] 878-4128 [Home] [312] 561-9200 [Work] or [312] 561-4160 [FAX].

We thank him for his painstaking report. Heroes all!



ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

## A BATTERY 247 FIELD ARTILLERY BN

Former members of Battery A, 247 F.A. Bn., if you served with Bill Gray as your Battery Commander you may be able to request financial assistance through the "Battery A Scholarship Fund" established at Harvard College.

The following letter are enclosed to provide the details of the entire story:

Gillette Safety Razor Company  
Gillette Park  
Boston, Massachusetts

May 31, 1955

President and Fellows of Harvard College:

William Gray of Milton, Massachusetts died on June 2, 1952. His greatness of heart was evident in everything that he did and to the end he was vitally interested in all the men with whom he served in the United States Army during World War II and in their families.

In his will, William Gray left one-quarter of his estate to me with the "hope" that I would distribute it equally among certain former members of Battery A of the 247th Field Artillery, of which he was Battery Commander during World War II. Shortly after I notified the former members of Battery A of the terms of the will, I received numerous requests from various individuals that their share in the estate be used to establish some sort of a lasting tribute to Gray. In accordance with their wishes, I have decided to create a scholarship in the memory of William Gray at Harvard College, for which he had a great admiration and from which he graduated in 1937.

William Gray fully recognized the advantages of a college education, and the fact that so relatively few people could afford one was constantly on his mind. The establishment of this scholarship seems the very fitting and is an excellent example of the deep affection in which he was held by all the men in his battery.

This scholarship shall be known as the William Gray Scholarship. The income shall be used each year to provide an undergraduate scholarship or scholarships at Harvard College. The term scholarship is understood to include Beneficiary Aid. If in the discretion of the President and Fellows of Harvard College it appears desirable at any time to use the principal, they may do so. The income from this fund shall be capitalized for a period of ten years from this date or until the first award is made to a son of one of the individuals listed on the schedule, described below, whatever shall first occur. In each year in which one or more sons of any one or more of the persons listed on the Schedule attached to this letter shall apply and shall meet the standards and qualifications of the Scholarship Committee, they should be preferred over other candidates in making awards from this fund, and all awards shall be based upon need, character, integrity and general attainment. In the event that more than one student shall qualify under foregoing preference, the amounts to be awarded need not be equal and shall be determined in the unlimited discretion of the Scholarship Committee. The men listed on the attached Schedule are those members of William Gray's Battery who served with him during World War II. If in any year no award is made from

this fund, the income may be either added to income in subsequent years or added to principal as the President and Fellows of Harvard College may direct.

Upon acceptance of this Scholarship by the Scholarship Committee, I will forward to you immediately my check in the amount of \$6000 as an initial contribution to the fund. My present intention is to give an additional \$4000 to the fund over the period of the next two years.

2

I would appreciate very much your advising me if and when this Scholarship is accepted.

Very truly yours,  
Malcolm C. Stewart

(Mr. Stewart was notified, by telephone, on June 21, 1955 that the scholarship had been accepted. Mr. Stewart, was at that time in 1955, Assistant to the President of Gillette Safety Razor Company).

As of July 16, 1993 this Scholarship is still active. If you know of anyone that is eligible please have them contact:

Mr. James S. Miller, Director  
Office of Admissions & Financial Aid  
Harvard College, Beverly Hall

Cambridge, MA 02138

Mrs. Martha Lathrop developed the information on this Scholarship and passed it on to PNC Al Doig. If you have any questions PNC Al Doig will be glad to assist you in any way that he can. You may reach him at [REDACTED].

(Thanks Al for sending in the information).

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## U.S.A.T. ARGENTINA

In the July-August issue of the Americal Newsletter there was a story telling of the "cruises" of the A.S.A.T. Argentina during World War II. I wrote to Seaweeds Ship History for a photo and information and the following clip tells the end of the story: "From 1948 to 1958, she operated for the New York-River Platte Service. In 1964 she was sold for breaking up. In 1964 she was broken up for scrap in New Jersey".

Thanks to Bill Picardy, L Company, 182 Infantry, for sending in this info. I will send it to Ernie Greup of the YD. He crossed the Atlantic on the Argentina.

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## DID YOU ORDER THIS TAPE?

Several months ago an article in the Newsletter offered a tape entitled, 'Guadalcanal - 1942: The Turning Point'. I received many requests for the tape and I placed a bulk order with the author. He was kind enough, I told him these were for the Americal Division members, to write and tell me that the action on this tape took place before the Americal arrived, (almost). It covered the time that Admiral Ghormley was in charge until Halsey took over on October 18, 1942.

I have not ordered the tapes and I will contact everyone that ordered one as soon as possible.

Continues next page

The author is currently in the process of producing a more comprehensive tape on the Guadalcanal campaign and will keep me informed as to a release date.

Jim Buckle

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## ON BOARD THE U.S.A.T. CRISTOBAL

Friday, January 23, 1942:

This morning I woke up to that memorable day in my life when we left the port at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and embarked to our still unknown destination. It is still quite early in the morning and we still could see the street lights glowing on the streets bordering the East river as we headed for the ocean. Many thoughts entered my mind as the boat slowly got under way. At 10:00A.M. we reached the rendezvous of the convoy ships, probably the most spectacular one any of us will see. After finishing my tour of duty on the palatial galley, helping to keep the soldiers in line to get their mess, I hurried on deck to look over the situation. What I saw I thought only existed in the movies or in one's imagination. As far as the eye could see were boats of all kinds. The best sight of all I think was our naval protection. Some of the boys are beginning to feel the effects of the open sea. The main topic is seasickness and I'm doing my best to fight it off.

Saturday, January 24, 1942

This morning I slept through until 8:00 A.M. and when I woke up there was a cold breeze coming in the port-hole. The weather remains cold although we are in southern waters. Our work is still the same, keeping law and order on the ship. As our boat is practically new we have a broadcasting system that is heard all over the boat. There is a pretty good stock of late records and for a couple of hours they are played and is is enjoyable.

Sunday, January 25, 1942

Went up on the upper deck to mass this morning and it seemed funny to be balancing myself with one eye on the priest and one eye on the horizon. We had strayed from the convoy during the night and after changing our course we were joined by a cruiser which gave us a blast for straying away. We were good sub bait for a while. Our duties are much the same so I won't discuss them further.

Monday, January 26, 1942

After getting up I went on deck to see the progress we were making. Our destination is still unknown and speculation and rumor is running riot as to where we are going. Some seem to think it is Australia. I hope so as I always wanted to see that country. Tonight we are passing the keys of the Florida coast. It is getting warm now and it seems unusual after the cold docks of Brooklyn.

Tuesday, January 27, 1942

We are settling into a routine and after satisfying my curiosity of the boat I sat down and leisurely enjoyed the ride. We receive daily news bulletins through the radio room but it is censored and for most the time unofficial.

Wednesday, January 28, 1942

Today the meals are rationed down to two meal a day which didn't hit the men very good. There was a lot of grumbling and the upshot was in being read the articles of war which subdued the boys. We were cautioned to use the water

sparingly in preparation for a long voyage. The food hasn't been very good but we can't expect too much under the conditions. We are now enjoying a line of salt water showers which were set up on deck. They certainly come in handy as the weather is becoming unbearably hot. We are due in the Panama Canal Saturday and everyone is looking forward to the occasion. Read in the bulletin that some troops have landed in Ireland. I bet the folks back home think it was us.

Thursday, January 29, 1942

It certainly is hot in the Gulf and many boys are getting sunburned. We have all been cautioned against the tropical sun. Whist games are sprouting up every where and they last all day until taps. It helps break up the monotony of the day.

Friday, January 30, 1942

Awoke up to another hot day in the offing. The rooms are crowded but they are air-conditioned. We are looking forward to Panama.

Saturday, January 31, 1942

We docked at Panama about 10:00 A.M.. Had to wait our turn to fuel and water. Nobody is allowed ashore and it is our duty to keep the men on the ships. We managed to get a few cases of Hiram Walker very cheap. It helped to shorten the voyage for a while. Panama seemed to be quite a place and I wish we could stay a while and look it over. Going through the locks was quite a sight and one that I'll will long remember. It took us from 7:00 P.M. to a little past midnight. There weren't many who slept that night. Panama was our first glimpse of the tropics.

Sunday, February 1, 1942

Convoy reformed in the Pacific under part of the Pacific naval fleet and again got under way. Still nothing definite as to our destination. No matter where we go it will take at least 30 days. Everyone is getting pretty restless and tired of the sea and I can imagine what the rest of the voyage will be like. Went to communion this morning.

Monday, February 2, 1942

Rumor has it that we are going to an island off the coast of Australia--New Caledonia. That doesn't sound so good. Card games still flourish and it does help pass the time. Food is still pretty scarce but we manage to get a little extra from the cooks once in while.

Tuesday, February 3, 1942

Crossed the equator today and went through a ceremony with King Neptune acted by one of the crew. We all got certificates making us all old sailors. It does seem as though we are part of the navy with all the sailing we are doing.

Wednesday, February 4, 1942

Still taking my daily salt shower. We are all pretty well played out with the heat. We are now having whist tournaments with each player putting up a quarter towards the winner's purse.

Thursday, February 5, 1942

Started firing the various guns on the boat for practice. Sun set on the ocean is really a sight to see. We have had a pretty bright moon the past couple of nights and it certainly makes a pretty picture. Some of the more romantic boys are composing poems and songs. Some of them pretty good.

Friday, February 6, 1942

Trip is getting monotonous. Wish the hell we  
Continues next page



could land soon. Who started this war anyhow? Wonder how long it will last. Saw a few islands in the distance but too far off. Some say it is Tahiti, wish we could land and look the island and the girls over we heard so much about. Just thinking how good a cold glass of beer would go now.....Some of the boys ar raising mustaches, beards, or just not shaving. Look like pirates of Capt. Kidd.

Saturday, February 7, 1942

The troops on the ship are being schooled every day now in various methods of war fare. Due to the crowded deck space, only a few men can be drilled at a time. It is mostly in jungle war and etc. Played whist until lights out.

Sunday, February 8, 1942

Mass today at 10:00 A.M. The heat is terrific on deck, it is cooler below decks. Boat drill goes on every day in case of a sub attack. Nights are really beautiful, on dark nights like tonight the flash of the phosphorus look like flames in the water

Monday, February 9, 1942

Sighted a plane but it was a British patrol off a cruiser. Sharp look-out is constantly kept day and night for hostile crafts. It is pretty hard to realize what could happen if we were suddenly attacked by either subs, planes, or ship. We are quite heavily guarded with all kinds of equipment against attack.

Tuesday, February 10, 1942

Gas mask drill has been added to our training. It is the same as we had back in camp but it is mainly to quicken our response to gas. We have to keep our guns well oiled to protect against salt air.

Wednesday, February 11, 1942

Awoke to our first rainy day since we started this trip. The sea is quite heavy but the boys don't seem to mind it. I guess we are sailors now.

Thursday, February 12, 1942

Lincoln's birthday! If he could only see how it was celebrated. The sea is still rough and quite high. The day is being spent in reading what few magazines we have and the inevitable whist. The boys are all getting on edge and nerves are stretched to the breaking point. The crowded ship is the cause for most of it. I hope we land somewhere soon. Even Japan would look pretty good right now as long as it is land. Someone will come down and say we are close to land and to all the anxious inquiries comes the reply from some wit, "a mile straight down." Oh well..

Friday, February 13, 1942

Despite the superstitious day, it passed without mishap. One of the boats was low on oil and with an escort it disappeared over the horizon to some island in the vicinity to be refueled.

Saturday, February 14, 1942

We were joined by another convoy which fell into line with us. I think it is from Frisco. The more the merrier. It added to our protection. Our boat is now in the middle. Everyone is wondering if there is any mail on them for us as they couldn't be many days out. The decks are covered with trucks and other equipment. We have altered our course. Destination still unknown.

Sunday, February 15, 1942

The sermon of the mass this morning was on

the preparation for Lent which starts next week. Our priest is Father Hamilton a swell scout who sleeps in a stateroom next to our quarters. His ears must burn from the things he must hear. He takes it all in stride.

Monday, February 16, 1942

Today is the fourth week we have been to sea. We have been having tug-of-war teams between different companies. Our boys didn't do very well as most of the big boys didn't get in it. We were all surprised to hear of the fall of Singapore. It doesn't make our situation look any to good.

Tuesday, February 17, 1942

Spent most of the day in the salt water shower and basking in the sun. If this were only peace times, a long trip like this would be all right.

Wednesday, February 18, 1942

Ash Wednesday. Went to 7:30 mass this morning. A sub was sighted and a destroyer raced over and dropped depth charges. The explosives shook our ship. Oil slicks were reported and the sub believed to have been sunk. This makes the fourth since leaving New York.

Friday, February 20, 1942

Crossed the International date Line yesterday and we lost a day. A day more or less doesn't seem important to us now.

Saturday, February 21, 1942

Preparations are being made for landing so I guess it won't be long now, I hope. No matter where we land it will seem good to get our feet on solid ground again. Went to say rosary tonight.

Sunday, February 22, 1942

Went to communion this morning. The birthday of the Father of our Country. Sighted a ship on the horizon, it turned out to be an Australian gunboat which came out to escort that addition to our convoy. It is rumored that they are going to Sydney and we are going to Melbourne.

Monday, February 23, 1942

Preparations for landing are still going on. Everyone is cleaning their equipment and getting out clean clothes. The M.P.'s will be the first to land so we have to get ready and look smart.

Tuesday, February 24, 1942

We have reached very rough water and some of the boys are getting sick for the first time. We are certainly getting tossed about. The spray is coming right over the boat and the gun crews are getting drenched. we are seeing land planes everyday so we can't be too far from land.

Wednesday, February 25, 1942

Everyone started packing their barracks' bags and rolling their packs. We sighted Australia about 9:00 A.M. and I think is the best sight I have seen. Everyone is in a gay mood. we won't be able to land until tomorrow for some reason or other. It has been 37 days of sailing but it seems like a year.

Thursday, February 26, 1942

After spending most of the day in the harbor we finally docked. No one is allowed ashore. We are posted about the dock to see that no one left. We are talking with the Aussie Wharffies and they certainly sound funny. I don't know who was gladder to see who. We are supposed to be the first American troops to land in Australia and it certainly made the Aussie glad to see us.

story conclusion on next page

ON BOARD THE U.S.A.T. CRISTOBAL (Conclusion)

This story was from the diary of, and sent in by Arthur Guarente. Arthur served with the 26th M.P.'s while at Camp Edwards and with the 39th M.P.'s overseas. It should certainly bring back memories of that "cruise" we were on just fifty-two (52) years ago. Oh! We were so young!

Arthur now enjoys the "Good Life". He summers on Cape Cod and winters in Florida.

\*\*\*\*\*

246 FIELD ARTILLERY 246

I recently spent a week in Washington, DC so that I could participate in "Rolling Thunder". For several days before this activity I spent time culling through records at the National Archives. I was looking for some information on my Dad's unit, the Americal's 246th Field Artillery Bn.

Thanks to a friend and fellow ADVA member, Don Van Estenbridge, I managed to acquire over 7000 copies of documents concerning the activities of the 246 F.A. Bn.

I have copies of many General Orders including some for the 132 Infantry. I have daily reports and firing reports also.

I am now in the process of reading through these documents and putting them in a file. As I find items that I think would be of interest I will forward then to the Newsletter for publication.

I will also look through these documents for any fellow ADVA member's information. All I need is a General Order number that the person is looking for or an approximate date, including name and serial number. Contact me at:

Davis F. Myers  
Stewartsville, NJ 08886  
Tel [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

A CHRISTMAS PASSED

Christmas - 1943!! A leisurely cruise on a gentle azure sea. The 182 Infantry, Americal Division, about to set foot on "Paradise" - Ah yes - dear old Bougainville, SI. Those of us who could, managed our last decent meal, for a few days. Thirteen months on Bougainville -- beautiful, orchid ridden, with a "Million Dollar Tree", surrounded by 30 foot Anaconda snakes, malaria, dengue fever, yellow jaundice, amebic dysentery, centipedes a foot long, nightly visits by Washing Machine Charley, earth quakes and shakes every day and rivers that could rise 10-15 feet on any given day thanks to the daily 1:00 P.M. cloudburst.

Hill 260 -- after which were months of long, time consuming treks into the disease infested interior of "Paradise".

Christmas of 1944 was better.

Ernie Carlson

\*\*\*\*\*

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

E CO. 101 QM - 101 PROV ORD CO - 3142 MAM ORD

Many thanks for checking the roster of Americal members for my former buddies. I do wish that more of them were members of the A.D.V.A

I have been successful in rounding up many members of my old outfit but would appreciate it very much if you would run the following list. If anyone knows of of these men would you please contact me.

Martin Lindon  
[REDACTED]  
Brentwood, NH 03833

Russell M. Moore  
Gilbert Boyer Jr.  
Nesbitt A. Morgan  
Fred J. Filachione  
Clarence Gast  
Wilbert J. Dube  
Joseph E. Ayers  
William J. Forrester  
Carroll Goullard  
Charles Groziak  
Arvo V. Jokinen  
Zenon Kwiarowski  
Anthony F. Russo  
James A. Sansaverino  
Victor Zeiko  
Sylvester Majchrzak  
Francisco Quiroz  
John G. Gunther  
Joseph E. Hart  
Clive G. Stewart  
Morris L. Berman  
Alfred E. McGrath  
Arnold E. Gursky  
Everett D. Hoffman  
Warren D. Morgan  
Norman R. Hayles  
Edward R. Dobrowoski  
William R. Ingraham  
Frank N. Paxton  
Ernest L. Johnson  
Vernon E. Dudley

Huntsville, Alabama  
Banning, California  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Ciceroo, Illinois  
Chicago, Illinois  
Saxonville, Mass.  
W. Roxbury, Mass.  
Dedham, Mass.  
Natick, Mass.  
Peabody, Mass.  
Quincy, Mass.  
Hyde Park, Mass.  
Jamaica Plain, Mass.  
South Shore? Mass.  
Natick, Mass.  
Detroit, Michigan  
Erie, Michigan  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Sikeston, Missouri  
Industrial City, MO.  
Brooklyn, New York  
New York, New York  
Perth Amboy, NJ.  
Grafton, N. Dakota  
Plainsville, Ohio  
Portland, Oregon  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Mercer, PA  
Pampa, TX  
Tacoma, WA  
Superior, WI

HEY ALL YOU GUYS! How about taking a name in your respective area and looking it up in the local telephone book? If you can locate any of these men it would make Martin Lindon very happy and might add a new member to the Americal rolls.

\*\*\*\*\*

HELP HELP HELP HELP

We are looking for a member, or members, that have a word processor or have a computer and would be willing to help with the typing of the Newsletter.

Also, we are working on a new method of contacting former members of the Americal and would like to find at least one member in every state that would be willing to devote some time to this endeavor.

If you are interested please contact:

Jim Buckle  
[REDACTED]  
Harwich, MA 02645

Call [REDACTED] Leave a message and your telephone number and I will get back to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?



1940 - HDQTS TROOPS - 110 CAVALRY  
 1941 - REGIMENTAL HDQS 180 F.A. Y.D.  
 1942 - HEADQUARTERS BATTERY 247 F.A. AMERICAL

1993 - HAPPY HOLIDAY THRU CHANUKAH AND NEW YEAR

For us it was not a great year for travel or correspondence as many things occurred that took up time that we would have used to make hay.

So, we think we will stick to just the things we can share our interest in, as right now things are looking up.

Read Bill McLaughlin's "Cannoneer's" and the Americal Newsletter and have noticed familiar names showing up in both, so that once again gives cause to try to get in touch. Most of them were out of Camp Edwards but not all -- ART RYRHOLM, BARNEY MCCABE, ARNO PFIEL, GAETTANO RIZZO, ED STUART (STUZYNSKI), DON BREBNER, DEAN SUMNER, ANTHONY (HAPPY) HAGOPIAN, LARRY STIX and the rest of you who send letters to the Editors.

Ed Stuart comes to the meetings we have at the Americal Museum and we recently decided to take a ride, after the holidays, to Fall River, MA area. We hope to pick up Reggie Marchand on the way to visit Frank Silva and Tony Soares. Talked to Walter Pierce and Al Doig at the Christmas get-together and they might come along. Al told me that he had recently heard from Eric Wadleigh and we were glad to hear that he is resettled okay.

At a military show at Camp Edwards this past summer, Gaetano Rizzo, looking for 'Old Soldiers' bumped into me for the first time since Bougainville. All these years we've lived just a few miles apart and never made contact. Although he sees Walter Pierce every now and then he is not a member of the ADVA. He had two large photos of Hq Troop 110th Cavalry 1940 and Regimental Hdq 180th F. A. Bn. 1941. We spent all of our time putting names with faces. (Look for the names below. If this makes the Newsletter maybe we'll hear from a lot more of you.)

Read Cliff Peterson's letter and article in the "Cannoneers" and memories came back quickly of those days spent with our survey teams. The article brought to mind one of the many survey experiments that Pete and Martin Cornelius always had us working on. We would locate our target check points by doing our own aerial surveys using the artillery observation plane; (Piper Cub fully armed). Groups from all the battery's survey teams were set up at already surveyed-in O.Ps. with all the necessary instruments focused on a target area. The plane and O.Ps. were connected by radio to co-ordinate the tracking and the plane was also equipped with an aerial camera mounted on the open side. All ground points sighted on the plane, as a run over a specified target began. In conjunction with the camera operator's signals, readings were taken on all instruments precisely at the time the photo was taken of the target. Photo and readings were numbered on each run, to be put together when calculations were made. It took a number of runs and trips to get air to ground co-ordination but to some extent it seemed to work. With this kind of thinking and Martins eye on the target and Pete's know-how, who is there to say we weren't the best shooters in the islands. (Some will testify that we could hit a "PBY" with our accuracy. Regardless, we all felt this was the way to do the job as it was a well known fact that the 247th survey team, Jim Halom, Don Brebner, Hank Wojynski, ?? Mullally, Herb Baer, Art Ryrholm,

yours truly, and our two leaders Martin and Cliff loved those long fun-filled walks all over the islands. Gaetano Rizzo was one of the mechanics from the 247th, on detached duty, who kept them flying. Bruce ???, our pilot, took many risks keeping them in them in the air. They sure rattled like loose tin cans when landing or taking off. Being in the air was not bad, but landing on that old tree-lined, dog-leg truck road was pant-filling scary. Bruce was good, he could do it in his sleep, and was a miracle worker keeping the thing together.

As most of you have read or heard, the ADVA Museum is moving from Fort Devens to the Armory in Worcester, Mass. As the Museum is our scheduled meeting place we are hoping this will be an advantage for all and will bring around a lot more ADVA veterans.

The ADVA 1994 NATIONAL CONVENTION will take place in upper New York state June 9-12, 1994. Easy for me but a long way for others. However, if you get a chance to read this note and you belong, or you don't, and you've seen your name or you recognize another, and you can attend or you can't, or you can pass it on, GET IN TOUCH !!! It's a great feeling when you do.

In a continuing effort to increase our membership and to make contact again with guys we knew so well, take a look at the following list of those who mostly became members of the 247th F.A. Battalion Headquarters. (Ex 180th F.A. Reg Hdq.)

Capt. Cushman  
 Anthony (Hap) Hagopian  
 Bill Gorski  
 Ed Riley  
 Walter Greene  
 Earl Bonney  
 George Harris  
 Mike DiPietro  
 Cpl. Gallagher  
 Jim Milano  
 Sumner Hill  
 Clarence D'Entremont  
 John Daly  
 Frank Ryan  
 Frank Silva  
 Tony Soares  
 Frank Fitzpatrick  
 Bill Mahoney  
 Bud London  
 Guy Simeone  
 T. Leo Fitzgerald  
 Al Parent

John Lawless  
 ??? McGrail  
 Bill Dunn  
 C. Elliott Burnham  
 Jim (Ironhat) McCarthy  
 Jim Fitzpatrick  
 Marrry Longo  
 Todd Englund  
 Gaetano Rizzo  
 Wilbur Douglas  
 (Ed Stuart)  
 (Stuie Stuzynski)  
 Joe Downes  
 ? Donahue or  
 Donovan  
 ? McIntyre  
 Art Ryrholm  
 George Otis  
 Reggie Marchand  
 Don Brebner  
 Tom Cox  
 Al Doig

All of the above are in the picture previously mentioned, with 20 more we knew but could not come up with their names. If you remember all or some of them then you are one of us. Some are members of the ADVA, some are not and unfortunately some are deceased. Thru the Newsletters and word of mouth, or just by accident maybe we'll get to hear from someone who will let us know if they are still around.

Well, that's about it for this time around, and we hope all of us are well and will soon be making plans to get together at the Convention in June.

Dot and Bill Mahoney  
 Lexington, MA 02173

Tel: [REDACTED] Call Anytime.

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## 182 INFANTRY

Although we are only about two hours apart, we seldom get together. This was the first time in many years and we had a great visit.

We are all California natives but I didn't meet Pat Tognoli until Bougainville.



L-R Jean and Al Re Jenny and Pat Tognoli

As you can see, we enjoyed some of our local wine and later dinner at one of our fine Italian restaurants.

Now we plan to get together again soon, and God willing, at our next Convention.

Happy Holiday season to all.

Sincerely,  
 Al Re

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## AMERICAL DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

I received my first copy of the Americal Newsletter and enjoyed it very much. I was a little disappointed in not seeing my name listed with the new members, but maybe it will be in the next time.

I especially liked the story "The Payroll Got Through" as I was attached to the Finance Office in Americal Division Headquarters. We took pride in being able to get the payroll out each month even if there was no place to spend the money. Being paid each month was a boost to the soldiers morale. Outside of not being able to pay he troops when the Division was on the move, I only recall one other time when the payroll was not prepared on time. It was on Bougainville and the Japanese were lobbing artillery shells into the Division Headquarters area.

I knew that the Americal had been activated during the Vietnam War but until I made contact with the Americal Division Veterans Association I did not know that the Division had been activated in the Korean War. If you have run articles on the Division during this period, in previous editions of the Newsletter, would you please run them again in a future edition? I would like to know more about the Division during the Korean War.

I'll be looking forward to future editions of the Newsletter.

Roy W. Buckley

Continued Next Column

Ed note: Thanks for writing Roy. You name does appear in this issue. Many new members sign up after the Newsletter has gone to the printer. When this happens they are put on the mailing list and there names are listed in the next issue. That is what happened in your case.

The Americal was activated during the Korean War but it served in Panama guarding the Canal. To my knowledge there has never been an article submitted by a member who served with the Americal during this period of active duty.

Thanks for writing.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party was held on December 5, 1993 at the Weston Hotel in Waltham, Massachusetts. Eighty six (86) guests enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by dancing.

A total of \$252 was given in gifts and this has been given to a Veterans Hospital. The sum of one hundred and ninety-eight (\$198) remained after all expenses were paid and this was donated to the Americal Scholarship Fund.

PNC Bernie Chase was the chairman of the Christmas Party and he is shown in the picture below, flanked by his committee, left to right:



Marie Barnes, Lee McMann, Barbara Callahan, Lorraine Murnaghan.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

You may have noticed that quite a bit of space was taken up in this issue of the Newsletter with someone looking for a former buddy. There has been a decided trend in letters received by the Editor in members looking for comrades of yesteryear. This is good. I have keep my old buddies, E Co. 182 Infantry together through the years and there are others. Martin Lindon of the 101 QM, John Groppi of H Co and Bob Doucette of L Co both 182 Infantry, Earl Cook of 26th Signal, Charles Young of Division Artillery, E.R. Horton of the Artillery, Bill Dunphy 101 Medics, Joe Papa of F Co 182 Infantry. I am sure there are others but these are the ones that I know and have worked with. These fellows arrange Reunions on a regular basis for their old units. It is a rewarding experience.





JAMES C. BUCKLE  
4 WILSON AVENUE  
WAKEFIELD, MA  
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Lumberton, TX 77656-9429

#### Eligibility for Membership

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

World War II (South Pacific)	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam	1967-1973

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 and Task Force Oregon. Branch of service is immaterial.

#### Dedication

ADVA is dedicated as a LIVING MEMORIAL to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

### AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:		Telephone:	
Address — Street:		City:	State: Zip:
Americal Unit:	Rgt. Bn.	Co/Bty.	Other
Dates of Service — From:		To:	Serial No.:
Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Social Security #:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$12.00	

PLEASE: Attach a copy of the following information to your application.

1. DD 214 Form.
  2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.
- (All copies of records will be returned)